

SOCIETY PUBLICATION NEWS

SOCIETY BOOK SALES ON THE RISE

OAS book sales have shown a marked improvement over recent years. Several of our newer publications, the OAS member handbook and the two Calf Creek volumes, are selling quite well. The local chapters of the Society have done very well selling the handbook at chapter meetings. We have advertised the Calf Creek volumes throughout the south-central United States, and we began advertising the four-volume projectile point guide in the newsletters of other archeological societies nationwide this summer, with good results. In particular, we have (at least temporarily) reversed a long-term decline in the sales of the point guides. This may be something of a last hurrah for the guides, the first of which was published in 1958. The point guides are on their twenty-first printing. Publication sales provide a major supplement to the income of the Society.

	1992	1993	1994	1995*
Point Guides	597	355	280	560
Member Handbook	-	-	-	186
Annual Bulletins	27	36	121	120

*1995 figures through 8/15/95.

LAST CALL FOR ANNUAL BULLETIN VOLUMES 25 AND 31

If you think you will **EVER** want either of these issues of the Bulletin, this is your **LAST CHANCE**. **ONE COPY REMAINS TO BE SOLD OF EACH ISSUE.**

BOAS 25 (1976, 158 pp) contains articles by: Chris Lintz on the Panhandle assemblage at the McGrath site north-east of Guymon, in Texas; Kathleen Wallis on the apparently intact Fox petroglyph site northeast of Lawton, Oklahoma; Peggy Flynn on the pottery from the McCurtain phase site in McCurtain County; and photographs of 36 historic era war clubs, war hatchets, gunstock clubs, belt axes and pipe-tomahawks in the collections of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

SORRY SOLD OUT

BOAS 31 (1982, 80 pp) was dedicated entirely to articles by Preston George, Susan Vehik and Peggy Flynn on the early Plains Village Uncas site on Kaw Lake in Kay County. **BOAS 25** sells for \$8.00; **BOAS 31** for \$5.00. Add \$3.00 for shipping one book, \$3.50 for two. Please order from the Society at the Cheyenne address. First come will be the **ONLY** one served in this case.

ARTICLES

A DATED VALLEY FILL SEQUENCE ON PLUM CREEK IN ROGER MILLS COUNTY

Pete Thurmond and Don Wyckoff

We are presently engaged in a sporadic, but long-term study, of buried soils in Roger Mills County. Specifically, we are identifying and describing Holocene and late Pleistocene soil sequences in old dunes, ponds, upland meadows and valley floors, using exposed profiles where possible, and cores elsewhere. We are radiocarbon dating every zone of humic organic matter accumulation we find. Our objective is to get a handle on the timing of wet climatic episodes in western Oklahoma, when the ubiquitous dune fields were stable and lush vegetation grew in the valley floors and interdune basins. By inference, we hope to date the intervening dry periods when dunes were active and unmelanized valley fill accumulated rapidly through mass wasting of the exposed uplands.

To date, we have described and sampled exposures of a dune on the Washita River near Cheyenne and valley fill in two upland canyons. We have also cored four dunes and two interdune basins on the Dempsey Divide, along the boundary between the basins of the Washita River and the North Fork of the Red River (Thurmond 1991). Dating of the dune on the Washita was 1994). The dates from one of the canyon exposures are reported below. Assay of accelerator dates on the other samples has been delayed by a recent fire at the lab in Lower Hutt, New Zealand. This fall, we plan to describe and sample exposures of a probable late Pleistocene pond deposit on Brokenleg Creek and Holocene valley fill north of the old Herring townsite, and core additional dunes and interdune basins on the

Dempsey Divide. One interdune basin which we sampled last spring may provide a good Holocene pollen record in deeply buried, very fine-textured sediment.

The locality reported herein is one which we have been aware of for some time (Thurmond & Moore 1985), but just sampled this spring. A small remnant of Holocene valley fill is exposed in an old washed-out dam spillway on Plum Creek, a northeast-flowing tributary of the Washita southeast of Cheyenne. A description of the exposed profile follows.

PLUM CREEK LOCALITY, Section 23-13N-24W, Roger Mills County, Oklahoma: alluvial/colluvial fill within the narrow upland valley of Plum Creek in its middle reaches, draining outcrop areas of the Permian Doxey Shale (headwaters) and Cloud Chief (middle reaches) formations. Modern vegetation is short to mid grasses on adjacent slopes, with deciduous trees and brush along valley floor and lower slopes.

Ap: 0-68 cm. Historic era alluvium/colluvium: dark red (2.5YR3/6) silt loam (red 2.5YR4/6 moist); massive, no structure; consistence loose dry and moist, nonsticky wet; common fine roots; abrupt, smooth boundary. Lower 15 cm dated, Beta-81135, conventional results 10 + 50 BP, calibrated age AD 1880-1915.

IIA1b: 68-80 cm. Buried melanized epipedon: dark reddish brown (5YR3/4) silt loam (5YR3/2 moist); microstructure fine moderate granular, no macrostructure; consistence slightly hard dry, friable moist, slightly sticky wet; gradual, wavy boundary. Dated Beta-81136, conventional results 530 + 60 BP, calibrated age AD 1305-1460.

IIC: 80-123 cm. Red (2.5YR5/8) silt loam (dark red 2.5YR3/6 moist); microstructure fine moderate granular, macrostructure coarse weak prismatic; consistence hard dry, friable moist, slightly sticky wet; clear, wavy boundary.

IIIA1b: 123-180 cm. Buried melanized epipedon: reddish brown (2.5YR4/4) silt loam (dark red 2.5YR3/6 moist); microstructure fine moderate granular, macrostructure medium weak prismatic; consistence slightly hard dry, friable moist, slightly sticky wet; gradual, wavy boundary. Dated 152-162 cm, Beta 81137, conventional results 860 + 70 BP, calibrated age AD 1020-1285.

IIIBcab: 180-223 cm. Buried melanized horizon with significant illuviation of clay and carbonates: reddish brown (2.5YR4/4) silty clay loam (dark reddish brown

2.5YR3/4 moist); no micro-structure, macrostructure medium strong prismatic; consistence hard dry, firm moist, sticky wet; carbonate threads and fine nodules throughout; gradual, wavy boundary. Dated 200-215 cm, Beta-81138, conventional results 1530 + 50 BP, calibrated age AD 425-640.

IIICca: 223-315 cm. Red (2.5YR5/6) silty clay loam (2.5YR4/6 moist); massive, no structure; consistence very hard dry, friable moist, slightly sticky wet; abundant carbonate threads and powdery granules in upper 40 cm.

The radiocarbon dates from this profile turned out pretty much as we expected, and the paleoenvironmental inferences which may be drawn from the profile are in concurrence with previous work on the Southern Plains (Hall 1977, 1982, 1988, 1990; Hall & Lintz 1984; Lintz & Hall 1983). The deep buried soil on Plum Creek (IIIA1b) dates to the first millennium A.D., and is equivalent to Hall's (1977) Copan Soil, which he has succinctly characterized as "... a cumulic, organic-rich, over-thickened A Horizon (Hall 1990: 343). An equivalent to the Copan Soil described and dated by Hall (1982) in Delaware Canyon was named the Caddo County paleosol.

Following Hall's 1990 analysis of dated sediments from 15 sites in Oklahoma and Texas, one may presume that the unmelanized Plum Creek IIICca horizon sediment (which is much deeper than its exposed extent in the measured profile) is of mid-Holocene age, dating approximately 5000 to 2000 BP. Such deposits typically underlie the Copan Soil, and are interpreted as having been deposited after the end of the Altithermal canyon incision episode (which occurred ca. 6500 to 5000 BP), under improved yet still relatively dry climatic conditions. The vegetation cover on the Southern Plains was probably thin during the mid-Holocene (although improved over the severe drought of the Altithermal). Significant sheet and rill erosion of upland slopes occurred, with accompanying deposition of the eroded material fairly rapidly refilling the upland canyons. Other nearby exposures of mid-Holocene valley fill in rocky Doxey Shale outcrop areas exhibit numerous gravel stringers containing rock fragments up to several centimeters in size, indicating much of the rainfall was of the high-intensity, short duration character typical of convective thunderstorms.

As at the other sites studied to date on the Southern Plains, the IIIA1b horizon at Plum Creek indicates conditions during the first millennium A.D. were considerably wetter than the modern climate, and certainly much more so than the preceding millenia. The top of the IIIA1b is truncated by erosion, re-

flecting a brief period of low-intensity channel cutting around A.D. 1000 which is fairly commonly apparent in Southern Plains valley fill (Hall 1990: 343). Deposition then resumed, at first under fairly xeric conditions. The thin upper paleosol at Plum Creek (IIA1b) is equivalent to the Delaware Canyon paleosol in Caddo County (Hall 1982). This zone of organic matter accumulation may indicate a brief interval of

increased effective precipitation during the 14th and 15th centuries. Alternatively, Hall (1990) suggests that the formation of this A horizon may merely indicate a slowing of the rate of deposition during these two centuries. The top of the IIA1b at Plum Creek was truncated by erosion, presumably during the Homesteader years from 1892-1915, when intense grazing and attempts at farming this very unsuitable

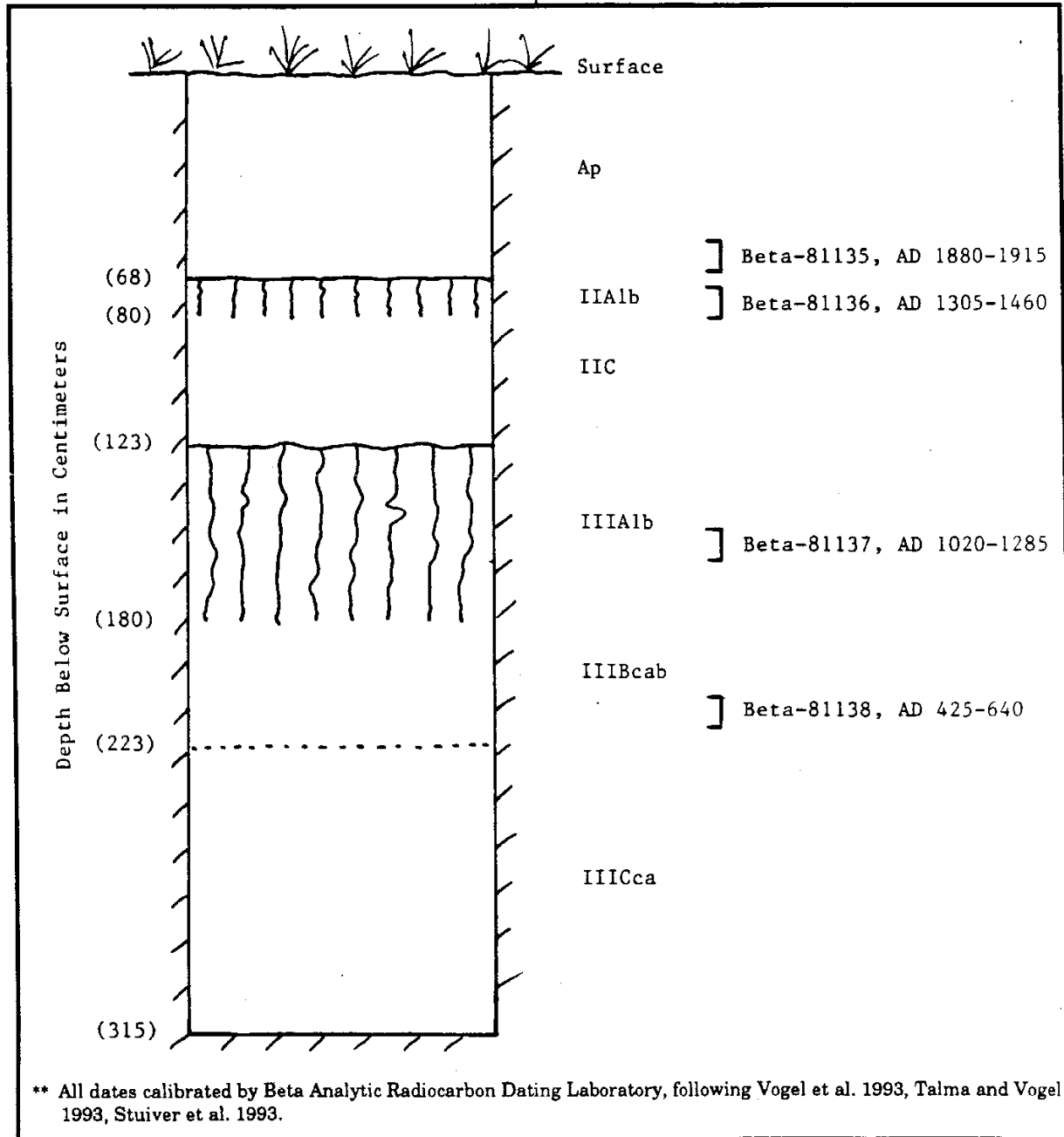


Figure 1. Plum Creek Exposure 5/2/95. Thurmond Ranch, Summer Thoroughbred Pasture, Roger Mills County, Oklahoma. 25 meters northwest of the center of Section 23 13N-24W

landscape triggered the modern canyon flushing episode. The entire upper 68 cm of the Plum Creek profile dates to the 20th century.

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF LANDS AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE RED AND KIAMICHI RIVERS

Bo Nelson, Mike Turner, and Tim Perttula.

Introduction

During 1993, the Northeast Texas Archaeological Society (NETAS) completed an archaeological survey of some 550 acres in Red River County, along the Red River at its confluence with the Kiamichi River. Two private landowners in the area requested that we conduct an archaeological survey of their farms to determine if any significant prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites were on their properties. Bo Nelson and Mike Turner of NETAS lead the survey effort, under the supervision of Tim Perttula of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), as the work was considered an adjunct to the larger THC-led surveys along the Red River as part of the 1991-1992 Texas Archaeological Society Field Schools in the area (Perttula 1995).

At the time of the survey, only one archaeological site had been recorded on the farms: the Wright Plantation (41RR7) Caddo Mound Site. From our 1991-1992 survey work around the A.E. Roitsch (41RR16) a few miles downstream, we suspected that Caddo sites would be common, and we thought the NETAS survey would provide an excellent opportunity to locate Caddo sites that may be associated with the Wright Plantation Mound. We also hoped to identify the ca. 1825 Cherokee village of Tahchee reported to be located on the south side of the Red River near the mouth of the Kiamichi River (Everett 1990:34,51). Early nineteenth century cultural materials (including European ceramics, gun parts, and glass beads) collected in the 1960s by R. King Harris at Wright Plantation suggested that archaeological