



## August Program: "Exploring Abandoned Villages Along the Rio Grande River in Texas"

Houston Archeological Society members Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski will give a presentation at the Thursday, August 16th, 2012, meeting of the Houston Archeological Society, highlighting their research into abandoned villages along the Rio Grande River in the Big Bend area of Texas. 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.

From the 1890's until the National Park Service acquired the land for the Big Bend National Park in the 1940s, there were a number of communities in Texas along the Rio Grande from Lajitas to Boquillas. Although only a few scant ruins of these

villages remain today, the fragmentary evidence of the primitive dwellings and the household items used in the everyday life of these residents can give us an insight into the lives of these people and can help us to understand how they survived, and often thrived, in an environment that we, today, might view as extremely harsh and forbidding.

Over the past decade Aulbach, Gorski and several of their fellow avocational historians and archeologists have discovered, surveyed, and photographed these abandoned community sites which include an extraordinary array of household items and personal belongings. From this assemblage, we believe we can describe, in a modest way, the typical border household of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Aulbach and Gorski first presented this program at

the Center for Big Bend Studies Conference at Sul Ross University in 2010 and have updated it with recent discoveries for this presentation.

**Louis F. Aulbach** is the author of five best selling river guides to the rivers of West Texas. His most recent publication, *Buffalo Bayou: An Echo of Houston's Wilderness Beginnings*, delves extensively into local history along the city's most famous stream.



All but one of these explorers of the Big Bend border region are members of the Houston Archeological Society. From left, Linda Gorski, Robert Killian, Ken Anderson, Dana Enos, Louis Aulbach and John Rich.

Aulbach, a native Houstonian, is a graduate of St. Thomas High School, Rice University and the University of Chicago. He retired in 2008 after over 17 years as the Records Management Officer for the City of Houston. He served on the Harris County Historical Commission in the 2009-2010 term.

**Linda Gorski** is a researcher and writer who has lived and traveled extensively in the United States, Europe, and Australia. Her byline has appeared in many publications worldwide and for several years, she was a correspondent for the Houston Chronicle. Gorski is a member of the Harris County Historical Society, the Houston Archeological Society, the Texas Archeological Society and has served as president of the Fort Bend Archeological Society. She is also on the Board of Directors of the SHUMLA School, an international center for Archeological Research and Education in west Texas.

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



## President's Message

### Meeting Reminder

**Place: University of St. Thomas (UST)**

**Where: Anderson Hall; Room 103**

**When: August 16, 2012**

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

**Greetings to all!**

August! It's hard to believe we are in August and the months of June and July have passed. That said, each season brings with it new and exciting changes. Summer's end and the entrance of fall allows for the shedding of leaves and new growth in the spring. What does growth look like for the HAS? First and foremost, September presents an opportunity for those of the general membership to serve on the Board. The opportunity to be a proactive participant in the evolution of the organization is both challenging and rewarding. I hope you will consider taking on this challenge for the upcoming term with bated anticipation. If serving on the Board is not where you feel you can best serve the organization, I would encourage you to join the September meeting and participate in voting for new Board members who elect to serve. From the looks of those who are currently running, you will have an excellent group to lead the HAS forward for the 2012-2013 term.

A second item of importance I would like to address is the website. Although the website is up and running, there are a few minor technical problems to iron out before it is able to meet HAS expectations. Our Webmaster is working diligently to address the issues many of you are having. If you have any questions regarding the website, please don't hesitate to contact the webmaster.

One final thought, I have shared this before but owing to the number of comments I have received with regard for the photos on the homepage and in the photo gallery, I feel I should address this issue again. The current photos best represent two primary aspects of archeology--prehistory **and** history. It is difficult to represent both with so few photos, which is the purpose of the dropdown selection. The website page designed for current projects and previous projects allows for a greater number of representative photos. We hope to have these photos in place over the next month, including the most recent activity with Girls Incorporated.

Hope to see you Thursday evening!

-- Karen Belvin

## **Nominating Committee Announces Slate for 2012-2013**

The nominating committee has completed its work and will be presenting its slate of nominees at the August meeting. Nominees are: Linda Gorski, President; Louis Aulbach, Vice President, Juan Reyes, Treasurer (incumbent), Lorna Psencik, Secretary; Don Keyes, Director-at-Large, 3 years; Diane Baird, Director-at-Large, 1 year (remaining term of Linda Gorski). Carol Roberts will remain a Director-at-Large with 2 years to go on her term of office. In addition, it is recommended that Karen Belvin remain on the Board in an advisory capacity as Immediate Past President. Members of the nominating committee are Diane Baird, Carol Roberts, and Linda Swift. This slate will be announced at the August meeting, and additional nominations may be made from the floor at the September meeting just prior to the election.

## Minutes of July 19, 2012 Meeting

Present: 17 including 2 guests. The program began at 7:17 p.m. Linda Gorski and Sandy Rogers presented a PowerPoint summary of the 2012 TAS Field School at Devil's River Ranch State Natural Area, South Unit. The 2012 Field School will be at Hondo, Texas. The next year TAS may meet at Fort Clark.

The Business Meeting was convened at 8:15 by President Karen Belvin.

Karen was contacted by Girls Inc. (an organization of girls aged 12-14 who are interested in archeology). Karen presented a program to the group. Girls' Inc. would like HAS to continue working with them. She also suggested that HAS sponsor 1 or 2 girls at TAS Field School.

Bob Sewell is our new Web Master. The web site is up but at this time is not accessible.

The Texas Department of Transportation contacted Karen about HAS helping to do water screening of soil collected at the Cypress Creek site. She accepted for HAS. No dates have been set at this time.

Karen will name a constitutional revision committee to look at possible changes to the HAS constitution.

The nominating committee for the new 2012-2013 Board is Linda Swift, Carol Roberts and Diane Baird. They will report on the slate of officers at the August meeting.

There was a discussion about where HAS is going in the future. Several ideas included giving talks to college archeology/anthropology classes and inviting them to HAS, talking to students K-12 about archeology, plan activities such as field trips and set up a search committee looking for possible digs.

Dr Rebecca Storey of UH has talked to Karen about HAS having a lab at the university. We would have keys to the office space and to storage. This will be discussed further when Karen is accepted in the program. Membership discussed this possibility.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

*--Submitted by Diane Baird, Secretary*

# Texas Navy Day



## Celebration & Cannon School

**Saturday, 15 September 2012**  
**at Surfside Jetty Park**

Meet and Visit  
Infantry and Cannon Crews of the Texas Revolution  
Observe 19<sup>th</sup> Century Artillery at School

**Flag Raising**  
8 a.m.

**Infantry Drill**  
9 a.m.

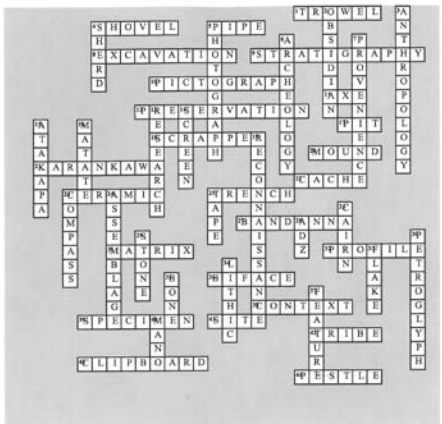
**Cannon School**  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Ceremony**  
4 p.m.



For information, call 979-864-1541 or e-mail [co3militia@yahoo.com](mailto:co3militia@yahoo.com)  
Organized and conducted by the Brazoria Historical Militia with support from the Village of Surfside, the Brazoria County Parks Department, and the Brazoria County Historical Museum.

### Crossword Answers



SCREEN TAPE MOUND FLAKE MATATE SITE ASSEMBLAGE BANDANNA RESEARCH SHERD	PESTLE TRIBE OBSIDIAN EXCAVATION BIFACE CACHE TROWEL CLIPBOARD SHOVEL ANTHROPOLOGY	PRESERVATION FEATURE LITHIC MATRIX PHOTOGRAPH ARCHEOLOGY KARANKAWA SCRAPPER
CAIRN SPECIMEN PROFILE MANO STONE CONTEXT PROVENIENCE STRATIGRAPHY ADZ PICTOGRAPH	COMPASS RECONNAISSANCE TRENCH CERAMIC AXE PIPE PIT BONE ATAKAPA PETROGLYPH	

## Yellow Fever in Civil War Galveston is August 12 Lecture Topic

"Yellow Fever in Galveston During the Civil War," presented by James Schmidt, will be the final lecture in the Galveston Historical Foundation's Civil War lecture series on Sunday, August 12, 2012 at 2:00 pm at the Menard Hall, 3302 Avenue O, Galveston. Price is \$12 for non-members and \$10 for members. Reservations are recommended; call (409) 765-3409. Tours of the Menard House are also available. Mr. Schmidt's latest book *Galveston and the Civil War: Voices of an Island in the Maelstrom* will be published this fall.

--Beth Aucoin

## Rock Art Foundation to Sponsor Tour at Meyers Springs Ranch Sept. 1

Meyers Springs, a major source of water in dry west Texas, has been a center for human activity for thousands of years. At the spring site ancient people left Pecos River style rock art. Then later native artists recorded the European contact with the indigenous people atop the older paintings. Still later the Seminole scouts and local ranchers left their marks. The Rock Art Foundation, in stewardship with the landowner, invites you for a tour to this very important rock art and historic site. Guide for this tour will be Greg Williams, Rock Art Foundation Executive Director. For more information, go to [www.rockart.org](http://www.rockart.org) and click on "Tours and Events," or call the Foundation at 480-777-3116.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at [swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net).

Submit articles no later than September 6 for the September 2012 issue.

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

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