



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

November 2011

Thank you CVAS

Thank you, thank you to all of our friends and volunteers at the 12th annual Archaeology Fair at Fort Concho. The rain was a big blessing for us in our drought stricken area. Quite a few of us got pretty wet that afternoon trying to break down our booths. Compared to the previous years attendance this last one was low but on the other hand some of us think it was good considering the weather forecast. At any rate, we are most thankful to all of our volunteers and to our friends working the booths.

We would like to especially thank Larry and Jo Riemenschneider for again being the CVAS director of fair activities. We appreciate the tireless work by Larry and Jo and we have been blessed by their years of dedication to this event. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Larry has notified me that he will be turning in all his computer contact records and that he and Jo will not be able to fill this job responsibility next year. We understand the need to move over and let another take over the job. At our next CVAS meeting on October 27th we will open up this job for our 2012 fair director. CVAS members wishing to work as fair director or one of the team members should contact me. The person or persons taking over this job will have all of the Riemenschneider computer records to use as a format. Having this computer record will be very valuable in helping the new director know when and how certain things have to be done for the fair.

Also, on our agenda for the October meeting will be selecting a committee to search out a new slate of officers. As you know my 2nd term as CVAS president is coming to a close. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve and represent the CVAS. I am most grateful for the opportunity and have enjoyed every minute of the job. Thank you.

On behalf of all CVAS members I would like to say thank you to each and every person for a job well done at our 12th annual fair. We can all be proud of the high quality and standard we have set for excellence. The city of San Angelo and its residents have been greatly blessed by the dedication and hard work of CVAS members. For a job well done, Thank you.

C. A. Maedgen



Christmas party/dinner set for December 15th

The CVAS Christmas party and dinner is set to take place in the Fort Concho Commissary on December 15th. The agenda and plans will be one of the November meeting topics of discussion. So far there has been agreement to continue the silent auction that has been very successful in previous years. Please come to the meeting and help us plan this fun event.

CVAS projects and outings update

Tom Ashmore

As we move out of the extreme heat and fire season it's time to give an update on our efforts for CVAS projects and outings. As you can imagine, our efforts came to a screeching halt as soon as the fires began and that really continues. The ranchers became very wary of anybody coming onto their land. A spark of any type could ruin the ones that were lucky enough to remain safe and who, like us, saw the devastation to their neighbors. So, the contacts on several of my efforts essentially stopped. However, we still have several CVAS members in contact with some property owners and are trying to restart some of our inquiries. Those efforts are essentially focused on getting access to two sites on the Middle Concho River that may have been stage stations, locating the definitive area of the Grape Creek Stage Station northeast of Carlsbad, the area along the North Concho River across from Carlsbad that we think might have been the area of Camp Johnston, and the old town site of Hayrick.

One of the things we must not do is scare off any property owners with a huge group of people showing up at their front gate after getting permission for our initial visit. Because of this, we usually ask if we can do a short walk through survey of the area in question with just a small survey team (generally 2 – 5 people). If the survey team finds what they think may produce positive results we will reconnect with the owner to report our results and float the idea of bringing a larger group to be able to cover more ground or get more done in an artifact recovery and research project. Once we get permission for this we will bring the project to the group, generally at a meeting, through email or both.

One project that is looking better but still needs to be finalized with the property owner is the Hayrick project. Callan Clark is in charge of this project and will soon be to a point in developing a plan to take to the owner to bring out more CVAS help to assist in developing the layout of the town through artifact search and GPS data entry of those artifact locations.

Another outing being pursued is another trip to the Big Bend area. Jack Woodrow is working the plans for this trip. He is attempting to set up the locations to visit, a guide and a good time of the winter that will allow us open camping spots in Chisos Basin. Jack reported at the meeting that he is looking at either January or February right now, but needs to work out more details with the guide.

If you have anyone you know that may have property in an area of interest, you can pursue your own efforts for a CVAS outing or project. Following some of the suggestions above would probably be best. If you would like assistance, contact myself, Larry Riemenschneider, or C.A. and we will be glad to assist.

The Prairie Traveler by Randolph Marcy

One of the first explorers of Texas in the mid 1800s was Capt Randolph Marcy. You will find his name on several military roads through north Texas—one in 1849 where he explored from what is now the Oklahoma border down to Big Spring and throughout 1851 and 1852 where he explored the Red River, Wichita Mountains, Main Fork of the Brazos and the Little Wichita River. In 1859 he wrote a book called the Prairie Traveler: A Handbook for Overland Expeditions, written at the direction of the Department of State and published by the U.S. government.

It has been called one of the most important works in making possible the great Western overland migration of United States settlers in the last half of the 19th century. It was a guide for immigrants, explorers and military on how to survive in the wilderness and how to properly conduct a march for a large wagon or pack train.

In 2007 the Guttenberg project transcribed The Prairie Traveler and made it available for free for download. I found it available for free on my Kindle from Amazon.com. If you don't have a Kindle you can download it for free in a great variety of formats from manybooks.net.

Artifact Quiz: What do you think this was used for? It measures about 12 inches from handle to handle. Answer on page 4



Yates Ranch Field Trip.....October 29th, 2011

On Saturday October 29th members of CVAS and Iraan Archaeology Society traveled a very short distance outside of Iraan to the Yates Ranch. We were met by our host, Ira Yates, great grandson of Ira and Ann Yates. We traveled down a rocky ranch road a short distance until we came to a convenient place to park our vehicles. Our stated objective for the day was to locate and record occupation zones so that the sites might be registered with the Texas Historical Commission. We walked the rugged terrain down to the Pecos River during our survey and we could easily see the occupation areas. Burnt fire cracked rock was prevalent indicating one continuous occupation zone. About a mile down the river we located a large burnt rock midden that had been disturbed by a bull dozer cutting a road way. The midden we located is about 75 yards or so from the Pecos at the base of a steep bluff and at the mouth of a small shallow canyon.

We walked a number of small deep gullies leading down to the Pecos. Along either side of these gullies we found burnt rock scattered on the surface. In the case of one 10 foot deep gully I found alluvial sedimentary deposits with obvious ancient fire cracked rock eroding from the walls. The base of the gully was littered with fire cracked rock that had eroded from the walls and or washed in by the flood waters over time. After observing the sedimentary deposits in this gully from the Pecos it is obvious that there exist numerous occupation zones long buried in the alluvial plain.

We also located a small out crop of bed rock that contained some small cupules. We recorded these cupules which were surrounded by burnt fire cracked rock. Here at this site we found a small drill used by the ancient Indians. We also found small shiny polished river rock in this area indicating that Pecos flood water had been here or perhaps some young child from a long time ago had picked up a shiny polished rock for a souvenir and left it here.

Later in the day and up the river by another mile or so we came to a site where a previously located midden was found. This pile of burnt rock was about 10 to 15 feet in diameter and had some obvious scatter of the rocks. We recorded this site.

The last event of the day was an attempt to locate and record a small shelter in a nearby canyon. Evans Turpin from Iraan took a small crew up a canyon in hopes of finding this shelter, which was high up on a steep bluff facing south. The shelter with talus slope and smoke blackened ceiling was located and recorded. Occupation debris was observed as well as fire cracked rock down the talus slope.

In summary we were able to accomplish a goal for the ranch owners which was to record the historic sites. There are numerous sites along the Pecos on the Yates Ranch and we are glad to help and look forward to returning. We are grateful to Ira Yates and appreciate his hospitality.

C. A. Maedgen

CVAS 2011 Pres.10/30/2011



midden



fire cracked rock



Texas A&M study: Hunters present at least 800 years earlier than previously thought

<http://www.eurekalert.org>, 20-Oct-2011

COLLEGE STATION, Oct. 20, 2011 — The tip of a bone point fragment found embedded in a mastodon rib from an archaeological site in Washington state shows that hunters were present in North America at least 800 years before Clovis, confirming that the first inhabitants arrived earlier to North America than previously thought, says a team of researchers led by a Texas A&M University archaeologist.

Michael Waters, director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans in the Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M, and colleagues from Colorado, Washington and Denmark believe the find at the Manis site in Washington demonstrates that humans were in the area around 13,800 years ago, or 800 years earlier than was believed. Their work is published in the current issue of Science magazine.

In the late 1970s, an adult male mastodon was excavated from a pond at the Manis site. The distribution of the bones and the discovery that some of the bones were broken suggested that the elephant had been killed and butchered by human hunters, Waters explains. However, no stone tools or weapons were found at the site. The key artifact from the site was what appeared to be a bone point sticking out of one of the ribs, but the artifact and the age of the site were disputed.

Waters contacted team member and original excavator, Carl Gustafson, about performing new tests on the rib with the bone point. New radiocarbon dates confirmed that the site was 13,800 years old. High resolution CT scanning and three-dimensional modeling confirmed that the embedded bone was a spear point, and DNA and bone protein analysis showed that the bone point was made of mastodon bone.

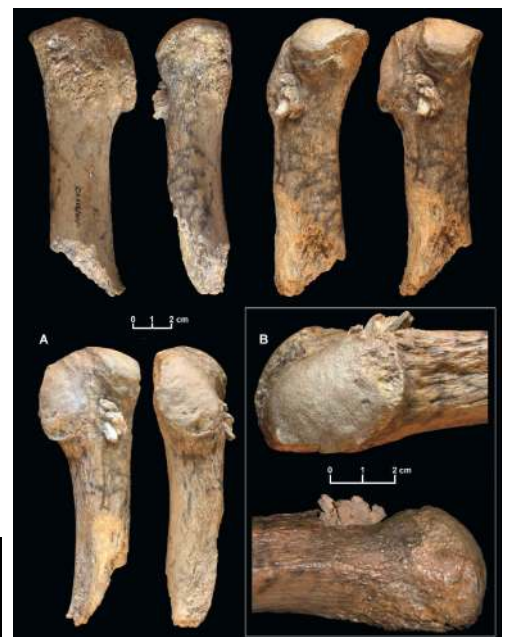
"The Manis site is an early kill site" Waters says. "The evidence from the Manis site shows that people were hunting mastodons with bone weapons before the Clovis stone spear point."

The new evidence from Manis supports extinction theories of large mammals at the end of the last Ice Age, Waters says. During the last cold period, herds of mammoth, mastodon, camels, horses and other animals roamed Texas and North America. At the end of the Ice Age, these animals became extinct.

"While these animals were stressed by the changing climate and vegetation patterns at the end of the Ice Age, it is now clear from sites like Manis that humans were also hunting these animals and may have been a factor in their demise," Waters adds. He also notes that "there are at least two other pre-Clovis kill sites in Wisconsin where hunters killed mammoths."

'Clovis' is the name given to the distinctive tools made by people starting around 13,000 years ago. The Clovis people invented the 'Clovis point', a spear-shaped weapon made of stone that is found in Texas and the rest of the United States and northern Mexico. These weapons were used to hunt animals, including mammoths and mastodons, from 13,000 to 12,700 years ago.

Waters says that "the evidence from the Manis site is helping to reshape our understanding of the earliest inhabitants of the Americas, the last continent to be occupied by modern humans."



Artifact Quiz from page 2: When cutting metal on a band saw, this tool was used to push the work piece into the blade.

Giant archaeological trove found in Google Earth

<http://www.newscientist.com>, 4 February 2011

You've heard enough about it from me. Now let's hear from some others. Tom Ashmore

Wendy Zukerman, Asia Pacific reporter

Indiana Jones, put down your whip. To scour the globe for archaeological sites these days all you need is a desktop computer.

Almost two thousand potential archaeological sites in Saudi Arabia have been discovered from an office chair in Perth, Australia, thanks to high-resolution satellite images from Google Earth.

"I've never been to Saudi Arabia," says David Kennedy from the University of Western Australia, Australia. "It's not the easiest country to break into."

Instead Kennedy scanned 1240 square kilometres in Saudi Arabia using Google Earth. From their birds-eye view he found 1977 potential archaeological sites, including 1082 "pendants" - ancient tear-drop shaped tombs made of stone.

According to Kennedy, aerial photography of Saudi Arabia is not made available to most archaeologists, and it's difficult, if not impossible, to fly over the nation. "But, Google Earth can outflank them," he says.

Kennedy confirmed that the sites were vestiges of an ancient life - rather than vegetation or shadow - by asking a friend in Saudi Arabia, who is not an archaeologist, to drive out to two of the sites and photograph them.

By comparing the images with structures that Kennedy has seen in Jordan, he believes the sites may be up to 9000 years old, but ground verification is needed. "Just from Google Earth it's impossible to know whether we have found a Bedouin structure that was made 150 years ago, or 10,000 years ago," he says.

Since Google Earth was launched five years ago, the field of "armchair archaeology" has blossomed. And it's been harder for archaeologists to get out of the office, since Spot Image started providing Google Earth with 2.5-metre resolution imagery taken from the SPOT 5 satellite.

In 2008 researchers from Melbourne, Australia, found 463 potential sites in the Registan desert in Afghanistan using the desktop computer program.

Nominations for new officers and requests for new volunteers on agenda for November

We need nominations for new CVAS leadership at the November 17th meeting. We have a committee that are going to try to work on that leading up to the meeting and we will also accept nominations during the meeting. The committee working on setting up the nominations are Tom Ashmore, Arnetta Cooper, Gary Heumier and Jack Woodrow. We will need nominations for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer at the November meeting. However, nominations will be accepted right up to the December 15th meeting/Christmas party.

We also need volunteers to take over some of the duties. One is the archeology fair director. Larry kindly shared the responsibilities again this year with C.A., but he was actually supposed to hand them over already. He has everything anyone needs to take it over, to include time schedules, contacts, instructions, etc. Please step forward and help us if you can on this.

Another volunteer position for the club is someone to handle bringing the food and drink supplies to the meetings. Gary Heumier has been handling this and needs to pass it on to a new volunteer.

Using your CVAS directory you can call or email anyone on the committee to volunteer or suggest nominations prior to the meeting. Please help if you can. We will even accept self nominations for the leadership positions. We have a core group that continues to provide all the volunteer work and they need a break.

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.

2011 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, 4801 Royal Oak Dr., San Angelo, TX 76904

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

(active military only)