



The PROFILE



December 2006

Reeda Peel to Discuss Using Rock Art to Identify Cultural Areas

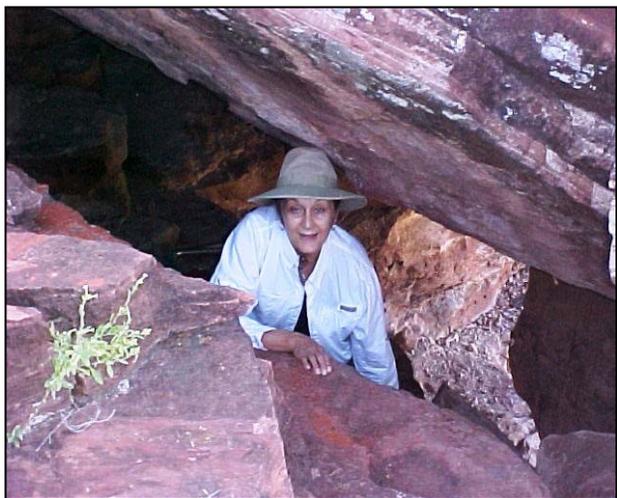
Reeda Peel, Research Associate with the Center for Big Bend Studies, Sul Ross State University, will present **“Owl Faces and Abstract Eyes: Using Rock Art to Identify Cultural Areas and Track Migrations”** at the December 8 meeting. A professional artist trained in both fine art and commercial art, Reeda has been involved in the scientific documentation of rock art sites in Texas for seventeen years, working with Texas Archeological Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Center for Big Bend Studies and Texas Historical Commission.

In May of 2004, she began directing the documentation and research of Trans-Pecos rock art sites for the Center for Big Bend Studies. Her duties include the scientific documentation, research, final

reports and reports for publication and presentations. A current project is the documentation and research of a horizontal bedrock petroglyph site covering several acres. In addition, she organizes volunteer efforts to assist with projects of the Center for Big Bend Studies. A most important long-range project is the preparation of the Texas Rock Art Database Project, which will place all the rock art sites in Texas into a relational database.

The December 8 meeting will be held at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30pm. For a detailed map, visit the HAS web site at www.houstonarcheology.org.

January 12, 2007 Program: Dub Crook will speak about the Brushy Creek Clovis site. Anyone wishing to deliver a future presentation should contact Michael Bailey at m Bailey@beamans.com



Reeda Peel at a site in Presidio County

December 8 is Party Time!

It's that time of year again when we ask everyone to bring something for refreshments for our December meeting. Since everyone should be bringing something, what you bring does not have to feed the whole group. Plan to stay after the program on December 8 for a holiday social in the foyer of Anderson Hall. This will be a great time to relax and enjoy the season!



Champ d'Asile Update

We are 85 cm deep into charcoal laden sand and possibly near the end. There has been a uniform amount of Indian artifacts in each of the excavated levels. It still is not possible to say this is or is not

Champ d'Asile. Unless something spectacular appears soon, we will need to wait for study of the artifacts in the lab.

–Sheldon Kindall



I hope this holiday season is full of joy and blessings for you and your family! - *Linda Swift*

Father of Texas Celebration Draws Hundreds

Many thanks to the following members who helped with the HAS exhibits, excavations, and numerous miscellaneous jobs: **Pat Aucoin, Diane Baird, Kathleen Barry, Pablo Castro, Bill Csanyi, Charlie Gordy, Dick Gregg, Sue Gross, Sara Guillote** (and daughter **Gracie**), **Don Keyes, Ed Masten, and Tom Nuckols**; my apologies if I have missed anyone. Several of those individuals helped on both days and some traveled more than a few miles: Bill from Nassau Bay/Kerrville; Charlie from Hitchcock; Sue (our new TAS Region 5 Director) from Lake Jackson; and Don from Conroe. Thanks to Leland Patterson for his continued supply of stone tools and dried gourds, and to everyone who donated acorns and pecans, "jewels" and coins and buttons and many wondrous items too numerous to mention.

On Friday, November 3rd, we once again hosted between 300-400 fourth graders, along with teachers, parents, and chaperones from various public and private schools in the area. We were unable to hold the mock "dig" as rain had gotten under the tarps and turned those pits into mud holes; however, everyone enjoyed the hands-on displays and activities, such as corn, acorn, and pecan grinding using mortars and pestles; or, using stone tools to drill or incise dried gourds and pottery sherds. Extremely popular was

our intrepid flintknapper, **Bill Csanyi**, whose knapping skills were evidenced in his demonstrations and the fantastic display of items that he had crafted.

Saturday was less crowded, but visitors were equally enthusiastic about flintknapping and exhibits. It is interesting that some adults who visited this celebration for the first time had learned of the San Felipe Archeology Project while visiting the San Jacinto Day Festival in April, while others have visited San Jacinto after visiting San Felipe. Those individuals who have been at both places indicated to me that they were pleased to see exhibits with timelines that showed the march of both the Texian and the Mexican Army, and poster exhibits of artifacts from San Felipe and the Elizabeth Powell site where Santa Ana stopped prior to proceeding to San Felipe. For some folks, the information about San Felipe and San Jacinto had faded, while they had no previous knowledge of Elizabeth Powell; they said it was nice to remember what they previously knew and to have some new information.

Last, but not least, a special thank-you to my husband, Pat, who always helps and supports me, whatever the project. -*Beth Aucoin*

Earliest Known Human Rituals Discovered

Sheila Coulson, associate professor at the University of Oslo has discovered that homo sapiens have performed rituals as early as 70,000 years ago in the Kalahari Desert region of Africa. While working in the Tsodilo Hills in Botswana, Coulson found spearheads as well as a giant python carved out of stone. The python is sacred to the San people, who believe that mankind descended from a python. Previously, scientists had thought humans began ritual behavior no earlier than 40,000 years ago. "Our find means that humans were more organized and had the capacity for abstract [thinking](#) at a much earlier point in history than we have previously assumed," LiveScience.com quotes Coulson as saying. For more information visit www.LiveScience.com.

The Month of December

December was a month eagerly awaited by the ancient Romans. The name comes from the Latin word *decem* meaning ten as this was the tenth month in the old Roman calendar before a monthless winter period was divided into January and February. In the old lunar calendar the period for the gestation of a child was ten months and so December was considered the month of birth. This month the



Romans held a special festival called the Saturnalia, a weeklong rite to the god Saturn celebrated with private parties, special dinners, family celebrations, and the exchange of gifts. Many of the customs of this month were incorporated into the Christian holiday of Christmas after the Emperor Constantine converted the empire to Christianity in the fourth century AD. —Fred Kelly

Upcoming Events

The Sea of Galilee Boat: An Extraordinary 2000 Year Old Discovery (Bader Lecture), Dr. Shelly Wachsmann, Texas A&M University. Tuesday, December 5, 2006, 7:00pm. Sewall Hall, Rice University Campus.

Texas Archeology Society 2007 Academies: Lithics, San Antonio, February 3-4; Ceramics, Nacogdoches, March 3-4; Rock Art, Comstock/Del Rio, March 30-April 1. For registration and information visit www.txarch.org.

HAS LIBRARY: Open on Friday, November 10, from 6:30pm to 7:20pm, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: Only **ONE** lab session in December: Monday, December 11, 7-9 pm. Sewall Hall, Room 103, Rice University.

November Minutes will be published in the January Profile.

HAS Membership Renewal



Reminder! 2007 membership renewals are due in January.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL
Houston Archeological Society, P. O. Box 6751, Houston, TX 77265-6751

Please complete this form and mail it, with your check for the correct amount, to the above address.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (home) _____ (work) e-mail: _____

Type of membership: New Renewal Please circle one: Student (\$10/year) Single (\$20/year)
Family (\$25/year) Contributing(\$30+/year)

ALL MEMBERS MUST SIGN THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE: "I pledge that I will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any present or future federal, state or local statute concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes, or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques."

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Texas Historical Commission Award Nominations

Don't miss the deadline to submit nominations for the Texas Historical Commission Awards! The THC offers a variety of awards to recognize worthy accomplishments and exemplary leadership in the preservation of Texas' heritage. Most will be presented at the agency's 2007 Annual Historic Preservation Conference in Lakeway, April 12-14.

If there's a person or organization in your county deserving statewide recognition, please act

immediately — the deadline for award nominations is Dec. 8 at 5 p.m.

To obtain a complete listing of awards available and a nomination form for submissions, see the THC website page at:

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/awards/awdefault.html> .

If you have questions, please contact the History Programs Division at 512-463-5853 or history@thc.state.tx.us . —*Cynthia J. Beeman*

**Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com
Submit articles no later than December 30th for the January issue.**

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Swift, President, swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net

Kathleen Barry, Director-at-Large, kate_barry42@sbcglobal.net

Michael Bailey, Vice President, mbailey@beamans.com

Diane Baird, Director-at-Large, diba1952@yahoo.com

Karen Acker, Treasurer, tkacker@aol.com

Richard Carter, Director-at-Large, richardandwanda@sbcglobal.net

Tom Nuckols, Secretary, annesullivan@andrewskurth.com

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net

Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com

Sheldon Kindall, kindall1@peoplepc.com

Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

Bev Mendenhall, bmend2@yahoo.com

J. D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com

R. L. Gregg, rlgregg@worldnet.att.net

Sandra & Johnny Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net

Marilyn & Walter Horton, wmh@houston.rr.com

Sandra Rogers, sojourne@consolidated.net

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Pat Mercado-Allinger, pat.Mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us

Jeff Durst, jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sue Gross, Region V Director, suegobs@houston.rr.com

Carolyn Spock, President, c.spock@mail.utexas.edu

Pam Wheat, Executive Director, pwheat@vmlplus.com

Web Site: www.txarch.org

The Profile

Houston Archeological Society

P O Box 6751

Houston, TX 77265-6751

Return Service Requested
