

HAS Members volunteer at Father of Texas Celebration

Four members of the Houston Archeological Society were on hand to volunteer at Father of Texas Day with residents of San Felipe on November 3. The annual event celebrates 176 years of Texas independence.

Charlie Gordy, Bob Sewell, and Linda Gorski volunteered at the archeological activities, which included a kids' dig, artifact sorting, and artifact reconstruction. HAS Vice President and local historian



Bob Sewell works with kids at the archeological program at San Felipe.

Louis Aulbach presented a PowerPoint program entitled *The San Felipe Road* – an important route between San Felipe and Harrisburg that dates from the earliest days of the colonial period.

According to Aulbach, a large group of settlers from Austin's Colony established farms in the vicinity of the San Jacinto River and along Buffalo Bayou. The



Louis Aulbach is introduced by Bryan McAuley before his presentation at San Felipe.

San Felipe Road which ran from settlements of Harrisburg, Lynchburg and others south of the Bayou was the most direct route to Austin's headquarters at San Felipe. Harrisburg, and also extending to Lynchburg and beyond to Louisiana.



Bob Sewell, Linda Gorski, and Charlie Gordy take a break from supervising the kids' archeological programs at San Felipe's Father of Texas Celebration.

Other events at the Father of Texas celebration included a Texian Army encampment, a ceremonial black powder salute to Texas heroes, shuttle tours of the colonial remnants of San Felipe de Austin and several author presentations, including one by Wolfram Von-Maszewski who has recently published an updated version of the book *Austin's Old 300*.

San Felipe de Austin Historic Site manager Bryan McAuley announced during his presentation entitled *Museum Planning for San Felipe de Austin* that archeological surveys would begin shortly on some new property that has been purchased adjacent to the current historic site and that HAS members would be invited to participate in these surveys and excavations. Watch this space for more information!