

Jim Jobling to Speak on “A Short History of the USS Westfield”

Jim Jobling, Project/Lab Manager for the Conservation Research Lab, at Texas A&M University, will be in Houston for our March 18 meeting to present a talk on the excavation of the USS Westfield. The Westfield was a Union gunboat that sank in Galveston Bay in 1863. The remains of the wreck were recovered late last year and sent to A&M for conservation.

Jobling currently runs the day-to-day operations at the Lab, where the La Salle Shipwreck Project artifacts are stored and the wooden hull of the *Belle* has been reconstructed and is being conserved. His education and training were originally in land archaeology, with a BA degree in 1982 and a BA (Hons.) degree in 1984 from the University of Cape Town, in South Africa. He then came to Texas A&M University and received an MA in Nautical Archaeology in 1993.

His professional experience since 1981 has been in the survey and excavation of both land and underwater sites, including all aspects in the conservation of shipwrecks and their artifacts. He worked for four years on the Port Royal Project, under the watchful eye of his mentor, Dr. Donny Hamilton. He also worked on the Molasses Reef Project and on the

Chandeleur Island Shipwreck Project as an archaeologist and conservator. In the early 1990's he took a break from archaeology and worked for the Geochemical and Environmental Research Group (GERG), which is part of the College of Geosciences at Texas A&M University. He did fieldwork with GERG, with more than 25 research cruises to such places as the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, the Gulf of Mexico, Yemen, and Antarctica.

In 1996 Jobling returned to the Nautical Archaeology Program and refurbished and enlarged the Conservation Research Lab for the La Salle Project. He planned and monitored the construction of the Ship Conservation Tank, where the *Belle* was reconstructed and is being conserved. He has helped conserve artifacts from more than 85 different sites from around the world. He is articulate and passionate about his love of archaeology and conservation, and is persuasive in the art of soliciting help and donations for the work that he is involved in, “Conserving Our Past, for our Future.”

As always, our meeting is in the Carriage House at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004.

Progress Report on Bernardo Project

Bernardo field work for March 3-5 was overseen by the Texas Historical Commission's Jim Bruseth, Pat Mercado-Allinger, Jeff Durst, and Brad Jones, together with Community Archaeology Research Institute, Inc. represented by Robert Marcom, PI.

Considering the short notice and mid-week work schedule, we had twice the number of volunteers than we were expecting. The extra volunteers, together with good weather, made it possible for us to accomplish our original work objectives early. The half day scheduled for Wednesday was spent grooming the 37 units that were opened in December. By Thursday morning, we began mapping and photographing them. During the day Thursday, the site was visited by a group from the Sam Houston Museum in Huntsville, arranged and led by THC Steward Sandra Rogers. In addition,



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President's Message

This month's message is more business than inspirational/motivational. I don't seem to have inspired or motivated anyone so far this year anyway. Heck, I can't even motivate anyone to manage the "coffee crate" for the meetings. So I might as well talk business. With that said, it was my sincere regret to accept the resignation of our newest HAS board member, Charles Snider. Unfortunately (for us), Charles' employer, Reuters, transferred his job assignment to New York City. For the short time Charles served on the board, he brought some fresh ideas which may still serve us well into the future. He says he is maintaining his membership with HAS, and when his work brings him back to Houston on occasion, he will make a meeting if the timing is right. We wish him much success and warm weather. In regards to the vacant board position, our constitution gives me, as president, the responsibility of naming a replacement board member to serve until our next election. With the consent of our board, I have chosen another new(er) member to serve as our newest director. His name is Kevin Bradley, whom I shall personally introduce at our meeting. Kevin has a degree in history from The University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA., and is a teacher. Kevin is also a volunteer at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. He has been attending our meetings on a regular basis and has participated several times on the Bernardo project. Help me welcome Kevin to the Board. I feel he will be a great asset to HAS.

OUTREACH: HAS was invited to participate in an educational program on March 13th at the Armand Bayou Nature Center in Clear Lake. Our topic of interest was the archeological importance of the Armand Bayou watershed. Beth Aucoin, HAS member and THC Steward, exhibited a display, and THC Steward Tom Nuckols gave a presentation. I served mainly as a "go-fer"!

GEOARCHAEOLOGY ACADEMY: The newest academy in the TAS lineup debuts March 20-21 on the campus of Central Texas College in Killeen with field exercises on Ft. Hood where I will be in attendance as well as Tom Williams. I am somewhat familiar with the geology of Fort Hood having had a close (and personal) view of the terrain there during my army basic training many years ago. At the time, I viewed the landscape as an undesirable obstacle and the environment as somewhat unfriendly. This time I look forward to observing a different perspective as I learn how landscape settings influence archeological site context, visibility and preservation. Stay tuned for my impressions.

-- Charlie Gordy, President

Minutes of HAS Meeting January 21, 2010

The meeting was opened by Charlie Gordy, president, welcoming members and guests.

Linda Swift asked members to pick up their copies of the Journal. Those not picked up by members will be mailed at a cost of \$100.

Michael Bailey introduced the speaker, Mr. Flem Rogers, who spoke on Period Arms of the Texas Revolution. Mr. Rogers brought a very interesting selection of weapons for viewing by attendees.

There was a short break for refreshments provided by Eddis Laity and William Haskell. Volunteers were asked to sign up to provide refreshments for future meetings.

The business meeting resumed with the first order of business being the 2008 audit of the HAS books. Auditors were Roy Whitney, Bob Shelby and Dick Gregg who found the records to be in order and acceptable. Approval was unanimous.

Regarding the Bernardo project, Charlie Gordy said that the site has been too wet to resume work and no date yet confirmed to begin. Gordy asked for volunteers to draw features of the plantation.

A correction was made to the January 21 minutes regarding the new HAS budget. The statement that the majority of expenses were for the printing cost of the Powell Report which was \$1800, was incorrect. In fact, \$1800 is the estimated printing cost for the Powell Report.

Meeting adjourned.

-- Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

Bernardo Project *(continued)*

Mike Vance with KTBU-TV Channel 55 Houston (owned by our land owner, Greg Brown), did some filming for a later planned documentary about the Bernardo Plantation. Mapping was essentially completed by the end of Thursday, with only the remaining photographing to be completed Friday.

By Friday, plans had been changed so that we no longer needed to backfill the units. This change allowed us time to open four more units along the west foundation line. Our main objective there was to locate the northwest sandstone chimney foundation. These units were taken down two levels, exposing several sandstone blocks, but no defined outline of the fireplace. One smaller posthole stain was discovered in an area consistent with where a foundation pier for the west side porch would be located. Among the many artifacts found were a child's game jack, handle from child's tea cup, lead shot, a piece of fireplace iron, piece of suspender buckle, nails, and glass and ceramic sherds. The THC staff contin-

ued to set more datum points for future investigations.

We had an average of 11 volunteer participants per day representing members of the Houston Archeology Society, Brazosport Archeology Society and the Fort Bend Archeology Society. The Societies contributed a total of 244 work hours towards the Bernardo project for this period. In addition, Robert Marcom, PI, supervised a class of his students by opening another unit along the west wall.

Currently there are no plans on the drawing board for immediate field work. In the meantime, efforts to raise more funds for the project continue.

A "Thank you" goes out to everyone for a very productive work period. Pat Mercado-Allinger especially conveys THC's deepest appreciation to everyone who participated in the mapping and testing done last week. --*Charlie Gordy, Information and Volunteer Work Coordinator*

Dimmick: Check Out Friends of San Jacinto Web Site

I want to invite all of you to check out the new website for the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground at <https://www.friendsofsanjacinto.com/>. Be sure to note the campaign to raise funds to purchase a 19-acre tract that is very near to the old San Jacinto Inn site.

Also I want to invite all of you to register for the San Jacinto Symposium on April 17 at the University of Houston. It is a great program and includes a report by a nationally known forensic pathologist on six skulls of Mexican soldiers that were picked up at the battleground (four of them by James Audubon).

There is a great news release by the Preservation Texas organization that names the San Jacinto Bat-

tleground as one of the year's top endangered sites in the state of Texas. Please consider joining our organization. We are advocates for the battleground--hoping to sponsor a thorough archeological investigation of the site and returning to the conditions that existed on April 20-21, 1836, when hundreds of soldiers gave their lives, fighting for their personal ideals and cultures. We feel that this site should be a memorial to the men (and a few women) killed in this historic clash. Thanks for checking out our site, and feel free to bookmark it, and if you have a website, please post a link. We are also on Facebook, so become a fan. --*Gregg Dimmick*

HAS Lab Schedule

For the months March through May, lab is scheduled for the following dates: **March 22, April 19, and May 24, from 7:00-9:00 pm.** Lab is held in Room 103, located on the lower level of Sewall Hall, at Rice University. There is no free parking near Sewall Hall; entrance into the parking lot requires use of a credit card. The scheduled dates are for the Monday night following the monthly HAS meeting. Please visit www.houstonarcheology.org for a map.

At each session, members will examine and verify identification and numbers of artifacts from various sites; one of the first steps performed prior to analysis of historic and/or prehistoric artifacts. Powell site authors will continue to finalize their articles for Part 3 of the Elizabeth Powell report.

So, mark your calendars, and we'll see you in the lab.

--*Beth Aucoin*

Upcoming Events

“Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe: Pathways to Social Complexity in Southern Africa”, lecture by Tom Huffman, Professor Emeritus, University of the Witwatersrand, University Lecture Series, April 6th, 7:00 pm, Centennial Hall Room 157, Texas State University-San Marcos. Free and open to the public.

Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies’ 46th Annual Symposium, hosted by the Southeastern New Mexico Archeological Society and the Western Heritage Museum Complex, April 9 – 11, 2010. New Mexico Junior College Campus, Hobbs, New Mexico.

Texas State University is holding its Summer Archaeological Field School in the Lower Pecos Canyons from June 7-July 8th. Enrollment is limited to 15 students. For more information: www.txstate.edu/anthropology/field-schools/summer-2010-archaeological-field-school.html.

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 March 29 for the April 2010 issue.

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

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