



## Gault Site and Peopling of the Americas is May 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Topic

Wilson W. "Dub" Crook, long-time member of the Houston Archeological Society and an Adjunct Faculty Member of the Department of Anthropology at Texas State University, will speak on "The Peopling of the Americas: Is Clovis First Finally Dead?" at the Thursday, May 16th meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall at St. Thomas University and is free of charge and open to the public. Dub will be speaking on the latest research and work on the Pre-Clovis occupation at the Gault site in Central Texas as well as give a summary of the older-than-Clovis data that has now been found throughout North America.

The Gault site, between Georgetown and Fort Hood, has been known to archeologists for at least 78 years. After some initial archeological investigations, the site was plundered by pothunters and collectors and even used as a pay-to-dig operation. The land changed ownership in 1998 and a group from the University of Texas at Austin led by paleontologist Dr. Ernie Lundelius and archaeologist Dr. Michael Collins were asked by the new owners to look at something they'd exposed at the site. It turned out to be the lower jaw of a juvenile mammoth and some ancient horse bones surrounded by a large number of Clovis artifacts

A three-year lease between the University and the landowners allowed the first extensive research excavations at Gault. Between 1999 and 2002 more than 1.2 million artifacts were recovered - about half of them of Clovis age. A unique feature, a stone floor, was discovered as well as more than one hundred engraved stones - amongst the earliest art in the Americas. That floor has now been shown to be pre-Clovis as well. Dr. Collins bought the land the site was on and has since donated it to the Archeological Conservancy with the Gault School of Archeological Research as caretakers.

Dub Crook recently retired from Exxon Mobil Corporation after a distinguished 35 year career. Mr. Crook

has published over 120 professional papers, 56 of them in the field of archeology. Mr. Crook holds both a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern



Methodist University and a Master of Science degree from the University of Michigan in the field of mineralogy and rare-earth crystal chemistry. In addition to HAS, he has been a member of the Dallas Archeological Society for 41 years, a member of the Texas Archeological Society for 34 years,

is a member of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, and the Archeological Association of Virginia. He is a Fellow of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, a Fellow of the Leakey Foundation and Vice President of the Gault School of Archeological Research.

For a campus map of St. Thomas University, 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. Teachers can receive one hour of CPE credit for attending this lecture.

### Lab Dates for May - June

May Lab: one night only on Monday, May 13th, since May 27th is Memorial Day. Meet at the usual time and place: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. Visit [www.rice.edu/maps](http://www.rice.edu/maps) to locate Sewall Hall and the Founders Court/Visitors Parking Lot. A credit or debit card is required for access and costs \$3.50 per hour. Hope to see you there.

June: No lab due to TAS Field School.

--Beth Aucoin



## President's Message

This has been a busy month for some of our HAS members in terms of Outreach programs and projects. Here's a quick overview:

HAS members Charlie Gordy, Sandy Rogers and I plus former HAS president Tom Nuckols (photo below, at left) participated in an archeological survey of 98 acres at San Jacinto Battleground with TPWD Cultural Resources Director, Mike Strutt, and the Houston CRM firm HRA Gray and Pape. The metal detecting and shovel testing project was conducted before the area is replanted with native prairie grasses. Several artifacts (and a couple of big snakes!) were recovered!



San Jacinto Project



Search for Champs d'Asile

HAS members Beth and Pat Aucoin, Tracy Connell, Charlie Gordy, Dick Gregg, Sheldon Kindall and Tom Nuckols traveled to Liberty, Texas, to join a group conducting more surveys to locate the site of Champs d'Asile, a short-lived fort settled in 1818 by a group of French Bonapartist separatists. This project has been going on for several years, and another survey is scheduled for the fall. The photo above, at right, shows part of the group including Sheldon and Charlie searching the east bank of the Trinity River with the railroad bridge in the background.

Louis Aulbach and I gave a series of talks in April under the auspices of HAS including three two-hour classes at the Third Age Learning Center in the Heights and a presentation to the Houston Light Guard Volunteers Association at the Buffalo Soldiers Museum. The TALC gave a \$75 donation to the Houston Archeological Society for our programs! We also gave a presentation about Camp Logan (Memorial Park) to 70 fifth-grade students at River Oaks Baptist School. We were thrilled that a few days later an envelope arrived in the HAS post office box with a \$50 donation from the students at ROBS for HAS!

And, of course, many, many, many HAS members and guests have participated in our fantastic screening project which is being directed by Dr. Jason Barrett of TxDOT. This project is generating lots of interest in HAS and several folks have joined the society after screening with us. Please see photo page highlighting the project in this newsletter.

Finally, I can't believe it's almost summer and time to think about forming a nominating committee for next year's HAS Board. The year has gone by so fast and we have accomplished so much while having a ton of fun. We will not have a meeting or a Profile in June and the nominating committee must be appointed in July. If you would like to serve on the nominating committee or on the HAS Board next year, please let me know ([lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com)). It's a very rewarding experience!!

--Linda Gorski, President



## HAS SCREENING PROJECT UPDATE



We continue to screen the overburden from a recently completed archeological site every Friday and Saturday (weather permitting). On Friday, April 26, 30 seventh-graders from Rosehill Academy joined us at our screening project. Students of HAS members Kathleen Hughes and Sharon Menegaz, these kids were so enthusiastic they didn't want to leave after lunch! They arrived at 9:00, ate lunch at 11:00 and were scheduled to leave right after, but they rushed back to the screens and worked for another hour!



Here are a few of the artifacts the kids and parents and teachers found on Friday, April 26.



Not to be outdone by the seventh graders, our regular crew and a few guests including HCC and Lone Star College professor Jorge Garcia and several of his students found more points on Saturday than we've ever found before in one day! Can you tell which point is likely the oldest in this assemblage?



This student found the point of the day!!



Answer: San Patrice – found in the screen by John Rich!





Artifacts recovered from Pile 1 on Friday, May 3



Artifacts recovered from Pile 1 on Saturday, May 4



HAS members Bob Sewell, left, and John Rich, right, admire a point just recovered by Robert Clark, a student at Saint Francis Episcopal School in Houston.



Patti Bonin, a student at St. Thomas University and a paleontology summer camp instructor for the Houston Museum of Natural Science, tosses a shovel full of dirt into the screen.



Our PI, Dr. Jason Barrett, works with Danielle, a student at the University of Houston, who will be graduating in a few weeks with a degree in anthropology. Danielle had never worked at a prehistoric site before and found her first point on Friday!



The project does not end with screening dirt and recovering artifacts. On Monday nights we have a two-hour lab led by Dr. Barrett to identify and analyze the artifacts recovered the previous weekend at the screening site.

## **Minutes of the HAS General Membership Meeting April 18, 2013**

Linda Gorski called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm and welcomed long time HAS member Joe Hudgins to the meeting. There were 38 attendees; 11 guests were signed in.

Linda made the following announcements:

- Dirt Screening Project – Screening continues weekly on Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Those interested in helping can contact Linda for directions and more information. Over 72 people have now signed up to screen.
- HAS patches are available for \$12 each; see signup sheet in the lobby.
- 2013 HAS membership renewal dues must be submitted now in order to continue receiving the HAS Profile newsletter.
- Lab for the dirt screening project is currently held on Monday evenings at Linda's house.
- General HAS labs are held at Rice University; next lab is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Douglas Mangum, Principal Investigator, Historian and GIS Manager at Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. in Houston presented the evening's program titled "Canister and Grape: Artillery related Artifacts from the San Jacinto Battleground." Douglas will have a book coming out next year on this topic.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. HAS members and guests then enjoyed snacks provided by Linda Gorski and Beth Aucoin.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2013.

*--Lenore Psencik, Secretary*

### **AIA to focus on "Ötzi the Iceman" May 14 & 15**

Dr. Patrick Hunt, Director, Stanford Alpine Archaeology Project, will present two lectures about Otzi the Iceman on May 14 and 15 in Houston. These are co-sponsored by the Houston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS), and the Health Museum.

The first lecture, titled, "Frozen in Time: the Story of 'Ötzi the Iceman,'" will be held Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. at HMNS, 5555 Hermann Park Drive. Dr. Hunt will describe how, in the coldest homicide case on record, a five-thousand-year old man is brought to life through forensic technology and C.S.I.-type investigations. He will uncover what this human archaeological site tells us about life in Neolithic Europe. Admission at this lecture is \$12 for HMNS and AIA members, and \$18 for the general public.

The second lecture is "Timely Remedies: The Ancient Medicine of 'Ötzi the Iceman.'" It will be presented on Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Health Museum, 1515 Hermann Drive. Dr. Hunt will discuss how the perfectly preserved 5,000-year-old remains of "Ötzi the Iceman," found in the Ötztal Alps in 1991, give scientists a clue about medicine practiced by prehistoric peoples. Researchers working on 'Ötzi' discovered that he carried a medical kit with him – his own portable pharmacy with over ten different plant products which could heal and cure many ailments.

Dr. Patrick Hunt, who was extensively featured on the recent History Channel Series "The History of Us," researches ancient medicine. In 2012 he was appointed Research Associate in Archeoethnobotany by the Institute of Ethnomedicine for his research in ancient pharmacology and history of plants used in antiquity, particularly in ancient medicine. He teaches classes at Stanford and to many groups of physicians on "Medicine in the Ancient World." Admission at this lecture is free.

For more information, contact the Houston AIA Society at 713.364.6DIG (713.364.6344), website: [www.aiahouston.org](http://www.aiahouston.org), or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/houstonarchaeology](http://www.facebook.com/houstonarchaeology).

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

The *Profile* takes a vacation in June. Submit articles no later than July 5 for the July 2013 issue.

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

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