

# 2006 CTA Spring Meeting April 7, 2005 – Business Meeting, Camp Mabry, Austin: Building 8 Social 5:30 PM – Camp Mabry Picnic Grounds

#### Spring Meeting Agenda

Registration 8:30 AM	
Call to Order 9:00 AM	ĺ

#### Announcements

Approval of Minutes from the Fall 2005 Meeting (as published in this CTA Newsletter)

#### Officers' Reports

President

President Elect

Immediate Past-President

Secretary Treasurer

Newsletter Editor

#### **Standing Committee Reports**

Auditing

CTA Communications

Contractors List

Curation

Governmental Affairs

Membership

Multicultural Relations

Nominating

Public Education

#### Special Committee Reports

Academic Archeology and CRM

Anti-Looting

Archeological Survey Standards

History

Special Web

#### Old Business

Election of Secretary-Treasurer Election of Newsletter Editor

E. Mott Davis Public Outreach Award

#### **New Business**

TBA

Open to Floor

Meeting Adjourns at 11:00 PM

Lunch 11:00 - 12:30

Afternoon Paper Session

12:30 - 5:00

CTA Social – Camp Mabry Picnic Grounds Starts at 5:30 P.M.

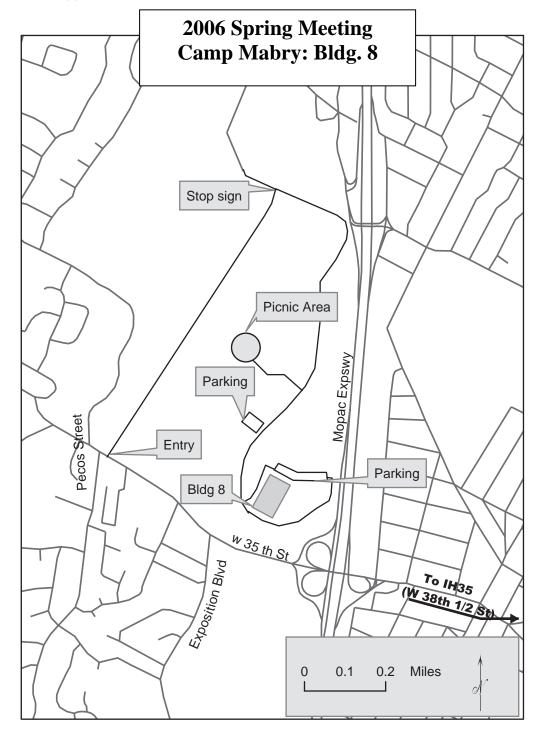
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## PRESIDENTS' FORUM

#### Kevin Miller

When I first took over as President of the Council of Texas Archeologists, I set out with the intent of making the CTA more active and successful in accomplishing its goals of preser-vation, communication, and cooperation within the professional archeological community of Texas. Looking back on the past couple years, I believe we have made some great improvements and are on the right track, but we still have plenty of work to do.

For instance, with the development of our new website, communication has become much improved, and committees and officers can now keep their information current and relevant. The next step in this process is the establishment of a listserv allowing easier communication via email amongst the membership. We have discussed it many, many times but just have not had time to put it in place. Hopefully, we can follow through on this in the coming year and provide the CTA with another vehicle for communication, dissemination of information, and cooperation. These improvements in communication have been meaningful, yet more



Everyone who comes to the meeting needs to bring a photo ID and tell the guards that they are going to the CTA meeting in Building 8 or the Picnic Grounds for the CTA social. Please do not park in the small parking lot at the west entrance of Bldg 8 - it's reserved for officers. Anyone who is not a current member and plans to attend the meeting OR the social needs to email <a href="mailto:Dawn.Ramsey@tx.ngb.army.mil">Dawn.Ramsey@tx.ngb.army.mil</a> Lunch can be purchased on-site at Marlene's Kitchen in Building 8. There are also numerous restaurants and fast food joints near by.

work is needed to tackle the continuing challenge of advancing the CTA's goals and growing its membership. During my presidency I have continually asked myself and others how can we continue to build on the great legacy of the CTA and make it better? I have found this to be a real test, as so many folks have so many ideas that it's difficult to determine how best to approach the subject. Instead, as some have suggested, I believe we sometimes try to do too much and accomplish too little. The field of archeology and CRM can be a complex, multiheaded beast with unlimited issues and crises to address. With this in mind, over the past two years, I have tried to stay focused on the goals of the CTA as stated in our bylaws in order to clearly determine the best plan of action for our organization.

The size and composition of our membership have been long-standing issues for the CTA. I am proud to say that our membership is growing, with more students and those in CRM joining, a tribute to the hard work of the Membership Committee. developing a larger, more inclusive membership is a continual challenge, and, for me, the critical question that must be asked is, what do we provide that makes joining and participating in the CTA attractive? What do archeologists in the State of Texas gain by being a member of the CTA? Well, they get a listing on the Contractor's List (very important to heads of firms and higher ups). They get to receive our Newsletter twice a year, and they get the privilege of attending our meetings twice a year. Though CTA is involved in many aspects of archeology across the state, these items seem to me to be the most tangible features our organization offers for a potential new member. From the perspective of a field technician or student, or even an established archeologist, that does not sound like much.

I believe the answer to our continuing quest for a better, bigger membership and effectiveness is the reinvestment of energy and time by our current members. The key to this is the formulation of new ideas and directions that are relevant to the changing world of CRM and meaningful to all archeologists in Texas. For example, why don't those of us in supervisory positions do more to encourage our employees to participate in the CTA by giving presentations of their work and providing them with real incentives (time off, resources, etc.) to accomplish this task? In a similar vein, to increase interest in our Spring meetings and afternoon papers

sessions, let's provide small monetary honorariums to those who participate and maybe a prize for the top paper/presentation, which may spur interest and increase participation. In regards to dissemination of research, as suggested by incoming President Charles Frederick, the production of monographs of future thematic symposia at our meetings would provide some lasting contributions. Several have suggested the establishment of an online library of the voluminous so-called "gray literature" that many of us CRM folks produce, in order to create a more comprehensive research archive accessible by all across the state. I think this is a wonderful idea that would need to be explored in cooperation with the Texas Historical Commission.

We need to do more to entice potential members to join and participate. I believe this can be accomplished by continuing and expanding the Membership Committee's visits and talks to universities. This process has been very successful and is vital to exposing up and coming archeologists to our organization and potential career opportunities. In addition, adding a Texas job postings section to our website could draw in more archeologists and provide them information about our organization and foster growth in membership. It would also be a means for our member organizations to post relevant job opportunities and expand communication.

As you can see, I believe there are many things we can do to with our organization. Every archeologist working in Texas should be fully aware of the CTA and want to be a member. The CTA must continually adapt to the changing world of archeology and be an active, important force in the archeological community of Texas. This can only be realized through the investment and full participation of our members in all aspects of the organization.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has helped me during my term as President (and there are many of you). Thanks for the invaluable advice from so many of our past officers and current members. I really appreciate all the hard work and time put in by officers and committees over the past couple years. It has been a real pleasure serving as President for the CTA, and I look forward to continuing to contribute as Immediate Past President and helping Charles make the CTA a great organization.

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#### OFFICER'S REPORTS

SECRETARY TREASUERER Missi Green

Last Call! Beat the rush and pay your dues before the Spring meeting. To date 100 of your fellow professionals and students have paid their 2006 dues. This is the largest pre-meeting turnout since I've held this position. In addition, several students and new members have joined this year, and I hope to see more. Remember you can pay online with PayPal through the CTA webpage -

(www.counciloftexasarcheologists.org)

or by sending a check made out to CTA c/o me (Missi Green).

You will find an accounting of the 2005 expenses and a proposed 2006 budget in this newsletter. Please review and be ready to discuss and vote on it at the Spring meeting. Our accounts are doing well. The money market account is at \$8,780.27; the Scholarship Fund contains \$7,095.55, and the checking account is currently at \$12,474.81. A very nice donation was made to the Scholarship account by Tim Perttula along with his membership – thank you, Tim! Remember, donations to the Scholarship Fund will keep it alive and growing.

Newsletter Editor Andy Malof

You may notice that this newsletter is a bit lighter than some past issues. This may be largely due to an extended absence by myself during the end of the submission period; some of you probably enjoyed the peace and quiet or wondered what happened to the biannual nagging – or not. Kevin may have made up for it...

As my second full term pulls to a close, I want to say thanks for the opportunity. I've been able to interact with people, become exposed to insights and ideas, and generally become more familiar with the diversity of archeology in Texas. As of this writing I'm not sure whether or not this will be my last newsletter. If I have a successor I trust membership will give them the support I received. If I get another two years then expect to hear from me occasionally as I shake bushes in search of copy. Meanwhile, if anyone is interested in the position, let me or the Nominating Committee know.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

HISTORY COMMITTEE Doug Boyd, Chair

Please gather up, organize, and bring all your old CTA records to the Spring Meeting (April 7) and turn them over to the CTA history committee for curation at TARL. Any official documents such as correspondence files and notes compiled by former officers and committee chairs, are important. Turn them over to committee members Doug Boyd, John Dockall, or Andy Malof.

ACADEMIC ARCHAEOLOGY AND CRM COORDINATION:
Britt Bousman, Chair

The committee met once and has continued to communicate through e-mail. They are looking at the gaps in training here in Texas and elsewhere. The committee developed a three-part survey for academia teaching: one for students, one for professionals, and a parallel survey for departments. CTA members have completed the survey and the

results have been tallied. Students and anthropology departments are finishing their surveys now and we should have the results by late April. An article reporting the results will be submitted to the next CTA newsletter and copies will be distributed to participating academic departments.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE Karl Kibler, Chair

Michael Aiuvalasit of Texas A&M University is the recipient of the 2005 CTA Student Research Grant. Mr. Aiuvalasit is investigating the depositional, sedimentological, and pedological nature and age of the Deweyville Formation terrace and its Holocene age sandy mantle which encapsulates the cultural materials of the McNeil-Gonzales Site (41VT141). Specifically, Michael is using the grant to date the upper sediments of the underlying Deweyville terrace and the sediments at the base of the Holocene sandy mantle by luminescence dating (OSL). The results of his investigations are not yet available, but Michael has provided some background information on his project in the article included in this newsletter.

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE David O. Brown, Chair

Members of the CTA Public Education committee got together briefly after the TAS meeting to discuss potential new initiatives in education and outreach for the CTA. We hope to have at least one more committee meeting before the spring CTA meeting to discuss these possible initiatives. This year we have two great nominations for the E. Mott Davis award for excellence in public outreach: an online Texas Beyond History exhibit on the J. B. White site by Prewitt & Associates, and two museum exhibits summarizing more than 20 years of mine archaeology by PBS&J prepared for Texas Utilities and exhibited in their main office and the Depot Museum in Henderson County. The nominations are summarized below. The award will be presented at the spring meeting.

#### J. B. White site Texas Beyond History exhibit

Prewitt & Associates, Inc., Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, and TxDOT

The J. B. White site (41MM341) is a prehistoric campsite in Milam County near Cameron, Texas. Located in the floodplain of the Little River, the site was discovered in 1999 by TxDOT during backhoe trenching for a planned bridge replacement. Following a testing phase by the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2000, the middle cultural zone at the site, dating to the early Late Prehistoric period, became the focus of mitigation excavations by Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (PAI).

Following the excavations and analysis, Eloise Gadus and Susan Dial created an intriguing online exhibit < www.texasbeyondhistory.net/jbwhite > educating the public about the results of CRM investigations at the site (see illustration p.9). The eight-section exhibit explains why the work was done, what was done, and what was learned in an engaging and substantive fashion. It is creatively presented, well illustrated, and includes an innovative interactive learning activity - *Mussel Mania* - for K-12 schoolchildren. The exhibit is now accessible 24-7 to anyone, anywhere in the world with an Internet connection. Few CRM projects have made such widespread public contributions.

Eloise Gadus was the lead archeologist on the J. B. White investigations for Prewitt and Associates, Inc. and she is the principal author of the exhibit. She wrote the first draft and worked with PAI staff to provide photographs and graphics. Susan Dial, Coeditor of *Texas Beyond History* (TBH) at TARL, took

the PAI content and created the online exhibit, adding additional writing and photographs. TxDOT deserves recognition as the project sponsor. Several other individuals at PAI and TBH contributed to the content and presentation of the J. B. White exhibit, but Gadus and Dial deserve the lion's share of credit for the public education effort.

#### **Texas Utilities Museum Exhibit**

PBS&J, Inc, and TXU Power, and the Depot Museum, Henderson

TXU and PBS&J have been involved in cultural resources management in Rusk and Panola counties since 1984. These investigations were conducted at the Oak Hill Mine near Henderson, Texas, and at the Martin Lake Beckville and Tatum mines located near Longview. Total area surveyed is in excess of 25,000 acres. Hundreds of cultural resources have been recorded, resulting in testing and/or data recovery efforts on numerous sites. These investigations have resulted in a large database not generally available to the citizens of Rusk and Panola counties. Recognizing this, TXU, PBS&J, and the Depot Museum in Henderson, in consultation with review agencies, designed a public outreach program to disseminate the information.

In order to promote awareness of the rich cultural heritage of Rusk and surrounding counties, TXU and PBS&J, in conjunction with the Depot Museum, designed an ongoing exhibit of cultural materials recovered from TXU surface mines (see illustration p. 9). The display, opened to the public during Archeology Awareness month in 2005, demonstrates that nomadic and sedentary people have utilized the resources of Rusk and surrounding counties for centuries and that they repeatedly returned to the area to exploit the natural resources. Because the display and written narrative providing the synthesis of the prehistoric and historic periods of Rusk County is located in the already established Depot Museum, it is readily accessible for viewing by the public, including students of all grades, who, as a part of their respective school curriculums, regularly visit the museum. The exhibit will be updated periodically with materials from future TXU projects.

The exhibit was designed and prepared by Meg Cruse of PBS&J and Susan Weaver of the Depot Museum. Wayne Glander served as Principal Investigator for most of the projects used in the creation of the exhibit. The exhibit was sponsored by TXU Power of Dallas; Sid Stroud, Scott Mills, and Don Montgomery were instrumental in developing the project.



#### CTA Fall Meeting Minutes Austin, Texas 28 October 2005 9:00 am

The Fall meeting of CTA was called to order by President Kevin Miller at 9:00 am who immediately thanked the Austin chapter of TAS and the Hilton in Austin for hosting the CTA. He reminded everyone about the TxDOT/CTA workshop later in the day and the TAS/CTA sponsored Careers in Archeology gettogether for students from 8 to 10 tonight. His first item of business was to ask for a vote on the approval of the minutes of the Spring meeting as published in the newsletter. It was so moved and seconded, with discussion from Marianne Marek making an exception to the Survey Standards Committee report and clarifying an error in that report that was more of a concern with collections standards. There was a second motion to approve these minutes with correction, it was seconded and the vote passed.

In his President's Report, Kevin reported that he had attended the Antiquities Advisory Board meeting and there was nothing to report from it. He also had badgered committees for having not updated their respective pages on the new webpage. Due to continued discussion about the lack of interaction between academia and CRM, he has organized a new Ad Hoc committee, Academic and Standards Committee, to look into the issue. Britt Bousman has agreed to be Chairman, with Steve Tomka, Michael Strutt, Karl Kibler, Alston Thoms, and Harry Shafer as committee members. The committee will be looking into the issue during the summer.

President-Elect Charles Frederick had no report at this meeting.

Past President Clell Bond reported that he has been looking into the liability issues that we should be concerned with. CTA does have liability, as do the officers, for CTA activities and what CTA does. TAS has acquired insurance protecting the organization and its officers, and CTA might consider this as an item of discussion. He gave as examples of where CTA has liability is in the maintenance of a Contractors' List, providing guidelines to THC, and the Spring meeting social, where food and alcohol is served. He has been looking into the cost of insurance: \$1000 to \$1200 is about the average cost of liability insurance. This

issue is something that should be given serious consideration.

The Secretary-Treasurer's report by Missi Green included an accounting of the membership and contractors' list numbers for the year as well as the bank accounts totals. The checking account contains \$10.882.81; the Money Market contains \$8,762.88; and \$6,926.65 is in the Scholarship Endowment Fund account. A total of \$155 from contributions and student memberships for 2005 has been deposited into the Scholarship Fund. She also mentioned that there has been a spike in student memberships and that Karl Kibler and his Membership Committee members have been doing a wonderful job. Also following Clell's report, she noted that there is ample money for buying an insurance policy when it is needed.

Newsletter Editor Andy Malof thanked members for their submissions for the Newsletter, but would like to get more committee reports. He has tracked all the Newsletter hits, 417, on the webpage; quite a bit of activity. There have been a total of 30,000+ hits on the webpage since its inception in the summer of 2004. The Contractors' List is the most popular page with 27% of the hits, followed by the Newsletter with 10%, new members at 9%, and PayPal at 3%.

#### **Committee Reports**

Governmental Affairs: Chair Rachel Feit was a little late to the meeting so the discussion of the status of Section 106 came from members with some insight. Nancy Kenmotsu said that there had been little movement, but the issue was not completely off the table. And one way to keep up with the progress was to communicate with the NCSHPO (National Conference of SHPOs). A modification to Section 106 went through with the Energy Bill exempting the process during exploration. Mark Denton noted that there was a rumor that John Nau had spoken to Karl Rove about having Congress back off of the issue a bit.

Rachel showed up a little later and mentioned that the new PA (Programmatic Agreement) between TxDOT, THC, and FWHA was still waiting for signatures. She also reiterated that the Section 106 issue was not dead and that Representative Richard Pombo was still the man to watch. Also that an independent NEPA taskforce had held several committee meetings over the summer inviting industry to review NEPA and give testimony on how difficult it is to do their jobs with NEPA. They also invited pro-environmental interests to testify as well. Chris Lintz mentioned that Mr. Pombo has advocated that some NPS properties including Alibates, be sold and opened to industry, unless a quota of visitors can be proven. James Karbula also mentioned that the Section 106 meeting between ACHP (Advisory Council), National Trust, NPS, NCSHPO, and ACRA (American Cultural Resources Association) in subcommittee with Pombo's office was a draw with ACRA supporting Section 106 and renewing it as it stands through 2011 with oil and gas monies supporting preservation. We're in a wait and see mode.

Contractors' List: Committee Chair Meg Cruse noted that there are still a few incorrect entries and that the Committee is not going to contact you for the corrections – you must contact the committee with changes or corrections. Mark Denton thought it would be interesting to find out how much work comes to contractors through the CTA webpage. Also when sending changes to Meg, please send those changes to Mark Denton, particularly email or company changes.

Public Education: Member Doug Boyd reported that a meeting had been held and that the committee is still seeking nominations for the E. Mott Davis Award, and asked that we continue to push for public outreach. Remember nominations close in January. Chair Dave Brown mentioned several new initiatives that the committee was discussing to foster public education and that the committee would be meeting later this afternoon to discuss these and prepare for a vote at the Spring meeting.

Curation: There was no one representing the committee. Kevin mentioned that the committee is updating their guidelines and will likely have a report at the Spring meeting.

Multicultural Relations: Mary Jo Galindo and Rachel Feit are trying to get more involved in schools visiting on career days, geography days and talking in schools to students, particularly minority students.

CTA Communications: Dan Julian is the Chair, though Kevin questioned what the current purpose and role of this committee might be. There needs to

be some discussion about moving the maintenance of the webpage to this committee, since there is no real need for an Ad Hoc Webpage Committee. Creating a listsery, which the webpage is capable of maintaining, is a possible new avenue.

Membership: Chair Karl Kibler announced that March 2, 2006 is the deadline for student applicants for the CTA grant. Karl is visiting Baylor and UT and Alan Bettis is going to Texas State to talk to students about CTA and their involvement. Karl also announced that he will step down as Chair after this term.

Nomination: Discussed in New Business.

Auditing: This committee usually reports once a year, at the Spring meeting.

#### **Special Committee Reports:**

Survey Standards: Chair Marianne Marek reported that the current standards have been updated on the webpage.

Anti-Looting: Kevin gave a brief report on this committee based on an email from Chair Stephen Austin. There have been discussions as to the validity of this committee. Posters were printed and distributed last year ending that role. The group would like to remain intact as a consulting group but needs a new direction and also has petitioned to move the monies allotted to the committee to the Education Committee for "specific, formally defined, training that benefits those seeking to enter or enhance their CRM expertise". There is a need for ideas of what this committee should do next as a valid committee. Suggestions were: 1) to come up with a poster focusing on the looting problems on private lands; 2) putting the looting poster as an advertisement in hunting magazines; and/or 3) contributing short and interesting articles against looting in various publications - focusing on positive attitude, or attitude changing, i.e., towards education.

Special Web: Kevin stated that is committee will be dissolved since the webpage is up and running, and that roles of this committee will likely go to the Communications Committee.

History: Chair Doug Boyd reported that one role is to get all CTA records archived and that the committee will take them from all officers. He suggested indexing all early Newsletters. He would like to have some more members and additional ideas

Academic Archaeology and CRM Coordination: Chair Britt Bousman reported that the committee met once and has continued to communicate through email. They are looking at the gaps in training here in Texas and elsewhere. The committee has come up with a 3 page survey for academia teaching: one for students and one for professionals; a parallel survey. They hope the results of the survey will give them a direction. They'll summarize the results and publish in the next Newsletter and then send them to departments that teach Archaeology hoping to move curricula more toward CRM possible, or at least develop new course and fill in some gaps to make rational decisions. The committee needs wide responses to make the requests of institutions, and student response will be a critical component to the survey. Alston Thoms mentioned that of the 6 instructors at A&M, none use the SAA book on education in the 21st century other than himself. Other comments were that publishing enrollments could drive a change in university attitude and/or agenda, and that the need to inform faculty and departments to understand that they are not providing what is needed to make it in CRM. Britt emphasized that we as a group don't publish enough in peer-reviewed journals and that needs to change. Lain Ellis noted that sponsoring agencies need to move forward and push/fund the writing of articles.

#### **Old Business**

A special thank you went to Margaret Howard for supplying the Newsletter with photos and article on the Native American participation at the TAS annual field school.

Dan Julian gave a short update on the Site Atlas, stating that they are still working on the historic cemetery layer, that the atlas is functional, and that updates from site forms are still being input. Kevin encouraged the membership to fill out and update site revisit forms, then submit them for inclusion on the Atlas.

No other old business was brought to the membership for discussion.

#### **New Business**

Kevin asked for a motion to approve the amendments to the Bylaws as published in the Newsletter. A motion was heard and seconded. There were no corrections or additions and with no discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed. The Bylaws will be updated on the webpage as soon as possible.

The next order of new business was the forming of a new Nominating Committee. Members Russ Brownlow, Lenny Voellinger, Jim Abbot, Bill Martin, and Dan Prikryl were all nominated. A motion for accepting this committee was made, seconded, and passed with Russ Brownlow taking the role of Chair. Their first assignment is to find new candidates for the President-Elect, Newsletter Editor, and Secretary-Treasurer. Good luck to the new committee!

Kevin and Andy brought up the next item: committee relevance and roles. There has been some confusion in committees about their roles; who are the members of each committee (we have a good list of chairs, but not members); what are the roles and relevance of these committees to the organization. A questionnaire may be put to the committee chairs to help determine the issues, particularly how the organization runs and what its needs are. We should have more active and relevant committees for CTA.

THC Announcements: Mark Denton announced that THC is currently going through Sunset Review, and that they don't anticipate any problems and are looking favorably toward the review process. So if you are contacted, please respond.

He also announced that the Certification process is well underway. Mark Ryan has been hired as a THC full time employee to help institutions get through the process. Currently Corpus Christi Museum, UTSA and Panhandle Plains Museum are going through the process, and Texas State is talking about a new facility. Also CAR is receiving more funding; other curatorial facilities should apply for Texas funding grants. December 31 of this year is the drop dead date for facilities – have your application in by the end of 2005 to continue in the process. TARL and Texas State need to send in their applications – the form is on the THC website.

The Antiquities Advisory Board is in a cycle of change. Elton Prewitt is stepping down as TAS representative and Ron Ralph is coming on. Chris Jurgens from the Texas Water Board will go on as TxDOT slides off. Charles Frederick as the CTA President-Elect will take Kevin's place after April.

As a heads-up, the agency is moving toward a paperless system. Electronic submissions are coming. A review and compliance database is currently being built. This should improve things in the future.

TxDOT Announcements: Lain Ellis announced that there are lots of things happening. The major change in the process is that the new PA will streamline the process. Great strides have been made in coordination with Native American groups; 14 individual PAs have been put in place. Also there are 3 new RFPs hitting the streets soon: Houston; Bryan and Yoakum; and Fort Worth, Abilene, and Brown districts.

Texas Beyond History: Steve Black announced that TBH is continuing to expand, but it still needs contributions of content. Please contribute.

Texas Water Board: Chris Jurgens announced that his organization is down to 2 people and they will no longer be doing surveys in-house. They have \$700 million for construction and will be sending out work.. Contractors might want to make sure they are on the Contractors' List.

#### Other Announcements:

Charles Frederick announced that he'd like to have the papers from the 2005 Spring meeting published and asked for CTA support, and that these could be produced as an occasional paper document. The membership was very positive toward that goal. He thought that maybe Plains Anthropology or the TAS Bulletin might be good publishing avenues. He also made a call for additional papers.

As time was running out, Kevin Miller asked for a move to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11.00 am.



The "Mussel Mania" crew, including Dr. Dirt the Armadillo Archeologist, Dr. Molly the Malacologist, and Shelly and Pearly (two very lively river mussels), are featured in a special interactive section aimed at schoolchildren taking science and social studies courses. This section explains the scientific significance of mussels (freshwater clams) to archeological and environmental research.





Texas Utilities Museum Exhibit, Henderson, Tx

Davis Award Nominees: **J. B. White site online exhibit for Texas Beyond History** Prewitt & Associates, Inc., Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, and TxDOT (left) **Texas Utilities Museum Exhibit** 

PBS&J, Inc, and TXU Power, and the Depot Museum, Henderson (right)

### REPORTS

#### 2005 CTA STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT REPORT

An Introduction to the Geoarcheological Investigations at the McNeil-Gonzales site (41VT141), Victoria County, Texas

Michael J. Aiuvalasit Department of Anthropology Texas A&M University

The McNeil-Gonzales site is a large habitation and cemetery site on a high terrace of the Guadalupe River in Victoria County. The archeological community discovered the site in 2003 when THC Archeological Steward, James Bluhm, traced topsoil with artifacts being sold in local nurseries back to the property of its excavation. For two years THC Stewards and volunteer archeologists conducted salvage and test excavations at the site, and are now processing and inventorying the artifacts for a report on their findings.

In the spring of 2004 the THC Stewards contacted the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Center for the Study of First Americans (CSFA) and a team of TAMU archeologists and physical anthropologists visited the site. The THC Stewards welcomed the involvement of the TAMU Department of Anthropology and since the summer of 2004 I have been conducting geoarcheological investigations. My Master's Thesis on the McNeil-Gonzales site will detail the geomorphic setting, the archeological stratigraphy, and place the findings from this work in a regional context. This paper describes my research at the site, and details how I am using the funds from the 2005 CTA Student Research Grant.

The site is located on the scarp and slope of a Deweyville Formation terrace of the Guadalupe River. Deweyville terraces are Pleistocene fluvial terraces on the margins of the major drainages of the Gulf Coastal Plain. Prior to the application of Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating (OSL) the chronology of these terraces was poorly understood, however the application of this direct dating technique and a better understanding of glacial cycles is refining our understanding of these terraces. The relatively few dates come primarily from the Nueces River Valley, but there are some dates from the Guadalupe, Sabine, and Brazos River Valleys (Durbin et al 1997, Frederick and Bateman 2004, 2005, Sylvia and Galloway Researchers proposed the Deweyville Formation consists of three downstepping terraces: High

Deweyville 60–47 ka (thousands of years ago); Middle Deweyville 43–40 ka; and Low Deweyville 35–31 ka (Durbin et al 1997), however Abbott (2001) contends that conflicting data and small sample sizes preclude the outright acceptance of this sequence. These ages are obviously much too old for prehistoric occupation, however archeological sites are routinely found in sandy mantles atop these terraces (Abbott 2001, Mandel 1987, Frederick and Bateman 2004). The McNeil-Gonzales site is found in this sandy mantle context, and geoarcheological investigations have the potential to provide additional data for understanding the age, depositional nature, and archeological potential of the Deweyville terraces.

Geoarcheological field investigations at the site consisted of profile descriptions of THC Steward excavation units and borrow pit exposures, 10 cores with the assistance of local NRCS soil scientists, 50 hand augers to a depth of 3 m each, and four test pits excavated by backhoe. The fieldwork was complemented by granulometric studies of the particle size distribution of sediments and soils. The preliminary results show that fine uniform sand mantles a truncated reddish-brown polygenetic argillic and calcic paleosol named the Deweyville Below the Deweyville Paleosol are Paleosol. gravelly medium to fine sands of a distinctly fluvial origin.

The mantling sand lacks bedding structure primarily due to bioturbation, which is evidenced by active ant mounds, rodent burrows, and tree roots. Artifacts are frequently found resting on angle and some hearth features appear to be disturbed or scattered by turbating processes. The potential deleterious impacts of bio- and pedoturbation to site preservation are acknowledged (Johnson 2002, Thoms and Olive 1993), and geoarcheological investigations considered the potential impact of these processes. Though bioturbation has certainly impacted the cultural stratrigraphy of the site diagnostic artifacts are generally in good stratigraphic context, hearth features are intact, burials are intact, and no turbated "stone lines" were observed. Two weak paleosols developed in the Holocene deposits. One is found above the Late Paleoindian to Early Archiac component of the site, and the other

separates the Middle to Early Archaic components from the Late Archaic and Late Prehistoric components. These paleosols indicate periods of stability, and that bioturbation has not been significant enough to obliterate the buried soils and mix cultural components. These findings suggest that biomantling is not the primary agent of site burial, and though bioturbation has probably decreased the potential to investigate discrete occupational surfaces the site still provides an opportunity to examine early periods of occupation of which there are very few early sites in this region (Ricklis 2004).

Funds obtained from the CTA Student Research Grant combined with a grant from the TAS Donors Fund are being used to obtain two OSL dates. The samples were submitted to Dr. Steven Forman of the University of Chicago at Illinois for OSL analysis, and results of his analysis will be available this spring. Samples were collected from two portions of the site in order to obtain an age for the Deweyville terrace, and an age for the earliest period of occupation. A sediment sample of the fluvial sands below the Deweyville Paleosol was collected to date the Deweyville Formation deposits. The date will provide a general age of the Dewevville Terrace and help bound the age of the Deweyville Paleosol. Based on correlations to other terraces it is expected to date from 40-60 ka.

The second sample will date one of the earliest archeological components. On the southeastern slopes of the terrace, exposures and subsurface testing indicate that the upper reddish brown argillic portion of the Deweyville Paleosol was laterally eroded and vertically truncated, which exposed the calcic portion of the soil and the underlying fluvial sandy deposits. Based on the geometry of the deposits and artifact distributions it appears that after the upper portion of the paleosol eroded, the exposed lower deposits were reworked as colluvium and locally deposited downslope. The deposits then became living surfaces for some of the earliest components of the site.

Diagnostic artifacts dating to the Late Paleoindian period have been recovered in the upper portions of these deposits and non-diagnostic lithic artifacts were observed approximately 60 cm below the Late Paleoindian component. An OSL sample from below the former living surface at the level of the undated prehistoric artifacts has the potential to date these deposits, and possibly the period of colluvial erosion. If the deposits are reworked colluvium the sediments may have a mixed luminescence paleodose due to the variable nature of colluvial action. Some of the grains may have only been partially exposed to sunlight during the colluvial reworking and the grains may be poorly bleached.

Techniques have been developed to account for colluvial reworking and disturbed sediments (Eriksson et al 2000, Bateman et al 2003). The single grain technique has become the most promising method for dating potentially mixed deposits. By measuring the paleodose of a statistically relevant number of individual sand grains it is possible to separate populations of sands with different paleodose rates. It is hypothesized that one population of sand grains will have remained unexposed to sunlight since their deposition as fluvial sands of the Deweyville Formation at approximately 40-60 ka, and another population will date to the period of exposure as colluvial slope wash, which considering the lack of soil formation and the incorporation of Late Paleoindian artifacts, could have occurred during the Late Pleistocene to Early Holocene. If the sample produces a mixed age with a fraction of distinctly younger sand grains (6-10 ka) it would suggest bioturbation processes could have led to the translocation of these scattered artifacts below the Late Paleoindian component.

This work is just one contribution to the body of archeological work developing at this site. The dedicated THC Stewards and volunteers continue to process and analyze artifacts and in conjunction with the landowners act as stewards of the site. Physical anthropologists Mathew S. Taylor and Dr. Jennifer Rice have been involved in excavating, analyzing, and obtaining funds to date burials from the site. Dr. Michael Bevers at the University of Texas at Austin will be conducting an archeological field school at the site during the summer of 2006.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES



DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE CULTURAL RESOURCES OF TEXAS

#### SPRING 2006 MEETING AND CALL FOR PAPERS CAMP MABRY, AUSTIN, TEXAS APRIL 7, 2006

The Spring 2006 Meeting of the Council of Texas Archaeologists is scheduled for April 7, 2006. The meeting will once again be held at Camp Mabry in Austin, set to begin at 9:00 am. The format will be the same as previous meetings with the business meeting in the morning, papers and presentations in the afternoon, and the always entertaining social to wrap things up. I want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone in the CTA to participate in the upcoming meeting and present papers of your interesting archaeological endeavors and research.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS

We are looking to continue the success of our afternoon presentations session in 2006 and are making our call for papers/presentations. The dissemination of past or present archaeological research from the various regions across Texas is one of the more exciting and rewarding aspects of our meetings, and the more papers presented, the better. In 2005, we had several excellent presentations followed by a thematic "round table" session focused on the Early Archaic. This proved very successful and we hope to follow-up on that session with a publication synthesizing the presentations and current knowledge of the Early Archaic.

This year, we are making a general call for papers to open up the presentations to a wide range of topics. Whether you are a student, a professor, or professional archaeologist, I encourage you to present your recent research at the CTA meeting. We are also, however, exploring several possible themes that may be included as part of the afternoon session dependent upon the response we get from the membership.

One theme is the *Transitional Archaic* (or whatever label you currently prefer for this time period between roughly 2400 to 1300 B.P.). As more and more research is conducted on sites from this period, it is becoming apparent that our understanding of the social, technological, and environmental changes that occurred in this critical phase of prehistory may not be as accurate and thorough as we once thought. New research has begun to shed more light on the Transitional Archaic and we are looking for enough papers on recent research to explore this theme. A second theme we have discussed exploring is *science-based archaeology in Texas*. For this theme we are seeking papers that discuss the use of scientific methods that have enhanced our archeological interpretations. Typically, science-based archaeology covers fields like archeobotany, archeozoology, geoarchaeology, materials, and geophysics. The goal would be a suite of papers that discuss different approaches to the understanding of Texas prehistory achieved through scientific analysis of the deposits or cultural material.

All papers are to be 15 minutes in length, please use Powerpoint as your visual aid if possible (but we can still find a slide projector if needed!). Please submit a short abstract of your presentation to me (kmiller@swca.com) as soon as possible, abstracts are due no later than *March 15, 2006*, as we need adequate time to set up the session and agenda. Thank you for your input and I look forward to seeing you all at Camp Mabry!

KEVIN A. MILLER CTA PRESIDENT 4407 MONTEREY OAKS BLVD, SUITE 110 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78749

(512) 476-0891

#### THC News Mark Denton

Project Boundaries No Longer Plotted on Hardcopy Quads at THC

Because of the labor intensive nature of upkeep of the hardcopy quad maps at the THC and because the Atlas database has effectively replaced the hardcopy maps, the Archeology Division of the THC will no longer be plotting project boundary data on the hardcopy maps after the end of October. As most of you already know, our maps for many years haven't been a reliable source of information for site locational data, but we have kept up with plotting project boundaries. After November 1st our maps should only be viewed as dated historic reference materials.

# Approved Curatorial Facilities for Permitted Projects

As of January 1, 2006 the following list of curatorial facilities are the only repositories that can be listed on your permit applications as potential repositories for the curation of artifacts recovered under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT). The Corpus Christi Museum is already officially certified. The others on this list are currently functioning under provisional certification while they work their way through the certification process. Hopefully, all of these facilities will become officially certified in the next year or two. No doubt, other facilities may become certified sometime in the future, but since they did not start the certification review process prior to December 31, 2005, they will have to complete the certification process and become certified before they can receive ACT artifacts for curation.

- Center for Archaeological Research -University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR-UTSA)
- 2. Panhandle Plains Historical Museum (PPHM)
- 3. Sam Houston State Memorial Museum (SHSM)
- 4. Museum of Texas Tech University (MoTTU)
- Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL)
- 6. Archeology Lab, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- 7. Center for Archeological Studies Texas State University (CAS-TSU)

- 8. Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum
- 9. Brazoria County Historical Museum
- 10. Texas A & M University Department of Anthropology (TAMU)
- Corpus Christi Museum City of Corpus Christi

#### Annual Permits for TxDOT Projects

All archeological contractors should clearly label interim reports as interim reports and for those of you that have "annual permits" to work on multiple project areas for TxDOT, please insure that you also properly label those interim reports. Additionally, for those of you that have annual permits with TxDOT, please remember that all of your impact evaluations and surveys performed under annual permits need to be compiled into a final end of the year report and a draft of that document needs to be submitted to the THC (through TxDOT-ENV) for review.

#### TxDOT Impact Evaluations

Please remember that site eligibility determinations cannot be made as part of an impact evaluation. If a site or a portion of a site is found within a TxDOT right-of-way during an impact evaluation assessment, a full intensive survey will be needed to complete a site eligibility assessment of that site and in most cases a project specific permit will be needed for that assessment, if your company does not already have a annual permit for the work you are performing.

# **Texas** Archeological Society offers Student Scholarships for Field School and Annual Meeting Christine Gauger

The Texas Archeological Society is now offering scholarships for College Students to attend the 2006 Field School in Paris, Texas, and the 2006 Annual Meeting in San Angelo. These scholarships are designed to cover the basic costs of attending each event and include a TAS student membership, registration fees, and \$100 transportation reimbursement. The Field School scholarship will also include breakfasts and dinners from the TAS camp kitchen, a dig kit, field school T-shirt and ice for a cooler. The annual meeting scholarship will include banquet registration and \$100 hotel reimbursement. The scholarship application and more information can be found at www.txarch.org. The deadline to apply for the Field School Scholarship is April 1. The deadline to apply for the Annual Meeting Scholarship is September 1.

These scholarships will be completely funded by donations. Please consider contributing to the TAS Student Scholarship Fund. Donations can be mailed to the TAS business office or you can donate by credit card online at:

#### http://www.txarch.org/credit/TASdonate.htm

by placing the amount in the "Other Donation" box and listing student scholarship in the comments section. For more information or questions about the TAS student scholarships, contact Christine Gauger, TAS Scholarship Committee Chair at cmgauger@hotmail.com.

#### **LCRA Completes Teaching Module** Andy Malof

The Lower Colorado River Authority's Archaeology Services department has completed a comprehensive archeology teaching module designed to encourage students to explore personal histories in order to better understand the roles their families and communities played in shaping modern society. The TEKS-aligned lesson plans, which were funded by LCRA and grants by the Texas Preservation Trust Fund of the Texas Historical Commission and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, are available online at:

http://www.lcra.org/community/nightengale\_school\_t ours.html.

Also available online is a recently-produced video entitled *Footprints in Time*, which follows a group of students during a tour of LCRA's Nightengale Archaeological Center.

http://www.lcra.org/community/nightengale.html

# FY 2006 TPTF Grants Allocated to Archeological Projects

Pat Mercado-Allinger, State Archeologist Texas Historical Commission

Texas Preservation Trust Fund grant funds amounting to \$117,000 were approved by the Texas Historical Commission to support six archeological projects. These grants were among the 22 preservation projects, totaling \$405,000, approved for funding for the fiscal year 2006 cycle. The funded projects were selected from 65 submissions.

Archeological education and planning projects selected to receive fiscal year 2006 grants include:

#### **EDUCATION**

 \$25,000 to Texas Beyond History/ University of Texas at Austin, Texas

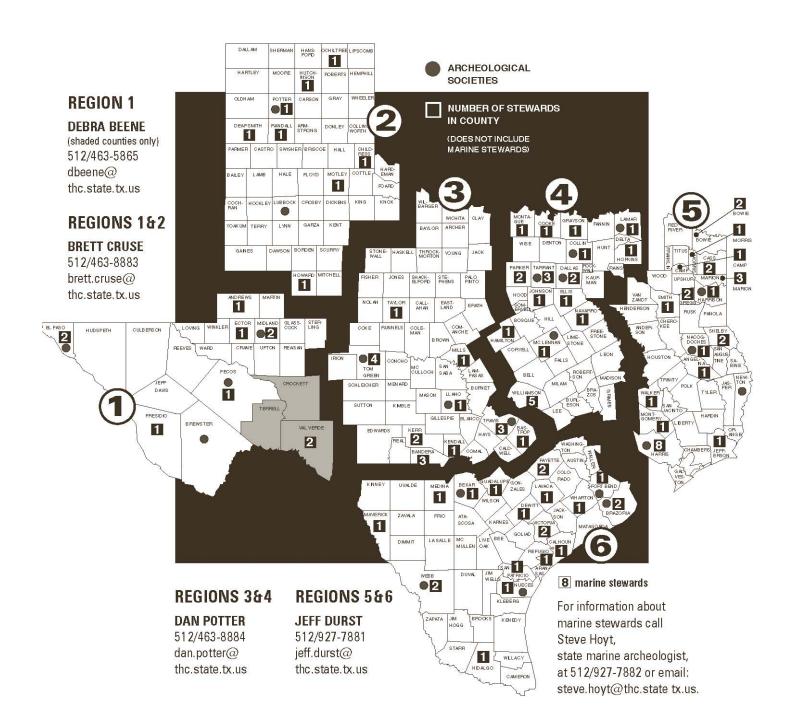
- Archeological Research Laboratory for the development of the "Prehistoric Trans-Pecos People" virtual exhibits featured on the Texas Beyond History website.
- \$20,000 to National Park Service/Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument (Potter County) for the production of an orientation film for visitors to the only public national monument in Texas.
- \$10,000 was again set aside for use as "mini-grants" to support Texas Archeology Month fairs to be held in October 2006. The entire amount will be allocated to local fair sponsors. Consult the THC website (www.thc.state.tx.us) for application information. Application deadline to be announced.

#### **PLANNING**

- \$30,000 to the Center for Archaeological Research/University of Texas at San Antonio for the rehabilitation and reinventory of the San Antonio Plaza de Armas archeological collections. The collections resulted from various investigations conducted at the Main and Military Plaza Historic District and the U. S. San Antonio Arsenal District sites.
- \$20,000 to the Center for Big Bend Studies/Sul Ross State University for stabilization and testing at the Millington State Archeological Landmark (41PS14) in Presidio County. The site contains the remains of occupations tentatively dated to the La Junta (ca. A.D. 1200–1450), Concepcion (A.D. 1450–1700), and Conchos (A.D. 1700–1800) phases, and may be the location of the Spanish Mission San Cristobal.
- \$12,000 to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the continuation of the agency's Phase 2 Archeological Collections Management Project.

The Texas Preservation Trust Fund was created in 1989 by the Texas Legislature as an interest-earning pool of public and private funds. Grants are made from the interest earned each year. Information about the TPTF program is available on the THC website (<a href="www.thc.state.tx.us">www.thc.state.tx.us</a>). The THC's regional archeologists (see regional map below) are also available to discuss your potential grant project and answer your questions about the grant program. You may also contact Pat Mercado-Allinger (512/463-8882; <a href="mailto:pat.mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us">pat.mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us</a>) for information.

#### TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



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To: University Anthropology Departments in Texas

**Subject**: Call for Student Papers

The Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) is accepting papers from graduate and undergraduate students in anthropology, archeology, and related fields for possible publication in the Spring, 2006 CTA Newsletter. The CTA Newsletter is published twice a year and is a citable, digitally archived publication. Papers should be on topics that address substantive archeological and cultural resource issues in Texas, including, but not limited to, research, methodology, theory and culture. Recommended paper length is three to five pages, although papers of any length will be considered. Submissions accompanied by faculty recommendations will receive first consideration. All papers are subject to constructive peer review. Any student who is a member of CTA is also eligible to compete for the \$500 CTA Student Research Grant.

Deadline for submissions for the upcoming newsletter is September 7, 2006. Preferred format is in MS Word, submitted via email.

"CTA is a nonprofit voluntary organization whose purpose is to maintain and promote the goals of professional archeology in Texas. CTA works for you by preserving our cultural resources, by enhancing public awareness of Texas archeology, and by promoting communication and cooperation within the archeological community."

For more information or to submit a paper, contact the CTA Newsletter Editor at:

Andy Malof

CTA Newsletter Editor <u>amalof@lcra.org</u> 800-776-5272 - Ext. 2753

P.O. Box 220 Austin, Texas 78767

For more information on CTA, including membership categories and access to past newsletters, visit <a href="https://www.counciloftexasarcheologists.org">www.counciloftexasarcheologists.org</a>

		2005	Proposed
	2005	Income/Expenses	2006
	Budget	(through 8 March 06)	Budget
NCOME			
ndividual Memberships	4,125.00	3,758.81	4,125.00
Student Memberships	225.00	125.00	225.00
nstitution/Library Memberships	25.00	0.00	25.00
Contractor Listing Fees	4,300.00	4,296.80	4,300.00
Money Market Interest	50.00	40.69	40.00
Scholarship Fund Interest/Donations	300.00	316.90	300.00
Spring 2004 Social Donations  COTAL INCOME	9,025.00	8,538.20	9,015.00
SENERAL EXPENDITURES	50.00	0.00	05.00
Newsletter (Printing and Postage)	50.00	0.00	25.00
Administrative Costs	200.00 85.00	33.00 0.00	200.00 85.00
Veb Page Registration Spring Meeting/Social Expenses	550.00	725.04	800.00
Fall TAS/CTA Social	400.00	400.00	475.00
PayPal Fees	65.00	<del>-1</del> 00.00	<del>4</del> 75.00
OTAL GENERAL EXPENDITURES	1,350.00	1,158.04	1,585.00
COMMITTEE EXPENDITURES			
Accreditation and Review Council	50.00	0.00	50.00
Sovernmental Affairs	50.00	0.00	50.00
Membership	300.00	0.00	200.00
Multicultural Relations	50.00	0.00	50.00
Public Education	100.00	0.00	100.00
Anti-Looting	500.00	0.00	500.00
Communications	0.00	650.00	0.00
General Committee Expenses	50.00	0.00	50.00
OTAL COMMITTEE EXPENDITURES	1,100.00	650.00	1,000.00
DONATIONS			
archeological Conservancy	500.00	500.00	500.00
Scholarship Endowment/Fund	500.00	500.00	500.00
exas Archeology Month	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
AAM Events (divided among 3 applicants)	600.00	200.00	600.00
AS Donors Fund	300.00	300.00	300.00
Ceramic Database Development	0.00	0.00	0.00
exas Beyond History	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
AS Native American Field School  OTAL DONATIONS	1,000.00 <b>5,900.00</b>	1,000.00 <b>4,500.00</b>	1,000.00 <b>4,900.00</b>
	•	·	
OTAL EXPENDITURES	8,350.00	6,308.04	7,485.00
OVERALL BALANCE	675.00	2,230.16	1,530.00
Current Assets			
Checking Account (as of 8 March 06)	12,474.81		
Money Market Account (as of 8 March 06)	8,780.27		
Scholarship Endowment Fund (as of 8 March 06)	7,095.55		

## Council of Texas Archeologists Membership and Renewal Form

Return to: Melissa Green, CTA Secretary-Treasurer c/o Geo-Marine, Inc. 550 East 15th Street Plano, TX 75074

ജ	Address correction only (see below)	
ജ	I wish to join or renew my membership in CTA.	
ை	Company/Contractor to be listed (Company listing also requires one of the following professional categories.)	\$100.00
ജ	Professional (annual income more than \$20,000 per year)	25.00
ை	Professional (annual income less than \$20,000 per year)	15.00
ற	Student (annual income more than \$20,000 per year)	25.00
ജ	Student (annual income less than \$20,000 per year)	15.00
ജ	Institution/Library (receive CTA newsletter only, no voting privileges)	25.00
	Total amount remitted to CTA \$	
	Jame (please print):	
	City/State/Zip:	
P	hone: FAX:	
e-	-mail:	

For additional information or questions, please contact the following:  $\underline{\text{cta-members@c-tx-arch.org}}$ 

cta-contractor@c-tx-arch.org

Click here for online payment options...

Membership is based on the calendar year Jan-Dec

#### CTA SPRING 2006 PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

Preliminary List (see call for paper on p.

A Preliminary Study of Stable Isotope ( $\delta^{18}O$ ) Seasonality in Archeological *Amblema plicata* from Site 41ML195, McLennan County, Texas

by Brendan J. Culleton (University of Oregon) and Karl W. Kibler (Prewitt and Associates, Inc.)

The McKinney Roughs Site (41BP627): A Stratified Transitional Archaic Occupation along the Colorado River, Bastrop County, Texas.

by Kevin A. Miller (SWCA, Inc.) and Steve Carpenter (SWCA, Inc.)

Middle to Late Archaic Burned Rock Middens in Central Texas: Are Some Really Mounds?

by Boyd Dixon (PBS&J)

Preliminary Report of Investigations at the Siren Site (41WM1126), a Central Texas Transitional Archaic Site on the San Gabriel River.

By Dr. Brett Houk (SWCA, Inc.)