



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

June 2013



Concho Cowboys defending at the Ft Chadbourne hospital walls

Fort Chadbourne Days: Members Fred Braziel, Bill and Loy Haley, Bill Yeates, C. A. and Tee Maedgen, and Callan Clark were present at Fort Chadbourne for their Historical Event during the first weekend in May. Everyone had a wonderful time. The CVAS would like to thank the Fort Chadbourne Foundation for allowing us to attend and do a display during their event.

Callan Clark

June Meeting Presentation

We will show two videos on the archeological work done on the San Jacinto battlegrounds this month. Our meeting will be on 27 June at 7 p.m. at the Fort Concho Living History Stables classroom.

Artifact Quiz: This object is small—just a couple of inches across.



**LOOKING TOWARD THE 2013 TAS FIELD SCHOOL:
THE VIEW FROM EAGLE BLUFF**

Thomas R. Hester Principal Investigator

Two TAS field schools have been held at the Eagle Bluff site (41ME147) and a third is slated for June 2013. Hundreds of TAS members of all ages have toiled in the sun (and in the shade), and have extracted a wealth of new data on the archeology of the Southwestern Edwards Plateau. Laboratory processing has been finished in Austin and several special studies are underway. In both earlier field schools, there was a program of Historic site excavation, as well as an archaeological survey (led by Ron Ralph) that recorded both historic and prehistoric sites; a second survey led by Margaret Howard and Luis Alvarado (TPWD) focused on the Hill Country Natural Area. Surveys and Historic field work are on tap for June 2013, but the details will have to wait until the next Texas Archeology.



The work at Eagle Bluff spans a site area of least 200 meters north-south and 150 meters east-west and a time frame currently places the generations of Native American occupations at 6500 years ago, up to the early 1700s. But the campsite areas were scattered widely across the terrace, and only in some areas do we have a “sequence” of the early groups. At Area 1, the upper deposits of Late Prehistoric through Middle Archaic were removed by relic-collectors some years ago. The excavations in 2010 and 2011 did reveal a nicely preserved component of 3100-3800 years ago, basically with La Jita type dart points overlying Early Triangular points below. A small part of a Nolan zone was found at the top of the deposit – which is, of course, the bottom of the large relic-digging area just noted.

However, there was not a lot of campsite debris and this locale seems to have been the focus of earth oven cooking, with several nicely preserved rock features carefully unearthed. We had hoped that the deposits in Area 1 would continue deeper, but at the end of the 2011 season, it could be seen that bedrock was immediately below the earth ovens. Thus, the work in Area 1 has concluded.



About 120 meters to the south of Area 1, lies Area 2, the scene in 2010 and 2011 of the excavation of a contiguous group of units, finding Historic Anglo-European items, Late Prehistoric artifacts, and a sequence of Late and Middle Archaic occupations, with both hearths and earth ovens. During the 2011 excavations, area supervisor Brad Jones and his co-workers took one unit down to a deposit with Martindale, Nolan, and Early Triangular, which appears to be mixed at this elevation. But Trench B, dug in 2011 adjacent to Area 2, has shown that the cultural remains are found to a depth of at least 2.45 meters, but could reach 3.20 meters below the surface. My view is that Area 2, continuing to be opened in a big block, will yield the deepest, perhaps earliest, cultural remains at the site.



In Area 3, just west of Area 2, Doug Boyd and the Youth Program have excavated, in both 2010 and 2011, a long block of units, with excellent recovery of artifacts and materials from the Late Prehistoric (a sequence of perhaps 3 cultural units). Late Archaic and some Middle Archaic points have been exposed, earth ovens cleared, and at the end of the 2011 excavations, it could be seen that the eastern end of Area 2 is cutting into a burned rock midden. We will have to “re-route” the little road through the site (and move the bank of porta-potties), as Area 3 excavators open up units exposing the burned rock midden. Like Area 2, if excavations went “deeper” in Area 3, I suspect that much of the sequence (if not all) would be found. But that is an emphasis for Area 2, while the burned rock midden and units adjacent to it will be the focus at Area 3 in 2013.

**LOOKING TOWARD THE 2013 TAS FIELD SCHOOL:
THE VIEW FROM EAGLE BLUFF**
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One of the great surprises in the investigations at Eagle Bluff has been the discovery of a distinct, well-preserved Toyah component at Area 4 (supervisors Bryan Jameson, Art Tawater, Harry J. Shafer). Based on the excavations so far, it appears that a butchering and processing area has been exposed, with concentrations of Perdiz points and end scrapers, along with ceramics and good preservation of bison, deer, and other bone. Among the ceramics are the dominant bone-tempered wares, but there is at least 1 incised Caddo vessel shard. There are also a couple of Guerrero points that date from perhaps the 1720s. It is not clear if there is a Historic mission Indian occupation overlying Toyah, or whether the Toyah activities continued into the early 1700s – as they did, for example, at 4IVT11, Mission Espiritu Santo, excavated by 1997-1998 TAS field schools. Guerrero points are scattered across the Eagle Bluff terrace, including Areas 2 and 3. It may well be that there is an occupation after Toyah, attributable to mission Indian hunting parties from the San Antonio missions or from the missions at Guerrero, Coahuila.



Thus, the painstaking horizontal exposure of the Toyah in Area 4 is a very high priority for the 2013 field school. It is a highly unusual opportunity when such a well-preserved component can be excavated to its maximum potential. Quite a lot of Toyah artifacts have been found in Areas 2 and 3, though not with the context and abundance found in Area 4.

One of the new goals for 2013 is the excavation of units in what will be designated as Area 5. This is located between Area 1 and Area 2, and was tested by Backhoe Trench C in 2011. In this part of the site, excavators should be able to sample concentrated Archaic occupations, with our present view limited mainly to prior relic-collector activities in Area 1. As described earlier in this paper, Area 1 focused on an area where the Late Prehistoric, Late Archaic, and most of the Middle Archaic had been removed by the collectors.



We know from the UTSA excavation of the earth oven exposed deep in the bluff face that charcoal

Period/Area	Artifacts	Age Range
Prehistoric/19 th century: Area 2		1860s+
Historic/Spanish Colonial: Areas 2-4		1720+
Historic II: Toyah: Areas 3-4		1300-1700
Historic I: Areas 2, 3, 4		700-1300
Archaic II: Area 2-3		300+
Archaic I: Area 2-3		600+
Pre-archaic: Area 2-3		2000+
Archaic II: Area 1		3800
Archaic I (STAA/Gower/14C date)		4700+
Preindian/Sheriff's Collection		6800

is preserved and can be radiocarbon dated. The context of a sample is paramount if a useful analysis is to be done.

I have assembled a simple cultural sequence to emphasize the parts of the archaeological record that we have recognized, or in most cases, investigated in 2010-2011. This illustration can not include all of the chronological data, but is offered primarily for those planning to come to Eagle Bluff in 2013 – or for those who “do not recall” what has been found in these earlier sessions.

It is rare when a site like Eagle Bluff can be studied through three seasons of intensive research. I hope that the savvy and experienced folks from 2010 and 2011 will return – and we look forward to welcoming all members for whom this would be their first visit to the site, or their first field school!

Stonehenge 5,000 Years Older Than Thought

news.discovery.com, by [Rossella Lorenzi](#), Apr 19, 2013

Excavation near Stonehenge found evidence of a settlement dating back to 7,500 BC, revealing the site was occupied some 5,000 years earlier than previously thought.

Working at Vespasian's Camp in Amesbury, Wiltshire, less than a mile from the megalithic stones, a team led by archaeologist David Jacques of the Open University unearthed material which contradicted the general belief that no people settled there until as late as 2,500 BC.

Indeed, carbon dating of the material revealed the existence of a semi-permanent settlement which was occupied from 7,500 to 4,700 BC. The dating showed that people were present during every millennium in between.

The team has "found the community who put the first monument up at Stonehenge," archaeologist Josh Pollard from Southampton University and the Stonehenge Riverside Project, told the BBC.

The researchers believe that the people who settled at Vespasian's Camp also built the first monument at Stonehenge — large wooden posts erected between the 9th and 7th millennia BC.

The findings, to be broadcast in a documentary on BBC One, shows that Stonehenge wasn't just abandoned by Mesolithic humans and occupied by Neolithic people thousands of years later. On the contrary, it represents a place where one culture mingled with the other.

Jacques started to survey the area after seeing aerial photographs of the site in 1999 as a student.

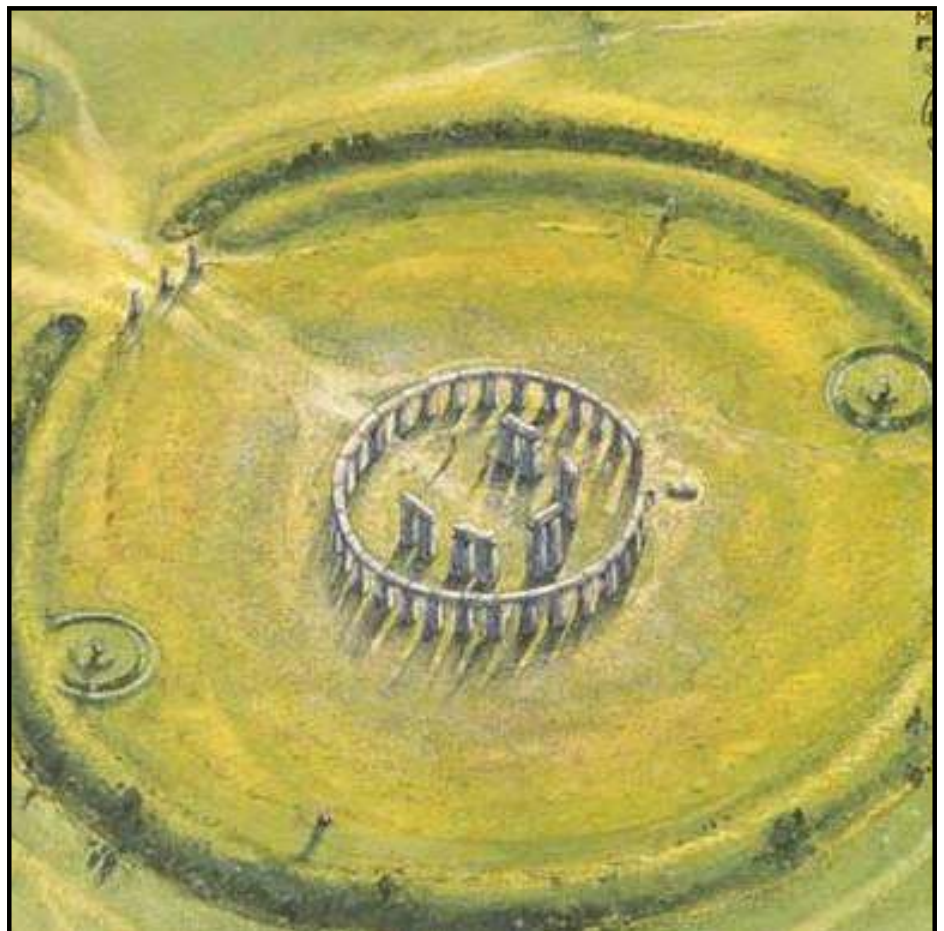
He noticed it contained a natural spring, which would have attracted animals.

"What we found was the nearest secure watering hole for animals and people, a type of all year round fresh water source," Jacques told the BBC.

"My thinking was where you find wild animals, you tend to find people, certainly hunter gatherer groups coming afterwards," he added.

According to Peter Rowley-Conwy, professor of archaeology at Durham University, the finding is significant.

"The site has the potential to become one of the most important Mesolithic sites in north-western Europe," Rowley-Conwy said.



San Antonio's Spanish Waterways

mysanantonio.com, Scott Huddleston, May 3, 2013

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—Waterway features dating to the Spanish colonial period have been unearthed in Brackenridge Park. The dam, built in 1719, is the oldest to be unearthed in the city. Its irrigation waterways served the Mission San Antonio de Valero, which was moved further north after a hurricane in 1724. This is “one of the most concentrated groupings of acequia features to be found in the past 10 or 15 years,” said Kay Hindes, city archaeologist.



Hi Tom, I wanted to share this scraper that my son found on our ranch! It was buried in the road and when he dug it up, it just looked like a rough scraper or core stone. It was worked all around and has an indentation knocked out of the top. But when he turned it over, he found a shell fossil in the underside. I have never seen where they used a fossil to make an artifact.

Judy Gill



Artifact Quiz Answer: Quick link for chain and fence repair, connects chains



WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
CVASSANANGELO.ORG

Meeting Location

Please remember that our meetings are now in the classroom at the Fort Concho Living History Stables, **236 Henry O. Flipper St.** We enter **through the side door.**

2013 Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Cell _____

Family members _____

Email _____

I pledge I will not intentionally violate the terms or conditions of any current or future state or local statute concerning cultural resources or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes, or engage in the willful destruction of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: CVAS, 6438 Indian Path, San Angelo, TX 76901

Individual \$15

Family \$20

Student or military N/C

(active military only)