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The Lower Pecos as a Teaching Laboratory: Rock Art, Archeology, and New Techniques in Cultural Resources Instruction

Andrew Freeman, Deputy Executive Director at the SHUMLA Archeological Education and Research Center in West Texas will present a program entitled *The Lower Pecos as a Teaching Laboratory: Rock Art, Archeology, and New Techniques in Cultural Resources Instruction* at the Thursday, November 15, HAS meeting at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas University. Please note this month's program will be held in the basement of the Doherty Library, Building 22, on the campus.

Each year, The SHUMLA School, located in Comstock, Texas, just west of Del Rio, conducts archeological education programs for people of all ages. Many of these programs are designed to educate students about the rock art of the Lower Pecos and the complex lifeways of the people who inhabited the region for thousands of years. According to SHUMLA Executive Director, Dr. Carolyn Boyd, "the Lower Pecos Canyonlands include the largest concentration of rock art sites in North America, and SHUMLA's teams have made many significant discoveries in the course of their archeological investigations. One of the most surprising has been that this landscape is an ideal proving ground for new techniques in cultural resources instruction."

Andrew Freeman was born and raised in Austin. After graduating from Beloit College, he worked in Chicago as a writing center director and general education dean while completing his MA at Northwestern University. Upon his return to Texas, Andrew continued his work in developing higher education writing and learning centers, but when an op-

portunity to work at SHUMLA became available Andrew immediately packed his bags for West Texas.

For a campus map, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the Interactive Map, Building 22, Doherty Library. Street parking is available as well as paid parking (\$2) in Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark.



Andrew Freeman, Deputy Executive Director at SHUMLA, demonstrating the atlatl to students on the SHUMLA campus in west Texas.

December Meeting Date

In December, we will meet on the *second Thursday*, which is December 13th. The date was changed to avoid conflict with the Christmas holidays. We'll be back to our usual third Thursday schedule in January.

Teacher CPE Credits Available

As a member society of the Texas Archeological Society, HAS can offer classroom teachers valuable CPE credits when they attend almost any HAS function including programs, field activities, and workshops. Certificates of attendance will be available at monthly meetings. For more information: publicoutreach@txhas.org.

Lab Schedule for November-December

Two remaining lab nights for 2012: November 12th and December 10th only. We'll meet at the usual time and place: 7:00-9:00 pm, Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. We'll continue working on a collection from a coastal margin shell midden site. Closest parking to Sewall Hall is the Founders Court/Visitor Lot across from Sewall Hall. This lot requires either a credit or debit card to gain access. For a map of the campus and parking, visit www.rice.edu/maps.

--Beth Aucoin



President's Message

Last month I introduced you to your HAS Board members for 2012 – 2013 including Vice president Louis Aulbach, Secretary Lenore Psencik, Treasurer Juan Reyes, and our Directors at Large Diane Baird, Don Keyes and Carol Roberts. This month I'd like to introduce myself and three members who are absolutely integral to the operation of the HAS.

The recurring theme in the bios of the folks who currently serve on your HAS Board is that they are all native Texans ... and most are native Houstonians! I hate to use a cliché, but while I wasn't born in Texas, I got here as quick as I could. I moved around -- a lot -- as the daughter and wife of Army officers, attending 17 schools in my first 12 years of education, including 5 different high schools. I've lived in several places in Texas including the old Gary AFB in San Marcos, Fort Bliss in El Paso and Fort Hood in Killeen (where my claim to fame is that I sold a box of Girl Scout cookies to Elvis Presley when I was 10 or 11 years old). I arrived in the Houston area in 1991 and am currently living in the 44th house of my lifetime.

As an avocational archeologist, I was one of the founders of the Fort Bend Archeological Society in 1992 and served as president and newsletter editor for several years. I have participated in archeological activities everywhere we've lived since the mid-1970s when I took my first course in Roman British Archeology at the University of Kent Canterbury and helped excavate a Roman villa site nearby. I first joined HAS and TAS in the late 1990s but while an expat from 2001 – 2010 in England and Australia, I was also a member of the City of London Archeological Society, the Western Australia Archeological Society in Perth and the Anthropological Society of South Australia in Adelaide. Now, it's great to be back in Houston and back in HAS.

Three other folks I want to recognize who are not formal members of the Board but are absolutely integral parts of the team are:

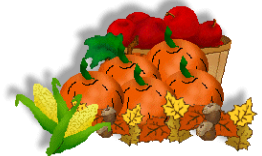
Bob Sewell – our new and absolutely awesome webmaster – is originally from the 'Old World' and migrated to the 'New World' in 2002. Bob Graduated from Brunel University in England with a degree in Computer Science. He has worked in the IT industry for 30 years. Bob first joined HAS sometime around 2004. He says that his favorite pastime as a child was digging holes in his parents' back yard, so being in HAS means that he can now dig without getting yelled at.

Beth Aucoin is our Assistant Lab Director. If you have not been to the HAS Lab at Rice University, I urge you to go. We generally meet twice a month on Monday night and the schedule is announced in the Profile. Beth is another native Houstonian but has lived in Texas, California, Colorado, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia. Beth received a BS in Anthropology (heavy emphasis on archeology) from U of H Clear Lake in 1999 and became a member of HAS and TAS that same year. She has held several HAS Board positions, including President, and is currently a THC Steward.

Linda Swift is our fantastic newsletter editor. She publishes the Profile every month, on time and with very little fanfare. I have heard from several editors of other archeological society newsletters in Texas who eagerly await our newsletter each month so they can use some of Linda's materials! Linda graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in Journalism and is retired from CenterPoint Energy. A former HAS President, she is the only one to have served three terms in a row—a glutton for punishment!

Once again, I'm privileged to serve with these talented and committed informal members of your HAS Board. You can always contact me at president@txhas.org if you have any questions at all about your Houston Archeological Society.

-- Linda Gorski



Minutes of the HAS General Membership Meeting October 18, 2012

Linda Gorski called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. First item on the agenda was the proposal to change the Standing Rules to reflect an increase in annual dues. Diane Baird took a count of members in attendance, and there were only 12 HAS members present at that time. A vote requires a quorum of 15 members present, so the dues increase proposal was postponed to the next General Membership meeting. There will be an upcoming review and recommendation to change the quorum requirement to 10% of membership. No Business Meeting was called to order.

Linda welcomed the 15 plus visitors. Our speaker, Andy Hall, and HAS got a really nice write-up in the Houston Chronicle today. Several new guests at the meeting had seen the article. Linda then introduced the speaker for the evening.

Andy Hall, Marine Archaeologist, gave a terrific talk about Blockade Running activities during the Civil War along the Gulf Coast. After Hurricane Ike hit the Galveston area in 2008, the Government conducted a survey of the debris along the coastal waters and found several steamship wrecks. Andy provided detailed information on the recent investigations into three of these blockade-running steamship wrecks located in Galveston.

Andy's new book, *The Galveston-Houston Packet: Steamboats on Buffalo Bayou* was just published this week and is available on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. You can get more information at www.maritimetexas.net.

Linda Gorski closed the meeting by thanking Andy and mentioned there may be upcoming digs, so stay tuned. The meeting ended at 8:15 pm. By meeting's end there were 34 attendees.

We extend a big Thank You to Linda Gorski who brought all kinds of snacks and goodies with a Halloween themed décor.
--Lenore Psencik, HAS Secretary

Has 2013 Membership Drive Underway

It is time to renew your membership in the Houston Archeological Society! We have an exciting year coming up with some interesting programs scheduled and at least two projects that I will announce in the next week or so. We hope you will join us now and take advantage of these opportunities.

As you know, the HAS Board has recommended a \$5 increase in membership dues at all levels in order to cover the Society's increasing costs, which include fees associated with the new HAS website, honoraria paid to speakers, and printing costs. However, if you renew your membership now, before the new dues structure goes into effect, you can join at the old 2005 rates.

Dues in 2005 Standing Rules

Contributing \$30+
Family \$25
Individual \$20
Student \$10

Proposed Dues

Contributing \$35+
Family \$30
Individual \$25
Student \$15

Dues cover a calendar year, January thru December, and are payable no later than March 31st to maintain membership. Those of you who have joined or renewed since September 1, 2012, will not be required to pay again until January 2014. Also, the Board has agreed to award the first 40 members who renew as a Contributing Member at \$30 or more a copy of a video entitled "An Adventure in Time ... The Gault Project." These videos were provided to HAS by the Texas Archeological Society's Education Committee to promote awareness of archeology in Texas.

Please go to the HAS website www.txhas.org and click on the Membership tab where you can download the Membership form and pledge. Fill out both and mail to the address on the form. And, finally, please email me at president@txhas.org or call me at 713-557-1496 if you have any questions about membership in HAS.

--Linda Gorski

HAS Members volunteer at Father of Texas Celebration

Four members of the Houston Archeological Society were on hand to volunteer at Father of Texas Day with residents of San Felipe on November 3. The annual event celebrates 176 years of Texas independence.

Charlie Gordy, Bob Sewell, and Linda Gorski volunteered at the archeological activities, which included a kids' dig, artifact sorting, and artifact reconstruction. HAS Vice Pres-



Bob Sewell works with kids at the archeological program at San Felipe.

ident and local historian Louis Aulbach presented a PowerPoint program entitled *The San Felipe Road* – an important route between San Felipe and Harrisburg that dates from the earliest days of the colonial period. According to Aulbach, a large group of settlers from Austin's Colony established farms in the vicinity of the San Jacinto River and along Buffalo Bayou. The San Felipe Road which ran from settlements of Harrisburg, Lynchburg and others south of the Bayou was the most direct route to Austin's headquarters at San Felipe. Harrisburg, and also extending to Lynchburg and beyond to Louisiana.



Bob Sewell, Linda Gorski, and Charlie Gordy take a break from supervising the kids' archeological programs at San Felipe's Father of Texas Celebration.

ident and local historian Louis Aulbach presented a PowerPoint program entitled *The San Felipe Road* – an important route between San Felipe and Harrisburg that dates from the earliest days of the colonial period.



Louis Aulbach is introduced by Bryan McAuley before his presentation at San Felipe.

Other events at the Father of Texas celebration included a Texian Army encampment, a ceremonial black powder salute to Texas heroes, shuttle tours of the colonial remnants of San Felipe de Austin and several author presentations, including one by Wolfram Von-Maszewski who has recently published an updated version of the book *Austin's Old 300*.

San Felipe de Austin Historic Site manager Bryan McAuley announced during his presentation entitled *Museum Planning for San Felipe de Austin* that archeological surveys would begin shortly on some new property that has been purchased adjacent to the current historic site and that HAS members would be invited to participate in these surveys and excavations. Watch this space for more information!

WANTED

The Houston Archeological Society will undertake several field projects later this fall and into 2013. We are in need of shovels, trowels, screens, saw horses or metal legs to support the screens and any other field equipment members can donate or make for us. This equipment will be stored in a safe, central location. If you have any equipment you'd like to donate to HAS, please email Linda Gorski at president@txhas.org

“SWAP” The First Thanksgiving in the Houston Area?

As we all learned in school, the event that some Americans commonly call the “First Thanksgiving” was celebrated by the Pilgrims in Massachusetts in 1621 to give thanks to God for guiding them safely to the New World. The first Thanksgiving feast reportedly lasted three days, providing enough food for 53 Pilgrims and 90 Native Americans.

El Paso claims the first Thanksgiving celebration in Texas, when in 1598 Spanish explorer Juan de Oñate and his expedition arrived at the Rio Grande after suffering much hardship crossing the Chihuahuan Desert. The Rio Grande was the salvation of the expedition. After recuperating for 10 days, Oñate ordered a day of thanksgiving for the survival of the expedition. Included in the event was a feast, supplied with game by the Spaniards and with fish by the natives of the region. A mass was said by the Franciscan missionaries traveling with the expedition.



But what was the first recorded Thanksgiving celebration in the Houston area? According to a family history written by Houstonian Dorothy Justman, it might have occurred around 1830 when a family of German immigrants was enjoying a holiday dinner in their log cabin in Harrisburg. In contrast to the frontier character of their home, they had set a refined table with linens and china in preparation for the feast and thanksgiving. Just as thanks were returned to God, a warrior strode into the room with two wild turkeys. The arrows were still in the turkeys and they were dripping blood all over the carpet. He threw the bloody mess on the white linen tablecloth, snatched up two pies, shouted "SWAP!", and vanished.

Could this have been the first Thanksgiving dinner in the Houston area?

Regardless which Thanksgiving was the first, we wish you a wonderful holiday!

--The Houston Archeological Society Board of Directors

Texas Archeological Society Announces Spring 2013 Academies

Archeology 101 will meet Friday to Sunday, March 1-3, 2013, in Victoria Texas. With assistance from Dr. Jon Lohse, Dr. Harry Shafer will lead classroom lectures and activities. And Eric Ray (Curator at the Museum of the Coastal Bend), along with members of the CoBALT team, will supervise field work at the McNeil-Gonzales site.

Archeobotany meets Saturday and Sunday, April 6th and 7th, 2013, in Kerrville, Texas. Dr. Leslie Bush will chair several sessions that feature expert archeologists presenting their research and leading hands-on demonstrations. Topics include ethnobotany, plant dyes, earth ovens, nut processing, emerging technologies, and a plant walk, all of which are sure to captivate and inform the participants!

Fees: each academy is \$95 for members and \$155 (including TAS membership dues) for individual non-members. Lunches, snacks, and drinks will be provided during each session. Please check Texas Archeological Society's web site, <http://www.txarch.org>, for updates and specific details about each of the academies. You can register by mail with a printout of the online .PDF, and you can register online. All credit card registrations should be completed online. Online registration and more information at <http://www.txarch.org>. For scholarship details see <http://www.txarch.org/scholarships/index.html>

Celtic Christmas Carols at UST on December 9

The Center for Irish Studies Cultural Outreach Forum announces a special program on Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 2:00 pm: *Celtic Christmas Carols with Danny O'Flaherty and Noel Nash*. The event will be at the University of St. Thomas, Jones Hall, 3910 Yoakum, Houston TX 77006. The concert is open to the public; Adults \$15; Seniors \$10; children and students free. Seating is first-come, first-served. Celtic balladeer Danny O'Flaherty and his frequent co-performer Noel Nash will bring the precious ancient gifts of music, song, dance, and especially storytelling, to the University of St. Thomas for one performance only. Their mesmerizing songs and tantalizing stories will rekindle the true Christmas spirit in every audience member's heart.

Sugar Land Chautauqua Lecture Series Begins November 13

The Chautauqua movement began in New York State as an adult educational movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It spread across rural America to the small town of Sugar Land.

The rich history of Sugar Land - as well as the rest of Fort Bend County - reaches far back to colonial times, when Stephen F. Austin brought his first settlers to the area in the 1820s. Come remake history as the Sugar Land Heritage Foundation partners with the Sugar Land Cultural Arts Foundation to revive a noteworthy part of our history - **The Sugar Land Chautauqua Talks**.

Chautauqua Talk One will be "**Sugar, The Essential Building Block of Sugar Land.**" local Sugar Lander Leon Anhaier, will start the series on Tuesday, November 13 at 7:00 pm in the historic Sugar Land Auditorium, located on the Lakeview Elementary campus, 226 Lakeview Drive, Sugar Land. Leon is uniquely qualified to present this material. He is a native Sugar Lander with 45 years of experience in the sugar industry and a former Imperial Sugar Vice President of Operations Development. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Sugar Engineering from LSU.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than November 29 for the December 2012 issue.

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

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