

## LAGUNA ARTIFACTS 123003

Bob McWilliams of the Texas Amateur Archeological Association sent out an email on Monday to advise members of a Tuesday artifact hunt at the Laguna site near Uvalde. I was able to weasel a day out of work by capitalizing on my boss' holiday spirit, so I was the first one on site Tuesday morning at daylight.

And a cold morning it was! I dropped down into a trench with the new hand trowel I got for Christmas and got to work. I began finding the most flint flakes about 18-24 inches below the surface, and this encouragement helped me to ignore the cold creeping up from my toes. Soon I found a point jutting out of the wall, and it made satisfying KA-CHINK! as it hit the bottom of my bucket. It looked a bit like a Kinney point with a little tip damage and the base knocked off. It was soon followed by a large, rough scraper and a broken base.

Bob's business partner, Ike Postell, was the next person on site. Leighton Weir and friends and family showed up next, followed by Gary Cunningham, with whom I shared a screen for the day. There were 6 of us members in total. Gary proved to be quite an amiable guy, and quite a talker as well. As a matter of fact, he was so comfortable telling stories, I did more listening than talking for a change. As a carpenter, flint knapper, photographer, and occasional movie extra, he recounted experiences through the day.

Back to the task at hand. Fortunately Gary preferred to aggressively work the screen just as I do. Therefore 2 of us could sift through a several hundred pound load of dirt in 20-30 minutes. I figure the only thing I have control of during these outings is my own motivation level, so I tend to work fast to reap the most for my time and money spent afield.

The going was slow until after lunch. Still, I managed to grab a small triangular bird point and a nice Lajitas point while Leighton Weir snagged a perfect little Friday blade.

Around 2 or 3 o'clock Ike got into some productive dirt which had a high concentration of midden rock. Artifacts began jumping out at us from then on. On one load, I got 2 halves and one whole, albeit rough, blade. Then Leighton got a nice, big Kinney point, and I followed suit with a smaller Kinney. Gary soon turned up 2 nice points, followed by my big Pedernales. See Figure 1.



**FIGURE 1:** My best finds of the day. Scrapers center and bottom left and right, Pedernales left center, Lajitas 11 o'clock, unidentified bird point top center, Kinney point 2 o'clock, rough intact blade right center



**FIGURE 2:** Some of the better partials. I almost cried over the broken base tang, center

We finished the dig around 5:30, shook hands, and parted ways, all of us satisfied with multiple intact finds. We all found broken blades was well. Mine are shown in Figure 2. At one point I spotted a large blade emanating from a base in the dirt...when I grabbed it, there was a huge chunk missing from an otherwise awesome base tang! How cruel!