



April Meeting Topic: New HMNS Hall of Ancient Egypt

Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Curator of Anthropology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, will be the speaker for the Thursday, April 17, 2014 meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. Dr. Van Tuerenhout will present a program on the Hall of Ancient Egypt, the newest permanent exhibit at the HMNS. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm in Anderson Hall at the University of St. Thomas.

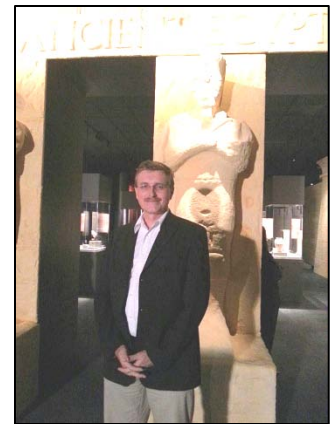
Dr. Van Tuerenhout will give a behind-the-scenes peek showing how the new exhibit was put together, as well as a review of some of the must-see items that are currently on display. The exhibit will feature objects from the science museum's holdings, as well as those on long-term loan from the world's premier Egyptology collections.

Ever since the late 18th century, the Western world has been exploring Egypt. This hall presents artifacts collected during these early days of investigations, and will also compare old-style archaeology with 21st-century approaches, such as using satellite imagery and remote sensing to locate and map ancient settlements.

A recent article in the Houston Chronicle highlighted the exhibit in these words: "On view are mummies and their elaborately painted containers; representations of the Nile Valley's animal-headed deities; and remnants from the everyday lives of the ancient kingdom's average citizens. As it cycles borrowed objects through its exhibit halls in coming years, the museum gradually will build its own collection. Loan agreements will ensure the hall's exhibits are routinely freshened, giving the Houston museum an advantage over other institutions with "ossified" collections. The Museum's own mummy, Ankh Hap, has also been moved to his new surroundings in the Hall of Ancient Egypt.

A native of Belgium, Dirk Van Tuerenhout grew up in Mechelen, a city in Flanders with a past going back well into prehistoric times. He attended the Catholic

University of Louvain, receiving degrees in Ancient history and Archaeology. He received his MA and PhD in anthropology from Tulane University in New Orleans. Through the Middle American Research Institute, he was able to participate in excavations in Belize and later in Guatemala. He taught at Shippensburg University in Central Pennsylvania before applying for a job as an anthropology curator at the Houston Museum of Natural Science in 1999 and he has been here ever since. At the museum, he is involved in maintaining and expanding the anthropology holdings, organizing temporary exhibits and interfacing with the general public (occasionally dealing with identification requests of dinosaur bones as well). He has written a book on Aztec culture and has curated various exhibits, including the Lucy's Legacy exhibit.



Dr. Dirk van Tuerenhout at the entrance to the Hall of Ancient Egypt at HMNS

For a campus map, 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) Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark.

No Lab in April, one Lab in May: Due to end-of-semester activities at Rice, we will not have a Lab session there this month. However, **there will be one Lab at Rice next month on May 12th**. We'll meet at the usual time and place, 7:00-9:00 pm, Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. Visit www.rice.edu/maps to locate the Founders Court/Visitors Lot across from Sewall Hall.



President's Message

HAS members:

So much exciting news to report this month it's hard to know where to begin! First of all, the Houston Archeological Society, along with Dr. Jason Barrett (TxDOT) Roger Moore (Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc) and Rich Weinstein (Coastal Environments, Inc.) received the coveted E. Mott Davis Award from the Council of Texas Archeologists for the Dimond Knoll Screening Project! The four of us traveled to Austin to receive the award during the CTA Spring Meeting on March 21. The award is presented annually for excellence in Public Outreach for an archeological project. The most gratifying thing about the whole day was that virtually every archeologist in the room from every corner of the state knew about this project!

I want to thank every single one of you who participated in the Dimond Knoll project. You are the reason we received this award. Do you realize that we started working on this project on February 2, 2013 and finished on January 20, 2014 – a whole year of shoveling and screening every weekend! Currently all the artifacts we recovered from the project are being analyzed and catalogued along with other artifacts recovered during excavations at 41HR796. Dr. Jason Barrett will be presenting a major paper on both the excavations and the screening project at the Society for American Archaeology meeting in Austin later this month. You can be so proud of what you accomplished during this project!!!



Recipients of E. Mott Davis Award, from left: Dr. Jason Barrett, Linda Gorski, Roger Moore, and Rich Weinstein

And speaking of awards, one of the Houston Archeological Society's Lifetime Members, Leland Patterson, will receive



Leland Patterson

an Award of Merit from the Texas Historical Commission at our upcoming meeting on April 17. Texas State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger and THC Regional Archeologist Jeff Durst will travel to Houston to present the award. We hope that many HAS members and former members who worked with Leland over the years will be at the meeting to congratulate him. There will be a longer article about this award in next month's Profile but here's one reason Leland is receiving this award: he has published **467** articles in various archeological journals and reports including 186 for the Houston Archeological Society Journal alone. How impressive is that!!!! Please come to the April meeting and show your appreciation for this remarkable man!

And, finally, our preliminary fieldwork for the 2014 TAS Field School at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas is continuing. Dr. Jason Barrett, TxDOT archeologist and HAS member, will be the PI for this year's field school. Please see his excellent article previewing Field School in this newsletter. All HAS members have been receiving notices of future preliminary workdays out at the Ranch and we'd love to have you join us. Our remaining workdays are May 3 and 17 and

June 7. Email me back at lindagorski@cs.com if for some reason you are not receiving these notices.

See you at the April 17th meeting!!!

--Linda Gorski, President

Minutes
Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting
March 20, 2014

President Linda Gorski called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and welcomed all members and guests. There were a total of 32 attendees, including 6 guests signed in.

Linda made the following announcements:

- Treasurers Report by Robert Killian, Treasurer – Checking account balance \$7,188.39 Savings Account \$11,962.17
- HAS Membership – 131 members. If you have not renewed your HAS membership, your membership expired on March 1st.
- E. Mott Davis Award -- Proud to announce that HAS along with Dr. Jason Barrett from TxDOT, Roger Moore from Moore Archeological Consulting and Rich Weinstein from Coastal Environmental Inc. have been awarded the E. Mott Davis Award from the Council of Texas Archeologists for the incredibly successful Dimond Knoll Screening Project. This award is given annually for excellence in public engagement in an archeological project. Dr. Barrett, Roger Moore and Linda Gorski will receive the award in Austin tomorrow.
- Tait Ranch Project Update – The next scheduled work date at the site in Columbus is April 5th. We will not be working on March 29th. You must be a HAS, BAS or TAS member to participate.
- Next HAS meeting on Thursday, April 17th will feature the new Egyptology Hall at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Also, long-time HAS member Leland Patterson will receive an Award of Merit from the Texas Historical Commission for his amazing accomplishments as an avocational archeologist, publishing 467 publications. Please come show your appreciation to Leland.
- Thank you to Dub Crook for his generous donation to HAS for publishing.
- Upcoming Field Work – Ruth Mathews, Region 4 Cultural Resources Manager for TPWD, has 2 opportunities in April for archeological walking surveys to be conducted after planned burns in the Huntsville State Park and in Galveston Island State Park.

The evening's program was titled "Making Sense of Nonsense: Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA) and Caddo Ceramics" by Zac Selden.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. HAS members and guests then enjoyed snacks provided by Linda Gorski.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2014.

--Lenore Psencik, Secretary

THE YEAR WE DISCOVERED COLUMBUS

By Jason W. Barrett

Defining No Man's Land

One of the best ways to determine what can be done is to explore what has already been done. Someone somewhere probably said that at some point well before I did, but it was that logic that led me to examine the site records for each of the 151 previously recorded archaeological sites in Colorado County on the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas. It seemed like a reasonable starting point from which to prepare for the 2014 Texas Archeological Society Field School. This year, Field School is being co-sponsored by the Brazosport, Houston, and Fort Bend Archeological Societies, and is placed for your convenience roughly midway between Austin, Houston, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi. The tranquility and rustic beauty of the 700-acre Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch, the location of this year's Field School, has been attracting Texans for over ten thousand years and offers participants a variety of equally fascinating field-work opportunities.



Figure 2: Architectural remains and artifacts found at this historic home site, believed to have been the home of Prussian-born Charles Kesler, one of Colorado County's earliest settlers.

part of the Central Coastal Plain. Not one has specifically discussed sites located in the county in their models of prehistoric cultural patterns, undoubtedly because there are no well-excavated, deeply buried sites with good chronological data in the county. Of the 151 recorded sites in Colorado County depicted on the THC Atlas, 130 sites have a prehistoric component. Disappointingly, only 52 of those had recorded information related to soil depth. More disappointingly, only seven of those 52 have yielded cultural deposits in settings where soils are deeper than 40cm over bedrock. Indeed, most sites recorded in the county are ephemeral prehistoric quarry deposits that wholly lack chronological data. And no sites in the county have been the subject of large-scale, professional excavations – none!

With deeply buried, stratified sites so unquestionably rare in Colorado County, you can perhaps imagine my excitement at finding one on our first day of preliminary field investigations. Glynn Osburn's team discovered a buried paleosol in the Colorado Riv-

My site record research resulted in a surprising discovery: Colorado County is a true no-man's land of archaeological understanding. Various authors

have identified Colorado County it as part of the Central Texas culture area, while others have identified it as



Figure 1: Dart and arrow points found in surface contexts and road cuts date to the Paleoindian through Late Prehistoric periods.



Figure 3: Hundreds of stone tool preforms have been discovered across exposed surfaces on the ranch, marking the location of prehistoric lithic quarries.

er floodplain at 100-160cm below surface when they pulled a handful of burned rock, animal bone, and chert flakes up into the sunlight with a little 4-inch auger. The inescapable conclusion is that this year's TAS Field School holds a great opportunity to actually define the prehistoric character of this enigmatic region. At various points in prehistory, was this area 1) the southeastern border of the Central Texas cultures, 2) the western border of the Central Coast cultures, 3) a commonly shared zone of multi-cultural interaction, or 4) a regularly contested zone where cultural influences waxed and waned?

The Sites We Will Explore

Before long, the 2014 TAS Field School will begin. Some of you probably have June 14-21 already circled on your calendar, you've already requested the time off work, booked the dog-sitters, and told the grandkids that you'll be out of town that week. The rest of you have some catching up to do, but it isn't too late!



Figure 4: Houston Archeological Society President Linda Gorski is already preparing for Field School's infamous

Our excavations this summer will explore one of the only deeply buried prehistoric sites in Colorado County. Through this investigation we will attempt to develop a better understanding of the ancient cultures that influenced this understudied region through time. We will also investigate the newly discovered "Pyramid Site," which should test the limits of our artifact bag inventory. In addition, we will excavate a prehistoric lithic quarry, examining the several millennia of resource exploitation data represented at the site. If you're particular love is the historic period, we will also be excavating one of the county's earliest homesteads. Currently believed to date to the early 19th century, the ruins of this frontier cabin have already yielded several ceramic pipe stems, hundreds of decorated stoneware and porcelain fragments, and an 1806 Prussian coin. There are also remnants of a rare 19th century lime kiln to document, which may be associated with the cabin.

Don't miss out on this year's TAS Field School. Come help us discover Columbus!

April 21 is 178th Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto

2014 Battle of San Jacinto Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 12th at The Ripley House, 4410 Navigation. Registration deadline is April 5. Cost is \$55 and covers speakers, lunch, parking, exhibits and more. For additional information, call 713-237-8997, email sjbc-texas@usa.net, or visit www.sanjacintoconservancy.org.

2014 San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site in LaPorte. Lots of food, music, entertainment, games, and fun in addition to the Reenactment scheduled for 3:00 p.m. FREE event. For more information, visit www.sanjacinto-museum.org and Facebook.

Friends of Archaeology Annual Dinner is April 27

The Friends of Archaeology will hold their Annual Dinner and Lecture on Sunday, April 27, 2014, at 5:00 pm in the Ahern Dining Room, Crooker Center, University of St. Thomas Campus. Guest speaker will be Frederic Pearl, PhD., Director of the Maritime Studies Program, Texas A & M University at Galveston. Dr. Pearl will describe his current Gotland project in Sweden in a very significant Viking World archaeological district.

To register to attend the dinner, send your check in the amount of \$35.00 to: Friends of Archaeology Dinner, c/o William Tuttle, 104 Plum Tree Terrace, Apt 110, Houston, TX 77077. Specify your choice of entrees: Grilled London Broil, Chicken Cordon Bleu, or Vegetarian. The Friends group requests that attendees register as soon as possible so that an attendance count can be given to the dining room.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than May 1 for the May 2014 issue.

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Gorski, President, president@txhas.org

Louis Aulbach, Vice President, vicepresident@txhas.org

Robert Killian, Treasurer, treasurer@txhas.org

Lenore Psencik, Secretary, secretary@txhas.org

Kathleen Hughes, Director-at-Large, dal_b@txhas.org

Don Keyes, Director-at-Large, dal_c@txhas.org

Carol Roberts, Director-at-Large, dal_a@txhas.org

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Don Keyes, Region V Director, keyes_don@hotmail.com

AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGY STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net

Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

Richard L. Gregg, rlgregg7@att.net

Marilyn & Walter Horton, mh3839@gmail.com

Joe D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com

Brenda Jackson, brendajacks1@yahoo.com

Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com

Sheldon Kindall, kindall1@peoplepc.com

Bev Mendenhall, bmend2@yahoo.com

Tom Nuckols, tlnuckols58@att.net

Sandra & Johnny Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net

Sandra E. Rogers (Sandy), sojourne@att.net

Gary Ryman, gkryman@gmail.com

The Profile
Houston Archeological Society
PO Box 130631
Houston, TX 77219-0631

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