

## If it's July, It's Field School Show and Tell Night!

Our next meeting is Thursday, July 15 at 7:00 pm at the new location: Robertson Hall at the University of St. Thomas, Room B111 (basement level). The program will be presented by HAS members who attended the Texas Archeological Society's Field School the week of June 12-19. The Field School was located in Medina County, about 18 miles from the city of Hondo, and the campground was just north of downtown at the Medina County Fairground. Hondo is about 40 miles west of San Antonio.

The major prehistoric site under study was 41ME147 (the Calvert Site), a multi-component site with terrace deposits perhaps 5 meters thick. This locale is at the southern edge of the Edwards Plateau; the site itself sits atop a high bluff overlooking Hondo Creek. Artifacts previously collected at the site indicated intensive Middle Archaic occupations (Pedernales, Kinney, Langtry) as well as Late Archaic (Castroville, Ensor, Frio; large thin bifaces) and Late Prehistoric. Arrow points, including Scallorn and Perdiz, along with a fingernail-punctated potsherd.

According to Principal Investigator Thomas Hester, "this major prehistoric site provides the first opportunity to look at the cultural patterns of this part of the Edwards Plateau using excavated materials that are buried very deeply in excellent contexts."

Also included in the plan for Field School was the excavation of a Historic site in downtown Castroville, about 15 miles from the field school camp. The site is in a courtyard partly surrounded by 1840s-50s stone buildings. One of these houses is a restaurant, and when the new owner went to dig a pit, in June 2009, next to an old smokehouse, a great quantity of artifacts was uncovered. A majority of these were 1850s-early 1860s military materials, such as rusted clumps of US-stamped mule shoes, a distinctive military belt buckle, ginger beer bottles, medicine bottles, bluing bottles, wine bottle fragments in profusion,



**Earlier South Texas Archeological Association excavation of an Early Archaic hearth in Calvert Site bluff face at 3.5 meters below surface (photo and text courtesy of [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org)).**

ceramics, bone and other remains. At first glance, it appeared to be a trash pit of some sort.

Dr. Hester said, "It may well represent the period of the surrender of the Union garrison (a company of the U.S. 8th Infantry) in Castroville during 1861. The excavations will be structured to better understand this feature."

So come to our monthly meeting on July 15 and learn about this year's Field School discoveries!

### Lab Scheduled for July 12 & 26

Labs will be Monday, July 12th and July 26th, Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University from 7-9 p.m. We will be documenting a private surface collection from a prehistoric coastal margin shell midden site, including pottery, bone, a possible large shell bead, and a few projectile points. Powell Site authors will also continue to refine their articles for Part 3 of the report. **Reminder:** A credit card is necessary to access the parking lot near Sewall Hall. Check [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org) for a map.



## President's Message

**MAKE NOTE: THIS MONTH'S MEETING WILL BE IN ROOM B114 (BASEMENT) OF ROBERTSON HALL AT UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS. THIS IS THE SAME BUILDING AS THE MAY MEETING BUT THE ROOM IS DIFFERENT. TIME IS THE SAME, 7 – 9:30 PM, JULY 15. SEE YOU THERE!**

Well, I hope everyone had a good HAS rest since our last meeting in May. But I must say that most of you missed a great TAS Field School. A few of our hardy members deserted the confines of Harris County and settled in Medina County June 12-19 to participate in a little archeology in the field. The TAS base camp was convenient and camping was made more comfortable under the shade of giant oak trees and constant breeze. Good stories and good company were always present. HAS members attending were Tom Williams, Linda Gorski, Louis Aulbauch, Sue Gross, Sandra Rogers, Don Keyes and myself. We even had one of our previous guests, Robert Killian, attend. Our members worked at the pre-historic Calvert site, the historic Castroville site, and lab. The Castroville site yielded many interesting artifacts including US Army cavalry bridles with intact "US" brass bit bosses, lots of brass belt attachments, cartridge and cap box brass finials with bits of leather attached. A great recovery of two model 1851 officer's saber belt buckles were made at the site. Of course, there were plenty of other artifacts, especially many broken ginger beer bottles attesting to the relaxed mood of the US Army. According to preliminary research, the site is thought to be the site where the US Eighth Infantry surrendered to the Texas Confederates after Texas seceded from the union, 1860-61. The Calvert site yielded thousands of lithics suggesting intensive Middle Archaic, Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric occupations. Points included Pedernales, Langtry, Castroville, Kinney, Frio and others. There were about four areas near the Hondo River that were excavated. As usual, it was not all work and no play. The traditional margarita party always breaks the ice if there is any to break by then. The evening programs were interesting and informative with enough entertainment to go around.

I don't want to leave out board member Kevin Bradley, as a field school participant. Although not present at the TAS field school, Kevin attended a five week archaeological field school at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest in VA. I can't imagine that experience as being anything but interesting.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** (as of April) John Rich and Juan Reyes.      --Charlie Gordy, President

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## Minutes of HAS Meeting May 20, 2010

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Gordy, who welcomed all members and guests and thanked refreshment volunteers, Wanda Carter and Linda Swift.

- VP Michael Bailey introduced the speaker, Wilson W. Crook, who spoke on "What Happened to the Ancient Sumerians?" and also brought a display of artifacts from the region.
- Minutes of the April 15 meeting as shown in the Profile were approved.
- President Gordy introduced representatives of BBVA Compass Bank, Blake Butler and Brooke Blodgett, who explained a program that could benefit the Society. For any member who opens a new checking account with BBA Compass Bank or applies for a BBVA Compass VISA card and gives the organization code for the Society, the bank will pay a royalty to the Society.
- Regarding the Bernardo Site, a major grant has been received, and work will possibly be started again in August. A lab will be equipped and set up at caretaker's house.
- TAS Field School will be held June 12-19 at Hondo, Texas. The program for July will be on the field school.

Meeting adjourned.

-- Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

## Bylazora Excavation Underway in Macedonia

The Texas Foundation for Archaeological and Historical Research, (TFAHR) founded and operated by Dr. William Neidinger and Eulah Matthews, is again conducting a Field School and excavations at Bylazora, a 6<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century BC site in Macedonia. This year's session extends from June 7 to July 30.

A team of 26 is participating in the Field School, of whom 4 are teachers (from Texas, California, and Washington). The remaining students and volunteers come from Texas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, Michigan and New York), Australia, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Slovenia, and Spain. They are being augmented by 7 Macedonia-based volunteers from the United States Peace Corps, colleagues from the local museum, and workmen from the towns of Sveti Nikole and Knezje.

You can follow progress of the project on the web site, [www.tfahr.org](http://www.tfahr.org). In addition, Dr. Neidinger e-mails field dispatches at the end of each week to a large distribution list of interested persons; so far there have been four weekly updates. Below are excerpts from his reports, reprinted by permission from TFAHR.



**WEEK 1:** After a clean-up of the damage done by the winter snow and rain, we began excavating again in some of our old trenches on the acropolis. We decided to dig deeper in a few spots before we expanded the excavation horizontally across the acropolis. We uncovered what appears to be a large drain running under-

neath the ruins of the buildings of the last phase of life in Bylazora. We also uncovered a massive stone wall running parallel to the defensive wall of the acropolis. We will expose more of this wall in the upcoming weeks. But all indications are that this may mean that the acropolis was fortified and defended with a casemate wall (parallel walls joined by intermittent spur walls).

**WEEK 2:** It has been a spectacular week in the trenches. We are completing our picture of the monumental propylon [colonnaded entrance] of the acropolis of Bylazora. Parts of the propylon which we had only hypothesized last year have now been uncovered. We are also extending our excavation to uncover more of what now appears to be the casemate wall of the acropolis.

TFAHR and the People's Museum of Sveti Nikole have some great news to share. In preparation for the application for a license and Macedonian state funding for the 2011 excavation season, we have put down some exploratory probes atop the acropolis. One of these probes has revealed some very intriguing findings: several carved stones which are typical of temple architecture all over the Mediterranean area. Pending permission to extend our excavation area to include these probes, we hope to dig in the area around these stones to determine the location of the temple from which these stones came.

**WEEK 3:** We are pleased to report that TFAHR and the People's Museum of Sveti Nikole were granted permission to dig this season in this new area, Sector 6. We have opened new squares in order to determine what building these carved stones came from. This week's excavations have uncovered more of the carved stones; so far we have triglyph and metope blocks, cornice pieces, column drums and a column "base" - in short, all the elements are present of a traditional temple of the Doric order. Our preliminary research suggests that, stylistically, this building is Hellenistic, rather than Classical. From what we have so far discovered, we can fairly well reconstruct the elevation of the temple. Our next task is to find the platform of the temple (stylobate and stereobate courses), which will give us the length and width of the temple.

**WEEK 4:** We continued working in Sector 6 on the remains of the Doric temple. We are beginning to piece together not only the style and dimensions of the temple, but also some of the details of its history. When this

temple was built, a thick layer of green clay was laid down on this part of the acropolis as a leveling course for the construction of the temple. The stereobate (leveling) courses of stone were laid atop the clay, and then the temple proper was constructed. The temple was probably destroyed in the early 2nd century BC when Bylazora itself was sacked and then deserted. The ruins of the temple must have remained undisturbed for quite some time before later generations (the Romans?) came by and quarried the stones of the temple to burn down for lime mortar. We found mixed amongst the debris of the ruins of the temple a number of human and animal remains, as well as a significant amount of datable burnt pottery.

We have started moving some of our crew back to Sector 3, where we excavated in 2008 and 2009. One of the discoveries in the last weeks of the 2009 season was a large ramshackle building built by squatters in the last days of the life of Bylazora. We have begun dismantling that building and have so far uncovered evidence of at least two earlier phases of habitation. In the upcoming weeks we will continue digging deeper in this area, as well as opening new trenches alongside the acropolis wall.

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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 July 31 for the August 2010 issue.

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

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