

Dirk Van Tuerenhout to Speak on "Secrets of the Silk Road"

Our next meeting is Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 pm in Anderson Hall, Room 103, on the Academic Mall at the University of St. Thomas. The program will be presented by Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Curator of Anthropology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. He will speak about the newest exhibit now showing at the museum: "Secrets of the Silk Road."

While the exhibit includes over 150 artifacts from the ancient Silk Road, the ones causing the most sensation are the well-preserved mummies from the Tarim Basin of western China (right). These mummies



reveal that the people who lived there in ancient times were tall, had light-colored hair and skin, and had distinctly Caucasian features. Their culture and technology represent a blend of East and West. Their identity is still a mystery.

Dr. Van Tuerenhout (below) is responsible for the museum's collections and exhibits dealing with human culture. He



graduated with M.A. degrees in Anthropology and Art History from Katholieke Universiteit in Belgium, and received his Ph.D. in anthropology from Tulane University. As a scholar and educator, Dr. Van Tuerenhout enjoys using the museum's exhibits as a platform for out-

reach, to share insights in cultures that are on display.

"Teaching and sharing knowledge with others have always been of great interest to me. Using our permanent as well as temporary exhibits as a platform, I can reach out to various audiences, both adults and children, to share with them insights in cultures that we have on display. I share with other anthropologists the idea that people and not objects in themselves are the story. I often tell my audience that the real stars behind all the objects are the people who made and used these things," he says. Be sure to be with us on Sept. 16. This is going to be a great program!

September Lab Nights:

Monday, September 13 & 27, Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University, 7-9 pm. We will continue processing a private surface collection 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.

Local Stewards Receive Awards

At the recent annual stewards meeting held in Austin, numerous HAS members were recognized for their participation as members of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network.

Awarded the *Norman G. Flaigg Certificate of Outstanding Performance*: Beth Aucoin, Dick Gregg, Don Keyes, and Sandy Rogers. In addition, four members were recognized as 20-year members of TASN: Charlie Bollich, Joe Hudgins, Johnney Pollan, and Jimmy Smith.

In a letter from State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger, she noted that members of TASN had "contributed the equivalent of 12 full-time employees. We greatly appreciate all of your efforts to preserve Texas' archeological heritage."



President's Message

IMPORTANT: September Meeting - This month's meeting will be in Anderson Hall (Bldg. 20), room 103. This building is right next door to where we have been meeting. Remember, September is when we elect officers and board members for 2010-2011. We need a quorum of at least 15 members to conduct the meeting.

SHOW ME THE MONEY: Wouldn't it be nice to have places to shop where a portion of your money goes to support the Houston Archeological Society? Well a place does exist --- a whole mall in fact. A mall with hundreds of stores where each purchase can help HAS. There you will find all the big name stores you may already order from. Hundreds of stores such as Target, Amazon, Sears, Best Buy, Barnes & Noble, Office Depot, Office Max, Staples, just to name a few. In addition, discounts and coupons are available. On top of that, in many cases shipping costs are eliminated with in-store pickup and on-line prepayment eliminates check-out lines. Ok, so now you think I am hallucinating. Well, read on.....

For the past couple of months, the HAS Board has been studying a program designed for non-profit organizations like ours. We approved the program and put the finishing touches on it to tailor it for our needs. We now have the HAS on-line mall. We have partnered with an organization called We-Care. Their motto is "*Shop with Purpose*", and our participation is free. How can that be you ask? Well each merchant establishes a percentage donation to be paid to HAS when someone makes an online purchase through our link. Gosh, HAS can make a tidy sum just on my on-line orders for printer ink!

The link is <http://houstonarcheology.We-Care.com/Start>. You can go to that link and download an icon especially for the Houston Archeological Society. Bookmark it and save it as a "favorite". When you are ready to shop, all you have to do is click the icon, and it takes you shopping where the purchases automatically turn into donations for the Society. Our logo is on the page so you can't miss it. Just pick your merchant and go shopping. Eeezee! Of course this can only be a successful venture if we use it. Shopping for Christmas will begin soon, so use it. Send a link to all your friends and family. Please spread the word. Anyone can shop there! Remember it benefits HAS. And don't worry; these donations will not affect our non-profit status.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER, Wesley Bennett; and GUESTS, Bryan McAuley, Steve Tostengard, Rory Mayer, and Kriti Mohan.

--Charlie Gordy, President

Minutes of the HAS Meeting August 19, 2010

The meeting was opened by Charlie Gordy, President, who welcomed members and guests and reminded all to sign in. Volunteers were requested to sign up to provide refreshments for future meetings. Jack Farrell and Lucia Bonno provided tonight's refreshments.

The program was presented by Dr. Craig Mayer, President of iuXta America Corporation, on Lesser Known Maya Sites of the Yucatan.

Minutes of last month were approved with correction of the owner of the Bernardo property shown as 'Craig' Brown. The name is 'Greg' Brown. There was no Treasurer's Report; however, the Audit Committee, Michael Johnston, Roy Whitney and Richard Gregg, reported that all was in order with the Treasurer's books with the exception of some small checks not yet deposited.

Diane Baird reported on the Nominating Committee's slate of officers for the next year. The Committee, Diane Baird, Roy Whitney and Linda Swift, nominated two new members, Linda Gorski as a new 3-year term Director, and Michael Johnston as Treasurer, replacing Ed Masten. Present Board members that will remain are: Charlie Gordy, President, Michael Bailey, Vice Present, Directors Lucia Bonno and Kevin Bradley, Secretary, Phyllis Bradley.

Bryan McAuley, Site Manager for San Felipe and Bernardo, reported on these projects. A tour of the Bernardo site will be held on October 16. There will be a small fee for the tour. Charlie Gordy reported on the progress of the HAS Facebook page and the Bernardo project.

There being no new business, meeting was adjourned.

--Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

BERNARDO Progress Report August 14-15, 2010

The first field work on the Bernardo Plantation project in five months was held during the weekend of August 14-15, 2010. Each day we averaged about 18 volunteers and a paid staff of six. The weather was bright and *too* sunny with a high temperature of 99 degrees and a heat index of 110. Shade was at a premium. We had a fairly constant breeze on the hill which added some welcomed comfort. CARI furnished shade tarps, plenty of cold water, Saturday lunch and Sunday morning coffee and pastries for everyone. All we needed was a brass band.

We wasted no time in setting up the lab so that we could begin catch-up work on the backlogged Phase 1 artifacts as well as recording incoming artifacts.

On the prior Thursday, Robert Marcom and THC Region 6 Archeologist, Jeff Durst, used the THC's total data station to set out three areas for investigation: (1) to locate the southwest fireplace of the main house; (2) to locate evidence of the bachelor quarters outbuilding and/or dairy; (3) to locate evidence of the kitchen. If we were lucky, we would come down on three fireplaces, one for each building. We were not that lucky even after opening two more units to increase our odds. We only managed a 33% success rate by being successful in locating the southwest chimney of the main house, which was hit square on.

The southwest chimney of the main house (photo below) appears to be very similar in construction to the



southeast chimney exposed in December 2009. The outside wall of the chimney gives the appearance of brick stack stepping much the same as the other chimney; however, we have exposed only two courses of brick; thus it is speculation for now. A second adjacent unit was opened to the west with no features presented. Artifacts from these units included a small ferrous metal buckle, a 44 cal Henry rifle rim fire cartridge, and partial finish portion of a bottle (wine?) from the collar to the applied lip.

Two adjacent diagonal units were opened in the suspected area of the bachelor quarters, which was researched as having two fireplaces: one on the northwest wall and one on the southeast wall. We missed both. We ran into hard compacted clay in each unit at the bottom of level one. Artifacts included badly rusted nail fragments, small fragments of window glass, some cast iron parts, and a couple of fist-size pieces of sandstone rubble. In addition, one neat artifact recovered was what appears to be a broken part of a small ceramic handle, hand painted with a black bowtie and trailing ribbon. A feminine looking article, possibly a broken handle from a wax seal embosser or a handle from a ladies dresser set (my guess)? After further study, we see these units may be encroaching on the area of the pantry.

The unit targeted for the kitchen building was excavated to the base of Level 3. It contained a packed earth feature across most of the western side near the base of Level 3. Square nails, curved glass, flat clear glass, and ceramics were recovered. Both boiled bone and burnt bone were identified in Level 2.

SUMMARY:

The working hypothesis as formulated by Robert Marcom, PI, is that it is possible that we've located the southeast corner of the dairy as well as the southeast corner of the kitchen. Both structures would fit nicely into the area, with the kitchen being 15 feet grid E/W, the dairy being 10 feet grid west and 10 feet E/W. If the area to the west of the dairy between it and the bachelors' house is 10 feet, the 30 ft. x 30 ft. structure would extend about five feet past the western margin of the main house. All of these dimensions are consistent with the historic sketches by Berlet and Mackey.

Much appreciation and thanks goes out to all our volunteers. They are all appreciated for their participation and for their substantial contribution of time, energy, and dedication to this historical site. We look forward to resuming field work in October. Notice will be dispatched as soon as dates are confirmed. [See Page 4 for Bernardo schedule.—Ed.]

-- Charlie Gordy, Project Volunteer Coordinator

Bernardo Work Schedule for October, 2010

I have received confirmation that two weekend work dates on site are scheduled for October 2-3 and 9-10, 2010. We will meet at 8:00 am each day in the area of the equipment storage shed near the caretaker's house. Please park along the ranch road and not on the grass. The walk from the parking area to the site is about 150-200 yards. Hours will be 8-5 each day.

The objectives of our field work will be to locate evidence of the two chimneys of the Bachelors house, the chimney of the kitchen, as well as expand exposure of the SW main house fireplace. We may possibly begin preliminary testing of the slave quarters located at Lake Bernardo. More weekend work is possible (but not firm) for October, so we expect to expand all these areas of interest.

We need 15-20 volunteers each day. If you desire to participate in this work, please contact me at chasgordy@yahoo.com to confirm which day or days you desire to work. If this is your first time at Bernardo, please let me know and I will reply with instructions/directions for mapping with Google Earth. Sandwich fixin's will be furnished and ice water will be available at the units.

If you did not participate during the last work period of August 14-15, there will be new release forms requiring your signature upon check-in. NOTICE: This property is a working ranch, thus the property may not be easily accessible to some disabilities or physical limitations. By signing this release you are taking responsibility and liability for your own health and physical condition and holding all others harmless for any injuries or damages to you, however caused. The release must be read and signed. Just so there is no misunderstanding, if you do not agree to its terms, you must leave the property. As always, thank you for your interest and participation in this project. --Charlie Gordy, Volunteer work coordinator

**Please submit articles for publication to Profile Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than September 30 for the October 2010 issue.**

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

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