



# *Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter*

*March 2016*

## CVAS MARCH PROGRAM—BARBARA BARTON

Barbara will be speaking to us about one of the Concho Valley's first and most famous settlers — Richard Tankersley.

**Richard Tankersley** left his home in Mississippi with his family and traveled to Texas in 1853. He fought malaria, Indians, and hardships to carve out his West Texas cattle ranch near San Angelo. He continued to work cattle and ride his horse as an eighty-year old man. His story is intertwined with his wife Annie, their divorce, and his marriage to Concepcion.

**BARBARA BARTON** grew up on a farm in West Texas and graduated from college with a teaching degree. She spent 30 years happily teaching math and science to high school students, but history was always her second love. When Barbara and her husband Lewis both retired from teaching, he ranched while she began writing local history.



The meeting will be held on March 24th. We meet in the old Fort Concho Living History stables classroom, 236 Henry O. Flipper St.

## **Field Trip: RF Tankersley Home Site 41TG664 (East of San Angelo)**

**Saturday April 23rd**

History of the site and details of field trip will be included in the April Newsletter  
FMI contact Larry Riemenschneider 653-8216 larremjo@wcc.net

## **The STATE OF THE CVAS Address**

The February meeting was a productive one. CVAS tested out a new projector that was handpicked by Tom Ashmore for the organization. After the presentation, CVAS members agreed to purchase it. Thank you, Tom, for looking into this for CVAS.

Our speaker, Steven Schooler, did an excellent job on his presentation. Always well prepared and thought out, and informative with a little bit of humor. Thank you, Steven.

Fort Chadbourne will be hosting a catered dinner on May 12. "An Evening with a Hero," guest speaker, Medal of Honor recipient, Colonel James P. Fleming. Colonel Fleming will speak at the dinner to honor Medal of Honor recipients and our military. For more information, call the Fort Chadbourne Foundation at (325)743-2555.

CVAS has been invited to participate in the BORDEN COUNTY HERITAGE DAY, June 11, in Gail, TX. We will need volunteers to run the booth. Contact Ginger Hudspeth at (325)277-7210, for more information.

CVAS will have field trips coming up in the next few months. Come to the meetings to hear all the details. See everyone at the next meeting.

Callan Clark,  
CVAS President

## CVAS Gets New Projector

Bill Yeates has long helped our club out by bringing his personal projector to our meetings for our many speakers. But it's time to give him a big THANK YOU! And let him off the hook. The subject of a CVAS projector for the meetings had come up several times over the past year and the officers finally decided it was time.



Tom Ashmore purchased a very good projector made by Epson for all our meetings. It is listed as 3,000 lumens (that's a lot) for the brightness and will last 10,000 hours on the bulb.

We brought it to the February meeting where membership gave a final approval for the purchase. We had purchased it through Amazon with its easy return policy just in case there was any issues with either the functionality or a disapproval from the membership. Steven Schooler was the first to use the projector for his presentation at the meeting and everyone was impressed. After the presentation a vote was carried to keep the projector.

**May 14th - Archeological survey scheduled at the Bella Oaks Ranch, Tom Green County. More information to follow.**

**CVAS dues for 2016 are due. You can mail them in using the application in this newsletter or pay at the meeting or pay at one of our outings/events.**

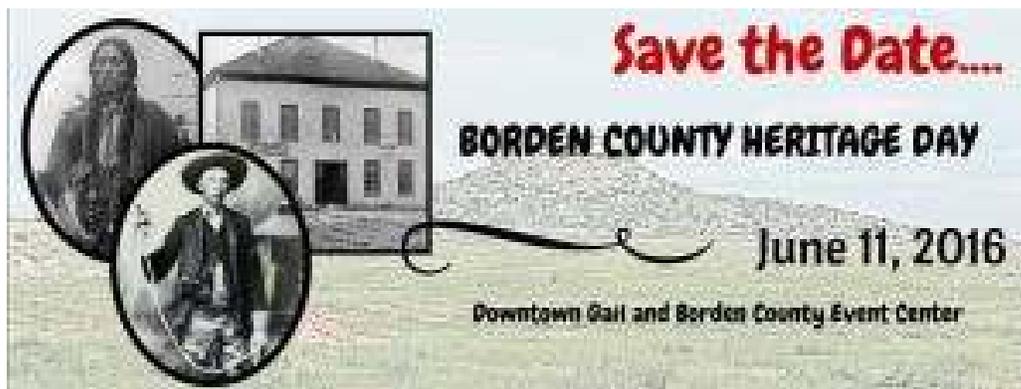
## Volunteers Needed

We need to take some of the load off our current volunteers and are looking to spread some of the duties around. Here are volunteer opportunities.

**Mailing list.** Currently being done by C.A. Maedgen. This consists of taking the mailed newsletter to a printer, making copies and mailing to members that are not on the email listing.

**Refreshments:** Currently being done by Ginger. This is bringing CVAS refreshments to the meetings. We have two containers of essentials.

Please email us at [tomashmore@wcc.net](mailto:tomashmore@wcc.net), [clarkc74@gmail.com](mailto:clarkc74@gmail.com), or see one of us at the meeting.



# Rocky Midden High

Ancient Southwest Texas Project – Texas State University—2016 Expedition to Eagle Nest Canyon

aswtproject.wordpress.com, by Bryan Heisinger, February 21, 2016

There is no denying that fire cracked rock (FCR) has a heavy presence in the research of the Ancient Southwest Texas Project. On a day to day basis, we sit on, trowel through, trip over, and often smell (strange.. I know) the enormous pile of FCR that fills Eagle Cave. Anyone who has worked with us long enough knows that we take our rocks seriously — and for good reason! By studying the FCR from our excavations we hope to address research questions about earth oven use and intensification in and around Eagle Nest Canyon.

FCR is the by-product of rocks that have been used for cooking and heating purposes. A rock becomes “fire cracked” after it is exposed to intense heating/cooling and reuse in an earth oven or other thermal environments. Continuous episodes of thermal cycling cause the rocks to fracture into smaller, angular shaped pieces and once the rocks become so small to retain heat for cooking they are discarded in favor of newer/larger rocks. The accumulation of tossed FCR typically form in the shape of ring around the oven pit and in the case of rock shelters, they begin to form talus slopes. Ultimately, this ring or discard zone is categorized archaeologically as a burned rock midden.

In order to effectively study FCR and burned rock middens, reliable methods needed to be established for quantifying and categorizing the rock that we find during excavations. The rocksort was created as a way to document FCR using known size and attribute divisions that are common among earth oven literature and experimental studies. The size of FCR can tell us some information about the use-life of that rock and approximately how many times it was used for cooking purposes before it was discarded. The attributes of that particular rock (e.g. pitted limestone, roof spall, igneous/metamorphic rock) can help us determine the general source of the rock (e.g., uplands vs. canyon bottoms vs. within rockshelters).

It is important to note that we do not collect and record every rock that we encounter during excavation. Such a process would be extremely time consuming and would produce lots of repetitive data. Rather, we have been collecting and weighing FCR through selective column samples along our exposed profiles and other areas that we deem necessary or interesting at our excavation sites. Through this selective rocksorting, we will gain a representative sample of the varying densities and sizes of rock that are occurring at the many sites in Eagle Nest Canyon.

During the rocksort procedure we split the FCR from a particular layer/strat or feature on a rocksort board into the following categories based on the maximum dimension : < 7.5 cm, between 7.5 -11 cm, between 11-15 cm, and > 15 cm (Fig. 1.). These rock size categories are based on the 20,000-odd FCR that were counted as part of excavations at the Higgins site in San Antonio, directed by our very own Dr. Steve Black (see Higgins BRM).

Furthermore, this separation allows us to identify the stages of thermal fracture in the FCR and whether or not that particular layer/strat or feature being excavated is related to a discard event (e.g., small rocks <11 cm), a cooking event (e.g., larger rocks 11 < cm), or neither of the two.

Each square on the rocksort board measures 7.5 cm and provides a speedy method for quickly measuring and grouping the hundreds of rocks that need to be sorted. After the rocks are sorted, they are photographed on the rocksort board and weighed according to their size and attribute class (Fig 2.). This data is then entered on the excavation form and the sorted FCR is dumped into the back



Bryan and ASWT volunteer Kris Bobbit rock-sorting an excavation layer in Eagle Cave.

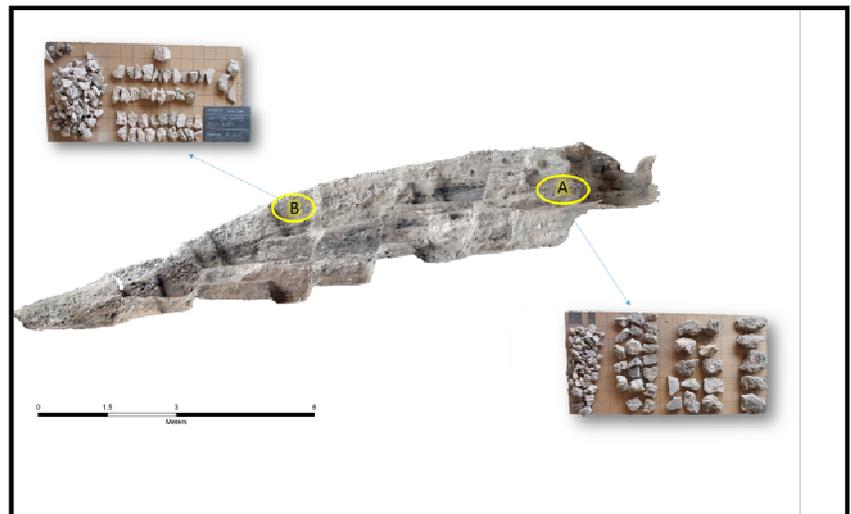


Fig 1. A.) Larger FCR 11 < cm were found within cooking features; B.) Smaller FCR < 11 cm were found within discard zones.

(Continued on next page)

## Rocky Midden High

Ancient Southwest Texas Project – Texas State University—2016 Expedition to Eagle Nest Canyon  
aswtproject.wordpress.com, by Bryan Heisinger, February 21, 2016

dirt piles.

As mentioned earlier, the ultimate goal of our FCR documentation is to measure the amount of earth oven cooking that took place in Eagle Nest Canyon and other rockshelters and open sites in the Lower Pecos Region. However, you may be wondering how in the name of Eisenstein do we siphon our rocksort data into something understandable?

Sparing you the math, we can take this rocksort data and calculate the approximate volume, FCR mass, and densities of the burned rock middens in and around Eagle Nest Canyon. This data – with the help of radiocarbon dating – can tell us when and how much earth oven cooking was taking place at each site in the canyon over time. Additionally, we can compare the Eagle Nest Canyon rocksort data with previous ASWT projects along the Devils River to give us an idea of the amount of earth oven intensification that was occurring across the Lower Pecos landscape. Pretty cool right?

What it all boils down to is having the ability in the future to be able to estimate the number of earth ovens at different sites with minimal excavation. We hope to be able to not only compare earth oven features across the Lower Pecos but possibly North America.

Reference:

**Higgins BRM (image):** <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/pavoreal/images/higgins.html>

| FCR Data               |           |       |             |       |            |       |           |  |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|-------------|-------|------------|-------|-----------|--|
|                        | <7.5 cm   |       | 7.5 - 11 cm |       | 11 - 15 cm |       | 15+ cm    |  |
|                        | Mass (kg) | Count | Mass (kg)   | Count | Mass (kg)  | Count | Mass (kg) |  |
| Fitted Limestone       |           |       |             |       |            |       |           |  |
| Round Limestone        |           | 1     | .17         |       |            |       |           |  |
| Spall Limestone        |           |       |             |       |            |       |           |  |
| Other Limestone        | 6.48      | 14    | 3.61        | 4     | 1          | 1     | 2.50      |  |
| Igneous or Metamorphic |           |       |             |       |            |       |           |  |



**Fig. 2:** The ASWT rocksort table (above) and the always famous rocksort board (below).

## New Video Technology

Tom Ashmore

As part of my move into drone video and imaging technology I found that I really need to include the capability to combine both air and ground video to really tell a good story in pictures and video. The problem has traditionally been that standard video cameras (and now video on phones) tends to be jerky as you move around. If you have nice, smooth video from an aerial perspective and then combine it with jerky video it destroys the entire effect you are trying to present. This is obvious in professional video production, but also comes into play when you are trying to present supporting information in presentations like our archeological presentations at meetings or symposiums. So I figured it was time to make the next step and get a stabilized camera system.

The drone companies saw this opportunity coming down the line first and they had already developed the gimbal-stabilized systems for their drones. All they had to do is develop handheld devices to accompany what they already had developed. This particular system I am using comes from a company called Yuneec. Their gimbal camera system is the exact same design as hangs on the bottom of their drones and comes with 4K video capability. You view the picture through a WIFI connection to your Android or Apple phone, the same as with the drone video. The camera can move up and down by control or you can just move your perspective as you carry it and the camera slowly adjusts to the angle the handgrip is facing.



I have tested it on several subjects around town and will be using it for the first time with our March archeological recording at Independence Creek. This particular video will be provided to Lisa Wrinkle for her historical documentation of our work. I will also be using this system to combine with some aerial filming of Horsehead Crossing to accompany my presentation at the upcoming Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies annual symposium in April.

**Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies  
52nd Symposium, April 8-9, 2016  
Hosted by CanyonLands Archeological Society and  
Comanchero Canyons Museum  
Hope Center, Quitaque, Texas**

**April 8, 2015**

6:00 – 8:00 Dutch Treat at Hotel Turkey Patio  
OR

6:30 - Caprock Canyons' Rails to Trails Tour to Clarity Tunnell (\$10 with Reservation)  
Leave from Monk's Crossing to see Clarity Tunnell and Free-Tail Mexican Bats

**April 9, 2015** – Meeting at Hope Center, 101 S. Main, Quitaque, Texas 79244

8:00-9:00 Register and Refreshments

9:00 – Welcome: MC Jerry Leatherman introduces Rick Day, CAS President (CAS photos)

9:15 – 9:35 – Cooking with Quartzite, Rick Day, CanyonLands A.S., Quitaque

9:40 – 10:00 – Cupules At Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument,

Beryl Hughes, Panhandle Plains A. S., Amarillo

10:05 – 10:25 – Break, Displays, Exhibits

**10:30 – 10:50 – The Pecos River Horsehead Crossing, Tom Ashmore, Concho Valley A.S., San Angelo**

10:55 – 11: 15 – The Forgotten Butterfield Stations,

Claude Hudspeth, Southern Trails Chapter of OCTA, and Evans Turpin, Iraan A.S.

11:20 – 11:40 – Alibates Quarry Pit and Pre-Tour of TAS Lithics Academy,

Paul Katz, Panhandle Plains A.S., Amarillo

11:45 – Lunch and Business Meeting of Board in Conference Room  
Open House at Comanchero Canyons Museum

1:00 – 1:15 – Report on Business Meeting

1:20 - 1:40 – Pure Quartz Technology in the Caprock Canyonlands,

Richard Walter, Center for Big Bend Studies, Sul Ross University, Alpine, Texas

1:45 – 2:30 – Of Burnt Dogs and Melting Cats: A close look at the death (and resurrection) of two  
Plains Village Tradition houses (Drover and Pete) from Whistling Squaw, Northeast Texas Panhandle, L.  
Douglas Wilkens and Charles Frederick

2:30 – 2:45 - Break, Displays, Exhibits, Refreshments

2:50 – 3:50 – An Introduction to the Study of Southwestern Pottery Found on the Southern  
Plains, Regge Wiseman, Office of Arch. Societies, Eastern New Mexico Univ.

3:55 - Wrap up, Invitations to 2017 meeting, TAS Academy, Alibates Tour, Rick Day

6:30 – Caprock Canyon's Rails to Trails Van Tour (\$10 with Reservation)

Leave from Monk's Crossing to see Clarity Tunnell and Free-Tail Mexican Bats

**April 10**

9:30 a.m. Caprock Canyons Tour (Geology, Jump Site, Bison); Sign up on Saturday

**SOUTHWESTERN FEDERATION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES  
52ND SYMPOSIUM**

**THE HOPE CENTER, QUITAQUE, TEXAS**

Registration and details will be on the CVAS website

**(Good RV camping at Caprock State Park, just a few miles out of town)**

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.

## 2016 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, 132 Kilt Road, San Angelo, TX 76901

|                                |      |                          |
|--------------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| <b>Individual</b>              | \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Family</b>                  | \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Student or military N/C</b> |      | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(active military only)