

**THE GAULT SCHOOL OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH®**



To The Point

December 2010 V4 No.4



The Gault School of Archaeological Research



Book Sale!

* *Clovis Technology*, a new book out by Bruce Bradley, Mike Collins and Andy Hemmings is available through the GSAR. Costs (including P&H) are \$53.50 for softcover, \$81.00 for hardcover. We also have a few hardcovers signed by all five authors for only \$250.00 which includes a \$175.00 deductible donation!

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From the Executive Director

Still a little bit of 2010 left to enjoy but, wow, what a great year! We had a lot of old friends come and help us out at Gault; the New Hampshire State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program, the University of Exeter, the PaleoCultural Research Group, and the Archaeological Society of Virginia. More than 1300 people toured the site this year – some paid tours thanks to our friends at the Bell County and Williamson Museums – and a lot of school children. An NSF grant enabled us to hire help out at the site to make our excavation goals and we REALLY appreciate Dr. Steve Howard, Zach Windler, Paul Santarone and Nick Swift. The GSAR received a grant from the Archaeological Institute of America which helped us expand our educational programs and try out some new approaches. We now have a wonderful Teacher's Guide for our DVD *An Adven-*

ture in Time (available as a pdf on our Outreach page) and had a great experience with our first Teacher's workshop. The GSAR and our partners (Shumla, the Texas Archeological Society, the Texas Historical Foundation, and TexasBeyondHistory.net) were able to attend three Texas teacher's conventions and talk to thousands of teachers. We also premiered a new Prehistoric Texas heritage trail with Gault as one anchor site.

Our new offices at Texas State University are inhabited and the lab log shows an ever increasing amount of volunteer and intern time. We have a steady influx of students for the first time in a long while! Many of those students were able to participate in the excavation of a mammoth (or mastodon) tusk in Temple this fall. We are now just starting our 2011 membership drive and we hope to see

all of our old members renew but also have faith that we'll see a number of new members. Your membership in the GSAR is very important to us – your support makes many of our programs and our research possible. One of the goals for 2011 is also to institute some new membership benefits in terms of functions and speakers. Membership is relatively inexpensive and one privilege of membership is that it allows you to participate in the excavation of a world-famous site. When you receive your renewal card please fill it out and return it promptly. If you are not a current member please take the time to check out our membership page on the website!

Clark

Bruce Bradley

The GSAR is proud to announce that Dr. Bruce Bradley has signed on to be co-Principle Investigator at Gault along with Dr. Michael Collins. Dr. Bradley has been involved with Gault since 2000 and is recognized as an authority on the peopling of the Americas.

Bradley is currently a professor at the University of Exeter (UK) and head of

the Experimental Archaeology Masters Programme as well as Director of the Centre for the Archaeology of the Americas. He has worked in at least 8 countries from Kazakhstan to the U.S on projects from Puebloan to Paleoindian. Bruce is also considered one of the foremost flintknappers in the world.

Dr. Bradley is one of the developers of the "Solutrean Hypothesis" challenging



researchers to examine all possible routes for early migrations to the New World.

Excavation

Our excavation efforts are paying off—the six units surrounding the original deep test unit are now deep in Paleoindian strata. We are now working on getting the next six to the west to the same levels.

We are still dealing with the burned rock oven (seen here in the photo) and are currently bisecting it east-west to get a profile and some more samples before removing it completely. The best news is that we have found charcoal samples beneath many of the rocks which should enable us to get a good date range for the feature.

Meanwhile the next three rows of units to the

west are, at last, lower than the bulk of the burned rock in the midden. This excavation has been very slow and exasperating. Not only was there a great deal of rock but a huge number of artifacts to record and remove. These upper units have averaged 7-9,000 pieces of debitage alone (not to mention diagnostic tools, bone, shell and other sundries)!

The winter excavation season kicks off with one real high note—we are putting the finishing touches on the system that is bringing electricity to the weatherport! That means heat and light for the cooler days and better fans when the

inevitable heat comes again in 2011.

Besides our staff and guests I would like to especially thank the steady stream of Texas State students that have helped out since August.



“The students had a great time as well as learning so much. This is a great service you are providing.”

Outreach

In reviewing the year I was astounded to learn that, by our records, more than 1,300 people had visited the site



in 2010 and that the GSAR staff had made presentations to more than 2,500 people. Our presentations were about evenly split between students and the general public and included 117 teachers. We have only a couple of more tours before the end of 2010 and I think we have done a great job in getting information on Gault and archaeology out there!

I wanted to mention one of our frequent volunteers at the site—Dick Woolheater. Dick has been nice enough to come out and make knapping presentations to many of our school groups. The students are fascinated by the whole idea of stone tool manufacture and like watching Dick's demonstrations and looking at his creations. Thank you Dick!

Gault/Exeter Reunion

Nancy Littlefield, a Gault Director and our Educational Committee Chair, is returning to school to get an M.A. in archaeology at the University of Exeter. While there in September she managed to get Bruce Bradley and a group of our Exeter student alumni together for an evening at a local pub. I'm told it was a sedate and studious gathering (...yeah, right) and that everyone had a good time.

Our program with the University of Exeter has been very successful and I hope that we may

even be able to expand it somewhat in the future. What started as Bruce and a few students in the field has already expended to include graduate student research and education. Exeter has created the new Centre for the Archaeology of the Americas to coordinate interdisciplinary research projects in the Americas including the Peopling of the Americas.

We are looking forward to a new group of students from Exeter who will be joining us for



the month of April and getting a taste of archaeology—Texas Style!

Teachers Conventions

Earlier this year we received a site preservation grant from the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) which was designated to accomplish several projects in education. Our first project was to get together a group of like-minded organizations to stretch all of our grant dollars further. The Texas Archeological Society, Shumla School, and Texas Historical Foundation—joined with us and together one of the first projects was to develop a teacher's guide for the Gault DVD. After that was accomplished we put together a model teacher's workshop at Gault in July which was received VERY well and will be repeated. The

last component of the grant was to exhibit the groups offerings for teachers and students at three crucial teachers conventions this fall.

The first, the Texas Council for Social Studies, was in Houston and had over 1,200 teachers in attendance. Nancy and I spoke to quite a few teachers and gave out copies of the DVD and guide. I am still following up with many of our contacts.

The second two were the same weekend in November—Nancy and I took the Science Teachers Association of Texas in Houston while Robin Mathews covered the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented in Fort



Worth. The STAT conference had more than 7,000 attendees and the TAGT about 2,800. We picked up some good ideas, some great contacts to help us out (and not just in education) and made contact with teachers in several school districts near to Gault that we have previously been unsuccessful getting in to. This has been a very successful program!

The Virginians

No matter how many times we send them home they just keep coming back! Once again Mike Johnson led a group from the Archaeological Society of Virginia (at least 13) to do battle with the clays of Central Texas. They did their usual great job of excavating and screening a tremendous amount of material helping us toward our goals. While here they also got a chance to visit the Waco Mammoth

site and the Bell County Museum. It is only fitting that members of their Northern Virginia chapter are immortalized in the graphics of the permanent Gault Exhibit there.



Overlapping with the Virginians was the month long visit of Colorado GSAR member Jill Patton who has been coming back Spring and Fall for several years—I believe that she must be an honorary Virginian by now as well as an Devonian!



“I loved your presentation. I wish to be an archaeologist when I grow up”

Campus Work

First let me reiterate that, if you like puttering around and working with your hands, I have plenty of work that needs doing. Lately Mike and I have shouldered much of the maintenance load with the invaluable help of Greg Littlefield (electrician, plumber, man about town).

We are finally closing in on the end of the bathroom construction—manpower and equipment has been an

issue. The toilet units are in the ground and the gravel has arrived. When we get a break in the weather the concrete floor will go in followed by the quick assembly of the prefab building.

We have a number of path and road issues to sort out this winter as well. The Fall rains left us with erosional problems that will need culverts and gravel to fix properly.

The other big ongoing project required putting up a pole, getting an electrical drop, digging a long ditch, pulling electrical wire and wiring an outlet box. The result will be an electrical system at the excavation. Certainly this will make our life less uncomfortable but, more importantly, we already have one sump dug on the south side of the tent with three more to go to protect the site from further water damage.



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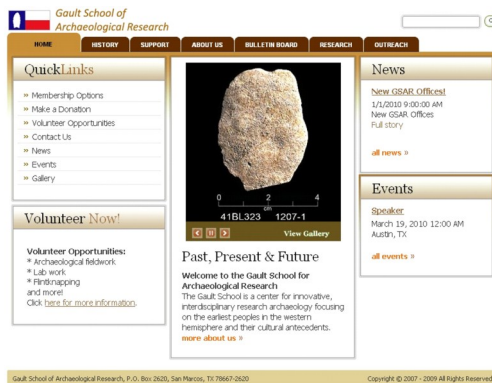
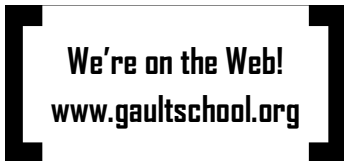
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Membership

Student	\$10.00
Adult Individuals	\$45.00
Dual/Family	\$65.00
Organizations/Institutions	\$500.00
Corporations	\$1000.00
Life membership	\$1000.00

A Vision of the Past and Future

Only a small membership fee will take you from interest to participation!
Membership applications are available on the website at www.gaultschool.org



GSAR Membership

If you have friends or family that might be interested please pass this newsletter along or contact me (Clark) and I'll send them one along with a GSAR brochure, We are counting on our members and good friends to help spread the word about the GSAR. Memberships are now available on our website and that means that renewal is easier than ever!

The GSAR has an array of items for sale as well if you'd like to fly our "Flag". There are GSAR baseball hats and t-shirts in sizes from S-XXL. We have both hard and softcover copies of *Clovis Technology* and DVD's of *An Adventure in Time: The Gault Project*. One of our new items are small pin-on buttons that say either "Clovis did it better" or "I ♥ Clovis"!

For those of you who are already members, Thank You! Now for all of those receiving a

COMPLIMENTARY copy of this (you know who you are, check your email header) the cost of a membership is very small indeed. More than 6,000 people have found Gault either important or interesting enough to volunteer at the site since 1999. Only a fraction of those have given us a check for membership.

I cannot express the importance of your membership to us. It is relatively easy to get money for archaeological tools and things and near impossible to get money for people to wield them. I don't know why this is so but it is the reality we have to deal with and memberships help us a great deal in this area.

The GSAR is a 501(c)3 non-profit which means that donations, monetary and in-kind, are tax deductible to the extent allowed by

law. Monetary contributions are well appreciated but the GSAR also needs a variety of items at the site and in the lab. Our current list extends from kitchen utensils for the house to picnic tables and digital cameras. We also would gratefully accept donations of time and expertise.

If you think you can help out drop me a line at Cwernecke@gaultschool.org or call the office at 512-245-8734. In the meantime recruit some friends to join us at the GSAR!

Someone told me "A bad day in the field is better than a good day in the office." Come join us!