



# The PROFILE



DECEMBER 2005

## Jeff Durst to Speak on Brazoria County Antebellum Plantation Survey

Jeff Durst, Staff Archeologist for our region at the Texas Historical Commission (THC), will give a presentation on the Brazoria County Antebellum Plantation Survey at the December 9 meeting. This project is an ambitious attempt by the THC to identify and locate all the antebellum plantations in Brazoria County. Many of our members have been participating on this project during the past year.

Jeff has experience in both historic and prehistoric archeology and has worked in Texas, New Mexico and Belize. His educational research has focused on the prehistoric Maya civilization with a concentration on the archeology of the Maya Lowlands. He was previously employed by the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at the University of Texas at San Antonio and acted as a Project Archeologist conducting archival research, archeological surveys, site excavations, artifact analysis and report preparation.

Jeff is currently working on his doctoral degree at the University of Texas at Austin. He has been actively employed in archeology for the past 10 years, most recently as assistant project director and then project director of the Texas Historical Commission's Fort St. Louis Archeological Project.

As always, the December 9 meeting will be held in Anderson Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30 p.m. For a more detailed map, visit the HAS web site at [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org).

**JANUARY 13, 2006 PROGRAM: "The Guns and Ammo of Texas as Represented in the Corps Center Collection"**, by Lisa Kalmus, Curator, The Corps Center Museum.

(Anyone wishing to deliver a presentation at a future meeting should contact Michael Bailey at [m Bailey@beamans.com](mailto:m Bailey@beamans.com).)

## Father of Texas Birthday Celebration a "Huge Success"

"The Father of Texas Celebration was a huge success," according to Marianne Marek, Principal Investigator at the San Felipe de Austin project.



Part of the Saturday team – L to R: Linda Swift, Diane Baird, Muriel Walker, Beth Aucoin, Sara Guillote, and Payson Guillote.

HAS members turned out in force to assist with the November 4-5 event at San Felipe, Texas, near Sealy.

"Thank you to everyone who helped. A special thanks goes to **Beth Aucoin, Pat Aucoin and Don Keyes** who braved the thundering hordes of 4th graders in the mock dig on Friday. The kids had a great time."

Approximately 700-800 people visited the San Felipe de Austin Project site during the two-day event. Visitors on Friday included 415 fourth and

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## December 9 is Party Time!

Plan to bring some goodies and stay after the program on December 9 for a holiday social in the foyer of Anderson Hall. Everyone is invited, whether you're a member or not, and whether you bring goodies or not. This will be a great time to relax and enjoy the goodwill of the season!

## 2005-2006 Board of Directors Members Rolling Up Their Sleeves

Your new HAS Board of Directors got off to a busy and productive start with our first meeting on October 26 at the HAS Library. Our first order of business was to review the state of the Society's finances and begin work on the 2006 budget.

Barring any unforeseen expenditures, it looks as if we will finish the year 2005 in better financial shape than expected. We had slightly better income than anticipated, and we had somewhat fewer expenses than anticipated, so we expect to remain in the black through year-end.

Looking forward to next year, we believe it's time to make some investments in HAS and its mission. Among the items being considered are: a PC projector for our programs, a monetary grant to the San Felipe de Austin project, a donation to a local university, and others. Please let any member of the Board know of your ideas and suggestions.

One exciting new development left to tell you

about: Sara Guillote has agreed to edit the *Profile*!  
--Welcome, Sara! --Linda Swift



2005-2006 HAS Board hard at work. L to R: Tom Nuckols, Secretary; Diane Baird, Director; Michael Bailey, Vice-President; Linda Swift, President; Fred Kelly, Director; Karen Acker, Treasurer. Not pictured: Richard Carter, Director.

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## Minutes of the November 11, 2005 Meeting

Linda Swift, HAS President, called the November meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with 41 people attending.

Joe Hudgins presented Leland Patterson with the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the Texas Archeological Society.

### Announcements:

- Beth Aucoin reported on the Father of Texas celebration held at San Felipe last weekend.
- The University of St. Thomas is hosting an exhibit on "Tell Halif in Israel: Ancient Artifacts and Modern Methods" until December 11, at the Little archaeology Gallery, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.
- Jeff Durst, Region 5 Archaeologist, will talk about the Brazoria County Plantation Survey at the December meeting.

**Program:** Michael Bailey, HAS Vice-President, introduced guest speaker Fred L. McGee, PhD. Fred is Principal Investigator on the Fourth Ward Project, an area rich in African-American history. He talked about the status of the excavations to date.

**Business Meeting:** After the program there was a refreshment break, followed by the business meeting with 13 people in attendance.

- The September meeting minutes were approved without corrections.
- Linda discussed the HAS Board meeting held in October, with emphasis on the 2006 budget that is now being compiled. Members were asked to provide budget suggestions to the Board.
- Treasurer Karen Acker stated the third quarter financial report has been printed in the November *Profile*, and said she would be happy to answer any questions.
- By vote of the members present, it was decided to hold a social gathering at the December meeting in lieu of a business meeting, with all attendees invited to bring refreshments.
- Beth Aucoin reported that all the artifacts from the Powell Site have been catalogued.
- Librarian Diane Baird reported that several new books have been donated to the HAS Library.
- Linda reported that a *Profile* editor is still needed.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

--Submitted by Tom Nuckols, Secretary [[annesullivan@andrewskurth.com](mailto:annesullivan@andrewskurth.com)]

## Father of Texas (continued)

seventh graders plus teachers, chaperones, and general public, and sometimes it seemed like all of them were in the HAS booth at the same time.

Beth Aucoin reported there were 102 registered visitors on Saturday plus several Cub Scout troops along with troop leaders and chaperones. Kids as well as parents enjoyed the mock dig, corn



Marianne Marek (standing), with Diane Baird (L), and Muriel Walker (R) at the reception desk

grinding, flintknapping demonstration, and hands-on artifacts, as well as displays on San Felipe, the

Elizabeth Powell site, and the TAS Field School. Attendees then visited actual excavation units and were able to see fieldwork staff in action.

"Thanks to the following individuals who volunteered," Beth said. "**Diane Baird, Bill Csanyi, Joni Griffith, Sara and Payson Guillote, Mark Hollier, Fred Kelly, Don Keyes, Tom Nuckols, Linda Swift, and Muriel Walker** -- We couldn't have done it without your help.

"Thanks also to **Leland Patterson** for his continued supply of stone perforators, dried gourds, and stone tool kits; the kids love drilling the gourds with stone tools!"



Kids and parents alike learn excavation techniques from Pat Aucoin.



## Leland Patterson Receives TAS Distinguished Service Award

The Texas Archeological Society honored our own Leland Patterson (right) with the TAS Distinguished Service Award at the annual meeting in Austin in October. Since Lee was unable to be present, Joe Hudgins received the award for him and kept the surprise until our November meeting, where he presented Lee with an impressive plaque for a lifetime of contributions to the science and awareness of Texas archeology. Congratulations, Lee!

**LABORATORY SCHEDULE: December Lab:** December 12 only, 7:00p.m., Rice U. Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103. **January Labs:** Mondays, January 16 and 30.

**Mark Your Calendar: Saturday, February 18, 2006:** Texas Heritage Day, Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center in Humble.

**HAS LIBRARY:** Open on Friday, December 9, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m., 3907 Yoakum Blvd. **Recent Library Acquisitions** donated by Leland Patterson: *Ancient Peoples of the American Southwest*, *Mysterious Ancient America*, *Practicing Primitive: A Handbook of Aboriginal Skills*, and *The Seventy Great Mysteries of the Ancient World*.



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### Copernicus's Grave Located?

Recently while searching GOOGLE for information on renowned telescope maker and amateur astronomer, John E. Mellish, who is credited as being the first human to recognize craters on Mars using the great 40-inch Yerkes refractor, I reached the web site for *Sky & Telescope* magazine. A short article, dated November 10, 2005, indicated that a team of Polish archeologists claimed they had "probably found the grave of Nicholas Copernicus (1473-1543), the great astronomer who worked out the correct model of the solar system by fixing the Sun and treating Earth as a planet." The archeological team had excavated a cathedral site in Frombork, located 180 miles north of Warsaw. Beneath several burials were found the degraded remains, including a cranium, of a 70-year-old

male. A reconstructed face seems "to some extent agree(s) with earlier portraits" of the famed astronomer. Excerpted from [www.skyandtelescope.com](http://www.skyandtelescope.com). --Beth Aucoin

### Estate Sale Find

I went to an estate sale in my neighborhood last month, and for \$2.00 purchased a book entitled, *The Christian Psalmist*. The book measures 4"x 6"x 1" thick, and contains hundreds of hymns. It was published in Jeffersonville, Indiana in 1854. On the inside cover are these words written in pencil: "Daddy's first songbook -- used by him when he was 18 or 20, he was born in 1843." Unfortunately the person is not identified. --Tom Nuckols

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**Please submit articles for publication to Linda Swift, [linda.swift@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linda.swift@sbcglobal.net) .  
Submit articles no later than December 23, 2005, for the January issue.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ARCHEOLOGY IN THIS AREA, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:**

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### The Profile

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