



# The PROFILE

NOVEMBER 2005

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## November Meeting Features Fourth Ward Excavation Project

**Fred L. McGhee**, PhD, Principal Investigator on the Fourth Ward project, will present a summary and status of excavations to date at the November 11 HAS meeting. This project is located in the old Houston Fourth Ward area, a neighborhood that is rich in African-American history.

The dig was commissioned to determine if there is any truth to a local rumor that an old African-American cemetery exists on a plot of land where the Houston Independent School District plans to build two new schools.

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Backhoe trench at the Fourth Ward Project is a first step in understanding the site's stratigraphy.

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So far, Dr. McGhee's team has completed trenching on the site, and manual excavations are underway.

Dr. McGhee, a native of Karlsruhe, Germany, is a maritime archaeologist and historical anthropologist specializing in the African Diaspora that resulted from slave trading in the Americas. He is currently a Visiting Fellow with the University of Houston Department of African-American Studies.

Be sure to make plans to attend the November meeting. Dr. McGhee's presentation promises to be fascinating. Location is Jones Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas. The program starts at 7:30 pm.

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### PROGRAM NOTES

**MANY THANKS** to **Marianne Marek** for her informative talk on the San Felipe de Austin project in October. **Dr. Vaughn Bryant**, who was to have presented on "Plants and Archaeology: Why Paleoethnobotany is Important", was unable to be with us due to illness. His talk has been rescheduled to May, 2006.

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

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**LABORATORY SCHEDULE:** Mondays, November 14 and 28, 7:00p.m., Rice University Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103.  
**December Lab:** *December 12 only.*

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**HAS LIBRARY:** Open on Friday, November 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

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## Welcome Back, AIA

The Houston Chapter of the Archeological Institute of America (AIA) recently reorganized itself after a year or two of decline. Their first meeting was held October 23 under the leadership of new president Becky Lao.

AIA's next meeting is November 15, featuring a talk by Dr. Carol McDavid on "Past Meets Present: African-American Archaeology in Texas". This dovetails very well with our own topic in November. Location is the Italian Cultural and Community Center, 1101 Milford.

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### Treasurer's Report, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, 2005

Operating Fund		
Opening Balance July 1, 2005		\$ 5,605.25
Income		
Memberships/Dues	\$ 90.00	
Report Sales	59.00	
Kinko's Credit	<u>33.10</u>	
Total Income	\$182.10	5,787.35
Expenses		
Internet Charge	\$ 31.98	
Postage, stamps	37.00	
Bulk postage fee	50.00	
Printing, Profile	24.50	
Speaker	200.00	
Journal labels	25.99	
Flowers (Dudgeon Walker)	75.78	
Outreach	<u>56.64</u>	
Total Expenses	\$501.89	
Total Operating Fund Balance September 30, 2005		<u>\$ 5,285.46</u>
Savings		
Balance July 1, 2005	\$9,352.46	
Interest Apr-Sep 2005	<u>16.27</u>	
Balance September 30, 2005		<u>\$ 9,368.73</u>
Total Funds as of September 30, 2005		<u>\$14,654.19</u>
Submitted by Karen L. Acker, Treasurer		

#### President's Column

### Report from the TAS Annual Meeting

Texas Archeological Society (TAS) held its 2005 annual meeting in Austin October 28-30, with over 400 people in attendance. The location, the Hilton Austin Airport, was itself an archeological site, because it had once been a round 6-story steel hangar at the old Bergstrom Air Force Base. This onetime military base is now the Austin Bergstrom International Airport. The Hilton Hotel there has a soaring 6-story atrium at the center with pie-slice rooms arranged around the perimeter. All the meeting rooms are underground, so you can't help but wonder if they were carved out of some sort of Cold War bomb shelter.

I missed the daytime sessions on Friday, arriving in time to attend the delightful Public Forum on Friday evening. John R. Erickson, author and Panhandle rancher, delivered a program called, "Two Guys from Austin are Digging Up My West Pasture: A Rancher's View of Archeology". Erickson did standup comedy, read stories from one of his many "Hank the Cowdog" books, sang and played the banjo. He poked fun at looters, landowners, and archeologists alike, demonstrating along the way his extensive knowledge of Panhandle prehistoric archeology. It was a great beginning to a good meeting.

With 3 concurrent sessions going, it was hard to choose which to attend, but I went to a series of papers on the new research coming out of the Trans-Pecos area, led by Sul Ross University. Several sites have been identified and scheduled for excavation and research, so we should be hearing more in future years.

Graduate student research can be highly technical and the premise sometimes off-the-wall, but often the student's fresh approach makes it very interesting. One such student has discovered a correlation between the type of shaman rock art and the prevalence/absence of buffalo. Another student is developing a "genealogy" of Texas projectile points, complete with family tree.

Elton Prewitt gave an update on the Texas Projectile Point Project (still a long way to go), and Dr. Steve Hoyt gave an interesting presentation on an 1850 shipwreck at Indianola which he noted years ago in an old painting and has now located and dived on. There was more, but I'm running out of space! Only 4 or 5 people from HAS were able to go this year; I hope more will have this opportunity in 2006. – L. Swift

## Beth Aucoin, Wanda Carter, Richard Carter Receive HAS Merit Awards

Awards Chairman **Leland Patterson** presented the annual awards of the Houston Archeological Society at the October 2005 meeting. The HAS Merit Award was given to **Beth Aucoin** (left) for outstanding contributions to HAS activities. A joint HAS Merit Award was given to **Wanda and Richard Carter** (below right, with Leland Patterson, below left) for outstanding contributions to public outreach in archeology. The Southeast Texas Archeological research Award was not given this year.



The Southeast Texas Archeological Research Award has previously been given to William McClure, Richey Ebersole, Joe Hudgins, Lawrence Aten, Alan Duke, Lee Patterson, Grant Hall, Sheldon Kindall, Dee Ann Story, Richard Gregg, Etta Palmer,

and Harry Shafer. The HAS Merit Award has previously been given to Etta Palmer, Pam Wheat, Sheldon Kindall, Bob Etheridge, Richard Gregg, Don McReynolds, Bernard Naman, Karen Acker, Linda Swift, Muriel Walker, Jeanette Siciliano, Jim Wells, Joe Hudgins, Tom Nuckols, Robert Shelby, Richard Carter, David Pettus, Mary Barbara Gold, and William Haskell.



Other previous HAS awards include a special award to Alan Duke as HAS Journal Editor, and election of Alan Duke, Don Lewis, Richard Gregg, Evelyn Lewis, and Pam Wheat as Lifetime Members of HAS.

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## Father of Texas Birthday Celebration

The **Father of Texas Birthday Celebration** takes place at the **San Felipe de Austin Project** and the **Stephen F. Austin State Historic Park**, **Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM – 5 PM, San Felipe (FM 1458, 3 miles north of I-10 between Katy and Sealy, TX)**. Displays and activities sponsored by the Brazosport, Ft. Bend, Houston, and Texas Archeological Societies, as well as the Fort Bend

Museum. Features include Texan Army Camp (Sat.), Archeology Excavations, Children's Dig, Museum, and The Texan Time Machine. Excavators should contact Marianne Marek, [marianne@nstci.com](mailto:marianne@nstci.com). HAS & TAS volunteers are needed for kids' dig and to staff display & other activities; contact Beth Aucoin, [ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net](mailto:ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net). Food Vendors on site.

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## University of St. Thomas Hosts Tell Halif Exhibit

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. in Houston. Tell Halif was a fortified town on the southern border of Judah during the eighth century BC. Excavations began in 1976 and continued through the 1990s, aided by UST participants in the 1980s. Over this long period of time, the project was able to continually update its methodologies and made extensive use of digital technology and photogrammetry. Besides material artifacts and reports, the Lahav Project includes online digital reports containing 3000 color photos and 350 virtual reality movies. A must-see this fall!

**Brazosport Archeological Society:** meets at 7:30 PM the second Tuesday of each month at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science, 400 College Drive, Clute, Texas.

**Fort Bend Archeological Society,** [www.geocities.com/fortbendarch](http://www.geocities.com/fortbendarch): meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of every month at the George Memorial Library located at 1001 Golfview Dr. (at FM 762) in Richmond, Texas.

**The Yates Museum:** Professor David Bruner, U of H, holds field school and lab sessions every Saturday (8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) at 1314 Andrews in Freedman's Town (founded by freed slaves in 1868). Confirm at [davearch@houston.rr.com](mailto:davearch@houston.rr.com) or call Dr. Carol McDavid at 713-523-2649.

**Wanted: Newsletter Editor.** No experience required—we will train you! You need access to a computer with word processing software and the ability to distribute the Profile via both e-mail and snail mail. This will be a rewarding, interesting opportunity that you will enjoy. Contact Linda Swift at 713-207-5478 or [swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net).

**TAS 2006 Field School** will take place in Paris, Texas, June 10-17, 2006. TAS says, "Join professionals, amateurs, students and families in Paris where you can participate in archeological surveys and excavations. The main site is considered to be a good example of a Fourche Maline culture. It's fun for the whole family and no experience is necessary!"

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**Please submit articles for publication to Linda Swift, [linda.swift@centerpointenergy.com](mailto:linda.swift@centerpointenergy.com) .  
Submit articles no later than November 28, 2005, for the December issue.**

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

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*The Profile*

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