



## “Field School 2011 in Medina County” will be July’s Topic

Our next meeting will be 7:00 pm Thursday, July 21, in room 103 of Anderson Hall (not the Library) at the University of St. Thomas, 3800 Montrose Boulevard. Featured speakers will be members who attended the Texas Archeological Society’s annual

Field School June 11-18 in Medina County near the town of Hondo.



**Pedernales point found by Marcia Asel (background). Photo by Bret Williamson**

HAS member Tom Williams was a pit supervisor in

Area 1 of the prehistoric excavation, with another member, Linda Gorski, serving on his team. Tom reports that he will be showing us “a method of mapping in 3-D from regular 2-D plots,” so this should be most informative.

By all accounts, the 2011 Field School was very productive and interesting.

Most of the prehistoric excavations were conducted at the Eagle Bluff



**Balzen Site. Homestead built by Alsatian immigrants in the 1860s. Photo by Leslie Bush**

site along Hondo Creek in northern Medina County. Historic excavations were carried out at the Balzen House, an 1850s

ranch house just outside of Hondo. Survey work was done at more than one ranch in the area.

According to Principal Investigator Dr. Thomas Hester at the TAS web site, [www.TxArch.org](http://www.TxArch.org), the goals for the prehistoric area included digging “deeper and wider” to investigate Early Archaic and Late Paleoindian occupations. The hope was to be able to interpret how and when parts of the large Eagle Bluff site area were used through time – and



**HAS member Tom Williams’ pit, with HAS member Linda Gorski at left and Kay Woodward at right. Photo by Tom Hester**

in what fashion they were used: occupation, processing of animals and plants, earth oven technology, etc. Bryan Jameson and Dr. Harry Shafer reported last year that the artifacts found in one of the areas suggest it is a Toyah work-area, and that better defined activity-specific areas may be found in 2011.

Photos from Field School 2011 are already being posted on the TAS web site, and a few are reproduced here.



## President's Message

**REMINDER: THIS MONTHS MEETING will be July 21, 2011; 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. PLEASE NOTE: We will be meeting at the UST Anderson Hall; room 103.**

**HAS ON-LINE MALL:** Several months ago, HAS implemented the We-Care on-line shopping mall. The goal was to receive additional donation income for the Society as a non-profit organization. This donation goal could be realized without any cost to our organization or members. We went online about three months before Christmas in an effort to benefit from the 2010 Christmas season. My President's Message of September outlined the program and gave directions as how to use the program for your on-line purchases. After six months, our account with We-Care is starting to get a few dollars in it. But it is obvious that my efforts to gain members support have perhaps fallen on deaf ears. This past January, national news media reported that there was a 12% increase in on-line shopping compared to previous years. However, our records from the We-Care program suggests that HAS members certainly were not responsible for any of that 12% increase. I take a great deal of blame for not having marketed this plan to our membership on a more continuous basis. As they say, you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. Well, I have to do a better job in leading you to the on-line mall, but it's up to you to take advantage of the opportunity to help HAS economically. Here's how to get started:

1. Go to [www.we-care.com](http://www.we-care.com)
2. Go to the box that says "Search For A Cause" and type in Houston Archeological Society; then Search.
3. Our Logo and Houston Archeological Society comes up as the first "cause."
4. To the right of our mall box, click on the bar that says "make this my cause."
5. Another page comes up with our logo and name. Directly under our logo are two bars: ONE says to get a desktop icon and the SECOND says to bookmark this site. (If you click both these bars, it will be easier for you to log onto our mall in the future).
6. There is a row of tabs at the top of the page. Click on the "merchants" tab and select the merchant of your choice. They are listed in alphabetical order. An example is "Amazon.com."
7. If you click on Amazon.com, a merchant page will come up that says "Amazon." Our logo will be on the left.
8. Then to go shopping at Amazon, just click on the bar that says "Shop Now." This will take you to Amazon's web site to go shopping.
9. From there on, you will be shopping on Amazon's web site.....But everything you purchase will result in a percentage donation to Houston Archeological Society. Simple!

IT WORKS.....IT HELPS YOUR society.....and IT'S EASY. TRY IT.....YOU'LL LIKE IT! .... IT'S FIVE MONTHS TO CHRISTMAS.....BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT TO SHOP THE HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ON-LINE SHOPPING MALL.

**BUSINESS AS USUAL:** The HAS Nominating Committee will be preparing a slate of new officers for presentation to the membership during the August meeting. According to our Constitution, all nominations will be presented, including any from the floor, and a vote will be held during our September annual meeting. The committee members are Muriel Walker, Fred Kelly, and Bob Sewell. If anyone desiring to contribute their talents as a member of the HAS Board of Directors or would like to nominate someone who is willing and agreeable to serve in such capacity, please contact one of the committee members. --Charlie Gordy

## **Minutes of the Houston Archeology Society Meeting May 19, 2011**

Michael Bailey, Vice President, opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests and thanking Ray and Meg Blackstone for providing refreshments.

Michael introduced the program speaker, Mr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Curator of Anthropology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Mr. Van Tuerenhout spoke about the Ancient Ukraine, Golden Treasures and Lost Civilizations. The exhibit will open May 27 at the Museum of Natural Science.

Minutes of April 21 approved as distributed by the Profile read with correction.

The Audit Committee, Ray Blackstone, Carol Roberts and Tom Williams, completed the audit and found all to be in order, with a recommendation by the Audit Committee that the Treasurer's records include a consolidated membership list showing dates and amounts collected, including TAS dues which are forwarded, and additional contributions.

Michael reported that next Bernardo work days would be May 21 and 22 and that there probably will be no other work days until this fall. There will be no meeting in June due to TAS Field School held June 11-18. Next meeting is at University of St. Thomas July 21.

As there was no unfinished business to be discussed this meeting, motion made to adjourn by Tom Williams, seconded by Bill Haskell. Meeting adjourned.

-- Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

### **Shelby's Work Featured in Handbook of Texas Online**

Thanks to member Bob Shelby, a biographical sketch of Elizabeth Powell is now available at [www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles). In 2007, Bob received the society's Southeast Texas Research Award for his extensive research on Elizabeth Powell and the site in Fort Bend county.

### **Archaeology Merit Badge Courses Offered for Summer 2011**

The Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum, Inc. is offering courses in late July and mid-August for Girl and Boy Scouts of America & Mexico wanting to earn the archaeology merit badge. Classes will be held at the Yates Printing Museum & Archaeology Field School Site located at 1314 Andrews Street in the historic Fourth Ward. For more information, contact Catherine Roberts' cell: 713-294-3338 or [cathiscott@hotmail.com](mailto:cathiscott@hotmail.com): Voice Mail: 713-739-0163.

### **July & August Lab Schedules**

Upcoming lab nights are Monday July 25 and August 15 and 29, 7-9 p.m., Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. We'll continue documenting two collections from a prehistoric site. For a map, see [www.rice.edu/maps/](http://www.rice.edu/maps/). Closest parking lot is Founder's Court/Visitor Parking and requires a credit card.

### **Dispatches Re: Champ d'Asile**

By Sheldon Kindall

Based on Juan Castaneda's report (and daily diary), I have always placed Champ d'Asile about 4.5 miles from the location of Atascosito. Local historians have told me where Atascosito was – it has been given the trinomial 41 LB 16. This leads to two possible locations for Champ d'Asile, and we have been searching at one of those two locations.

In the summer of 1988, Lou Fullen and helpers searched the designated location of LB 16. They did extensive exploratory excavations but they did not use metal detectors. After reading Lou's very good report I discover that they found no evidence of Atascosito! He did provide some ideas on where to further search. Starting in July we began searching for Atascosito.

*(continued next page)*

A short note on the Atascosito Crossing of the Trinity River: It is a location on the Trinity River where one can walk right up to the edge of the river with no difficulty. After you get there, you are on your own – the river is deep and very fast (and full of trees).

Lou Duggen, David Murph, and I went back out to the suspected Champ d'Asile site in Liberty (in the middle of a very hot day) to remove a log that Lenore found previously. I did not call anybody because you have to be crazy to do that type of thing. To make a long story short: we could not get the log out, not even with a back hoe. We finally cleared about 5 feet which we cut off with a chain saw. It is now on its way to Jay Blaine in Dallas.

The log has a notched end for placement without nails. It has been in a fire, but it still has bark, and it turned out to be extremely dense – we more burned our way through the log than sawed. This log has been well buried for a long time.

Lou has enlarged all the magnetometer read-outs to table size each. It turns out that there are indeed some distinct patterns. The plan is to excavate into one or more of these patterns if we can find our way back to exact locations.

The basic plan is to wait until November before going back, at which time we will also try to locate Atascosito. In the meantime, if anybody can find some information on where Atascosito was, it would help.

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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 August 1 for the August 2011 issue.**

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

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