

# PASTTIMES

The Newsletter of the Panhandle Archaeological Society

Volume 32, No. 6, September 2012

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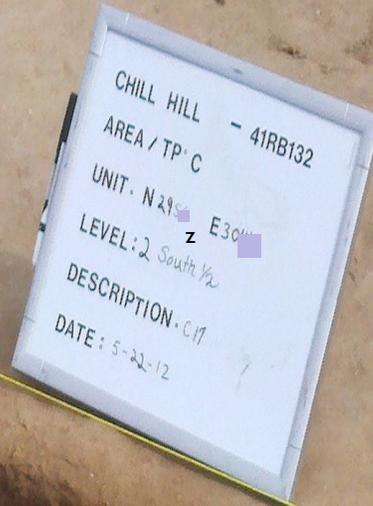
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**Next PAS meeting: Wednesday, September 19, 7 P.M.**

**Wildcat Bluff Nature Center, 2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, TX**

Paul Katz and Joe D. Rogers will present information from the Texas Archaeological Society Field School held at Devil's River.



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**Scott Browsowske article on documenting private collections...**

What archaeological value is there to artifacts hidden away without any public knowledge of their content or area of discovery and what can we do about it?



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**Whatzits & Howdits...**

How did it get to where it was found and/or what is it? A new monthly page of puzzling discoveries in the Texas panhandle. Submit entries or answers to the editor.



**Upcoming Events...**

Plan your work and work your plan. Many thanks to Rolla Shaller for keeping up with things of interest to PAS members.

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**Cover photo by Jerry Leatherman:**

Courson Archaeological Research May 2012 Field School work uncovers a non-typical antler, a metate, small pieces of flint, and a bison 3rd Phalanx at Chill Hill site.



## Speakers at PAS Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7 P.M., Wildcat Bluff...

**Dr. Paul Katz's** portion of the 2012 TAS Field School program will consist of two parts. Prior to the field school, he visited three sites being excavated by Texas State University students. Located directly across the Devils River from the TAS field school area, these sites provided a preview of the archaeology that the TAS would encounter.

During the field school itself, he was part of a crew assigned to survey the lower reaches of the Little Satan drainage, a major tributary of the Devils River.



Paul Katz has a bachelor's degree in Art History from Swarthmore College and three graduate degrees in Anthropology from the University of Kansas. His background and experience is in both prehistoric archaeology and museums. He has conducted fieldwork, taught at the college level, curated collections, and directed museums in Kansas, Washington, Illinois, and Texas. He has participated in two projects outside of the United States, one in Ireland and the other in Mexico.

**The Devil's  
River is in the  
Lower Pecos  
Region.**

**Joe D. Rogers'** part of the program on Devil's River will highlight one of the test units at 41VV837. The site combines historic ranching, historic native American, and some archaic elements. Information will be used to help stabilize nearby roadways and river access points.

*Joe D. Rogers is a retired public school teacher that works as a Part Time Instructor at WTA&MU in History and Archaeology. He is a Past President of both PAS and TAS. Current research projects include Burnt Daub in all its varieties, and the Texas Panhandle in World War II.*



## Documenting Private Artifact Collections

By Scott D. Brosowske

For a number of different reasons, the Texas panhandle has attracted little sustained interest from professional archaeologists. As a result, the archaeology of the valleys, wide open places, and canyons of the region remain some of the more poorly understood areas of Texas. As avocational archaeologists there are many things that can be done to help amend this situation. One of the most helpful is by documenting



private artifact collections. Undocumented collections exist throughout the panhandle region. Generally, people envision collections as largely limited to those held in private hands, however, equally large numbers of collections are also present in local museums. This brief article discusses some of the basic types of information that can be recorded with private collections.

From experience, most families and museums are usually very open to having their artifact collections recorded. Generally, the non-archaeological community is unaware of the types of valuable information that can be gleaned from the analysis of collections. For example, most individuals are often very surprised to learn that the results of analysis by a trained archaeologist or avocational archaeologist can often: 1) provide information as to the age of sites based on the artifacts represented, 2) identify the types of daily activities represented by individual artifacts, such as hunting, butchery, tool production, and plant processing, and 3) document evidence for exchange in the form of nonlocal items. With this understanding, non-archaeologists start to realize the importance of collections. Other key issues that can be addressed are the importance of context/provenience and the harm caused by unscrupulous collecting or worse yet, pot hunting. Documenting private collections is becoming more and more important as older generations of collectors are passing away before their collections are recorded. As many are aware, this results in a loss of valuable information.

So, what types of information should be recorded when documenting artifact collections? This varies considerably depending on the type of collection and how much time the recorder is willing to commit to the project. Oftentimes, the first order of business should be to determine if the artifacts came from a single site or multiple sites. If the latter, the artifacts should be sorted by site and analyzed accordingly. Ideally, if the individual is agreeable, have him or her plot the site location and its boundaries on a topographic map. Any specific information, such as areas of the site that contain concentrations of artifacts or certain types of artifacts should also be documented if possible. Fairly good topographic maps for the state can be found in the *Texas Atlas & Gazetteer* and the *Roads of Texas*. Both of these atlases are available at many local stores. Online options for obtaining maps include MSR Maps (<http://msrmaps.com/default.aspx>) or Google maps (<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&tab=wl>). With the location known, the recorder can contact a professional archaeologist or the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to determine if the site has been documented or if it needs to be recorded.

## Documenting Private Artifact Collections (*continued from page 4*)

Typically, many collections of the region contain primarily chipped stone tools and debitage and possibly some groundstone tools, such as manos and metates. Ideally, chipped stone artifacts should be sorted and analyzed by tool type (e.g., projectile points, scrapers, bifaces, drills, utilized flakes, debitage, etc.). Projectile points should be identified using type names documented for the region. The raw material types for chipped stone artifacts are important and should be identified if possible. If the recorder has the time, the length, width, and thickness (in millimeters) and weight (in grams) of individual artifacts can also be documented. Metric calipers and digital scales can be purchased through sources such as Forestry Suppliers, Inc. (<http://www.forestry-suppliers.com/>) and Ben Meadows (<http://www.benmeadows.com>). If metric measurements are recorded, a simple form containing a table with rows and columns can be produced in a number of computer programs to help keep your data organized and neat.

Other types of artifacts, such as ceramics, bone, charcoal, burned rock, shell, pipes, and beads also occur in the region, but are either less common or not frequently collected. These should also be analyzed using techniques appropriate for each item. If you lack the experience necessary for recording these artifacts or are not sure how to go about analyzing them, you can either consult an archaeological report to see how others have dealt with these artifacts or contact a professional archaeologist for additional information.

With the wide availability of quality digital cameras, recorders should be sure to take plenty of photographs. In fact, it is advisable to take multiple shots of each artifact or small groups of artifacts to ensure that your photographs turn out. If taking group photos, keep the number of artifacts fairly low to ensure better resolution. Try to avoid photographing artifacts under glass if possible to avoid a reflection from the flash. Be sure to include a photographic scale in all of your pictures. Scales can either be printed off from online sources (e.g., <http://jasonquinlan.com/2009/04/11/artifact-photo-scales/>) or purchased at a reasonable price from numerous sources (e.g., <http://www.crime-scene.com/index.shtml>).

So, what does one do once the analysis of the collection is complete? First, it is very important to thank the collector or museum for the opportunity to work with the collection and to provide them with copies of all analysis forms, paperwork, maps, and photographs. Be sure to stress that this information should remain with the collection as it provides important information about the materials. Also, it is recommended that you provide a short summary about the collection. It is likely that the individual will want to share the information that you have documented with friends, family, and relatives. A short report, perhaps a page or two in length, that provides basic information that will enable them to provide accurate information about the collection would be very useful. Basic information should include: 1) an overview of the collection, 2) the ages of diagnostic artifacts, 3) lithic raw materials present and their source areas, 4) types of activities represented by tool types, 5) the presence of any nonlocal trade items, and 6) anything unusual about individual items or the collection as a whole. Lastly, if you are interested in publishing something about the collection or if you would like to pass the information on to another individual or institution, be sure to obtain permission to do so.

So, now that you have collected this information, what do you do with it? Is there someone that might be interested in the information that you have collected? First and foremost, you should contact the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum (PPHM) at West Texas A&M University and let them know about the collection and the work you conducted. PPHM is the central repository for archaeological information related to the region and will likely be interested in obtaining copy of the information that you have collected for their files. If one is available in your area, you may also want to contact a local THC steward to make them aware of the collection.

Finally, one of the best ways to report your findings is to publish your results. There are a number of different outlets for publishing studies such as these. Short articles about individual artifacts or summaries of collections can be published in the PAS monthly newsletter. These articles are usually only a page or two in length and contain a few pictures. Longer, more in depth studies can be published in Texas Archaeological

## Documenting Private Artifact Collections *(continued from page 5)*

Society annual bulletin. If one has questions about how to publish an article for a specific venue, you should contact the editor for further information.

Artifact collections are extremely common throughout the panhandle region and many remain undocumented. The process of documenting these collections can be as straightforward as simply recording the quantity and type of artifacts in the collection to thoroughly analyzing and photographing each and every item represented. Whatever the level of analysis, recording private collections provides crucial information about the people who lived in our region. As such, they represent sources of information that may be lost forever without documentation. Lastly, working with private collections provides an excellent opportunity for public outreach by professional and avocational archaeologists. This work serves to educate individuals and communities about the importance of archaeological sites and that these sites and their associated features and artifacts represent finite resources that are rapidly disappearing.



# Whatzits & Howdits

**Surely we have all come across items in the field we can't identify (what zit?) or figure out what it is doing here (howd' it get here?). We'll dedicate this page to some of those oddities and ask our readers to assist whenever possible. These first two are mine. Please respond to me at:**

**acerenewables@midplains.coop (preferred) or at 806-823-2217. Thanks, Jerry Leatherman**

**Submit pictures and comments for future issues to my e-mail or snail mail at**

**PO Box 137, Silverton, TX 79257**



A rancher that has wandered over the Quitaque Creek area for the last 40 years gathering artifacts thought this was a shot-put she found in her garden spot along with a number of ax heads. Closer investigation leads me to believe it is a 13 pound cannonball . I've ruled out Colonels Mackenzie and Miles in 1874, Captain Marcy in 1851, Colonel McLeod's Texan-Santa Fe Expedition in 1841 and Captain Francisco Amangual in 1808. Do you know of a military force that had a 12 Pounder cannon in the NE Floyd, NW Motley or SE Briscoe Counties? area?



A rancher southwest of Quitaque in Briscoe County rediscovered this in an old barn. About 50 years ago he had purchased the place from an early pioneer family and saw this wheel and the other three with it in the old barn. They are not badly weathered so they may have been housed for a long time. He forgot about them until recently when he was moving some things out of the barn. Each wheel is 18.5 inches in diameter, with an axle sleeve insert of 2 inches diameter, and iron tires 3.75 inches wide.

James Coverdale has the best guess up to this point suggesting they are very similar to the wheels used on cannons on ships for 100s of years.

# Upcoming Events

## Panhandle Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center  
2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, Texas  
September 19, 2012 at 7:00 pm

## The Adobe Walls Trek. Lectures and Tours

September 30, 2012

Joint program sponsored by Hutchinson County Museum and the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum

9:00 a.m. programs by Dr. Paul Carlson and Dr. Holle Humphries Borger City Hall, 600 N. Main

Approx.45 minute Trek to Adobe Walls by private vehicle via FM 207- 12 miles N. of Stinnett turn Rt. (East) at sign,15.5 miles on a blacktop road turns south on to gravel continue southward to sites.

12:00 p.m. Mr. Alvin Lynn will speak on Kit Carson's 1864 Battle at Adobe Walls. Immediately following Dr. Jeff Indeck will lead site tour of the 1874 Adobe Walls Battle Site. Contact Lynn Hopkins, Hutchinson County Museum (806)-273-0130

## 2012 FlintFest Knap-In at Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument

September 29, 2012 from 9:00am - 5:00 pm

September 30, 2012 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm

## 2012 Texas Archaeology Month; Village and Petroglyph Tours at Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument

Saturdays and Sundays in October at 11:00 am.

For Additional Information on these events Call NPS HQ at 806-857-3151

## Mogollon Archaeological Conference

October 4-6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Silver City, NM

## Museum of the Plains – Perryton

October 15, 2012, 7:45 p.m.

Book Signing: S. C. Gwynne, author of Empire of the Summer Moon

## Panhandle Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center  
2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, Texas  
October 17, 2012 at 7:00 pm

## 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Texas Archaeological Society

October 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler Texas

For more information visit the Conference website at:

<http://www.txarch.org/Activities/AnnualMeeting/am2012>

## Panhandle Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting

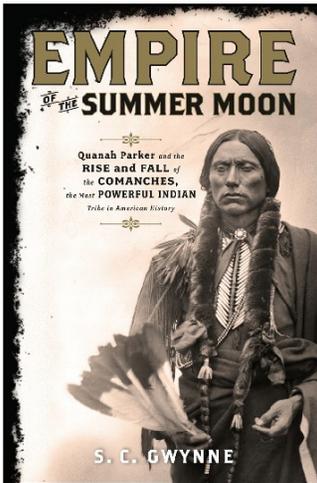
Wildcat Bluff Nature Center  
2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, Texas  
November 14, 2012 at 7:00 pm

## Panhandle Archaeological Society Annual Studer Lecture, Banquet and Silent Auction

December 15, 2012 from 6:00-10:00pm

Hazlewood Lecture Hall, Panhandle Plains Historical Museum Canyon, Texas.

Contact Lisa Jackson, 806-651-5232\



**EMPIRE OF THE SUMMER MOON**

Quanah Parker and the RISE and FALL of the COMANCHES, the Most POWERFUL INDIAN Tribe in American History

S. C. GWYNNE

**15 OCTOBER 2012**  
**7:45 PM**

NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLING AUTHOR,

**S. C. GWYNNE**

WILL BE APPEARING AT THE

**MUSEUM OF THE PLAINS, PERRYTON, TEXAS**

THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD AND BOOK SIGNING.

THIS EVENT IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT US AT:  
(806) 435-6400 OR  
[WWW.MUSEUMOFTHEPLAINS.COM](http://WWW.MUSEUMOFTHEPLAINS.COM)