



July 17th 2014 Meeting Program: Texas Archeological Society 2014 Field School

The 2014 Texas Archeological Society Field School, held at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas June 14 – 21, will be the topic of the July 17th meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. Several of the HAS members who took part in this year's Field School will present a collaborative program that will include reports on the Youth-Area excavations located at the Tait Family House in Columbus, as well as three fascinating sites on the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch. Members will also discuss the preliminary excavations they had the opportunity to participate in at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, directed by the THC. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in MD Anderson Hall at the University of St. Thomas. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public.

HAS Member Dr. Jason W. Barrett served as the Principal Investigator for this year's TAS Field School, which, by all accounts, was an enormous success. Over thirty members of the Houston Archeological Society attended Field School, participating in excavations or various lab activities along with approximately three hundred other professionals, avocational archeologists, and students from around the State of Texas, as well as by two enthusiastic and overwhelmingly delighted landowners. The archaeological sites investigated during this year's Field School included the following:

- The grounds of the 1856 Tait Family House in Columbus were excavated by the TAS Youth Group under the expert direction of Doug Boyd. Investigations yielded many household artifacts dating to the 19th century, including fragments of the original china set brought to Texas from the Tait Plantation in Alabama. Foundation features belonging to at least two long-vanished outbuildings were also located, exposed, and documented during the week-long investigations.
- The prehistoric Pyramid site (shown right), located on the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch along the top of a narrow finger ridge that stretches out into the Colorado River floodplain, yielded thousands of lithic artifacts (very literally) including dart and arrow points dating from the Paleoindian through Late Prehistoric periods. The site served as a stone quarry for several millennia, but appears to have been most active during the Austin Phase of the Late Prehistoric.
- At the Ranch's Bluff site, volunteers exposed the architectural remains of a nineteenth century cabin potentially belonging to Charles Kessler. Near the cabin, they also discovered the buried foundation features of a second, previously undocumented building while searching for the source of an artifact scatter noted on the surface. Artifacts found in association with this new building included vintage woodworking tools, transfer ware, a US Infantry button (dating 1834-1836), and other artifacts dating to the mid-to-late 19th century.



- The Cotton Field site (shown right), located downslope from the Pyramid site beneath a meter of floodplain sediments, produced several thermal cooking features, bison and deer bones, and numerous large mussel shell clusters. The site was well stratified, preserving a clear transition between an upper Toyah phase yielding Perdiz, Bonham, and Alba points, and a lower Austin phase exhibiting a Scallorn assemblage.
- Excavations led by THC Regional Archeologist Jeff Durst at San Felipe de Austin, the first colonial capitol of Texas, revealed foundation features of one of the original town site buildings, the 1830 Farmer's Hotel. Artifacts recovered during excavations included hundreds of period ceramic sherds, pieces of glass, gun flints, buckshot, clay pipe fragments, buttons, and even a pistol ball!



According to Dr. Barrett, the results of the 2014 Field School will add dramatically to the archeological knowledge of Colorado County, which is surprisingly understudied for central Texas. Only 153 sites have been registered in Colorado County, and only seven of those have been identified as exhibiting deeply buried deposits. Until now, none have been investigated by large-scale, scientific excavations.

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. For more information about this program, contact lindagorski@cs.com.

Lab Dates for July and August 2014

Lab work is scheduled for Monday, July 14th and July 28th. Our goal will be to complete our current project, the documentation of two artifact collections from a coastal shell-midden site. Beginning Monday, August 11th and August 25th, we will begin documenting a large projectile point collection. Lab hours are 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University.

The parking lot across from Sewall Hall is the Founders Court/Visitors Lot. For a map, visit www.rice.edu/maps. Please be advised that access to the parking lot requires either a credit or a debit card and costs about \$3.50/hr. Any member wishing to be included on the lab e-mail list should contact Beth Aucoin, at ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net.

Beth Aucoin



President's Message

HAS Members and Friends,

Texas Archeology Month is observed each October and is a month-long celebration of Texas' archeological heritage. Numerous organizations and institutions host public events to heighten awareness and appreciation of this heritage in communities across the state. And HAS is no exception! Earlier this month I met with Dr. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Curator of Anthropology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Dr. August Costa, Rice University, and Dr. Jason Barrett, TxDOT Archeologist, to discuss plans for an **International Archeology Day event at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on October 18, 2014**. We've talked about doing this for a couple of years but this year we got serious early!!! Please mark your calendars early for this special day!

Dr. Van Tuerenhout has reserved the Grand Hall and Glassell for this event so we'll have plenty of room. Our tentative plans for this event are to invite all the regional archeological societies, professors and students from local and regional universities and research facilities, CRM firms and other archeological groups to participate in this event. We are developing a list of activities and demonstrations and look to you for ideas and to volunteer to help on the day. We'll have flint-knapping, ceramic reconstruction, probably a mock dig, posters and displays of artifacts from various excavations in the area. We'll also have experts on hand to identify items of archeological interest that visitors bring in.

We are also planning several lectures as part of Texas Archeology Month at both HMNS and at Rice University. Dr. Costa is organizing the lectures at Rice University and we will publish that schedule next month. In the meantime, please add these dates to your calendars.

October 1, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - We'll kick off Archeology Month on October 1 at the Wortham Giant Screen Theater at HMNS with HAS Member and TxDOT Archeologist Dr. Jason Barrett presenting a program on 41HR796, the Dimond Knoll project. Dr. Jason has now examined many of the artifacts from both the excavation site and the screening site will present this updated information to the public at this terrific venue.

November 4, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. Camp Logan Houston Texas 1917 – 1919. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of WWI, HAS Members and historians Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski will present a program on this almost-forgotten chapter in Houston's history including the archeological work done at the site where foundation features of the camp remain in the wooded areas of Memorial Park. These foundation features have recently been declared State Archeological Landmarks by the Texas Historical Commission. This presentation will be a tribute to the soldiers who trained at Camp Logan - including nine Medal of Honor winners and seventy one African American soldiers who won the French Croix de Guerre. Following the lecture, Aulbach, Gorski and co-author Robbie Morin will sign copies of their new book *Camp Logan Houston Texas 1917 - 1919*.

More information will be coming out about our Texas Archeology Month activities soon. Please email me back or call me at 713-557-1496 to let me know if you can participate or if you have any questions. We are planning to do a lot of publicity for these events and expect good crowds. We really look forward to seeing you there!

As always, if you have any questions about YOUR archeological society, please email me back at lindagorski@cs.com

Minutes of the Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting May 15, 2014

President Linda Gorski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests. There were a total of 35 attendees, including 14 guests signed in.

Linda made the following announcements:

- Treasurers Report by Robert Killian, Treasurer – Checking account balance \$7,373.39 Savings Account \$11,963.15
- HAS Membership – 137
- TAS 2014 Field School -- Plans are ongoing for TAS 2014 Field School to be held on the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus in June. Information and registration forms for field school are online on the TAS website.
- TPWD Field Work – Prescribed burns at San Jacinto are planned for the summer, and archeological surveys will take place afterwards.
- HAS has been asked to screen several piles of dirt at the Monument Inn construction site. Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski will investigate the effort.
- Cypress Top Historic Park's Sixth Annual "Old Fashioned Picnic" Event – On Saturday, July 12th, Sharon Menegaz will have an HAS display booth with additional information on our Dimond Knoll Project. HAS members and families are welcome to attend.
- 2015 TAS Annual Meeting – HAS is hosting the 2015 Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting here in Houston October 22 – 25, 2015. A committee has chosen the Omni Hotel in West Houston for the venue. Watch for more information.
- Wishing Linda Swift a speedy recovery after her recent back surgery; she is reportedly doing well and will be home in a couple of days.
- New HAS Profile Editor – Bob Sewell has accepted the role of Editor for the HAS Profile. A big thank you to Linda Swift for serving as Editor for the past seven years.
- Archeology Day, October 18th – Houston Museum of Natural Science is partnering with HAS, watch for more information.
- Archeology Month – Dr. Jason Barrett will present the Dimond Knoll Project on IMAX during Archeology Month; stay tuned.
- Camp Logan Book Published – Authored by Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski; available from Amazon.com.

The evening's program was titled "San Felipe de Austin State Historical Site" by Bryan McAuley. A DVD documentary is available and it will also be featured on PBS soon.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Attendees enjoyed snacks provided by Linda Gorski.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2014. There is no HAS meeting scheduled for June due to the TAS Field School.

Lenore Psencik
Secretary, Houston Archeological Society

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

July 17, 2014

Report on historic and prehistoric finds during **TAS Field School, June 14 – 21, at Tait Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus Texas and the 1856 Historic Tait House in Columbus, Texas.**

August 21, 2014

Justin Parkhoff and Jessica Stika, conservators at the Texas A & M Conservation Research Lab will discuss the Civil War gunboat USS Westfield that sunk during the Battle of Galveston in the early hours of January 1, 1863. The USS Westfield wreckage lay in the murky waters of the Texas City ship channel until 2009, when the artifact debris field was recovered by Atkins Global (formerly PBS&J) during a dredging operation organized and orchestrated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, making this Texas' largest marine archaeology rescue project to date. The artifacts were brought to Texas A&M University's Conservation Research Laboratory for conservation and analysis. Westfield's fragmented remains are offering abundant information about the steam machinery and armor, as the hull itself was not preserved.

September 18, 2014

Wilson W. "Dub Crook" will present a program on some new paleo and prehistoric finds on the East Fork of the Trinity River including three pottery vessels plus a cache of five bifaces, a Zoomorphic chipped stone artifact (turtle), and an engraved slate gorget. The artifacts all have significance with regards to trade patterns in east Texas.

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

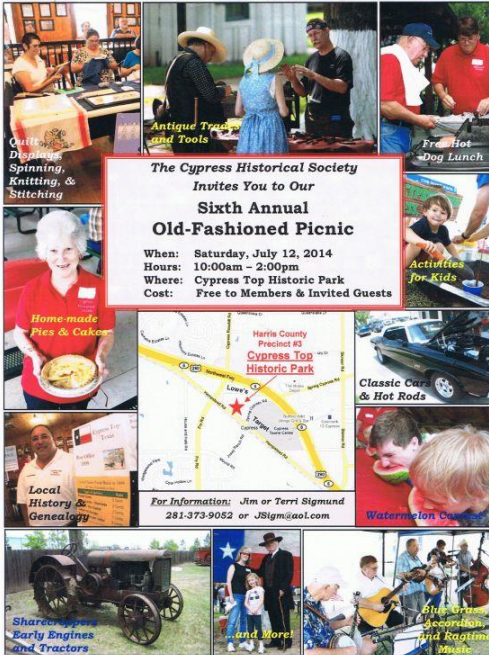
Dr. Gregg Dimmick will present a program on archeology at the San Jacinto Battleground including an update on artifacts discovered at the Alamonte surrender site.

December 18, 2014

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

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 or email lindagorski@cs.com. You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

Saturday, July 12th 2014: Sixth Annual Cypress Historical Society “Old-Fashioned Picnic”



Calling all HAS members – and especially those who live up in the Cypress area. We have been asked to man a table at the annual Cypress Historical Society Old-Fashioned Picnic highlighting our Dimond Knoll project which was conducted just a stone’s throw from the picnic site. We will have our big Dimond Knoll posters and lots of information about HAS to hand out.

This picnic is scheduled for Saturday, July 12, 2014 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Cypress Top Historic Park located on Old Highway 290. The picnic is free to members and invited guests. There are all sorts of activities as you can see by the flyer ... AND A FREE HOT DOG LUNCH!

Sharon Menegaz and Bob Sewell are going to head up the volunteer effort for this picnic. Kathleen Hughes, Louis Aulbach, and Jim and Ryan Horner have also volunteered to help but we could use more folks out there so we can work in shifts and give everyone an opportunity to enjoy the picnic. Please contact Bob Sewell at robert-sewell@att.net if you can help at this picnic. Thanks so much!!!!

Upcoming Events at the Heritage Society, Sam Houston Park, 1100 Bagby Street, Houston Texas 77002

August 13–November 15, 2014

Answering the Call to Serve: Camp Logan, Houston, Texas 1917–1919

The Heritage Society Museum Gallery

Admission is free

Learn about this hidden part of Houston’s history that resides in the underbrush at Memorial Park. The exhibit explores the history of Camp Logan with help of local archeologists and will feature The Heritage Society’s Permanent Collection of Camp Logan materials and artifacts borrowed from collectors of WWI ephemera.

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Finger Lecture Series

Camp Logan-Houston's World War I Emergency Training Center

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

The Heritage Society Tea Room

12–1 p.m.

Free for members, \$5 for non-members

Many HAS members have accompanied Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski on tours of the foundation features at Camp Logan, a WWI Training center built in 1917 to house 44,000 soldiers in what is now Memorial Park. This presentation will be a tribute to the soldiers who trained at Camp Logan – including nine Medal of Honor winners and seventy one African American soldiers who won the French Croix de Guerre!

For more information about events at the Heritage Society see www.heritagesociety.org

Screening Project at San Jacinto Battleground

HAS Members - get ready for another screening project!

Recently Bob Sewell, Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski headed out to San Jacinto to eyeball several piles of dirt that the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy has invited HAS to screen.

Here's some background information. According to Cecil Jones, Board Member of the SJBC, the dirt was excavated from the parking lot of the Monument Inn during utility improvement work. As the dirt was backhoed out of the parking lot it was loaded into dump trucks and as the dump trucks filled they were driven just a short distance away and piled on property owned by SJBC. And that is where the dirt has remained, untouched, for over a year. HAS Member Jan DeVault who also serves as president of the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy contacted HAS about the dirt piles.

Recently Boy Scout Troop 557 from Katy was doing an Eagle Scout project cleaning up the area and agreed to clear away a lot of the trees and shrubs that had grown up in the piles. We were there as the underbrush was being cleared and just a few trowel strokes proved there are artifacts to be found in these dirt piles.



Louis Aulbach points out the dirt piles

The history of the area is rich and diverse. The township of San Jacinto was located in the area of the Monument Inn from the 1840s until the late 1800s. Families fleeing during the Runaway Scrape took this route. And, of course, the Battlefield at San Jacinto is nearby, as is the Battleship Texas. There's no telling what we will find in these piles of dirt. Those of you who enjoyed working with us at the Dimond Knoll project will love this one, too!

Watch your email for more details about this project.

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Submit articles no later than August 2nd for the August 2014 issue.

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

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Linda Gorski, President, president@txhas.org

Louis Aulbach, Vice President, vicepresident@txhas.org

Robert Killian, Treasurer, treasurer@txhas.org

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