



## May 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 Meeting Program: Historical And Archeological Research At San Felipe De Austin State Historic Site

Bryan McAuley, Site Manager at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, will be the speaker for the Thursday, May 15, 2014, meeting of Houston Archeological Society. McAuley will present a program on recent historical and archeological research at San Felipe de Austin including photos of artifacts excavated from the site and an unveiling of plans for the new museum and visitor's center at the site. 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.

San Felipe de Austin, on the west bank of the Brazos River, two miles east of Sealy in southeastern Austin County, was founded in 1824 by Stephen F. Austin. Austin initially brought 297 families, the Old Three Hundred, under a contract with the Mexican Government. San Felipe de Austin played an important role in the events of the Texas Revolution and was for a period the colonial capital of Texas. The conventions of 1832 and 1833 and the Consultation of 1835 were all held there.

According to McAuley, planning for upcoming exhibits at a new visitor's center at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, poses a number of unique challenges and is highly dependent on archeological surveys of the site. "The majority of known Austin Colony artifacts are already in collections (public and private) compelling us to plan for possible loans of exhibit items," said McAuley. "Archeological projects, including one led by principal investigator Marianne Marek and manned by volunteers from the Houston Archeological Society between 2002 and 2006 have produced some exhibit-worthy artifacts and more archeological surveys are planned in the near future. We are confident that these future archeological excavations will produce more items for our exhibits."

For more information on San Felipe de Austin see [www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hls10](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hls10).



Bryan McAuley grew up near the Texas Gulf Coast in Angleton, graduating from high school there in 1987. He attended the University of Texas at Austin, graduating with a BA in government and anthropology in 1991 (and participating in a Mayan archeology field school in Belize that summer). He completed MA studies at Texas State University in political science and sociology in 1995. Bryan became the first regional coordinator for the Texas Independence Trail Region heritage tourism initiative. He has also served as museum program director at the Fort Bend County Museum Association as Curator of Interpretation at the George Ranch Historical Park and later became Director of Historical Services at the site. In 2008, he was invited to join the newly created Historic Sites Division of the Texas Historical Commission as the site manager of two important developing sites – San Felipe de Austin and the Levi Jordan Plantation. He currently works with both San Felipe State Historic Site and the Fannin Battleground State Historic Site.

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.



## President's Message

HAS Members and Friends,

Our wonderful, dedicated and efficient PROFILE editor, Linda Swift, who works hard to get the newsletter into your hands each month, is in the hospital recovering from back surgery. Thus, she was not able to put out a newsletter this month. However, our webmaster and general all around great guy "British Bob" Sewell has stepped up to the plate and thanks to him you are receiving this newsletter! It may not look exactly like the newsletter Linda puts out each month, but I think he has done a fabulous job. Kudos to you, Bob, and thanks so much!!!! And to our Linda -- GET WELL QUICKLY! We miss you!

The Houston Archeological Society got a big surprise at our meeting on April 17. As I announced in last month's president's message, we knew that the Texas State Historical Commission's State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger and THC Regional Archeologist Jeff Durst were coming to the meeting to present one of our long-time members, Leland Patterson, with the THC Award of Merit for his many years of service as an avocational archeologist (see full article later in this newsletter).

However, after presenting the award to Leland and as I was getting ready to start the meeting, Pat and Jeff said "Not so fast!" At that point they surprised all of us by presenting the coveted THC Award of Merit to the Houston Archeological Society for exceptional volunteer service! Color me speechless - and as most of you know that does not happen often! What an honor to accept the award on behalf of YOU – the members of HAS who worked so incredibly hard last year on our many projects including Dimond Knoll. I am certain that there's not another society in the State of Texas that deserves this award more ... but isn't it nice to be recognized in such a wonderful way! Congratulations to all of you on a job well done!



As you know, we will not have a meeting next month (June) nor will we have a newsletter. That's because the 2014 Texas Archeological Society Field School is on tap for Columbus, Texas, from June 14 – 21. I hope many of you will take advantage of field school being so close to home this year! Last month's newsletter included a great article by Dr. Jason Barrett highlighting the adult field school which will be held at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch just south of Columbus. In this month's newsletter there's a great article by Doug Boyd about the kid's program (ages 7 – 17) which will be held on the grounds of historic 1850s Tait House in Columbus. All the information about field school, including registration forms, can now be found on the TAS Website at <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/fschool/fs2014/>.

TAS Field School brings together 300 – 400 professional and avocational archeologists (of all experience levels) from all across the State of Texas annually in June. There is no better way to meet folks who share your passion for archeology. Y'all come!

Look forward to seeing you at our program on May 15 which will feature Bryan McAuley, site director at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. He will be announcing plans for the new museum and visitors center at San Felipe AND more opportunities for HAS members to participate in archeological surveys at the site.

As always, if you have any questions about YOUR archeological society, please email me back at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com)

*(Photo by Tracy Connell)*

## TAS Youth Group to Work at the 1850s Tait House for the 2014 Field School By Doug Boyd

When the spring TAS newsletter came out recently, it included information on the 2014 summer field school. But at the time the article was written, we had not yet made a decision on where the Youth Group would be excavating. But now we know! The Youth Group will be doing historical archeology this year, digging around a pre-Civil War plantation house that is nestled in the heart of Columbus. The Tait House is at 526 Wallace Street, four blocks south of the Colorado County Courthouse. The house was built by Charles William Tait (1815-1878), who owned and ran a large plantation in the area.

The house is an amazing piece of history, and it has been in the Tait family since it was built in 1856-1858. It is currently the residence of Ed and Rita Jackson, and they have done an amazing job caring for the house and many historical documents relating to the Tait family history. Rita Tait-Jackson is a direct lineal descendant of Charles William Tait, and she is very excited about us conducting archeological investigations at her place.

On several past weekends in March and April, folks from the Houston Archeological Society and Brazosport Archeological Society have been to the Tait House doing preliminary investigations to prepare for field school. They have completed some basic site mapping grid layouts, and most importantly, they have done lots of metal



detecting that has identified concentrations of historic artifacts almost everywhere around the house. Our excavations will certainly focus some effort on many of the really hot spots. In addition, Rita has also provided us with we found a 1928 Sanborn map that shows the locations of several old structures that are now long gone. So we will be old photographs and so we will be targeting these areas for investigation as well.

Not only will there be ample historical artifacts to be found, we hope to find some architectural features to help the Tait family find out what these former structures were. Throw in lots of shade and tours of the magnificent Tait House, and it's shaping up to be another great year for the TAS youth!

Many thanks to all the folks who have helped out at the Tait house recently, and especially to HAS president Linda Gorski for organizing everything, to Tiffany Osburn for doing our GPR surveys, and to Tom Williams for compiling all the mapping data for the site.

So help us spread the word....there is no doubt that the Youth Group will have the best DIGS (in so many ways) at 2014 Field School! Please email me (Doug Boyd) at [dboyd@paiarch.com](mailto:dboyd@paiarch.com) if you have any questions.

*(Photo by John Rich)*



## Minutes of the Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting April 17, 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 66 attendees, including 23 guests signed in.

Linda made the following announcements:

- Treasurers Report by Robert Killian, Treasurer – Checking account balance \$7,258.39 Savings Account \$11,962.17
- HAS Membership – 134 members. If you have not renewed your 2014 HAS membership, your membership expired on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- E. Mott Davis Award -- Dr. Barrett, Roger Moore and Linda Gorski accepted the award in Austin in March from the Council of Texas Archeologists for the incredibly successful Dimond Knoll Screening Project.
- TAS 2014 Field School -- Plans are ongoing for TAS 2014 Field School to be held on the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus in June. The field school will include historic, prehistoric and paleo components. On March 15<sup>th</sup> we began a successful metal detecting survey of the Tait House in Columbus which will be the site of the Youth area of the 2014 Field School. It should be a great field school location for the kids! Information and registration forms for field school are now online on the TAS website.
- TPWD – In April, eleven members of HAS took part in a walking survey with Ruth Mathews of TPWD following prescribed burns at Huntsville State Park. Several historic sites were surveyed and recorded, but prehistoric sites were not located due to heavy underbrush. The prescribed burn at Galveston Island State Park has been postponed until November. Ruth has several other upcoming projects; more information to follow.
- Thank you to Dub Crook for his generous donation of \$2,500 to HAS for publishing.
- 2015 TAS Annual Meeting – HAS is the host for the 2015 Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting here in Houston in October 2015. A committee is already working on a venue. We will need lots of help with this event, so watch for more information.

Jeff Durst and Pat Mercado-Allinger presented long-time HAS member Leland Patterson with the Award of Merit from the Texas Historical Commission.

Jeff Durst and Pat Mercado-Allinger also presented HAS with the Award of Merit from the Texas Historical Commission. Linda Gorski accepted the award for HAS.

The evening's program was titled "Hall of Ancient Egypt, A View From Inside" by Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Curator of Anthropology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Attendees enjoyed snacks provided by Linda Gorski and Beth Aucoin.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2014.

*Lenore Psencik*  
*Secretary, Houston Archeological Society*

## HAS Lifetime Member Leland Patterson Receives THC Award of Merit

Leland Patterson, HAS lifetime member and long-time avocational archeologist, received the Texas Historical Commission's Award of Merit from Pat Mercado-Allinger, Archeology Division Director for the THC and Jeff Durst, THC Regional Archeologist at the April 17 meeting of the Houston Archeological Society.



In her remarks prior to presenting the award, Mercado-Allinger noted that Patterson had authored or co-authored 467 publications in local, state, regional and national journals and that archeological surveys conducted by him had resulted in recording over 150 prehistoric sites in Texas, Louisiana and Ohio. "I can't think of another avocational archeologist in the State of Texas who deserves this more," she said.

Patterson served as President and Vice President of Houston Archeological Society and as Vice President of the Fort Bend Archeological Society. He is a current member of both organizations as well as the Texas Archeological Society, the Southern Texas Archaeological Association and the Society for American Archaeology.

"Leland Patterson has undoubtedly given more professional credibility to the Houston Archeological Society than any other member," said Linda Gorski, HAS President. "Among his 467 publications, he has

contributed many of those to HAS periodicals including articles in 186 HAS Journals, 19 HAS Reports and 13 HAS Special publications. He is a legend in Texas archeology".

Patterson is a retired chemical engineer whose last professional position was Manager of Environmental Affairs, Engineering, for Tenneco, Inc. After his retirement he did consulting work for Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation for administration of cultural resource (archeological site) clearances on construction projects. Patterson recently moved to Bryan College Station from Houston and was accompanied to the awards ceremony by his daughter-in-law Jan Patterson.

*(Photo by Tracy Connell)*

## Preservation Project of the USS Westfield

HAS members are invited to attend the Houston Maritime Museum's lecture on the Preservation Project of the USS Westfield. It will be on **Tuesday, May 13, 2014 from 7- 8 pm** at the Houston Maritime Museum (2204 Dorrington, Houston, TX 77030). The lecture is free and open to the public, and includes free refreshments **and access to the Museum exhibits**. Go to <http://www.houstonmaritimemuseum.org/lecture-series/> for more information on this lecture. Note: Kristin Josvoll, Director of Operations at the Houston Maritime Museum is an HAS member and is excited to see many of us attend this lecture!

## May Lab Schedule

One lab date only scheduled for Monday May 12th, 7-9 p.m., Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. No lab on May 26th as that is Memorial Day. Please Note: no lab in June, as usual, due to the TAS Field School. Lab will resume in July; however, dates are currently pending. July lab dates will be published in that month's PROFILE and attendees will be notified electronically. Hope to see you on May 12th.

*– Beth Aucoin*

**YOU ARE INVITED!**  
*We're losing our storage building.*  
**Brazoria County Historical Commission**  
**FINAL BLOW-OUT USED BOOK SALE**  
Wednesday, May 14 – Friday, May 16, 2014  
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Brazoria County East Annex**  
1524 East Mulberry, Angleton  
(Old WalMart Building on E. Hwy 35)

Offering used books of all sorts...

*Fiction, Nonfiction, Children's, DIY How To, Some Video*  
Hardcover - \$1 Softcover - 50¢ Audio & Video - \$2  
Texana and Cookbooks - \$5

Please submit articles for publication to *The 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 3rd<sup>h</sup> for the July 2014 issue.

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

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