



The PROFILE

August 2007

Bennett Greenspan to Discuss DNA in Archeological Research

The August 10th meeting program will feature Bennett Greenspan, President and CEO of Family Tree DNA, speaking about DNA in historical research.

An entrepreneur and life-long genealogy enthusiast, Mr. Bennett Greenspan founded Family Tree DNA in 1999, turning a hobby into a full-time vocation. Mr. Greenspan, a Nebraska native who received his B.A. from the University of Texas, spent years investigating the ancestors of his maternal grandfather, an obsession which eventually led to the founding of Family Tree DNA.

Since its inception in April of 2000, Family Tree DNA has been associated with the Arizona Research Labs, led by Dr. Michael Hammer, one of the world's leading authorities in the field of Y-DNA genetics. Family Tree DNA has other renowned scientists on its advisory board and is the world leader in the field of genetic genealogy exploration. With over 150,000 records, Family Tree DNA has the largest database of its kind in the world. Family Tree DNA was selected by National Geographic Magazine to manage the public participation side of their DNA testing program, the Genographic Project, launched in 2005.

Mr. Greenspan's presentation begins with the genealogy that started Family Tree DNA. He explains how family relationships are determined through DNA testing. Mr. Greenspan shows how Family Tree DNA can come to the rescue when the paper trail ends or traditional genealogy runs into a brick wall.

The August 10th meeting will be held at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30 p.m. For a detailed map, visit our web site at www.houstonarcheology.org. Parking: use the Moran Center Parking Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark (\$2 fee), or park in Faculty Parking Lot S at Montrose and Branard after 7:00 PM (no charge).



September Program: Dub Crook will discuss the Late Prehistoric period of the East Fork of the Trinity River. Anyone wishing to deliver a future presentation should contact Michael Bailey at m Bailey@beamans.com

Father Bader says "Thanks"

Fr. Edward Bader, longtime HAS member, recipient of the HAS Southwestern Research Award in 2006, and semi-retired professor at the University of St. Thomas, phoned recently to express his thanks to the HAS membership for our recent donation to the UST archaeology program. As most of us know, Fr. Bader has been fighting colon cancer for some time and currently is hospitalized, so it has been difficult for him to write an official thank-you letter. In addition, he expressed gratitude for the many prayers that have been said in his behalf, and he hoped we would continue to remember him in our thoughts and prayers. We certainly will do that, and we send him our sincere wishes for a good recovery from this latest round of surgery. — Linda Swift

You are Needed

There is something you need to know, and there is no way to sugar-coat this situation: the Houston Archeological Society is facing a crisis of manpower. We have approximately 120 people on the membership roster, yet there aren't enough willing people to fill 7 Board positions and 8-10 leadership assignments! How can this be? Why do people belong to an organization if they don't intend to support it with their time and talent?

Some of you are in the same boat I am in—you've actively served HAS for many years already, and you feel it's time for someone else to step up to the plate. Others of you have family and work commitments that take a lot of your time and energy. Some of you have only been members for a short while, and you may have no inkling as to how your skills can be utilized in HAS.

Besides the Board positions that are being vacated, there are jobs that need leaders and/or workers, either right now, or by October. They include: membership recruiting, membership record-keeping, newsletter mailings, P.O. box monitoring, refreshments, greeters, excavations/fieldwork, and outreach (exhibits, booths, education, etc.). Around the first of the year, people will be needed to serve (for one evening) on the Audit Committee; then next summer we will need people for the Nominating Committee. Other jobs probably will come up after the new Board of Directors takes office.

Regardless of how long you have been in HAS, or what demands are being made on your time, *everyone* needs to reexamine their commitment to HAS and consider making a greater contribution than they are making right now. HAS will soon wither away unless more members volunteer to do the work that will keep this a viable organization. HAS only has a future if we the members get active and make it happen. --Linda Swift

San Felipe de Austin Project Excavations to be Revived

The San Felipe de Austin Consortium has been pre-approved for a 2008 Preservation Trust Fund Grant to continue excavations at San Felipe starting ca. November 2008. Marianne Marek has also received pre-approval for a National Geographic Grant for excavations at San Felipe. The emphasis of this upcoming season of work will be "The search for Stephen F. Austin's cabin", combined with additional survey and shovel testing of several of the more prominently-owned garden lots in the west suburbs of San Felipe.



The Texas Historical Commission will be taking over management of the Stephen F. Austin Historic Park as soon as they complete a management plan for the park. At that point, the Stephen F. Austin Historic Park Association hopes to partner with the THC for the management of the park. It appears that Michael Moore, now retired from the Fort Bend Museum, will become the

president of the Stephen F. Austin Historic Park Association, and will again become chair of the San Felipe Consortium. The actual relationship between the THC and the SFA Historic Park Association, as well as other details, has yet to be worked out.

Marianne remains working in the lab, analyzing metal, nails, nails and more nails, as well as working on writing grants & other miscellaneous tasks. Donations are needed to keep lab analysis going until the anticipated receipt of the THC grant in the fall. Other analyses are also in progress. Dr. Shawn Carlson, Star of the Republic Museum at Washington on the Brazos is working on Ceramics and Glass. Tommy Nuckols of HAS is analyzing the munitions, Beth Aucoin of HAS is looking at the Native American Ceramics. John Dockall of Prewitt & Associates in Austin is analyzing the lithics and gun flints. Brian Shaffer, a faunal analyst, now working for the Museum of Natural Science in Dallas will be analyzing the animal bone in the fall as part of the 2008 preservation trust fund project. To find out how to participate, contact Marianne Marek at marianne@nstci.com.

Annual TAS Meeting October 26-28

The Texas Archeological Society's 78th Annual Meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas, October 26-28, 2007. TAS members are invited to attend the meetings to be held at the historic Menger Hotel in downtown San Antonio, 204 Alamo Plaza. Also this year, for the first time, non-TAS-members can attend the sessions and banquet at a slightly higher fee than members. Come to hear professional and avocational archeologists share results of their recent research through the presentation of scholarly papers, poster displays, and exhibits.

Houston Archeological Society Meeting Minutes, July 13, 2007

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

Announcements:

- Lab will be held on Monday July 30. We will be working on the Barnhill Artifacts
- Wanda Carter was thanked for the refreshments.
- Copies of Joan Few's book, Sugar, Planters, Slaves and Convicts are for sale for \$15.

After the program there was a refreshment break followed by the business meeting with 16 people in attendance.

- The May meeting minutes were approved.
- Treasurer Karen Acker gave the treasurer's report.
- The San Felipe de Austin site may start up in the fall.
- Richard Carter will be in charge of the TAS Lithics Academy to be held in January or February 2008.
- The 2008 TAS Field School will be held in Perrytown.
- Diane Baird, Librarian, announced that work has started on a library inventory.
- Linda Swift, President, is looking for people to be on the nominating committee.

The Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Submitted by Tom Nuckols, Secretary

Archeology. . . Life in the Past Lane!

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: August Labs:

Monday, August 13 & 27. 7:00 pm, Rice U.
Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103.

HAS LIBRARY NEWS The library will be open on Friday, August 10th from 6:30pm-7:20pm, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

TAS Lithics Academy in Houston

The 2008 TAS Lithics Academy will be held in Houston this year, and members of HAS are needed to help plan and host this event. The academy is scheduled for January 26 and 27 in Scanlan Hall at the University of St. Thomas. To volunteer at this event please contact Richard Carter.

Redesigned TAS Website

When you get a chance, please check out the revised TAS website. We think you will like it. New additions include curricula for each of the academies, an archive of previous field school information, and a spot for each region with a profile and picture of the Regional Director. Of course, suggestions for new items or modifications are always welcomed! --Carolyn Spock, TAS President

Volunteer Dig at Rancho de las Cabras Starts this Month

Join archaeologists from the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research and the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park at the 18th century Spanish Mission site just outside San Antonio for volunteer Saturdays! Rancho de las Cabras is located in Wilson County within the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. It was built in the mid-1700s to contain the missions' livestock. Participants will excavate to improve documentation of ranch life, which will assist the National Park Service's effort to interpret the site for visitors.

When: Saturday, August 4, Saturday, August 25, Saturday, September 1, Saturday, October 13

Time: 8:30-2:00 each day

Please bring your own lunch and snacks, we will provide water and digging tools. This is a fairly remote site, with an unimproved road that could cause problems for low-clearance vehicles. We will caravan people out to the site as needed. Because the site is undeveloped, it contains brushy areas and fire ants; it is recommended that boots and appropriate clothing be worn; this includes a hat, long pants, and gloves.

Located 30 miles south of San Antonio, meet at Floresville City Park on SH 97 in Floresville. For additional information, call 210-458-4462 or e-mail Lynn.Yakubik@utsa.edu.

Ancient Roman Technology – Map Making



*A medieval artist's rendition of
Claudius Ptolemaeus. Wikipedia.*

Examples of the earliest crude maps go back to the Stone Age. The art was greatly advanced by the Babylonians, Egyptians and then the Greeks, who discovered that the world was spherical (so much for Columbus worrying about falling off the edge of the world!) and developed latitude and longitude grids. The Romans blended Greek maritime maps with maps of their massive network of roads with milestones.

The greatest Roman geographer was a Greek-speaking Egyptian, Ptolemy of Alexandria (ca. 90-168 AD), who developed more sophisticated map projection techniques. Ptolemy's eight-volume work *The Geography* is filled with tables of latitude and longitude of specific places, given to within one-twelfth of a degree of latitude; although in those days longitude was largely guesswork. –Fred Kelly

Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com
Submit articles no later than August 31st for the September issue.

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

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The Profile

Houston Archeological Society

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