

Levi Jordan Plantation and San Felipe de Austin Plans to be Presented

January’s program will be of great interest to the many HAS members who have excavated at the Levi Jordan Plantation and the San Felipe de Austin town site and who have been wondering about the status of those two projects. Our speaker will be Bryan McAuley, Texas Historical Commission Site Manager, who will present an “overview of ongoing preservation and development efforts, as well as an update on improvements at each site and current operational status.” In addition, there will be some longer-term projections of how the sites will be used as educational public history destinations.

Bryan McAuley joined the Texas Historical Commission in May of 2008 as part of the recently developed Historic Sites Division. He currently serves as the site manager for both the Levi Jordan Plantation and San Felipe de Austin State Historic

tourism initiative. Then he joined the staff of the Fort Bend Museum Association in 2001, initially serving as Director of Marketing. The next year he became



Cleaning and conservation of Stephen F. Austin statue



JJ Josey Store at San Felipe de Austin, scheduled for renovation and rebirth as a Visitors Center

Sites. McAuley previously worked for the Texas Office of the Attorney General from 1996-2000, leaving that agency to enter the museum/heritage tourism field. He was the first regional coordinator for the Texas Independence Trail Region heritage

the Director of Programs at the George Ranch Historical Park (managed by the Fort Bend Museum Association) before accepting the job of Deputy Director of Historical Services for the Association in 2007. He has published on several historical topics, been a presenter at state and national museum conferences, and currently serves as the Mountain/Plains Regional Co-Representative for the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM). He received a BA in government/anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin and an MA in political science/sociology from Texas State University.

One-Time Change of Meeting Location in January: Due to scheduled repairs at the Carriage House, our meeting will be at the Clayton House in front of the Carriage House. Entrance will be the back door which is closest to the carriage house. Meeting time is 7:00 pm as usual. Address is 5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004.



President's Message

If you have been a member of the Houston Archeological Society for a while, or even if you are fairly new, you know that opportunities to participate in a “dig” do not present themselves always at convenient times agreeable with your schedule or your wishes. Yet you must keep your knowledge, archeological skills, and your interest levels ready for any opportunities that arise. One way of doing that is to take advantage of the Texas Archaeology Academies that are offered throughout the year. One such academy is being offered on February 6-7, 2010, in San Marcos at the Texas State University campus. This academy is on *Ceramics: The Stories Found in Pottery*. Ceramics constitute one of the largest and most informative material classes recovered archeologically.

The interpretation of ceramic sherds can teach us much in terms of chronology, dating, technology, subsistence, social identity and pattern. It is surprising as to the kinds of information that ceramics reveal about a site. In the beginning of my archeological experience, I couldn't get too excited about finding a piece of broken pottery, especially if it didn't have a maker's mark. I was always anxious to get to the “good stuff”, not realizing that the good stuff would not be far behind the tell-tale signs of ceramics. It's a normal sign of past human activity and is usually found in relative abundance. If you look at the ground closely, you'll even notice that many times a gopher will find it for you. The ceramics academy was one of the first academies I attended, and it didn't take me long to get excited about finding a sherd of pottery or dinnerware. The TAS ceramics class utilizes hands-on exercises that will help one to recognize the way a piece of ceramic was made, the kind of glaze used, and the identity of the kind of vessel it was a part of or its utility purpose. From there it is just a matter of relating it to a time period for its use. Of course, it is not all as easy as that for it takes a lot of time, practice and experience to develop the skill. But you have to start somewhere, and the TAS Ceramics academy course is a great way to start. The class starts soon, so better hurry and sign up now. You can register online at www.txarch.org, Texas Archeology Academy or call 1-800-377-7240 for more information.

Information and skills learned in this academy should be very useful to anyone working with historical archeology such as the Bernardo Plantation project as well as pre-historic sites. Try it....you'll like it!

-- Charlie Gordy, President

Minutes of HAS Meeting December 17, 2009

The December 17 meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Charlie Gordy, who welcomed all members and acknowledged the guests. Attendees were reminded the sign-in sheet was available at the front of the meeting room. Charlie thanked Diane Baird for her help as the refreshment chair and asked for someone to volunteer to take charge of the refreshment set-up at our next meetings.

Michael Bailey introduced our speaker for the evening, Dr. Susan McIntosh, Director of Scientia, an Institute for the History of Science and Culture, and Professor, Department of Anthropology, Rice University. Dr. McIntosh talked on West African Iron Age Archeology with questions and answers afterwards.

The minutes of the November 17 meeting were corrected in the second paragraph to read, “Texas Historical Commission and Community Archeology Research Institute represented this evening by Carol McDavid.” The third paragraph corrected to read, “Field work will be conducted Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 11-13, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm each day except Sunday, 8:00 am to noon.”

There was no new business to be discussed. Linda Swift reported the HAS Journal has been published and urged everyone to pick up their copy before leaving the meeting. A reminder was made about the refreshment sign-up sheet. The next meeting will be January 21. The meeting was adjourned early with no business meeting to be held so that everyone could enjoy a Christmas social and all the refreshments provided by members.

-- Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

HAS Lab: We will have Lab one night only this month, on Monday, Jan. 25th, 7:00 p.m., Sewall Hall, Rice University. For a map, visit www.houstonarcheology.org. First lab in February is Monday, Feb. 15th.

Come to the Meeting and Get Your HAS Journal

Once again at the January meeting we will be distributing copies of the HAS *Journal* #132, to members who haven't yet picked up their copies. We really need as many members as possible to

come get their copies in order to save postage expense. Extra copies can be purchased on a first-come-first-served basis at the following rates: members \$8.00, non-members \$10.00.

TAS Academies Start Next Month with Ceramics Class

The Texas Archeological Society is starting its 2010 series of Archaeology Academies next month, so it is time to get your registration forms in.

"Ceramics: The Stories Found in Pottery" will be held at Texas State University in San Marcos on Feb. 6-7, "Lithics: Reading Stone Artifacts" is in Kerrville on Feb. 20-21, and "GeoArchaeology: Recognizing and Evaluating the Archaeological Potential of the Landscape" is March 20-21 in Killeen.

All academies include a CD manual, lectures and hands-on exercises, along with lunch and tasty snacks, and the opportunity to hang out with new friends and old, talking about archaeology. TAS is a provider of professional development accredited through the SBEC, so credit will be received by teachers attending the workshops. Register online at <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2010/index.php> or download the registration form there to mail in. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Lynn.Yakubik@utsa.edu, or 210-521-0091.
-- Lynn Yakubik

New Adult Education Series - The History of Ancient Greek Civilization: From Achilles to Alexander

This is a two-part series of lectures to be presented by Dr. William J. Neidinger of the Texas Foundation for Archaeological & Historical Research (TFAHR). Schedule is as follows:

Part I: 5 Monday evenings, January 25 - February 22, 2010, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

1. The Minoan Thalassocracy.
2. The Mycenaeans: Warriors and Merchants.
3. The Wrath of Achilles: the Trojan War.
4. Greeks are Political Animals: the Polis.
5. The Golden Age of Ancient Greece.

Part II: 5 Monday evenings, March 1 - 29, 2010, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

6. Suicide: the Peloponnesian War.
7. The Rise of the Macedonians.
8. Alexander the Great.
9. The Hellenistic Empires.
10. The Legacy of Ancient Greece.

Location: St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road, Houston, Texas 77056. Fee for entire 10-lecture series: \$110 per person. Part I only (5 lectures) \$60 per person. Part II only (5 lectures) \$60 per person.

Houston Chronicle Covers Progress at Bernardo Plantation

In a copyrighted story by Allan Turner on December 27, the Houston Chronicle devoted almost a half page to developments at the Bernardo Plantation site south of Hempstead, on which many of our members have been working since October. The article relates the history of Bernardo Plantation, originally settled by James Groce II in 1822, became the state's first cotton plantation, and eventually became the jumping-off point for Sam Houston's date with destiny at San Jacinto. "The current excavation, conducted by professional and amateur

archaeologists under the direction of the Texas Historical Commission, marks the first time the Groce homesite has been systematically investigated," the article stated. It goes on to give a fairly accurate description of the goals of the excavation, artifacts recovered so far, and the fact that the project is in need of \$100,000 in funding.

While it would have been nice if the local societies had been recognized, overall coverage was good and should be helpful to the project. -- Linda Swift

ARCHEOLOGY... LIFE IN THE PAST LANE

Friends of Archaeology Lecture, "Classic Civilizations of Mexico's Gulf Coast," 5:00 pm Sunday, February 7, 2010, at Jones Hall, University of St. Thomas. Presenter is Dr. Rex Koontz, University of Houston. His presentation will be a survey of the little-known complex civilizations that flourished along Mexico's Gulf Coast between AD 100 and 900.

Maya Research Program in Belize this summer. The Maya Research Program is sponsoring four two-week field sessions at Blue Creek in Belize as follows.

Session 1: Mon, May 24- Sun, June 6

Session 3: Mon, June 28-Sun, July 11

Session 2: Mon, June 7- Sun, June 20

Session 4: Mon, July 12-Sun, July 25

For more information about registration and fees, and to stay abreast of developments with Maya research and publication activities, see the web site at www.mayaresearchprogram.org.

The 17th annual East Texas Archeological Conference and the 52nd annual Caddo Conference will be held together March 18-20, 2010, at the University of Texas at Tyler in Tyler, Texas. For more information, visit the conference web site at www.52ndcaddo-17thetac.com.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift, swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net. Submit articles no later than February 4 for the February 2010 issue.

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

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