

Idaho State University Archaeological Field School 2011

The 2011 Idaho State University Archaeological Field school will be held at the Gault Site, south-central Texas, in cooperation with the Gault School for Archaeological Research, Texas State University, San Marcos, July 10-August 5.

Idaho State University initially worked on the Gault site, summer of 2007, at the invitation of Dr. Michael Collins. We tested site integrity in the area of a small spring heading the creek, finding that there were intact Clovis layers below disturbed Archaic midden.



In 2011 we return to excavate Pre-Clovis levels at the Gault site dated to almost 18,000 years ago.

The Gault site is unique in North America in preserving a detailed record of Clovis reduction strategies. Clovis people camped along the stream routinely to use the outcrops of Edwards Plateau flint.

The Gault site also offers the extreme rarity of intact cultural deposits stratigraphically below Clovis. We will be working with Gault Project staff to systematically expose and document these Pre-Clovis components.

Idaho State University will be working in conjunction with excavations being conducted by Dr. Michael Collins, Texas State University, and Dr. Bruce Bradley, University of Exeter.

The Gault site is owned and managed by the Archaeological Conservancy.



<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/gault/index.html>

The Gault site, midway between Georgetown and Ft. Hood in central Texas, has a long history of archeological investigation as well as uncontrolled artifact digging. Located in a small wooded valley with a spring-fed creek and an unlimited supply of excellent flint, the site was occupied intensively during all major periods of the prehistoric era. James E. Pearce, the first professional archeologist in Texas, learned of the Gault Farm site and excavated there in 1929-1930. Over the next 60 years, artifact collectors churned up the upper deposits over almost the entire site, but stopped digging when the dark rich midden soil played out. In 1990, an artifact collector dug deeper and found Clovis artifacts along with several unusual incised stones, something never before found with Clovis materials. Learning of the find, Drs. Thomas R. Hester and Michael B. Collins, University of Texas, visited the site. In work from 1998-2002, that began with the excavation of a mammoth mandible and associated Clovis artifacts, the Gault Project recovered more than one million artifacts from the site.

Archaeologists are focusing their efforts on excavating areas below the Clovis layer and are attempting to determine if Gault will yield evidence of people who lived in Central Texas prior to 13,500 years ago. Deep tests conducted at the site have repeatedly turned up evidence of pre-Clovis occupation.



Clovis point

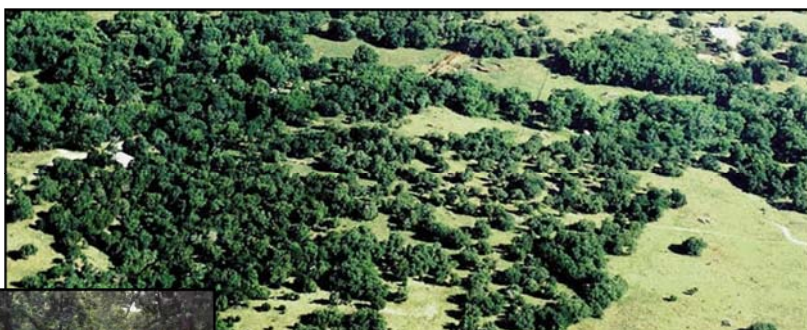
Clovis blade core



Large biface

Distinctive Clovis assemblage markers

<http://www.utexas.edu/research/tarl/research/gault/artifacts.php>



<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/gault/clovis.html>

The Gault site occupies the small creek valley that crosses from left to right in the photo above. The brown slash near the center of the picture is a stratigraphic trench dug through the heavily looted part of the site. Photo by Frank Sloan.



The 2011 ISU Field school will accept applications from interested undergraduate and graduate students until April 15. We will enroll 18 students this summer. All students will enroll in ANTH 4486 for 3-6 credits or ANTH 4483 for 3 credits. Preference will be given to students enrolling for the full six credits but others will be considered. Students are responsible for their own transportation to Austin, where they will be picked up by field school staff and transported to the field camp north of Austin.

Field school will run from July 10-August 5, 2011. We will be housed at the Gault site, with showers, cooking facilities, and a laboratory building. For more information contact E.S. Lohse, Field School Director, at lohserne@isu.edu, or see the Anthropology Department website at: <http://www.isu.edu/anthro/gault.shtml>

SEE YOU THERE!