The guest speaker at the PAS meeting on March 19 will be Todd Smith, a career law enforcement officer, who is currently the Chief Investigator for the District Attorney’s office in Lubbock. Approximately two years ago he and other investigators from this office, other historians and volunteers began searching for the “Battle of Blanco Canyon”. Using skills developed in criminal cases, this team used research and boots on the ground to locate and identify this battle site.
Inside...

Next PAS Meeting

Pages 3-5

Shell Disk Beads from the Southern High Plains by Scott Brosowske

News & Notes: Veronica M. Arias, Ph.D. is the new Curator of Archeology at PPHM.

“Diggers Petition” information on bottom of Page 6

Page 7

Minutes of the February meeting of Panhandle Archeological Society.

Page 8

Invitation and call for papers to:
Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies
50th Symposium Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 9:00 - 4:30

Page 9

50th Annual Symposium of the Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies staffing assignments sign-up information.

Upcoming Events
Shell Disk Beads from the Southern High Plains

By Scott D. Brosowske

Shell beads and ornaments are relatively common artifacts recovered at prehistoric sites of the Southern High Plains. Generally, these seem to occur primarily in post-Archaic (A.D. 400) contexts, although the miniscule shell bead recovered at the Folsom age Shifting Sands site near Midland, Texas indicates that shell working technologies have great antiquity in the region (Hofman et al. 2000). This brief article discusses an uncommon bead type that has previously received little attention in the literature: the shell disk bead.

Recently, a small number of small, disk shaped shell beads were recovered during excavations at Eastview (41RB153), a small Antelope Creek phase residential site in Roberts County, Texas (see Brosowske 2013). These beads were distributed throughout the northernmost house examined at the site. None of these beads were associated with the living floor of the house, but occurred within the fill following house abandonment. Table 1 provides metric measurements for 24 of the 29 shell disk beads recovered from the site.

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Table 1 Metric Attributes of Shell Disk Beads from the Eastview Site

The shell disk beads from Eastview are generally circular in outline and flat in side view with slightly rounded edges (Figure 1). The majority are fairly symmetrical in shape, although some have holes that are drilled slightly off center, others are noticeably ovoid in outline, and others have uneven thicknesses. The average dimensions are 3.84 mm in diameter (Range 2.9 mm to 6.1 mm), 1.85 mm in thickness (Range 1.2 mm to 2.7 mm), and the average hole diameter is 1.86 mm (Range 1.42 mm to 3.02 mm). The method used for drilling the beads varied. Thirteen of the beads have slightly bi-conical shaped holes continued on page 4
indicating that they were drilled from both sides. The remaining beads have slightly tapered or straight holes suggesting they were drilled from one side.

![Image of Shell Disk Beads from the Eastview Site](image)

Figure 1  Shell Disk Beads from the Eastview Site

Just how common these bead types are in the region is difficult to access. Given their small size they are unlikely to be recovered unless matrix is fine screened or unless they are encountered in large numbers (Figure 2). It should be noted that these beads are much smaller than the “washer” shaped beads present as early as the Early Ceramic period in the Central and Southern Plains. A few sites in the region where shell disk beads have been documented include Stamper (Watson 1950:39), Two Sisters (Duncan 2002:165), Landergin Mesa (Lintz 2014, personal communication), and a burial at Caprock Canyonlands State Park (Lintz 2014, personal communication). Perhaps most impressive, an estimated total of just over 1700 shell disk beads were documented from a bell-shaped pit at the Barnes site in southeastern Colorado (Lindsey 2005). It is generally concluded that these small disk beads were likely manufactured and obtained through exchange with Puebloan groups (Brosowske 2005; Lindsey 2005; Lintz 2014, personal communication).
Figure 2  Shell Disk Beads Shown on 3 mm Mesh Screen

References Cited

Brosowske, Scott D.

Duncan, Majorie A.
2002  *Adaptation During the Antelope Creek Phase: A Diet Breadth and Catchment Analysis of the Subsistence Strategy at the Two Sisters Site*. Unpublished Ph.D Dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Hofman, J. L, R. O. Rose, L. D. Martin, and D. S. Amick,

Lindsey, Roche M.
2005  *Analysis of Feature 5 at the Late Prehistoric Barnes Sites on the Southeastern High Plains of Colorado*. Unpublished M.A. Thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Watson, Virginia
News & Notes:

The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum has a new Curator of Archeology.

Veronica M. Arias, Ph.D.

The April issue of PASTimes will have a feature article on Veronica.

“Diggers” Petition

There is a growing movement among archaeologists, historians, and historic preservationists to push back against irresponsible and uncontrolled metal detecting on historic sites which are conducted primarily to recover artifacts and sell them. The focus of the campaign is to remove from cable television three separate but similar programs, including the National Geographic Channel’s “Diggers,” the Travel Channel’s “Dig Wars” and Spike TV’s “American Diggers.” The consensus is that these programs promote looting and disrespect of our national heritage.

A petition has been drafted and has over 1,100 signatures to date. Letters of support and protest letters directed to the various programs and channels have been written by close to one hundred local, state, regional, national, and international organizations.

If you wish to read the petition, learn more about the arguments, and see a list of supporting organizations, click on the link below. You can also go to the change.org website and enter “diggers” in the search box.

http://www.change.org/petitions/the-national-geographic-channel
Minutes February 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Donna Otto shortly after 7:00 p.m. at the Downtown Amarillo Library second floor Board Room.

Guests and members were greeted. There were 17 in attendance: 12 members and five guests. Rolla Shaller introduced the new PPHM Curator of Archeology, Veronica Arias, PhD.

The following upcoming meetings and events were announced.

. Regular meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month. (Mar. 19, Apr. 16 and May 21)
. March 21-22 Flint Hills Conference, Ft. Osage, MO
. April 26 Stone Age Fair, Museum of the Plains, 10 a.m. Perryton, TX
   (Contact Scott Brosowske, 806-434-0157)
. May 3 50th Annual Symposium of the SWFAS, PAS Host, PPHM

MINUTES: Minutes from the previous meeting were published in the PAS Newsletter. Alvin Lynn corrected the date of the Adobe Walls Sesquicentenial to Oct. 4, after which a motion was made, seconded, and the minutes were approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Treasurer made her report in absentia. The bank balance is $3,0330 and $135 in checks to be deposited bring the total to $3,165.30.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Rolla Shaller, reported that a balance of $1,150 was brought forward from 2013. Since then interest and sales of publications added $21.10; expenses for postage and sales taxes were $23.79, leaving a balance of $1,147.31. The Certificate of Deposit has a balance of $5008.64.

OLD BUSINESS: SWFAS Meeting. Paul Katz reported that requests for papers have gone out resulting in 2 abstracts already and potential for 11 speakers. Pam Allison is working on a Friday night social and a list of lunch recommendations. Bill Webb is putting together a list of lodging places. Donna asked for volunteers to be in charge of publicity and Sunday tours.

NEW BUSINESS: Next month’s program will be Todd Smith of Lubbock talking on Blanco Canyon Battle site.

Paul Katz brought attention to an online petition on Change.org concerning the irresponsible use of metal detecting to find and profit from the sale of artifacts. This practice is being publicized on several TV programs, particularly one by National Geographic. Paul urged us to sign the petition.

Jerry Leatherman plans to retire as Newsletter editor in the near future. Donna asked a for volunteer to fill the position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The April program will be on forensic archeology and the meeting may be scheduled earlier. Details will be available at the March meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED: There being no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned by Donna Otto at 8:30 p.m.
You are invited to attend the

Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies 50th Symposium

Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 9:00 - 4:30

[Friday evening social, informal Saturday dinner, Sunday tours to Alibates Ruin 28 or Adobe Walls]

Hosted by the Panhandle Archeological Society

at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, TX

Proposals for individual papers are now being accepted on any topic relating to the cultural or natural history of the Federation region of western Texas and eastern New Mexico. Presentations will be 20 minutes in duration with five minutes between presentations. Papers accepted for presentation will be published in the Transactions of the 50th Regional Archeological Symposium for Southeastern New Mexico and Western Texas, available in 2015. The submissions should be on a CD, DVD or 3.5” diskette in Microsoft Word format at the conclusion of the symposium. Please submit your abstract using this form.

Abstract deadline is March 1, 2014.

AUTHOR(S): _________________________________________________________________________

ADDRESS: __________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

CITY, STATE, ZIP: ____________________________________________________________________

HOME PHONE: __________________________ OFFICE PHONE: _____________________________

E-MAIL: _____________________________________________________________________________

FAX: _________________________________________

AFFILIATION (to be included in the program): _____________________________________________

PRESENTATION TITLE: __________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

ABSTRACT (maximum of 200 words):


E-MAIL IS THE PREFERRED METHOD OF SUBMITTING YOUR ABSTRACT

If it is impossible for you to submit by e-mail, please mail a hard copy of this form to

Paul Katz, PO Box 1535, Panhandle, TX 79068.

Address questions and comments to the above email or 806-537-5040.
On Saturday, May 3, the PAS will be hosting the 50th Annual Symposium of the Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies. It is a milestone event for the Federation, and we want it to be a memorable one for the participants and the attendees.

You can make this happen by helping with one (or more) of the many tasks that must be done beforehand. Most of these tasks are listed in the accompanying table, grouped into committees. The names already in the table are members who signed up at the last meeting.

If there is something that you are good at doing and you would like to participate, please send an email to or call President Donna Otto, who will be coordinating the committee activities: Ottotomfarm@aol.com or (806) 681-4181. Please provide both your email address and a telephone number so that we can contact you with more information about your committee’s activities. Thank you for your cooperation.

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<td>Donations and funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday social</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>pictures of speakers; pictures of field trip(s)</td>
<td>Joe Cepeda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>solicit participants; get abstracts; schedule presentations; prepare and print program</td>
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<td>solicit items; prepare bags; door prize tickets; display auction items</td>
<td>Audrey Taylor Elaine Maples</td>
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March 19 - Panhandle Archeological Society meeting at Amarillo Public Library, 413 Southeast 4th St., 2nd Floor, 7:00 PM.

The Guest Speaker will be Todd Smith, a career law enforcement officer who is currently the Chief Investigator for the District Attorney’s office in Lubbock. Approximately two years ago he and other investigators from this office, other historians and volunteers began searching for the “Battle of Blanco Canyon”. Using skills developed in criminal cases, this team used research and boots on the ground to locate and identify this battle site.

March 21-22 - Flint Hills Conference at Fort Osage, MO

April 16 - Panhandle Archeological Society meeting at Amarillo Public Library, 413 Southeast 4th St., 2nd Floor, 7:00 PM.

April 26 - Perryton Stone Age Fair, Museum of the Plains, Perryton, TX. 10 A.M.—5 P.M. Contact Scott Brosowske (806) 434-0157.

May 3 - 50th Annual Symposium of the Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies at PPHM. See details on Page 12.

May 21 - Panhandle Archeological Society meeting at Amarillo Public Library, 413 Southeast 4th St., 2nd Floor, 7:00 PM.