

“Caddo Indians of the Middle Sabine River Basin” is October 15th Topic

Representatives from Prewitt and Associates, Inc., a cultural resources firm based in Austin, will present a talk on “The Caddo Indians of the Middle Sabine River Basin” at our October 15th meeting. The presentation will be led by Ross C. Fields and Eloise F. Gadus.

The Caddo Indians, who lived in northeast Texas and adjoining parts of Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma for at least the last 1,000 years of prehistory and whose word for friend or ally—*taysha*—gave Texas its name, were settled farmers who built ceremonial centers and lived in villages that were clustered around these centers. Recent excavations at one of these ceremonial center-village complexes, the Pine Tree Mound site in Harrison County, have shed new light on Caddo settlement of the middle Sabine River basin between AD 1300 and 1650. This talk explores how these excavations unfolded and what they tell us about how this group of Caddo people lived. We will be returning to our new permanent location for the October 15th meeting. The new location is the Carriage House at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004. The new meeting time is 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month.

New 2009-10 Board Elected

At the September meeting, the following persons were elected for 2009-2010: President: Charlie Gordy; VP: Michael Bailey; Secretary: Phyllis Bradley; Treasurer: Ed Masten; Director: Charles Snider. Two board members, Muriel Walker and Lucia Bonno, continue in their present on-going director positions.



A Caddo couple in Nacogdoches, Texas, in 1828 drawn by Lino Sánchez y Tapia after José María Sánchez y Tapia. Courtesy Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, and www.texasbeyonhistory.net.

Lab: No Lab Oct. 12th due to Columbus Day (federal holiday); Next Lab Oct. 26th, 7-9 p.m., Rm. 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. For a map, visit www.houstonarcheology.org.



President's Message

First and foremost, I wish to thank you for electing me as your new president for the upcoming year. I'm not sure how I got in this position. I guess I was standing too close to the open doorway when the funnel cloud went by. At any rate, I did consent to serve if elected, and here I am. Mostly, I appreciate the confidence you have in me to serve you as president of the Houston Archeological Society. Next, I think we all owe outgoing president, Diane

Beard, a great debt of gratitude for the great job she has done for the past two years. She has had some difficult challenges and decisions to make which will surely make my upcoming job easier. Along with her, the other officers and board members, plus the various committee members were all instrumental in keeping HAS on even keel. I thank them all as well. Lucky for me I will be having the cooperation of board members who are experienced.

As I go about the business of being your president, I will (as well as all of us should) be keeping in mind the purpose for which we as a society exist. As a reminder, our purpose is: (1) to bring together persons with similar interest in the subject of archeology; (2) to foster an active interest in the discovery, recording, and preservation of archeological remains and data; (3) to encourage and support the publication of archeological information; and (4) to sponsor projects and promote investigations intended to promote a wider public understanding and appreciation of archeology. Naturally I cannot do all this by myself. I sincerely welcome your suggestions and comments on anything that might make HAS the best it can be.

I will be depending on you, the members, to get involved and to serve in the different capacities to "git-er-done". I will be asking some of you to volunteer to serve in some of these capacities as committee chairmen or members. I hope you will step up to help take care of the business that needs to be done so we can all have some fun. Speaking of fun, the upcoming year of 2010 (the first full year of many more years) promises to be an exciting year with the work to be done on the Bernardo Plantation Archaeology Project. This project alone promises to deliver the vast majority of the purposes for which we exist. It is close to home and each of us should take the opportunity to participate in revealing the archeology of this important part of Texas history. HAS has the opportunity to take the lead. But let's not sit back on this project alone. We still have ongoing work on Champs D'Aisle and we will continue to discover new sites of archeological interest in an effort to broaden our experiences and sharpen our skills.

Let's have a "Happy" new HAS year beginning now.

-- Charlie Gordy, President

Minutes of HAS Meeting September 17, 2009

The September HAS meeting was held starting with dinner at 6:00 pm at Niko-Niko's restaurant and featured good food, good conversation, and great socializing. After dinner, President Diane Baird called the meeting to order with 35 people in attendance, including a quorum of the membership.

- Ed Masten gave the Treasurer's Report.
- Diane announced that an agreement has been reached with Rice University to accept our library of books and documents, and she stated that volunteers will be needed to help transfer the materials from storage to Rice.
- Diane conducted the election of officers. Beth Aucoin read the slate of nominees recommended by the Nominating Committee, and Diane asked for nominations from the floor. There being no other nominees, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to elect the nominees by acclamation. New officers for the 2009-2010 year are: President: Charlie Gordy; VP: Michael Bailey; Secretary: Phyllis Bradley; Treasurer: Ed Masten; Director: Charles Snider. Two board members, Muriel Walker and Lucia Bonno, continue in their present on-going director positions.
- Charlie Gordy expressed appreciation to the membership and promised a good year ahead.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

--Submitted by Kathleen Barry

BERNARDO PLANTATION PROJECT Progress Report

The Bernardo project team met on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, for a planning session. The team members present for the meeting were Jim Bruseth, Director Archeology Division of THC; Jeff Durst, Region 6 Archeologist for THC; Greg Brown, property owner; Robert Marcom and Carol McDavid of Community Archaeology Research Institute, Inc. (PIs), Gregg Dimmick, Avocational Archeologist; Jim Woodrick, Avocational Archeologist; Charlie Gordy, Avocational Archeologist; and Linda Gorsky, Avocational archeologist.

A main focus of the meeting was devoted to the budget necessary to support the work that needs to be done. In this regard, funding for the project will be handled through "FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION" as the fiscal agent. Any person or organization can make a tax exempt contribution payable to "FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION", designated to the BERNARDO PLANTATION PROJECT. Mail to P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711-2276. The Texas Historical Commission has already initiated funding and grant inquiries aimed at supporting the project.

The preliminary archeology fieldwork was prioritized as follows: (1) Establish the lab; (2) Shovel test and screen the Bernardo main house site; (3) Do metal detecting sampling of the slave quarters designated as SLAVE QUARTERS "A," located parallel to FM1887; (4) Obtain a better sampling of the Pleasant Hill plantation location; and (5) do remote sensing at the school location.

Our next volunteer work period is scheduled for Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25, 2009. Work will begin at 9 AM and close at 3 PM on each day. During this work period, our main objectives will be to locate the Bernardo main house foundation and to set out the grid for some shovel testing of the cabins. A general request for volunteers has been sent to all on our contact list. We will need 20 volunteers for both days. To be included on our volunteer contest list, just email me at my address below and I will add you to the list for future volunteer opportunities.

--Charlie Gordy, information and volunteer coordinator, chasgordy@yahoo.com

October is Texas Archeology Month

October is Texas Archeology Month, and there are many interesting programs scheduled throughout this region. Here are a few from the Texas Historical Commission Texas Archeology Month Calendar of Events. All programs are free unless a fee is indicated.

Oct. 1-30: Exhibit: "McFaddin Beach: A Walk in History," Jefferson CHC Mini-Museum, 8 am-5 pm., Beaumont. Information: Linda McMahan, 409-835-8701, histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us or Theresa Goodness, 409-835-8480, good@co.jefferson.tx.us.

Oct. 8: "San Jacinto Battle Site," Gregg Dimmick, speaker.

Oct. 15: HAS Meeting: "Caddo Indians of the Middle Sabine River Basin."

Oct. 15: Battlefield Archeology--San Jacinto Discoveries in 2009," Douglas Mangum, Huntsville, 6:30-8:00 pm Contact Sandra Rogers, 936-661-9882, smmser@shsu.edu; www.samhouston.memorialmuseum

Oct. 20: "The Buckeye Knoll Site (41VT98)," Dr. Robert Ricklis, Brazosport Archaeological Society & Brazosport Museum, Clute, 7 pm. Contact: Johnney Pollan, 979-265-6910, Pollanone@sbcglobal.net, or Sue Gross, 979-265-3142, suegbobs@comcast.net, or www.bmns.org.

Oct. 23-25: TAS 80th Annual Meeting, Del Rio. Members; Fees. Information: www.txarch.org

Oct. 24: Children's Dig at George Ranch Historical Park, Richmond, 9-5. Fee charged. Information: Claire Rogers, 281-342-6478, educator@fortbendmuseum.org, or www.georgeranch.org

Oct. 29: "Indians of Southeast Texas," Sheldon Kindall, Brazoria County Historical Museum, Angleton, 6:30 pm. Contact: Michael Bailey, 979-864-1591, curator@bchm.org; www.bchm.org.

Oct. 30-31: Heritage Celebration: Father of Texas Birthday, San Felipe State Historic Site, all day. Friends of San Felipe State Historic Site and THC State Historic Sites Division. Information: Brian McCauley, 877-558-7234 (toll free), bryan.mccauley@thc.state.tx.us, www.colonialcapitaltexas.com.

Bruce Lockett to Speak at CLF Meeting November 14

Bruce Lockett, Director of the Texas Archeology Association and President of the Vidor Historical Society, will be the featured speaker at the Clayton Library Friends (CLF) Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on November 14 at 10 am in the Carriage House Meeting Room at Clayton Library. Mr. Lockett will be speaking on the Atakapa Indians, their part in genealogy then and today, the impact the Indian had on the area where we live. Where we live today, the Atakapa Indians lived before us.

Free Public Lecture on Bylazora Excavations October 27

Dr. William J. Neidinger will present a free public lecture: "Bylazora: the Discovery and Excavation of the Legendary Fortress City of the Paionians," on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Location is St. Martin's Episcopal Church in the Galleria area. For more information and directions to St. Martin's, visit <http://www.tfahr.org/102709lect.html>.

AIA-Houston Hosts Chocolate Event October 9

Join the Archaeological Institute of America for the beginning of its 2009-2010 Series – "Culinary Excavations", for a presentation on "Chocolate: The Taste of the Elite--The History of a Coveted Elixir" 7:00 pm, Friday, October 9, 2009, Farnsworth Pavilion in the Student Center, Rice University.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift, swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net. Submit articles no later than November 6 for the November issue.

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

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