



# The PROFILE

November, 2008

## Chief Michael Amos of the Atakapa-Ishak Tribe to Speak in November

The November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of HAS will focus on “The Mounds of Southeast Texas,” featuring the chief of the Atakapa-Ishak tribe, Michael Amos of Port Arthur, and our own Mary LeBlanc, also a member of the tribe.

According to tribal lore, the Atakapa-Ishak people split into two groups: the “Sunrise People” and the “Sunset People” during prehistoric times. One group occupied southwestern Louisiana and southeast Texas, while the other group settled near Mata-gorda Bay. Their original name was Ishak, meaning “The People.” The Choc-taw called them “Ata-kapa,” a term that was used by the European settlers and became part of the tribal name. It is possible that the Atakapa-Ishak people are related to the mound builders, although this is not proven.

Ms. LeBlanc says very little is known about the people and the cultures involved in these mounds, especially on the Texas side of the Sabine River. Our program will cover what is known about Cow Bayou Mound, Adams Bayou Mound, Morgan’s Mound, and other large mounds and groups of mounds in south-east Texas.

The mounds show a variety of configurations; for example, Adams Bayou Mound is 900 ft. by 150 ft. by 20 ft. high, while Morgan’s Mound is actually four large mounds around a central plaza with more than 20 other mounds in the vicinity. These differences in configurations indicate the mounds probably were built at different times by different cultures.

“The artifacts which have come from some of these mounds are tantalizing: carved figurines and pottery showing very unique cultures,” said Ms. LeBlanc. “There are far more questions than there are answers at this time, but we can look at an overview of work that has been done and what is known.”

One reason so little work has been done is that the sites are very remote with no easy ways to access them. Cow Bayou and Adams Bayou mounds are accessible only by boat through marshes.

“It is a trip better made when the alligators and snakes have all gotten too cold to be active,” she said. “There is no dock. We bring the boat in as near as we can and then hop out and wade ashore, which is why we want to wait until the ‘gators go dormant.

Both mounds are well covered in brush, which is why we want to wait for the snakes to be dormant.”

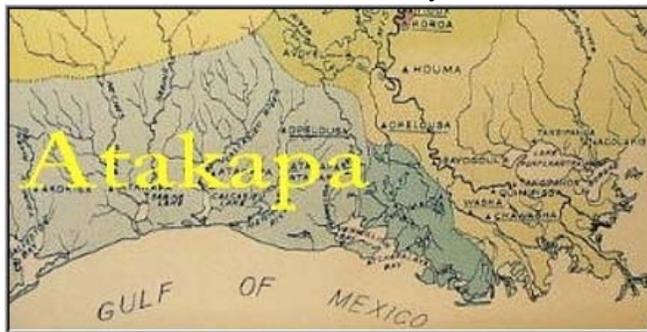
It is said that artifacts are eroding out of the bottom of the mounds, but so far no scientific archeological excavations have

taken place there. A hike to the top of either Cow Bayou or Adams Bayou mound is not for the unfit, but once on top there are fascinating things to see. Cow Bayou has a rainwater catchment pond on top to provide fresh drinking water in lieu of the brack-ish water of the marsh, and there is some evidence of a long house structure and agriculture. Adams Bayou features a great view of the surrounding landscape.

“It is not a tourist run, but it is worth it to see what few people in Texas have seen even though it’s right in our back yard,” she added.

This meeting will be in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30 p.m. Parking: Use the Moran Center Parking Garage at the corner of W. Alabama and Graustark, or park in Faculty Lot S at Montrose and Branard after 7:00 pm. For a detailed map, visit our website at [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org), or e-mail [HASEvents@aol.com](mailto:HASEvents@aol.com).

**December meeting:** Next meeting is Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>.



# Houston Archeological Society Meeting Minutes, Oct.10, 2008

Diane Baird, HAS President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

## Announcements/Business:

- Beth Aucoin – Lab nights are to be Oct.13<sup>th</sup> and Oct.27<sup>th</sup> at Rice University.
- Ed Masten – gave a Treasurer’s report.
- Election of Officers – The slate of nominees presented by the Nominating Committee was elected unanimously. The Board of Directors for 2008-2009 will be:

President	Diane Baird
Vice President	Michael Bailey
Secretary	Kathleen Barry
Treasurer	Ed Masten
Director-at-Large	Lucia Bonno.(elected for 3-year term)
Director-at-Large	Muriel Walker (2 year term remaining)
Director-at-Large	Phyllis Bradley (1 year term remaining)

- Michael Bailey – talked about a Plantation in Brazoria County, which will be available for HAS to visit.
- There were 26 people present at the meeting.

## Program:

Michael Bailey, HAS Vice-President, introduced the speaker – Frank Griffin. Frank gave a presentation and illustration entitled “Edge Modification: With a Case Study in Edge Wear Analysis.” After the lecture, he invited attendees to come down and get a hands-on demonstration of the lithic artifacts he brought.

*-- Submitted by Muriel Walker*

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## Lab Schedule

**November & December Lab:** Only one lab session each month: Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> only; 7-9 p.m., Room 103, Sewell Hall, Rice University. . We will continue cataloging artifacts from the Menard-Morris House in Seabrook, while the Powell Site authors continue refining their articles. Visit our web site, [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org), for a map.

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## HAS Receives 50-Year Membership Award at TAS Meeting

The Texas Archeological Society presented HAS with a 50-year membership certificate at its annual business meeting in Lubbock on October 24. Joan Few received the award in behalf of HAS and gave it to Linda Swift to take back to Houston. HAS was founded in 1952, and it became a member society of TAS in 1958.

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## Awards to be Presented in November

Each year, the Houston Archeological Society may present two awards to deserving individuals. One, the HAS Merit Award, is given to a person or persons who have demonstrated a dedication to the Society through outstanding service over a period of time. The second, the Southeast Texas Research Award, goes to a person or persons who have performed and published outstanding archeological research, especially pertaining to the Southeast Texas geographical area.

These awards are not necessarily made every year; they are made only if the Awards Committee deems there are individuals deserving of the honor during the year.

Normally scheduled for presentation in October, the awards were delayed until November for various reasons related to Hurricane Ike. So come to the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to see who earned these honors for 2007-2008. It could be you!

## New Ceramics Guide Book Published

The Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas-San Antonio has announced the publication of a new book that could be useful to us in Houston. It is *A Guide to Spanish Colonial Ceramics in Texas*, by Anne A. Fox and Kristi M. Ulrich.

Excerpts from the editor's preface: "While we have tried to include the entire state in our discussion, the book is written from a South Texas perspective, as these are the primary collections to which we have access and the sites with which we are most familiar. The manuscript is divided into four chapters. The first three chapters offer abbrevi-

ated background information. Chapter 4 is the heart of the publication. It consists of type descriptions of Spanish colonial ceramics found in Texas. In most cases, each type includes a plate with several examples in color facing the text of the type descriptions. The layout is designed to facilitate identification. Each illustration will include the location at which the specific item was found." Appendix A includes a glossary of terms used in ceramic analysis, and Appendix B consists of an extensive bibliography, by location, of archaeological site reports and artifact analyses for Spanish Colonial Texas.

## TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY ACADEMY SESSIONS IN 2009

Three sessions of the *Texas Archeology Academy* will be sponsored by TAS in 2009. No experience or previous knowledge is needed to learn and enjoy these weekend sessions.

### **Archeology 101: Recognizing and Documenting Archeological Sites**

On January 30 and 31, 2009, TAS will partner with the Williamson Museum to present an **Archeology 101** Academy in the historic Williamson County Courthouse. On Feb. 1, participants will conduct field exercises at the **Gault Site**. This Academy will introduce basic archeological procedures, techniques for recovery of data, and methods for preserving valuable archeological resources. Instruction will include identifying archeological sites, mapping visible remains, analyzing evidence, reporting finds, and protecting our heritage. Dr. Harry Shafer will teach the academy. Classes will begin on Friday evening and will continue on Saturday. On Sunday we will caravan to the Gault site for ½ day of field survey and limited testing.

### **The Big Bend: Archeology, Culture and History, a Regional Academy**

TAS will present a Regional Academy in Study Butte in Brewster County on Feb. 20, 21 and 22, 2009. This academy, offering more than rock art, will begin on Friday evening at the Terlingua Community Center in Study Butte and conclude on Sunday after lunch. It will include a combination of classroom presentations and field tours of archeological and historical sites in and near the Big Bend National Park.

### **Historical Archeology: In Pursuit of the Past**

The Brazosport Archaeological Society will host TAS in Lake Jackson for Historical Archeology, March 7 and 8, 2009. The Academy will be held at the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences. Joan Few, well known in the Lake Jackson area for her extensive experience investigating the historic sugar plantations of the lower Brazos River, will present the academy. The curriculum will define Historical Archeology and address the many historical sites found in Texas. Field methods, artifact types and significance, analysis and reporting of historical archeological sites will be part of the agenda. A field trip of the Lake Jackson Plantation SAL, site of the TAS 1994-95 Field Schools, will offer participants the opportunity to see what can be learned from the Historical archeology of Texas.

### **Registration**

All workshops are intended for anyone interested in archeological topics. **Fees** are \$95 for TAS members and \$95 plus TAS membership dues for non-members. Fees include a CD manual, lunch and snacks during the class sessions. TAS is a provider of professional development accredited through SBEC. Credits may be received by teachers attending classes.

**Register online or by mail.** See [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org), Texas Archeology Academy or call 1-800-377-7240 for more information. To learn more about **Student Scholarships** and **Scholarships** awarded by the **Diversity Committee**, see

<http://www.txarch.org/scholarships/index.html>

## *Archeology. . . Life in the Past Lane*

Friends of Archaeology upcoming programs:

- **November 9th**, Sunday, 5 pm University of St. Thomas, Anderson Hall Auditorium, "**The Temple of Abu Simbel**" Bade Rahman, Archivist; reception in Foyer.
- **November 23rd**, Sunday, 4pm UST Robertson Hall Room 116, videos on "**The Powers of Augustus**" & "**Succession Wars**" by Dr. Garrett G. Fagan, Penn State University.
- **December 7th**, Sunday, 5 pm, UST Anderson Hall Auditorium, "**Silk Road Excursion**" Jack Ferrall; reception in Foyer.
- **January, 2009**, a 14-day trip to Egypt including Nile cruise to archeological sites. For information, call Nancy Jircik at 713-524-3719.

**Archaeological Institute of America-Houston** will present a free lecture entitled, "**George Washington's Eye: Architecture and Landscape at Mt. Vernon**," by Dr. Joseph Manca, Chair, Department of Art History, Rice University, at 7:00 pm on **Thursday, Nov. 20**, at Rice University--Herring Hall.

At the **Fort Bend Archeological Society's** November meeting avocational archeologist Frank Griffin will present "**Lithic Technology: Bifacial Reduction**", at 7:00 pm on **Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>** at the George Memorial Library, Room 2B in Richmond, Texas. This is Part 1 of Griffin's series on lithic technology; he presented Part 2 at the Houston Archeological Society meeting in October.

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Please submit articles for publication to Linda Swift, [swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net)  
Submit articles no later than November 30th 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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