

January 2003 Volume 23 Number 1

Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

President's Message

People dislike two things – change and uncertainty. That being the case, URARA members must be a grumpy bunch, because we are changing and our future isn't totally defined right now. Because of becoming a non-profit organization, not only are we changing from an Executive Committee to a Board of Directors, we are not yet entirely sure what will take place next year. But one thing is certain, yours truly is president for 2003. That in itself will bring change – I will not edit *Vestiges* for the year, that obligation will fall to Dorde Woodruff.

That said, let me update all of you on what has taken place since the highly successful St. George symposium. The membership voted at the symposium to change from an Executive Committee form of government, in which the general membership elects the officers, to a Board of Directors form of leadership, under which board members elect the officers. Normally the new president begins organizing the following year right after the election in the fall, and introduces a calendar of events for the coming year. That all usually happens before the new year starts.

This year the old Executive Committee was left with lots to do before it disappeared, and the new Board found itself with lots to do, but it wasn't clear to all, from the new bylaws, when their jurisdiction started. Several meetings were held to "do something" about the coming year, but both groups felt somewhat constrained and confused. Finally, the new Board met just after Christmas and elected me as president, Dorothy Lynn as secretary, and Troy Scotter as treasurer. Nina Bowen was subsequently voted in as vice president by phone vote.

The other important action taken by the Board was to select a location and date for the 2003 symposium. It will be held in Green River over the Columbus Day weekend, October 11-13. It's been eight years since we last met in Green River, and there are dozens of great rock art sites to visit in the Green River, Price, and San Rafael Swell areas, and several local members willing to help with details. We want this symposium to tie in with the important subject of Range Creek.

After much thought and contemplation since my election, I've set several goals for this year and they all need your support and cooperation to accomplish.

We need more people involved in URARA activities. We can only move forward if you, the membership, help and support the group. Remembering this, we are asking for members to volunteer for several committees. They include: Conservation and Preservation, Field Trips, Membership, Monthly Meetings, Publications (Proceedings and Patina), Symposium, and *Vestiges*. If you would like to help, please contact me.

Dorde Woodruff was elected by the Board of Directors to fill Barbara Green's position on the Board. Barbara attended one board meeting, and felt she didn't have enough experience with URARA to be knowledgeable about the issues.

Nancy Mason will chair the Field Trips Committee. She did an excellent job last year on the same committee, and knows how to organize a successful field trip. She has several ideas for trips this year, but needs volunteers to lead trips. If you would like to lead a trip, please contact her or me. Nancy's phone number is 303-459-3397. There will not be a formal field trip in January but they will start in February. I hope there will be some months where there will be two or

more trips from which to choose. I believe the more the merrier, especially since some trips will have limited registration.

Craig Bowen, a member of the Board of Directors, agreed to take Jerry Dean's place as publication distribution chair. Gerry Dean has had the job since George Washington was in the White House, and needs a break and a big pat on the back. He has done an excellent job in a position not too many people seek. Thanks Gerry!

Craig and his wife Nina also need a big thanks for helping implement the current changes. Nina retains much of the corporate memory for the group and has a great grasp on what has worked in the past and what hasn't. She also guides the Board's direction by remembering what is in the new bylaws. I'm not sure what we would do without her. Thanks Nina!

Finally, the job of URARA President can't be done by one person – it takes the entire group. We've come to view the president as more of an organizer and facilitator, and we want strong committees to look at their appropriate issues and concerns. I'd like to hear from you if you see things happening that you think shouldn't, or if you have ideas for new things. I can be reached via email at layne@afnetinc.com, by phone at home, 435-637-8954, or on my cell phone at 435-820-4326.

The monthly meetings will move back to Friday nights. The January meeting is set for the fourth Friday, January 24th, so you'll have at least two weeks notice before the meeting. The February meeting is set for the second Friday, February 14th, and the second Friday of each month thereafter. This avoids the solstices and equinoxes, and provides time for any important news from the board meeting, held the same night, to get into *Vestiges*.

The new location looks good. It's the South City Campus of the Salt Lake Community College, 1575 South State, Salt Lake City, the old South High building. Parking is free on State Street, or free permits are available at the registrar's office just inside the east entrance.

Our speakers for January are Duncan Metcalfe from the Museum of Natural History and Jerry Spangler, the archaeologist in charge of the Range Creek project. They will be speaking on the future of Range Creek, and what URARA's part will be in it.

With your help, this will be a very successful year.

Layne Miller, 2003 URARA president

New Federal Law Protects Sloan Canyon Petroglyphs

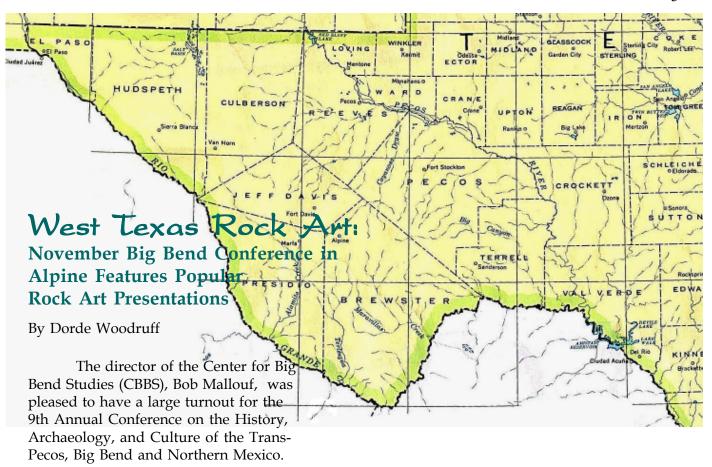
In November President Bush signed into law the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act. The Nevada office of the BLM, which will administer much of the lands concerned, is busy trying to digest this broad mandate, which does many different things.

For one, it creates the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area south and east of Las Vegas that will protect an area of over 48,000 acres containing perhaps 1700 petroglyphs. Yumans dominate the many different tribes that produced the images as late as the 1800s. Depictions of cowboys on horseback with rifles may refer to the journey of Antonio Armijo, a New Mexican trader, who passed by here in 1829.

The BLM has already started patrols of Sloan Canyon, in response to the new law. As the city of Henderson crept closer and closer, vandalism increased. The Del Webb company, developer of the adjacent new 10,000-home Sun City community, is aware of the need to protect the petroglyphs. The company provided half a million dollars to build a trail system in the area, but this won't directly access the petroglyphs.

A visitor center in Henderson will provide education about the rock art to visitors. Volunteers will serve as guides and site stewards. The nonprofit group Outside Las Vegas plans to recruit and train volunteers for the Sloan area, and others.

In another helpful aspect under the federal bill, one of several land exchanges produced a



Especially since the town where it was held, Alpine, Texas, population in the 6000s, is in a remote and sparsely-populated —though unique —area of the state. The CBBS is part of Sul Ross State University in Alpine.

Mallouf said that the presentations on rock art provoked a great deal of interest. No wonder Mallouf was pleased, as he is an avid rock art researcher himself. The CBBS hosted a conference entirely rock art in 1995, and Mallouf says he expects to have another rock art conference in a couple of years.

West Texas has abundant rock art of different styles, but the Archaic is the star. The Pecos River Style pictographs are some of the most picturesque and complex in the Southwest. As many URARA members are aware, these show a pan-Archaic affinity to our Barrier Canyon Style, to Grand Canyon Polychrome, and to the Cave Paintings of Baja California.

Mallouf himself presented "Cerro Chino: Ancient Petroglyphs of the Sierra Vieja Breaks". This is an area the CBBS documented in 2001 in a rugged mountain area of Presidio County, with abstract petroglyphs at least Late Archaic in age and possibly older. Petroglyphs are rare here; most rock art close to the Rio Grande is painted, and the site contains motifs not known elewhere in the region.

Another professor at Sul Ross, Charles R. "Bob" Hext, sculptor, art historian, and rock art researcher, talked



Right: rare Archaic petroglyphs at Cerro Chino.

about the rock art of Jeff Davis County northwest of Alpine. Hext is involved in a rock art survey of the Trans-Pecos area.

Going to the other end of the archeological age spectrum, Dawn Temple talked about "San Sebastian: Probable Apache Rock Art in the Marfa Plain of the Texas Big Bend." Dawn is a geology student at Sul Ross who also studies rock art and records it.

Texas artist turned rock art researcher Reeda Peel presented three poster sessions. "An Overview of Texas Rock Art" described traditions or styles recognized in the state, as well as rock art yet to be defined, correlated with a map of the



natural regions of Texas. She also presented this at the ARARA symposium in 2002.

Her poster session "Tradition or Style ... What's the Difference?" was on usage of these terms, illustrated with examples of the state's rock art. And "Rocky Dell...Chasing the Myth" was about a so-called giant serpent pictograph that really looks more like a lizard, which she related to the myth of Earth Monster.

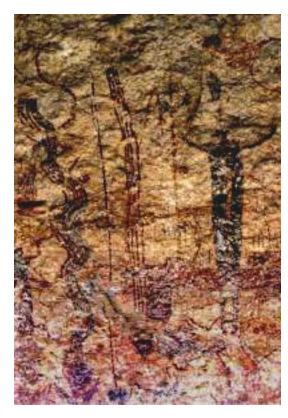
Reeda does wonderful intrepretations of ancient life with rock shelter art on the walls behind the figures, based on careful archeological research, see her Girl with Fire Drill above. Here's an artist that's really gotten into rock art: she's a charter member of the Texas Archaeological Society Rock Art Recording Task Force, a TAS board member, and a steward for the state Historical Commission.

"Unusual Rock Art of the Texas Panhandle" was the title of Teddy Lou Stickney's talk. Teddy is the head of the TAS Rock Art Recording Task Force that each year concentrates on an area in which to thoroughly document the rock art. Teddy is also the new president of ARARA. Teddy and Francis Stickney were the honorees of the 2002 annual publication of the New Mexico Archaeological Society, *Looking Forward to the Past*.

Solveig Turpin, a founder of the Rock Art Foundation and authority on Pecos River Style, and her son Jeff gave a paper entitled "Under Every Rock: Prehistoric Utilization of a High Desert Ecozone in West Texas" in which "rock art was incidental ... the article in this year's *Journal of Big Bend Studies* ["Rock Art in Isolation: The Black Mountains and Red HIlls of Hudspeth County"] gave a much more in-depth description of what we found in these isolated enclaves (Turpin, email comunication 2002)." The CBBS's *Journal* is a combination of symposium papers and other contributed papers; URARA has now set up an exchange of publications with them.

The strictest interpretation of the geographical mandate of the Center is the Big Bend country, the Trans-Pecos, and adjacent northern Mexico. Trans-Pecos is "Beyond the Pecos", west of the Pecos River. Remember Judge Roy Bean, the "Law West of the Pecos", the only judge that ever, despite his quirks,

A shaman in Rattlesnake Canyon which runs several miles then joins the Rio Grande. He is especially reminscent of our Barrier Canyon figures.





A family group approaches Fate Bell Shelter in a scene envisioned by Reeda Peel. These people probably lived in small family groups, joining up with others on occasion.

lasted out there in the frontier wilderness of this still-remote area? However, for the conference or publications they don't limit themselves to the Trans-Pecos and northern Chihuahuan region, but rather consider the Lower Pecos River Region and other areas of West Texas (including the Texas Panhandle), southeastern New Mexico, and northern Coahuila to all be areas of interest.

The Lower Pecos region centers roughly on the lower parts of the Pecos and Devils rivers, as they flow south to join the Rio Grande, now flooded near those confluences by the Amistad reservoir. Pecos River Style pictographs extend about 90 miles north from the Rio Grande, and also about 90 miles south to the mountains of Coahuila, skipping the barren plains south of the Rio Grande. There is some Pecos River Style art west of the Pecos for a short distance, but more of it east along the lower Devil's River. East to west, it goes about from Del Rio to Langtry.

Carolyn Boyd of Texas A&M, another active rock art researcher of the area and artist-turned-archeologist, thinks these images were components of large, mural-like compositions, and compares them to her experience as a mural painter and to the myths and practices of the Huichol who still live across the Great River in northern Mexico.

Tours go to quite a few sites now, but getting to the wilder sites she says can be an ordeal, "Some of them are in really remote areas. You drive an hour down a dirt road then hike in a few miles over rugged terrain. They are in some cases up on canyon walls, and you have to rappel down to them...there's real danger in accessing some of the sites." She thinks some were deliberately placed in difficult places, "some...were for select groups."

When Jim and I drove through Texas about ten years ago, there were no handy websites for information. We stopped at the Seminole Canyon State Park in the Pecos area on a Monday but were frustrated to be told that the tour, to Fate Bell Shelter, only went Wednesday through Sunday, and only on a tour is visiting the rock art permitted.

Now two websites, especially, list all the tours, from the Rock Art Foundation at www.rockart.org/journey.html and www.rockart.org/calendar.html, and from Texas Park and Wildlife at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/news/tpwcal/s_0148.htm.

TPWD has a website for Seminole Canyon, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/seminole/, for Devil's River State Natural Area, www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/devils/, and for Big Bend Ranch State Park adjacent to the Big Bend National Park, new and undeveloped, see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/bigbend/

The Handbook of Texas Online has a number of short articles for various rock art sites, see

the archeology index at www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/browse/wt_aeol.html for subjects like Indian Rock Art; Kirkland, Olea Forrest; Trans-Pecos; Fate Bell Shelter; Lobo Valley; Panther Cave; Rattlesnake Canyon.

Texas Beyond History is an outstanding website, a joint project of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) at The University of Texas at Austin and the Texas Archeological Society. The section on the Lower Pecos begins at www.texasbeyondhistory.net/pecos/index.html. Lavishly illustrated, it's edited by Steve Black, a Research Associate at TARL, Lecturer in Anthropology at the University of Texas, and an experienced archeologist in Texas, Mesoamerica, and the Southwest.

What of those members who are not online? Several books cover the Lower Pecos: Kirkland, Forest and W.W. Newcomb, Jr.

1999 *The Rock Art of Texas Indians*. Reprint of the classic. University of Texas Press, Austin. Amazon, \$34.95; Piedra Pintada, see www.rock-art.com/books/krklnd1.htm, \$35. Mallouf , Robert J. and Curtis Tunnell

1977 An Archeological Reconnaissance in the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande. Texas Historical Commission, Austin. Out of print; we've obtaind this for our URARA Archives. Shafer, Harry J. and Jim Zintgraff

1986 Ancient Texans: Rock Art and Lifeways along the Lower Pecos. Texas Monthly Press, Austin. Excellent popular book now out of press, available from amazon.com for \$225 and up! Smith-Savage, Sheron and Robert J. Mallouf, eds

1998 Rock Art of the Chihuahuan Desert Borderlands. Occasional Paper No. 3. Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas. Proceedings of the First Trans-Pecos Rock Art Symposium, February 17-19, 1995. Piedra Pintada, \$20; we've also gotten this for the URARA Archives. Turpin, Solveig A., ed

1994 Shamanism and Rock Art in North America. Rock Art Foundation, San Antonio. RAF or Piedra Pintada, \$20. "A superb book that expands on the further possibilities of the rock art images...."

Zintgraff, Jim and Solveig A. Turpin

1991 Pecos River Rock Art: A Photographic Essay. S. McPherson, San Antonio. Amazon, \$43.70; Piedra Pintada, \$45; Side Canyon, \$36.95, RAF \$36. Zintgraff spent decades photographing Pecos rock art, and Turpin years studying it.

And a CD-ROM:

Turpin, Solveig A. and Jim Zintgraff

2002 Rock Art of the Lower Pecos. RAF, \$40 incl S&H, see www.rockart.org/cdrom.html for description.

Source contact information is: Piedra Pintada rock art books, www.rock-art.com/books/index.htm, call 909/620-6742, or write Bob Edberg, Piedra Pintada Books, P.O. Box 1376, Claremont CA 9171; Side Canyon Southwestern books, maps, videos, http://sidecanyon.com, or call 866-775-8336

The official Texas travel site www.traveltex.com has lots of features including a whole section on the Big Bend country, or call 800-452-9292.

Going on to the Big Bend, Big Bend National Park has what is surely the most outstanding website of the National Parks, with dozens of pages; see the alphabetical list of topics at www.nps.gov/bibe/alpha.htm or "In depth" at www.nps.gov/bibe/home.htm. This park has the fewest visitors per mile of any in the U.S. Foreign visitors such as Germans and Japanese who always go for the most exotic, especially if it includes those weird plants, cacti, love it, and comprise a substantial part of the visitors. Summers are hot, but the average daytime maximum in January is 60 degrees!

Rock art in the park (and the adjoining Big Bend Ranch State Park) has never been well-surveyed though people have worked there for decades. The CBBS has been working on an archeological survey there since 1995, but funding is minimal, therefore progress is slow.

The park includes desert, mountain, and 118 miles of the Rio Grande in its 801,000 acres,

therefore has a great diversity of plants and animals in its Chihuahuan desert biome. No wonder it was home to Native Americans from Paleoindian times on.

In Utah we sometimes visit rock art from the rivers, especially the Green in Desolation Canyon, the San Juan, and in former times the late lamented Glen Canyon of the Colorado. Another way to see West Texas rock art is on the rivers, either on a private trip or with an outfitter. Canoeist Louis Aulbach is the author and publisher of Texas River Guides: *The Devil's River*,

The Lower Pecos River, The Upper Canyons of the Rio Grande, The Great Unknown of the Rio Grande, and The Painted Canyons of the Rio Grande.

Also linked from his website www.hal-pc.org/~lfa/ is river flow information. Or contact Louis F. Aulbach, P. O. Box 925765, Houston TX 77292-5765.

You can access another series of river webpages from http://canoeman.com/SWPaddler/Texas.html, for descriptions of trips down the Pecos, Devil's, or Rio Grande. And see Big Bend National Park webpages on river runing, also many others.

However, these trips need to be done with adequate information and great care. Some stretches have rapids requiring portages, hazards fluctuate with the water level, like our rivers they are remote, and in Texas there is an additional hazard: private land. Especially on the Devil's, landowners can be hard on trespassing campers.

However, our member Ben Everitt ran the Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande some years ago, between Big Bend National Park and Amistad Reservoir, and he says it was "the trip of a lifetime...and I'd do it again." Canoeman River Guide Services will plan trips, to any degree requested, phone 214-221-1290 if you don't have email access.

For the landlocked, the huge Big Bend park has 112 miles of paved roads, and over 150 miles of unpaved roads with various hazards including the possibility of punctured tires from those yucca tips that are like spears, or other hostile desert vegetation.

Despite an estimated 10,000 archeological sites in Big Bend National Park, only two rock art sites are considered public. The Hot Springs pictograph site is easily reached by a short drive from the Rio Grande Village visitor center on the east side of the park. And on the west side, there's rock art around the bases of the Chimneys, prominent landmarks 2.4 miles from the trailhead at a primitive campsite off Maverick road, which is a gravel road that is generally passable.

Western Texas, especially along the Rio Grande at Big Bend or Seminole Canyon, is a great





Right, above: Detail, White Shaman Shelter. Below, The White Shaman. Tom Getts.

winter trip. The south side of Big Bend is about as far south as Daytona Beach, Florida! Despite its attractions, with these sites being so far away, a trip to Texas isn't to be taken lightly. Seminole Canyon is about 1200 miles from Salt Lake. Members living in other places may have lighter going – our webmaster Tom Getts has been to White Shaman half a dozen times. But then, he starts from Mancos in far southwestern Colorado.

The Pecos River Style attacts much attention these days, but the Jornado Mogollon style of Hueco Tanks is up to now more familiar to most URARA members. References to the Casas Grande influence, and Texas rock art styles other than the Archaic can be found on some of these websites, or in the many printed sources for information on these subjects.

Some other websites of interest:

Tom Gett's Pecos River Style rock art photos from White Shaman Shelter, Panther Cave, Mystic Shelter, and Cedar Springs

www.canyonwinds.com/rockart/index.html

The RAF's James Zintgraff's own page of a few high-quality Pecos pictures.

http://members.aol.com/rockart01/Photopage.html

Forrest Kirkland's Watercolors of Texas Rock Art, a site of the Texas Memorial Museum featuring a large number of original paintings.

www.tmm.utexas.edu/anthro/kirkland/

And some more print references:

Boyd, Caroline

1996 Medicinal and Hallucinogenic Plants Identified in the Sediments and Pictographs of the Lower Pecos, Texas Archaic. *Antiquity* 70 (268, June).

Turpin, Solveig

1990 Rock Art and Its Contribution to Hunter Gatherer Archaeology: A Case Study from the Lower Pecos River Region of Southwest Texas and Northern Mexico. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 17(3):263-281.

1990 Speculations on the Age and Origin of the Pecos River Style. *American Indian Rock Art* 16:99-122.

1991 Sin Nombre and El Fortin: Pecos River Style Pictographs in Northern Mexico. *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* 60:267-281 (for 1989).

1994 The Were-Cougar Theme in Pecos River Style Art and its Implications for Traditional Archeology. In *New Light on Old Art: Recent Advances in Hunter-Gatherer Rock Art Research*, edited by David S. Whitley and Lawrence L. Loendorf, pp. 75-80. Monograph 36, Institute of Archaeology, University of California, Los Angeles. Turpin, Solveig, ed.

2002 Rock Art and Cultural Processes. Rock Art Foundation, San Antonio. Their latest special publication, with outstanding essays by Linea Sundstrom, Polly Schaafsma, Kelley Hayes-Gilpin, Bill Hyder, and Solveig Turpin. \$15 + \$5 &H.

Credits

Thanks to these people for the graphics, used with permission: Map of W. Texas counties, courtesy of The General Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. Cerro Chino, Bob Malouf and the CBBS. Girl with Fire Drill and Fate Bell Shelter, Reeda Peel and *Texas Beyond History*. Rattlesnake Canyon, Steve Black and *Texas Beyond History*. White Shaman Shelter, Tom Getts.

Thanks to Drs. Robert Mallouf and Solveig Turpin for information via email.

New Federal Law, continued from page 2

500-acre parcel, next to Sun City and the new Conservation Area, to be auctioned off. Most of the proceeds will go to the Conservation Area for constructing and operating trails, roads, and other facilities, and various research and conservation activities.

This act builds on the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, which set up these useful exchanges between private and public land, and between federal agencies, for

the good of all. The new act in addition, to the Sloan Canyon conservation area, sets up various wilderness areas in Clark County, and sets free other wilderness study areas.

Not everyone is totally happy with the new law, mainly those that would have liked more acres designated as wilderness, but it's a good compromise that the various factions could accept. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev, (the Democratic minority whip) and his office worked two years on the bill, which was passed unanimously in the Senate. His Republican counterpart Sen. John Ensign, helped.

Rep. Jim Gibbons, R-Nev., worked for the bill in the House; Gibbons calls it the most significant measure by Nevada legislators since he was elected in 1996. "This is an immensely important piece of legislation for the growth of Las Vegas and protection of environmentally sensitive land in Clark County," he said.

A BLM website summarizes the new federal law: http://www.nv.blm.gov/PL107-282/PL107-282.htm. Congratulations to the Nevada legislators on their success in finding this compromise for the thorny problem of wilderness designation, and other significant land use issues.

Utah connection tidbit: well-respected Washington lobbyist Marcus Faust, who works on behalf of Clark County in land and water affairs and represented it on this bill, is the son of James E. Faust, First Counselor in the First Presidency of the LDS church, and his wife Ruth. *Credits* – Thanks to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, the *Las Vegas Sun*, and the Nevada BLM for online articles containing information used in this article.

Calendar

January 24 5:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting

7:00 pm Membership Meeting. Duncan Metcalfe, Utah Museum of Natural

History and Jerry Spangler, archaeologist in charge of the Range Creek project, will be speak on the future of Range Creek, and URARA's part in it. Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), South City Campus, 1575 S. State St, Room W111G in SW of building. Free

parking tonight in lot, or park on State St.

February 14 5:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting

7:00 pm Membership Meeting. Craig Bowen's slides on the rock art of

Wupatki. SLCC W111G, park on State, or on in lot by permit.

March Field Trip to North-central Arizona, sites and dates to be arranged.

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Pecos River Style, left, Mystic Shelter, right, Panther Cave. Photos by Tom Getts.

