

## “Prehistoric Foodways of the Lower Pecos Region” is December Topic

Jack Johnson, Integrated Program Resources Manager at the Amistad National Recreation Area-National Park Service, will speak at our December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting on the topic of “Prehistoric Foodways of the Lower Pecos Region.” The meeting location is the University of St. Thomas, Anderson Hall, room 103. We’ll start at 7:00 pm.

Jack will discuss major plants and their preparation with emphasis on preparing Sotol and Lechuguilla in earth ovens; using bedrock mortars with mesquite, walnuts, and acorns also will be touched on. He will provide information on hunting techniques for different animals (e.g., deer, rabbits, rodents, fish, etc., with atlatl, rabbitstick, nets, snares, poisons, etc.), comparing the Lower Pecos archeological record (including faunal remains, artifacts, and depictions in rock art) with ethnographic/ethnohistorical accounts. If all goes as planned, he will bring example lechuguilla and sotol plants and replica hunting weapons/traps.

Along the way, we will hear more about the “integrated program resources” management effort at Amistad.

Jack Johnson has worked in the Lower Pecos region of Texas since 2005, coming to the area as an intern under the previous park archeologist at Amistad. Since then he has worked as park interpreter at Seminole Canyon State Park and has developed hands-on educational curriculum for the non-profit SHUMLA, using ancient lifeways of the Lower Pecos region to teach science concepts to elementary students. He completed his MA in Anthropology from Texas Tech University in Lubbock in 2009, writing his thesis on earth oven cooking at a burned rock midden site in Mills County, Texas. Johnson is particularly interested in the various tools and techniques used to procure and process resources and in the spatial distributions of

resources and prehistoric sites across the landscape of the Lower Pecos.

With an estimated 1,400,000 prehistoric artifacts in the park’s museum collection, Amistad National Recreation Area has the third largest collection in the National Park Service.

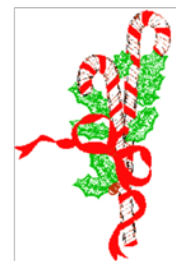


A view of Amistad Reservoir, a man-made lake shared by the US and Mexico, located on the Rio Grande below the Big Bend area. Photo courtesy of National Park Service web site, [www.NPS.gov](http://www.NPS.gov).

In addition, the Amistad NRA area is home to dramatic 4,000 year-old rock art. These mysterious paintings adorn rock shelter walls in the upper reaches of Amistad Reservoir, accessible only by boat (depending on lake level). Jack’s wife, Angel, who will be accompanying him, is an authority in her own right on rock art; she is a Research Assistant at the SHUMLA Archeological Research and Education Center.

### Don’t Forget Goodies!

As usual for our December meeting, everyone is invited to bring good stuff to eat and enjoy a time of fellowship with people who share an interest in archeology. See you there!





## President's Message

**REMINDER: THIS MONTHS MEETING** *will be Thursday, December 16, 2010; 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. We will again meet in UST's Anderson Hall, Bldg. 20, Room 103. I plan a very brief meeting and adjournment for holiday refreshments and socializing. There is no one in charge of refreshments, so bring something to share.*

**THE LATEST ON BERNARDO:** A few days ago, the CARI's field team led by Robert Marcom and Carol McDavid, project co-PI's, met with the Texas Historical Commission's director of archeology division, Dr. Jim Bruseth, and state archeologist, Pat Mercado-Allinger, to assess the Bernardo Plantation Archeological Project's status. Discussions centered around the project's budget; plans and priorities for future field work; the research necessary to put together the application for the National Register of Historical Places; the possibility / desirability of applying for Texas Archeological Landmark status if approved by the land owner, Greg Brown; and assessment and/or refinement of fieldwork procedures.

Research work has been done in regards to tracing the slave genealogy, and contacts have been made for the recording of oral histories of the descendants of Groce's slaves. Genealogist Debra Blacklock-Sloan and Carol McDavid are working on this but so far there have been no descendents willing to give oral histories. An approach working through churches may be tried.

The volunteers are very much appreciated for all their work. They have contributed enormously to accomplishing what has been done within budget. Their effort should also go a long way in showing the endowment entities that there is a lot of time being dedicated to the project by volunteers. As far as future field work goes, there probably won't be any scheduled until at least March, so keep your March calendar open.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Irma Hasnain joined as a family membership during our last meeting and is already on Facebook. Also, a welcome goes out to Barney White.



**I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND I WISH ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.**

*--Charlie Gordy, President*

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Houston Archeological Society, P. O. Box 130631, Houston, TX 77219-0631

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)      Single (\$20/year)  
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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.

I DO  I DO NOT authorize HAS to invite me by e-mail to join the HAS Facebook page as a "friend".

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Minutes of the HAS Meeting November 18, 2010

Meeting opened by Charlie Gordy, President, welcoming all members and guests and reminding all of sign-in sheets. [Michael Bailey](#) introduced the speaker, Amanda Danning, a forensic artist, who spoke on facial reconstruction in archeological projects.

Minutes were approved as printed in the *Profile*. Beth Aucoin announced that second lab originally scheduled for this month was cancelled. Information can be found on Facebook.

Diane Baird and Linda Swift spoke on the TAS annual meeting in October. Charlie Gordy was recognized for his work on the Barnardo Project. Lucia Bono reminded everyone to bring refreshments for the [December 16](#) meeting, and to renew memberships. Budget review will be during January.

Next meeting will be in Anderson Hall, room 103. Tonight's refreshments were provided by Lucia Bonno and Beth Aucoin.

Motion to adjourn made by Jack Farrell, seconded by Linda Swift, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

*--Phyllis Bradley, Secretary*

### December Lab Night

Lab will be held on Dec. 13 only, due to the Christmas holidays. All labs meet from 7:00-9:00 pm in Room 103, Sewell Hall, Rice University. Our current project is documenting two collections from a prehistoric coastal-margin shell midden site. **Reminder:** A credit card is necessary to access the parking lot near Sewall Hall. For a map, check [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org).  
*–Beth Aucoin*

### AIA to Hold 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in San Antonio, January 6-9, 2011

The Archaeological Institute of America will hold its 112<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in San Antonio, January 6-9, 2011. The Public Lecture and Opening Night Reception will be held at the San Antonio Museum of Art on the evening of January 6<sup>th</sup>, with academic sessions starting on Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and ending on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting will be held at two properties, the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter Hotel and the San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk Hotel. The Exhibit Hall, registration, AIA and APA sessions and committee meetings will be held at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. Some AIA sessions, APA and AIA committee meetings and evening special events will take place at the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel.

Special conference rates are available at the hotels until December 20. For registration and lodging information, go to the web site at [www.aia.archaeological.org](http://www.aia.archaeological.org).

### New Adult Education Series to Start in January

Dr. William Neidinger of the Texas Foundation for [Archaeological and Historical Research](#) will present two new lecture series in Houston:

**Ancient Egypt** - Six Wednesday evenings, January 19 - February 23, 2011, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.  
Fee: \$75 per person.

**The Good Shepherd: the Art and Architecture of Rome's Early Christian Community** - Four Wednesday Evenings, March 23 - April 13, 2011 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Fee: \$48 per person.

Both lecture series will be held at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road, Houston, TX 77056. For course descriptions and registration forms, visit <http://www.tfahr.org/NeidingerLectures.html>.

In addition, a report on the 2010 excavations at Bylazora has been posted at the TFAHR website, at <http://www.tfahr.org/public.html>. This report features contributions by students, teachers and volunteers from the TFAHR International Field School. Those who were unable to attend the public lecture on Bylazora can view a video of the lecture at <http://www.tfahr.org/BylazoraProject.html>.



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Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at [swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net).  
Submit articles no later than January 3 for the January 2011 issue.

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

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