



# PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Panhandle Archeological Society  
Volume Forty-two, Number Nine, December 2021

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PANHANDLE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of November 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Paul Katz at 7:02 p.m. via a hybrid meeting at the Southwest Amarillo Public Library and ZOOM.

There were 14 persons in attendance.

**PROGRAM:** The program for the evening was by Kacy L. Hollenback from Southern Methodist University. Her program for the evening was titled We Once Were a Numerous People: Social Dynamics and the Long-Term Legacies of Smallpox Epidemics on the northern North American Great Plains. She spoke on different epidemics that affected the Hidatsa people and how they coped with the great losses of people from their tribes.

**MINUTES:** Will Masters moved for the October meeting minutes to be approved. Andy Burcham seconded it and they were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** There was no treasurer’s report presented.

**PUBLICATIONS REPORT:** The Publications Money Market (Checking) Account had an October, 2021 beginning balance of \$2,207.44. Interest earned in October was \$ 0.18, leaving a month end balance of \$2,207.62.

The Publications 180 Day CD continues with a balance of \$5,355.01. The CD will mature again and pay interest in February, 2022.

**MARKETING:** Paul reported on Erin’s behalf that the social media pages have remained about the same. She looked for opportunities for us to get involved and stated that there were not many events to hold a booth.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The slate of officers was as follows: President – Erin Frigo, Vice President – Scott Brosowske, Secretary – Miranda Bible, Treasurer – Paul Katz. Will moved to advance and Andy seconded. The slate moved unanimously and was approved as presented. The officers will take office in January.

All agreed that the place to hold the Studer Banquet is the Texas Agri-Life Extension. We voted on whether to have one or two dishes for the banquet. One dish feeds ten to fourteen people from Edes Meat. Scott asked if we could do a survey to see how many people would want ham or brisket. The informal survey of people present at the meeting brisket won. We also need to send out an email with information and an RSVP announcement. We then went on to talk about whether or not to charge for the event. Will said that if the organization can afford it we should not charge. It was decided to not charge for the banquet whether in person or on ZOOM, but we would ask for donations. The PAS would buy the meat and ice. Everyone else would need to bring the sides and deserts. Scott said he is willing to mail out forms to send back with memberships and donations. We also discussed the need to set up a PayPal account so people could pay with cards. Paul said he would look into that.

It was brought up that we need to be thinking about auction items for the banquet. We need to get those pictures to Erin by December 10<sup>th</sup>. Scott said that we do have a speaker for the Studer Banquet. His name is Doug Bamforth. They are still settling on a topic.

The SWFAS Symposium is set for April 9. This is a Saturday. Paul has asked the people who signed up to present a paper for 2020 if they would be willing to present this time and they all agreed. Miranda will check to see if the Education Classroom at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum will be available.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The THC is having a workshop on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am to 12 pm for their ten year plan. Register online if you would like to attend. There is no charge for this.

Paul said that the PayPal account is easy to set up. We can’t do this right away as we are about to switch banks. He and Andy will pursue this after the move.

Andy motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Scott seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Bible, Secretary

## Ways of Thinking About Paleoindian Archaeology

**Douglas B. Bamforth**

**University of Colorado Boulder**

### **Abstract**

What archaeologists know about the past depends a lot on luck, including the happenstance of the kinds of sites we find, the accident of the interests of particular archaeologists working in a region, and the chance development of ways of getting important kinds of information from different kinds of artifacts. All of these have shaped what we think we know about the Paleoindian period on the Great Plains. We can see this in action if we look at the different attention that archaeologists have paid over time to residential sites—the places where people lived, played, socialized, etc.—and hunting sites—the places where people killed and processed animals. Sites like Lindenmeier and the Medicine Creek sites have come and gone from our literature, often fading away as bison bone beds like Folsom, Cooper, and Casper have drawn our attention. This talk looks at the very different patterns of landuse and adaptive change over time suggested by different kinds of Paleoindian sites, arguing that neither by itself tells a complete picture and that focusing on only one seriously distorts our understanding of technology, subsistence, and movement across the landscape.

### **Biography**

Douglas B. Bamforth received his BA from the University of Pennsylvania (1978) and his MA (1983) and PhD (1986) from the University of California at Santa Barbara. His research has emphasized the Paleoindian occupation of the Great Plains and he has worked on archaeological field and laboratory projects in Nevada, coastal California, the Mojave Desert, coastal Georgia, Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, southwestern Germany, and Ireland. He is the author of *Ecology and Human Organization on the Great Plains* (1988), *The Allen Site: A Paleoindian Camp in Southwestern Nebraska* (2007), *Archaeological Perspectives on Warfare on the Great Plains* (with Andrew Clark; 2018), and *The Archaeology of the North American Great Plains* (2021). He has published on Paleoindian human/environment interactions, lithic technology, bison ecology, theoretical issues in archaeology, warfare, and the Irish Neolithic. Most recently, his work focuses on recent horticultural occupations on the Great Plains, where he is co-directing a collaborative project with Augustana University on social changes on the central Plains in the 13th and 14th centuries. He is a professor and blessedly ex-chair in the Anthropology department at the University of Colorado Boulder.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 11      Studer Banquet, 6:00 pm, held via Zoom
- January 13      North Texas Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting, 7:00 pm,  
via Zoom
- January 19      Regular PAS meeting, 7:00pm, held via Zoom and Southwest Library,  
6801 SW 45th Ave, Amarillo, Texas





## Payment of Dues and Social Media Resources

For payment of membership dues and any donations, please mail your payment as a check made out to the Panhandle Archaeological Society at **P.O. Box 814, Amarillo, Texas, 79105.**

The membership dues are as follows:

Individual Membership: \$15 per year

Family membership: \$20 per year

Student membership: \$10 per year

Institution: \$20 per year

Please find the membership forms on our website at [membershipforms2021.pdf](#) ([dirtbrothers.org](#))

Also, please remember that the Panhandle Archaeological Society currently has the following social media pages:

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/PanhandleArchaeologicalSociety>

**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/pan\\_arch\\_soc/](https://www.instagram.com/pan_arch_soc/)

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/pan\\_arch\\_soc](https://twitter.com/pan_arch_soc)

Please help our society grow by liking, following, and sharing the pages and the posts!



## **2022 TAS Geoarcheology 201 Academy (Please Consider a Donation!)**

Ken Lawrence

The most common feedback from every Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Geoarcheology Academy that we have held is a request for more hands-on instruction and more up close field exposure. Dr. Charles Frederick and Karl Kibler have wanted to do this in the past, but there has always been some obstacle to prevent it with one of them being a location that is available and warrants the attention. We now have such a location at the McNeill Ranch on the Guadalupe River near Victoria, which is where the last Geoarcheology Academy in Feb. 2020 was held in partnership with the Museum of the Coastal Bend at Victoria College, the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT), and the McNeill family. The McNeill Ranch contains site 41VT141 that CoBALT has been working on for decades and was the subject of Michael Aiuvalasit's thesis. This site and location contains an excellent mix of archeology from Late Paleoindian up to the present and geomorphic processes that are excellent for a more hands-on academy.

This academy will be ambitious and will have many "firsts" for the TAS. We are in the beginning stages of putting this course together and are attempting to determine our possibilities and limitations. Briefly, some of the goals include having chronometric data (both OSL and 14c) completed by the time of the course to discuss with the academy participants. As you may know, the results of the OSL samples will take many months to obtain and we are attempting to hold the academy in the Spring of 2022. So we will need to collect and submit the samples by early summer to achieve this schedule.

With all of that preamble here is what we currently envision. There will likely be a classroom and field component to the course with the field component being the priority. In the field, we would have at least 6 open trench profiles across the site that will have been previously analyzed, documented, and interpreted by the geoarcheologists. For the fieldwork, the academy participants would be broken down into groups of 5-6 people who would go from trench profile to trench profile for a specified amount of time at which a geoarcheologist would instruct and discuss that profile with the group. The participants would record each profile and compose an interpretation. At the end of the course, the results of the geoarcheologist analyses and interpretations will be provided. Obviously, the specifics of the academy will adjust as we get further along in the process and development.

We have six geoarcheologists confirmed (Dr. Charles Frederick, Karl Kibler, Jim Abbott, Brittney Gregory, Dr. Gus Costa, and myself) who will be taking part in the instruction of the academy. We have planned two separate academies of 25 participants held over a four day weekend in the Spring of 2022. The first group would be Friday-Saturday and the second group would be Sunday-Monday. We intend to hold a social event on Saturday night for both groups to participate if they want.

The course is intended to provide opportunities to analyze and describe soils in the field and compare with the geoarcheological descriptions and analyses. Get a better knowledge of soils-geomorphology approach to interpret a landscape and a comprehension of geoarcheological reports and how best to work with them. Discuss dating profiles using radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) and their interpretation. Note that the results of the analyses will be provided to all participants in the TAS Geoarcheology 201 Academy Field Guide and then curated with the other archeological investigations (e.g., CoBALT) that have occurred at the site.

We are soliciting funds to help pay for the upfront chronometric dating and limited logistical expenses required to develop this academy. Any amount is accepted but a minimum of \$500 will reserve a spot for one person. We have not yet established a firm cost for this academy, but it will be in the neighborhood of \$250 per participant (who will have to be a TAS member). The TAS is a 501 (c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible. We intend to have the names of the "sponsors" listed on the Academy Field Guide.

We are directing everyone to donate to the TAS general fund and specify that your donation is for the TAS Geoarcheology 201 Academy Fund (<https://www.txarch.org/donate>). Please contact me if you have any questions at [klawrence@swca.com](mailto:klawrence@swca.com).

## Texas Archeological Society Geoarchaeology 201 Academy

**McNeill Ranch (Victoria County) Spring 2022**

2 separate sessions of approx. 25 participants held over a four-day weekend (Fri-Sat and Sun-Mon)

### Designed to provide participants with:

- Opportunities to describe soil profiles in the field and compare your results with geoarchaeological descriptions of the same profiles;
- Understand how to use a soils-geomorphology approach to dissect a landscape;
- Discuss dating of profiles using radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL)

### Instructors:

- Charles Frederick
- Karl Kibler
- Jim Abbott
- Brittny Gregory
- Gus Costa
- Ken Lawrence

### Seeking Donations to TAS General Fund for Development

- Preparation for this academy requires funding for dating and logistics
- We can't do it without up front support
- Any amount accepted but a minimum \$500 Donation will reserve a spot for one person
- We are happy to accept larger donations (TAS is a 501 (c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible)

For further info please contact any of the following:

Ken Lawrence [klawrence@swca.com](mailto:klawrence@swca.com)

Charles Frederick [charlesthegeoarchaeologist@gmail.com](mailto:charlesthegeoarchaeologist@gmail.com)

Karl Kibler [karl@ctgeoarch.com](mailto:karl@ctgeoarch.com)

