



## HAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH PROGRAM: CIVIL WAR BLOCKADE RUNNING ON THE UPPER GULF COAST

Galveston historian and marine archeologist Andy Hall will give a presentation on Civil War blockade running on the upper Texas gulf coast at the Thursday, October 18, 2012, meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. The program, which is free of charge and open to the public, will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Room 103, Anderson Hall, Building 20, The University of St. Thomas, 3800 Montrose Houston, Texas 77006.

During the last year of the American Civil War the



**October speaker Andy Hall**

upper Texas coast was a hive of blockade running activity. Hall will discuss investigations into three shipwrecks, including one recently exposed by Hurricane Ike that may be one of the most notorious blockade runners of the War, the famed *Will-o-the-Wisp*.

Andy Hall has served as website developer on several nautical archeology projects, including the 1686 wreck of the French ship *La Belle* (1995-97), the Civil War blockade runner *Denbigh* (1997-2003), and the *U-166* Project (2003). He wrote the chapter on the interface between nautical archaeology and the Internet in the *International Handbook of Underwater Archaeology* (2002), and has co-authored several other journal articles. Mr. Hall also serves as a Marine Archeological Steward for the Texas Historical Commission and is past president of the Southwest Underwater Archeological Society. Mr. Hall recently completed a history of the steamboat trade on Buffalo



**Blockade-running ship *Will-o-the-Wisp***

Bayou in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to be published this fall by the History Press.

For a campus map, go to [www.stthom.edu](http://www.stthom.edu) and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20, Anderson Hall. Street parking is available as well as paid parking (\$2) in Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. For more information about this program, contact [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com).

### Lab Schedule for October-December

Monday night labs are scheduled for the following dates: October 15th and 29th; November 12th only; and December 10th only. We'll meet at our usual time and place: 7:00-9:00 pm, Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University, and we'll continue processing artifacts from two collections. As there are only four lab sessions scheduled before year end, I look forward to having as many attendees as possible. Don't forget: the Founders Court/Visitors Lot, located across from Sewall Hall, requires either a credit or debit card. A map of the campus and parking can be found at [www.rice.edu/maps](http://www.rice.edu/maps). Hope to see you there.

--Beth Aucoin

## President's Message

First of all, let me say that I am absolutely delighted that you have elected me as president of the Houston Archeological Society, especially because of the terrific board you have also elected. You will not believe the credentials these people have to offer to the organization. More importantly, they are all willing and eager to serve on your Board of Directors! Let me tell you a little about them.



Louis Aulbach – Vice president. Native Houstonian, graduated from St. Thomas HS, and Rice University and received his masters degrees at the University of Chicago. He was the Records Management Officer for the City of Houston for 18 years. He served on the Harris County Historical Commission and is currently president of the Harris County Historical Society. Louis recently authored a comprehensive book on the history of Houston as it developed along Buffalo Bayou.

Lenore Psencik – Secretary. Fifth generation Texan. Born and raised in Rosenberg, Texas. She graduated from U of H Clear Lake. Worked for 30 years in Oil & Gas industry. Member of HAS since the 1990s.

Juan Reyes – Treasurer. Returning to serve a second year as treasurer of HAS. Born and raised in Houston Texas. Seventeen years in the Construction and Planning Industry and currently works with City of Houston Airport System. Member of HAS since 2009.

Carol Roberts – Board Member. Carol wanted to point out that even though she was born in Denver she was conceived in Texas and returned to her home state when she was 18 months old and has been here ever since. She received her BA at the University of Texas and her MA at the University of Houston and taught history and French in high school for 30 years. Member of HAS for two years.

Diane Baird – Board Member. Diane is another native Houstonian. She received her bachelors and masters degrees from Stephen F. Austin University. Member of HAS since 2003 and was president for two years.

Don Keyes- Board Member. Don is yet another Native Houstonian, raised in the Heights and a 1969 graduate of Sam Houston High. Don worked for Southwestern Bell for 41 years and has been a Houston Archeological Society and Texas Archeological Society member since 1993, a TAS Steward for over 10 years, and currently serves as the Region 5 Director for TAS.

Karen Belvin, our outgoing president, has taken on the honorary position of Immediate Past President. As a trained archeologist, her expertise will be invaluable, especially in the field. -- Linda Gorski



2012 Election Night at HAS: Incoming Board members pose for posterity. From left: Lenore Psencik, Secretary; Louis Aulbach, Vice President; Linda Gorski, President; Carol Roberts, Director; and Diane Baird, Director. Not pictured: Juan Reyes, Treasurer; and Don Keyes, Director.

Letter to the Membership About Dues

**To: Members of the Houston Archeological Society,**

In order to cover the Houston Archeological Society's increasing costs which include fees associated with the new HAS website, honoraria paid to speakers, and printing costs, the 2011 – 2012 HAS Board discussed and voted to increase dues by a modest amount for each membership level. However, this proposed increase in dues was not brought to the general membership for a vote as required by the Standing Rules of the organization. The proposed increase was again discussed by the new 2012 – 2013 HAS Board at the October 4, 2012 HAS Board meeting, and the Board voted to present these proposed increases at the next general membership on October 18, 2012, for a vote. Below you will see the dues levels that are reflected in the 2005 Standing Rules. In the second column are the proposed increases which will become changes to the Standing Rules. As you will see, the increase is just \$5.00 in each membership level.

Those increases would be as follows:

**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.

Please consider these very minor increases and email me at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com) if you have any questions. Also, please be prepared to vote on these changes at the October 18 meeting.

Linda Gorski, President

**Minutes of HAS Annual Meeting Thursday, September 20, 2012**

In the absence of HAS president Karen Belvin, former president Charlie Gordy opened the Annual general membership meeting of the Houston Archeological Society at 7:00 p.m. on September 20, 2012.

Charlie turned the meeting over to Linda Swift, chairman of the Nominating Committee who acknowledged the work of Nominating Committee members Diane Baird and Carol Roberts and then conducted the election of new officers. The slate of officers was presented as follows:

Linda Gorski, President

Louis Aulbach, Vice President

Lenore Psencik, Secretary

Juan Reyes, Treasurer

Diane Baird, Board Member (one year term to fill vacancy left by Linda Gorski)

Don Keyes, Board Member (three year term)

Carol Roberts, Board Member (serving two year term)

The slate was elected unanimously.

Linda Gorski introduced each of the new Board members to the membership.

Jeanette Siciliano announced a Friends of Archaeology field trip to the Gault Site in October.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Linda Gorski then introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Thomas Guderjan from the University of Texas at Tyler who spoke on New Horizons on the Ancient Maya of Northwestern Belize.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

--Lenore Psencik, Secretary

## Has Members Volunteer for Texas Archeology Month Activities at San Felipe de Austin Historic Site

On Saturday, October 6, several members of the Houston Archeological Society joined the staff at the San Felipe de Austin Historic Site for an event celebrating Texas Archeology Month. Bryan McAuley, Site Manager, and his staff including Shelley Wong and Bethanie dePalermo, conducted archeology-themed activities and programs for kids between 9:00 am and noon. Diane Baird, Bob Sewell, Juan Reyes (and his son Carlos), Charlie Gordy, Karen Belvin and Linda Gorski were on hand to assist the staff in these events. Several Houston area Boy Scout troops were camped at the San Felipe State Park and hiked over to the historic site to take part in the archeology programs.

At 1:30 the volunteers and staff moved over to the State Park where Robert Marcom presented a program on the excavations at Bernardo Plantation which many of us participated in



**Charlie Gordy explains artifacts from the Bernardo Plantation dig to visitors.**

last year. This presentation included a display of artifacts from the site. All of the HAS volunteers mentioned above were on hand to man the artifact display and explain the history of Bernardo Plantation to many park visitors who stopped by the TPWD facility at the State Park to view the artifacts.

If you missed this event, HAS members will have another opportunity to volunteer at the annual Father of Texas celebration at San Felipe on November 3. Please mark this day on your calendar! Bryan McAuley, the site manager, will need 6–12 volunteers from HAS. This is going to be a fun day with kids' activities including artifact sorting, artifact reconstruction, transfer ware analysis/comparison; digital cameras for informal surface surveys and possibly a dig area for adults. There will be presentations and book signings in the afternoon, including our very own HAS Vice President Louis Aulbach who will be on hand to discuss his new book *Buffalo Bayou: an Echo of Houston's Wilderness Beginnings*. I will send more information to members about this event as the date draws near. If you'd like more information about the Father of Texas Celebration, Contact: Bryan McAuley, Site Manager, [bryan.mcauley@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:bryan.mcauley@thc.state.tx.us), 979-885- 2181, and [www.visitsanfelipedeAustin.com](http://www.visitsanfelipedeAustin.com) (for maps and directions).



**Diane Baird mans the Houston Archeological Society table on the porch of the visitors center (formerly the old store) at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site.**



**Bob Sewell works with Shelley Wong and Bethanie dePalermo of the Historic Site staff and Boy Scouts reassembling ceramics.**

## UST Center for Irish Studies to Sponsor Irish History Lecture in November

The University of St. Thomas William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies at 4206 has begun its Fall 2012 Cultural Outreach Series.

**On Thursday, November 15**, at 7:30 pm the Center will host a lecture, *A Tale of Two Hemispheres: Charles Gavan Duffy and the Nineteenth-Century Irish Experience*, by Dr. Sean Farrell, Associate Professor of History, Northern Illinois University. This event, which is free and open to the public, will take place at the University of St. Thomas, Cullen Hall, 4001 Mt. Vernon, Houston TX 77006.

For more information, contact the Center Director, Lori Meghan Gallagher, JD, at 713-525-3592 or [irishstudies@stthom.edu](mailto:irishstudies@stthom.edu).

## AIA to Present "Sacred Time: The Medieval Art of Devotion"

The Archaeological Institute of America-Houston Chapter, with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Texas Medieval Association, will present a talk by Dr. Timothy Bolton, entitled **Sacred Time: The Medieval Art of Devotion** at **2:00 pm on Sunday, October 14, 2012**, at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Brown Auditorium Theater, 1001 Bissonnet. Dr. Bolton is the Deputy Director, Sotheby's Specialist in Western Manuscripts. Explore the richness of the world of medieval books while learning fascinating details about the production of these prodigiously expensive volumes from one of the foremost experts on medieval manuscripts.

This program is free with general museum admission, but tickets are required. To secure seats, buy your tickets online here: <http://www.mfah.org/calendar/sacred-time-medieval-art-devotion/6596/> or phone at 713-639-7771, or at any admissions desk at the MFAH. **For More Information:** 713-364-6DIG (713-364-6344), Website - [aia-houston.com](http://aia-houston.com) Facebook - [facebook.com/houstonarchaeology](https://www.facebook.com/houstonarchaeology) Blog - [archaeologyhouston.wordpress.com](http://archaeologyhouston.wordpress.com).

## October is Texas Archeology Month!

The Texas Historical Commission sponsors Texas Archeology Month (TAM) each October in association with the Texas Archeological Society and the Council of Texas Archeologists. For more information about Texas Archeology Month events see <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aatam.shtml>, where you can download a complete statewide TAM Calendar of Events.. In addition to our October meeting, please note these additional activities in our area:

**Ongoing in October** • Participation with the Fort Bend Archeological Society in a dig in Richmond, Texas. These digs are scheduled for Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. You must be a member of HAS, FBAS, TAS or another archeological society to participate. Linda Gorski will update HAS members via email on a weekly basis on the progress of this dig and future dig dates, and if you have any questions, e-mail Linda at [LindaGorski@cs.com](mailto:LindaGorski@cs.com).

**October 20 • Battleship Texas Hardhat Tour:** There will be four 3 1/2-hour tours beginning at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. A limited number of tour slots are open to anyone 14 and older by reservation only. For more information call Bruce Bramlett at 713-827-9620 or email at [bb35foundation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bb35foundation@sbcglobal.net)

**October 13 • Brenham Archaeology Day, Brenham Heritage Museum** The Brenham Heritage Museum will be hosting Brenham Archaeology Day. The public is invited to bring artifacts to the Museum for identification by curatorial staff and visiting archaeologist Bob Wishoff. Brenham Heritage Museum, 105 South Market. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Information: Douglas Price, 979-830-8445, [director@brenhamheritagemuseum.org](mailto:director@brenhamheritagemuseum.org), or Cynthia Eben, 979-830-8445.

**October 20 • What's In your Backyard? Giddings-Wilkin House.** The Brenham Heritage Museum will begin its public archaeology project with an excavation at the historic Giddings-Wilkin House. Sponsored by the Brenham Heritage Museum. Free. 805 Crockett Street. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information: Douglas Price, 979-830-8445, [director@brenhamheritagemuseum.org](mailto:director@brenhamheritagemuseum.org).

**October 27 • Texas Market Days Archeological Dig.** During the Texian Market Days festival at the George Ranch Historical Park, the Fort Bend Archeological Society will be hosting a dig - searching for the foundation/site of the log cabin home that was located on the ranch property in the 1820s. George Ranch Historical Park, 10215 FM 762. Information: Claire Rogers, 281-342-6478, [crogers@fortbendmuseum.org](mailto:crogers@fortbendmuseum.org) or [www.fortbendmuseum.org](http://www.fortbendmuseum.org) or [www.georgeranch.org](http://www.georgeranch.org).

**October 16 • Time Detectives, Walking Tour, Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site in West Columbia.** Interactive walking tour of the site will give visitors an overview of the cultural, economic, and environmental impact of the plantation era on Varner-Hogg Plantation SHS. For information: Amanda McVay, 979-345-4656 ext. 31, [amanda.mcvay@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:amanda.mcvay@thc.state.tx.us).

**October 20 • Behind Closed Doors: A Collections Tour of the Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site** Find out about some of Varner- Hogg Plantation SHS's artifacts and their life behind the scenes. Angela Pfeiffer, 979-345-4656 ext.23, [angela.pfeiffer@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:angela.pfeiffer@thc.state.tx.us).

**October 27 • Harvest Festival.** A day of fun and discovery at Varner-Hogg Plantation SHS, Harvest Festival offers visitors a chance to explore the past through activities and demonstrations related to the history and archeology of the area. Information: Amanda McVay, 979-345-4656 ext.31, [amanda.mcvay@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:amanda.mcvay@thc.state.tx.us).

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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 November 1 for the November 2012 issue.

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

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