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2022 CTA Spring Meeting
March 25, 2022
Business Meeting: Camp Mabry
2200 W 35th Street, Building 82
Austin, Texas

CTA Social: Picnic Area at Camp Mabry

The CTA will also be hosting the meeting virtually on Zoom - additional instructions and a link to the meeting will be distributed to current members via email.



President's Forum

Greetings Fellow CTAers:

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. As we plan for the spring CTA meeting to be in-person, I am looking forward to seeing everyone and renewing the friendships and acquaintances that we have sorely missed over the past two years. When I stepped in the CTA president's role back in April 2020, it never crossed my mind that we would not meet in person again for two years. The ability to use Zoom to hold our meetings did make us very flexible and increased the accessibility of our meetings to members across Texas who may not normally be able to make meetings in person. I am hopeful that the CTA will continue to leverage technology to make our meetings more accessible to our members.

The CTA spring meeting will start promptly at 9:00 am and will be held in the auditorium of Building 82, the Regional Training Institute, which is across the street from the Museum. If you need to renew your membership, we will have a table set up outside at 8:30 am so you can pay your dues, although I highly recommend that you pay your dues online on the CTA website before heading to the meeting and become a voting member. This year the president, secre-



tary, treasurer, and newsletter editor positions are up for election. At this point most of the current serving members have pledged to serve again; however, we will take nominations from the floor. In order to vote, you must be a current registered professional (Professional or Principal Investigator) or student member. There may be other items on the agenda for vote or discussion. If things go well, we will wrap up the business meeting by noon.

The spring meeting agenda is chock full of our usual agency and committee reports. Updates will be given on the status of various developments in the Standards and Guidelines and Multicultural committees. The 2023 CTA budget will be up for vote. One positive from COVID is it has helped strengthen and improve our financial position because events, such as our spring and fall socials, were not held and we retained those funds in our accounts. We continue to support Texas Beyond History, scholarships for minority students to attend the annual TAS field school, Texas Archeology Month grants, and student research through the Michael J. Quigg research grant. The ventures all support Texas archaeology, the profession, and students. Our afternoon agenda is still in the works, but it will start at 1:30 pm and run for a couple hours.

Now onto one of the most important aspects of the spring meeting, the CTA afternoon social. The afternoon social is set to begin at 5:00 pm (or earlier depending on the afternoon schedule) at the Camp Mabry picnic area. I hope to see you all there and catch up on things over the past 2+ years.

The Texas Archeological Society is planning to hold their annual meeting in person this fall in Tyler and as long as this meeting will be held in person, the CTA will hold our fall meeting in person as well. As usual, our business meeting will be Friday morning with the CTA Careers in Archaeology Social happening Friday evening. Because this will be the first time we have held the Friday career social since 2019, I hope we can get a strong representation of CTA members and firms at this event. I have always felt that this gathering is one of our premier events in spreading our message, engaging students and early career archaeologists, and making new

friends across the state. As time gets closer, we will be sending out information on how member firms can sign up for a table at this event.

In October 2021 and February 2022, I represented the CTA on the Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB). Several takeaways from these meetings. First, there are new guidelines forthcoming in Chapter 26 about number of reports required for submission and dissemination. In short, the rules will reduce requirements for sending copies to university-based libraries and archaeological research facilities around the state. Make sure you keep an eye out on when these changes are fully implemented in Chapter 26. The number of Antiquities Permits issued by the Texas Historical Commission has stayed fairly consistent, which suggests to me that development in Texas is not hampered by the COVID pandemic. Based on my conversations with archaeologists around the state, this seems to be reality. One issue unrelated to the AAB that seems to arise in these discussions is the difficulty in finding archaeologists at all levels to fill our teams. If time permits at the spring meeting, maybe we start a discussion on how our organization can help remedy this issue. Back to the AAB, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has been offering forward numerous sites on their properties for listing as State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs). We all should follow suit and nominate some of the sites we recommend as SALs rather than let it drop. Just a thought. Finally, work continues at the Alamo and archaeology plays an important part of the redevelopment of the site. Recently a unit in the long barracks was reopened to show how archaeology is used to interpret how the building was constructed, in the building's stabilization, and the lives of the people who lived and worked there. Archaeology plays a big role at the Alamo, and I recommend that if you are in San Antonio to check out what is happening. If you plan to tour the chapel, advance tickets are required.

Two stalwarts in the CTA are stepping down from their committee chair positions from the spring meeting. Bill Martin is stepping down as chair of the nominating committee. Bill has handled this position for many years, and he will be sorely missed on this committee. A new nominating chair will be appointed at the fall meeting per the CTA bylaws. Mark Denton is stepping down

as chair of the Audit Committee at the spring meeting as well. As lead of the committee, Mark has helped ensure our fiduciary compliance. Although Mark is stepping down as chair of the Audit Committee, he has pledged to continue as the lead for the CTA spring meeting afternoon social committee. Pat Mercado-Allinger is also stepping down from the Audit Committee. Marybeth Tomka has agreed to be the interim chair of the Audit Committee for a year while we populate that committee with at least two new members and get them up to speed on the process. If you are interested in serving on this committee, let me know at the spring meeting. Let's all raise a toast to Bill, Mark, and Pat for the many years of service to the CTA and to seeing them for many more years at CTA meetings and socials.

The past two years have been difficult for us all and the fact that the CTA continues to grow and expand shows the resiliency of our membership and the strength of our organization. As of the writing of this message, we have 174 paid members, and this number will likely go up as we get closer to the spring meeting and get closer to the 220–230 members we have had recently. Our virtual meetings typically have over 100 attendees, which shows how going virtual makes our meetings more accessible and shows that members want a virtual option. Going virtual also gives us the ability to record the meeting and offer it to members on the members-only section of the CTA website.

As always, the CTA's strength lies in our members and the many volunteers who offer their time to our organization and Texas archaeology. I thank you all for your interest and service to Texas archaeology.

See you at Camp Mabry,
Todd Ahlman

Spring 2022 Meeting Agenda

Registration - 8:30 am

Call to Order - 9:00 am

Approval of Minutes, Fall 2021 Meeting

Officers' Reports

President (Todd Ahlman)

Vice President (Polly Clark)

Past President (Jon Lohse)

Secretary (Scotty Moore)

Treasurer (Thomas Barrett)

Newsletter Editor (Tina Nielsen)

Agency Reports

Texas Historical Commission

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Texas Department of Transportation

Texas Archeological Research Laboratory

Center for Archaeological Studies

Center for Archaeological Research

Standing Committee Reports

Auditing (Mark Denton)

Budget Committee (Thomas Barrett)

CTA Communications (Laura Clark)

Contractors (Laura Clark)

Curation (Marybeth Tomka)

Governmental Affairs (Nesta Anderson)

Membership (Katie Canavan)

Multicultural Relations (Mary Jo Galindo)

Nominating (Bill Martin)

Public Education (Todd Ahlman)

Standards and Guidelines Committee (Jodi Jacobson)

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Texas Private Lands Heritage Preservation Partnership
(Eric Schroeder)

Lost Cemeteries Task Force (Andi Burden)

Old Business

CTA's Investment in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

New Business

Elections

New business from the floor?

Meeting Adjourns - 12:00 pm

Afternoon Session - 1:30 pm

TBD

Afternoon Social - ~5:00 pm

Note: *Agenda is subject to change prior to the Meeting*



INSTRUCTIONS:

Everyone who comes to the meeting at Camp Mabry must bring a photo ID. Tell the guard that you are attending the CTA Spring Meeting in Building 82 (National Guard Regional Training Institute), across from the museum. Lunch can be purchased on site or there are several restaurants nearby.

Past President's Report

Dear CTA,
Happy Spring, 2022, to you all!

I hope you all continue to do well these days. I know we're all glad to see COVID numbers declining for now. Keep up the good work if you're contributing to our community-wide safe practices for reducing transmissions.

I know we're all looking forward to finally meeting in person- this is very exciting for me to think about and I'm sure it is for some of you as well. Thanks to everyone who helped make the in-person meeting at Camp Mabry a reality. I'm sure that one day they'll realize that the history of CTA meetings on their facility somehow contributes to the NRHP eligibility of that place.

Over the last interval since our Fall meeting, I haven't been very involved in terms of CTA activities, discussion, or initiatives. I have, however, been busy with work (as have most of you from what I understand), and with helping the Gault School for Archaeological Research in its current activities. These plus a little research and publishing on the side, along with family life, have kept me pretty busy.

I'm super pleased that an edited volume I had been working on with some colleagues called Preceramic Mesoamerica came out in the fall. See it here: <https://www.routledge.com/Preceramic-Mesoamerica/Lohse-Borejsza-Joyce/p/book/9780367150440>



We had another volume on the Calf Creek Horizon published by TAMU Press in December. This represents some of the lifetime work of Oklahoma archaeologist Don Wyckoff. Thanks to some special support from one of his benefactors, we were able to publish it in full size and full color. We think it's a really special volume that has a lot to contribute to archaeology in Texas and neighboring states. Chapters are contributed by Tim Perttula, Elton Prewitt, Sergio Ayala, and lots of other collaborators: <https://www.tamupress.com/book/9781623499624/the-calf-creek-horizon/>

I hope you're all safe and healthy and look forward to seeing each and every one of you.

Jon

Secretary's Report



I'm so thrilled that we can finally meet as a group in person at this year's Spring meeting (I probably shouldn't have put that in print, should I? Fingers crossed). I feel like the last 2 years have dragged on for ages! I continue to sound like a broken record talking about the impacts of COVID, so I will spare you that. Instead I'll stick to the numbers.

Membership is still slightly down, as it has been throughout the pandemic, but it is essentially flat compared to this time last year (see below). I'm happy to see that the number of people in the principal investigator category continues to increase. I am also hopeful that as we (more fingers crossed) move to more and more in-person events that the student member numbers will rebound towards their pre-Covid levels. As we all know, it is vital to the long-term health of our field that we continue to cultivate young talent. Consider sponsoring a student or favorite field tech/crew chief with a membership; it will help them feel more part of the community at large and encourage their professional development!

Below are the numbers as of March 1 (Happy Mardi Gras!).

One note: there are 12 members (not included in the table below) who are listed in the Wild Apricot system as having lapsed memberships or whose renewal is overdue. We'll be reaching out in the next several weeks to see if we can help get those folks get up to date.

As always, if you have issues or suggestions for how we can make the CTA website, the membership application/renewal process, or any of the communication that you have with CTA better, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Thanks, Scotty

| Membership Category | Spring 2019 | Spring 2020 | Spring 2021 | Spring 2022 |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Contractor | 48 | 50 | 49 | 46 |
| Institutional | 6 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| Principal Investigator | 48 | 48 | 52 | 54 |
| Professional Archeologist | 92 | 78 | 67 | 72 |
| Retiree | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| Student | 24 | 13 | 9 | 10 |
| Total | 227 | 205 | 192 | 188 |

Treasurer's Report

I hope this report finds all well during this recent time of crisis. Last month, Mark Denton, Pat Mercado-Allinger, and Marybeth Tomka audited the CTA accounts, and I can report all was there. I can also report that the finances of the Council of Texas Archeologists are sound. As of March 4, 2022, our current account balances are as follows:

- \$30,537.70 – Operations fund
- \$30,932.94 – Investment fund
- \$ 9,132.88 – Student grant fund
- \$70,603.63 – Total CTA funds

Since all in-person CTA social functions had been cancelled the last few seasons, these funds have remained unspent and have been carried forward.

Finally, the approved transfer of CTA Investment funds from the Bank of America money market account to Clear Rock Advisors, LLC, has been delayed awaiting other officer’s signatures on the legal documents. One issue identified in due diligence of the transfer was that Clear Rock would set up an online Schwab account (an account we could set up independently), but still charge a management fee (ca. \$400-



600/year). Either way, CTA would gain more return than currently with BoA (i.e., \$3.50 last year). The CTA Audit Committee suggested alternatively that we ‘reinvest’ (some of) these investment funds into more scholarships and grants – i.e., back into the membership rather than solely on investment revenue. I agree, but will defer such amounts or direction to the membership and the Executive Committee.

In closing, I look forward to working with the Council and its members to secure our organization’s financial future and our shared appreciation of Texas’ past.

Sincerely,
Tom, CTA Treasurer

Newsletter Editor's Report

Hi Everyone-

As with the rest of the EC, I am very excited to see everyone in person at the spring meeting, and especially at the social! I am also looking forward to the possibility of more in-person events now that Covid cases seem to be steadily dropping, at least for now. As a heads up, submissions for the Fall 2022 CTA newsletter will be due on September 16, 2022.

See you all soon, hopefully!
Tina



Communications Committee Report

Dear members,

2022 – wow! Happy Spring and to welcoming warmer and more consistent weather (hopefully!). Since stepping into Catherine’s position that she has held for many years, I am happy to report that I am continually grateful and deeply appreciative for all her hard work in revamping the website as well as streamlining and automating all of our processes for the CTA on Wild Apricot’s management site. That being said, I would just like to remind everyone of several updates made to the website that are available to all members.

With our meetings primarily being held virtually over the last few years and potentially hybrid moving forward, we will continue to post the video of each meeting as well as the transcript to our website for all members to review if you missed the meeting or would like to view the meeting again to revisit topics discussed. These resources can be found under the “[Members Only](#)” page on our website.

Additionally, the CTA offers a bundled membership for PIs to renew their membership and post their company to the [Contractors Listing](#). Our new management system allows PIs to have more control over their Contractors Listing which can be updated through their membership profiles as well as add any additional contact information to each listing. We currently have 44 contractor listings on our website!

Lastly, if you have any photographs relating to archaeology, workshops, or information you would like to see incorporated into the website or on our social media, please feel free to contact me!

Sincerely,
Laura

Audit Committee Report

The CTA Audit Committee met with the CTA treasurer on Friday, February 18, 2022 and we reviewed the accounts of the organization. The Committee determined that financial records were in order and all accounts balanced. This finding was reported to the President and Treasurer and the chair of the committee will record the findings at the 2022 spring meeting.

Sincerely,
Mark H. Denton

Curation Committee Report

Report of the CTA Curation Committee
March 25, 2022

It will be great to be back in the same room with everyone after a two-year hiatus. Some committee news: Lauren Miller of BGE joined our ranks as Erin Phillips has left Coastal Environmental. We would like to bring to the member's attention a few things of interest to us and we hope of interest to others as well.

The SAA recently submitted testimony to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs requesting more funding for NAGPRA (grants to Museums and Native American tribes) and some realignment in the way the National NAGPRA office does things. Within this statement is the state of NAGPRA compliance 30 years after being enacted. The report correctly points to some of the more obvious reasons for the lag of repatriations and this might be something that the Governmental Affairs committee may want to chime in on. The full report can be found here: https://documents.saa.org/container/docs/default-source/doc-governmentaffairs/final_scia_testimony_02162022.pdf?sfvrsn=63d7c331_2

The committee sees a continuing need to educate CTA members and new professionals about how to do curation and why it is so important – the turnover in staff at contracting firms causes many of us to “reteach” a company how to submit records and artifacts. The committee has worked up a short statement on disposal of artifacts prior to curation that we hope will help contractors, and get everyone to work together (see the Quick Tips document on the next page). We are discussing whether this “Quick” tips format may be a continuing series. Please let a committee member know if you have ideas.

The committee is also still considering the establishment of an organization of repositories doing archeological curation in the state. It is something being de-

bated at the national level. This fell off my (Tomka's) radar as Covid has dragged on. Since Texas has one of the few state curatorial certification programs as well as the one of highest number of certified and uncertified repositories or museums holding archeological collections, it follows that we should consider something along these lines. A reworking of this idea might be a working group, larger than this committee, for firms, agencies, and repositories to work together and work through our us versus them stances. This will be a topic of conversation for the committee moving forward. For those interested here is a link to a presentation by the leaders of the national coalition presenting to the NAGPRA Community of Practice: https://udenver.zoom.us/rec/share/jIN9TGHAf090RMwG45ycC-1FQ5BsUpjdxdrLQYuCAYNdB_C73Ls0xNdWAV_kOLCF.07NEsnocpyDGrlg

We would very much like contractors to let this committee, and most especially the curation facilities, know of any issues they are running into for which a community approach to problem solving is warranted.

Respectfully,

Marybeth Tomka, TARL, Chair
Aina Dodge, TPWD
Lauren Miller, BGE
Tina Nielsen, SWCA
Amy Benton Reid, CAS
Brad Jones and Max Hall, THC, ex officio



THINK AHEAD ABOUT MATERIALS YOU MIGHT WANT TO SAMPLE

Contractors should consider wording their research designs to address materials you may want to dispose of as well as scenarios where you would retain only samples of particular material classes or artifacts from certain contexts. If your sampling and/or disposal statement is in the THC approved permit research design/scope of work, you will then have the leeway to dispose of appropriate materials without seeking additional permission from the THC prior to curation. A well-thought-out collecting and sampling strategy is necessary in order to dispose of approved materials, and saves you time and money in the long run. It can also help save space at the chosen curation facility.

The Rules of Practice and Procedure for the Antiquities Code of Texas state that all disposal proposals must be approved by THC and be included in the research design attached to your permit application. Additional THC approval must be received prior to disposing of any materials not covered in your previously approved research design. This approval must be documented by official correspondence with special approval from the THC, which should be included in the project records submitted for final curation.

Disposal of state-associated collections from a site on public land or from public water under an antiquities permit issued by the Commission must be approved by the Commission. Approval for anticipated disposal is by means of an approved research design at the time the Antiquities Permit is issued. The manner in which any state-associated collection is to be disposed must be included in the research design. Additional disposal not included in the approved research design must be approved by the Commission prior to any disposal action.

[Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Part 2, Chapter 26, Subchapter C, Rule §26.17](#)

Non-feature burned rock that has been sufficiently documented is a classic candidate for disposal, but there may be other materials that might warrant disposal prior to curation. Incorporate them into the research design and streamline your workflow! Remember that modern trash (anything less than 50 years old) and non-cultural items do not require permission from the THC for disposal.

Of course, all disposal proposals should be developed in consultation with your chosen curation facility. Talk with them early in the scoping process to discuss the best strategy. However, remember that all disposed materials (including modern trash and non-cultural materials not requiring disposal approval) should be documented as required by the curation facility. This is a good policy regardless of whether there is state or federal jurisdiction.

Proposed 2023 Budget

| Category/Budget Item | 2020 Budgeted | | 2020 Actual | | 2021 Budgeted | | 2021 Actual | | 2022 YTD | | Proposed 2023 | | EXPENSES | | Proposed 2023 | % of 2022 Exd. | 2022 Balance | |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| | No. | Amt. | No. | Amt. | No. | Amt. | No. | Amt. | No. | Amt. | No. | Amt. | 2022 Bgl. | 2021 Actual | | | | 2022 Actual |
| Memberships | 205 | \$ 7,350.00 | 165 | \$ 4,335.00 | 225 | \$ 8,250.00 | 127 | \$ 4,260.00 | 171 | \$ 5,340.00 | 171 | \$ 5,340.00 | 28% | | | | \$ 5,340.00 | |
| Principal Investigator | \$ 45.00 | \$ 4,650.00 | \$ 48 | \$ 2,160.00 | \$ 130 | \$ 5,650.00 | \$ 50 | \$ 2,250.00 | \$ 50 | \$ 2,250.00 | \$ 50 | \$ 2,250.00 | 12% | | | | | |
| Professional Archeologist | \$ 30.00 | \$ 1,850.00 | \$ 78 | \$ 2,340.00 | \$ 65 | \$ 1,850.00 | \$ 57 | \$ 1,710.00 | \$ 85 | \$ 2,550.00 | \$ 85 | \$ 2,550.00 | 13% | | | | | |
| Student/retiree (Voting) | \$ 15.00 | \$ 375.00 | \$ 20 | \$ 300.00 | \$ 25 | \$ 375.00 | \$ 15 | \$ 225.00 | \$ 25 | \$ 375.00 | \$ 25 | \$ 375.00 | 2% | | | | | |
| Institutional (non-voting) | \$ 15.00 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 9 | \$ 135.00 | \$ 5 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 5 | \$ 75.00 | \$ 11 | \$ 165.00 | \$ 11 | \$ 165.00 | 1% | | | | | |
| Contractor Listing Fees (\$150) | \$ 50 | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 50 | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 50 | \$ 7,500.00 | \$ 49 | \$ 7,350.00 | \$ 52 | \$ 7,800.00 | \$ 52 | \$ 7,800.00 | 41% | | | | | \$ 7,800.00 |
| Other Income | \$ 2,660.50 | \$ 6.69 | \$ 2,660.50 | \$ - | \$ 2,660.50 | \$ - | \$ 2,660.50 | \$ - | \$ 2,660.50 | \$ - | \$ 2,660.50 | 13% | | | | | | |
| Checking Interest | \$ 1.00 | \$ 2.01 | \$ 1.50 | \$ - | \$ 1.50 | \$ - | \$ 1.50 | \$ - | \$ 1.50 | \$ - | \$ 1.50 | 0% | | | | | | |
| Money Market Interest | \$ 3.75 | \$ 3.33 | \$ 3.50 | \$ - | \$ 3.50 | \$ - | \$ 3.50 | \$ - | \$ 3.50 | \$ - | \$ 3,500.00 | 8% | | | | | | |
| Scholarship Fund Interest | \$ 1.75 | \$ 1.35 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | 0% | | | | | | |
| Grants/Donations | \$ 2,654.00 | \$ - | \$ 2,654.00 | \$ - | \$ 2,654.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | 5% | | | | | | |
| Administration | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Misc. Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Digital Management | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Credit Card Fees | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Committee Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General Committee | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Expenditures | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Donations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CTA Student Grants | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAAM Event Grants (divided among 5 applicants) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Archeological Conservancy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAS Research Support Fund** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Texas Beyond History | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAS Multicultural Program | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Donations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Events | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Spring CTA Social | 10 | \$ 3,400.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,400.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,400.00 | \$ 3,400.00 | \$ - | \$ 3,400.00 | 35% | | | | | | |
| Fall CTA Career Social (\$200-2019, \$300-2020) | \$ 400.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 400.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 400.00 | \$ 400.00 | \$ - | \$ 400.00 | 11% | | | | | | |
| Outreach and Training | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ 3,000.00 | \$ - | \$ 3,000.00 | 7% | | | | | | |
| Activities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Professional Development | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public Outreach | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Budget | \$ 20,910.50 | \$ 12,441.69 | \$ 21,810.50 | \$ 11,610.00 | \$ 19,043.00 | \$ 19,043.00 | \$ 21,655.00 | \$ 19,043.00 | \$ 19,043.00 | \$ 19,043.00 | \$ 21,655.00 | 25% | | | | | | |

Texas Private Lands Heritage Preservation Partnership Update

By: Eric Schroeder

Since the fall meeting, the TPLHPP has been active engaging private landowners and land conservation organizations on heritage preservation issues. Events attended since the fall include the Texas Land Conservation Conference held in Austin on March 2–4 and a site visit to Twistflower Ranch in Crockett County.

On March 14–16, we attended the Texas Land Conservation Conference, an annual event hosted by the Texas Land Trust Council (TLTC). The TLTC currently supports over 30 land trust organizations across the state that provide technical advice to private landowners for land and water conservation. These land trusts work with private landowners to develop a conservation easement, which the landowner then grants to the land trust. This qualifies the landowner for federal tax relief provided that the easement is structured to achieve at least one of the following conservation purposes:

- 1) Provides public outdoor recreation or education;
- 2) Protects natural habitats of fish, wildlife or plants;
- 3) Preserves open space for scenic enjoyment; or
- 4) Preserves historically important land or certified historic structures.



Burned rock midden at Twistflower Ranch



The magnificent Leslie Bush exhibiting at the Texas Land Conservation Conference

Currently through this easement mechanism, land trusts preserve over 1.8 million acres of farms, ranches, wetlands, wildlife habitat, urban parks, forests, watersheds, coastlines, and river corridors in Texas. This year the meeting was in person and held in Austin. This was the third annual meeting of this event in which the TPLHPP exhibited. At this year's event there were over 250 registrants of which we directly spoke with 34 individuals representing Land Trusts as well as private landowners. It is important that we educate these Land Trusts in preservation issues as currently only one that I know of has the technical expertise in heritage resources protection.

On February 12–13 I was invited to visit

Twistflower Ranch. The owner runs an ecotourism operation on his 6,000-acre property on Live Oak Creek in Crockett County. He has all the infrastructure to host weekend visits to the ranch including four lodges, a conference center, a yoga hut, and a pool. In addition to these amenities, he has numerous archeological sites, a historic ranching headquarters, rock shelters, and rock art on his property. The landowner has been holding monthly ecotours on the property where he has specialists (i.e., ornithologists, wildlife ecologists, etc.) come out to take groups on tours. He would like to include an archeologist as part of the tours. You can see all that he has to offer and sign up for a visitation on the website at <http://twistflowerranch.com/>.

events, please contact me at (512) 695-9084 or at eric-5chro3d3r@gmail.com. In addition, I have been receiving requests from a number of organizations for speakers. If you are interested in being a speaker, please let me know as well.

Upcoming TPLHPP events include:

If you are interested in assisting with one of these

| TPLHPP Events | Date | Location |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association | March 25–27, 2022 | Fort Worth, TX |
| Concho Valley Archeological Society Fair (Exhibit) | April 28, 2022 | San Angelo, TX |



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 7, 2022

Contact:

Chris Florance, 512-784-1245

chris.florance@thc.texas.gov

CHRISTOPHER LINTZ AWARDED WITH LIFETIME ARCHEOLOGY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recognized Christopher Lintz of Austin as its most recent recipient of the **Curtis R. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement in Archeology Award**.

This award recognizes an individual for outstanding lifetime accomplishments in archeological research and/or preservation.

About Christopher Lintz

Throughout 46 years as a professional archeologist, Lintz worked on archeological surveys, testing and data recovery projects across 17 states.

His broad research interests and unwavering curiosity have led him to publish more than 325 professional papers and contract reports focusing on the early history of Plains archeology, lithic and ceramic analyses, exchange and interaction networks, paleo-climatic investigations and many other topics.

After managing 53 wildlife areas across the state for a decade, he retired from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. But even in retirement, he still serves the state as a volunteer archeological steward for the THC and as an affiliated researcher with the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University.

About Real Places

The THC's Real Places conference brings together hundreds of preservation leaders, professionals and volunteers to learn from each other and dozens of speakers. Historic preservation provides communities and individuals connections with their past, boosts economic impacts and improves the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

The THC Preservation Awards recognize and honor those who have committed themselves to saving the real place and real stories of Texas. The awards celebrate their accomplishments and exemplary leadership in the preservation of Texas' heritage. The THC honors achievements from many fields, including archeology, architecture, historic preservation, volunteerism, community heritage development, media, local county historical commission leadership, museums and lifetime achievements.

It is presented by the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission and many sponsors such as Phoenix I Restoration and Construction, LLC, Premier Commercial Group, the Texas Land Title Association, Texas Department of Transportation, Preservation Texas, John L. Nau, III, Humanities Texas, Komatsu Architecture, CAPTRUST, R. Alden Marshall and Associates, LLC, Siebler Historic Preservation and Restoration, and more.

About the Texas Historical Commission

The THC manages 34 state historic sites, the Texas Heritage Trails Program, Texas Main Street Program, and many more heritage tourism and historic preservation initiatives across the state. For more information, visit thc.texas.gov.

thc.texas.gov

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Some Implications of West Texas Archeological Surveys for Formal Survey Procedures

Jeff P. Turpin and Terry Burgess, Turpin and Sons Inc.

For the past several years it has been accepted (and mandated) practice on State-permitted archeological surveys to ask field technicians to walk in 30-meter (m) spaced intervals, and to dig expedient shovel tests every 100 m or so. However, reconnaissance surveys or seismic surveys are often performed at different intervals, and shovel tests in arid, deflated environments are often deployed discretionally. The question of how these alternate tactics affect site discovery and recording is an obvious one to ask.

The following essay will in part belabor the obvious—all other factors being the same, shorter survey intervals should produce more artifact observations, and in turn more site recordings. Most archeologists understand this. But we will qualify this observation with some data for further comparisons, and also suggest that this “shorter intervals” approach is not an endlessly successful tactic. Further, we’ll demonstrate that patterned shovel testing is at best a problematic approach to site discovery, despite its widespread use in Texas and other states.

SEISMIC REMOTE-SENSING SURVEY—

Seismic remote sensing in search of subsurface petroleum deposits has a long history, but it has been accelerated in recent years, and has been deployed particularly densely on University Lands (UL) landholdings in west Texas. Some twenty years ago, at the beginning of this trend, our crews were asked to help prevent damage to unrecorded archeological sites on UL by walking ahead of brush-clearing and seismic sensing equipment and routing such equipment around archeological sites or features as needed. In those early days the archeological field technicians were literally walking ahead of the heavy equipment, which was sometimes as close as 100 m behind the surveyors, and the brush-cutters were being routed around cultural features expeditiously, providing little time for detailed site assessments (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Vegetation clearing on seismic survey.

However, in consultation with the Texas Historical Commission and UL we had determined that walking the proposed equipment routes, flagging any discovered features, and providing shapefiles for avoidance by any equipment not immediately threatening to disturb a site, was the most efficient and expedient method of protection. Our archeologists walked hundreds of miles and recorded and preserved hundreds of sites in this fashion. Survey intervals were anywhere from 100 to 200 m, quite a bit wider than in traditional surveys; and subsequent mapping data thus shows these surveys as individual swaths on archive maps, rather than as complete large-block surveys (Figures 2–4).



Figure 2. Seismic grid paths thru vegetation, aerial view, west Texas.

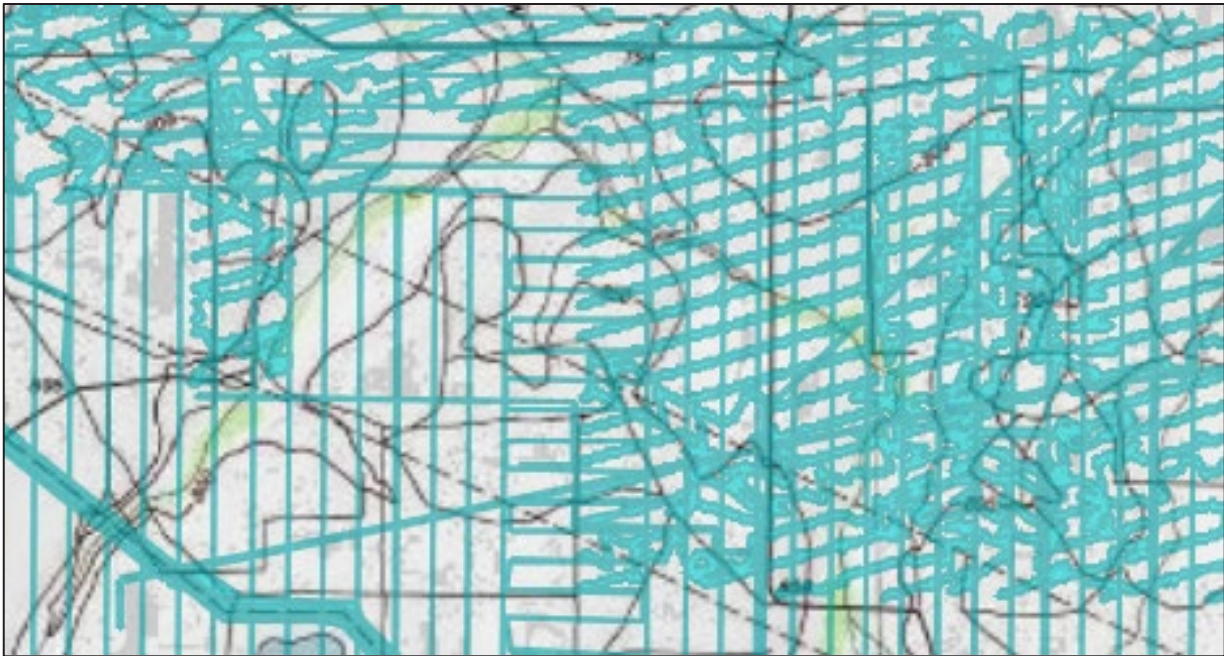


Figure 3. Copied graphic from Texas Archeological Sites Atlas showing various seismic grid survey configurations (blue lines were surveyed for archeological sites).

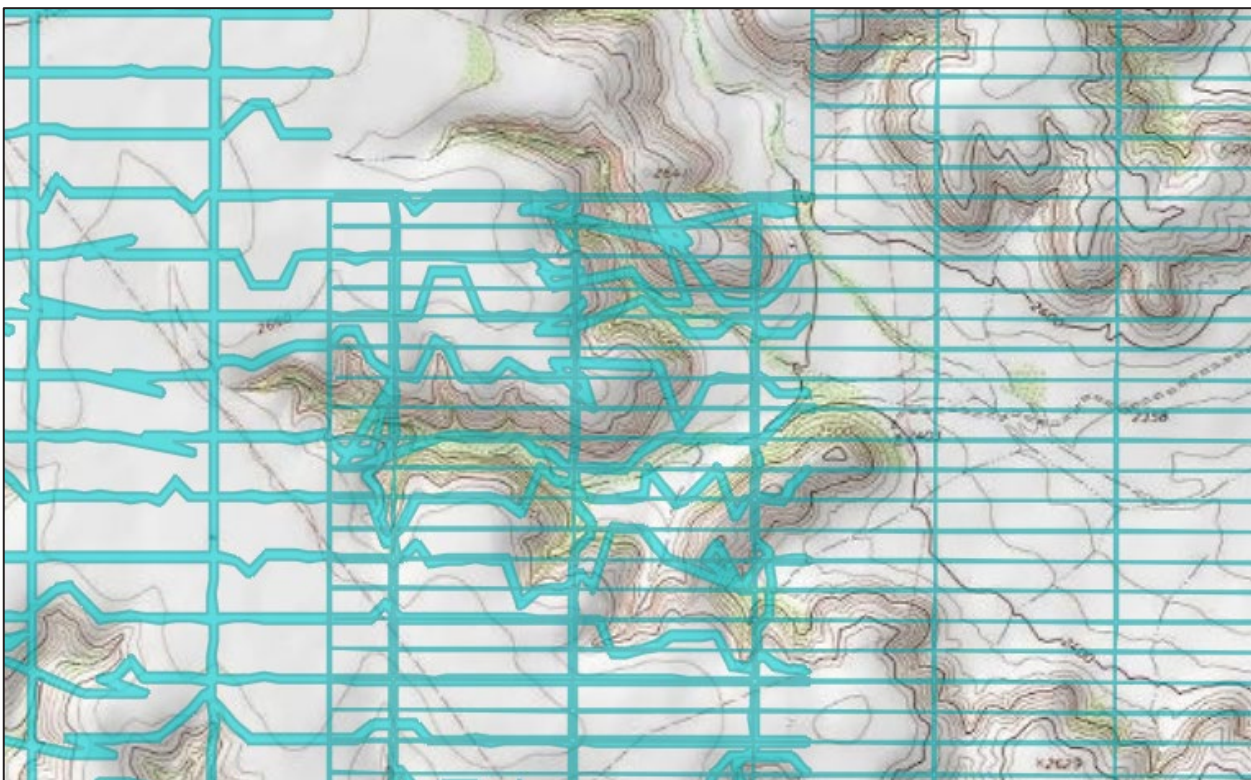


Figure 4. Copied graphic from Texas Archeological Sites Atlas showing original mandated survey grid (frame left and center) and subsequent self-sponsored survey grid with reduced intervals (frame center and right).

While thousands of archeological features were found and protected in this fashion, the obvious question of what was missed by the surveyors (and the heavy equipment) inevitably arose. We thus sponsored a second survey of one large seismic block after the initial survey and sensing was complete, to see what would be discovered if we halved the survey interval in that particular block.

The title and location of this particular set of surveys are redacted here for legal reasons, and to protect the recorded archeological sites, but the general survey block was about 9,600 acres in size. Field technicians initially walked approximately 165 miles of survey transects, and the interval between transects averaged 200 m. One hundred and six formal archeological sites were recorded. Afterwards the survey archeologists returned to the block and conducted pedestrian surveys halfway between the previous survey transects, at intervals of 100 m (all transects were projected by hand-held GPS units and followed as closely as was practical by the field techs). One hundred and twenty additional miles of transect were walked, and 39 new sites were recorded by this second assessment (Figure 4).

A third phase of reconnaissance adjacent to the project Area of Potential Effects (APE) specifically targeted high probability areas where seismic exploration might be carried out in the near future. Sixty-four sites were recorded, and one known site was revisited, for a total inventory of 210 sites. The length of survey transects was not recorded.

RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY—

On a subsequent reconnaissance survey, in pursuit of other survey objectives (see Turpin et al. 2022), a set of survey transects was conducted across and below the toe-slope of an extensive upland on UL. There were no formal watercourses or known lithic resources in this particular area, and survey return was expected to be low. Consequently, initial survey passes were conducted at approximate 50-m intervals, in approximate 60'/240' cardinal directions. Eight formal hearths, all perched on bedrock or partially buried, were recorded in a single west-trending transect.

On a later visit to the same locale, it was necessary to walk through this site to another, un-surveyed area, and it was practical to walk additional formal transects through the site. Again, here GPS receivers were used to post technicians between the previous

survey transects, and to maintain an approximate 25-m interval from the previous paths. In a single east-trending sweep, an additional eleven hearths were recorded, and a return sweep on the southern edge of the site found two more, for a total of 21 hearths (two of these were later combined when GPS plotting showed one of them to be redundant, having been “found” on each of two separate sweeps). Subsequent random wandering during site recording found no more features.

It is relevant to note that most of these features were not found directly on the projected survey transect, but rather were viewed, visited, and recorded by technicians who observed the feature to one side or another of the transect centerline (Figure 5). Features of this size were easily seen 10–15 m either side of the formal survey line.

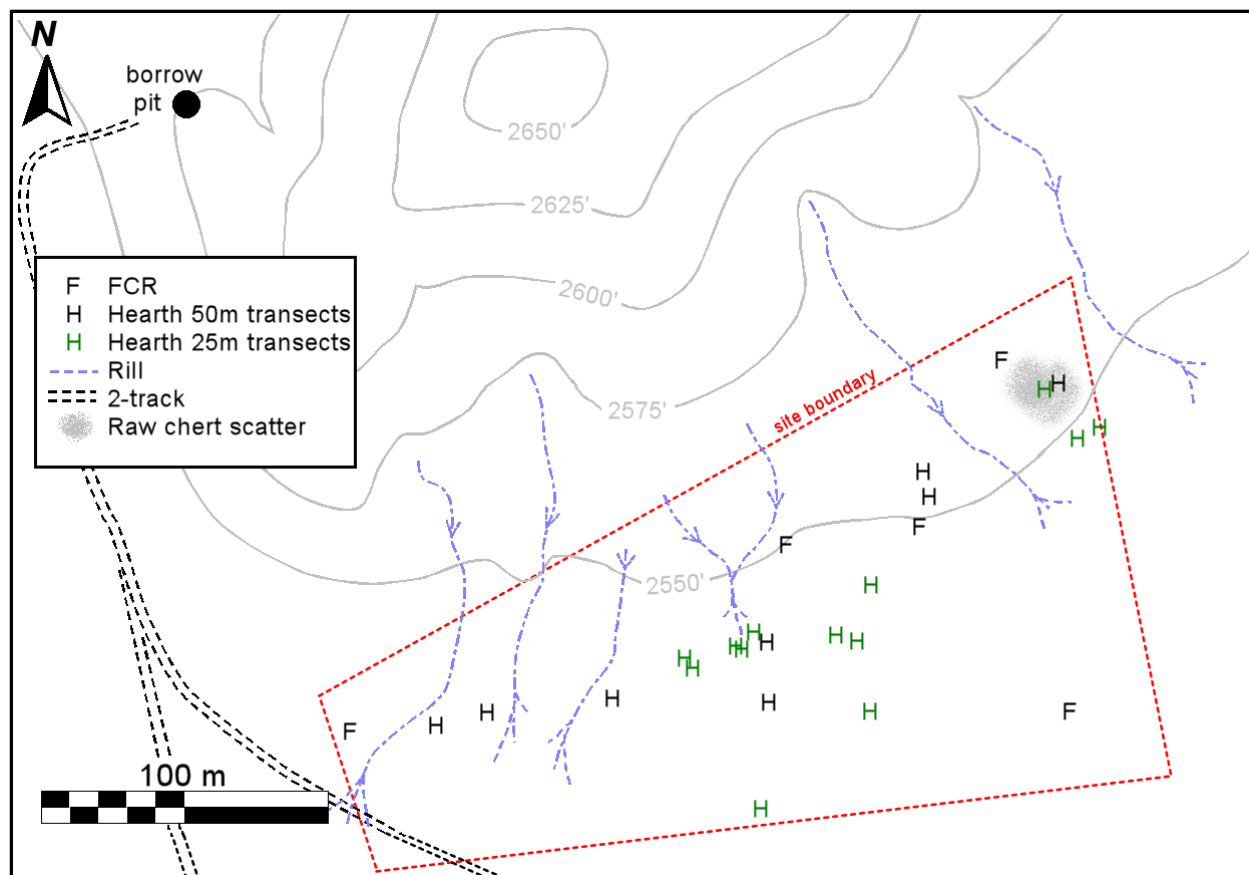


Figure 5. Raw GPS data overlaying quad map, two survey passes thru hearth field.

The resulting site was recorded as 60,000 m² in area, designated a “hearth field,” and entered into the State and UL databases.

In both of the above examples surface visibility was quite good (> 75%), with little or no soil deposition on-site. Lateral visibility was equally good, with few vegetation patches obscuring vision from side to side. In the seismic survey, halving the survey interval increased survey return by about 40%; in the reconnaissance survey the second subsequent interval reduction more than doubled feature discovery. Subsequent survey found no more features. Again, stating the obvious, halving survey interval significantly increased survey return . . . to a point. With the level of surface and lateral visibility here, reduction of the interval below 25 m did not produce increased return.

There are significant differences between these two examples. The first was essentially raw survey over virgin ground, where cultural resource placement and density was uncertain, while the second involved work within a recorded site with documented discreet features. In the seismic survey example, dividing the 200-m interval into 100-m intervals produced just under 40% more sites; at the first interval we reported about one site for every 1.5 miles (x 30 m width) of survey transect, while in the second survey a site was found about every 3 miles. So, survey efficiency (rate of return per unit of effort) was reduced by 50% in the second survey. Nonetheless a 40% increase in site count is clearly worth the extra effort. The question of whether subsequent reductions of interval would have produced similar increases is moot, but it is probable that the number of new sites would have dropped with every division, simply because most of the sites in the survey tract had already been encountered and recorded.

The reconnaissance survey at least suggests that surveying at 50-m intervals on open ground may not reveal all features within a site. However, other factors, including surveyor competence, time of day, and weather can affect survey return, so it is difficult to quantify efficiency in this specific case. In virtually all professional surveys the discovery of one or more features inspires closer order inspection of the site in question and, inevitably, more artifacts and features will be found. That said, our reduction of survey interval below 25 m produced no new discoveries, suggesting that there is a bottom limit to transect interval below which reduction is not productive.

Two examples do not make a trend but based on extensive survey experience in the same region we can infer that reduction of survey interval is productive to a point. Where visibility is high the standard 30-m survey interval is probably sufficient to find the vast

majority of artifacts, features, and sites. And the seismic survey example suggests that even wider intervals may be more efficient uses of limited time and money, in the sense that they return more sites per unit surveyed. More data would help refine both claims.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PATTERNED SHOVEL TESTING—

The hearths in the site discussed above, as well as in hundreds of similar sites recorded in Central and West Texas, are perched on eroded bedrock surfaces, and have few or no associated artifacts beyond their own fire-cracked rock. Most hearths are situated alongside shallow (<1 m) arroyos draining large hill slopes, and it seems apparent that the producers of the hearths were exploiting water or a secondary resource that occurred along or within these arroyos.

Again, such deflated sites are quite common in west Texas. In some cases, though, they co-occur with or adjacent to areas with significant soil deposition. In one such case the authors recorded a hearth field site, multiple hearths alongside arroyos draining a mountain slope, where a few hearths were observed suspended in arroyo walls, 25 to 50 cm deep in the profile. These were apparently remnants of earlier occupations which had been buried by sheetwash from the slopes above the site.

Erosion in these cases had both buried (alluviation/colluviation) and exposed (downcutting) these buried hearths. But what if it hadn't, and the subsequent occupations had never occurred, or had also been buried, and rendered invisible? Geomorphologists have been warning for decades that significant cultural deposits could be buried in such contexts and could pass unperceived by the naked eye. This, of course, is why we are asked to dig shovel tests in such contexts.

However, using the surface distribution of hearths on the hearth field site recorded above, we can examine this tactic to determine whether it is effective or defective. As surveyors we re-imagined the site as being buried in 50 cm of slope wash, rather than lying exposed on bedrock. Would standard shovel testing regimes have found the site?

At this site we recorded about 20 hearths in a 60,000 m² area (there was some overlap between hearths). The hearths ranged from 0.5 to 5 m in diameter, but this range was more a factor of feature disturbance than increased mass (a 5 m hearth did not have one hundred times as much fire-cracked rock as a 0.5 m hearth). In general, the larger the

feature diameter the more spread out the individual rock fragments were. The average hearth on this site was 2 m in diameter, or just over 3 m in area. Although some individual burned clasts were located here and there between the various formal features, chert debitage and other obvious site markers were virtually non-existent.



Figure 6. Typical shovel test.

This site contains about 60 areal m of hearths (20 hearths at 3 m area per hearth, 20 x 3) in 60,000 m² of site surface; or one m of hearth per 1,000 m of site surface (60,000/60). Shovel tests (STs) in general are 30–35 cm in width (Figure 6 above). There are about nine full STs within one m of hearth (Figure 7). In 1,000 m² of site (the smallest number on average which will contain one m of hearth), there are 9,000 potential ST placements (9 STs per m x 1,000 m sampling area). Thus, in a 1,000-m survey block with one m of hearth we would have nine STs that might hit fire-cracked rock, and another 8,991 (9,000 – 9) which could be culturally sterile. If the entire block, 1,000 m² of site surface, was fully shovel tested, about one out of every 999 shovel tests would recover cultural material (Figure 8). On this specific site, only 540 STs out of a possible 540,000 (9 tests per m, or 9 x 60,000) tests would hit a hearth.

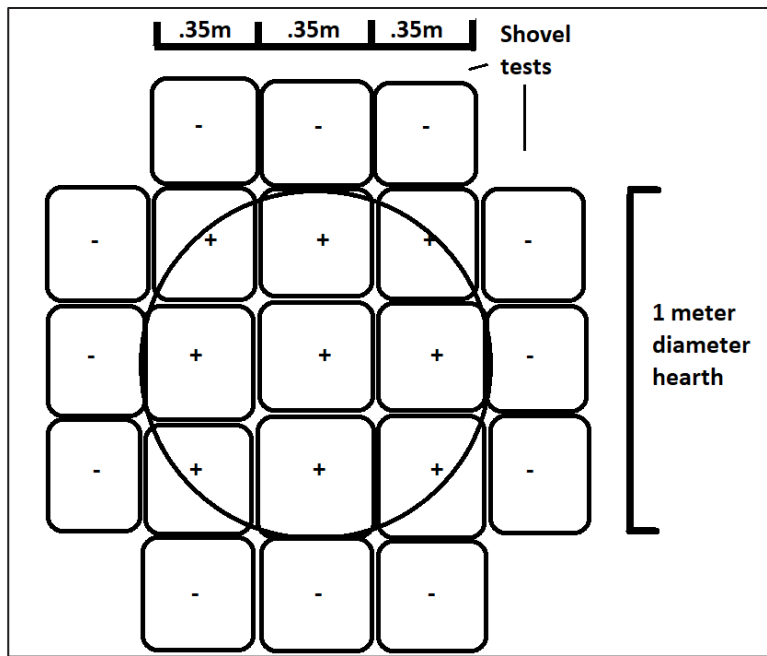


Figure 7. Shovel test grid overlaying 1 m diameter hearth, showing potentially positive and sterile tests.

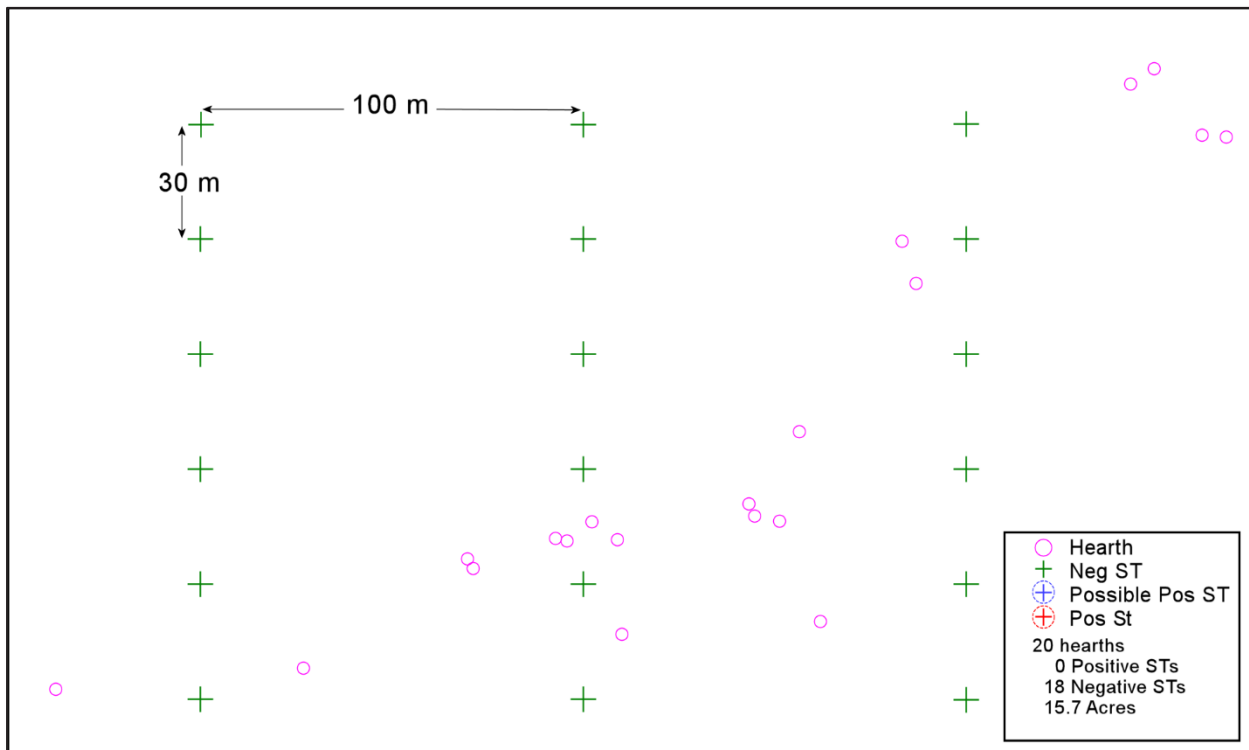


Figure 8. Standard single-pass survey transects across hearth field, with potential STs and mapped hearths.

Put differently, of 540,000 different possible survey transects over the same buried site area, with different shovel test placement in each case, and thus 540,000 potential shovel tests, each in virgin ground—as many as 539,460 tests could be negative. In as few as 540 of those 540,000 potential placements would a formal hearth have been contacted, and the site subsequently recorded.

Of course, in the real world some additional tests on the edge of a hearth might hit FCR, while others within the hearth's diameter might miss FCR, but these possibilities tend to average out. In this model we are of necessity dealing with ideal, average numbers, but this is all that is possible without measuring and quantifying each piece of FCR and each bit of empty space in every hearth and site ovoid.

The odds of finding one of these buried hearth fields with shovel testing are thus roughly equivalent to the odds of a blindfolded man using a dart to successfully pop a balloon that is drifting around a basketball court. And there are hundreds of such hearth fields, both buried and on the surface, in west Texas (and presumably elsewhere), so they are quite common. Shovel tests appear to be a very inefficient way of finding a buried hearth field.

This is distressing to those of us who have excavated hundreds of STs, but it is not the most important implication of these numbers. What is vastly more important, at least from a cultural resource management standpoint, is that we usually regard any area that has been surveyed and shovel tested without revealing artifacts as an area that simply has no buried archeological sites. Yet what these numbers show is that many of these areas could conceivably still harbor an extensive hearth field such as the one described above.

CAUTIONARY CONCLUSIONS—

In the course of the multiple seismic surveys referenced above we often surveyed adjacent large blocks at different times, and thus eventually compiled comparative data for different blocks within the region. Viewing such data in retrospect we discovered one large, surveyed block that appeared to contain many fewer sites than adjacent blocks. This anomaly was hard to explain with contextual (ground cover, soils, resource availability, etc.) information. Despite the fact that that survey was run and coordinated with field supervisors who were experienced in the region, the remainder of the 5–7 person crew had been hired specifically for the job and did not necessarily have experience with region-specific

conditions and cultural manifestations. Viewing the skewed site count, and considering the varied experience of the crew, we decided to self-fund a resurvey of the tract using a crew of technicians with lots of experience in the area. This second crew, walking the same survey lines as the first crew, nearly doubled the site count in the block, bringing it up to a ratio roughly equivalent to that in neighboring blocks.

Experienced field archeologists know that multiple surveys over the same ground will inevitably produce different results, for a variety of reasons. But the amplified recovery from our second survey here was statistically high enough to indicate that a lot of cultural material had simply been missed by the first crew. The most obvious explanation is that people lacking sufficient experience in a particular region are less likely to spot subtle archeological manifestations, particularly when the survey is under the time strictures discussed above.

Digital and technological approaches to field archeology bias us towards thinking of each field archeologist as an efficient, equivalent, and interchangeable sampling device. Experience reminds us that this is not, and never has been, true.

Critiquing existing assessment tactics is a favorite hobby throughout the sciences, and particularly in archeology. If it were requisite to offer solutions to purported errors, it is likely this criticism would be greatly reduced. It is thus incumbent on us to offer some solutions to the claimed problems discussed above.

Clearly putting focused, experienced people in the field is a first-order solution. As is again suggested in the seismic re-survey example above, allowing experienced surveyors to target high-probability areas will increase recorded site counts: the question of whether the subsequent reduction of attention in low probability areas is a worthy trade-off is again moot.

Given that shovel tests can take anywhere from ten minutes to an hour to excavate and record, with a very poor return on that effort in some cases, the mandatory, patterned deployment of STs seems to be an ineffective tactic, and one that can easily mislead us into labeling an area as culturally sterile. Allowing field personnel to target STs to particular contexts (visibly buried high-probability areas) would be more efficient. Deploying extensive backhoe trenching in contexts where subsurface impacts are expected seems to be a more

efficient tactic, since one trench can equal a hundred STs. But above all the habit of treating surveyed and shovel tested areas as culturally sterile seems to be a significant error.

We should close by noting that in the re-survey example that closes this paper, the second crew was walking transects that had already been cleared of brush. While this likely exposed some artifacts that were obscured by vegetation in the first survey, it also presented a clear, easy to follow survey path for the field technicians. It was thus unnecessary to repeatedly consult GPS or compass to follow the survey line, and the archeologists were freed to focus exclusively on the ground surface. Humans only have so much observational bandwidth. It is quite likely that this increased focus was a major explanation for the increase in survey return.

Works Cited

2022 Turpin, J., B. Turner, T. Burgess, and A. Eck

University Lands Site Relocation, Field Orientation, and Survey, Crockett and Upton Counties, Texas. Turpin and Sons Inc. Texas Antiquities Permit 8897.

Fall 2021 CTA Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2021

Conducted via Zoom.
Call to Order - 9:02 am

Meeting Moderator (Todd Ahlman): Just a reminder to mute yourself when not speaking. Raise your hands if you have questions. Welcome everyone to our fourth virtual meeting. Someday soon I hope that we can get together in person. I think COVID and mother nature are conspiring against us. Thanks for your flexibility; I think it was good to go with an online meeting.

Approval of Minutes, Spring 2021 Meeting

Comments/corrections: None
Motion to approve: Jon Lohse
Seconded: Doug Boyd
Motion approves unanimously

Officers' Reports

President (Todd Ahlman [TA])

I don't have much to report. I do want to note that we will have some diversity equity training this afternoon. I hope everyone can attend. It is good for us and a good step for CTA to take. Let's have a good turnout. If you want to donate to defray some of these costs, that would be appreciated. Thanks to Jon Lohse for the legwork to get the training going.

We will also have a presentation from the multicultural committee about a fieldwork scholarship. I hope we can move forward with that.

Antiquities Advisory Committee meeting last July: Discussion focused on work at the Alamo. That's been the hot topic. I did see from the presentation from Brad Jones is that permit is done. Our committees have been impacted, etc.

Questions? None.

Vice President (Polly Clark)

No report. Excited to hopefully have a spring social.

Past President (Jon Lohse)

I didn't have much to talk about. I am excited about Dr. Carey. This training was requested by the membership. She is the real deal. She's been doing this type of programming for the National Park service. I shared proudly with her that our members wanted this training. I want to express my pride. I hope you can make it.

Looking ahead, I know over the last few years we've gotten a lot of benefit from trainings. We could formalize this process. Anyone with ideas should reach out.

Along with Jason Barrett, I am the co-chair of the TAS meeting, which is also online. There are some exciting papers, posters, and data. I appreciate people who submitted to the TAS program.

Todd: I hope that people can attend the meeting.

Secretary (Scotty Moore)

Good morning, everyone. I only have a couple of quick notes for you. First, let me share my screen - this is for all my fellow visual learners. You can see a comparison of Fall CTA membership numbers for the last 5 years. Just yesterday, our total count exceeded the Fall 2019 count. I don't think anyone needs me to hypothesize about why numbers dropped last year. You can see that there were a total of 209 total members as of August 2021. This includes 51 contractors, 54 principal investigators, 78 professional archaeologists, 12 students, and a partridge in a pear tree. Membership numbers are staying remarkably stable during Covid.

Treasurer (Thomas Barrett)

The recipient of the student grant award has not yet contacted us; we'll work to coordinate with them.

We continue to save money by not meeting, for what that is worth.

Final issue: transfer of investment funds. We decided to go with a moderate risk level. It would be a Schwab account, and I want clarification on whether we need to pay for Clear Rock to manage. We also need financial information from president.

Discussion

Todd: Question is do we want to make the move to Schwab or increase the risk (to make it worthwhile to have Clear Rock manage). As we had approved it, we went with moderate risk.

Tina Nielsen: let's talk about this in Old Business.

Tom Barrett: I agree.

Newsletter Editor (Tina Nielsen)

I've updated the Newsletter to show Scotty's new email address.

Submissions for Spring newsletter will probably be around March 4, 2022.

Discussion

Todd: that reminds me that we've had a lot of spam emails that pretend to be CTA. We've taken emails off of the public site. If you need an email, please log in to the member's-only section.

Tom Barrett: I was contacted by one of these, and the email seemed too brusque to be Todd, which tipped me off.

Todd: We may have to remove emails from newsletters.

Katherine Turner-Pearson (via chat): did we leave emails on the contractor's list?

Scotty Moore: yes, those are still there.

Agency Reports

Texas Historical Commission (Brad Jones)

Today is the official start of Texas Archeology Month. We have our online calendar on the website (www.thc.texas.gov/tam) Please contact Maggie Moore if you have events that you would

like added. We did have some issues, but they are getting ironed out.

Legislative results: very little that impacted archaeology. THC had full funding restored. Permission to use sporting goods tax. We are solid for the next 2 years. Got money to rebuild Caddo Mounds State Historic Park. Got additional work for Washington on the Brazos.

Did create a committee to build a joint curatorial facility for THC, TPW, Texas Historic Preservation Board, Library and Archives. This would have benefits to alleviate our overcrowding. The committee is just looking into proposals for the next legislative session.

Antiquities Advisory Commission meeting on October 29th, back in person. We do present every time. Reviews continue to go up, permits are down a little. In the upcoming meeting we are proposing some minor rule revisions to Chapter 26, Rule 14 and 16, having to do primarily with Antiquities Code application requirements.

Chapter 14: removing "hard copy" and "mailed". eTRAC is all electronically.

Chapter 16: we've been accepting most documents through eTRAC. Changing the language regarding how items are submitted. Removal of all references to "hard copies". Changing final submission requirements, no more CDs! Proposing to remove requirement to send 11 redacted copies to other institutions. We have entered into an agreement with Index of Texas Archaeology to put all redacted reports online. You will still need to send us a hard copy (and one for curation). We are about to switch the online Abstract portal to eTRAC. That should go live in the next week or two. We will leave the old interface up for 6 months for people to transition. Laney Fisher is more than happy to help you get an eTRAC account. For those of you who have other suggestions, please let us know.

I neglected to mention that we have hired Emily McCuiston. She started in September as our reviewer for Harvey, Irma, and Maria projects.

Historic Sites Updates (Sarah Chesney)

Not much has changed. We are still trying to adapt to Covid. Construction is underway and wrapping up at Levi Jordan. San Felipe: ready to open our new facilities in November. For archaeological projects: we are hoping to start things back up in the spring.

Discussion

John Lohse: can you tell us about the work at Washington on the Brazos?

Brad: I just pulled that from Mark's legislative funding report. I don't know more at this time.

Sarah: they don't know how they want to proceed.

Brad: I will plug the Washington on the Brazos Archaeology month activities.

Texas Parks and Wildlife (Eric Schroeder)

On the parks side, there are a bunch of personnel announcements. We are in the process of hiring an historian October/November. Re-advertising historic preservation specialist position. New Houston area coordinator, Ellen Stoddard (started September 13). Completed interviews for the Arch I position with Robin and Ina's staff.

Wildlife division: putting the finishing touches to a new RFP.

Texas Department of Transportation (Scott Pletka)

A number of staff transitions over the past 12 months: 4 retirements (John Budd, Barbara Hickman, Jason Barrett, and Jim Abbott). This is preparing me for my new career as a country western singer. We have started the hiring process. We have hired Brittany Gregory and Paul Machin. Two more postings that need to be filled. One is geoarchaeology focused. We they get posted I'll circulate a flyer and get CTA help on spreading the word.

Jen Anderson was promoted to Lead Worker. She works on our knotty, high profile projects and helping me with internal management.

Early next year, I hope to post an RFP for El Paso data recovery. For those of you who can put together a team with expertise in that.

April will be RFP for survey proposals.

In one year, next Archaeological General services contracts RFP.

Final thing, we are in the final stages of revising Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) with FHWA, THC, and TAC that allows us to take on responsibilities for FHWA. Not a whole lot is changing for archaeology. If you wish to be involved, go to TxDOT's main page. There are ways to get involved in review of PA. Link to site where you can access the survey and other information about getting involved with TxDOT: <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/environmental/historic-preservation.html>

Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (Jonathan Jarvis)

We are open for business, but not back to normal. Please schedule visits in advance.

We are reintegrating with UT. In the near term our staff will be spread thin.

Center for Archaeological Studies (Jodi Jacobson)

In the spring we had just hired Erin Hamilton, we are so happy to have her. We lost Joy Schneider Cohen to the dean's office. We may be a little slow responding to requests.

Lot of cool projects. Shoutout to Amy Reid and her amazing Kids Book "Maybe You'll be an Archaeologist". All of the proceeds are donated to CAS. Trending on Amazon!

Center for Archaeological Research

No report

Standing Committee Reports

Auditing (Mark Denton)

No report

Budget Committee (Tom Barrett)

No report here. Some items to discuss later in the meeting.

CTA Communications (Laura Clark)

I'm taking over for Catherine, she has done an amazing job and made the transition painless

Contractors (Laura Clark)

No report

Curation (Marybeth Tomka)

In terms of a report, the committee has not done anything of note. A few of us are involved with TAS curation efforts and hope to get an academy in lab processing/curation going in the near future. We also have put together a Texas Archeological Repository Group (TARG) and will be sharing data as we move forward.

Governmental Affairs (Nesta Anderson and Duane Peter)

Duane is moving further into retirement.

Nesta: I can cover Duane's portion. As we move forward, we want to make sure that our voices are represented. There is an opportunity to interface with legislators on Hill Day. Consider joining ACRA. Brad covered all of the state legislative information. The only other thing to be aware of - Senate Bill 3 Critical Race Theory Bill. What we need to think about is how history/archaeology is presented in schools. Something that we need to keep an eye on.

Ann Scott: Following up on Nesta's update on Hill Day at the ACRA conference, Mason Miller and I visited with staffers virtually from our Senators Cornyn and Cruz offices garnering support for historic preservation, etc. The meetings went well.

Membership (Katie Canavan)

Update via Todd: Need volunteers for the committee.

Changed the name of the student research grant to "J. Michael Quigg Student Research Grant".

Emily and I are working on a state-wide archaeology survey.

Multicultural Relations (Mary Jo Galindo)

Newsletter summarizes what we've been up to. Developing a scholarship fund. We have 16 members in all. I thank each of them for their participation. What we have to present today is the vision statement. We want to set up this fund to send people to field schools, which average \$3,000 when including equipment and travel. We would like to raise \$2,500 .

Take the Austin Community Heritage survey by October 3rd. Share this link (www.bit.ly/ATXpres) and encourage people you know to take the survey by Sunday

Discussion

Bill Martin: lets put this in the newsletter for people to view.

Tina: We could send a blast out to people and then vote in a month.

Mary Jo: I would prefer something like that so that we don't wait too long.

Todd: two issues: voting to approve statement and voting to set up scholarship fund.

Motion: move to establish a scholarship fund (Mary Jo)

Second: Katherine Turner-Pearson

Discussion

Jon Lohse: seems like a good idea. We just need guidance going through the sequence of events.

Pat: I agree to split this into two motions.

Eric: I'm all for establishing this. How are we distinguishing it from student grants?

Todd: this will be a separate fund with a separate

stream of money. No overlap for research.

Jodi: yes, this would be geared more to undergrads who are getting started.

Leslie Bush: could we call this a “Training Scholarship” to distinguish it from the other grant.

Todd: vote to establish it now and then set up a short time.

Jon: If some part of this dialogue could take place in the spring meeting, it would be possible at that time, it will be possible to build a budget to incorporate funds.

Pat: friendly amendment, call it “Multi-cultural Archaeological Training Scholarship Fund”

Todd: Once we establish the fund, we can move forward with soliciting donations

Bill: Move to call the vote, multiple seconds

Vote: unanimous yes

Motion carries

Mary Jo: Next step, we will post information on the CTA website for people to review. We will set up a donation area on the site. In the Spring meeting, we will vote on the final wording.

Nominating (Bill Martin)

This spring we will need to elect all positions except for VP. I have spoken to all current officers, and all are willing to serve. If anyone is willing to serve in any capacity, let me know and we can have a real election.

Discussion

Jon: do you think it’s better to do it online or in person.

Jodi: it is not hard to do virtually.

Bill: I’m planning to retire in March 2023; I’ll do this for another year and then you can appoint someone else.

Public Education (Todd Ahlman)

No report. Main goal is the E. Mott Davis award; reach out to me or the committee if you know of a great project.

Standards and Guidelines Committee (Jodi Jacobson)

Subcommittees have done a lot of work.

Amy Borgens: reporting guidelines draft is almost ready. That will be ready to go in the spring.

Robin Barnes has a draft for some cemetery standards. May be something ready in the spring
THC got comments back on cemetery survey guidelines. Still in our court.

Zack Overfield: Monitoring committee has had a couple of meetings. Ideas are getting outlined. Should have some draft version ready for review in Spring.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Texas Private Lands Heritage Preservation Partnership (Eric Schroeder)

Two TPLHPP events in 2021.

Upcoming events: Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show, Texas Land Conversation Conference, Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Texas Land Conservation Conference. My proposal is to pay to become a part of their organization. I’ve applied for a matching grant from the Texas Historical Foundation.

In November I’m applying for money from the Institute of Archaeology to support our program.

Lost Cemeteries Task Force (Andrea Burden, via emailed report)

The taskforce has been quite busy. Met once and had a training session. We have worked with Atlas coordinator and Jonathan Jarvis. We’ve made strides to connect with stakeholders in Waller County. We’ve expanded our ranks by adding Diana Hernandez (graduate student).

CTA Financial Investment Search Committee (Eric Schroeder/ Tom Barrett)

As I mentioned earlier, we have investment funds earmarked. The question is: do we want to use

Clear Rock and their 1.5% fee? Do we want to just open a Schwab account? If we go with Clear Rock, we need to provide individual financial information.

Discussion

Eric: we just did this for the Gault school. We'll basically need Trustees over the account. We'll get a quarterly report about how the fund is doing. I'm not sure what the differences are between Clear Rock and just a Schwab. What is the difference?

Sarah: TAS switched from Schwab to Clear Rock. Given the amount of money that we are managing, going with a smaller company is a good way.

Todd: for clarification, are we establishing our own account?

Tom: No Clear Rock establishes that account for us. Let's have an EC discussion and move forward as planned.

Old Business

CTA's Investment in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Todd: Please come back to the meeting this afternoon. It's going to be very valuable.

Texas Beyond History (Emily McCuiston)

Our aim to build new connections. Cox|McLain has sponsored a page on NE Texas plantation work and my own research on radiocarbon dating. Regardless of length, we are looking for content. We also want help from someone with a K-12 background, so if you know anyone, please let us know.

New Business

Spring 2022 meeting

Timing: are we ok with shooting for a March 24th meeting (in person)? No disagreement

We will work to create a simultaneous online environment

Discussion

Tom: How do those numbers compare?

Jon: We don't have headcounts, but they were well attended.

Tina: Newsletter submission date will be Feb 25

Todd: if you wish to run for a position, please reach out so that we can prepare a slate of candidates.

New business from the floor?

Mary Jo: I'm working with the Historic Landmark Commission to rework the process. I am encouraging everyone to fill out a survey (only available the week of the meeting).

Jon: Use of volunteer/unpaid labor on contract projects is problematic. Occasional use of avocational societies in outreach components doesn't really count. I'm talking about using society volunteers to fill out staffing needs. I'm looking for input.

Discussion

Arlo: The language on this is unclear. We are working on discussing some of this stuff.

Jodi: I was at TRC when their staff got slammed and they brought in a bunch of volunteers. Considered more of a training opportunity.

Todd: qualifications should always be met. Anyone on a site should meet those. On the competition side: students/volunteers create an unfair competitive environment.

Jon: for context, in a previous phase of my career, I was part of a contract with multiple firms. We would lose bids because other contractors would cut in half their paid field staff. This issue has everything to do with competitiveness. The language is not clear.

Arlo: we've had Boy Scouts come out in the name of public outreach. When does it become supplementing and taking away jobs from paid staff?

Tom: We used the HAS for the Fannin Battlefield site

Douglas Mangum: At San Jacinto, we have worked with/used volunteers, but that has always been

in coordination with TPWD. Volunteer staff were always under supervision.

Maggie Moore: the possibility of using volunteers in places where we would like to see work done in areas that we are limited in what we can require. For example, we have a project where we can't force extra work but there hasn't been much done. We would use stewards to go beyond what we usually require.

Todd: What remedy would you like to see?

Jon: everyone has a good point. Universities have an obligation to provide experiences for students. Material culture analysis is reasonable since avocational people may have expertise and that is reasonable. I think that halving field costs by bringing in volunteers is not appropriate.

Chris Dayton: This is Chris Dayton, CMEC (sorry about the label [in Zoom]; it's my daughter's account). I think CTA should have in the standards that compliance work for hire should be done by paid workers, period. No one objects to THC or other agencies using volunteers (Boy Scouts, etc.) because THC is not under contract to some larger entity.

Andi: I agree this is a standards issue.

Tina: I didn't even realize this was an issue, but I agree

Douglas: if everyone is on the same playing field and the agency taking bids that everyone can do the same thing as long as the standards are set. Volunteers would only be ok if the agency set up projects that way.

Arlo: In what standards document are we talking about? We have this professional performance guidelines. That document is older than most members of CTA probably. We should look into that document.

Todd: should we come up with a statement.

Eric: I'm all for a task force to do some leg work and then bring it before the CTA.

Jon: Can we agree that we need an ad hoc committee to explore the issues if it doesn't connect with any existing document.

Todd: I will talk with Jodi about this issue and work with the EC to figure out how best to address this issue within existing committees.

Jon: I am ok with that approach.

Zack: I'm in full agreement that this is an S&G committee. I think we can spearhead this as a whole. I can start that conversation and take the lead.

Motion to adjourn: Jon Lohse

Second: Missi Green

Meeting Adjourns (11:14 am)

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