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CONCHO VALLEY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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TEXAS
ARCHEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER
August-2008

Member
**Southwest Federation of
Archeological Societies**

Ft. Chadbourne Video August 28th Program

A professional video titled “The Lost Fort” is the CVAS’s August program. It is a general video of the history of Fort Chadbourne. The video was produced by Rusty Spur Productions and narrated by Barry Corbis. The producer, Dave Carter made the video and is promoting it to entities such as the History Channel, Discovery Channel, Travel Channel and Spike.

Also on the agenda will be discussions and planning for the November field trip to the Guadalupe Mountains National Park and planning for the Archeological Fair this coming October.



What I’ve Learned From Flint Knapping By Tom Ashmore

It should actually be called chert knapping, but flint knapping is the accepted term. I decided to try my hand at it some months ago to see just how difficult it was and hopefully get some insight into the what, how, and why when I examine various points and tools. So I am by no means an expert, but I thought my insights might be interesting to those who have not tried this hobby but see pieces regularly and wonder about the process of making them. What I learned was that the Indians must have always had aching hands – their equivalent of carpal tunnel. Knapping out these points is really hard on your hands! After working for a few days I need to take time off to let the muscles recover from the stress.

I decided to work only with primitive tools. So I only use limestone and deer antler. It is truly amazing how these two abundant resources work so well on chert. For the hammer stones you need both soft-

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.....limestone and harder stones for various kinds of work. The hard stones can actually be chert with the outer limestone cortex left in place. Each will attack the stone differently. You also need a variety of stone shapes. Some are large and round for the initial breaking through the stone cortex and getting to the inner chert and some are more elongated billets to strike the edges. The deer antler is used after your get the stone worked down to a thin piece and need to start creating the final shape and edges. It's called pressure flaking and that's the part that is hard on the hands. You need to press down on the edge with quite a bit of force to pop the chert flakes from opposite side of the stone. After working an edge it needs to be flipped over to work the other side to get even edges in both sides.

One thing I believe may be the case is that the different designs of points may have as much to do with the type of chert used from the local area as anything else. There are actually hundreds of types of chert and all have different qualities. Most are not even named; they are usually referenced by their coloration (i.e. brown mottled, blue or black). The most valued chert is the kind found in this area – Edwards Plateau Chert. That is because it is one of the only kinds of chert that can be knapped without first being heat treated, although heat treating makes it even better. It is found in an area that is bounded in a kind of egg shape that reaches from Abilene to San Antonio and it is usually a flat gray color. Each type of →

→chert has different knapping qualities. Some break off flakes that are naturally very thin and easy to work but some are harder to thin out. Each time I make a point I don't know what it will be when I start because I'm working different types of chert and the starting pieces are obviously different shapes to start with. The starting size, shapes, thickness, etc. dictate just how it is going to turn out. This may not be the case for the experts, but it certainly dictates it for me at this point. I found that the base should be worked as much as possible early on. The thickness of the base will determine whether or not you can have a long traditional stem or not and the types of barbs you will have. Sometimes rather than a stem you must make a basal concave shape and come in from the sides to make indentations to be used for the wrapping of the sinew to attach to the shaft. Making the sharp, pointed end is the easy part. Making a good base to attach to the shaft to is the hard part.

And the great benefit of all this will be the kids because all the pieces I've been practicing on will go to the October CVAS Archeology Fair. They will be in the dirt for the kids to find in the sifting booth.



Tom's Points

Mark Your Calendar

- ◆ **August 28 Meeting**
- ◆ **September 25 Meeting**
- ◆ **October 11 Archeology Fair**
- ◆ **October 23 Meeting**
- ◆ **October 24 TAS Annual Meeting**
- ◆ **October 31 Guadalupe NP Field Trip**
- ◆ **November 7 Center for Big Bend Studies**
- ◆ **November 20 Meeting**
- ◆ **December 18 Christmas Party**

An Invitation to the 2008 TAS Annual Meeting

The Texas Archeological Society's 79th Annual Meeting will be held in Lubbock, Texas, October 24-26, 2008. All TAS members are invited to attend the meetings, and, for the second year, non-TAS members can attend the sessions and/or the banquet at a slightly higher fee than members. In a sense, having the meetings in Lubbock is a sort of homecoming for the TAS; many of the pioneers in Texas archeology and early members of the TAS worked in the Panhandle. The theme of "pioneers of Texas archeology and Panhandle archeology" will be carried into the public forum, banquet, session, and excursions. We've got a fun and busy weekend planned, so start making your plans to attend early.

The conference hotel is the [Holiday Inn Park Plaza](#), conveniently located on Loop 289 on the south side of town. Some of you will remember this as the site of the 1994 TAS and Plains conference. Just this year, the hotel completed an extensive renovation, so you may not recognize the place. We recommend that you contact the hotel early to reserve a room (single or double) at the conference rate of \$89.00, plus tax. There is a small block of student rooms at the same rate for up to four people per room.

Registration fee is \$50 for members, and \$70 for non members. Student- fees are \$25 and \$35. These fees will increase \$10 after October 3. For more information the about the Annual Meeting and a registration form, contact the [Texas Archeological Society](#).

Annual Picnic Great Success Sue Meacham

We had a great Picnic this year and it was attended very well. The food was great and all who brought food thank you very much for your help in making the picnic a success! Thanks to all the folks who set up the tables as well as took them down. Brownie Roberts, Arnetta Cooper, and Christine Buckstead's program on Alabates Flint Quarry was wonderful. Thanks for all those who brought gifts for door prizes, especially Felton Cochran of Cactus Books. Thanks for staying late for the entertainment. Music provided by the Riemenschneiders. Voices provide by all of you. That was some kinda of FUN!



The [Concho Valley Archeological Society](#) is a non profit organization. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month except July, November and December. We meet in the commissary building located at Ft. Concho, at 7 PM. Refreshments are offered. Dues are \$15 for singles, and \$20 for families. Students and military personnel dues are free. Visitors are always welcome. This newsletter is edited/published by [Claude Hudspeth](#) 325-949-9077

2008 Membership Application

Name _____

Membership Fees

Address _____

Individual \$15.00

City _____ Zip _____

Family \$20.00

Phone _____ Cell _____

Student or Military N/C

Family Members _____

Email _____.

Newsletter by Email By U. S. Mail

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

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail to: CVAS c/o W. Gregory, 250 Loch Ness Road, San Angelo, TX 76901-9521

