



## October 16th 2014 Meeting Program

### **The Archaeology of the Ancient Swahili: Trade, Islam, and the Indian Ocean World** **Dr. Jeffrey Fleisher**

The Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will feature a program by Dr. Jeffrey Fleisher, Professor of Anthropology at Rice University, highlighting the ancient Swahili of the eastern African coast. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and is free of charge and open to the public.

From their homeland in southern Somalia to Mozambique, the Swahili have been long recognized as an Islamic, mercantile society that negotiated the trade between the African continent and the Indian Ocean world. Fleisher



has been exploring these issues through a number of projects on the East African coast that focus on 7<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> century settlements. He also published an article about these projects in the January 2014 issue of *Archaeology Magazine* (see <http://archaeology.org/issues/116-1401/features/1634-swahili-coast-towns>).

The question of who the ancient Swahili were, however, has changed dramatically over the last 25 years. Archaeologists during the colonial period believed the Swahili to be the descendants of Persian colonists; however, since independence, archaeologists, historians and linguists have challenged this notion, and begun to explore the African roots of this complex society. This research has shown the deep connections the ancient Swahili built with long distance traders in the Indian Ocean, the early adoption of Islam, and the means through which coastal settlements grew into cosmopolitan cities boasting elaborate mosques, tombs and palaces. The archaeology of the ancient Swahili is a crucial part of establishing complex histories to a continent that is often thought lacking them.

Dr. Fleisher received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Virginia in 2003. He was a visiting professor and director of the Joint Multicultural Program at Lehigh University from 2004 – 2007. Since 2007 he has been Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Rice University teaching courses in archaeology, African prehistory and African Archeological Field and Laboratory Techniques.

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) 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).



## President's Message

This is my favorite month of the year to write my President's message because I get to introduce you to your new Board of Directors! Unfortunately, we also have to say farewell to three HAS members who have "retired" from the Board including Lenore Psencik who has been your Secretary for two years, Robert Killian, Treasurer for the past year, and Carol Roberts who is leaving the Board after three years as a Director at Large. Thank you so much Lenore, Robert and Carol for your service!! We hope we'll see you at future programs and events. And now, meet your new Board for 2014-2015.

Vice President Louis Aulbach is returning for a third term. Louis is a brilliant historian and a well-respected author. He knows more about the history of Houston than anyone I know. He is also a member of the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Stewardship Network representing Harris County. We are lucky to have him on our Board!

Secretary Bob Sewell is a newcomer to the Board of Directors. Bob has served as your Webmaster for the past two years and has developed the website into an incredibly valuable marketing tool. Bob also took over as publisher of the HAS Newsletter, *'The Profile'*, several months ago. Anytime I've ever asked anyone to volunteer for anything over the past two years, Bob has been the first person to raise his hand. We are delighted that this British ex-pat has adopted Texas as his forever home!

Treasurer Tom Nuckols is no stranger to HAS. He has been a member since the 1970s and has served in almost every office including president. He's also our resident expert on munitions and thus has been a valuable member of our crew on our recent projects including San Jacinto and Fannin Battlefields and at San Felipe de Austin. He is also a member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network representing Harris County.



From left, Louis Aulbach, Linda Gorski, Tom Nuckols, Mike Woods and Bob Sewell.  
Not shown in this photo Don Keyes and Kathleen Hughes.

We have three Directors at Large who serve three year terms. Don Keyes is in his third term as a Director and is also a member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network representing Montgomery County. Don is recently retired and the only time I really get phone calls from him is when he's out fishing and the fish aren't biting! Glad to have you on the Board, Don!

Kathleen Hughes is in her second year as a Director at Large. Kathleen is also a THC Archeological Steward from Harris County. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University (whoop!) and a teacher at Rosehill Christian School in Cypress. Kathleen has also volunteered to be co-chair of the 2015 Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting that will be held in Houston in October, 2015.

Mike Woods is a longtime member of the Houston Archeological Society but one of the newest members of our Board. Mike just started a three year term as a Director at Large and we are thrilled to have him. Mike is a pharmacist in Sugar Land and his medical training will be incredibly valuable in the field.

And I'm 'baaaack' as your President for a third year. I would NEVER have considered running for a third term if it had not been for the incredible support I've received from the Board and the membership over the past couple of years. Thanks for electing me. You make me proud to be your President.

Please help me welcome your new 2014 – 2015 Board of Directors! I know I speak for everyone when I say we're looking forward to working with you.

*Linda Gorski – HAS President*

# Minutes

## Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting

September 18th, 2014

President Linda Gorski called the Annual General Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests. There were a total of 45 attendees, including 13 guests signed in.

### Linda made the following announcements:

- Treasurers Report - Checking account \$7,276.74, Savings account \$11,965.17
- HAS Membership - 149
- Tait Ranch Update - Lab work kicked off on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> with a small group at Tait ranch cabin. The lab work will continue in the fall at the Tait House in downtown Columbus.
- International Archeology Day, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Glassell and Great Halls at HMNS. HAS will be part of a large group of archeological entities participating, including colleges and CRM firms. We need lots of volunteers for this event.
- TAS Meeting Oct 24-26<sup>th</sup> - Several HAS members are presenting papers.
- Elysian Viaduct / Frost Town Project - Work has started on the north side of Buffalo Bayou. HAS will be helping with work on the south side of the Bayou; stay tuned.
- San Jacinto Screening Project - Meeting Sept 27<sup>th</sup> to view artifacts, discuss way forward.
- Cypress Historical Society October 11<sup>th</sup> - Presentation on Dimond Knoll.

### 2014-2015 HAS Board Election

Bob Sewell presented the slate of nominees for the 2014-2015 HAS Board and asked the members if there were any additional nominees; there were none. A motion to elect the nominees was made by Mary Needham, seconded by Louis Aulbach. All members voted unanimously to accept the nominees as presented with no objections.

#### HAS 2014-2015 Board of Directors are as follows:

President	Linda Gorski	Director-at-Large	Kathleen Hughes
Vice President	Louis Aulbach	Director-at-Large	Don Keyes
Treasurer	Tom Nuckols	Director-at-Large	Mike Woods
Secretary	Bob Sewell		

### Annual HAS Awards - Presented by Linda Gorski

- Merit Award - Linda Swift
- Southeast Texas Archeological Research Award - Tom Nuckols
- Lifetime Membership Award - Dub Crook

The evening's program was presented by long time HAS member Wilson W. "Dub" Crook titled "Some Unique New Discoveries from the Late Prehistoric Sites Along the East Fork of the Trinity".

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Attendees enjoyed snacks provided by Linda Gorski.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

*Lenore Psencik, Secretary Houston Archeological Society*

## **October is Texas Archeology Month!!!**

As most of you know, October is Texas Archeology Month. TAM was instituted by the Texas Historical Commission in association with the Texas Archeological Society and the Council of Texas Archeologists to promote awareness of archeology in the State of Texas. And I truly believe that the Houston Archeological Society is following this mandate with vigor in 2014! HAS will be sponsoring several programs to celebrate Texas Archeology Month including:

### **Wednesday, October 1, 6:30 p.m.**

#### **Dimond Knoll Project Presentation**

#### **Houston Museum of Natural Science, Wortham Giant Screen Theater**

Dr. Jason W. Barrett kicked off TAM with a program on 41HR796, the Dimond Knoll Project, at the Houston Museum of Natural Science Wortham Giant Screen Theater. I hope that everyone who helped us screen dirt at the Dimond Knoll site for a year attended this program to hear “the rest of the story” and see themselves on the huge screen!

### **Saturday, October 11, 10:00 a.m.**

#### **Dimond Knoll Project Presentation**

#### **Cypress Historical Society, Cypress Top Historic Park**

Dr. Jason W. Barrett and Linda Gorski will present a program to the Cypress Historical Society on the Dimond Knoll Site. HAS members are invited to attend this program which is free of charge. The meeting will be held at Cypress Top Historic Park at 26026 Hempstead Road, Cypress, Texas 77429. Email me back for more information [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com)

### **Thursday, October 16, 7:00 p.m.**

#### **HAS Monthly Meeting**

#### **University of St. Thomas, Houston**

Monthly HAS meeting featuring Dr. Jeffrey Fleischer, Professor of Anthropology at Rice University who will present a program on The Ancient Swahili of the Eastern African Coast. See more information in this Profile.

### **Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

#### **\*\*\*\* International Archeology Day \*\*\*\***

#### **The Houston Museum of Natural Science.**

Celebrate archaeology and the thrill of discovery!

Enjoy interactive hands-on displays of real artifacts recovered from archeological sites, including stone tools, prehistoric pottery, and animal bone and shell, along with flint-knapping demonstrations, and crafts for kids focusing on the prehistoric era. Archaeologists from all over the greater Houston area will share exciting local archaeological discoveries. Discovery carts with hands-on objects will be presented by HMNS docents in the Hall of Ancient Egypt, Hall of the Americas, and Human Evolution section of the Moran Hall of Paleontology. Goody bags with handouts from participating organizations will be given out, while supplies last.

International Archeology Day offers programs and activities for people of all ages and interests across the US and Canada. This event is sponsored by the Houston Museum of Natural Science, the Houston Archeological Society, Rice University Archaeology, the Texas Department of Transportation and several other local groups.

Exhibits in the Grand Hall of the Museum will be free of charge. Additional exhibits in Glassell Hall are free with general admission to the Museum.

See complete information on the HAS website at [http://www.txhas.org/articles\\_international\\_archeology\\_day\\_2014.html](http://www.txhas.org/articles_international_archeology_day_2014.html) or on the HMNS website at <http://store.hmns.org/Selection.aspx?sch=652288> and on the HMNS blog at <http://blog.hmns.org/2014/09/celebrate-thrill-of-discovery-at-international-archaeology-day-at-hmns-on-saturday-october-18/>. We'll need several volunteers to help man the HAS tables - email me at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com) if you can help.

**Saturday, November 1, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

## **Archeology 101**

### **Kleb Woods Nature Preserve, Cypress, Texas.**

We were just not able to fit this into October, but got it on the calendar as soon as we could! Members of the THC Stewards Network and experienced HAS members will conduct an actual archeological dig teaching participants how to identify and record an archeological site, how to measure and lay out a unit, how to properly excavate a unit, how to screen dirt from the unit, and how to record features and catalog artifacts from a unit. We hope this is just the first of many **Archeology 101** classes that HAS will offer to new members in the coming year. More information will follow.

**Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 6:30 p.m.**

## **Camp Logan Presentation**

### **The Houston Museum of Natural Science Wortham Giant Screen Theater**

HAS members Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski will present on Camp Logan, a military training base built in 1917 to house 44,000 soldiers in what is now Houston's Memorial Park. The program will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of WWI, and this almost-forgotten chapter in Houston's history. It will highlight the archaeological work done at the site where foundation features of the camp remain in the wooded areas of Memorial Park and have been declared State Archeological Landmarks. See <https://store.hmns.org/Selection.aspx?item=2362&sch=613784> for more information. Discount tickets for HAS members will be available in late October so watch for more details.



**HOUSTON MARITIME MUSEUM**  
**HISTORY LECTURE**

**WHO:** Amy Borgens & Fritz Hanselmann

**WHAT:** Deep-Water Discoveries: The Monterey Shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico

**WHEN:** Tuesday, October 14, 7:00-8:00 PM

**WHERE:** Houston Maritime Museum, 2204 Dorrington Houston, TX 77030

**HOW:** HMM offers a free history lecture each month

**INFO:** Contact us at 713.666.1910 or [contact@houstonmaritimemuseum.org](mailto:contact@houstonmaritimemuseum.org)

Free admission and refreshments

[HoustonMaritimeMuseum.org](http://HoustonMaritimeMuseum.org)

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**Deep-Water Discoveries: The Monterey Shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico**

During the early 19th-century, three sailing vessels traveling far out at sea were overtaken by a catastrophic event with a presumed loss of all on board. These vessels were lost to history until 2011, when they were detected as three unknown sonar targets during a Shell Oil seafloor hazard and archaeological survey. A deep-water remotely operated vehicle investigation by NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research unveiled a copperclad shipwreck with collections of small arms and six cannon lying at a depth of approximately 4300 ft. A team of underwater archaeologists from several federal and state organizations returned to the site in July 2013 and recovered a small collection of artifacts to help identify the shipwreck. An investigation of the two nearby Shell Oil targets confirmed these were indeed shipwrecks - one a merchant vessel transporting hides among its cargo and a third vessel of unknown purpose believed to be a three-masted ship. The archaeological team continues to research the video and photographic documentation of the sites and learn more about the artifact assemblage as conservation continues.



## *Texas Archeology Month*

The Sam Houston Memorial Museum invites the public to join us for a presentation:

### **Perilous Seas**

*Investigations of the Monterey Shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico*

In 2012, during a National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) investigation of deep-water biological and cultural resources in the Gulf of Mexico a shipwreck was discovered at depth of approximately 4300 ft. This wreck, now called Monterey Shipwreck A, contained six cannons and two collections of firearms. A renewed investigation in the site in 2013 discovered two nearby shipwrecks. All are believed to have been lost in the same catastrophic 19th century event. Amy Borgens, Marine Archeologist for the Texas Historical Commission, will discuss the artifacts and latest discoveries from the wrecks.



Anchor discovered. Photo credit: MCWE/OET



Amy Borgens, Marine Archeologist Texas Historical Commission

**Wednesday, October 15, 2014**

**Exhibit/Reception 6:30 p.m. ~ Lecture 7:00 p.m.**

**Katy & E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center**

1402 19th Street, Huntsville, Texas

**Free Admission**

For more information contact Sandra Rogers 936-661-9882

[www.samhoustonmemorialmuseum.com](http://www.samhoustonmemorialmuseum.com)

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## **\*\*\* More exciting news\*\*\***

Just in time for Texas Archeology Month, the Texas Archeological Society has just released a YouTube video highlighting excavations at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site in June 2014. Many HAS members were involved in these excavations and are featured in this video. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmteEDLbcAM>

As you can see, we've got a busy couple of months ahead. I really look forward to seeing you at these events. If you need any information at all, email me back at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com) And, once again, thank you so much for being members of the Houston Archeological Society. None of this would happen without your support.

## Three HAS Members Receive Awards at September 18th, 2014 AGM

Three longtime Houston Archeological Society members received Awards at the September 18, 2014, Annual General Meeting. According to HAS President Linda Gorski these three awards, the Merit Award, the Southeast Texas Archeological Research Award and the Lifetime Membership Award, are not necessarily presented annually but occasionally to HAS members who truly deserve recognition.



Thomas L. Nuckols, who has been a member of HAS since the 1970s and has served in a variety of offices including President, received the coveted Southeast Texas Archeological Research Award for outstanding contributions to historical research. This award has been presented in the past to HAS members who have shared their special knowledge and expertise in a variety of archeological subjects with members of the HAS. “Tom has made himself an expert in munitions and having been with him in the field on several occasions, I can tell you that his knowledge of the subject is impressive,” said Gorski. Nuckols has examined artifacts and written reports on munitions recovered at Bernardo Plantation and at the Elizabeth Powell Site and been instrumental in identifying munitions during archeological surveys at sites such as San Felipe de Austin, Fannin Battleground and San Jacinto Battlefield.



Wilson W. “Dub” Crook was awarded the Lifetime Membership Award which is one of the highest honors that HAS can bestow on a member. Dub grew up in Texas archeology (his father was past president and fellow of the Texas Archeological Society). Dub is a member of HAS, the Dallas Archeological Society, TAS, and the Gault School of Archeological Research. He sincerely believes that an archeological society needs to publish its findings in order to retain credibility and purpose. “Not only has Dub volunteered to revive and edit the HAS Journal, a collection of academic papers that has in the past been published at least once a year, but he has also offered to underwrite the cost of publication so that each HAS member receives a hard copy,” said Gorski. “I can’t think of another HAS member who deserves this award more.”



Linda Swift received the Merit Award for her service as editor of the HAS newsletter, The Profile, for seven years. “The Merit Award has been presented in the past to members who have given outstanding support to HAS activities and this fits Linda to a “t”, said Linda Gorski, HAS President. “Linda not only has published the newsletter for seven years, she also edited The Journal and served as President of the organization for three terms.”

## FORT BEND COUNTY LIBRARIES

### INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FORENSIC SCULPTOR TO SPEAK AT GEORGE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

RICHMOND, TEXAS -- In conjunction with the community-wide reading initiative, "Gulf Coast Reads: On the Same Page," Fort Bend County Libraries will present a special presentation by internationally recognized forensic sculptor Amanda Danning. The program "Sculpting to Remember" will take place on Sunday, October 19, beginning at 2:00 pm, in the Meeting Room at George Memorial Library, 1001 Golfview in Richmond.

Throughout history, there have been artists who were inspired to sculpt faces, drawing their motivation from political or religious influences or simply from the desire to capture beauty. In this presentation, Danning will talk about some of the portraiture sculptures that she has done over the years, providing a behind-the-scenes look at her work on historical remains. Hear about what motivates her to put a face on history using the bones of the past.

Among her more recent projects is the forensic reconstruction of the likeness of a 17<sup>th</sup>-century French nobleman who died in Victoria County in the 1600s at the hands of the Karankawa Indians. Danning was also commissioned to do the facial reconstruction on the skull of "Sam," whose 10,000-plus-year-old remains were found in a sediment-filled shelter along the Brazos River in Central Texas. She has been commissioned by and worked with the Smithsonian Institute on several occasions, including creating reconstructions of Jamestown settlers, Buffalo Soldiers, and many others.

With more than 20 years of professional experience and an advanced degree in sculpture, Danning has extensive experience in the museum industry and many of her works are displayed in museums across the nation, including the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Since 2010, her work has been featured in four books on forensics and will grace the cover of *The Kennewick Papers* by Dr. Douglas Owsley, Division Head of Anthropology and Head of Forensic Anthropology at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. Danning is a resident of Columbus, Texas.

Fort Bend County Libraries joins a number of libraries, schools, colleges, museums, bookstores, and other organizations in the Gulf Coast region for the "Gulf Coast Reads: On the Same Page" reading initiative to restore reading to the center of American culture. Communities around the area are encouraged to come together to read and discuss one book.

The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, call the library's Public Information Office at 281-633-4734.



Forensic sculptor Amanda Danning discusses the results of 400 years of ground pressure on the skeletal remains of Bartholomew Gosnold, captain of *The Godspeed*, the lead ship bringing settlers to Jamestown, with Dr. Douglas Owsley, Head of Anthropology at the National Museum of Natural History. Photo courtesy of Donald Hurlbert, Smithsonian Photography.

CONTACT:

Michele Delmar 281-633-4734 or  
Joyce Claypool Kennerly 281-633-4740  
Public Information Office

## Lab Dates for October and November 2014

The lab dates will be October 13 and 27, and November 17.

We will continue working with the Marshall Black Collection. Most of the artifacts were mounted with airplane glue on masonite boards decades ago. These are in the process of being measured, drawn to scale, labeled and documented - activities in which all HAS members attending lab can participate. Recent artifacts of interest include a large shell bead, a metal tinkler, and a possible scraping tool that may have been manufactured from part of a proboscidean tusk. Further analysis of the latter artifact will be done at the Vertebrate Paleontology Lab at UT Austin. If the material indeed turns out to be proboscidean, the most likely candidate would be Columbian mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*). In subsequent labs we will continue documentation of the artifacts from Addicks Midden, Frio and Harris Counties.

We will meet at the usual time and place, 7-9 p.m., Room 103 (lower level), Sewall Hall, Rice University. All labs meet on Monday evenings. Founders Court/Visitor Parking is directly across from Sewall Hall and requires a credit or debit card for access. (Cost is about \$3.50/hour.) Visit [www.rice.edu/maps](http://www.rice.edu/maps) for a map of the campus and the parking area. Any member wishing to be included on the lab e-mail list should contact Melissa May @ [smay10@comcast.net](mailto:smay10@comcast.net).

*Melissa May*  
*Lab Director*

**\*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\***

***The HAS December Meeting will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This is one week earlier than previously announced and has been re-scheduled to accommodate those folks who may be heading out of town for the Christmas Holidays.***

***Linda Gorski will present a review of the Society's activities during 2014 and provide further information on upcoming projects in 2015. Make sure that you mark your diaries now so as not to miss it!***

**Houston Archeological Society**  
**Monthly Meeting Programs for 2014/2015**  
**7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)**  
**M. D. Anderson Hall, St. Thomas University**

October 16

**Dr. Jeffrey Fleischer** Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Rice University will present a program on Stone Towns of the Swahili Coast which was the subject of a major article in the January/February 2014 issue of Archeology Magazine.

November 20, 2014

**Dr. Gregg Dimmick** will present a program on archeology at the San Jacinto Battleground including an update on artifacts discovered at the Alamonte surrender site.

December 11, 2014

**Linda Gorski**, HAS President will present the highlights of the society's archeological activities in 2014.

January 15, 2015

**Wilson 'Dub' Crook**, will present the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of his recent archeological surveys along the Trinity River with a presentation entitled "The East Fork – The Pueblo Connection". Dub will detail the finding of the 86 Puebloan artifacts (to date!) from the Late Prehistoric sites along the East Fork of the Trinity, including puebloan pottery, obsidian artifacts, shell beads, and turquoise artifacts. Dub will also (hopefully by then) have the XRF data which will source the obsidian and possibly the turquoise. Clearly with 86 artifacts from 4 different sites, there was a major trade connection between the Pueblo southwest (mostly north-central New Mexico) and the East Fork. And at the heart of the trade was bois d'arc.

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS see our website at [www.txhas.org](http://www.txhas.org) or email [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com). You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

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Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at [newsletter@txhas.org](mailto:newsletter@txhas.org). Submit articles no later than October 31st for the November 2014 issue.

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

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## The Profile

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