

PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Panhandle Archeological Society

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The Panhandle Archeological Society will hold its next meeting on Wednesday May 18, 2011, at 7:00pm, at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center Science Building, 2301 N. Soncy Road, in Amarillo, Texas. Our program will be presented by Dr Gerald Schultz

Dr. Gerald Schultz received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in geology at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and his Ph. D. in geology with a minor in zoology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He has been teaching geology at West Texas A&M University since 1964. His research interests include Late Tertiary and Quaternary mammalian paleontology, biostratigraphy, and paleoecology of the Southern High Plains. His Ph. D. dissertation was on an area in southwestern Kansas and he has focused most of his career on research in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. Dr. Schultz is the author of numerous scientific papers and guidebooks and is co-author of a book entitled *Ice Age Mammals of Northwestern Texas*.



Dr. Schultz

VERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY OF THE TEXAS PANHANDLE AND SURROUNDING AREA

The Texas Panhandle is world famous for its Triassic, Late Tertiary, and Quaternary vertebrate fossils. Many institutions including the Frick Laboratory of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, West Texas A&M University, and the Universities of California, Michigan, and Texas (Austin) have collected fossils in the area. The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon made extensive collections in the 1930's using digging crews funded by the Works Progress Administration. Fossils of the Triassic age date back 230 million years and include flat-headed metoposaur amphibians and crocodile-like reptiles called phytosaurs that lived in swamps and rivers and whose remains have been found in the Trujillo and Tecovas formations. Late Tertiary mammals dating back 10 to 12 million years have been found in the Ogallala Formation near Clarendon, Miami, Canadian, and Higgins and in the Blanco Formation near Crosbyton. Remains of 3-toed horses, camels, deer, rhinoceroses, mastodons, saber-tooth cats, and bone-crushing dogs have been assigned to the Clarendonian, Hemphillian, and Blancan North American Land Mammal Ages based on type localities and faunas in the region. Quaternary mammals that lived here during the past two million years include mammoths, horses, camels, bison, and ground sloth. Numerous rodents and shrews recovered by screen-washing techniques have aided immensely in establishing a sound biochronologic and evolutionary framework for this chapter in North American paleontology.

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Paul Katz

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Jeff Indeck

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Vacant

Treasurer:
Lisa Jackson

Publications:
Rolla Shaller

Newsletter Editor:
Scott Brosowski

Panhandle Archeological Society

Minutes of the April 20, 2011 Meeting

President Paul Katz called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center. 20 members and four guests were in attendance. The guests included Rozanna Pfeiffer, Nancy Seewald and her son Jake, and Pam Allison.

The next meeting of the PAS will be held on Wednesday, May 18 at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Gerry Schultz will speak on the paleontology of the Texas Panhandle.

Paul introduced the evening speaker, Dr. Joe Cepeda. He spoke about the geology of the Texas Panhandle.

The business meeting began at 8:20. The minutes of the March 16, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously; motion by Jeff, second by Lisa.

Lisa gave the Treasurer's report. The current operating balance is \$1,829.08.

Rolla gave the Publication Committee report. The current checking account balance is \$2,620.67, less \$190.00 paid to the SWFAS for dues and copies of the Transactions of the 46th Symposium, held in Hobbs, New Mexico in 2010. The volume is spiral bound, has color plates, and will sell for \$15.00.

Discussion about ways to spend some of our money, especially to encourage college students to attend meetings or other archaeological activities.

Rolla reported on the 47th SWFAS Symposium, hosted by the Concho Valley Archaeological Society in San Angelo. Eighty people attended and PAS members Joe Rogers and Chris Lintz presented papers. Rolla Shaller and Paul Katz represented the PAS at the business meeting.

Paul reported on the PAS participation in Lamar Elementary School Science Day. Six PAS members presented a program on rock art to over 100 students, ranging in age from kindergarten through fifth grade. We will be invited back next year.

Discussion about the current dues structure and an inconsistency on the website. The members voted to set the dues structure at \$20 for families, \$15 for individuals, and \$10 for students; motion by Gerry, second by Dick. This will be added to the Bylaws when they are revised. Institutions and organizations will receive Pastimes electronically and cannot vote, so they are not members and will pay no dues.

Scott reported on the final details of the Perryton Stone Age Fair. A PAS publication list will be provided, and a draft of the new PAS brochure will be available.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

2011 Perryton Stone Age Fair

The first annual Perryton Stone Age Fair (PSAF) was held at the Museum of the Plains in Perryton, Texas on April 23, 2011. This event was sponsored by Courson Archaeological Research to provide an opportunity for both private collectors and museums to showcase their collections. Some of these collections have been shown at different venues in the U.S., while others are rarely seen outside their respective repositories. An unusual aspect of the Perryton Stone Age Fair was the inclusion of historic Indian, military, and buffalo hunter artifacts that was well received by both exhibitors and visitors. The PSAF was attended by well over 200 people, many from Texas and Oklahoma, as well as others from New Mexico, Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, and as far away as Idaho. The buying, selling, or trading of artifacts was not permitted at this event.

Some of the local collections were brought in by Harold Kachel of Beaver, Ok. Kimmie Karber, of Balko, Ok. and Toni Good of Perryton, Tx. who displayed a variety of prehistoric and historic period artifacts. Several beautiful paleoindian collections from the Great Plains were brought in by Jim Cox, Tom and Myra Westfall, Rick Miller and Choise Smith. Some of the finest examples of Clovis, Folsom, Agate Basin, Hell Gap, Allen, Eden, and Scottsbluff points in existence were shown. In particular, Richard Rose of Midland, Tx. displayed many finely crafted Midland and Folsom points, as well as associated tools from the Shifting Sands Site. George Cromwell and Choise Smith displayed outstanding samples of historic Indian and military artifacts, including silver headstalls, bridle bits, butcher knives, metal arrow points, ornaments, and other tools.

Two public museums, the River Valley Pioneer Museum in Canadian, Texas and the No Man's Land Museum in Goodwell, Oklahoma also brought some excellent artifacts from two noted collections, the Horace Rivers Collection and the Billy Baker Collection. The "Uncle" Billy Baker Collection was collected by its namesake, Bill Baker, who worked as an extension agent in the Oklahoma Panhandle from the 1920's to the 1950's. An exquisite sampling of the over 5,000 points he discovered during his life were shown to a very appreciative crowd.

From the time the doors opened at 10 am, until closing at 5 pm, there was a steady stream of people viewing the collections, talking with avocational archaeologists, learning about both items on display, as well as those they had brought in for identification.

The evening drew to a close with a catered meal consisting of smoked salmon appetizers, smoked ribs, pulled pork, and all the fixings prepared by local cook extraordinaire Bill Dudley. This allowed all of the exhibitors and volunteers to relax, view each other's collections, and reflect on the day's events. Drawings for door prizes rounded out the evening; a small token of appreciation to the exhibitors for participating in the event. Some of the items included a hand-crafted reproduction arrow compete with Washita point knapped by James Coverdale. Another item donated was the highly coveted book "Projectile Points of the High Plains" by Jeb Taylor.

The event was deemed a success by everyone involved, with many participants and visitors alike already making plans to attend the second annual PSAF next year.

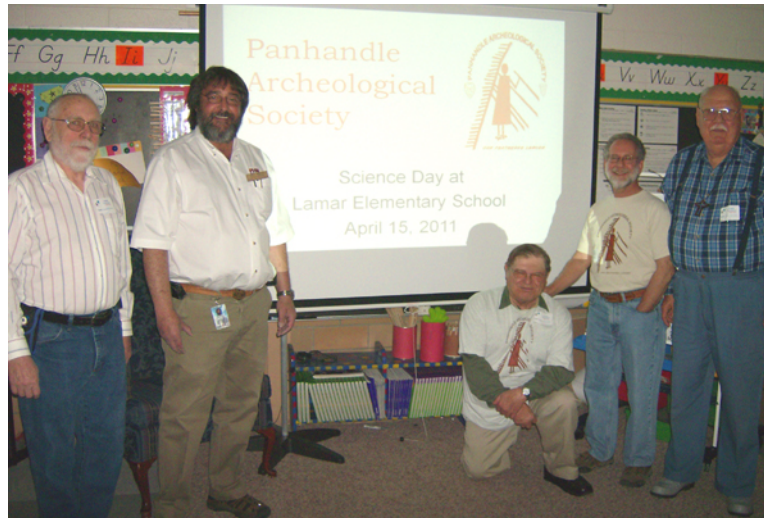
Stacy L. Brown



Some of the many visitors to the Stone Age Fair



Part of Jim Cox collection from New Castle Ok.



Lamar Elementary Science Day

The Panhandle Archeological Society was well represented during "Science Day" at Lamar Elementary School last month. PAS members, Paul Katz, Frank Willmon, Jeff Indeck, Dick Carter, Rolla Shaller, and Lisa Jackson spent the day with a total of 178 students, encouraging them to "tell us their story" using simply a paper plate and a magic marker.

PAS President Paul Katz prepared a nice PowerPoint presentation to introduce the field of archeology to the students. Since Paul had just been to Paint Rock pictograph site near Paint Rock, Texas during the annual SWFAS meeting, he was particularly inspired for this "Science Day" project. His images demonstrated various ways in which prehistoric and historic Indians expressed themselves and documented important events. The various examples illustrated differences in expression between the various native tribes. As Paul explained how these items showed a cultural identity, the other members showed the physical objects to the children. These included pottery, moccasins, casts of petroglyphs, basketry, and even a large painted parfleche that was created by PAS member, James Coverdale.

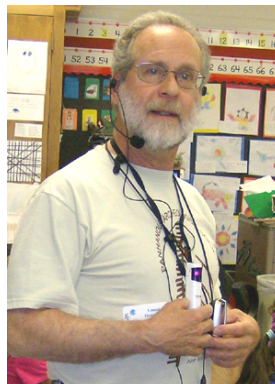
Throughout the day, groups of students between kindergarten and the fifth grade came every 30 minutes to hear Paul's presentation. The Lamar Cowbell loudly sounded off over the public address system as a way to move the children to their next learning station. Paul was literally wired as evidenced in the photograph. Not only did he wear a microphone for the whole class, there were individuals students who had hearing aid devices that would interface with yet another microphone. As each group came in, interpreters followed in order to sign for these students.

Lamar is the only elementary school in the Texas Panhandle that is specifically prepared for working with hearing challenged students. Children come in from all over the Panhandle for this very reason.

After every presentation, each child was provided with a plate and marker to document their own story. There were obviously some budding artists at Lamar! While many of the drawings were humorous or were of pets and vehicles, there were a few poignant stories told that elicited emotion. At the end of the day, I believe that we all walked away with a renewed appreciation for grade school teachers!



Lisa Jackson



PAS Member Highlight

1. What first sparked your interest in archaeology? I've been interested in archaeology as long as I can remember. It probably started with reading National Geographic and watching PBS specials as a child.

2. What is your best find or most interesting moment with PAS or with archaeology in general? In light of the recent events in England, I would have to say my most interesting moment in archaeology was being on a dig in Wroxeter, England with Prince Edward, youngest brother of Prince Charles.

3. What would be your vision for PAS in the next ten years? Speaking as a new "member," I don't know a lot about PAS's history, but I would say recruiting new members (especially younger ones who can carry the society forward for the next 10-20 years), preserving and documenting archeological sites (especially those that are in danger), and getting the word out about the importance of preserving sites and artifacts "in situ."



Rozanna Pfeiffer

4. What topics would you most like to learn more about or participate in?

Since my "other" hobby is genealogy, I would like to combine archaeology, genealogy, and history to find out more about the people of the Texas panhandle - who they were, why they came, what happened to them, do they have any living descendants? I'd like to have a big Panhandle Family Reunion and invite all the living descendants of the folks who were so important to the history of this area.

5. Tell us a little bit about yourself: I've been in the National Park Service for 15 years and have worked in 10 different parks. I came to Lake Meredith from the Statue of Liberty, and it was quite a cultural revelation moving from New York City to Fritch, Texas! I live in Borger with my 3 cats: Peyton, Eli, and Sarah Palin (that should tell you everything you need to know about me!)

PAS Website

Type in the complete URL as shown

<http://www.txpanhandlearchaeology.org>

CAR 2011 Field School

Courson Archaeological Research will be conducting its 2011 Field School from May 23rd to June 10th. The first two weeks will be field excavations at two Antelope Creek phase sites and a defensive late Archaic encampment near the Canadian River. The third week will consist of metal detecting historic period sites. PAS members may attend at no cost, other than catered meals if desired. For more information, check our website:

www.coursonarchresearch.com

Upcoming Events, and Announcements

- TAS Field School
June 11 - 18
Medina, Co. Texas