

## Excavations at Cotton Field, Tait Huffmeyer Ranch, Columbus, Texas, May 21 – 22, 2016

On Saturday, May 21, we spent our last scheduled day working at the Cotton Field site at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus Texas before the weeklong Texas Archeological Society Field School begins on June 11. 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.

We had a big crew out there this weekend consisting of many HAS members, Texas Historical Commission archeologist Tiffany Osborn, and several members of the TAS Field School committee including Ron Ralph, Clint Lacy, James Smith, Dr. Charles Frederick, Glynn Osborn and Chris Meis. While the HAS crew excavated all the open units down to level, closed out all the paperwork, and covered the entire site with gardening cloth, the TAS crew worked on repairing equipment and trailers for the upcoming field school.

Although we were also scheduled to work at the site on Sunday, the predictions of heavy rain overnight and forced us to work extra hard on Saturday so we could cancel work on Sunday. Since all of us Houston peeps had already blocked out the day, Dr. Jason Barrett suggested that we spend it at a Lab at Linda's, cleaning, sorting and cataloguing Cotton Field artifacts. So at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning a crew from HAS showed up to do just that!

We hope many of you will join us for TAS Field School June 11 – 18 at the Cotton Field site. Complete information and registration forms are posted on both the TAS website at [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org) and on the HAS website at [www.txhas.org](http://www.txhas.org). To whet your appetites, here are some photos from our most recent work at the site.



THC Archeologist Tiffany Osborn will be a site supervisor at the annual TAS Field School. Geoarcheologist Dr. Charles Frederick will be on hand to lend his expertise as well.



HAS members Bob Sewell, Geoff Mills, Debbie Eller and Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen take a unit down to level in preparation for TAS Field School.



Beth Kennedy and Linda Gorski work a unit.



John Rich looks on as Dr. Gus Costa excavates a fairly complete turtle shell.



Tom Nuckols, John Rich, and Anneliese Sontag. Anneliese drives all the way down from Dallas to join us at Cotton Field!!!!



Dr. Gus Costa took this terrific photo of the turtle shell that he excavated at Cotton Field.



Geoaarcheologist Dr. Charles Frederick scrapes the side of a unit to study stratigraphy.



Dr. Gus excavated this bison bone that was sticking straight up in the unit.



When work at the Cotton Field site was cancelled due to rain on Sunday, some of the Houston crew gathered for Lab at Linda's at 8:00 a.m. I guess these folks are smiling because Beth Kennedy brought two dozen donuts and there was plenty of coffee on hand ☺



While the washing crew was working in the kitchen Dr. Jason Barrett turned the dining room into a lab for sorting and cataloguing artifacts including shell and lithic material with Louis Aulbach, Bob Sewell, Beth Kennedy and Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen.



Dr. Gus Costa works with Geoff Mills, Beth Kennedy and John Rich washing and sorting artifacts recovered from Cotton Field on Saturday.



HAS is the proud new owner of not just one but two Dino-Lite microscopes thanks to generous donations from several members including Dub Crook and Larry Golden. We put these microscopes to good use during Lab at Linda's.



John Rich takes washing and sorting to a whole new organizational level!!!



Dr. Gus was really excited to find this refit as he was washing artifacts!