

## Excavations at Cotton Field, Tait Huffmeyer Ranch, Columbus, Texas, March 19 – 20, 2016

As most of you know, we are continuing archeological excavations at the Cotton Field site at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas that we began during Texas Archeological Society Field School in 2014 and continued in 2015. The Cotton Field site, located in Colorado County, offers ideal conditions for studying the Late Prehistoric period, spanning both the Austin phase (ca. 650AD - 1200AD) and the subsequent Toyah phase (1150 AD – 1500 AD) in Texas. Thanks to our landowners, Rita Tait Jackson and Ed Jackson, we are continuing our excavations under the direction of HAS member and Field School PI, Dr. Jason W. Barrett.

On March 19 – 20, 2016 we not only tackled work at Cotton Field, we also had a crew, under the direction of Art Tawater, working at the Bluff Site and another crew under the direction of Sue Gross and Rita Tait Jackson, working in the lab cataloguing artifacts that were recovered on the grounds of the historic Tait town house in Columbus. All this work is underway as we prepare for the 2016 TAS Field School which will once again be held at the Cotton Field, Bluff and Tait town house sites on June 11 – 18, 2016.

There are just a few more work sessions at these sites before Field School - **April 2-3 and 23-24, and May 21 and 22**. Mark your calendars now!! If you plan to join us, please email me back at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com) so I can add you to our Cotton Field contact list and send you directions to the site as well as other important information including cancellation notices in case of severe weather. Remember, you must be a member of the Houston Archeological Society or one of the other regional archeological societies or the Texas Archeological Society to participate. If you are not yet a member of the Houston Archeological Society, please go to our website at [www.txhas.org](http://www.txhas.org) and click on "Membership".

- Linda Gorski



Getting an early start at the Cotton Field Site.





New HAS members Lou Phillips, right, and Bob Baxter, center, learning the ropes from Tom Nuckols.



Bob Sewell, Ed Jackson and Glynn Osburn prepare to excavate their unit.



Nathan Palmer, Ariel Ehrman with crew chief Tom Williams.



Even Dr. Jason Barrett gets down and dirty at Cotton Field! Jason will again be the TAS Field School PI.



Tom Nuckols recovering a Biface on Saturday.



Bob Baxter screens during his first day on site.





New HAS member Lou Phillips recovered a nice Friday biface – see photo below.



One of the pottery sherd's recovered by Glynn.



Artifact identified as a Friday biface



Bison tooth recovered from one of the units on Sunday.



Glynn Osburn and Linda Gorski worked in a unit that produced several pottery sherds.



TAS member Anneliese Songtag drove down from Fort Worth on Sunday to dig with us. Now THAT is dedication!





Art Tawater worked with a small crew at the Bluff Site to prepare the area for Field School.



This is what a complete plate in the Chinoiserie After Pillemont pattern looks like



Among the artifacts Art and his team recovered are these three ceramic sherds that actually cross mend. We believe this is a portion of a tea cup as it is decorated on both sides. The pattern has been identified by Sandra Pollan as Chinoiserie After Pillemont, by William Adams & Sons, 1829-61



Art and his team also recovered this little Perdiz point at the Bluff Site.



Art Tawater relaxes with Ed Jackson and Tom Nuckols during lunch break.





There was also a crew working at lab sorting artifacts recovered during the kids' dig at the Tait town house during Field School 2015.



Adela Franco sorting 399 nails!!!!



Charlie Gordy looking at an artifact under a microscope.



Beth Kennedy sorts ceramics at the lab.



John Lumb sorting glass fragments.