



February Program: Sourcing Gault Area Chert in Texas Clovis Sites Using X-Ray Fluorescence

Wilson W. "Dub" Crook, long-time member of the Dallas, Houston, and Texas Archeological Societies, will present a program on chert and lithic artifacts discovered at the Gault Clovis site in central Texas, at the Thursday, February 20, 2014, meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in MD Anderson Hall at St. Thomas University.

The Gault site (41BL323) in southwestern Bell County, Texas, is well known for its abundance of lithic artifacts from all cultures ranging from the Late Prehistoric to Clovis and beyond. As such, the site represents a unique record of continual occupation over the past 14,000+ years. Of particular note is the extensive occupation and record from the Clovis horizon (13,300-12,900 calendar years BP).

While a large number of Clovis age tools have been recovered from the site to date, most of these include the products of failed or unfinished manufacture (cores, broken blades, bifaces) and/or expedient tools (scrapers, worked flakes, etc.). In particular, of the total number of Clovis tools, only 36 projectile points (of all types) have been recovered from the Clovis horizon at Gault. This apparent anomaly thus begs the question was Gault mainly a quarry manufacturing site and if so, where did the artifacts made from Gault chert go?

Hitherto, chert sourcing in Texas has largely been limited to more qualitative methods, such as using UV Fluorescence to try and determine the presence of Edwards chert. Cherts from the Edwards Plateau do indeed typically demonstrate a characteristic yellow to yellow-orange fluorescence but many other cherts from other regions also fluoresce under UV light. Moreover, UV Fluorescence alone cannot distinguish

between the many types of cherts found within the Edwards Plateau, including Gault area chert.

Therefore to test the possible interaction between Clovis age people at Gault and elsewhere across the State of Texas, a quantitative methodology for sourcing cherts from the Edwards Plateau has been developed using X-Ray Fluorescence. As part of this study, Clovis age artifacts of known provenance have been analyzed from as many sites as possible. To date, this has included some 231 tools from 36 sites including projectile points, bifaces, cores, blades, scrapers (of all types), graters, worked flakes, and debitage. This presentation discuss initial results from this study and discusses the potential implications for interaction of Clovis peoples from Gault to elsewhere across Texas.

Recently retired after a distinguished 35 year career as a senior executive with ExxonMobil, Mr. Crook has traveled extensively, starting his adventures as a child. His father, Wilson W. "Bill" Crook, Jr., was past President and Fellow of the Texas Archeological Society and one of the pioneering researchers on archeology of the Upper Trinity watershed. As a result, Dub grew up working on archeological and early man sites all around the world. He has published 130 professional papers, 63 of them in the field of archeology.

For a campus map, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20, Anderson Hall. Street parking is available as well as paid parking (\$2) in Moran Center Garage.

February and March Lab Schedule

Due to increased usage of the lab by Rice students, access to the Rice lab will be limited to Monday, February 17th and March 31st. We'll meet at the usual time and place, 7-9 p.m., Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. We'll continue working on two surface collections from a coastal margin, shell-midden site. Visit www.rice.edu/maps to locate the Founders Court/Visitors Lot across from Sewall Hall.



Wilson W. "Dub"
Crook



President's Message

HAS members and friends,

2014 has started out with a bang for the Houston Archeological Society! First of all - we finished the Dimond Knoll Screening Project on January 20!!! Would you believe that we started this project on February 2, 2013 and have been screening dirt virtually every weekend since! It was a great project with lots of community involvement and terrific participation from so many of

you. Thanks so much for making this such a great project for the HAS.

Next, through a series of amazing coincidences, a major collection of prehistoric points, tools and other artifacts and handwritten notes, maps and journals has been donated to the Houston Archeological Society. This collection was assembled by former HAS member Marshall Black who passed away several years ago. His son, Steve Black, passed away in December but not before alerting his lawyer that his dad's archeological collections should go to HAS. Thanks to HAS webmaster, Bob Sewell, who has done such an amazing job of keeping up our website, the lawyer in Dallas was able to reach HAS with one phone call and arranged to meet me in Houston on January 25 to deliver the collection. Here is a photo of just a small part of this amazing collection, most of which is from Harris County. We will be photographing, analyzing and documenting this collection over the next several months.



WE DID IT!!

HAS members pause for a photo with the last shovel of the last pile of the last dump truck load of dirt from the Dimond Knoll Project, screening of which took a year.



A sampling of artifacts from the Marshall Black collection, which was recently donated to HAS.

Our next project will be at the Tait Ranch in Columbus where we will be doing preliminary surveys and fieldwork for the upcoming Texas Archeological Society Field School that will be held June 14 – 21, 2014. You must be a member of HAS, BAS, FBAS or TAS to take part in these preliminary workdays. As an HAS member you will be notified well in advance of our scheduled fieldwork in Columbus. Contact me at lindagorski@cs.com for more information.

And, finally, the Texas Archeological Society has approved Houston as the venue for the 2015 TAS Annual Meeting which is held in October or November each year. The HAS will be the sponsoring regional archeological society. We are very excited to have this opportunity to welcome many professional and avocational archeologists to Houston. We will need lots of help from our members in organizing this event so watch for more information as plans develop!

Once again, thank so much for being a member of HAS. It's going to be another great year!

--Linda Gorski, President

[NOTICE TO ALL PROCRASTINATORS: This is the last time the membership form for 2014 will appear in the Profile (see next page). If your dues are not paid by the first of March, this will be your last newsletter, so re-up now and don't miss a single exciting issue!-ed.]



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Name (s) _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

_____ (Mobile) _____ (Mobile)

Email Address(es): _____

Renewing Members: If any of the above information has changed in the past year please check here

Type of Membership: New Renewal

Please Mark one: Student - \$15 Year Individual - \$25 year

Family - \$30 Year Contributing - \$35+ _____

Please make checks payable to *Houston Archeological Society*

**Please mail this form to: Houston Archeological Society,
P. O. Box 130631
Houston, TX 77219-0631**

All members must sign the following pledge and mail it with membership form:

I/WE pledge that I/WE will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any present or future federal, state or local historic preservation statutes concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial or personal purposes, or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological sites and historic properties or associated data, or disregard proper archeological field methods.

I/WE have read and agree with the current HAS Waiver of Liability, as downloaded from the HAS Website (www.txhas.org)

Name (print) _____

Signature: _____

Name (print) _____

Signature: _____

Date _____

Minutes of the Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting January 16, 2014

President Linda Gorski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed all members and guests. There were a total of 56 attendees, including 10 guests signed in.

Linda made the following announcements:

- Treasurer's Report by Robert Killian, Treasurer – Checking account balance \$6,667.81 Savings Account \$9,461.41.
- HAS Membership – 128 members. Membership drive underway for 2014.
- Dimond Knoll Screening Project – Will be screening Friday & Saturday, January 17, 18. We have half of Pile 11 to go; project is almost completed.
- New Frost Town Field Project will be starting up this spring-early summer. More information will be provided as the opportunity develops. You must be a HAS member to participate.
- New project at the Tait Ranch in Columbus, Texas starting on February 1, 2014. This will include preliminary surveys and field work for the 2014 TAS Field School, June 14 – 21. You must be a HAS member to participate.
- 2014 HAS Budget – Linda Gorski presented the 2014 HAS budget to the membership as approved by the HAS Board; a vote by members is not required. We desperately need to address the storage of HAS field equipment used in all of our field project activities. Included in the budget is a line item for a storage trailer; the investigation continues. Expenditures over \$500 will require a membership vote. Also included is a Scholarship Fund and Linda will create a Scholarship Committee to look at criteria and process, if you have experience in this area and would like to help, send Linda an email.
- Dub Crook is offering to underwrite the estimated \$2500 annual publishing costs in order to encourage the publishing of more HAS materials. Dub states, "Money shouldn't be a stopping point." Linda Swift, HAS Journal Editor, said more material is needed and she will put a request in the Newsletter. Dr Jason Barrett suggested online publishing to reduce costs.
- Linda introduced Hilda Torres who constructs custom archeological tool belts for women. Hilda is offering to donate 5% of sales to HAS Scholarship Fund.

The evening's program was titled "Roman Germany – Ruins in the Mosel River Valley" presented by Craig Mayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm. HAS members and guests then enjoyed snacks provided by Linda Gorski.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2014.

*--Lenore Psencik
Secretary, Houston Archeological Society*

HAS Members –

A year or so ago, HAS Past President Charlie Gordy came up with the terrific idea of having the HAS logo embroidered on shirts, ball caps and other apparel. Since then we've also ordered patches with the HAS logo that can be sewn on clothing, hats, jackets, backpacks, etc. I've just ordered another stock of these patches. They sell for \$12 each. This is basically at cost ... we are not making a profit on these patches. If you'd like to have one, you can send a



check for \$12 to the Houston Archeological Society, PO Box 130631, Houston, Texas 77219-0631 and I'll mail one back to you. Or you can purchase them at our next HAS meeting at St. Thomas on February 20. For more information about these patches, email me at lindagorski@cs.com.

--Linda Gorski

Dr. Carolyn Boyd to Present “Insights in Texas Cave Art” Here

Dr. Carolyn Boyd, Executive Director of the SHUMLA research center in the Lower Pecos canyonlands, will be in Houston on **Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 06:30 pm at the Houston Museum of Natural Science**, to present a great program on “Insights in Texas Cave Art.”

The Lower Pecos Canyonlands of southwest Texas and northern Mexico house some of the most complex and compositionally intricate prehistoric rock art in the world from a period dating back 4,000 years. Dr. Boyd will explain how interdisciplinary approaches contribute to the understanding of the early cultural history of Texas and the Mesoamerican philosophical universe, as well as human adaptive strategies.

This lecture is sponsored by SHUMLA Archeological Research and Education Center and Rice University’s Glasscock School of Continuing Studies and will be presented in the Wortham Giant Screen theater at HMNS.

For information and tickets go to <http://store.hmns.org/Selection.aspx?sch=563375>.

Change in Standing Rules for HAS Lab at Rice University

The following addition (in red and/or in italics) to the Standing Rules will be voted upon by the membership at the February 20, 2014, General Membership meeting.

Laboratory Activities

The Lab Director is appointed by the President from September to September and will be responsible for the following:

- a. Scheduling and supervision of laboratory sessions for the processing of artifacts and other collected or excavated materials from Society field projects and also material made available for study by private individuals or institutions.
- b. Instruction of Society members on proper lab techniques.
- c. Maintenance of lab equipment and supplies.
- d. Maintenance of records of archeological materials in the lab and lab activities.
- e. Conducting workshops on topics of general interest related to laboratory study of artifactual material.
- f. Release of archeological materials to the designated curator when processing and studies are complete.

Lab sessions (date and time) will be announced in monthly meeting notices and at meetings. Lab sessions are only open to HAS members in good standing. The authorization of guests at the Lab is solely at the discretion of the Lab Director. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Lab Director.

Field School Preparations at Tait Ranch Off to a Great Start

We had our first preliminary workday at the Tait Ranch in Columbus, Texas, site of the 2014 Texas Archeological Society Field School, on Saturday, Feb. 1. Over 20 HAS members showed up, and Dr. Jason Barrett, PI for the field school, put us to work digging test pits on a rise above the Colorado River. The day was a huge success - we recovered many, many artifacts and got a good idea of what we can expect to recover during Field School excavations. Thanks to all of you who participated!!! We are coming up with a schedule for future workdays from now until June (one or two Saturdays a month) so you can plan accordingly. Watch your e-mail for more information!

Friends of Archaeology Lecture 3 is at 5:00 pm on Sunday, February 16, 2014, featuring Dr. Charles Stewart, Assistant Professor Art History, University of St. Thomas, speaking on “Grand Castles of the Medieval Orient.” Location is Anderson Hall on the UST campus. Come for coffee at 4:30 pm, and stay for the reception after the lecture. For more information, contact Bill Tuttle at 281-496-0644 or wstut@hal-pc.org.



Archeology at Sochi!

In what must surely be a first for the Olympics, archeology was featured on the Kazakh speed skaters' outfits, which depicted images of petroglyphs from the caves of Kazakhstan.



Don't Forget! Deadline for registration for TAS Lithics Academy is February 21, 2014. *Lithics: Reading Stone Artifacts* will be held March 8-9 in Georgetown at the Public Library. Dr. Harry Shafer, TAMU Professor Emeritus, will teach the class with Chris Ringstaff, archeologist at TxDOT. To register, visit www.txarch.org/Activities/academy.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than March 6 for the March 2014 issue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ARCHEOLOGY IN THIS AREA, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Gorski, President, president@txhas.org

Louis Aulbach, Vice President, vicepresident@txhas.org

Robert Killian, Treasurer, treasurer@txhas.org

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AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGY STEWARDS

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