



December Program: HAS Members in Action! A Summary of Archeological Fieldwork in 2013



Please join us for the Houston Archeological Society's final meeting of the year on Thursday, December 19th at 7:00 pm at MD Anderson Hall, at St. Thomas University. The program will feature a PowerPoint summary of all HAS field activities this year as well as a peek at projects coming up in 2014.

Linda Gorski, HAS President, will present a PowerPoint program featuring photos from many of the society's 2013 archeological surveys, excavations and other activities in and around the Houston area. These projects include a metal detecting survey at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Park, a metal detecting survey and shovel testing at San Jacinto Battlefield, survey and shovel testing with TPWD at Galveston Island State Park, survey and shovel tests to locate the French Fort Champs d'Asile in Liberty County, and the Dimond Knoll Screening Project which has been ongoing since February 2. Photos of many HAS members will be highlighted in this presentation so come and see yourself on the big screen!

Gorski and HAS member Dr. Jason W. Barrett will also present a short program highlighting the 2014 Texas Archeological Field School which will be held at the Tait Ranch in Columbus, Texas, June 14 – 21,

2014. "From January to June next year archeological society members will be conducting preliminary surveys to identify prehistoric and historic features on the Tait Ranch that will be excavated and examined more closely at Field School," said Barrett. Dr. Barrett has been selected as the PI (Principal Investigator) for the field school and the Houston Archeological Society, Brazosport Archeological Society and Fort Bend Archeological Society will be the regional sponsors for the 2014 TAS Field School.

The meeting will also include a special holiday themed snack buffet for members and guests. Please bring a holiday snack to share! For a campus map of St. Thomas University, go to 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.

No Lab at Rice in December

Due to scheduling conflicts with Rice University, Lab will not be held in December. January lab dates are pending. Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season and a safe and Happy New Year.

--Beth Aucoin



President's Message

Happy Holidays fellow HAS members!

2013 has been a terrifically successful year for the Houston Archeological Society and it's all because of **YOU!** As we go into the holiday season, I am so grateful for the support that each and every one of you has provided this year.

My holiday gift to you will be a program on December 19th that will feature **YOU** digging up the history of Texas, one trowel full at a time! I've put together a PowerPoint presentation with photos of HAS members participating in several archeological projects this year including fieldwork, labs and public outreach programs. I hope you will enjoy seeing yourself on the big screen in MD Anderson Hall at St. Thomas. Look forward to seeing you there!

Remember that this is also our annual holiday party when members bring special treats to share. We'll have bags and plates available for you to take home samples of other members' goodies.

I also hope that you will continue your support of the Houston Archeological society and renew your membership for 2014. We already have several projects on the burner for next year and if you are a member you will be on the list to receive notifications of these projects. Membership forms will be available at the meeting and can be found on the society's website at <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf>. One other reminder ... we will be voting on the budget for 2014 at the January meeting and you must be a paid member in order to vote.

Finally, I want to share a story with you that has made me appreciate even more spending the holidays with my loved ones this year. Over Thanksgiving Rick and I traveled to Virginia to celebrate the holiday with his brothers. We had the opportunity to catch up with a friend we hadn't seen in years ... a 3-star general who started his career as a young second lieutenant in the battalion Rick commanded at Fort Hood back in the early 1980s. While we were visiting, Ed shared that this is the first Christmas he will spend with his family since 2006. Why? Because he has just returned from serving 5 tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. And their son has just completed two tours of duty in that part of the world.

So as we celebrate the holidays in the arms of our families and friends, please remember and pray for our troops who cannot be with their families this year.

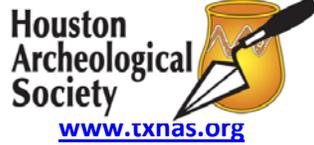
Happy holidays!

--Linda Gorski, President

HAS to be recognized as a Cannon Conservator

At last month's meeting, our speaker, Dr. Gregg Dimmick (center in photo), donated his honorarium to Jan Devault (right), President of the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy. The money will be used to engrave the name of the Houston Archeological Society on a plaque at the Alamo as one of the conservators of the cannon. This weapon is thought to have been cast in Mexico and possibly used by the Texian army during the 1836 battle of the Alamo. Researchers believe the cannon, which recently went on display at the Alamo, may have been given by the Samuel Maverick family to a Philadelphia family named French after the Civil War. The Mavericks had reported finding 13 cannons near the Alamo site in 1852. For many years it was displayed on the lawn of Howard B. French's country estate in Pennsylvania. Houston businessman J.P. Bryan bought it from a collector in 1986. It was re-sold to John McRae of Dallas. McRae's daughter donated it to the San Jacinto Battleground group in 2008, which had it restored at Texas A&M University's Conservation Research Laboratory. The San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy plans to keep the cannon on permanent loan at the Alamo. *Photo by Tracy Connell.*





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Name (s) _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

_____ (Mobile) _____ (Mobile)

Email Address(es): _____

Renewing Members: If any of the above information has changed in the past year please check here

Type of Membership: New Renewal

Please Mark one: Student - \$15 Year Individual - \$25 year

Family - \$30 Year Contributing - \$35+ _____

Please make checks payable to *Houston Archeological Society*

**Please mail this form to: Houston Archeological Society,
P. O. Box 130631
Houston, TX 77219-0631**

All members must sign the following pledge and mail it with membership form:

I/WE pledge that I/WE will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any present or future federal, state or local historic preservation statutes concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial or personal purposes, or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological sites and historic properties or associated data, or disregard proper archeological field methods.

I/WE have read and agree with the current HAS Waiver of Liability, as downloaded from the HAS Website (www.txhas.org)

Name (print) _____

Signature: _____

Name (print) _____

Signature: _____

Date _____

Here's the Latest from Dimond Knoll....

Dateline Thursday, December 12: Check out this terrific article that ran today (December 12) in the Chronicle's Cypress-Fairbanks section about our Dimond Knoll Screening project:

<http://www.chron.com/neighborhood/cyfair/news/article/Grand-Parkway-construction-site-leads-to-5052213.php>

Also see the photo below of Dr. Jason reading the article out at the site today! Kudos to every single one of you who has worked at the site and made this project so newsworthy

It's been a good couple of days out at the site with the mechanical screener and our faithful hand screeners. Biggest news: WE FINISHED PILE 10 TODAY! See below for a photo of just a very few of the artifacts we recovered from Pile 10 in the past two days. We started on Pile 6 this afternoon. The really good news is that the soil in Pile 6 is very light and fluffy and is going through the screens easily.



Dr. Jason Barrett, Principal Investigator of the Dimond Knoll project, reads the December 12 Houston Chronicle, which carried a lengthy article on the project. If you look hard at the front page of the section he is holding, you can see the photo of screener Kathleen Hughes, with Bob Sewell shoveling dirt. Follow the link above to read the full story.

The weather forecast is for rain tomorrow (Friday) but it's not supposed to start until afternoon - around 2:00 pm. We will screen tomorrow from 8:00 to 1:00 or until it starts raining (we will not have the mechanical screener tomorrow - it worked so hard today it blew a gasket!) So we will be hand screening both tomorrow and Saturday, also from 8:00 to 1:00.

--Linda Gorski



Artifacts recovered from Pile 10 screens

Minutes of the Houston Archeological Society Meeting

November 21, 2013

President Linda Gorski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests. There were a total of 55 attendees, including 14 guests signed in.

Linda made the following announcements:

- Treasurers Report – Checking account balance \$5,811.17; Savings Account \$9,460.62
- HAS Membership – 120 members. Membership drive underway for 2014.
- Dimond Knoll Screening Project – Saturdays from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Approximately 2 piles left to screen. Mechanical screener brought in, pile 10 almost completed. Will have the mechanical screener Dec 2-6th.
- 2014 TAS Field School is at the Tait-Jackson Plantation in Columbus. HAS member Dr. Jason Barrett will be the Project Investigator for this field school. Camping will be available within 3 mi. of the site.
- Report on TAS Annual Meeting October 23-25 in Del Rio – Several HAS members attended the meeting including Dub Crook, Kathleen Hughes, Dr. Jason Barrett, Sandy Rogers, Debbie Eller, Sue Gross, and Linda Gorski. Dub Crook presented on chert from various parts of East Texas. Dr. Barrett presented on the phenomenal outreach success of the Dimond Knoll Screening Project. Linda Gorski conducted a poster session on the screening project. Thanks to HAS member Tom Williams for the awesome posters and printed materials he prepared for our presentations.
- Lab at Rice University – Scheduled for November 25th - canceled. There will be no more labs at Rice until January 2014.
- Thank you to Bob Sewell for design and maintenance of the HAS website.

Gregg Dimmick presented the program, titled “Come and Take It! Archives of the Gonzales Cannon(s)”.

Linda Gorski presented an honorarium to Gregg Dimmick, who then donated it to the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy, accepted by Jan Faulk, head of the conservancy. This donation will allow HAS’s name to be added to the plaque in the Alamo.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. HAS members and guests then enjoyed snacks provided by Linda Gorski.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2013 at 7:00 pm. This will be our Christmas program highlighting HAS projects in 2013 and a preview of activities in 2014. Members are invited to come and enjoy Christmas snacks.

--Lenore Psencik, Secretary

AIA-Houston to Co-Sponsor Lecture on History of Humans and Horses

“A Transformative Partnership: Horses and Humans,” is an AIA-co-sponsored lecture to be held on Thursday, January 16, 2014, at 6:30 pm. in the Brown Auditorium Theater, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet.

Guest speaker Carolyn Willekes. PhD, of the University of Calgary, will show how the partnership between humans and horses goes back much further than we thought. Domestication of the horse radically transformed communication, trade, and warfare and helped further an exchange of art and ideas. An important sculpture depicting a horse found in Saudi Arabia last summer shows how artistic depictions may upend prevailing theories about the use of the horse.



Cosponsored by the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, this lecture is free, but general admission tickets are required. General admission at the MFAH is free Thursdays, courtesy of Shell Intersects with Aramco-sponsored “Roads of Arabia” Exhibit, December 22, 2013 to March 9, 2014. Tickets are available online at www.mfah.org, by phone at 713-639-7771, or at any MFAH admissions desk.

56th Caddo Conference and 21st East Texas Archeological Conference

Everyone is invited to attend the joint Caddo Conference and East Texas Archeological Conference to be jointly held March 27-29, 2014, in Tyler, Texas, on the University of Texas at Tyler campus. It will be in the Ornelas Activity Center; 3402 Old Omen Road; Tyler, Texas.

CALL FOR PAPERS: Papers and symposia are invited on the archeology, history, and culture of the Caddo Indians. Please send paper titles and abstracts by January 31, 2014 to: Dr. Timothy K. Perttula, tkp4747@aol.com.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: The registration fee for the conference is \$20, either before the conference or at the door. Payment can be mailed to: Caddo Conference, co: MRP; 1910 E SE Loop 323 #296, Tyler, Texas 75701.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Please address questions or comments to Dr. Thomas H. Guderjan at tguderjan@uttyler.edu ; 817-831-9011. For Silent Auction donations: Patti Haskins phaskins2@aol.com.



Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than January 2 for the January 2014 issue.

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

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