



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

September 2016

The STATE OF THE CVAS Address

August was a great month. Our speaker, Susan Ball, gave a wonderful talk. At the Genealogy Fair a good group of people stopped by our table and showed interest in joining CVAS.

The speaker for this month (September 22nd) is Dr. Stance Hurst, Regional Research Field Manager Lubbock Lake Landmark. Hope everyone can come and hear his presentation, Searching for the First Americans at Spring Creek: Geoarchaeology Research and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Drone survey along the Eastern Escarpment of the Southern High Plains of Northwest, Texas.

**Callan Clark,
CVAS President**

Searching for the First Americans at Spring Creek: Geoarchaeology Research and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Drone survey along the Eastern Escarpment of the Southern High Plains of Northwest, Texas

Stance Hurst

Regional Research Field Manager Lubbock Lake Landmark

Spring Creek, a tributary of the South Fork of the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River near Post, Texas, holds significant Late Pleistocene to Early Holocene deposits (~12,000-8,000 years ago). The Lubbock Lake Landmark regional research team since 2008 has uncovered sequences of animal remains that spans this time period. Important finds include the remains of a camel (*Camelops hesternus*), ancient bison (*Bison antiquus*), and a large sample of extinct box turtle (*Terrapene carolina putnami*). Evidence of Paleoindian (11,500-8,000) hunter-gatherers in this area include the discovery of a Clovis projectile point and a possible ancient bison kill.

The Landmark research team is currently conducting geoarchaeological work to examine the distribution of sediments and soils to ascertain the temporal and spatial relationship of the animal remain and Paleoindian finds. Besides traditional geoarchaeological techniques, the research team this past field season began using an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) to 3D model the landscape to better examine the distribution of sediments and soils.

This talk will present the results of past investigations and the use of UAV to better understand the geoarchaeology of Spring Creek.

Biosketch

Born in Colorado City, Texas, grew up in Perkins, Oklahoma
Received my B.S. in Anthropology from the University of Idaho in 1996
Received my PhD in Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma in 2007
Research Interests: Plains archaeology and the Southern Plains, hunter-gatherer societies, lithic technology, archaeology of territories, geoarchaeology, heritage, world heritage
Field manager for the Lubbock Lake Landmark regional research program since 2007 and Adjunct Graduate Faculty for the Museum of Texas Tech University Heritage Management Program



The 17th Annual Archeology Fair at Fort Concho is here. We are looking forward to another great event this year. The fair will be a full day beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to set up your exhibit on Friday, starting at 1:00 pm. If you plan to set up just before the event, please be at Fort Concho with your exhibit ready for viewing by 9:30 am. This is a RAIN OR SHINE event. When the fair closes, EVERYONE PLEASE STAY AND HELP BREAKDOWN ALL EXHIBITS.

There will be a Sutler's Store at the Fair in the Commissary Building. If you wish to donate an item to be sold in the store will be greatly appreciated. The money raised from the items sold help cover expenses for the fair. The fort will be providing pizza and drinks for all volunteers.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again, and THANK YOU for participating in this year's Archeology Fair.

Callan Clark
 cell: (325)763-7361
 email: clarkc74@gmail.com

<u>EXHIBITS</u>
ARTIFACT IDENTIFICATION
ConchoValleyArcheologicalSociety/Sutler's Store
IraanArcheologySociety
PHOTOGRAPHY OF HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY
DRONES IN ARCHEOLOGY
ARTIFACTS OF THE CONCHO VALLEY
SAN ANGELO GENEALOGICAL AND HISOTRICAL SOCIETY
ILLUMINATED THREADS
TIME OF OUR LIVES
NATIVE PLANTS
PREHISTORIC FOOD PREPARATION
GEOLOGY AND FOSSILS OF THE CONCHO VALLEY
LIPAN APACHE BAND OF TEXAS
SAN ANGELO NATURE CENTER
LLAMAS
<u>DEMONSTRATIONS</u>
BLACKSMITH
METAL DETECTING
WET-PLATE PHOTOGRAPY
<u>ACTIVITIES</u>
CLUES IN THE DIRT
BOW & ARROW SHOOT
ATLATL THROW
MAKING A MEDICINE BAG
PAINTED PEBBLES



Norman G. Flaigg Award for Outstanding Performance for exceptional accomplishments as a member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (2015). Presented to Larry Riemenschneider by Tiffany Osburn (Regional Archeologist DA/THC).

12,000-Year-Old Camp Found in Utah May Have Experts “Adjusting Their Theories”

<http://westerndigs.org>, by Blake de Pastino , August 5, 2016

An Ice Age hunting camp currently being excavated west of Salt Lake City is the first archaeological find of its kind, for several reasons, researchers say.

The campsite, dated to more than 12,000 years old, includes the remnants of a fire hearth, a spear point, thousands of broken waterfowl bones, and the earliest tobacco seeds ever found in North America’s archaeological record.

Taken together, these artifacts show how surprisingly rich and intricate the lifeways were of the Great Basin’s earliest hunter-gatherers, said Dr. Daron Duke, lead investigator of the site, in an interview from the field.

Duke and his colleagues from Far Western Anthropological Research Group first discovered the site last year on the Utah Test and Training Range, a proving ground of the U.S. Air Force.

Among the many reasons the ancient camp is so noteworthy, Duke said, is that it includes the oldest open-air hearth ever found in the Great Basin.

12,000-Year-Old Camp Found in Utah May Have Experts “Adjusting Their Theories”

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Willow wood charcoal recovered from the hearth has produced radiocarbon dates that average around 12,300 years old.

Although there is a “small handful” of older hearths that have been found in the region, Duke added, they’ve all been found in caves or rockshelters.

“While these [sites] are good for chronology, they are not ideal for representing people where [hunter-gatherers] primarily lived — valley bottom wetland habitats — or [for] providing tightly preserved associations of artifacts in and around the [hearth] feature.”

Perhaps more importantly, the site is also the first known Ice Age camp used expressly for hunting and cooking waterfowl.

“There is no devoted waterfowl cooking feature from the Paleoindian era in North America,” Duke said.

“There is evidence of Paleoindian people eating waterfowl, but usually alongside other animals and not in high counts, and not associated with a single feature.”

Duke first uncovered evidence of hunting last year, when a small test probe turned up a dense array of waterfowl bones that had been broken into pieces.

“Our current expanded dig appears to just contain more of it, but we have thousands of bone fragments now that we’ll go through to vet this whole idea,” Duke said.

He added that he and his colleagues are “confident enough” about the purpose of the site that they’ve already given it a fitting name: the Wishbone Site.

But perhaps the most significant discoveries at the site aren’t about animals; they’re about plants.

A small sample of material collected from the hearth last year produced four native tobacco seeds, Duke said.

His team has now collected a “great deal” more sediment from the hearth to be analyzed, with the expectation that it contains more seeds.

The four seeds they’ve already found had been charred, suggesting that they, or the plants that contained them, were burned — a sign that the hunters had actually used the tobacco, Duke said.

“The seeds are burned and definitely from within the hearth,” he said.

“There are a few alternative possibilities to human use that I want to address,” he added, “[such as that] the waterfowl ate the seeds, [or some other] natural happenstance, but these possibilities are quite remote.”

Assuming the seeds are evidence of tobacco use by Great Basin hunters 12,000 years ago, the implications could be far-ranging, Duke said.

“The earliest evidence for human tobacco use is between 2,500 and 2,000 years ago,” he said.

“Tobacco is a new world plant, so this would mean that in short order, people came to this hemisphere and began using tobacco.

“This is probably the most impactful find of the whole site,” Duke added.

“Even botanists will be interested in this date, regardless of human use.”

While excavations at the Wishbone Site continue, Duke and his colleagues are mulling what other insights they can unpack from this ancient camp that has already presented them with so many archaeological firsts.



Archaeologists excavate a site on the Utah Test and Training Range, July 13, 2016. The team found tools, charcoal, water fowl bone fragments, and tooling flakes, which provide evidence of wetlands and human presence in the area more than 12,000 years ago. (Photo by Todd Cromar)



A stone spear point, about 8 to 10 centimeters long, is among the 12,000-year-old artifacts found at the hunting camp site. (Photo by Todd Cromar)

12,000-Year-Old Camp Found in Utah May Have Experts “Adjusting Their Theories”

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In this regard, the team’s future research might focus on one more of the site’s objects of fascination: a 10-centimeter-long spear point.

The point is fashioned in the elongated style known as Haskett, the same style that Duke reported finding last year — in enormous numbers — on the same Air Force property.

One of those spear points was found to still hold the residue of proteins consistent with elephants, suggesting it was used to hunt or butcher mammoths.

Finding the same kind of point at Wishbone, where only bird bones have been found, sheds new light on the diversity of the hunter-gatherers’ diet, Duke said, and on the extent to which their lives were dictated by the movement of the mammoths.

Time, and more study, will tell, he added.

“Perhaps similar [mammoth] residue will be found on this Haskett specimen,” Duke said.

“Mammoth hunting has previously only been associated with Clovis spear points.”

“The implication is that the same people outfitted to hunt late Pleistocene megafauna, such as mammoths, were eating waterfowl in the meantime,” Duke continued.

“This will have no shortage of archaeologists adjusting their theories.”

Mexican sword tip found at Alamo

star-telegram.com, By Tom Uhler, August 11, 2016

Archaeologists have recovered the tip of a Mexican sword while excavating at the south wall gate of the Alamo.

The artifact is believed to be from a sword issued to a non-commissioned officer in the Mexican infantry and dated about 1835, according to Nesta Anderson, the lead archaeologist on the dig. It could have been used in the famous battle for the Alamo in 1836 or in construction along the southern wall, she said at a news conference at the site Thursday morning.

“We’re really excited to have evidence of military action here at the south wall,” Anderson said. “We have got very little evidence overall of construction material, so this is really nice to have.”

The origin of the sword tip was made by Sam Nesmith, former Alamo curator and director of the Texas Institute and Museum of Military History, Anderson said. She identified it as a French-manufactured briquet and said it will be prepared for curation at the UT-San Antonio Center for Archaeological Research.



In 1835, Mexican Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos and Col. Domingo de Ugartechea had tried to fortify the Alamo mission’s southern wall against attack. In December of the same year, Texas forces led by Stephen F. Austin captured the mission after a lengthy siege. Mexican forces eventually retook the Alamo in the 1836 battle.

A similar sword tip was found in the excavation of Main Plaza in 2007, where Gen. Cos’ troops dug an entrenchment in December 1835, the archaeology team said in a news release.

The current archaeological dig is part of the “Reimagine the Alamo” project, a systematic archaeological study of the Alamo grounds put together by the Texas General Land Office, the city of San Antonio and the private Alamo Endowment.

Earlier this month, the team announced the recovery of more than 300 artifacts near the Alamo’s west wall, including imported European ceramics, a button made from animal bone, fragments from a tooth brush and square nails — emblems of “daily life at its best,” Anderson said.

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

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

(active military only)