



In this Issue:

- Comal County Rock Shelter Investigation – An Initial Survey.
- The Fremont People of Range Creek Canyon, Utah.
- The Coastal Bend Artifact Show & Tell.

Highlights:

Rock Shelter	1,3
Freemont	2
Show & Tell	2
Doc. Report	3
April Meeting	4-6

2006 Elected Board

- Chairman - Clint McKenzie
Vice-chair - Bruce Moses
Secretary – Lynn Yakubik
Treasurer – Cathy McCool

Comal County Rock Shelter Investigation - - - An Initial Survey



Left to right: Clint McKenzie, Chairman; Joe Beavin, Member; David Calame, Documentation Chair

In January of 2006, a local property owner (who has requested anonymity) contacted Mrs. Ellen Sue Turner concerning a rock shelter near Bulverde, Texas. On the advice of Dr. Thomas Hester, Mrs. Turner contacted STAA to survey the property.

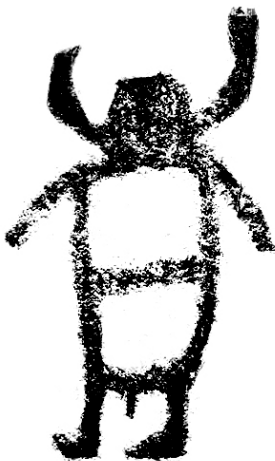
The STAA Documentation Chair, David Calame, contacted the property owner's agent and with his help arranged an initial site visit to rock shelter.

Calame and STAA members Debbie Calame, Charles Calame, Joe Beavin, Clint McKenzie, Herb Uecker, Sara Highland, and Steve Sampson met with the property owner on March 26, 2006 at her residence in Bulverde.

She voiced an interest in using her property to educate children about their shared Texas past. She requested that STAA visit and evaluate the rock shelter and make recommendations as to what could be done to protect and preserve it.

Upon arrival at the shelter location on a tributary of the Cibolo Creek, it quickly became apparent that the shelter had already been partially looted as evidenced by a screen trolley, shovels, and loading buckets. There was also a large pothole in the floor of the shelter. In the backdirt of the pothole were a complete metate, several metate fragments, a mano, and a hammerstone as well as lithic flakes and fragments of well preserved animal bone.

...Continued on Page 3



Fremont Pictograph

"The photo essay provides a wide array of photographs showcasing the mysterious rock art and interesting artifacts."

The Fremont People of Range Creek Canyon, Utah

The ancient culture known as the Fremont people once inhabited the Range Creek Canyon in Southern Utah. Since Archaic times, the canyon's natural isolation has protected much of the unique archaeological evidence found today.

This fascinating culture was profiled in the March 2006 issue of Smithsonian magazine. Based on Mrs. Ellen Sue Turner's online photo essay of the survey and data-gathering trip to Range Creek Canyon, Utah in 1999;



Range Creek Canyon, Utah

Smithsonian contacted Mrs. Turner to provide some first hand accounts of the documented artifacts and famous rock art the Fremont culture is noted for.

The online photo essay, which currently gets about 1000

unique visitors per month, gives an informed perspective on the Fremont culture's petroglyph/pictograph styles, distinctive artifacts and cultural background information.

The photo essay provides a wide array of photographs showcasing the mysterious rock art and interesting artifacts while the article itself provides more detailed information on the Fremont People. The article and essay can be found at www.staa.org

The Coastal Bend Artifact Show & Tell

A Show and Tell was held in Corpus Christi at Del Mar College this past February 18th.

The Padre Island National Seashore Parks Service (PINS) contacted us last year and expressed an interest in

partnering with STAA. This is the first step in that relationship, there is sure to be a lot of exciting opportunities in our future.

As for the event, bend participants brought a vast assortment of artifacts. They

varied from Egyptian panel fragments, ceramic figurines, Paleo to Archaic points, and shell tools found along the coastal bend.



John Stitt Collection of shell tools found along the coastal bend.

"Bend participants brought a vast assortment of artifacts."



1. Huastecan Pottery (M. Colley), 2. Plainview (Unknown exhibitor), 3. Shell Gorget - Kelly Site (John Stitt), 4. Pottery Shards from Blanding, Utah (Mr. & Mrs. John Boone), 5. Shell tool (John Stitt), 6. Egyptian Sculptured Panel - Anum (Gui & Marilyn Hutchison), 7. Possible Big Sandy - LaSalle County (Harvey & Margaret Patton), 8. Gorget - Dimmit County (Harvey & Margaret Patton), 9. Pottery Shards from Blanding, Utah (Mr. & Mrs. John Boone)

Cont'd. from Page 1

STAA members, under the direction of Chairman, Clint McKenzie, began a quick clean up of the shelter and sifted through all backdirt first. Then McKenzie entered the pothole, cleaning it up to the bottom level excavated, and profiling the pothole walls. Although a very small shelter, it became apparent that the site still retained undisturbed deposits and wonderfully preserved faunal remains including bone and charcoal. No time diagnostic artifacts were found on this initial

visit.

STAA members then disassembled the screen trolley, backfilled the pothole. Should the looter/trespasser return, a note was left at the site asking that person to stop this activity and to contact the STAA Documentation Chair without fear of consequence, in an effort to document anything previously found.

As the site is in close proximity to a major highway and in danger of being completely lost through looting activities it



is anticipated that STAA will excavate the small remaining portion of the rock shelter (no more than a 2 x 2 meter area remains intact!). This will insure that a proper record is made of the cultural occupation at this interesting site.

Documentation Report



During the month of March STAA joined with CAR (Center for Archaeological Research) in a survey of the Upper Salado Creek. These were previously recorded sites that needed updating.

In addition to the above-mentioned rock shelter site recording in Bulverde, David Calame is doing a survey of the San Miguel Creek and has issued a request to local newspapers in the Devine/Pearsall area for property owners to allow him access.

On the 18 -19th of March, STAA helped with a backhoe test trench on 41CM158, near Comfort, where a cave and associated archaic midden are being properly excavated.

David Calame provided a backhoe to dig a test trench at the edge of the midden. These backhoed spoils were screened with the help of STAA members. After the test trench is done and the results analyzed, the midden will be excavated by hand at a later date.

Found Something?

David Calame, as Documentation Chair for STAA, has been viewing, commenting and helping folks document their artifacts and record the sites those artifacts came off of for four years now.

This is a great way for you to do your part in helping document Texas' past and have a great time doing it! If you need help with your artifacts or sites, please contact him at:

Phone number:

210-394-3650

Email

davidcalame@sbcglobal.net

STAA Quarterly Meeting & Lectures --- April 15, 2006

TIME:

- **11:00 to Noon:**
Registration, Artifact Identification, & Social Hour
- **12 p.m.:** Brief STAA Business Meeting
- **12:15—2:30:** Featured Lectures

REGISTRATION FEES:

- **\$5.00** Adults & children over 11
- **\$2.00** for Students with College IDs and children under 11

April 15th STAA will hold its first quarterly meeting of 2006 at **Our Lady of the Lake University** in the Sueltenfuss Library Community Room.

Dr. Steve Black will present a lecture on "The Ancient Peoples of the South Texas Plains."

Dr. Black (University of Texas-Austin) will preview an extensive set of online exhibits that will appear on *Texas Beyond History*, as

part of an ongoing project called "Prehistoric Texas" of this virtual museum.

Also presenting will be **Dr. Alston Thoms**, on the "Pathways to Ancient Lifeways in South Bexar County: Archaeological Revelations of 9,000 Years of Hunting and Gathering along the Medina River"

Dr. Thoms (Texas A & M University) will explain the surprising cultural

continuity in the face of climatic fluctuations found at the Richard Beene site, located 15 miles south of San Antonio.

For Further Information

Contact:

Grace Keyes at 431-2280

Email:

gkeyes@stmarytx.edu

* To get to Our Lady of the Lake University from I-10 East, take the (TX-421-SPUR)/CULEBRA AVE exit towards BANDERA, exit #568, Continue on N TRINITY ST, Turn Right on CULEBRA AVE/CULEBRA RD, Turn Left on NW 24TH ST for 1.4 miles. The Sueltenfuss Library will be on the left on the east side of 24th street and across from Moyer Hall.

Dr. Steve Black: "The Ancient Peoples of the South Texas Plains."



Dr. Black's talk will preview an extensive set of online exhibits that will appear on TBH as part of an ongoing expansion project called "Prehistoric Texas."

The South Texas Plains exhibit set will weave together images, stories, interactive maps, and interactive activities for schoolchildren as well as lesson plans for Texas history and

social studies teachers. The goal is to synthesize what archaeologists and historians have learned about the native peoples of South Texas and share this with the public.

Dr. Steve Black is the lead editor of TexasBeyondHistory.net, the virtual museum of Texas' cultural heritage created by the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin in partnership with 13

other organizations including the Center for Archaeological Research at UT San Antonio. Since 1975 Black has carried out archaeological research in Texas, New Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Ecuador. Steve has a Ph.D. from Harvard, an M.A. from UTSA, and a B.A. from UT Austin, all focusing on anthropological archaeology. He is a long-time member of the STAA and has led several major excavation projects in southern and central Texas.

Since 2001 Black has concentrated on the Texas Beyond History website (TBH), which is devoted to sharing the results of almost 100 years of archeological research with the citizens of Texas and the world. The website contains many exhibits and thousands of images that help tell the story of the 13,500 year human history of Texas, a span representing over 500 generations.

"TexasBeyondHistory.net, ... helps tell the story of the 13,500 year human history of Texas, a span representing over 500 generations."

Dr. Alston Thoms “Pathways to Ancient Lifeways in South Bexar County: Archaeological Revelations of 9,000 Years of Hunting and Gathering along the Medina River”

Studies at the Richard Beene site, located 15 miles south of San Antonio, show clearly, albeit not unexpectedly, that climatic conditions fluctuated significantly and that substantially different stone projectile points were used through the millennia. Surprisingly, however, basic lifeways represented at the site—hunting deer, digging wild roots, gathering river

mussels, and cooking with hot rocks—changed comparatively little. Such continuity likely resulted from stability of food and natural resources readily accessible along this stretch of the river and effective technologies employed by early-day Texans. Efforts are underway to publicly showcase this remarkable site and the native Texans it represents.

Dr. Alston V. Thoms is a professor in the Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University. He earned a B.A. from West Texas State University (1970), a M.A. from Texas Tech University (1977), and a Ph.D. from Washington State University (1989). Prior to joining the full-time faculty at TAMU in 2001, he spent 25 years directing archaeological projects in the Pacific Northwest, Plains, Southwest, and

Southeast.
Dr. Thoms served as

...Continued on Page 6

“Studies at the Richard Beene site... show clearly that climatic conditions fluctuated significantly and different stone projectile points were used through the millennia.”



THE SOUTHERN TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Check type of membership: New Renewal, For the calendar year 20____
 Active (\$25 per year) Supporting (\$50 per year)
 Family (\$30 per year) Corporate (\$100 per year)
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\$_____ STAA Scholarship Fund \$_____ Ray Blackburn Endowment
 \$_____ Frances Meskill Memorial \$_____ Tom Kelley Scholarship Fund
 \$_____ Flaigg Archaeological Projects \$_____ Jimmy Mitchell Scholarship Fund

Total Amount Enclosed \$_____ Make Checks Payable to STAA, and mail to:

STAA Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 791032
San Antonio, TX 78219-1032

**Southern Texas
Archaeological
Association**

P.O. Box 791032
San Antonio, Texas 78219-
1032

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lynn.yakubik@utsa.edu

We're on the Web!
See us at:

WWW.STAA.ORG

Cont'd. from Page 5

Director of the Center for Ecological Archaeology at TAMU during the 1990s and as Principal Investigator for archaeological studies at the Richard Beene site. Throughout his career, he has worked closely with a vocational archaeologists, Native American groups, Civil War enthusiasts, and local historical organizations. He is a sixth-generation Texan whose archaeological interests date to his grade-school days

in the Texas Panhandle when his father taught him how to find Indian campsites around playa lakes and along draws. His current research focuses on the roles of wild root foods and cook-stone technology in land-use intensification, as well as on natural site-formation processes that disarticulate archaeological.

It is Time to Renew Your STAA Membership

Please be sure to check your label for your membership status! If it says '05, this will be your final newsletter, so be sure to send in your renewal.

Please place the enclosed invoice with your bills to be paid and send your

renewal soon to Lynn Yakubik at 9607 Fonthill Dr. San Antonio, TX 78254-5653.

Call her at 458-4462 or email lynn.yakubik@utsa.edu if you have any membership related questions.

**SOUTHERN TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**

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