CTA SPRING MEETING  
Friday, April 21, 2000  
Camp Mabry, Building 82  
Austin, Texas

Meeting Agenda

Registration: 8:30 am  
Call to Order: 9:00 am  

Approval of Minutes: Fall 1999 Meeting  
(as published in CTA Newsletter 24(1):9-15)

Welcome New Members  
Announcements

Officer’s Reports  
• President (AAB update)  
• President-Elect  
• Secretary-Treasurer  
• Newsletter Editor

Standing Committee Reports  
• Governmental Affairs  
• Ethics and Standards (Boyd will recommend disbanding this committee)  
• Contractor List (new committee members)  
• Public Education (new chairman needed)  
• Multicultural Relations  
• CTA Web Page  
• Membership

Special Committee Reports  
• Accreditation and Review Council  
• Archeological Survey Standards (results of information request)

Old Business

New Business  
• Election of Secretary-Treasurer  
• Election of Newsletter Editor  
• THC Announcements  
• Other New Business

Adjourn: 11:30 am

Ceramic Symposium: 12:30-3:30 pm

Social, Dinner, and Exhibits: 3:30-9:00 pm

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CTA has long focused attention on proper care of archeological collections and should be proud of its efforts. But sooner or later, Texas archeologist are going to have to address a growing problem in our profession – how do we store massive amounts of archeological data and is digital archiving the answer? I suggest that we begin looking at this problem sooner rather than later. The problem is now at the forefront of discussions nationwide among archeologists, archivists, historians, and others interested in preserving historical data for posterity.

Archiving of digitized data is becoming increasingly common despite the fact that there are many horror stories out there about substantial loss of such data. One such story came out in January in the BBC News and the article, “Old Computers Lose History Record,” is available online at: <http://news2.thls.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_654000/654116.stm>. It provides details of an archeological project that stored all of its data on computer disks with no paper or microfilm copies as backups. The project was done in London, England between 1991 and 1996. When they tried to access the data a few years later, a full 5 percent of the disks had become completely corrupted (“the magnetic coating on the disks had simply succumbed to the slow erosion of time”) and all data they contained were lost. In addition, they ran into tremendous problems accessing the data because of changes in hardware and software. Sounds a lot like our experience with the Texas Heritage Conservation Plan Computerization Program in which the Texas Historical Commission attempted to computerize all Texas archeological site data from 1979 to 1984. This effort was essentially a precursor to the Texas Historic Sites Atlas project – perhaps one whose time had not yet come. Many thousands of person-hours of effort went into the project (I know because I worked as a data encoder for THC during the summer of 1983), but it ultimately failed for a variety of reasons. The good news is that over 25,000 archeological site files housed at many repositories across the state were microfilmed, thus creating an important backup copy in case of a catastrophe (assuming that the microfilm is still being properly stored and protected). Site data were then encoded and computerized. In 1985, a short summary report was created (Prehistoric Archeological Sites In Texas: A Statistical Overview, Office of the State Archeologist Special Report No. 28) using the computerized site data, but the data were never made available to researchers. The project lost its funding, and the computerized data were moth-balled. Many years later when the Historic Sites Atlas project began, people tried to retrieve the data to see if it might be a useful starting place. The hardware and software were gone and the company(s) that created them were out of business. The bottom line was that the computerized data were no longer accessible and quite likely would have been so degraded as to be unusable even if they were accessible. End of story.

Not surprisingly, opinions about digital archiving vary widely (see the article by Bill Pugsley for views expressed by many historians and archivists). Many people now realized that there are lots of problems with long-term storage of electronic data on computer disks and other magnetic media. Until these types of storage media are improved and shown to be effective, paper (acid free) or microfilm copies of raw archeological data are the only formats that we know will survive for any length of time. If you are going to store digital data, it has to be done so that it can be transferred periodically to refresh it and migrated to new formats periodically as hardware and software change. Making data accessible to researchers is a different issue than long-term storage, but many people believe the internet will ultimately provide the solution to both problems. In theory (but as yet unproven), data made available on the internet can survive indefinitely because it will constantly be refreshed and updated into new formats as needed. We should be cautious with this approach, but the idea does warrant consideration. Other people will argue that data should be put on the internet only if you want it to be accessible to researchers, but
not simply as a mechanism for storage. One information source you might want to check out is the online publication, *Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice*, at: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/>. This document suggests right and wrong ways of acquiring, archiving, and accessing digital data generated by archeological research. It is but one of many sources of information out there, and I certainly don’t recommend it as the ultimate authority. It does make the claim that, “The best strategy for long-term preservation of archeological data in digital formats is for them to be systematically collected, maintained, and made accessible to users operating in very different computing environments.”

Another study, by Cornell University, compares the costs of two different methods of long-term storage of digital data. One method is digital archiving and the other is to convert the digital data to microfilm using Computer Output Microfilm. This study is not conclusive because there is little agreement on the true and total costs of running a digital archive; however, the evidence suggests that it may be much more cost effective to convert digital data to microfilm for long term storage, rather than absorb the costs of constantly maintaining it. There are ways to convert microfilm data back to digital data if needed. It appears that digital archiving would be the preferred option if access by many researchers were important, but one must consider how many people will actually access and use the data before knowing if the cost of digital archiving is warranted. The Cornell study is online at: <http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/com/comfin.html#_Toc394744822>.

Just like proper curation of collections, any form of storing archeological data for the long term will be expensive. We get into trouble when we take the easy way out and create digital data files, shove them into boxes stuck in storage closets, and give no thought to whether someone will be able to access the data in 15 years. Obviously there are lots of issues that warrant discussion here, so I propose that CTA begin seriously considering the digital archiving problem this year! CTA can and should take the lead in initiating discussions to inform the Texas archeological community about the pros and cons of digital archiving of archeological data. Hosting such discussions may not be as fun as debating how and when the earliest Native Americans arrived in the New World, but this discourse is critical because our decisions will ultimately impact, for better or worse, tremendous amounts of archeological data for future generations. Every time we expend lots of effort creating databases to analyze our archeological data, we need to make decisions about how to store it for the long run. We need to be better informed to make the right decisions.

**CTA Business**

**CTA Executive Board Nominations**

*CTA Nominating Committee*

Aina Dodge, Chair
Darrell Creel, Mark Denton, Duane Peter, and Alston Thoms, Members

At the CTA Spring 2000 meeting, you will elect a Secretary-Treasurer and a Newsletter Editor. The Nominating Committee is pleased to present these candidates for your consideration: Missi Green and Eric Schroeder are on the ballot for Secretary-Treasurer; Susan Baxevanis and Marybeth Tomka are on the ballot for Newsletter Editor. Write-in candidates or nominations from the floor also are eligible for election. We asked the nominees to submit short statements to allow the CTA members to become familiar with the nominees and their viewpoints prior to the election. In alphabetical order, here are the nominees’ statements:

← Susan E. Baxevanis
Nominee for Newsletter Editor

Susan Baxevanis is the Collections Manager of Anthropology at the Museum of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas. She has been in the position since graduating from the Museum
Eric A. Schroeder
Nominee for Secretary-Treasurer

I have been involved in professional cultural resource consulting for the past eight years and have been a member of CTA since 1995. I have personal research interests in prehistoric archeology and have had the fortune of working under several well-known leaders in our field. I believe in the organization’s mission and objectives and will strive to improve CTA’s interface with the professional community and the public. If elected secretary-treasurer, I will serve CTA at the utmost of my ability.

Marybeth S.F. Tomka
Nominee for Newsletter Editor

As one of the newsletter editor candidates, I can not promise fabulous editing skills or artistic vision to dazzle readers. However, what I do bring to this position is almost 20 years of experience in Texas archeology, a willingness to serve, a detail-oriented mind, a love of dabbling with formatting, and a commitment to complete what I start.

Missi Green
Nominee for Secretary-Treasurer

I have been in Texas now for nearly 16 years and during that time I’ve seen great change in the world of archeology, especially here. During my early years in archeology, archeologists were still focused on large-scale projects that kept many people busy. Today the direction has shifted toward smaller-scale projects that are sometimes more “direct research” oriented than those previous. But during all of it, CTA has always been a group that has welcomed all of the archeological community with a stable forum for the exchange of ideas, information, and good times.

For 9 years I worked at SMU for the Archeology Research Program. During that time, I worked on the Richland Creek, Joe Pool Lake, and Cooper Lake projects. In 1993, I moved into the private sector and joined Geo-Marine. Since then, I’ve had the opportunity to work in different parts of the country, but it’s always good to come home to what you know.

I have been a member of CTA for a number of years and look forward to being more than just an audience participant. If elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer, I will do my utmost to serve CTA well.
Farewell from the
CONTRACTORS LIST COMMITTEE
Ann M. Scott and Audra L. Pineda

After 2 years of service, we have decided to step down as co-coordinators for the Contractors List. We appreciate the opportunity to have served as committee co-chairs and would like to thank the membership for their support and patience with us throughout the last couple of years. The new committee appointees are Amy Holmes and Steven Ahr. Amy is a Staff Geoarcheologist for Prewitt and Associates, Inc., and Steve Ahr is a Staff Archeologist for TxDOT. We are confident that they will do a wonderful job maintaining and improving the Contractors List.

Questions or comments regarding the Contractors List should now be directed to:
Amy Holmes, CTA Contractors List
c/o Prewitt and Associates, Inc.
7701 N. Lamar, Suite 104
Austin, Texas, 78752-1012
phone: (512) 459-3349, ext. 220
fax: (512) 459-3851

Proposed Bylaws Amendment

In order to clarify responsibilities of the CTA President with regard to the newly restructured Antiquities Advisory Board and Texas Historical Commission’s Archeology Committee, the following CTA Bylaws amendment is proposed:

Delete Article V, Section 1, paragraph i, and replace it with the following two sections:

i. Serve as or appoint a representative to the Antiquities Advisory Board to the Texas Historical Commission.

j. Represent CTA by attending the Texas Historical Commission’s Archeology Committee meetings in conjunction with the Commission’s quarterly meetings.

This proposed Bylaws amendment will be voted upon at the CTA Spring 2000 meeting.

Accreditation and Review Council

The Accreditation and Review Council is pleased to announce an upcoming Educational Workshop to be held July 19-23, 2000, at the Museum of Texas Tech University in Lubbock. This is the first in a series of workshops that are specifically designed for personnel of curatorial facilities who are interested in museum policy development and the accreditation process. Some of the topics that will be covered include:

- The ARC process
- ARC accreditation criteria
- Museum concepts
- Ethics
- Mission statements and scope of collections
- Collections management policies
- Procedure manuals
- Collections care problems and solutions
- Archival supplies and equipment

Please contact Ms. Susan Baxevanis at (806) 742-2479 or e-mail her <mxseb@ttacs.ttu.edu> for more information about the educational program and to register for the workshop. Registration deadline is May 10, 2000, and space is limited.

Call for Texas Preservation Trust Fund

TAAM 2000 Archeology Fair Proposals

Archeology Fair events to be held in October 2000 and designed to further archeological education and outreach are eligible for funding. A total of $5,000 is available for use in support of all Texas Archeology Awareness Month (TAAM) 2000 Archeology Fairs, so submit your application as soon as possible. Fairs are defined as events that include a variety of hands-on archeological activities (such as flintkipping or pottery making), demonstrations, and exhibits.

Grant funds are awarded on a 2-to-1 match basis. For example, if you plan to spend $3,000,
you may request a grant of $1,000. Payment is on a reimbursable basis, so you will receive the grant money after the project is completed and you have expended your own funds. The match must be in cash, not in-kind services.

DEADLINE: Friday, April 14, 2000, 5:00 p.m.
Submit to: Texas Preservation Trust Fund-
TAAM 2000
Archeology Division
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

Although grant applications can be brief, they should include all of the basic elements. Grant proposal requirements include:

• Identity of the sponsoring organization, institution, or agency; sponsor must have nonprofit status.

• Brief explanation of the intent and description of the TAAM 2000 fair project, including the following points: archeological education and outreach through an Archeology Fair event to be held on October [day date], 2000, during Texas Archeology Awareness Month, at [location]. Activities will include (give a summary of events to be offered). This event will promote public awareness of the methods of archeology and of the need for preservation of archeological resources. Success of the Archeology Fair will be evaluated in part by the number of attendees and by debriefing the participating staff and volunteers.

• Projected budget (total planned cost of the project) showing how grant funds will be expended and source(s) of matching funds. Grant funds may be used to cover legitimate expenditures such as supplies, security and custodial services, equipment rentals, special services, etc. Be aware that grant funds cannot be used for food and lodging.

• Grant requests should be in amounts from $500 to $1,500. Due to the limited amount of funds available this year, the total amount requested may not be awarded.

• Proposal must include the signature of your organization’s head (for example, executive director or president).

Proposal checklist:

• Cover sheet, showing project title, with the name of the project director as well as the mailing address, phone number, and email address of the requesting organization (in the lower right-hand corner);
• Proposal Summary (a brief abstract);
• Identification, purpose, and description of the requesting organization;
• Project Description (see explanation, above);
• Project Goals and Timeline (can be included in Project Description);
• Expected Outcomes and Project Results;
• Evaluation Method (can be part of “Expected Outcomes” section);
• Certification of nonprofit status signed by organization director; must include tax identification number;
• Project budget: present in three columns: (1) description of items of expense; (2) expenses to be covered by sponsoring organization; and (3) expenses to be reimbursed with grant funds).

Articles and Updates

Preserving Archeological Data: The Long View

By Bill Pugsley, President
Texas Information Network, Austin

Over the last decade, the archival community has grown increasingly vocal about the problems associated with the long-term storage of data using electronic media, particularly floppy disks, CDs, Zip, and Jazz drives. On March 3, 2000, the Society of Southwest Archivists sponsored a joint session at the Texas State Historical Association annual convention to lay those issues before the academic, professional, and avocational historians of Texas. Among the panelists were Mr. Chris
LaPlante (head of the Archives Division of the Texas State Archives and Library), Dr. Robert Martin (former head of that facility and now professor of Library Sciences at Texas Women’s University), and Dr. David B. Gracy, II (the head of the Archives section of the University of Texas Graduate School of Library and Information Services), and myself.

Mr. LaPlante opened the session with an anecdote about an archeological project gone awry. On February 23, 2000, the BBC online news service reported that 6,000 database, geophysical, and CAD map files that constituted the only records from a comprehensive, five-year archeological investigation of 180 Bronze Age sites in northeast London completed in 1996 were stored on 220 floppy disks. Six years later, 11 of the floppy disks were so completely corrupted that it was impossible to recover any information from them. No one thought to make a backup copy on paper. The data is now lost for all time.

The reported explained that “the magnetic coating on the disks had simply succumbed to the slow erosion of time.” Actually, this is bending the truth. It wasn’t slow erosion. Archivists have been shouting their lungs out over the last decade, decrying the use of disks as a storage medium because they (i.e., any electronic/magnetic format) erode faster than any other medium yet devised. Archivists stress that disks should never be used as a “storage copy!” Even short-term storage (two to five years) under the best of circumstances risks a certain percentage of decay, as the British archeologists discovered.

For manipulating data, creating databases, accelerating publication schedules, promoting written communications (email), and most importantly, increasing public access via the internet, electronic media is fantastic; indeed, archivists and librarians are among the first to applaud the recent advances in electronic technology. But once the project is complete and the reports are written, every project manager should shift gears and move the final records into a more permanent format. For not at least, that means printing one complete copy of the data on good quality, acid-free paper.

Dr. Martin and Mr. LaPlante assured the audience that computer technologists are rapidly addressing the archivist’s worries about electronic storage media. However, the day when we can depend on electronic media for long-term storage has not arrived yet. In the meantime, archivists would urge that you put all project data on paper and store it in several places as insurance against fire and water damage.

Remember, the archeological profession exists today because cultural artifacts have survived for many thousands of years. The archival community would ask that archeologists join them in adopting an equally long view of the future regarding your own artifacts – the archeological data and reports you generate – a future measured in thousands of years instead of decades!

Note: This article was solicited from Mr. Pugsley, who is not a CTA member.

Update on Texas Preservation Trust Fund Project
Karen G. Harry

In Spring 1999, Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) was awarded a grant from the Texas Preservation Trust Fund for the Hueco Tanks Rock Art Documentation and Conservation Project. This grant, in conjunction with monies provided by TPW, funded two activities: (a) conservation (graffiti removal); and (b) documentation of the rock images. The graffiti removal was conducted by Dr. Claire Dean, a professional conservator, who removed graffiti from six panels. The rock art documentation was conducted by Bob Mark and Evelyn Billo of Rupestrian Cyberservices, Inc., who digitally recorded every known panel (a total of 272 rock art loci), mapped all panels using a GPS/GIS system, described the panels, and created a computerized database using the ArcView program. The latter database links photographs showing current conditions of the panels to their locations and to an existing Access textual database. Their work has produced several exciting outcomes. First, for the first time there
exists a detailed site map showing the locations of all known panels in the park, and an easy method to retrieve and update data. Second, digital filtering of the images in Adobe Photoshop resulted in many new elements, almost invisible in the field, being observable. This conservation and documentation work has enhanced TPW’s ability to preserve and protect these resources, and has created a database that will be useful to resource managers, scholars, and members of the public. I and other staff members at TPW are grateful to the Texas Historical Commission’s support of this project. Without the help of the Texas Preservation Trust Fund, this extensive and important project could not have been completed.

Note: At the last AAB meeting, it was discussed that the Preservation Trust Fund is underutilized and that more archeologists should apply. With creative thinking, they can find projects that both support long-term preservation and research. For more information, visit the THC website <www.thc.state.tx.us> and go to “Available Funding” to see a list of grant programs. The phone number for the Preservation Trust Fund-Grants Program is (512) 463-6094.

The home page was the most requested page, followed by the Newsletter page and the Contractors List. The only files requested for download were newsletters. The current CTA Newsletter, vol. 24, no. 1, accounted for 25 percent of the downloads; the other 75 percent were distributed across vols. 21, 22, and 23. There were no downloads of the Contractors List during the month of February.

The web committee is working with the education committee to develop educational resources for educators and the public that are based actual archaeological projects in Texas. I have created an animated logo that can be used to link back to the CTA education page. The education page is still in concept form, but in general it will be a one-stop site with archaeological information for teachers. The CTA page will contain links to resources, most of which will be located on individual contractor’s or institution’s web sites. We may also have a few resources located on the CTA web site, but the idea is to give teachers one place to come and then point them to web pages created by CTA members. We will be establishing some basic guidelines for education pages and a list of topics that need to be covered. This is a multiyear project than needs everyone’s support.

There are several nationwide efforts to increase technology access, to build community partnerships, and to create a Digital Library of Education in order to bring cultural and educational resources to the public. In addition, NEH is extending the reach of the Humanities Across America grants to cover projects like this one. Following the Spring 2000 CTA meeting, anyone who is interested in discussing the possibilities is encouraged to meet with the web committee. There are many different ways a grant could help CTA become a resource to teachers. The meeting is simply to determine whether or to what degree you and your organization might be involved in such a request. We will make a report of our findings at the Fall 2000 CTA meeting.

Committee Reports and Other News

CTA Web Page Committee
Sue Linder-Linsley

CTA now has a new web address: <http://www.c-tx-arch.org>. Remember to update your web browser bookmark with the new address.

During the month of February, the CTA home page was visited 138 times. The good news is that the site is being used. The entire site was hit 2,317 times during 215 user sessions. There were 168 unique users and 30 users visited more than once.
ANTiquITIES ADVISORY BOARD REPORT
Douglas K. Boyd

The last Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB) meeting was held February 23, 2000, in Dallas in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) on February 24-26. Although the new AAB structure (see CTA Newsletter 23[3]:18-19) will not formally take effect until the next AAB meeting scheduled for May 3, many of the new members who will come on board then were in attendance. I also attended the THC Archeology Committee meeting held on February 24. When the next AAB meeting rolls around, CTA will be represented by David O. Brown, who will take over as president in April. At the AAB meeting, the rule regarding representative’s voting rights and proxy votes was clarified. Each organization’s official representative will be a voting member of the AAB, but if that representative cannot attend for any reason, an alternate can be sent on their behalf. However, the alternate will not be able to vote, and voting by proxy is not allowed.

Beside the mundane business (e.g., State Archeological Landmark designations), other items of general interest discussed at the February AAB meeting were:

- We recommended in favor of a proposed amendment to the Chapter 26 rules (that apply to the Texas Antiquities Code) concerning the criteria for evaluating shipwrecks.
- A preliminary (but lengthy) discussion of a possible amendment to the Chapter 26 rules regarding artifact disposal, deaccessions, and destructive analyses on materials Held-in-Trust for the State of Texas. No formal action was taken.
- A discuss regarding THC’s stance on how NAGPRA relates to State-owned, Held-in-Trust collections, along with a discussion of a formal request for direction on disposition of human remains obtained under a Texas Antiquities permit. No formal action was taken, but THC needs to establish a policy regarding treatment of human remains on state-permitted projects.
- We voted to grant an additional Antiquities Permit extension to Sam McCulloch, who appeared in person with an appeal. The extension was granted for three related (different phases of the same project) permits soon to be in default due to extenuating circumstances and unforeseen delays beyond the control of the principal investigator. A general discussion concluded that such extensions will only be granted when circumstances are clearly justified.
- A discussion of draft Held-in-Trust agreements between THC and repositories. A final draft should be ready for consideration at the next meeting.
- Updates on status of conservation of La Belle artifacts.
NATIVE AMERICAN CERAMICS IN TEXAS:
CURRENT RESEARCH AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

A SYMPOSIUM SPONSORED BY:
THE COUNCIL OF TEXAS ARCHEOLOGISTS
*****

All students are invited and welcome; CTA membership not required

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2000
CAMP MABRY, AUSTIN, TEXAS
Located West of Mopac (or Loop 1) between 35th and 45th Streets
Take 35th Street exit to main entrance off Loop 1
Email Shellie Sullo-Prewitt at ssullo@pollution.org for more details

SCHEDULE:
CTA Business Meeting 8:30 to 11:30 am
Ceramic Symposium 12:30 to 3:30 pm
Social, Dinner, and Exhibits 3:30 to 9:00 pm

Symposium will include regional overviews of current research to define
research problems and directions for future ceramic studies.
Presenters are:

Moderator -- Karen Harry
Ceramic Technology and Archeological Analysis -- Linda Ellis
East Texas -- Jim Corbin and Tim Pertullia
Central Texas -- Darrell Creel and Dee Ann Story
Coastal Texas -- Linda Ellis and Bob Ricklis
West Texas -- Myles Miller and Harry Shafer
C14 Dating and Identification or Organic Residues in Ceramics -- Mike Quigg
TO:

Council of Texas Archeologists
Membership and Renewal Form

☐ Address correction only (see below).

☐ I wish to join or renew my membership in CTA.
   (membership is based on the calendar year Jan-Dec)
   ☐ Contractors List $ 100.00
   ☐ Professional (annual income more than $20,000 per year) 25.00
   ☐ Professional (annual income less than $20,000 per year) 15.00
   ☐ Student (annual income more than $20,000 per year) 25.00
   ☐ Student (annual income less than $20,000 per year) 15.00
   ☐ Institution/Library (receive CTA Newsletter only, no voting privileges) 25.00
   ☐ I would like to purchase a copy of the CTA Guidelines 7.50

Total amount remitted to CTA $ ________

Name (please print):________________________________________________________
Company/Institution:_______________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip:_____________________________________________________________
Phone:_________________________ FAX:________________________ e-mail:_________