



## January Meeting: What Cabeza de Vaca Can Teach Us

Our next meeting is 7:00 pm, January 20 in Room 009 of the Library at the University of St. Thomas. Our guest lecturer will be Alston V. Thoms, Department of Anthropology, Laboratory of Ecological Archaeology, Texas A&M University. His topic will be “Cabeza de Vaca’s Archaeologically Relevant Revelations: Hunter-Gather Lifeways on the Coastal Plains of Texas.”

According to Dr. Thoms, Cabeza de Vaca and three Old World companions survived shipwrecks and sickness to spend part of the mid-1530s with native people along the Texas coast and adjacent inland regions who were known later as Karankawas and Coahuiltecans. Importantly, his observations about their land-use patterns there predate apocalyptic population crashes from Old World diseases. As such, they are applicable, in general, to the Coastal Plains during the Pre-Columbian era as well.



**Indigenous people digging roots**

(photo from [www.texasbeyondhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net))

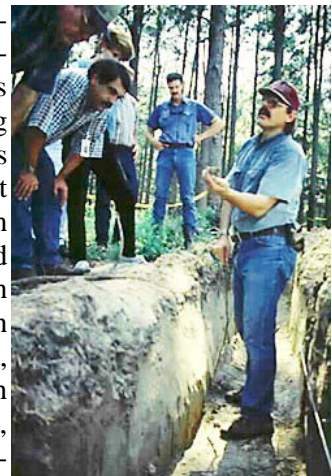
look for food.” *Rancheria* sizes ranged from a few dwellings, for single and multiple families, to those with 50 or 100 dwellings. Among the region’s inhabitants were the Fig People, a reference to their reliance on prickly-pear *tunas*. Everywhere on the Coastal Plains, wild root foods were important. Deer typically provided the bulk of the meat diet and, at times, were hunted using drive techniques.

In writing about the Yguazes, an inland group, Cabeza de Vaca noted “their dwellings are of mats placed on four arches; they

carry them on their backs and move every two or three days to

Dr. Thoms holds a PhD in Anthropology from Washington State University, an MA in Anthropology from Texas Tech University, and a BA in History from West Texas State University.

Prior to joining the full-time Texas A&M faculty in 2001, Dr. Thoms spent 25 years directing archaeological projects in the Pacific Northwest while at Washington State University and Eastern Washington University as well as in the Plains, Southwest, and Southeast through Texas Tech University, Benham-Blair & Affiliates and Texas



**Dr. Thoms “in the trenches”**

(photo from [www.tamu.edu](http://www.tamu.edu).)

A&M University, where he served five years as Associate Director and six years as Director of the Center for Ecological Archaeology. His fieldwork in Texas spans more than 30 years, during which time he worked closely with avocational archeologists, Native American groups, Civil War enthusiasts, and local historical organizations.

## This Year is Texas’ 175<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

This March 2<sup>nd</sup> will mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence. Brazoria County, where it all started, was apparently the first county in Texas to officially recognize the 175th Anniversary of the Republic of Texas, with a proclamation issued December 14, 2010, at the Brazoria County Commissioners Court meeting. For more information on the proclamation, see our VP Michael Bailey at the meeting.



## President's Message

**REMINDER: THIS MONTHS MEETING** will be *Thursday, January 20, 2011; 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.* **PLEASE NOTE** *There is a change in rooms. We will be meeting at the UST Doherty Library (Bldg. 22); room 009 (Basement). An elevator is available. For those that attended our Texas Archeology Month program in October, it is the same room.*

It has been a little more than a year since we relocated the HAS library due to the University of St. Thomas no longer being able to furnish our former library space on their campus. Our fine collection of archeological reports and HAS special publications has been relocated to the Fondren Library at Rice University. I am still saddened by this relocation, but under the circumstances forced upon us, it was necessary, and I am convinced that decisions dictating the final outcome were probably the best. There are some definite advantages to this relocation, such as: our inventory of publications is properly maintained; the library hours of operation are much more liberal and convenient for member access; and we have the convenience of the library website for on-line locating of desired publications before going to the library. A couple of disadvantages are: we cannot “check out” the publications as they are for in-library reference only, and parking requires the use of a credit card (same as when we use our lab at Rice).

Our HAS website has been updated (sometime around January 2010) to reflect this change, however I find that not everyone is aware of how to access the library information. This may be especially true for new members. Although our website notes this change in our “Standing Rules” and gives a “quick click” on [Rice University Fondren Library](#) to link you to the library website, it won't work because there is a typo in the address. Until that glitch is solved, you will have to manually type <http://library.rice.edu> to get to their site. I suggest you save this as a “favorite” anyway. I am mentioning this because recently I have personally had the necessity to research some information through various archeological reports and I thought I would share some tips as to how to go about finding these reports. In my case, I really didn't know what I was looking for, only that I wanted to know what reports were to be found in the geographical area I was interested in.

First, the easiest thing to do is go to the Fondren Library website and browse around to get familiar with it. It is a great site and will just about guide you to do anything from citing sources to tying your shoe laces (well, maybe that is a stretch). Naturally, you want to do as much preliminary work at home as you can on your computer, so when you go to the library, you won't be wasting time (and parking money). By following my instructions, I can take you from your desktop, through the library doors and straight to the publication you want in the stacks without you even stopping for directions. That's how easy it is.

But I can't do it all in this month's message. If my President's Message gets too long, our editor, Linda Swift, edits (cuts!) my article down (which I don't mind) to make room for the rest of the Profile news. So I'll just save her the trouble and defer the rest of the “library how to” information until next month. In the meantime, you can practice by just browsing the Fondren Library website to get familiar with it.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** As a reminder, according to Article III, Section 5, of our Constitution, membership dues are to be paid in advance by January 1 of each year. If you have not renewed your membership by now, please do so as soon as possible so that our records can be brought current.

Speaking of membership, I would like to welcome **Mary Ellsworth** as a new member for 2011. There may be more new members, but the paperwork has not reached me yet. --Charlie Gordy, President

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## January Lab Night

Lab will be held on January 31st only, due to illness and recovery from illness on the part of the lab-goers. 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

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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)  
Family (\$25/year)      Contributing (\$30+/year)

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, December 16, 2010

The HAS meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by President Charlie Gordy who welcomed members and guests. Charlie introduced the speaker for tonight's meeting, Jack Johnson, Integrated Program Resources Manager at the Amistad National Recreation Area National Park Service, who spoke on "Prehistoric Foodways of the Lower Pecos Region."

Charlie requested any comments or changes to the minutes from last month's meeting as printed in the Profile. There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as printed. Linda Swift asked that, if anyone had a problem with receiving their copy of the Profile, to let her know. It is time for membership renewal, and renewal forms can be found in the Profile this month.

No business meeting was held so that all could enjoy a social hour and the many refreshments brought by members. Motion to adjourn seconded; all in agreement.

--Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

## Sons of the Republic of Texas Honor Gregg Dimmick

The Sons of the Republic of Texas conferred its National Honorary Membership on Dr. Gregg Dimmick, pediatrician and frequent speaker at HAS, at the meeting of the Stephen F. Austin Chapter on January 6, in



West Columbia. The Honorary Membership is restricted to those persons who have, by their outstanding work advancing the cause of Texas patriotism, and who are not eligible because of their lineage to become a member of the society. Some recent recipients of the honor include former President George H. W. Bush, Gov. William P. Clements, Jr., Senator Phil Gramm, Lady Bird Johnson, and television personalities Ray Miller and Ron Stone, among others.

Dr. Dimmick has become an expert avocational archeologist, publishing a series of informative papers on Texas in the Republic Period and beyond. He has developed an extensive working knowledge of 19<sup>th</sup> century Mexican Spanish to allow him to come to some new understandings of the period from the Mexican point of view. He authored the book *Sea of Mud: The Retreat of the Mexican Army after San Jacinto* in 2004. In 2007 he edited the work of Vicente Filisola which was republished under the title: *General Vicente Filisola's Analysis of Jose Urrea's Military Diary: A Forgotten 1838 Publication by an Eyewitness to the Texas Revolution*. He is currently at work on a third book with the temporary title of *Santa Anna's Army in Texas: 1835-1836*.

## Upcoming Archaeology Events

**Saturday Feb. 12, 2011, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm:** Friends of Archaeology will have a “Temple, Mosque & Museum” trip to Stafford & Sugarland. After departing from the University of St. Thomas, we will be visiting BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Temple in Stafford. After viewing this magnificent temple and gardens, we will have lunch there, a vegetarian buffet for \$6.99. They also have a gift shop. Next we will go to Maryam Masjid in Sugar Land, a beautiful mosque recently written up in the Houston Chronicle. Last stop will be the Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land where we can view the special exhibition, “Archaeopteryx! Icon of Evolution.” Cost: lunch \$6.99, \$5.00 for the Science Museum (FREE if you are a member of the museum). **Reservations required.** Please respond by e-mail to Rita Marsales at [mamarita@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mamarita@sbcglobal.net) or by telephone to Patrick Underwood at 713-553-0719. Please respond promptly so we can get the proper size bus and make other arrangements.  
--Rita Marsales

**January 22, 2011: The Texian Legacy Association**, a pre-1840 Texas Living History organization, is having its 10<sup>th</sup> annual “**Pilgrims” Camp and Swap Meet**, at Hanson Riverside County Park on the San Bernard River about 3 miles southwest of W. Columbia, Texas, on Hwy 35. There is a \$10 general registration fee to help defray expenses, and period dress is not required, but it is encouraged. For more info, contact Colonel Jerry Tubbs at 713-806-8924 or [coloneltubbs@yahoo.com](mailto:coloneltubbs@yahoo.com), or Colonel George Rollow at [webmaster@texianlegacy.com](mailto:webmaster@texianlegacy.com)

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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 February 7 for the February 2011 issue.

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

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