

PASTIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PANHANDLE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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by Glenn Maples

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The Panhandle Archeological Society will hold its next meeting on Wednesday October 20, 2010, at 7:00p.m., at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center Science Building, 2301 N. Soncy Road, in Amarillo, Texas.

Ceramics Workshop

We are going to have a change of pace for our October 20, 2010 meeting with a ceramics workshop. Instead of a speaker presentation, we will view a film of Maria Martinez, the well-known San Ildefonso potter who along with her husband, Julian, perfected the finely burnished blackware that has been prized by collectors for decades. In this film, Maria and her son, Popovi Da, demonstrate pottery making in the traditional manner, beginning with the gathering of clay and temper, to the actual construction, decoration, and ultimately the firing.

Come in your play clothes as we will have a hands-on opportunity to attempt to build our own masterpiece with the aid of our very own PAS potter, Alvin Lynn. Courtesy of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, we will have a block of clay from which we will be able to experience and practice the process of building a clay pot using the coil method. Paddles with cords made from yucca leaves will be available to practice making Cordmarked designs. Come play in the clay with us!



Inside this issue:

Page 2. Minutes from last meeting.

Page 3. Palo Duro Canyon Metal Detecting Survey.

Page 4. An Unusual Bone Implement from the Chill Hill Site.

Page 5. PAS Member Highlight, Announcements, and Upcoming Events.

SEPTEMBER 2010 Minutes

President Paul Katz opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction of new members and guests. The next meeting will be on October 20th with Joe D Rogers, President of TAS, speaking on the Field School this year and future plans with locations.

NOTE: The new PAS meeting start time: 7:00 pm.

Business Meeting opened by President Paul Katz.

The May 19, 2010 minutes were approved. Lisa Jackson gave the Treasurer's Report at \$1088.10.

Rolla Shaller reported on the Publications Committee that the balance was the same. He also reported that the \$5000 CD was still current.

Announcements and Fieldwork Opportunities:

A survey in Palo Duro Canyon was announced under the Supervision of Tony Lyle. Danny Witt said 15 local metal detectors were contacted to help on September 20 - 25 on 3000 acres recently acquired adjacent to the Park.

The premiere opening and knap-in at the new Contact Station at Alibates National Monument on October 2 was announced. The new 10 minute educational video will be presented. It will be shown continuously when the Contact Station is open throughout the summer. Ed Day, Tommy Heflin of Portales and other flintknappers will be present throughout the day. They will be making artifacts for two educational trunks which will be ready later this year. Tours will be offered of Alibates at the headquarters in Fritch.

October is Texas Archeology Month so PPHM is opening an exhibit on October 15 to celebrate. The three parts of the exhibit are

1. Historic Indian artifacts from the Museum collection
2. Historical exhibit from the Alfred Rowe Ranch near Clarendon
3. Oldest Spanish/Comanche Shield Artifact will be presented separately. Brochure is available.

Jeff Indeck, Curator of Archeology, will give a tour of Adobe Walls at 12:00 on October 16. Meet at the site. Deaf Smith Museum will have an Archeology Fair on October 9th.

Old Business: The PAS Website was discussed and Bob Wishoff volunteered to create and maintain the site. His offer was unanimously accepted. The Bylaws revision was continued until next month.

New Business: PASTIMES editor Matt Tyler resigned to move to Atlanta for a new job. Scott Brosowski volunteered Courson Archaeological Research to edit the PASTIMES.

Participation in the Fannin History Festival on Saturday, October 16, from 9-3 was discussed. PAS will have atlatl throwing and corn grinding. Alvin Lynn has the supplies with Jeff Indeck having additional

supplies. Help with the corn grinding is needed. Call Alvin or Jeff if you can help.

A request from members to move the meeting start time to 7:00 pm was presented. Lisa Jackson moved the meetings now start at 7:00 pm starting in October. Alvin Lynn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

If you wish to eat with members at the Country Barn, meet there at 5:30 pm before the meeting. Joe Rogers is looking for an apprentice to help with a woodworking project. Contact him if you are interested.

The business meeting was adjourned.

Palo Duro Canyon Metal Detecting Survey

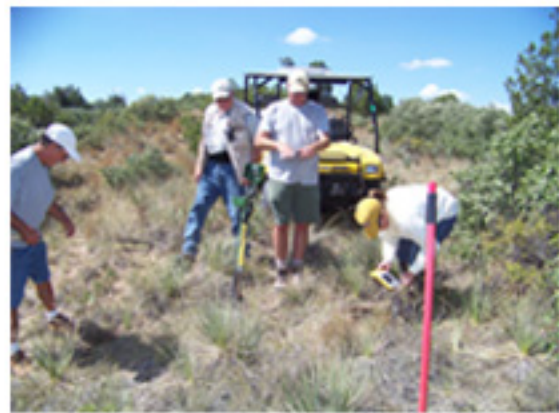
In a collaborated effort between Texas Parks and Wildlife and private individuals, an extensive week-long metal detecting survey was conducted in an area of Palo Duro Canyon State Park. This area had never been surveyed using metal detectors and was speculated to have been a possible escape route utilized by the Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Comanche Indians following the battle of Palo Duro Canyon in September, 1874. The primary mission for the week was to determine if there was any historical evidence that could be linked to the flight out of Palo Duro Canyon. The specialized nature and rugged terrain of this survey brought together individuals from Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico, the Texas Panhandle, Austin, and the Kiowa Nation.

Members assembled early in the first morning, discussed potential target areas, divided into 3 to 5 member teams and began the systematic survey of over 3,000 acres. While working through the first few areas, techniques were established on how the searches would be conducted, as well as the flagging and marking of the artifacts. Team members utilizing Trimble DGPS units would log and mark the location for future mapping and study. During the course of the first day, the items discovered consisted of 20th century farm implement parts and a complete mano from an unknown age. Two previously undocumented prehistoric sites containing burned rock, fire cracked quartzite, and lithic debitage were also found.

Day two arrived and members divided into two distinct groups to thoroughly cover the rugged areas encountered. One group worked along a northern rim and back into several draws. Less than an hour into the day, members located several .44 and .45 cartridges in close proximity to each other. Information on the head stamps appears to date these items to the late 1870's. The second group worked a remote draw containing several springs. While no or historic Indian artifacts were found at this location, several turn of the century items, including wagon parts, nails, and other tack items were found. The most artifacts were found on the third day. One group continued where they left off the previous day. In one small area, several .44, .45, and .38 cartridge casings were recovered along with eating utensils, and an 1869 or 1880 nickel. Ornamental brass fragments and barrel hoops were also recovered during the course of the day. Multiple undocumented sites containing manos, debitage, cracked and burned rock were also discovered.



I have my metal detector set on "flint"! Lance Bussard



The survey crew records the location of one of the prehistoric artifacts.
L-R George Cromwell, Dempsey Malaney, Scott Brosowske, Aina Dodge.

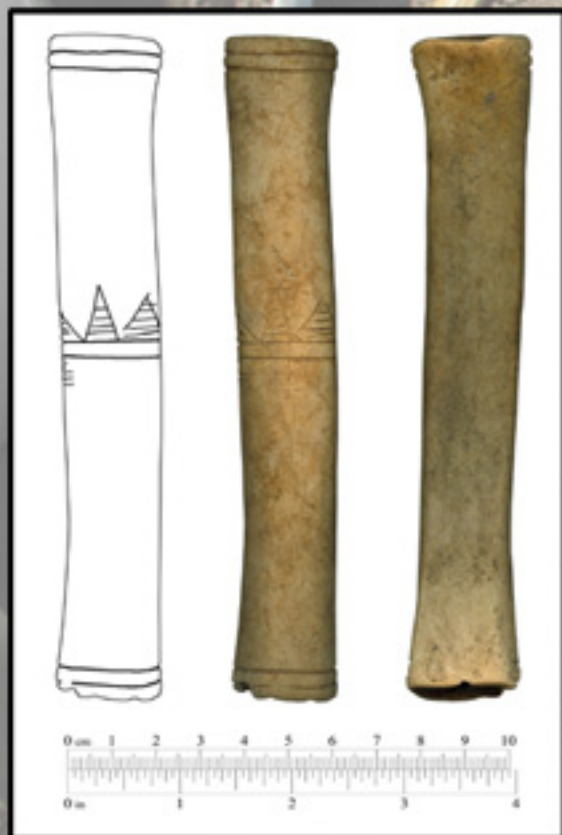
It appears that based on the lack of finding specific materials and the terrain itself that it is unlikely this area was used as an escape route for Indians fleeing the Red River battlefield. It was readily apparent that this area has been utilized with regularity from prehistoric Indians to 20th century ranchers based on the sites and items recovered. This survey also clearly demonstrated the effectiveness of metal detecting when utilized in a systematic manner by experienced personnel.

By Stacy L. Brown

An Unusual Bone Implement from the Chill Hill Site

This summer during the Courson Archaeological Research field school excavations were conducted at Chill Hill (41RB132), a large Antelope Creek phase site near the Canadian River. Radiocarbon dates obtained for the site suggest a primary occupation from about A.D. 1420 to A.D. 1440. While excavating a shallow, circular house structure at Area A of the site, an unusual bone implement was recovered among trash debris deposited on the floor of this feature

This item represents a hollow, cylindrical bone tube manufactured from a deer or antelope long bone. This bone tube is well polished and is approximately 16.5 cm (6.5 inches) long and 2.5 cm (1 inch) thick. The obverse surface of the tube has two sets of parallel lines incised near the proximal and distal ends. The central portion of the tube also has two incised parallel lines. Adjoining to the latter toward the proximal end are three triangular shaped designs marked with horizontal lines on their interior.



Field photo of the Bone Tube as it was uncovered during the CAR fieldschool.

Interestingly, two very similar bone tubes were recently identified by Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum staff in materials recovered at Alibates Ruin #28, a large Antelope Creek phase site near the Alibates quarries. While the ultimate function of this unique implement remains unclear, some researchers have noted similarities to artifacts identified as "Sucking Tubes" used by Shamans during healing ceremonies. If anyone has additional information regarding the potential function of this artifact please contact the PAS newsletter editor.

Scott D. Brosowski

PAS Member Highlight: Dempsey Malaney

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself: I was born in the Texas Panhandle, graduated from WTSU and married the former Kara Bess Apple and have 3 children. Served 27 years in the military, 12 years in the defense industry, and have retired to the family ranch, first settled by my grandfather Ben Jackson on Wolf Creek in 1886.

2. What is a fun or little know fact about you? Competed in world fast draw association competitions

3. What would be your vision for PAS in the future? Have programs that will get kids interested and involved in archaeology.

**October Upcoming Events**

1-31-Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument will be hosting tours of ruins and petroglyphs every weekend in Oct. For more info, contact Lynn Smith at (806) 857-3151.

6-9-Plains Anthropological Society Annual Conference will be held in Bismark, ND.

16-14th Annual Fannin History Festival will be held at Fannin Middle School, Amarillo, TX. For more info, contact Julie Greene at (806) 282-2401

16-"The Earliest Pioneers of the Texas Panhandle", by Cleon Roberts. FPC Allen Campus, Perryton, TX. For more info, contact (806) 648-1450

22-24-TAS Annual meeting will be held in Corpus Christi, TX

23-Family Archeaology Day, Museum of the Plains, Perryton, TX. For more info, contact Odie Dear at (806) 435-0064

24-"First Battle of Adobe Walls" White Deer Land Musuem, Pampa, TX. For more info, contact Anne Davidson at (806) 669-8041.

15 December 2010- PAS Studer Banquet will be held at the Country Barn, Amarillo, TX beginning at 6:00 PM

Announcements

Donated items for the Studer Banquet silent auction are being requested.