



Has Members to Discuss TAS Field School on Devils River

HAS members Linda Gorski and Sandra Rogers will give a PowerPoint presentation at the Thursday, July 19th meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. The presentation will highlight their experiences at the Texas Archeological Society 2012 Field School which was held June 9 – 16 at the new Devils River Ranch State Natural Area – South Unit located west of Del Rio. The program, which is free of charge and open to the public, will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Room 103, Anderson Hall, The University of St. Thomas, 3800 Montrose Houston, Texas 77006.



Survey teams first find...a nice lithic!

The South Unit of the Devils River SNA covers 17,638 acres in southeastern Val Verde County. The 2012 Field School was primarily a

The South Unit of the Devils River SNA covers 17,638 acres in southeastern Val Verde County. The 2012 Field School was primarily a



Linda Gorski on a survey team. The terrain was rough and snake chaps were a must!



HAS members at Field School. From left: Sandy Rogers, Linda Gorski, Louis Aulbach, and Charlie Gordy.

walls, many archeological resources were located, and photos of these finds will be highlighted in their presentation.

broad-scale reconnaissance survey over most of the area to discover unknown rock shelters, rock art, burned rock middens, open camps and other sites. There was also a historic survey of two early 20th century ranches in the area, as well as a rock art recording component.

Four crews tested burned rock middens near the Devil's River, and the youth group tested a large fire-cracked rock feature. Findings from the TAS Field School will help the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department develop plans to protect the most significant cultural resources on this unit of the State Natural Area.

According to the speakers, both of whom worked on teams that were surveying the canyon floors and

walls, many archeological resources were located, and photos of these finds will be highlighted in their presentation.



President's Message

Meeting Reminder

Place: University of St. Thomas (UST)

Where: Anderson Hall; Room 103

When: July 19, 2012

Time: 7:00-9:30 P.M.

Greetings to all!

How exciting to be back! June has been a busy month for everyone and what better way to catch up than to start our July meeting with a presentation that covers the events of the Texas Archeological Society's field school in Devils River State Natural Area.

We will have a brief membership meeting following the presentation so please be sure to attend this month's presentation.

Organizational Updates:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has invited the HAS to participate in screening of scrapped deposits from Site 41HR796. A second component to this site has been identified in buried paleosol, more commonly known as fossil soil, which requires additional excavation. Upon completion of the excavation of this second component, HAS will be notified of the time and place to assist in screening of the scrapped deposits off site. In addition, at the conclusion of project HAS will have an opportunity to attend a presentation of the findings, as well as view the excavated artifacts.

Hope to see you Thursday evening!

--Karen Belvin, President

HAS Lab Resumes Work

Lab will be held on Monday, July 16th and 30th, 7:00-9:00 pm, Room 103, Sewall Hall at Rice University. In addition to analyzing pottery sherds, we will begin labeling artifacts.

For additional information visit the HAS web site at www.txhas.org. Click on Volunteer, then Laboratory. Then, click on Sewall Hall, Room 103 for a map of the Rice campus and the Founders Lot/Visitor Parking. That parking area is located directly across from Sewall Hall.

For a campus map, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20. Paid parking (\$2) is available in Moran Center at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark.

--Beth Aucoin

Houston Heritage

Frenchtown, Houston

Diversity is one of Houston's defining characteristics. People from all corners of the earth have come here, bringing new languages and varied customs. For the Creoles of southern Louisiana, it was a trek of only a few miles, but culturally it was like moving to another country. They were of mixed African, French, Spanish, and Indian heritage, French-speaking and Roman Catholic, but the area into which they moved was predominantly English-speaking and Protestant. The newcomers were not readily accepted by the African-Americans who had lived there for generations, so within the larger Fifth Ward, they formed their own community which became known as Frenchtown.

Driven by the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 which destroyed their livelihoods, the Creoles sought out the opportunities of the nearest large urban area, Houston. They built simple "shotgun" houses, sometimes using the wood of dismantled boxcars from the Southern Pacific Railroad yards where many of the men worked. There was no indoor plumbing or electricity, and the streets were narrow dirt roads which turned to viscous mud when it rained, but people were resourceful. Since the nearest Catholic church open to people of color was three miles away on foot or by a five-cent streetcar ride, the community held LaLa dances to lively Zydeco music in different homes, where they also sold gumbo, boudin, and pralines to raise money to build their own church, Our Mother of Mercy (completed in 1930 and still in use today).

This vibrant community thrived for more than 50 years, but as more people moved out than moved in, Frenchtown gradually became a part of Fifth Ward. LaLa dances are no longer held in peoples' homes, though Zydeco music is still danced to in churches, clubs, and other venues, and spicy Louisiana-style cooking can be found all over the city, enriching the lives of all who choose to partake.

-- Carol Roberts

More Discoveries from Pre-Clovis Research

Two notices were posted recently on blogger Mike Ruggeri's Pre-Clovis and Clovis World site, <http://goo.gl/mKqhv>.

Pre-Clovis at Vero Beach

Human and mammoth remains have been found at Vero Beach, Florida. The question was if they were there at the same time. It has been determined that mammoths survived in some pockets in the Americas until 7,600 years ago. Previously, it was believed that mammoths disappeared 12,000 years ago. Using rare earth element analysis, scientists have found the bones of the two almost complete human skeletons found at the site have the same combination of rare earth elements as the mammoths, proving the humans and mammoths lived together at Vero Beach. All of the bones show an age in the 13,000 years ago range. This is an important Pre-Clovis find. The study is published online in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology. Live Science has the report here:

<http://www.livescience.com/20088-early-floridians-mingled-mammoths-mastodons.html>

New ice Age Discovery

A study of lake sediment cores from Sanak Island in the Gulf of Alaska suggest de-glaciation may have happened 2000 years earlier than thought. The Monte Verde site in Chile and perhaps the Huaca Prieta site in Peru date to 14,200 years ago. Twenty-two radiocarbon cores were utilized. This earlier de-glaciation would have allowed movement into the Americas from Siberia 17,000 years ago. Pollen was also found indicating a dry tundra 16,300 years ago. The report was published in the peer reviewed Quaternary Science Reviews.

Eurekalert has the report here: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2012-06/osu-ndd061912.php

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than August 2 for the August 2012 issue.

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Karen Belvin, President, iv_art@ymail.com

Elizabeth Aucoin, Vice President, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net

Juan Reyes, Treasurer, reyesjcr@yahoo.com

Lucia Bonno, Director-at-Large, 713-961-0455

Linda Gorski, Director-at-Large, LindaGorski@cs.com

Carol Roberts, Director-at-Large, carobtx@earthlink.net

AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGY STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net

Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

Richard L. Gregg, rlgregg7@att.net

Marilyn & Walter Horton, mh3839@hotmail.com

Joe D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com

Brenda Jackson, brendajacks1@yahoo.com

Don Keyes, keys_don@hotmail.com

Sheldon Kindall, kindall1@peoplepc.com

Bev Mendenhall, bmend2@yahoo.com

Tom Nuckols, tnuckols58@att.net

Sandra & Johnny Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net

Sandra E. Rogers (Sandy), sojourne@att.net

Gary Ryman, gkryman@gmail.com

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGISTS

Pat Mercado-Allinger, Head, THC Archeology Division, pat.Mercado-Allinger@thc.state.tx.us

Jeff Durst, jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us

Brad Jones, brad.jones@thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Don Keyes, Region V Director, keys_don@hotmail.com

Pam Wheat-Stranahan, Executive Director,

pamwheatstranahan@gmail.com

Britt Bousman, President, president@txarch.org

Web Site: www.txarch.org

The Profile
Houston Archeological Society
PO Box 130631
Houston, TX 77219-0631

Return Service Requested