

Since 1976

# CONCHO VALLEY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

[www.cvassa.org](http://www.cvassa.org)



Yeates' Before & After



**NEWSLETTER  
JUNE-2008**

*Member*  
**Southwest Federation of  
Archeological Societies**

## **Bill Yeates to Present Program on Rock Art Photography**

Bill Yeates will present the program he gave to the Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies on techniques that he has developed to enhance photos of rock art, using Adobe Photoshop. Researchers and amateurs alike can use these techniques to increase the clarity, contrast and color, which at times will produce spectacular results.

Bill will also review a free experimental program, DSTRETCH, which can bring out details that are no longer visible in rock art..

Bill is a retired geophysicist, a photographer, pilot, and a past president of CVAS. He will be presenting this program at the Center of Big Bend Studies annual meeting at Sul Ross State University at Alpine this November.



## **Fort Chadbourne Update** *Larry Riemenschneider*

The manuscript on the archeological investigations of the Officers' Quarters (Ranch Headquarters) is now complete and going to press. Thanks again to all of you who participated. As the building is now being completed you can be proud that you were a part of the rebuilding project that future generations can enjoy.

The Butterfield Stage Station project is now complete. Excavations and lab work were completed on May 17. Work is in progress on the manuscript and hopefully it will be finished by the 150 anniversary of the Butterfield Overland Mail. Thanks again for all the many hours of volunteer work devoted to this project. It is amazing how much work was done in a little over a month.

### Archeology Fair Update

Be sure to mark your calendars for Oct. 11.

*Continued on page 2*

## Archaeological Legacy Institute

Friends and colleagues: The remarkable cultural heritage of China, one of the world's great and most ancient civilizations, is manifest in numerous magnificent buildings and architectural complexes, many of which are threatened by modern development or are in decay. The modern response to these threats provides some reason for hope, as shown in *Saving Asia's Treasures: Foguang Temple, Shanxi, China*, the latest video feature on our nonprofit streaming-media Web site, *The Archaeology Channel* (<http://www.archaeologychannel.org>).

The 1,200-year old Foguang Temple in Shanxi Province, China, is one the most important remaining wooden architectural jewels of Chinese civilization. Built during the Tang Dynasty, the temple is a tribute to the peak of Buddhist art and architecture from the 9th century AD. Without regular maintenance and conservation by successive Chinese dynasties, the structure has fallen into dangerous state of disrepair. Global Heritage Fund (GHF) of Palo Alto, California, will provide funding and expertise for the investigation, planning and scientific conservation of the site.

This and other programs are available on TAC for your use and enjoyment. We urge you to support this public service by participating in our Membership (<http://www.archaeologychannel.org/member.html>) and Underwriting (<http://www.archaeologychannel.org/sponsor.shtml>) programs. Only with your help can we continue and enhance our nonprofit public-education and visitor-supported programming. We also welcome new content partners as we reach out to the world community.

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This is the day set aside for the archeology fair. It's just five months away, but you know how time flies. I will be contacting you in the future about your exhibits, demonstrations and activities.

### Dear CVAS Members:

I would like to thank you for the thoughtful and generous donation of \$200.00 to Fort Concho that was given to assist us in our building and utility costs for your meetings. We very much appreciate the support.

The fort and CVAS have a very long and mutually supportive history. We have benefited from the expertise of the CVAS in numerous archeological digs, public programs, and festivals. Indeed, the annual fall fair is one of our more popular and better family events of the year.

I look forward to many more years of activity with the CVAS. You have played a major role in Fort Concho's growth and development these many years, and I trust that we all will be working with one another for many years to come. With all best wishes.

Sincerely,  
Bob Bluthardt  
Director

The [Concho Valley Archeological Society](http://www.cvassa.org) 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](mailto:cbhiii@aol.com) 325-949-9077  
[cbhiii@aol.com](mailto:cbhiii@aol.com) Web Site [www.cvassa.org](http://www.cvassa.org)

## What is a Burin?

By Tom Ashmore

While looking around Dove Creek recently I found what appeared to me to be a scraper in very good condition. It is bifaced and the edges are sharp all the way around. After doing a little research, though, I found that it is more likely something I had never heard of before – a burin. If you look up burin you will find the common description as a sharp edged stone tool used for graving in wood or bone. There is not much discussion on more specific uses. Burins are found all over the world. A good example of the one I found came from the Artifacts of Kansas website (<http://ksartifacts.info>) which is where I got the comparison picture for this article.

I've developed a theory that the burin was probably used for making the V shape in the atlatl, arrow and knife foreshafts for attaching the stone points and knives. As an experiment I made an atlatl foreshaft from chert flakes (also found at the creek) and the burin. Now I know why the Indians prized their arrow and atlatl shafts more than the points. Making a foreshaft and cutting a V into it has got to be the hardest work of all the pieces making up a dart or arrow. You must use hard wood (I used cedar) and you cannot afford to split the wood. So carving the V shape is a necessity. Because you must put so much pressure on a very small area a knife with a handle would not work well. This is a job that must be done by hand using fairly small and sharp stones. The burin was probably used at the end of the process. Sharp chert flakes are better at starting the process and using the burin with the serrated edge is good for completing the process.



# Have you renewed your membership?

Concho Valley Archeological Society  
11482 Twin Lakes Lane  
San Angelo, TX 76904

## 2008 Membership Application

Name _____	Membership Fees
Address _____	Individual \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
City _____ Zip _____	Family \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
Phone _____ Cell _____	Student or Military N/C <input type="checkbox"/>
Family Members _____	
Email _____	
Newsletter by Email <input type="checkbox"/>	By U. S. Mail <input type="checkbox"/>

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**



