

Update on Excavations at the Cotton Field Site, Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch, Columbus, Texas January 23 – 24, 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 great news is that TAS Field School will return to the Tait Ranch in 2016 - June 11 – 18.

The Cotton Field site, located in Colorado County, offers ideal conditions for studying the Late Prehistoric period, spanning both the Austin phase (ca. 700AD - 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.



Saturday morning dawned cold and clear as the crew gets an early start on the day.
Best thing about the cold morning – no snakes!!!!

The site gets more and more interesting every single time we dig! We had a huge crew at our most recent excavations on January 23 and 24 and our efforts revealed more thermal features and some interesting diagnostic artifacts.

Dr. Jason has come up with a spring schedule for work at the site - **February 20 and 21; March 19 and 20, 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 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 see our website at www.txhas.org and click on "Membership".

In the meantime, here are a few photos to whet your appetite for the fieldwork coming up in the next few months. Please email me back if you have any questions lindagorski@cs.com.

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Two brand new HAS members, Ariel Erhman and Nathan Palmer work in a unit supervised by Tom Williams.



We had six units open on Saturday meaning that these screeners had lots of work to do!



.... And their unit produced the only point of the day, a nice Scallorn held by Tom.



Catherine Jalbert and Stewart Wilson continue a unit on Sunday. Note the skewer sticks which indicate where artifacts are located.



Dr. Jason Barrett and Ashley Jones go over paperwork for one of the units.



Sticks removed, artifacts pedestalled, Stewart measuring.

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Geoff Mills (left), Tom Nuckols (center) and Jason Barrett (right) form a team.



Gus Costa explains an artifact recovered by Rita Tait Jackson and Adela Franco.



Bob Sewell measures Linda Gorski and concludes that she is short 😊



John Rich crewing with Annaliese Sonntag who drove all the way from Dallas to join us for the weekend!



Ceramic sherds recovered over the weekend.



Closing up the units on Sunday and leaving the site ready for our next fieldwork weekend scheduled for February 20 and 21. Hope to see you there!