

## **The Zeltner Site**

A GSAR field reconnaissance report

August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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Found by Kristi Zeltner the site locality is located on a botanical and wildlife preserve, owned by the Ethician Foundation, located at 1908 North 1<sup>st</sup>, Huntsville, Texas. There are two archeological sites 41SJ142 and 41SJ105, located about 30 minutes from Huntsville and close to Lake Livingston, San Jacinto County, which the Ethician Foundation owns and manages. The locality encompasses 3,000 acres of wildlife near the shores of Lake Livingston.

I traveled to meet George Russell on August 4<sup>th</sup> and stayed through the end of business on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The field trip was to assess the Paleoindian assemblage, get a preliminary review of the find area, and assess the archaeological potential for Upper Paleolithic occupations at this site, perhaps including occupations that predate the Clovis horizon.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, George guided me through many of the foundation's museum facilities, some of which contain considerable amounts of archaeological materials from around the world and Texas. At the end of the day I was taken to the site, *location 6*, and visited with George's assistants who discovered many of the paleoindian specimens (**Figure 1a**).

### **Kristi Zeltner 500 Site (location 6)**

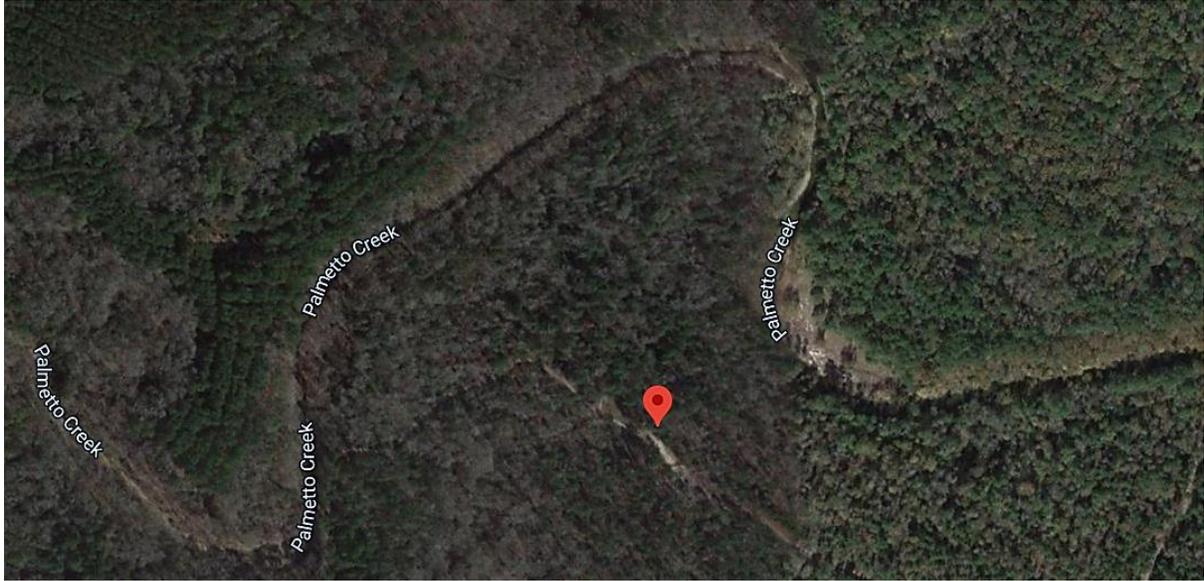
Clovis, Dalton, San Patrice, Early Stemmed, and other Late Paleoindian technologies were discovered at this location, in a location area roughly 30 meters by 50 meters. So far 3 separate subsurface tests have occurred and two of these areas are still open to observe. During my visit excavations were taking place, some 20 meters away from the location of a Clovis point find. Clusters of artifacts were being recovered consisting of large modified flakes, silicified wood fragments, and a few secondary thinning flakes. There did not appear to be any material relating to late phase manufacturing or 'finishing' flakes. Also, the raw stone material being recovered appears to have been brought into the area.

The find area rests on a high terrace inside a bend along Palmetto Creek (**Figure 1b**). The archaeological context is a fine sandy loam (**Figure 2**). The loam does contain continuous clay deposits that turn the loam a reddish color. The lack of moisture in these soils causes these clay deposits to harden, making it difficult to excavate. Material from both Archaic (**Figure 3**) and Paleoindian periods

appear to span from surface to near 30-40 cmbs. Excavations below this depth have been minimal due to the hardened clay in these sand deposits. Nonetheless, considerable depth exists below the Clovis finds.



Figure 1a – Zeltner site, Location 6, at the start of the dotted path on the bottom of aerial view.



**Figure 1b** – Red flag is the location of a Clovis find, along with a range of Paleoindian specimens such as Dalton, San Patrice, Scottsbluff, and Early Stemmed variants (image from Google)



**Figure 2** – Fine sandy loam along Palmetto Creek

**Location of Clovis Point discovery, 30cmbs.**

Latitude:30.806736359372735  
Longitude:-95.22689203731716

(30:48.40418,-95:13.61352)  
(30:48:24.25089,-95:13:36.81133)

(UTM:15R  
GoogleMaps:

286,954.2E

3,410,304.8N)

<http://maps.google.com/maps?t=h&q=loc:30.806736359372735,-95.22689203731716&z=15>



**Figure 3** – Calf Creek Horizon technologies from the Zeltner site

### **Considerations and Recommendations**

A geoarchaeological evaluation of the site area is necessary, along with scientific controlled subsurface testing. All of the current finds have been accomplished by uncontrolled excavations and without any scientific methods. The Ethecian Foundation is wanting to get a proper evaluation of the site and hope for assistance from GSAR.

During a long weekend two test units could be performed with a 4 person crew, including a geoarchaeological specialist to evaluate the archaeological context along Palmetto Creek. I would recommend this be completed during the fall and/or spring months.

Figures 4 -10 are supplemental images from the frames at the Ethician laboratory, which I was able to complete before leaving the site.



Figure 4a – Reworked Clovis with alternate beveling on the blade



Figure 4b – Reworked Clovis, alternate beveling on blade



Figure 5a – Refurbished Clovis



Figure 5b – Refurbished Clovis



Figure 6a – Possible Plainview on silicified wood



Figure 6b – Possible Plainview on silicified wood



Figure 7 – Dalton point, refurbished



Figure 7 – Possible Plainview points



Figure 8 – Scottsbluff fragments



Figure 9 – San Patrice



Figure 10 – Not typed yet