

## Excavations at Cotton Field, Tait Huffmeyer Ranch, Columbus, Texas, April 2 – 3, 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.

We had another fantastic weekend at Cotton Field April 2 – 3, when over 30 visitors from the Glasscock School of Continuing Education at Rice University joined us in the field. These folks recently completed a six week course entitled Houston Archeology taught by several members of HAS and others - and the grand finale was a field trip to Cotton Field!!! If our visitors thought they were just going to observe, they were wrong!!! Check it out - all of them got down and dirty and recovered many artifacts including numerous pieces of bison bone and one of the largest pottery sherds to date! Well done everyone! Thanks to our fantastic PI, Dr. Jason Barrett and to our wonderful landowners Rita Tait Jackson and Ed Jackson for their hospitality - and for spoiling us with porta potties!!! Thanks also to everyone from HAS who came out to work with us - we've gotten rave reviews from the Glasscock School visitors - and several have already joined HAS! You people rock.

We have one more work weekend - May 21 and 22 - scheduled for work at Cotton Field before TAS Field School begins on June 11 - 18. 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".



Dr. Jason Barrett gives an orientation to visitors from the Glasscock School at Rice University as they join members of HAS at Cotton Field.



HAS members John Rich, Sandy Rogers, Ed Jackson and Bob Sewell relax before they start excavating their units.



Jim DePitts joins Adela Franco screening dirt



Crew chief Tom Williams carefully excavates bison bone.



Crew chief Tom Nuckols (left) with Kevin Topek from the Glasscock School class.



Bison Bone recovered in Tom Williams' unit.



Crew chief John Rich (center) with Glasscock School visitors Lynne and Walter Hester.



Lots of turtle shell was recovered in Tom Nuckols unit.



Lynne Hester with crew chief John Rich showing off one of the largest pottery sherds found yet on the site.



Tom Nuckols and his crew at the screens.



Pottery sherd from John Rich's unit.



Crew Chief Bob Sewell points to bison bone in his unit.



Dr. Jason Barrett doing paperwork in the field.



Several Glasscock School visitors digging up Texas history – one trowel full at a time!



Crew chief Don Keyes keeps his team digging.



Dr. Gus Costa with his Sunday crew.



Glasscock School visitor Joseph Voeten screening .....



Dr. Gus excavating bison bone.



.... And recovering an artifact!



Teams screened a lot of dirt! Thanks to everyone from HAS and from the Glasscock School at Rice University who worked so hard to make the weekend an enormous success!