

The Newsletter of Lubbock Lake Landmark
Fall 2002

in this issue:

- inside and out
- fall programs
- regional research program
- education news
- volunteer!



Notes from the field . . .

Historic Maintenance

Work continues on improvements to the Landmark's trails and landscapes. More brush has been hauled away - nearly 70 tons! - and invasive mesquite trees are currently undergoing herbicide treatments in preparation for prescribed burning scheduled for February of 2003. This controlled burn will clear out thatch, residue, and any remaining debris on the southern portion of the Landmark. The Landmark's size (300 plus acres) and unpredictable West Texas weather patterns make prescribed burning a delicate operation. I will take several years and an coordinated burn plan to cover all of the landmark's acreage.

We have had some success with our wildflower plantings along the new trail and in several groomed beds this summer. Blackfoot daisy, Tahoka daisy, sunflowers, Indian blanket, and purple coneflower created beautiful blooms and are mixed with side oats grama, blue grama, and big and little bluestem grasses. Additionally, two native tree species, desert willow and native walnut, are enjoying new homes in our groomed beds. Many thanks go to Scott Trevey and his staff, Brent Conrad, Pam Byrd, and Jay Mendoza for their hard work this past year.

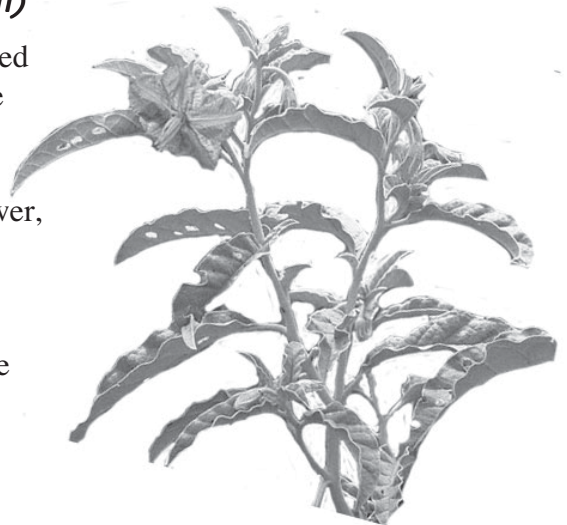
Wildflower trail construction is continuing; 328 modules is a lot to build, and here is your opportunity to help out! Modules are 6' x 8' platforms constructed of treated lumber and Trex®, a composite material made from used stretch film (also known as pallet wrap or bundling film) along with waste wood materials.

**The next trail building day is scheduled for Saturday, October 19 from 9AM to 3PM.
Volunteers are asked to bring a cordless electric drill with them if they have one.
Please call 806-742-1116 to register you and your friends.**

Species Spotlight:

Silverleaf Nightshade (*Solanum Elaeagnifolium*)

Silver leaf nightshade, a native specimen to the United States, grows to average heights of 12 to 28 inches tall. The flower for this species of nightshade is violet with yellow centers, and they can grow up to an inch in diameter. Although the silver leaf nightshade has a rare and delicate flower, its stems have tiny numerous thorns. So if you are trying to weed them out of your flower beds, remember to wear your gloves! Silver leaf nightshade can be found on roadsides, pastures, farm fields, and barren caliche plots throughout the Southern High Plains of Texas. Native Americans used the tomato like berries off of the silver leaf nightshade as an ingredient to make cheese. This particular berry has been known to be very toxic to livestock. Another specimen of deadly nightshade is Jimson Weed. All parts of jimson weed are highly toxic to humans if consumed.



Celebration Family Days 2002

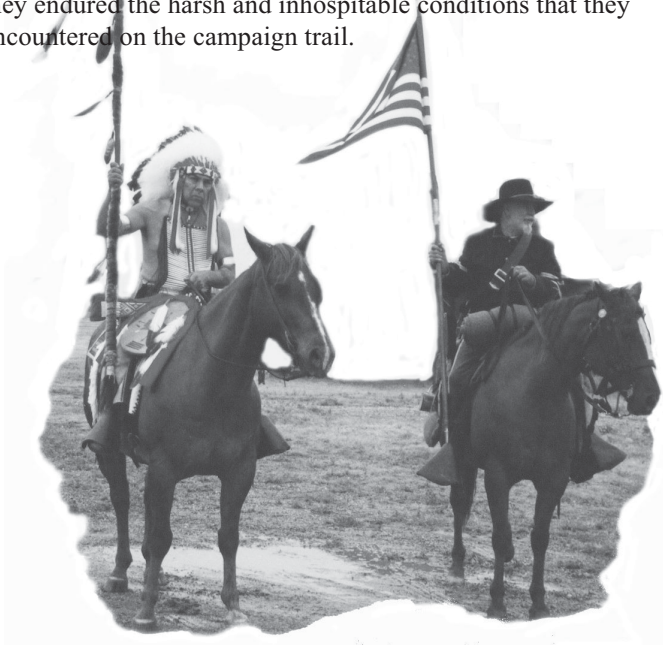
10AM-4PM, October 12 & 1-5PM, October 13

A Contrast of the Horse Soldiers of the Red River War of 1874

written and performed by
Jimmy Northcutt and Billy Turpin
Saturday & Sunday at 2 PM

The Red River War of 1874 was a defining moment in the history of western Texas and the nation. It marked the virtual extinction of the southern herd of buffalo, the final subjugation of the powerful tribes on the Southern Plains, and consequently the opening of the Texas Panhandle to white settlement. The advent of the ranching era followed swiftly.

Jimmy Northcutt and Billy Turpin (Muscogee) present the story of the Red River War from different perspectives, those of Cavalry soldier and Southern Plains Indian, with the goal of developing awareness and respect for the Native American way of life on the Southern Plains and that of the horse soldiers of the US Cavalry as they endured the harsh and inhospitable conditions that they encountered on the campaign trail.



Lively Demonstrations

Native American lifeways • flintknapping
• traditional cooking • storytelling
• Navajo & Spanish-style weaving

Family Fun Activities

beading • basket making
textile weaving • spear throwing
and more!!

Storytelling

with Eldrena Douma

Saturday at 10:30 AM, 12:30 & 3 PM

Sunday at 1:30, 3 & 4 PM

A Pueblo Indian, Eldrena Douma's experience as a storyteller began in her youth on both the Laguna and Hopi reservations. There, she listened to family members and tribal elders tell their stories and histories of their people and how they struggled to survive. Through her *Siya* (grandmother in Tewa), Eldrena gained a more personal appreciation for the oral traditions of telling stories and folktales. Today, Eldrena travels throughout the United States telling her well researched stories, as well as stories from her vivid imagination to audiences young and old.

Guided Tours of the Landmark

Groups of 10 or more: two weeks advance scheduling required. Call 806-742-2456.

Girl Scout Programs - call the Caprock Council office at 806-745-2855

South Plains Archeological Society Meetings

Sundays at 2:30 PM

October 6, November 3, December 1, 2002, January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, 2003

Continuing Archaeological Research

Field work began in early May this year. The Lubbock Lake Landmark regional research crew started the season at the San Jon site in eastern New Mexico. San Jon is a multi-component stratified site located within an ancient playa basin. Situated at the edge of the Southern High Plains, a breach in the Caprock led to significant erosion of the San Jon playa. The action of water over the last 2,000 years carved a number of deep canyons through the basin. This process exposed the stratified sediments of the playa's edge and offered archaeologists a view of what lay buried. Archaeologists in the 1940s first discovered remains of extinct bison and distinct stemmed lanceolate projectile points (now named after the site) together in a lower layer of mud. The Landmark's crew returned to the site in the late 1990s to reexamine some of the areas explored by the initial investigators. Comprehensive survey of the basin and rim of the playa revealed numerous activity areas on the surface and buried within the sediments.

A particularly interesting activity area at the edge of the ancient playa has been the focus of excavations over the last five years. Digging has uncovered debris from camping activities, including stone flakes from tool-making and numerous broken bison bones left behind from subsistence activities. Charcoal recovered from this feature, probably from a nearby hearth or fire pit, submitted for radiocarbon determinations has returned dates of 8,000 years ago. The age of the occupation is exciting as sites from this time, the Early Archaic period (8,500-6,300 B.P.), are relatively rare occurrences on the Southern High Plains. The data the crew continues to gather during excavations substantially increase what is known about this time period. Previous interpretations have assumed that the peoples of the Southern High Plains abandoned the region during this period due to the increasingly arid conditions. However, evidence from the Landmark, and now the San Jon site, are beginning to tell a different story.

In June, the Lubbock Lake Landmark regional research crew returned to Lubbock to work at different sites within Yellowhouse Draw. Excavations continued at Area 13B within the Landmark where a number of features, primarily bison kill/processing

activity areas, are found stratified with stratum 5. Stratum 5 is the most recent (deposited within the last 1,000 years) geologic layer at the Landmark and in the valley axis consists usually of marshy sediments. Excavations in Area 13B this season have concentrated on exposing more of the lowermost feature in stratum 5, a dense concentration of bison bone and caliche that forms a pavement. This feature (FA13B-2) represents butchering activities that occurred over 800 years ago. The identification of numerous cut and blow marks on bone surfaces as well as intentionally broken bones opened for the extraction of marrow are found throughout the feature. A number of lithic tools also testify to the presence of humans and their butchering activities. Numerous bison bones, as well as an antelope vertebra, have been recovered this season. The five units excavated are in a trench that connected previously excavated units. This trench has allowed for a cross-sectional view of the valley axis in the unit walls.

Downstream from the Landmark, archaeological testing was carried out at Fiesta Plaza, and in Mackenzie Park. At Fiesta Plaza archaeological testing involved geologic coring, mechanical trenching, and hand-excavated units. Some of the trenches were dug below the local water table. The use of several pumps exposed the lower stratigraphy commonly seen at the Landmark, including strata 1, 2, and 3. Archaeological materials were recovered from strata 5 and 4. Although artifacts were not numerous, evidence pointed to occupations at the site spanning the last few thousand years. In Mackenzie Park, the same testing methodology as at Fiesta Plaza was employed and the same stratigraphy as at the Landmark exposed. Below water table testing yielded evidence of a potential bison kill/butchering locality within stratum 2 of the valley axis. Hand-excavated units along the edge of the valley margin located archaeological materials in stratum 5. Among the more interesting finds were numerous bricks that formed a patio, most likely built by the CCC in the 1930s. Research on city land is a joint venture between the Museum of Texas Tech University and the City of Lubbock.

Volunteer Profiles:

Volunteer Profiles is a regular feature in Notes from the field. Our staff is very diverse; their contributions help sustain our vision and we'd like you to get to know them better!

L.H. "Curly" Bunting

Curly Bunting has volunteered as a docent for four years. It's evident that students enjoy him as much as he enjoys spending time with them. Before you get to know Curly in his own words, here are some comments from a fifth grade class he recently did a program for:

Dear Curly,
I really liked your presentation . . . I thought it was thoughtful of you to become a volunteer, and you don't even get paid.

Dear Curly Bunting,
... I was really excited about going on the field trip but then I thought what if we get a tour guide that is boring. Then when I saw everyone and read their name I came to one that said Curly and I was wondering why is his name Curly? The I thought I hope we get him to be our tour guide. . . . What I'm trying to say is thank you for giving us a tour. I really enjoyed it. Next time I go there I'll ask them for you.

My full name is Lawrence Howard "Curly" Bunting. I answer to any of these plus sometimes "Sarge". The "Curly" was picked up more than thirty years ago after an incident in which two or three buddies and I referred to ourselves as "stooges", and not to my lack of locks. These various names were often confusing to my kids when someone asked for me on the phone years ago.

I was born in Mercedes, Texas, in 1935 (that's in the lower Rio Grande valley). I've been told that I spent my first Christmas in Lubbock. I spent most of the next 15 years on farms around San Angelo, except for about three years during World War II which was spent near Freeport and Lake Jackson. I graduated from high school in Goldthwaite, class of '53. I attended Tarleton State College for a year. Then money was low and grades not much higher, so I entered the Air Force after Christmas of 1954.

I spent eight years in the Air Force, leaving in December 1962. Mid 1955 until mid 1959 was spent at Reese AFB. I married Shirley, of Lubbock, in January of 1959. The next 33 years were courtesy of the Lubbock Police Department, joining in 1963 and retiring in 1996. The first 12 years at LPD was in Traffic (accident investigation), a couple of years as a Patrol Corporal, and the last 19 as a Patrol Sergeant.

I have one son, three daughters, and nine grandchildren. I do some gardening and model railroading, and am a member of the Lubbock Model Railroad Association. I walk with Shirley. We do some camping, and I have been a park host for Texas Parks and Wildlife. I very much enjoy my time spent at Lubbock Lake Landmark.

Get Connected!

Lubbock Lake Landmark is dedicated to creating programs and an environment that provide significant and creative experiences for all learners. Volunteers play a critical role in that experience. Their enthusiasm, expertise, and commitment to the Landmark and the community make visits enjoyable and memorable.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering at Lubbock Lake Landmark, call us at 806-742-1116, or email lubbock.lake@ttu.edu.

- Opportunities are available to serve in the areas of public programs, information services, trail and landscape maintenance, and in the archaeology laboratory.
- Hours are flexible to fit your schedule.
- Many positions are trained on-the-job.
- Public program volunteers must complete a 20-hour training course.

The true strength of the Landmark is in its commitment to community participation - come and get involved!

Notes from the field....

Museum of Texas Tech University
Lubbock Lake Landmark
Box 43191
Lubbock, TX 79409-3191

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lubbock, Texas
Permit #719



Visitor Information

Bob Nash Interpretive Center

- Exhibition Galleries
- Featured Gallery:
 Coming Soon!
 Landmark Biodiversity Through Time
- Learning Center
- Landmark Gift Shop

Sculpture Garden

- Ancient Bison • Giant Armadillo
- Short-Faced Bear • Columbian Mammoth

Hiking Trails

- One-half mile Archaeology Trail
- Three-mile Nature Trail

Location: 2401 Landmark Drive
(at North Loop 289 & Clovis Hwy)

Hours: 9-5 Tuesday-Saturday,
1-5 Sunday
Closed Monday

Program Information: (806) 742-1116
Tour Reservations: (806) 742-2456

<http://www.ttu.edu/~museum/lll/index.html>

The Landmark's on-going educational programs are designed to increase community awareness of, and appreciation for, history, archaeology, indigenous lifeways, natural history, and the environment.

Contributors to this issue of
Notes from the field . . .
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