



## An Update on the Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site

Approximately 11,000 years ago in a boggy/marshy riparian zone along Terlingua Creek, a prehistoric band of humans built a fire with mesquite and saltbush wood in a stone-lined pit. Who were these people? What were they cooking? How long did they stay at the site? And when they left, where did they go? These are just a few of the questions Center for Big Bend Studies (CBBS) archaeologists have been pondering as test excavations proceeded at the Genevieve Lykes Duncan site on the 02 Ranch.

As reported in last year's edition of *La Vista de la Frontera*, the CBBS's long-standing research of the Big Bend's Paleoindian period was energized through discovery and test excavations at the Lykes-Duncan site in 2010–2011. Our testing is now complete, and we have learned a great deal about the site's earliest occupants and the evolving environment in which they lived.

Thus far, we have identified six Paleoindian hearths at the site: two dating from ca. 11,000–10,600 years ago and four dating from ca. 9,500–8,700 years ago. Both date ranges fall within the Late Paleoindian period (ca. 11,500–8,500 years ago), a time for which little was known in the region prior to discovery of the Lykes-Duncan site. In fact, almost all previous data from this period consists of isolated surface finds of spear points, with the Plainview, Golondrina, and Angostura types most represented—and Angostura leading the way.

All six Late Paleoindian hearths are stone-lined and in shallow pits. However, the two earlier ones stand apart, appearing more

robust and comprised of larger stones compared to the smaller and more simplified versions that were subsequently built. What was being cooked in any of these has yet to be determined. At this time, only the initially discovered ca. 11,000-year-old hearth has been excavated and is particularly notable for containing several unusual rock-free voids as well as fragments of a metate.

As indicated in last year's newsletter, the use of stone within hearths for basin linings and/or for heating elements was not widespread during Paleoindian times. In fact, a perusal of the literature indicates this phenomenon has been reported from only a couple of other Late Paleoindian sites, and was completely lacking in earlier times. Heated rocks were used to retain and regulate heat, and this technology was needed to render certain plant foods edible, such as sotol and agave in West Texas. The use of rock within hearths across North America during subsequent



Bob Mallouf and the 11,000-year-old hearth at the Genevieve Lykes Duncan site.



cultural periods was ubiquitous and has been related to plant-food processing. Similarly, grinding stones such as the metate fragments recovered from the hearth—a common artifact used in plant-food processing by more recent cultures—were also rare in Late Paleoindian times.

Although the metate fragments had been subjected to heat while in the hearth, a residue analysis identified distinctive phytoliths (microscopic silica particles) on the specimens from a type of grass (dendriiform), a member of the sunflower family, and a plant of the spiderwort genus. Ethnographic accounts from the 19th and early 20th centuries indicate natives ground the seeds of certain plants and mixed the resulting powder with water to make dough; the dough was fashioned into cakes and cooked in hearths to produce edible bread-like substances. While such accounts include grass and sunflower seeds, it is unknown why plants of the spiderwort genus were ground.

An important goal during testing was to identify the occupation zone or living surface associated with the 11,000-year-old hearth. While there were no visible connections from the pit to a possible associated surface, there was a measurable spike in cultural debris about 5–10 centimeters above the upper part of the hearth pit. This spike consisted of scattered burned rocks, flakes and chips (debitage)—residue from the manufacture of stone tools—and burned animal bone fragments. The scatter of burned rocks likely represents hearth maintenance. As hearthstones were repeatedly heated and then cooled down, they broke into angular pieces and were less effective in retaining heat. Accordingly, when this happened they were discarded and replaced. Debitage present on this possible surface was comprised of high quality siliceous stone as well as local mudstone or siltstone. High quality, sometimes exotic,

toolstones are often found in Paleoindian contexts, while the mudstone or siltstone debris represents an immediately available resource that outcrops on a hillside adjacent to the Lykes-Duncan site. The small burned bone



Ca. 11,000-year-old flakes and chips.



Conjoining metate fragments from the 11,000-year-old hearth.



Chet Walker uses ground penetrating radar to identify subsurface anomalies.

fragments recovered thus far, none of which are intact enough to be confidently identified, suggest the site occupants at this time targeted small game animals, such as rabbits and rodents. Further work at the site will likely greatly expand this ancient menu.

While our attention has been focused on the 11,000-year-old occupation at the site, we have discovered even earlier stone tools several feet lower and, below that, a tiny piece of charcoal dated to ca. 12,600 years ago. These findings may represent Folsom or other Early Paleoindian peoples, although the charcoal could well be from a natural fire.

An important part of the research at Lykes-Duncan concerns reconstruction of the ancient environment which was intricately connected with Late Paleoindian people's daily lives. Through various analyses we have learned that many of the plants in today's Chihuahuan Desert were present in the vicinity of the Lykes-Duncan site during Late Paleoindian times, including mesquite, saltbush, creosotebush, cholla, Mormon tea, sagebrush, thistle, and plants of the sunflower family. Contrastingly, wood charcoal in a ca. 9,000-year-old hearth was identified as pecan, and today pecan only extends westward to the Del Rio, Texas, area. All in all, these data paint a picture of a slowly evolving environment, one with many of the constituents of today's desert, but with more available moisture.

Prior to launching our next phase of work at the site—a block excavation scheduled for early fall 2012—we enlisted Dr. Chet Walker to conduct a geophysical investigation (using both a magnetometer and ground penetrating radar) of the sediments in the heart of the site. Although his instruments only provided data from the ground surface down to a gravel lens overlying the Paleoindian deposits, he identified a number of subsurface anomalies that could represent hearths, pits, or other cultural features. Each of these will be explored during our upcoming excavation and what

*(Continued on pg. 14)*



# Paleoindians at the Searcher Site

As new discoveries go, the Genevieve Lykes Duncan site has been the source of much excitement and anticipation at the CBBS. This discovery has been the culmination of a long process of piecing together evidence reflected in the stratified soils of the region—a process that actually began in the 1930s. With the addition of the 02 Ranch as a natural laboratory for study in 2001, our chances of finding very early sites escalated dramatically. This is in large part due to the presence of unusually deep arroyo systems across Green Valley, drainage courses that have eroded downward into ancient soils of the right age to contain the remains of Paleoindian inhabitants.

Due to its location near the arroyo floor, the Searcher site was determined to be extremely susceptible to erosion. With the Big Bend rainy season approaching rapidly, it was decided that measures should be taken to scientifically explore the stone feature and surrounding deposits. In May 2012 a backhoe was used to remove overburden in preparation for hand excavation of Feature 1, and a series of short backhoe trenches



Lower portion of Feature 1 showing slabs placed strategically on floor of pit. were used to examine surrounding areas of the arroyo wall. One of these backhoe cuts revealed a second burned stone feature (Feature 2) nearby and at a similar elevation as Feature 1. A radiocarbon assay of charcoal from it returned a date (6770–6600 B.C.) indicating construction and use about 500 years after Feature 1.



Bob Mallouf and Robert Gray expose Feature 1 at the Searcher site.

The ability of field archaeologists to recognize high probability landforms and soil zones associated with early sites in the Big Bend has evolved through the years. The recent discovery by a CBBS staff archaeologist of a second deeply buried Paleoindian site is a case in point. The Searcher site was discovered by Robert Gray in April 2012 on the 02 Ranch. Located only 2.5 miles from the Lykes-Duncan site, the Searcher site is similarly on a tributary arroyo of Terlingua Creek. Exposed by down-cutting of the arroyo bed, the site lies buried some four meters below the ground surface in an exposure of Early Holocenes soils. Deep in the arroyo wall, Gray discovered a stone-filled pit (termed Feature 1) that had been cut by episodic flooding. Most of the exposed stone in this feature was burned, and bits of charcoal were eroding from between the stones.



CBBS crew working on Feature 1 at the Searcher site.

Soils surrounding Feature 1 were suggestive of considerable antiquity, and a charcoal sample was obtained from the matrix within the feature for radiocarbon dating. As suspected, the date obtained (7280–7050 B.C.) placed the site within the Late Paleoindian period.

Our carefully controlled hand excavation of Feature 1 commenced immediately and was completed by mid-June 2012. Excavation entailed the detailed recording of every stone comprising the feature, the removal of feature matrix samples for special studies such as pollen and plant macrofossils, and determination of how the feature was originally constructed by the site inhabitants. Excavation proved Feature 1 to be surprisingly large and substantial, constructed in a shallow circular to oval pit, comprised of a series of strategically placed stone slabs across the pit floor, and followed by placement of fist-sized or larger rocks as probable heating elements. The absence of charcoal beneath the slabs indicates the fire in the pit was built after placement of these stones. Significantly, Feature 1 was found to be unlike other stone features in the Big Bend for which we have excavation data. We currently are awaiting the results of our special studies of this feature with great anticipation.

Within three weeks of completing the Searcher excavation, arroyo flooding had removed that area of the arroyo bank where Feature 1 had been discovered. If not for its timely discovery and the ensuing excavation, this unusual thermal feature would have been completely destroyed and missing from the regional archaeological record. Arroyos along Terlingua Creek often assist CBBS archaeologists by opening portals into deeply buried deposits, but frequently these windows close rapidly—timing can mean everything!

—Robert J. Mallouf



# illing in the Blanks for

One of the most frustrating things for archaeologists in the eastern Trans-Pecos is that, in archaeological circles (including Texas archaeologists), our region has been thought of as a “blank space” on the map. In the past, too little information had been gathered, and that which did exist had not been disseminated effectively to archaeologists outside the region. The Trans-Pecos Archaeological Program (TAP) was initiated in 2004 by the CBBS to fill this gap on the map—to develop syntheses specific to the eastern Trans-Pecos for the five standard cultural periods of prehistory (i.e., Paleoindian, Early Archaic, Middle Archaic, Late Archaic, and Late Prehistoric) and to share these findings with the scientific community and the general public.



CBBS crew excavating discard piles at the Paradise site.

Earth ovens were a technological adaptation by indigenous groups that allowed certain plant foods to be cooked. In the Big Bend, this meant that succulent plants (primarily plants of the Agave family—yucca, sotol, and lechuguilla), a plentiful and reliable food source, could be made edible. This was accomplished by constructing an earth oven, which consisted of a shallow basin filled with heated rocks upon which succulent hearts were placed; this pile was then sealed with a mound of earth. The succulents needed to bake for about two days in order to break down the complex sugars in the hearts of the plants so that they could be digested.

Because earth ovens had to be dismantled to retrieve the contents and were typically used repeatedly, their original configurations and associated activity areas were almost always destroyed. However, since the Paradise earth oven had been used only two or three times, we were able to discern the separate firings, unique information regarding its construction (a borrow trough and pits where dirt was scooped out to cap it), and the activity areas associated with its operation. Furthermore, a contracting stem dart point—the only known diagnostic stone tool of Middle Archaic people—was found on the adjacent living surface and is now one of the most solidly dated points of this type in Texas.

No sooner had we wrapped up the lab work and analyses for this site, than two other Middle Archaic sites fell into our laps. Originally discovered in 1979, the Rosillo Peak site (41BS762) was reevaluated in 2005 prior to construction of a radio repeater system. Following a helicopter ride to the summit of the mountain, a CBBS crew conducted a small-scale investigation while enduring the winds of March. Cooking features were absent and stone tools recovered were predominantly projectile points, particularly ones from the Middle Archaic.

Of 69 projectile points recovered from the surface, 15 have contracting stems; and of the 16 points recovered from excavation units, 7 exhibit contracting stems. The lack of everyday tools and thermal features—cultural residue typically found at sites in the region—is striking. This, in tandem with the fairly inaccessible mountaintop setting (several thousand feet above the desert floor) and associated ambience, suggests the site may have been used for ceremonial or ritual purposes.



Earth oven remnant at the Paradise site.

We got off to a good start for the Middle Archaic period (2500–1000 B.C.) with discovery of the Paradise site (41PS914) in eastern Presidio County. After receiving a 4,000 year-old radiocarbon date from a buried thermal feature, we began excavation in the spring of 2004. The site is located in the headwaters of Terlingua Creek, and that spring was one of the wettest on record. It took us two months, during which we had to make many hair-raising escapes from rising waters, but we succeeded in uncovering one of the most intact earth ovens discovered in Texas.



# the Middle Archaic Period



*CBBS crew members on Rosillo Peak.*

The other site pertinent to this discussion—Lizard Hill Cache (41BS1779)—was discovered in the lowland Chihuahuan Desert near the Rio Grande in 2006. A CBBS crew initially discovered several intriguing features at the site, including an unusual, squat V-shaped rock alignment (petroform). Further gleaning there led to discovery of nine contracting stem dart points lying in a closely spaced array on the side of a small hill—apparent remnants of

a prehistoric cache. Several large cobbles or small boulders positioned immediately upslope of the points likely formed, when intact, a cairn to mark the cache location. Surprisingly, the apex of the petroform was found to “point” due north, directly at the cache. Subsequent excavation here revealed the cairn’s intact vestiges—four more dart points nested within two freshwater mussel shells and capped by a smooth river cobble. Of the points recovered, 11 are most similar to the Almagre type, and two are probably Langtry. This marks the first time that these two types have been found in close association, an indication they were used at the same time, probably by the same group of people. Like Rosillo Peak, many aspects of this site suggest ritualism.



*Petroform at the Lizard Hill site.*



*The Lizard Hill cache.*

All three sites give us important insights into Middle Archaic behavior. They provide the backbone of a new synthesis by this author soon to be published by the CBBS. Approximately 575 sites were used to construct a picture of Middle Archaic lifeways for the region. Importantly, no longer are we dependent on information from neighboring areas in our attempts to understand the Middle Archaic milieu.

—Andrea J. Ohl

*View to the north from Rosillo Peak.*

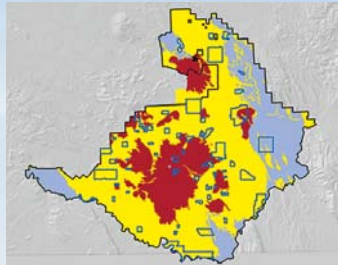


# Contracting with th

The CBBS has a long and rich history of research and collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS). We have conducted a variety of projects over the last 17 years for three NPS properties: Big Bend National Park, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, and Lake Meredith National Recreation Area (which includes Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument).

## Big Bend National Park Survey

The Big Bend National Park (BBNP) project, begun in 1995 and the largest archaeological survey in the history of the Big Bend (and among the largest in the state), is now in its final stages. Since fieldwork was completed in 2010, an equally challenging phase of the project has been underway—analysis and writing the final report. Representing the culmination of over ten years of work (there was a ca. six-



Colors represent environmental zones in BBNP.



Recording the ruins of a historic automobile near Glen Springs.



Survey crew documenting a prehistoric structure in BBNP.

year lapse in funding), reporting will entail summarizing the results of fieldwork, analyzing the diverse artifacts collected and cultural features discovered, and interpreting prehistoric and historic human behavior evident in the data—such as patterned distributions of artifacts and features and whether certain environments or settings were preferred at different times in the past. The CBBS is working with BBNP's archaeologist Tom Alex and Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist Betty Alex, and other scientific collaborators to complete the report. Importantly, project data and the park's GIS are facilitating construction of a predictive model of site locations in unsurveyed portions of the park, which will be particularly useful to park managers. Publication of the report is scheduled for mid-2013.



Documenting a historic stone corral in Big Bend National Park.

## Lake Meredith and Alibates Flint Quarries

For about ten years, the CBBS has been performing archaeological surveys and site documentations in the Texas Panhandle at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument. However, 2012 marked the close of a ca. two-year project on these properties that involved no fieldwork—an overview and assessment of all archaeological resources and all past investigations on these federal lands. The many tasks included compiling a lengthy and comprehensive bibliography and building a substantial database. Spanning roughly 80 years of work in this portion of the southern Great Plains, the multifaceted database makes an array of information much more accessible to park managers.



CBBS researchers pouring over Lake Meredith archaeological documents at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, Texas.



# e National Park Service

This overview and assessment project provided a rare opportunity to summarize and synthesize the cultural history of a very rich archaeological landscape, one renowned as the focus of the Antelope Creek phase—a Late Prehistoric culture known for its distinctive architecture and material culture—and the source of “Alibates Flint,” a high-quality toolstone that was mined at the quarry and traded over vast stretches of central North America. Important aspects of the project involved assessing past archaeological endeavors on the NPS lands and recommending the direction of future investigations.



A museum accession book catalogues archaeological specimens from Lake Meredith and Alibates Flint Quarries.

## Guadalupe Mountains National Park

On another front, since 2009 the CBBS has conducted a number of archaeological site assessments at Guadalupe Mountains Na-



The NPS provided pack-mule support for archaeological fieldwork in the remote backcountry of the Guadalupe Mountains.

tional Park (GUMO). Rather than searching for and recording new sites, our task has been to assess the condition of known sites so that the NPS can monitor how they are affected by natural erosion, park visitors, forest fires and, in unfortunate instances, looting.

As of the fall of 2012, the CBBS had assessed about 90 sites at GUMO, from the lower desert flats below El Capitan, to the depths of McKittrick Canyon, to high mountain ridges in the northern portion of the park. The aboriginal archaeological record in these diverse settings is rich, ranging from high-mountain Paleoindian camps; huge, 500–1,000-year-old, ring-shaped mounds of burned rock; and relatively recent camps and battle-grounds of historic Apache Indians. Furthermore, the CBBS collaborated with the University of Arizona in documenting the Williams Ranch homestead and complex, an important historic ranching operation that predates the park. Additional site assessments are scheduled for the near future.



Recording a prehistoric site in a high-mountain meadow.

## Continuing Collaborations with the National Park Service

These contracted, cultural resource management projects are important to the CBBS. They help us maintain business relations with a major, federal land-holding agency, provide supplemental funds for our overall program, and assist the NPS in managing their cultural resources. Most importantly, they help us with our research. Although some may argue that Lake Meredith is a little far afield for the CBBS, there was a real connection at various times in the past between cultures in the Texas

Panhandle and those on the western side of the Pecos River. Accordingly, our findings from all three properties facilitate an understanding of past people’s behavior in the greater Big Bend. Lastly, it is simply a pleasure to conduct archaeological research in some of the most stunning and intriguing landscapes in the American West as our collaborations with the NPS continue into the future.

—Samuel S. Cason and David W. Keller



# Center for Big Bend Studies the Region

The CBBS remains engaged in a range of diverse research across the greater Big Bend study area. Over the last year progress was made on a number of ongoing projects, while groundbreaking discoveries and new opportunities opened additional avenues of research. Work at the **Searcher site** (see page 3 in this issue) is the result of a recent discovery and represents another important chapter in CBBS research on the **02 Ranch**. It is one of 35 sites discovered on the ranch over the last year and many of these have excellent research potential. Similarly, we have made considerable progress in our research of Pinto Canyon Ranch.

Located in a remote and rugged section of the Big Bend country, **Pinto Canyon Ranch** has been the subject of CBBS research over the last ten-plus years, and the past year saw the launching of several new investigations. Following another round of survey and reconnaissance at the ranch, CBBS staff explored for intact archaeological deposits in a partially buried open campsite, within a structural remnant on the surface of another site, and in a well



*Remains of stone architecture in Surprise Rockshelter, Pinto Canyon Ranch.*



*CBBS crewmember maps and documents artifacts on the surface of Surprise Rockshelter.*

preserved rockshelter. Test excavations at **Surprise Rockshelter**, in the heart of the ranch, yielded the most promising results. This hidden rockshelter contains the remnants of an extensive stone structural foundation and, importantly, lacks any evidence of looting. Our investigation revealed that the shelter was occupied for over 3,000 years, with significant findings from both the Late Archaic (1000 B.C.–A.D. 700) and Late Prehistoric (A.D. 700–1535) periods. A variety of perishable items were also recovered, including fireboards, basketry, and matting. Such items, which illustrate the richness of prehistoric life, are typically not preserved in open sites and, unfortunately, are all too often removed from shelters by looters.

Significant progress has also been made in researching the **history of Pinto Canyon Ranch**. With the bulk of archival research complete, the focus turns to conducting oral histories—typically the most fruitful of all historical sources. To date, 24 interviews have been conducted with an estimated dozen or more yet to go. In addition, research for two major parts of the history is nearly complete: that of the abandoned village of Pueblo Nuevo and of the locally famous Chinati Hot Springs. Papers on these topics were presented at recent CBBS conferences and an article on the latter was published in the local



*Muniz family members at Pueblo Nuevo in ca. 1956.*



*Muniz family descendants at Pueblo Nuevo in 2009.*



# Studies Research Across

literary journal, the *Cenizo*. Research will continue through the fall of 2012, with an expected publication date in 2013.

Ongoing studies at the Nature Conservancy's Independence Creek Preserve brought a CBBS crew back to the **Logan's Terrace** site along a tributary of the Pecos River. Cisco Equipment in Odessa donated the use of a backhoe to excavate a series of deep

trenches across the site. Serving as "windows" into the sub-surface deposits, these trenches revealed charcoal stains, hearth remnants, tools, and other archaeological remains as deep as 2 meters below the surface. These efforts and ensuing laboratory analysis of collected samples have provided more information about the condition and extent of this buried campsite situated in a strategic location on the eastern reaches of our study area.



*Archaeological testing at Logan's Terrace site, Independence Creek.*

The CBBS conducted its first foray into historic restoration in 2011–2012. Located roughly ten miles northeast of Dryden in Terrell County, **Camp Meyers** was a U.S. military outpost of Fort Clark occupied during the early 1880s—primarily by Black Seminole scouts and their commanding officer. Although the camp was only occupied for about four years, it retains a well preserved array of early historic artifacts and features, including ruins of a limestone building—the focal point of the camp. Stabilization of the main ruin was enthusiastically funded by landowner and Sul Ross alumnus, Thad Steele, and work commenced early in 2011 directed by research preservation specialist Pat Taylor from Mesilla, New Mexico.

Later in the spring of 2012, CBBS scientific collaborator Mark Willis conducted aerial mapping of the site with an unmanned automated vehicle (UAV). Data gathered from this drone-like aircraft generated detailed 3-D maps that will help interpret the site and guide ongoing preservation efforts.



*Stabilizing structural remains at Camp Meyers.*

Another research opportunity opened as a result of a recent invitation from Jack Skiles, owner and steward extraordinaire of the renowned multi-component site known as **Bonfire Shelter**. Last spring, Skiles guided CBBS staff on an informative tour of the site and several other important rockshelters in the immediate vicinity. Within Bonfire Shelter, archaeological excavations from the 1960s and 1980s still reveal carefully exposed layers from the past, including the remains of butchered bison thought to have been run over the cliff edge at two different times—by Late Archaic peoples ca. 2,600 years ago and by Paleoindians ca. 10,200 years ago. Of particular interest is an undated bone bed below the Paleoindian component. The CBBS is actively working with Skiles to assess the possibility of reopening a portion of this layer to search for evidence of a still earlier human presence at the site.

*—Samuel S. Cason and David W. Keller*



*Archaeological steward and site owner Jack Skiles leads a tour of Bonfire Shelter.*



# Community Outreach

Sharing the work CBBS does with the public is an important part of our mission. Below is a selection of community events in which CBBS staff members have been involved.

## Roger Boren

- ▶ presented “*The Early Archaic Cultural Period in the Eastern Trans-Pecos*” at the 88th Annual Meeting of the West Texas Historical Association in Lubbock, April 2011.
- ▶ presented “*The Black Hills Survey Revisited*” at the CBBS 18th Annual Conference, November 2011.
- ▶ presented “*The Black Hills Revisited*” at the 89th Annual Meeting of the West Texas Historical Association in Alpine, March 2012.



- ▶ presented “*The Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site*” to Texas State University System Board of Regents’ spouses, August 2011.

## Sam Cason

- ▶ presented “*Coming Up from the Canyons: An Overview of CBBS Archaeological Investigations on the Pinto Canyon Ranch, Past and Present*” at the CBBS 18th Annual Conference, November 2011.
- ▶ presented “*An Introduction to Archaeology with An Emphasis on West Texas*” to students of Marfa Elementary, March 2012.
- ▶ performed cleanup at the Millington site with students, April 2012.
- ▶ presented an archaeology program for elementary students at the Museum of the Big Bend, September 2012.



- ▶ presented “*The Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site*” to the Retired Teachers of Brewster County, September 2011.



- ▶ presented “*The Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site*” to the Alpine Kiwanis Club and the Alpine Lions Club, October 2011.
- ▶ presented “*The Late Prehistoric Period in the Big Bend*” to the Alpine Kiwanis Club, October 2011.

## Susan Chisholm

- ▶ was a judge for the Big Bend Regional History Fair in Alpine, February 2012.

## Andy Cloud

- ▶ assisted with a field video at the Genevieve Lykes Duncan site for the TPWD Lone Star Land Steward Award, April 2011.

- ▶ presented “*Removing the Shroud of Mystery: Archaeology in the Big Bend*” to the general public at the Grace Museum in Abilene and to Abilene High School biology students, October 2011.

- ▶ gave a field tour of the Genevieve Lykes Duncan site to ranch owners and associates, November 2011.

- ▶ gave a radio interview on the “*Sound of Texas*” with Tumbleweed Smith, November 2011.

- ▶ presented “*The Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site: An 11,000-Year-Old Paleoindian Occupation in the Big Bend*” to the general public at Front Street Books in Alpine, November 2011.

- ▶ presented “*Paleoindians in the Big Bend: Preliminary Investigations at the Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site*” at the CBBS 18th Annual Conference, November 2011.

- ▶ presented “*Big Bend Prehistory and Findings at the Nine Point Mesa Ranch*” to ranch owners and friends, January 2012.

- ▶ presented “*Paleoindians in the Big Bend: Preliminary Investigations at the Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site, O2 Ranch, Brewster County*” at the Texas Academy of Science meeting in Alpine, March 2012.

- ▶ presented “*Buried Paleoindian Occupations in the Big Bend of Texas: The Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site*” to the Geological Society of America South-Central Section Meeting in Alpine, March 2012.

- ▶ presented “*Buried Paleoindian Occupations in the Big Bend of Texas: The Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site*” at the “Alpine-in-Austin” meeting in Pflugerville, March 2012.

- ▶ presented “*Buried Paleoindian Occupations in the Big Bend of Texas: The Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site*” to Sierra Club members, April 2012.

- ▶ presented to the “*Lady in Blue*” group from Spain, July 2012.

- ▶ presented and gave a field tour to the Texas Master Naturalists, August 2012.

## Andy Cloud and Roger Boren

- ▶ gave a field tour of San Esteban Rockshelter to Alpine ISD Science Camp, June 2011.



- ▶ gave a field tour of San Esteban Rockshelter to the Texas Historical Foundation board members, July 2011.





## Andy Cloud and Bob Mallouf

- ▶ gave a field tour of the Genevieve Lykes Duncan site to family of the landowners, May 2011.



## Reeda Peel Fleming

- ▶ was the symposium organizer for “*Low Tech to High Tech: Wide Ranging Efforts to Preserve Trans-Pecos Rock Art*” at the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society meeting in Fort Worth; she also presented “*Rock Art Recording Efforts in the Texas Trans-Pecos*” at that meeting, October 2011.
- ▶ presented “*Bee Cave-Black Hills Project: Searching for Cultural and Temporal Patterns*” at the CBBS 18th Annual Conference, November 2011.
- ▶ presented “*Tracking Miniature Zoomorphic Pictographs through the Eastern Trans-Pecos*” at the 89th Annual Conference of the West Texas Historical Association in Alpine, March 2012.
- ▶ presented “*Tracking Tiny Zoomorphs across the Eastern Trans-Pecos*” to the Alpine Senior Circle, May 2012.
- ▶ presented “*Meyers Spring: Images of Native American and Spanish Cultural Exchange*” to the Big Bend Arts Council, May 2012.
- ▶ presented “*Meyers Spring: Images of Native American and Spanish Cultural Exchange*” at Meyers Spring to the Rock Art Foundation, May 2012.



## Bobby Gray

- ▶ presented “*A Synopsis of Over Ten Years of Research on the O2 Ranch, Brewster and Presidio Counties, Texas*” at the CBBS 18th Annual Conference, November 2011.

## Jamie Hampson

(CBBS Research Associate)

- ▶ presented “*Meaning and Motivation: West Texas Rock Art Through Time*” at Art and Archaeology Group, University of Cambridge, England, November 2011.
- ▶ presented “*Contested Images: Rock Art, Landscape, and Identity in West Texas and Beyond*” at the North American Archaeological Research Group Inaugural Symposium, University of Cambridge, England, February 2012.
- ▶ presented “*Contested Heritage: Rock Art and Identity in National Parks*” at the Art Makes Society Session of the Society for American Archaeologists Conference, Memphis, April 2012.

## David Keller

- ▶ presented “*The Search for Paleoindians in the Big Bend*” at the 88th Annual Meeting of the West Texas Historical Association in Lubbock, April 2011.
- ▶ presented “*Taming the Healing Waters: A History of the Chinati Hot Springs*” and “*Images of America: Alpine*” at the CBBS 18th Annual Conference, November 2011.
- ▶ presented “*Albin Odell, Early Homesteader in Pinto Canyon*” at the Odell Family Reunion in Fort Davis, July 2012.



## Bob Mallouf

- ▶ presented “*The Big Bend Past*” at Persimmon Gap Ranch to a select group, September 2011.

- ▶ gave a site tour at the Pinto Canyon Ranch to guests of the landowner, October 2011.
- ▶ presented “*Paleoindians in the Big Bend: Preliminary Investigations at the Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site, O2 Ranch*” at the CBBS 18th Annual Conference, November 2011.
- ▶ presented “*Archaeological Research and Private Land Ownership*” to the general public at the Menil Foundation and Fine Arts Museum in Houston, November 2011.
- ▶ presented “*An Overview of Past Paleoindian Research in the Big Bend*” and “*A Historical Perspective on the Search for Paleoindians in the Big Bend*” at the Geological Society of America South-Central Section Meeting, March 2012.
- ▶ presented “*The Livermore Phase: Lifeways and Ritualism*” to ranch owners and guests at the Livermore Ranch, March 2012.
- ▶ presented “*Ritual Lifeways of the Late Prehistoric Livermore Culture*” at the Texas State University System meeting of vice presidents and facility directors, July 2012.

## Andrea Ohl

- ▶ presented “*Middle Archaic People of Eastern Trans-Pecos Texas: Their Life and Times 2500–1000 B.C.*” at the CBBS 18th Annual Conference, November 2011.

## Richard Walter

- ▶ presented “*The Elusive Calf Creek Culture in the Big Bend*” at the 88th Annual Meeting of the West Texas Historical Association in Lubbock, April 2011.
- ▶ presented “*The Center for Big Bend Studies Feature Recovery Program: An Ongoing Study of Feature Variability in the Big Bend*” at the CBBS 18th Annual Conference, November 2011.
- ▶ presented “*Las Apacheria de los Despo-blado*” at the 89th Annual Conference of the West Texas Historical Association meeting in Alpine, March 2012.
- ▶ presented “*Archaeological Investigations at the Fulcher Site Located Along the Lower Reaches of Terlingua Creek*” and “*Excavations at the Paired Feature Site, Pecos County, Texas*” at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies in Iran, April 2012.

## CBBS Staff

- ▶ participated in the Texas Department of Transportation’s Adopt-A-Highway Program.



# M

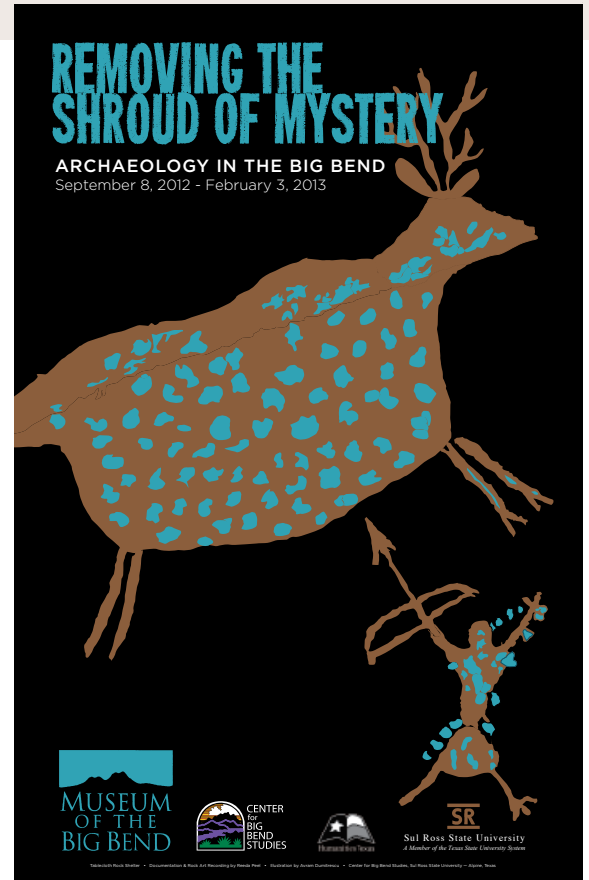
# useum of The Big Bend News

## Removing the Shroud of Mystery: Archaeology in the Big Bend

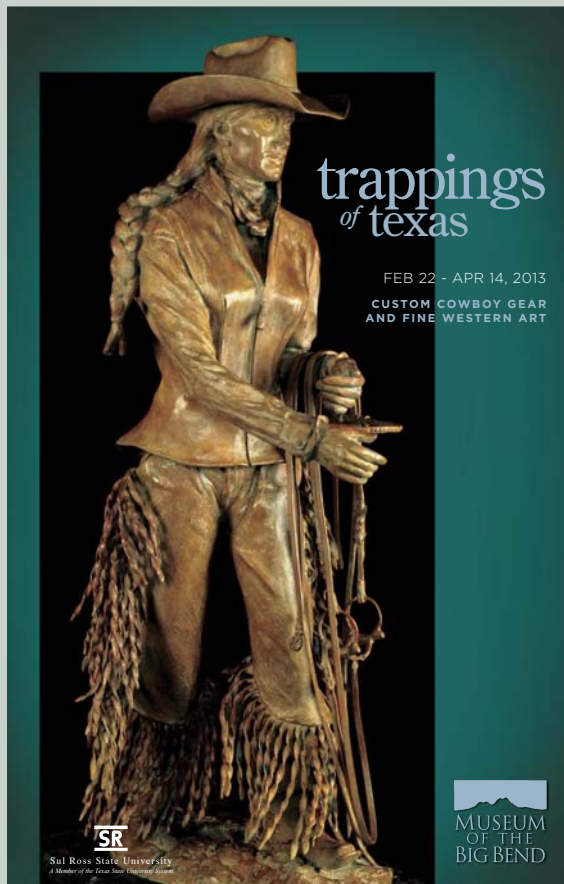
On September 8, the Museum of the Big Bend in partnership with the Center for Big Bend Studies and Humanities Texas, opened the highly anticipated exhibit, "Removing the Shroud of Mystery: Archaeology in the Big Bend."

Found across the vast Big Bend region of Texas are clues left behind that help tell the story of some of the "First Texans." Our oldest archaeological sites have been traced back more than 10,000 years; they tell us about people with complex cultures that adapted to centuries of changing environments, climates, and resources in a diverse and rugged landscape. Since they left no written record for us to decipher and study, our understanding of this past relies on the scientific study of what these early peoples left behind—tools, shelters, remnants of their daily lives and artwork.

Based on work at La Junta de los Rios and at sites from across the region, the centerpiece of the exhibit features a life-size, three-dimensional hypothetical model of an excavation at a site dating to between 4500 B.C. and A.D. 1500. In addition, the exhibit explores Native American rock art in the Big Bend, and other intriguing pieces of the region's archaeological record.



The exhibit will run from September 8, 2012, through the end of January 2013. Museum hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free, although donations are welcome. For more information, please contact Museum Curator, Mary Bones at [maryb@sulross.edu](mailto:maryb@sulross.edu) or 432-837-8734.



## Trappings of Texas

Come join the MoBB as we celebrate the 27th Annual Trappings of Texas Custom Cowboy Gear & Fine Western Art Exhibit & Sale on February 22–23, 2013. Opening night is considered the best party in the Big Bend where good food, music, and art come together. The next morning, better than a wild west shootout is the Trappings Auction where steals and deals can be made! For opening night tickets and further information, call 432-837-8143 or email [nacosta@sulross.edu](mailto:nacosta@sulross.edu).

**MoBB Membership Opportunities**—please visit the museum website at [www.sulross.edu/museum](http://www.sulross.edu/museum).

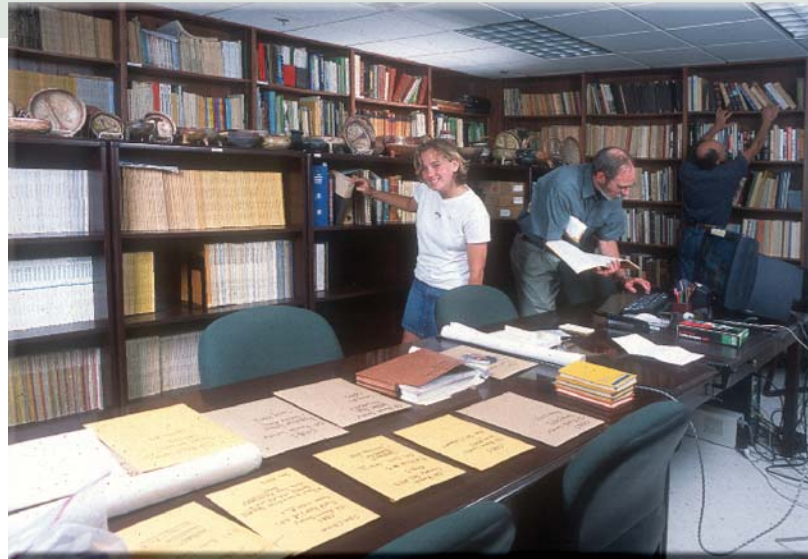


# The J. Charles and Ellen A. Kelley Memorial Library

The J. Charles Kelley Memorial Library was dedicated in 2001 soon after the CBBS moved into its renovated offices in Ferguson Hall. Subsequent to J. Charles Kelley's passing in 1997, a collection of over 4,000 volumes was donated by Ellen A. Kelley, forming the core of the new library. This collection included volumes in the disciplines of archaeology, cultural anthropology, ethno-history, and history. Many of these are rare, out-of-print publications covering some of the most important scientific work conducted in the Southwestern United States and Mexico.

Enhancing the Kelley donation are three additional donated collections, comprising more than 1,000 volumes. These donations include the Leslie and Helen Davis collection, the John and Carrol Hedrick collection, and the Linda Cordell collection. In addition, new volumes are continuously being added to the library through subscription service and donations. Others including CBBS personnel, Bob Mallouf and Andrea Ohl, have donated portions of their personal libraries. A complete set of topographic maps covering the eastern Trans-Pecos region and beyond are also housed in the library. The CBBS library is not a lending library; however, it is available and open to students and researchers for on-site use during regular office hours.

Ellen Abbott Kelley joined the staff of CBBS in 1997. From that time, Ellen shouldered the immense task of organizing the library which she maintained until her untimely death in the fall of 2011. Maintenance of the library, considering the continual inflow of new volumes, was a relentless task requiring constant reorganizational efforts. Early in 2011, Ellen began an all-out initiative to reorganize and re-catalog the entire library. Unfortunately, Ellen was not able to see this effort through to fruition. Employees of CBBS are picking up



the mantle in an effort to complete this probable multi-year project.

During Ellen's tenure at CBBS, it was not possible to walk into the library without her asking, "What can I do to help you?" Ellen would usually walk directly to the exact shelf where the particular volume you needed was hiding. We, the employees here at CBBS, are finding it very difficult to cope without our beloved Ellen directing our library searches.

In order to recognize Ellen's many years of dedicated service, the Center for Big Bend Studies has the honor of rededicating the library as the J. Charles and Ellen A. Kelley Memorial Library. A new plaque to this effect has been placed just outside the library entrance.

—Roger Boren

## In Memory of Ellen Abbott Kelley

Ellen Abbott Kelley, 78, died October 9, 2011, at her home outside of Fort Davis.

Ellen was born January 8, 1933, in Carbondale, Ill., to Hazel and Talbert Abbott. She graduated from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in 1955 with a B.A. degree in geography and earned an M.A. in anthropology at Southern Illinois University (SIU) in 1960. She joined the faculty/staff of SIU as an instructor in the University Museum and Department of Anthropology. Ellen was promoted to assistant professor in the University Museum and Curator of Collections (later, curator of Mesoamerican Collections) and was supervisor of the Museum Research Laboratory until 1978. She was active in archaeological fieldwork from

*(Continued on pg. 14)*







*La Vista de la Frontera* is the annual newsletter of the Center for Big Bend Studies of Sul Ross State University. Address correspondence to the Editor, Center for Big Bend Studies, Box C-71, Alpine, TX 79832, or [cbbs@sulross.edu](mailto:cbbs@sulross.edu).

Editing by William A. Cloud and Susan Chisholm.  
Graphic design by Letitia Wetterauer.

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### Mission

The Center for Big Bend Studies fosters interdisciplinary scholarship of the diverse prehistoric, historic, and modern cultures of the borderlands region of the United States and Mexico, with emphasis on the area encompassed by Trans-Pecos Texas and north-central Mexico. The Center is committed to the recovery, protection, and sharing of this region's rich cultural legacy through dynamic programs involving research, education, public outreach, and publication.

**Volume 23, Fall 2012**  
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*An Update on the Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site, continued from page 2.*

we learn will help in interpreting the next round of geophysical data recovered from the site.



*Probable surface on right associated with 11,000-year-old hearth.*

If one was to have walked across the surface of the Genevieve Lykes Duncan site ten years ago, prior to its exposure in a recent arroyo, they would have seen little evidence of what lay buried and preserved beneath the mesquite-choked landscape. Our investigation has revealed that during at least one flood event over 4,000 years ago, the main stem of Terlingua Creek carved its way into the Late Paleoindian deposits at the site and carried unknown scientific treasures downstream to be broadly dispersed. Luckily, the creek then retreated back across the valley and never returned, leaving the remaining vestiges of this precious archaeological record intact for our discovery. We have already learned a great deal about the early inhabitants from this record and only time will tell what other secrets will come to light from our larger excavation.

—William A. Cloud

*In Memory of Ellen Abbott Kelley, continued from page 13.*

1952 until 1994 at various locations and sites including the Illinois River Valley; the Cache River Valley of southern Illinois; Canada de Cochiti just off the Cochiti Indian Reservation in New Mexico; the Schroeder Site outside Durango, Mexico; and Alta Vista outside Chalchihuites, Mexico. Ellen married J. Charles Kelley, director of the University Museum and professor of anthropology at SIU in 1966. They worked as a research team for 30 years, studying the Chalchihuites culture of northern Mexico.

The Kelleys moved to Fort Davis in 1977 when J. Charles retired from SIU. They became affiliated with Sul Ross State University and continued active research in northern Mexico and the Trans-Pecos area of Texas. Ellen joined the staff of the Center for Big Bend Studies (CBBS) of Sul Ross State University when J. Charles died in 1997. She continued to work at the CBBS until her death.

Ellen was a member of Sigma Xi and the Society for American Archaeology. She co-authored many books and professional articles, and presented numerous research papers at professional meetings. She was passionate and knowledgeable about her work with a special love for ceramic analysis of the Chalchihuites Culture. In 2007, Mexico dedicated an archeological museum named the J. Charles Kelley and Ellen Abbott Kelley Museum in the state of Zacatecas at the Alta Vista site near Chalchihuites, Mexico. Ellen was again honored for her work in Mexico in 2011.

# Thank You!

The CBBS extends heartfelt thanks to those foundations and individuals who have provided support since the 2011 edition of *La Vista de la Frontera* was published. *All contributors* are greatly appreciated! *Special thanks* are extended to the largest contributors: The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston; the Coypu Foundation; the Wayne and Jo Ann Moore Charitable Foundation; the Joan and Herb Kelleher Foundation; the Alfred S. Gage Foundation; Jeff Fort; Cameron and Susan Duncan; Genevieve Duncan; J. P. and Mary Jon Bryan; Thad Steele; George Canon; Edgar and Linda Duncan; Dr. Iris Korus; and an anonymous donor through the Orange County Community Foundation.

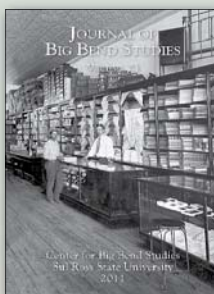


# CBBS Store

## Journal 23 now on sale

Volume 23 of the Journal of Big Bend Studies is now available. We also have some of our more popular journals listed below. The abstracts can be read on our website, [www.sulross.edu/cbbs/](http://www.sulross.edu/cbbs/).

\$15



front

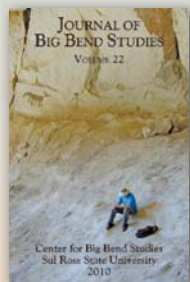
back

## CBBS T-Shirts

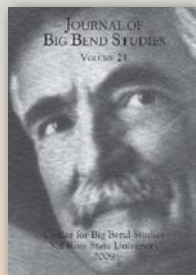
Featuring rock art from the Big Bend's Tablecloth Rockshelter, the CBBS t-shirts were designed by our former graphic illustrator, Avram Dumitrescu, and are produced in Alpine, Texas. Available in green or khaki, adult sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL and youth sizes S, M, and L.

\$15 each

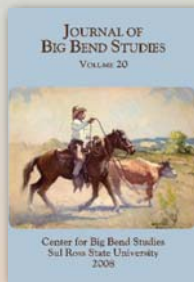
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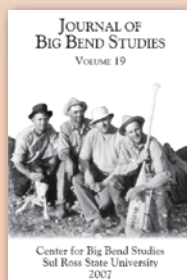
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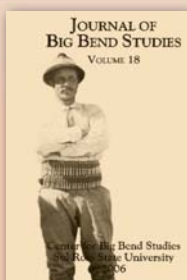
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JBBS 20



JBBS 19



JBBS 18

## CBBS Notecards

A detail from Tablecloth Rockshelter, recorded by Reeda Peel, and a stunning photograph by Andy Cloud are now available on postcards and notecards. \$1 per postcard (\$8 for a pack of 10), \$2 per notecard (\$18 for a pack of 10). Contact Susan Chisholm at (432) 837-8179 to place an order.



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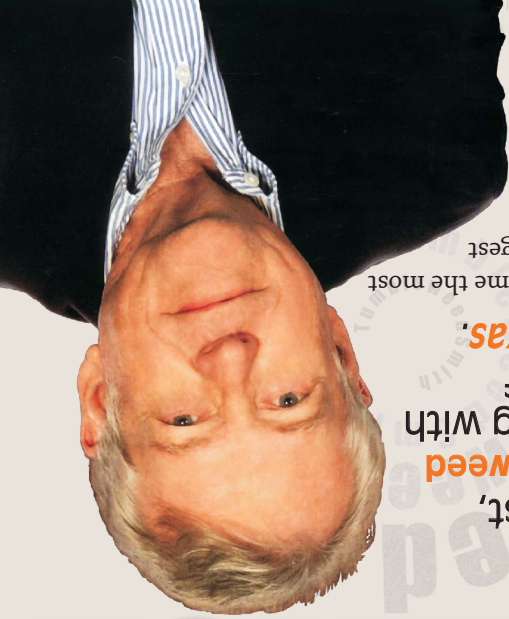


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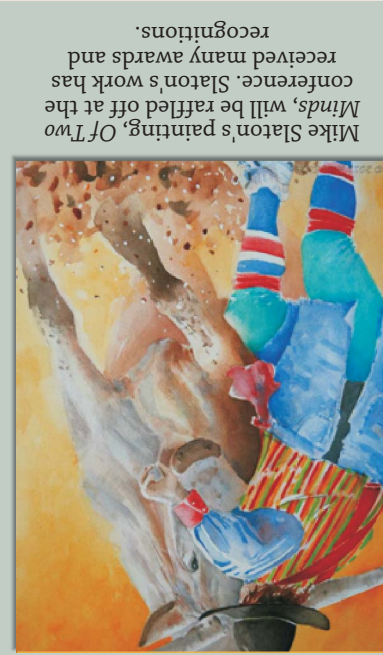


Tumbleweed Smith began his daily radio program, *The Sound of Texas*, in 1969. It went on to become the most widely syndicated feature program in Texas. In the show's 40-plus years, he has developed the largest independent collection of oral history in the United States with a library of more than 10,000 interviews. He shares his passion and entertains through speaking engagements and his three stage plays: *Texas Stories*, *Mountain Voices*, and *Natural Born Storytellers*. He has performed live all over Texas and in six other states and three foreign countries. His honors include two CLIO advertising awards, the governor's award for tourism, the West Texas Chamber of Commerce Cultural Achievement Award, two Telly Statuettes, and two Freedoms Foundation Awards.

This year's banquet speaker is folklorist, historian, and radio producer, **Tumbleweed Smith**. Smith keeps audiences laughing with timeless relevant humor and voices of personalities from his radio documentaries, *The Sound of Texas*.

November 9-10

# Center for Big Bend Studies 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Mike Slaton's painting, *Of Two Minds*, will be raffled off at the conference. Slaton's work has received many awards and recognitions.

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