



The PROFILE

March 2006

Vaughn Bryant Jr. to Discuss Using Paleobotany in Archeology

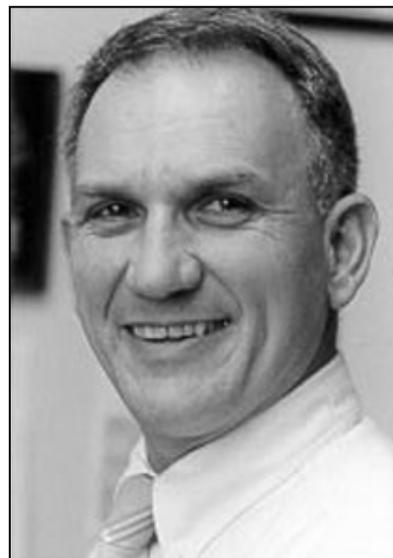
Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant Jr., Director of the Texas A&M Palynology Laboratory will give a speech on using paleobotany in archeology at the March 10 meeting. A professor of anthropology at Texas A&M University, Dr. Bryant's professional interests include palynology (the study of pollen grains) and paleoethnobotany (the study of how past cultures used plants). His active research programs are varied and include pollen studies from underwater shipwrecks, searches for the origins of agriculture, and the reconstruction of prehistoric diets. Dr. Bryant interprets the cultural use of plants using pollen evidence from the soils in archeological sites.

A native of Texas, Dr. Bryant holds a B.A. degree in Geography, M.A. in Anthropology, and Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Texas at Austin. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in a number of fields, and is listed in the Community of Science Expertise Directory. (*TAMU Website*)

As always, the March 10 meeting will be held in Anderson Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas at 7:30p.m.

For a detailed map, visit the HAS website at www.houstonarcheology.org

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



The Month of March

March was the month the ancient Romans held sacred to Mars, namesake of March. Mars is widely known as the god of war, but to Roman



Mars in a coin struck under Aemilianus.

farmers he was god of fertility and vegetation, and also protector of fields and crops (origin of his warlike reputation). March is the month to plant seeds, conceive new ideas, and celebrate the

resurgence of spring (think Mardi Gras!). - *Fred Kelly*

HAS LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The annual HAS Library Book sale will be held from 6:45-7:30 pm at the March meeting in Anderson Hall. Come early to peruse the large selection of old and new archeology texts. Normal library hours will resume in April.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: March Labs:

March 13 and 27, 7:00 pm., Rice U. Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103. **April Lab:** Monday, April 17 and May 1.

April 10, 2006 PROGRAM: Jerolyn Morrison, American Scandinavia Fellow, University of Houston, will speak on how cultural change is reflected in rural pottery traditions in Viking Age and Medieval pottery.

Prehistoric Archeology – A Challenge

As I write this month's column, I am enjoying my second day of retirement from work after 39 years with the same company. Well, not exactly the same company—its name changed 4 or 5 times, and several mergers took place, so it's a different company from the one I joined in 1967, and it will be yet a different company a few more years down the road.

So it is with most human endeavors. The Houston Archeological Society is different today than when I first joined, responding to changed circumstances and different member needs. One of our cherished traditions has been organizing and carrying out field work at prehistoric sites, and we have members who are recognized experts in various aspects of prehistoric lifeways and artifacts.

The challenge we face today is the rapidly expanding population and development of the Houston Gulf Coast area. Potential prehistoric sites are being bulldozed and paved over before they can even be discovered and documented. There are few, if any, opportunities to do prehistoric field work in and around Harris County. One has to drive across several counties in order to get to any rural areas, which makes it difficult for people to come to a half-day dig early on a Saturday morning.

At the same time, we live in an area that is rich in history precisely because of human habitation over the last 300 years, and you have seen our attention turn more toward historic sites as a result. However, we will continue to look for opportunities to do prehistoric archeology, and if you have any suggestions for such projects, please contact me or Sheldon Kindall, or any member of the HAS Board. -- Linda Swift

HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2006

Linda Swift, HAS President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. 34 people were in attendance.

Announcements:

- HAS lab is February 13 and 27.
- Beth Aucoin asked for volunteers to work the HAS booth at the Texas Heritage Day Festival on April 22, 2006 at the San Jacinto Battleground.
- Volunteers are needed to bring refreshments to HAS meetings. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Michael Bailey and the Carters were thanked for providing refreshments.
- The speaker for the March meeting has cancelled.
- Mary LeBlanc asked for volunteers to teach a "Leisure Learning" class in Archaeology at Kingwood College.

Program: Michael Bailey, HAS Vice-President, introduced the guest speaker: J. Barto Arnold, III. His presentation was on the Civil War Blockade Runner – Denbigh.

Business Meeting: After the program, there was refreshment break followed by the business meeting with 15 people in attendance.

- The January meeting minutes were approved.
- The HAS and AIA may collaborate on future projects. One of these projects is a third grade archaeology project for spring 2007.
- Treasurer's Report – Karen Acker has received 100 membership renewals. There were 130 members in 2005.
- Profile Editor Report – Sara Guillote stated that the deadline for submitting articles is February 24th.
- Publicity Chairman Report – Fred Kelly is working to associate the HAS with AIA, TAS and other organizations.
- Linda discussed the results of the shell midden test pit fieldwork conducted by the HAS on January 21, 2006.
- Richard Carter made a motion to amend the standing rules so that the membership dues match those shown on the membership application. The motion was voted on and approved.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm. ---submitted by Tom Nukols, Secretary

ARCHEOLOGY . . . LIFE IN THE *PAST* LANE

- **"Procession of the Divine - Excavations at Zur Natan: Samaritan Synagogue, Orthodox Monastery, and Islamic Saint's Tomb"** by Dr. William Neidenger, Texas Foundation for Archaeological & Historical Research, on Thursday, March 16, at 7:00 PM. at the AIA meeting, Italian Cultural Center, 1101 Milford.
 - **Buttons Needed.** Buttons are items that are generally recovered at historic sites. In keeping with this, I need buttons to "salt" a mock dig site for kids at the San Jacinto Festival & Battle Reenactment. My personal supply is depleted, so please bring buttons to the March & April meetings. Thanks. ---*Beth Aucoin*
 - **New!!! TAS Student Scholarships** for field school and annual meeting.
Field School: Paris, \$350, Deadline: April 1st;
Annual Meeting: San Angelo, \$275, Deadline: September 1st. Visit www.txarch.org for online application or to download application in a PDF format for mail-in.
 - **TAS Academy:** 2006 Rock Art Academy is full. 2007 Academy classes under review: Lithics, San Antonio; Ceramics, East Texas; Rock Art, Comstock. **HAS** has put in a bid to hold a lithics academy in the Houston area in 2008.
 - The **48th annual Caddo Conference** will be held in Nacogdoches, Texas at the Fredonia Hotel March 9 -11, 2006. For more information contact Victor Galan, Deep East Texas Archaeological Consultant, at 936-560-4670.
 - **San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment**, Saturday, April 22, 10 AM – 5 PM, San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park, Houston/LaPorte, 281-479-2421. www.sanacinto-museum.org
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2006 HAS AWARDS

Nominations can now be made for 2006 HAS awards. Nominations can be given directly to Lee Patterson, Joe Hudgins, or Sheldon Kindall, or mailed to L. W. Patterson, 418 Wycliffe, Houston, Texas 77079-7133. HAS awards are the **HAS**

Merit Award for outstanding contributions to HAS activities, and the **Southeast Texas Archeological Research Award** for outstanding contributions to research for this region. -*Lee Patterson*

For those who have not yet renewed their membership for 2006, just a reminder that now is the time. Our constitution requires that members renew by the end of March or be dropped. We don't want to lose you.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
77265-6751

Houston Archeological Society, P. O. Box 6751, Houston, TX

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)
Family (\$25/year)

Single (\$20/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: _____

HAS Loses Long-Time Member

Frank Brezik Jr., age 69, passed away on February 20, 2006. An avid amateur archeologist and Civil War historian, Mr. Brezik was an active member of HAS. Mr. Brezik owned an extensive gun collection, and **HAS President Linda Swift** remembers enjoying a conversation with him around the Texas A&M gun display. According to his family, Frank was “a proud Czech, a good and faithful servant, honest, hardworking and always ready to help a friend.” He will be missed.

Texas Beyond History

For a treasure trove of information on Texas archeology, visit www.texasbeyonhistory.net. This website is a public education service of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas, and contains a vast amount of information and resources. Of particular interest with this month’s speaker is the Texas Ethnobotany gallery, with photos and descriptions of the cultural uses of many native Texas plants.

**Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com
Submit articles no later than March 27, for the April issue.**

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

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The Profile

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