

SOUTHERN TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

PO BOX 791032, San Antonio, TX 78279

June 2005

VOLUME 30, NO 2

STAA Quarterly Meeting

Saturday, June 25, 2005

UTSA- Science Building SB2.03.08

1604 & IH10, San Antonio, TX

(See directions next page)

Agenda

\$5.00 Adults and children over 11

\$2.00 for students with College IDs or for children under 11

Guests are welcome.

- 11:00 Registration and Artifact Identification**
- 12:00 Business Meeting**
- 12:15 Dan Potter, Regional Archaeologist for the Texas Historical Commission.**
"Coleman Burial Site in Southern Bexar County."
- 1:00 Break and Refreshments**
- 1:20 Christine Alvarez, Master student at Texas State University.**
"Bioarchaeological Investigation of Human Skeletal Remains at the Stiver Ranch Burial Sinkhole (41KM140)."

Site 41KM140 is a sinkhole burial site which is located within Stiver's Ranch in Kimble County, Texas. Shortly after discovery of human remains on the surface by cavers, field schools sponsored by the STAA excavated in the open chamber beneath the sinkhole shaft in 1999 and 2000, revealing fragmented and commingled human skeletal remains. Dating based on projectile points in association with the remains, along with two AMS radiocarbon dates, suggest that the site was being used for burial from the Middle Archaic to the Late Prehistoric period. A complete inventory of the material has yielded a minimum number of 11 individuals. Further analysis has made it possible to determine the paleodemography (age and sex distribution), paleopathology (status of health and trauma), and paleonutrition of individuals at the site. The results presented will provide a complete biological profile of the individuals interred at the sinkhole, as well as insight into subsistence adaptation, health and diet.

About our speakers: Dan Potter: As one of the Regional Archaeologist for the state of Texas, Dan serves central and north Texas and has a long and highly-valued relationship with the STAA and its membership for 20 years. The Coleman site is where THC stewards and STAA members conducted salvage excavations at a prehistoric cemetery in southern Bexar County.

Christine Alvarez was born and raised near Miami, Florida. She received her Bachelor of the Arts degree from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida where she graduated summa cum laude with a major in Anthropology. She has recently graduated from Texas State University-San Marcos, earning a Master of the Arts degree in Anthropology with a concentration in bioarchaeology.

Directions to the Meeting Place: UTSA is located at 1604 & IH10. Best to access on IH10 taking the UTSA Boulevard, 1.6 miles. Turn right onto Edward Ximenes Avenue and park at the northwest end of parking lot #6. The Science Building will be the building to the northeast of this parking area.

UPDATE ON *LA TIERRA* from Thomas R. Hester

The Editors of *LaTierra* are grateful to the STAA membership for their patience in waiting for Volume 31, No. 2, which we had hoped would appear in Winter 2004. There was a severe shortage of manuscripts for that issue, but fortunately, several STAA members answered our frantic pleas for papers. This process carried us over well into 2005.

At present, Volume 31, No. 2 (2004) is complete in terms of manuscripts and editing and is being put into final form at Morgan Printing. It will be out to the members fairly soon and I think you will agree that it will be worth the wait. Papers in the volume deal with such topics as corner tang bifaces (Cindy Smyers & David Calame, Sr.), a Val Verde County rockshelter (James Boyd), specialized shell artifacts from Nueces Bay (Pete Apple), human bone artifact from the Lower Rio Grande area (Boyd), a very unusual discovery of an asphaltum-filled marine shell in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (Mike Krzywonski), a commentary on the state of typology in Texas (Harry Shafer), and a study of a rockshelter in Zapata County (Boyd).

Harry Shafer and I are the new Co-Editors for *LaTierra*, and we thank Tim Perttula (as should all STAA members) for his hard work on the journal in the last three years. In the first issue of *LaTierra* for 2005, to appear this summer, we are pleased that Dan Potter has submitted his co-authored manuscript on the Coleman site in Bexar County. Many STAA members worked on this site, where several prehistoric burials had been exposed. The report is an excellent one, and *LaTierra* 32(1) will be entirely devoted to its publication.

At this point, Volume 32(2), for late 2005, will likely be an issue devoted to the study of lithic caches. We still need papers for this issue, preferably related to caches, but papers on other topics may also be included. Persons wishing to contribute to *La Tierra* should contact the Co-editors: Thomas R. Hester, PO Box 625, Utopia, TX 78884 (secocreek@swtexas.net) Harry J. Shafer, 212 Madison, #5, San Antonio, TX 78210 (hshafer@satx.rr.com).

Meet Your Vice-Chair !

Cathy McCool

Cathy McCool is serving STAA as our Vice-Chair. She is currently employed by SWBC, Southwest Business Corporation- this is *not* the phone company, and has been with SWBC for 16 years holding a number of positions. If she had to sum up her job description, she would say "trouble shooter". Her role takes her in places that need structure and organization, which is a good thing as she never gets bored with what she does. Currently, Cathy oversees a software program that is used to develop all the written communications for clients, which consists of approximately 9,000 different forms; generating over 150,000 letters a month.

Cathy says she has always been interested in archeology, but didn't have a clue how to get involved, so she had resigned herself to reading articles and magazines on the subject. Then, one Saturday afternoon, while getting the oil changed on her car, Cathy struck up a conversation with a man sitting next to her (imagine that!). Somehow, the subject of archeology arose and upon mentioning how much she would love to be able to do something like that he told her about STAA and gave her the web address. Excited, Cathy went straight home and looked up STAA and found a contact number. She called and was told there would be a booth at the Medina County Fair the following weekend.

Patiently, Cathy waited for the next weekend to arrive, and promptly drove to Hondo. There in the booth she met Dr. Tom Hester, Sue Turner, and David Calame. Not only did she get signed up with STAA, she also joined TAS, and was able to purchase an autographed copy of the Turner/Hester Field Guide to Stone Artifacts. (Ahhh, a dream realized!!)

Meet Your Vice-Chair (Continued from previous page)

STAA has, in fact, given Cathy the opportunity to do things she had only previously read about. Since becoming a member, she has done survey work, field work and lab work. Cathy is really looking forward to learning the technique of analyzing the artifacts and writing up reports, which is where Cathy feels STAA needs the most development.

"Working in STAA is absolutely wonderful", says Cathy. "There is so much more we could do. I would like to see STAA become a very high profile organization in the community. San Antonio is great city for an organization like ours to thrive. There is so much history associated with our city and STAA is in a position to enhance that knowledge base. I would like to see our relationship grow, and be able to offer assistance wherever and whenever needed".

It is people like Cathy McCool who will keep STAA growing, advancing and making an even greater difference in the field of archaeology. Next time you see Cathy at a meeting, lab or other event, stop and chat with her. Who knows some of her enthusiasm about archaeology might rub off on you and you'll join her in making STAA better.

Through your newsletter, we are working to share more insight about STAA and the people who have stepped up to lead this organization. In the last issue, we learned that Clint McKenzie has been a member of STAA since 1978 as a wee lad and that he has great plans for our organization. I hope you enjoy reading these articles. If you have any specific topics or questions for any of our leaders, feel free to send them to your newsletter Editor, Karen Fulghum at 966 Blue Bill Cove Drive, Lakehills, TX 78063, telephone 210-422-5699 or email kfulghum@remax.net.

Our current officers are Chairman: Clint McKenzie, Vicechair: Cathy McCool, Secretary: Bruce Moses and Treasurer: Ruth Mathews.

"I would argue that STAA is more relevant today than ever before with the continued destruction of both our prehistoric and historic South Texas heritage continuing apace, and the exponential growth of artifact collectors and hobbyists. We must stay committed to site preservation and recordation and the engaged and encouraged education of "collectors" and other enthusiasts." Clint McKenzie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jun 25** STAA Quarterly Meeting. St. Mary's University.
- Jul 2** Monthly STAA Lab at UTSA CAR 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Call Rick Young 210-458-7823 for more information.
- Aug 6** Monthly STAA LAB- UTSA CAR 1:00 to 4:00 pm.
- Sept 17** 3rd Quarter STAA Meeting

Treasurer's Report as of May 1, 2005

Cash Position

Checking account	13,417.48
Savings	4,920.17
Money Market -General	9,383.45
Money Market- Endowment	<u>10,399.26</u>
Total Accumulated Funds	\$38, 120.36
Designated Funds	12,468.54
Endowment Fund	10,399.26
Total Operating Funds	\$15,252.56

Board Meeting Highlights:

April 5: STAA is planning to assist the National Park Service folks from San Jose Mission with an Archaeology Awareness Exhibit during the month of October. Lynn Yakubik is coordinating the STAA efforts/ participation in this.

- STAA Field School Scholarship announcement and applications are being sent out .
- STAA Field School- potential sites are being considered and more will be made known as it develops.

May 3: Cathy McCool led the meeting in Clint's absence. Discussed final plans for the June 25th quarterly meeting.

The date of the 3rd quarter meeting is set for September 17th.

Board meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of the month at UTSA, CAR at 6:30 pm. Any STAA member is welcome to attend.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WESITE AT WWW.STAA.ORG

City Archaeologist Addresses STAA Members

Saturday, March 19 at St. Mary's University was the site of our last quarterly meeting where STAA members heard a very interesting talk from Kay Hinder, an STAA member and the current City Archaeologist for San Antonio. The role of City Archaeologist is to administer the archaeological duties of the Historic Preservation Office, increase awareness of archaeology and provide assistance in any archaeological matters. She works closely with Bexar County officials as well as the city leaders.

Kay emphasized the role that STAA can have in being the leading voice in San Antonio the Archaeology Unified Development Code. This Code protects inventoried sites requiring review prior to development. Kay is not opposed to development but wants the ability to review and advise developers in our area. Since the Code covers primarily documented sites, Kay urges STAA members to document and record archaeological sites. She also invites STAA to take an active role in the meetings and activities of the Planning Commission, the Historical Design and Review Committee and serve as an advocate in protection and preservation of historic and prehistoric sites in the area.

Advocacy opportunities include site monitoring, sponsoring of amendments to the Uniform Development Code which further enhances the role and impact of the City Archaeologist; gathering support, attending meetings, spreading the word regarding the importance of archaeological preservation. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact anyone of STAA's Officers.

Our second speaker that day was Anthropology Instructor Anthony "Tony" Lyle from San Antonio College. Tony shared a bit about his influences into archaeology from his college days at South West Texas to UTSA Graduate School. Where he received his Masters degree in Anthropology. His thesis was regarding Social Inequity at the Household Level of Mayan Culture. Among many interesting research projects he has had a part in, many of us can relate to the history of dance halls of Texas. He has worked for the New Braunfels Museum of Art and Music as Research Curator.

Through the San Antonio College, Tony has been able to expand their offerings of Cultural Anthropology, Physical Anthropology and Archaeology classes. He is introducing a Service Learning program whereby students earn college credits for volunteer activities related to their studies. This program is in partnership with the National Park Service, Institute of Texan Cultures, and UTSA Center for Archaeological Research, the New Braunfels Museum of Art and Music and the Witte Museum. He is also working on an international curriculum archaeological component made possible through grant programs. This will utilize the Worldwide Web to broaden and expand learn possibilities.

Thanks to both speakers for interesting presentations.

SOUTHERN TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

**Southern Texas Archaeological
Association Newsletter
PO Box 791032
San Antonio, TX 78219-1032**

Meeting Notice Enclosed-June 25, 2005