



# PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Panhandle Archeological Society  
Volume Forty-two, Number Six, September 2021

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PANHANDLE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of May 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Erin Frigo at 7:05 p.m. virtually via ZOOM.

There were 14 persons in attendance.

**PROGRAM:** The program for the evening was White Thunder, Cheyenne Holy Man by Dee Cordy. George Bent was the son of William Bent and his Cheyenne wife Owl Woman. George grew up surrounded by Cheyenne culture and history. In 1910, he wrote the following about his maternal grandfather, White Thunder: "He was not chief, he was the Keeper of the great Sacred Medicine Arrows and was looked up on by Cheyenne tribe as Holy Man. All the Keepers of the Arrows are looked up on same. No-pi-no-no-Mie (White Thunder) was killed by Kiowas in battle in 1838 on Wolf Creek 20 miles above Fort Supply." This brief description by George is the basis for this program. We will take a detailed look at the life of White Thunder from about 1830 through 1838 when he died in combat in northwestern Oklahoma. We will also take a quick look at White Thunder's connection to his descendant, Southern Cheyenne peace chief and fellow posse member, Harvey Pratt.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** It was reported that the total in the checking account is \$7,359.03. Expenses were May 5 \$450 to TAS for Greenbelt Project in memory of Dick Carter, Alvin Lynn, and Rolla Shaller.

**PUBLICATIONS REPORT:** The Publications Money Market (checking) account had a beginning April balance of \$2325.32, earned \$0.19 interest in April, and had a month end balance of \$ 2325.51. The Publications 180 Day CD had a May 1 balance of \$ 5344.47. The balance will remain at this amount until the CD matures again on August 9.

**MARKETING:** The social media pages stayed about the same.

The Amarillo Community Market starts in June. Erin is working with Andy and the PAS will participate in at least two Saturdays.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Andy contacted Karen about a possible outing to Sunday Canyon. She was receptive to the PAS having a field day doing survey work and possibly shovel test. Paul and Andy will go visit with her to define the scope of the work and dates. Mack Dick is 101 years old July 6<sup>th</sup> so it would be good to do this sooner rather than later. They will try and get it set up for some time before the fall.

Erin received an email from Chris about possible field work.

Will moved to use Scott's version of the new membership forms after much discussion about which one would be best to use. Erin seconded. Paul opposed, but the motion was passed after it was decided to have a copy of the rules and regulations along with the membership forms.

At the end of this year Pam is stepping down as Treasurer. There is a need for someone to step up to take her place.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Andy wants to do field activities but needs communication about what and when. Erin will send updates and presume to schedule things on the weekends.

Jerry spoke about the Comanchero Museum even on June 5<sup>th</sup>. It is their rendezvous event. They need help with artifact ID. The stage coach came in around Caprock Canyon State Park May 28 or 29 and June 5<sup>th</sup> at Quitique.

This was the last meeting until September.

Andy motioned that the meeting adjourn and Paul seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Bible, Secretary

## **Native Hunters, Prairies, and Bison**

**Christopher Roos**  
**Southern Methodist University**



### **Abstract**

Christopher Roos, Professor of Anthropology at SMU, will present *Native Hunters, Prairies, and Bison*, a look at the methods indigenous people used to manage prairies and bison herds. He will discuss the role of fire in the evolution of global grasslands and methods that Indigenous hunters used to control wildfires in grasslands to improve their hunting. These strategies improve biodiversity in the process and may mediate fire-climate relationships as well. In northern Montana, Blackfoot hunters used fire to manipulate the grazing behavior of bison herds for centuries, making them ecosystem engineers of northwestern Great Plains prairies.

### **Biography**

Roos is an environmental archaeologist and Professor of Anthropology at Southern Methodist University. His primary areas of expertise are in human pyrogeography and behavioral geoarchaeology. He directs interdisciplinary research projects on the long-term interactions of human societies, climate, and wildfire in the Southwest United States, the northern Great Plains, and Fiji. Read about his work here: <https://people.smu.edu/croos/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 9      NTAS monthly meeting, 7:00pm, held via Zoom  
([Monthly Meetings \(ntxas.org\)](http://MonthlyMeetings(ntxas.org)))

September 15      Regular PAS meeting, 7:00 pm, held via Zoom

September 25      National Public Lands Day, 8:30am, Cross Bar Ranch





## 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

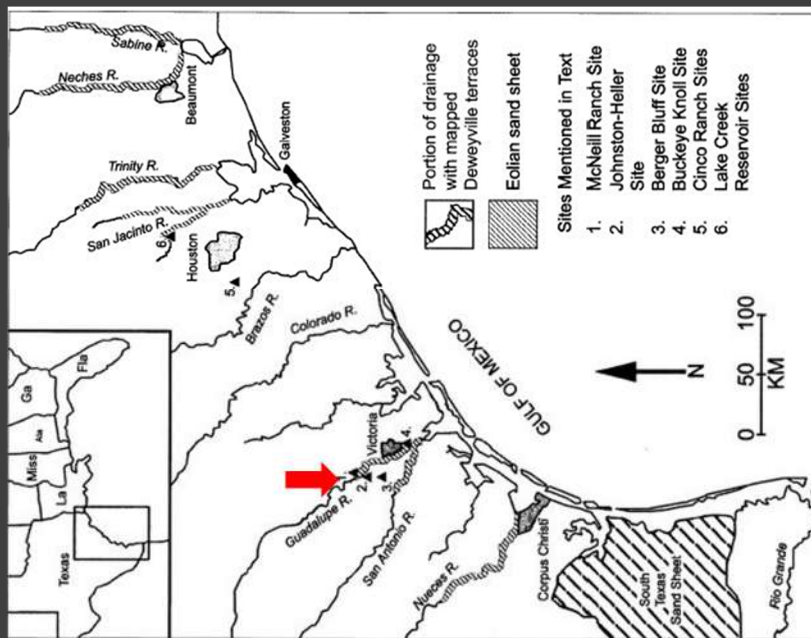
- Preparation for this academy requires funding for dating and logistics
- We can't do it without up front support
- Any amount accepted but a minimum \$500 Donation will reserve a spot for one person
- We are happy to accept larger donations (TAS is a 501 (c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible)

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)





## Some Summer Events!

We had a few outreach events this summer at the Amarillo Community Market where we had petroglyph demonstrations, which involved giving the kids a quick overview of what a petroglyph is and giving them an opportunity to make their very own “petroglyphs” out of clay! It was a great time! We even had some people come out to say that they came out just to see us! We also participated in Earth Day at Wildcat Bluff Nature Center, where the kids got to paint headbands using yucca brushes, make bracelets using yucca cordage, watch or try their hand at fire-making using yucca stalks, and do corn grinding, all while learning how the prehistoric peoples utilized the vast presence of yucca in the Texas panhandle and prepared their food.

