



# The PROFILE

March, 2009

## March Program: “By the Dim of Flaring Lights”

On Friday, March 13, Sam Whitley, local re-enactor, author, and researcher, will present an interesting program called “By the Dim of Flaring Lights”. He will concentrate on equipment and materials used to produce light in early (Colonial) Texas. The presentation will be highlighted by a collection of lamps, candleholders, and tools such as candle snuffers, candle molds and wick snipers.



Sam Whitley in Texas colonial period dress. Sam Whitley is a native Texan with a strong appreciation of history, with a family history in America that goes back before the Revolutionary War. He received both Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Chemistry from Stephen F. Austin State University, with a Government-funded “sabbatical” in beautiful South Vietnam squeezed between. After his second graduation, he moved to the Texas gulf coast, where he soon became active in reenacting the Texas Colonial Period. He has pursued this reenacting for more than 30 years, learning gun making, blacksmithing, and period woodworking along the way. In the process of learning these antique skills, “experiential historians” like Sam gain a far deeper understanding of history, and learn to read between the lines of diary entries and newspaper articles of the day in a way no book expert can.

Sam is a charter member of the Brazoria Militia, a reenactment group representing the Austin Colony settlers “reorganized” in 1977. Members of the Brazoria Militia have participated in numerous historic festivals, many battle reenactments, and two movies about the Texas Revolution. The Brazoria Militia has been recognized as one of the State’s premier reenactment groups since shortly after its inception.

The author of several articles on various historical subjects, Sam has long been an active researcher and has contributed his expertise to identify artifacts from early Texas and to help the archaeologists and anthropologists who dig them appreciate their significance. Among the most historically significant evaluations he has made had to do with identification of a rifle ball fired during the last minutes of the siege of the Alamo.

In 2006, Sam helped restore the charter of a Republic of Texas-era Masonic Lodge, Frontier Lodge No. 28. In early 2008, Frontier Lodge became the first lodge in Texas to receive the Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award for Fred Valdez education efforts in 2007.

The March 13 meeting will be held at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall of the University of St. Thomas, 3900 Mount Vernon, at 7:30 p.m. For a detailed map, visit our website at [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org). Parking: use the Moran Center Parking Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark, or park in Faculty Parking Lot S at Montrose and Branard after 7:00 p.m.

**April:** Fred Valdez of the University of Texas will be speaking on Mesoamerican archeology.

**Lab Schedule:** March 16 & 30; April 13 & 27; May 11 only, as May 25 is Memorial Day; 7-9 p.m., Room 103, Sewell Hall, Rice University. Visit [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org) for a map.

## The Prez Sez

Hi everyone! Hope everyone is enjoying spring, I mean winter, I mean spring.....

At last month's meeting the members voted to participate at the San Jacinto Festival on April 25 only if there was no dig for the kids. Although very disappointed with the decision, I informed the planning committee of the festival of our decision. I was called back to see if we would allow other people to do that dig at our site. We would not have to do anything. I will be bringing this up at the board meeting and hope that at least this will be possible. People depended on us to provide this, but at least some others are willing to take over. We will make a final decision by the end of our meeting.



I will have sign-up sheets for volunteers for the festival. Shifts will be from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm and 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm. We will need volunteers with trucks or large SUVs to pick up displays at the Aucoins' home off the Gulf Freeway to set up at our site.

Everyone should bring seating, drinks (especially water), food and anything they might need for the day. There is food for sale, but it tends to be pricey. There are lots of booths with craft stuff. If you have never done this before, it's lots of fun! YOU could get hooked!!

See you at the meeting.

--Diane Baird, President

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### Minutes of the February 13, 2009, HAS Meeting

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

- 46 people in were in attendance.
- Ed Masten showed examples of a proposed new membership form and asked for membership approval. Motion carried 22 to 0.
- Diane announced that the HAS booth at the San Jacinto Festival would be discussed at the business meeting.
- Dr. Frederick B. Pearl, Associate Professor of General Academics and Marine Sciences (Anthropology) at Texas A&M University at Galveston, spoke to us on "The Archeology and Cultures of Oceania".

#### Business Meeting

- San Jacinto Festival is Saturday, April 25, and festival leaders need to know if HAS will participate, especially with the children's mock dig. Need 3-4 people to do planning, plus volunteers on the day. Discussion followed. Consensus was that the booth itself was worthwhile, but the mock dig was not. Some felt the effort and equipment required was too much; some felt it did not adequately demonstrate archeological techniques. Kathleen Barry volunteered to coordinate pickup of equipment and supplies with Beth Aucoin, and Diane said she would notify the Festival of our decision.
- Michael Bailey reminded everyone that March is Texas History Month. The Brazosport Museum will sponsor a lecture at noon on March 12 by Thomas Green on "The History of the Texas Flag". Glen Rogers will also speak at 7:00 pm on March 26 on "How the Confederacy Armed Itself".
- HAS Lab will be from 7:00 to 9:00 Monday, February 16 at Rice University.

--Submitted by Kathleen Barry and Linda Swift

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### Want Ad

I am looking for someone to take over the membership duties for HAS. Updating the membership lists is not difficult. Ed Masten, our treasurer, saves the renewal and new membership forms for me, and I update the list as needed. One thing I have been asked to do is send Tom, who prints and mails the Profile, an updated "snail mail" list of addresses each month. I have simplified our membership register in Excel, and I can just do a 'sort' to generate a list. Then I attach it to an e-mail and send it to him. I have also created a very simple database in Access that does the same thing, if you prefer Access. Keeping track of memberships would be a snap for anyone with a little computer knowledge.

The membership job is not a big deal, but the person doing it needs to attend meetings, which I do not plan to do in the future. My duties with my other activities have gotten more involved, and archeology has moved down my priority list. Please contact me if you think you might be interested in taking over the membership duties. Karen Acker, 281-358-0893 or [tkaker@aol.com](mailto:tkaker@aol.com).

## Last Call for 2009 Dues

If you have not yet paid your 2009 dues, it's time to act! If you have been procrastinating, don't wait any longer. Any members who haven't paid dues by the end of March are dropped from our mailing list. This could be your last HAS *Profile*, so re-up now and make sure you don't miss an issue!

## National Museum of the American Indian Collections Go Online

The National Museum of the American Indian is putting its collections online! **Collections Search** will open the NMAI collections to millions who have never had the opportunity to see them in person. Explore today at [www.americanindian.si.edu/searchcollections](http://www.americanindian.si.edu/searchcollections). Eventually the **Collections Search** will contain nearly all 800,000 of the NMAI's objects and 65,000 historic photographs including those too fragile to display. Extraordinary!!!

--Sue Ellen Turner

## 2009 TAS Field School Is June 13

The upcoming 2009 Field School, June 13-20, promises to be even better than last year's. Mr. Harold Courson and his family have invited TAS back for a second year in the Texas Panhandle to finish up some important Archeological investigations to be directed by Dr. Scott Brosowske. Again this year, Mr. Courson will treat attendees with two catered dinners with live entertainment. The first will be on Saturday, June 13, and then field school will conclude on Friday, June 19th, with a dinner and entertainment by a well known band. The campground will be at picturesque **Wolf Creek Park and Lake Fryer**, in Ochiltree County about 15 miles from Perryton. Perryton is only seven miles south of the Oklahoma state line, and it is the northernmost county seat in Texas. It has one of the best small town museums within a 400 mile radius. Register for the 2009 Field School **online** or **download a PDF** to complete and mail in, at [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org).

**You are cordially invited to attend the Dedication of the "Capitol of Texas Park - A Walk Through the Birth of Texas" West Columbia, Texas April 17, 2009, 11:00 a.m.**  
**These Historic Sites will be open to view:**  
**Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Site, Replica of the First Capitol of the Republic of Texas**  
**Ammon Underwood home and Columbia Historical Museum**  
**2:00 pm Dedication Ceremony at the Site,**  
**NE corner of 17<sup>th</sup> St. and Brazos St,**  
**Reception Following the Ceremony**  
**West Columbia Chamber of Commerce**

## Call for Stewards and Volunteers for Zilker Park Project in Austin

Ecological Communications Corporation (EComm) is calling for volunteers to assist with public out-



*Test Excavations at Zilker Park, Austin*

reach activities connected with upcoming data recovery investigations in Zilker Park, Austin, Texas. The City of Austin is sponsoring the excavation, which will focus on recovering data from the Paleoindian Period at the Vara Daniel Site (41TV1364). The Paleoindian component of this unique site is buried more than 10 feet below the ground surface. In order to reach it, archeologists plan to strip off the upper layers of soil and then commence excavations at the bottom of a pit. Fieldwork will take place during April and May of 2009. Interested Stewards and avocational archeologists should contact Rachel Feit at 512-329-0031 or at [rfeit@ecommcorporation.com](mailto:rfeit@ecommcorporation.com).

## SHUMLA School Offers *Field Methods in Rock Art Course*

SHUMLA and Texas State University are once again offering *Field Methods in Rock Art*. May 11-29, 2009. This three-week course gives students the opportunity to earn 3-6 hours of undergraduate or 3 hours of graduate-level credit while studying with one of the leading rock art researchers in the world.

Taught at the SHUMLA campus, located 50 miles west of Del Rio, Texas, the Lower Pecos River region is the home of hundreds of rock shelters, many of which contain some of the finest examples of prehistoric rock art in the world, dating to over 4,000 years old. For more information, check the SHUMLA Web site at <http://www.shumla.org> or read about past field schools at the Field School blog <http://fieldmethodsinrockart.blogspot.com/>

## *Archeology... Life in the Past Lane* March is Texas History Month!

The **San Jacinto Festival and Reenactment** will be **Saturday, April 25** from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the San Jacinto Battleground, featuring activities for all ages, including a reenactment of the battle that won independence for Texas.

The **Battle of San Jacinto Symposium 2009, *New Light on Old Stories***, is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, University of Houston.

The **Brazoria County Historical Museum** presents *The History of the Texas Flag*, a lecture by Thomas Bruce Green III, on March 12, 12:00 noon at the Brazoria County Historical Museum. Located in the 1897 Brazoria County Courthouse at 100 East Cedar Street in Angleton, TX. Bring a sack lunch. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 979-864-1208 or visit the Museum's web site at [www.bchm.org](http://www.bchm.org).

Please submit articles for publication to Profile Editor Linda Swift, [swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net)  
Submit articles no later than March 28 for the April issue.

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

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