



**Thursday, July 21st, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.
Dr. Jason Barrett to present “Wrap up of
Texas Archeological Society 2016 Field School”**



The 2016 Texas Archeological Society Field School, held at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas June 11 - 18, will be the topic of the July 21st meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. 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.

Led by Dr. Jason W. Barrett, HAS member and Field School Principal Investigator, the program will feature highlights from excavations at the Cotton Field and Bluff sites at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch and the youth dig at the 1856 Tait House in Columbus. HAS members will also be on hand to discuss continuing excavations at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site which were conducted during field school by a number of Texas Historical Commission stewards and HAS members.

Over twenty members of the Houston Archeological Society attended Field School, participating in excavations or lab activities along with approximately two hundred other professional and avocational archeologists, and students from around the State of Texas. 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 and his team. Investigations yielded many household artifacts dating to the 19th century. Foundation features belonging to another long-vanished structure were also revealed and examined.

The Cotton Field site at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch, located beneath a meter of floodplain sediments was hugely expanded prior to the 2015 TAS Field School, and excavated over the course of several weekend during the past year. Excavations during the 2016 Field School produced several more thermal cooking features, more bison and deer bones, several unique stone tools, and pottery potentially associated with the Texas coast. The site was well stratified, preserving multiple isolated living surfaces within both the upper Toyah and lower Austin horizons.

At the Ranch’s Bluff site, volunteers continued to expose architectural remains and recover associated mid-19th century artifacts. It turns out that out outbuilding is likely the cabin we were searching for and our one-story log cabin is likely a two-story stone structure, potentially an inn.

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 structures, Celia Allen’s Bake Oven. Artifacts recovered during excavations in 2016 included period ceramic sherds, pieces of glass, buckshot, several gun flints and buttons. Surprisingly several prehistoric dart and arrow points were also recovered from this historic site.

Once again, excavations will continue at the Cotton Field Site throughout the coming months giving us an opportunity to discover more of the archeological heritage of Colorado County, which remains surprisingly understudied. Less than 200 archeological sites have been registered in Colorado County, and only seven of those have been identified as exhibiting deeply buried deposits. Until our excavations at Cotton Field, none had been investigated by large-scale, scientific excavations. If you haven’t experienced this truly unique site, please join us soon.

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 (\$5) Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. For more information about this program, contact lindagorski@cs.com.



President's Message

HAS Members and Friends!

It was so gratifying to see how many HAS members - both adults and kids - attended the 2016 Texas Archeological Society Field School at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas, 11 - 18 June, 2016. Whether you were at the Cotton Field Site, the Bluff Site, and the Kids' Dig at the Tait House in town or working with the Texas Historical Commission regional archeological stewards at San Felipe de Austin, I know you enjoyed the camaraderie that the annual field school always seems to inspire.

Let me tell you a little bit about the history of the TAS Field Schools. The first field school was held in 1962 and has been held annually ever since, drawing from 200 - 400 participants each year. Professional and avocational archeologists from across the State of Texas and the southwest region gather for daily field work, nightly educational programs and classes, field trips to sites of local interest... and a lot of good food and good fun.

Field schools have been held all over the state, from El Paso and the Guadalupe Mountains in the west, to several sites in the Panhandle, to Caddo sites in east Texas, to sites along the Gulf Coast... and many sites in Central Texas. Normally field schools are held in one location for one year, sometimes in the same location for two years. But field school at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch has been ongoing for three years in a row - 2014, 2015 and 2016 led by our very own HAS member, Dr. Jason W. Barrett. Not only that, thanks to our magnificent landowners, Ed and Rita Tait Jackson, HAS members and others have been allowed to excavate at the Cotton Field site for each entire year between field schools giving us the opportunity to reveal and understand the amazing prehistory of Colorado County.

Field School is always held in June, normally beginning the second Saturday of the month and running for a week through the next Saturday. Every year a small city of tents and tent trailers as well as RVs arrive at a location established as the base camp for the week. Some choose not to camp and stay in local motels. The main focus for the week is to participate in an archeological excavation led by trained professionals and avocationalists. Participants may choose to work on-site in an active excavation to learn proper procedures and documentation. Others choose to go on survey to learn how to locate and record historical and prehistorical sites. Still others prefer to clean and record artifacts in the laboratory. The workday is from 7:00 A.M to 1:00 P.M. When lunchtime rolls around the workday is through.

Rumor has it that the 2017 TAS Field School will be held at Camp Wood on the Nueces River in Real County. Here is a fascinating article about Camp Wood and the surrounding area <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hlc03>. Some of the sites mentioned in this article are sites we will be excavating and surveying at field school. The reason I'm giving you a heads up on this field school is so you will mark your calendars for June, 2017, and join us for this incredible annual event. Due to the location and the sites nearby including access to the Nueces River, this is sure to be a popular and well-attended field school so make your plans early to attend!

Thanks again to all of you who made this year's field school such a success. See you at the July meeting when we will present a program on the results of the 2016 TAS Field School.

- Linda Gorski, President Houston Archeological Society

Minutes

Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting

May 19th, 2016

Welcome everyone - Linda Gorski

Welcome New Members and guests.

Treasurers Report - Tom Nuckols

Checking Account - \$18, 213.45

Savings Account - \$14,072.50

Membership - Bob Sewell

We have 174 members signed up for 2016. Membership forms at back. All new and renewing members get a bumper sticker and a copy of the newest HAS Report and Journal.

HAS Journals and Reports - Dub Crook

Journal #135 has been published. Report #26 - Timber Fawn has also been published. Copies of both are available tonight! Four more Journals/reports coming out this year and members will receive a copy. A special report on Moses Austin Bryan is in the works, and Rice University students have been asked to submit papers for the next journal.

Lab at Rice University - Dr. Gus Costa

We continued our labs at Rice University during April and May under the direction of Dr. Gus Costa. Recent labs have focused on cleaning and sorting artifacts from Cotton Field site. This is expected to continue during July and August. Watch for information from Dr. Gus Costa on future dates.

Acquisition of Microscopes— Jason Barrett

HAS has acquired a Dino-Lite AM411T handheld digital microscope kindly donated by Larry Golden. In addition, due to a generous donation by Dub Crook, the society is about to purchase a Dino-Lite AM4815ZT digital microscope with accessories. These new additions will greatly improve our ability to analyze artifacts, especially use wear analysis for the Cottonfield artifacts.

Projects - Linda Gorski

- **Cotton Field Project** - This has been hugely successful. HAS has been leading excavations there since the 2015 Field School. Next work weekend at Cotton Field May 21 and 22. Field School begins June 11 - 18 at Cotton Field, Bluff and Tait Townhouse. Excavations may continue beyond field school thanks to cooperation of fantastic landowners, Rita Tait and Ed Jackson.
- **Frost Town/Elysian Viaduct Project** - The project has finally kicked off! HAS should be invited to participate initially with screening, after we return from Field School.
- **“Buckhorn Saloon”** - A cistern has been uncovered during preliminary clearing work for the replacement of the Elysian Viaduct. We expect TxDOT to give go-ahead for HAS to work on the site.
- **Wallisville Heritage Center** – HAS has been asked by the director and the curator of this facility to help them organize their collections. Wallisville sustained severe damage during Hurricane Ike and their collections were in disarray. Collections include artifacts from some of the 200++ archeological

sites that have been excavated in that area. A small team has gone out there three times and we will be doing more work there in the future.

- **Heritage Society** – Members of HAS will be researching and cataloguing a large collection of artifacts recovered in Houston in the 1960s. More information to follow.
- **TAS Field School 2016**
Field School will be held in Columbus again this year June 11 – 18. Camping will be at the Colorado County Fairgrounds in Columbus – very convenient! Thanks to webmaster Bob Sewell, more information is available on the HAS website.

Program for April – cancelled due to bad weather. Lauren Cook will return in September to present her program on McFaddin Beach.

Program for May

Houston Archeological Society President Linda Gorski and HAS Vice President Louis Aulbach presented a program highlighting portions of their latest book, *Along the Aurelian Wall – Rome in Ruins – A Self-Guided Walk*

NO HAS MEETING IN JUNE! -

Traditionally we do not have an HAS meeting in June due to TAS Field School.

Program for July

Dr. Jason Barrett and others will present a program highlighting activities at the 2016 TAS Field School with reports on Cotton Field, the Bluff Site and the Tait House.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21st, 2016.

Bob Sewell, Secretary Houston Archeological Society

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HAS Lab Sessions at Rice University

Lab will be held on Thursdays through the summer and fall from 7-9PM on the following dates.

July 28
Aug 25
Sept 22
Oct 27

We will convene in the Rice Archaeology Lab at [Sewall Hall, Room 103](#), Rice University, 6100 Main Street, Houston, TX 77005-1827.

For information about HAS labs see the HAS website at <http://www.txhas.org/laboratory.html>.

Cottonfield Work Dates

Dr. Jason Barrett has announced the following dates for continuing excavations at the CottonField Site in Colorado County.

July: 9-10,
August: 13-14
Sept: 10-11
Oct: 8-10,
Nov: 5-6,
Dec: 10-11

Remember that you must be a member of the Texas Archeological Society, the Houston Archeological Society or one of the other regional archeological societies to participate and you will be required to sign a waiver. We will meet at the gate to the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch at 8:00 a.m. and will work until about 2 p.m. If you have never been to the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch or need directions to the site please email me back at <mailto:lindagorski@cs.com>. Bring plenty of water, your archeological tools, gloves, hat, chair, snacks, and lunch and please wear close toed shoes. More information will be emailed out closer to each scheduled date.

McDade Pottery – by Larry Golden

In the late 1870's Milton Stoker purchased the "Jug Factory" from Mathew Duncan, moving it from a location near now Bastrop State Park to its location in McDade. Stoker produced utilitarian wares, typically in an Albany slip glaze with no manufacturer's stamps or marks. Robert L. Williams joined him at this location and began purchasing shares of the company until he owned it in 1890-91. Robert began expansion and produced his first wares in January 1893. Known as the "McDade Pottery" he continued producing



McDade Potters

utilitarian wares, while developing an extrusion process to manufacturer flower pots. Williams invented and patented a pottery (stoneware) charcoal cooker that became his largest seller. He was also known for producing English Spaniel style door stops as well as miniature churns. Williams utilitarian wares were typically dipped top in Albany slip and bottom half in Bristol glaze. However there were wares that were all Bristol glaze. Crock and churns usually bear a circular cobalt stamp in the Bristol glaze area which reads "McDADE POTTERY, McDade, Texas" around the circle and "R.L.WILLIAMS Proprietor" across the center. Williams did not mark his jugs, so shards found with his stamp will be a crock or churn. Robert died in 1923, and his son continued operations until WW II when it was closed.



The Williams Family

Robert was also known for producing English Spaniel style door stops as well as miniature churns. Williams utilitarian wares were typically dipped top in Albany slip and bottom half in Bristol glaze. However there were wares that were all Bristol glaze. Crock and churns usually bear a circular cobalt stamp in the Bristol glaze area which reads "McDADE POTTERY, McDade, Texas" around the circle and "R.L.WILLIAMS Proprietor" across the center. Williams did not mark his jugs, so shards found with his stamp will be a crock or churn. Robert died in 1923, and his son continued operations until WW II when it was closed.



McDade 2 Gallon Churn

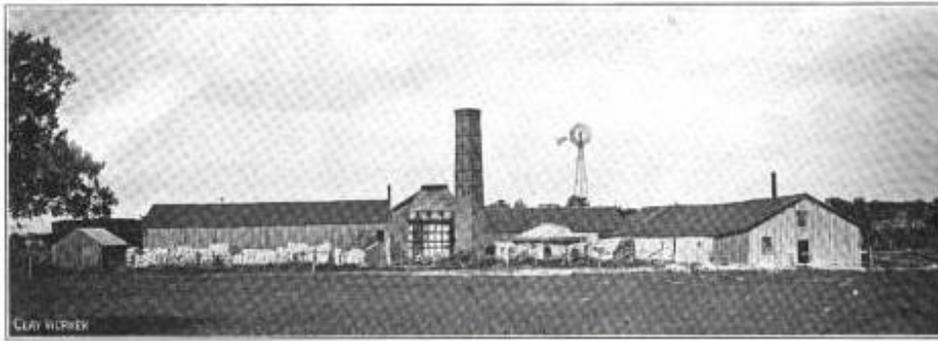


McDade 2 Gallon Churn Maker's Mark

Cont.

The article below from the 1906 volume of the "Clay Worker" describes activities at the factory.

"1906 CLAY WORKER; McDADE is a small station, thirty-seven miles east of Austin, on the Houston & Texas Central railroad. Its only manufacturing interest, so far as I know, is the pottery located there. On account of the excellent fire-clays of this vicinity, this pottery employs about twenty-five men, and manufactures jugs and churns, crocks, flower-pots and charcoal furnaces. It is for the furnaces the McDade pottery is notable. These are unique in design, and have a reputation in Texas and the neighboring States. In fact, wherever charcoal furnaces are used, for their superiority. It may not be generally known, outside of the Southwest, how useful an article a charcoal furnace is. It is quite possible that many of my readers have never seen one; yet few housekeepers in Texas or Louisiana would try to do without one, and all hardware dealers in that region carry them.



Birdseye View McDade [Texas] Pottery.

might be able to rent your stone jail to the Government for a fort.

This country hasn't been destroyed many times by earthquakes since cement came in, but the Engineers' Guesstwork Magazine gives it out as official that any ordinary earthquake would get tired before it shook down a cement cottage. As for the cement skyscraper, they say an earthquake or cyclone would go around another way rather than tackle a modern cement office building or hotel.

TOAD IN A BRICK—A QUEER TALE.

One day last month the clerk of works of the new manual instruction center in Queen's Road, Southend, London, saw something strange protruding out of the end of an ordinary stock brick, and, on closer examination, found it was a toad, which had the appearance of having been petrified. The toad, which was a full-sized one, must have been in the clay when the brick was made, or embedded itself there after the making and before the brick was burnt. In the burning the toad had become as hard as iron, and, when tapped, had a ring about it as of metal, and it was not in the least shrivelled. The shape remained perfect, the lines of the back and the mouth were as clear as ever, and the eyes were perceptible. The brick is being forwarded to the British Museum.—Exchange.

Mr. R. N. Williams, superintendent of the McDade pottery, tells me he ships these useful articles to Colorado, Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, and even to Georgia; and this, in spite of pretty heavy freight charges, for they weigh about 25 lbs. each. He finds, however, that the reputation of his wares allows him to keep his prices steady; there are not many manufacturers of charcoal furnaces to compete with, and those that attempt to undersell him with a cheaper sort of furnace find that where the "Champion" is known, it is preferred. His trade in these useful articles has grown so rapidly that the making of jugs and other crockery has become secondary. The clay for his stone and earthen ware has to be brought from other beds—some from Athens: while the fire-clay for the furnaces is close at hand.

Cont.

The plant is not a large one—two kilns, one up-draft and one down-draft, with a capacity of about 10,000 gallons a week. Another larger down-draft kiln is in course of construction, as Mr. Williams finds that for stoneware the downdraft kiln is emphatically better. The grinding of the clay is done in primitive fashion, by mules, just as sugar-cane is ground in South Georgia, on farms.

The churns and jugs are thrown on the wheel, too, in the primitive way that produces so much finer results than more rapid mechanical methods. Molds are used for the crooks, however, and the tops to jars.

The glaze used for the stoneware is a Bristol (felspar) glaze. The demand for jugs is so great, and so general, for miscellaneous purposes, that the pottery has great difficulty in filling orders from hardware and general merchandise stores, and makes no attempt to supply the whiskey dealers. It has only two potters for this work, with a molder for the crooks. The larger proportion of labor is busy with the furnaces.

These are made in six sizes, the largest being No. 1. They are clay buckets, with a false bottom, an iron jacket and a handle to lift them by, like a bucket. The false bottom is full of holes, and an opening beneath, on one side, supplies a draft. A charcoal fire in one of these convenient receptacles is exceedingly handy for the busy housekeeper, cook or washerwoman. It is economical, clean, quickly kindled. In hot weather one may prepare a light meal over the charcoal furnace, instead of kindling the kitchen fire, saving time and labor.

Clothes may be boiled and iron heated on the furnace more easily and cheaply than by any other means. It is for these purposes that the Southern housekeeper considers the furnace indispensable.

And this is the way these furnaces are made: The clay is first roughly molded into shape; the “false bottom,” a disk full of holes the size of a nickel, is also made; and then one



Making McDade Charcoal Furnaces.

of the potters shapes the bucket on his wheel, smoothing it and fitting the “false bottom” in securely, and adding three clay projections to the inner rim to hold up the pot or kettle. Four potters were hard at work on this part of the work, and a great many furnaces lay drying, the day I visited the pottery.

When dry they are fired, and then jackets of iron must be fitted to them by the smiths. Four or five of these were at work, too; carloads of sheet-iron are used now, where one or two rolls sufficed, a few years ago. The fitting and riveting of the jacket, and adjusting of handles done, the furnaces are passed on to a man who coats them with asphalt on the outside, to protect from rust.

The growth of Mr. Williams’ establishment and the increasing demand for charcoal furnaces, not only in the States, but beyond its borders, suggests that other enterprising clayworkers might find it worth while to examine into this use of fire-clay. Erin:-L Hursoy.”

Report on TAS Lithics Academy

One of the ways to learn more about archeology is to attend one of the Texas Archeological Society's Academies, and that's exactly what several HAS members did at the end of April. Elizabeth Coon-Nguyen, Margaret Coon, Debbie Eller, Sandy Rogers, and I travelled to Canyon, Texas for the TAS Lithics Academy.

Despite the threat of bad weather on the Friday, we took the opportunity to visit the Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument near Amarillo. This site has been well-known to prehistoric peoples for 13,000 years as the best source of stone material for their tools.



Participants set off up to the Alibates Quarry



The HAS Crew on a cold and windy day



Dr. Paul Katz explains extraction of flint

Our tour guide, Dr. Paul Katz, led us up to the top of the quarry and explained how the prehistoric peoples dug pits down into the ground to extract the flint. We also heard about the plans for further archeology at the site. Afterwards we returned to Canyon and explored the Panhandle Plains-Historical Museum, whose exhibits on the history of the Panhandle Plains region are particularly interesting.

The workshop sessions commenced on the Saturday and were held in the museum, under the instruction of Chris Ringstaff, experimental archeologist and lithics analyst with the Texas Department of Transportation. Those of you that know Chris will be aware of his enthusiasm for his subject! Assisting Mr. Ringstaff were Dr. Veronica Arias, Curator of Archeology for the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum (PPHM) and Jimmy Barrera, archeologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (and TAS Academy chair). We first learned about how flint will fracture under pressure and examined various examples of different fracturing techniques. Of course, Chris Ringstaff gave his flintknapping demonstrations which we all found fascinating. We also learned about the various flake types and flake attributes, debitage analysis, along with biface and blade technology.



Chris Ringstaff explains a fracture

On the Sunday we relocated to the Gilvin Education and Learning Center in the Palo Duro Canyon State Park. This was a beautiful setting perched on the rim of one of the canyons. We viewed more flintknapping demonstrations and then examined biface failures and reviewed use wear analysis.

Dr. Veronica Arias explained how Lithics Collections can be documented, and we practiced by documenting a sample collection.

Although it was a long trip from Houston to Canyon, we all found it very enjoyable and informative. Folks should check it out next time TAS offer the academy.

- Bob Sewell

Notes on Munitions: A Pinfire Shot Gun Shell from Bernardo Plantation (41WL28) By Tom Nuckols

In 2009 and 2010, the Houston Archaeological Society participated in excavations at the Bernardo Plantation site (41WL28) near Hempstead, Texas.

Of the 7,113 artifacts recovered (Bruseth, et al. 2011: 369), munitions constitute sixty of these artifacts. These sixty consist of twelve categories: spherical muzzle-loading lead bullets ($n=4$), nondescript lead pieces ($n=4$), lead shot ($n=2$), lead buckshot ($n=10$), rimfire cartridge cases ($n=8$), center-fire cartridge cases ($n=9$), lead cartridge bullets ($n=2$), shot gun shells ($n=16$), a lead sprue, a percussion cap, a 16 gauge pinfire shot gun shell, a semi-jacketed pistol bullet, and a brass butt plate.

This article is the first in a series that will discuss each category of munitions, beginning with the pinfire shot gun shell.

The pinfire shot gun shell had a paper hull and a brass cup with a pin protruding from the side of the cup. A percussion cap is positioned inside the cup and hidden from view. The pin, when struck by the shot guns hammer strikes the cap causing the shot gun shell to fire. The pinfire shot gun shell was invented by Frenchman Casimir Lefauchaux in 1836, a year after his introduction of a pinfire pistol cartridge. The gun that fired the pinfire shot gun shell was usually a side-by-side, double barreled hinge framed shot gun. Pinfire shot gun shells were in regular production until at least the late 1800's while 12 and 16 gauge were manufactured as late as 1930.



There were several drawbacks to pinfire shot gun shells. They were difficult to box and they could not be carried in the pockets as the pins soon destroyed the linings of pockets. Care had to be taken when inserting the cartridges in the breech as the pin had to be firmly positioned in a slot in the back of the barrel prior to closing the shot gun

All that remains of the Bernardo specimen is the brass cup. It was manufactured by Eley Brothers. Eley Brothers, was established by Charles and William Eley in London in the 1820s. Their products were firearms, cartridges, percussion caps and smokeless powder. During World War I, the company produced 209 million British .303 rifle cartridges. The company is still in business.

REFERENCE

Bruseth, Jim / Mercado-Allinger, Pat / Woodrick, James / Osburn, Tiffany / Durst, Jeff / Jones, Brad / Pierson, Bill / Gordy, Charles / Marcom, Robert

2011 *Remote Sensing and Archeological Testing at the Bernardo Plantation's Main House. Texas Archeological Society, Volume 82.* Edited by Timothy K. Perttula. Texas Archeological Society, Austin, TX.

Reflections on TAS Field School

Several HAS members were new to the TAS Field School this year. Here are some of their reflections on their experiences.



Paula Bates: *“As a complete beginner to archeology, in anticipation of my first field school, I did my best to prepare by reading books, researching Texas history and prehistory, and scouring the internet for helpful information about what to expect. But nothing could have prepared me for the incredible experience I had at the Texas Archeological Society’s 2016 Field School in Columbus this year. From the moment I arrived I felt so welcomed by the “field school family.” I had the opportunity to work with so many brilliant people whose combined professional and avocational archeology experience fostered an amazing learning environment. I’m already planning for next year’s field school and can’t wait for the next opportunity to learn more!”*

Beth Kennedy: *“My first TAS field school experience was supposed to have been last year, and I did attend – just for 2 ½ days! So, because we were rained out in 2015, I’m counting 2016 as my first real attendance, and what a fun and educational time it was! I had participated in an archeology field school many years ago, but had forgotten most of what I learned. This year, it all came back to me, and with all the help I received from fellow HAS/TAS members, it was a true learning experience! I love to dig, but also discovered that once I lost my fear of Jason’s “form”, I like to take notes and map! My co-workers and crew chief Diamond were lots of fun, and we worked together well and enjoyed each other’s company! All the “veterans” were extremely friendly and ready to answer any questions I had. Here’s to a great experience, and I’m already looking forward to next year!”*



Geoff Mills: *“I was not sure what to expect from my first field school. Thinking back I truly enjoyed the whole experience. Going back to Cotton field and working several levels in one unit was a great experience, and seeing all the units open was very exciting. We were lucky with the weather. It did not rain like I heard it did in 2015, but the first couple of days were very humid, but luckily it got drier throughout the week. Each day started with a trip to the campgrounds to pick up the water for the day. We then dug and screened from 7:30 to 1:00 pm. Then time to get back to the motel for the non-campers like myself for that all important shower. The evening programs were interesting, especially Amanda Danning’s forensic archeology presentation. The evenings were also an opportunity to hang out with new friends. The highlight for me was finding an arrow shaft stone abrader. This turned out to be almost identical to an artifact found in the neighboring unit during a previous visit to the site.”*

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Nathan Palmer: "If I had to describe the 2016 Texas Archeological Society field school in one word, that word would be "enlightening". I had been out to Cotton Field several times but field school was on a scale much larger than anything I ever done before. It was great to be able to experience a longer term dig than the usual weekend fare and see the different techniques and procedures used by our fellow archaeology buffs across Texas. I think we all learned quite a bit from everybody else and of course we got a great deal done at the sites. Some really interesting features were found and everybody was excited to make such great progress. My particular unit was rather sterile but there was a fascinatingly large bison scapula two units over. I had never before seen plaster being used in the field and it was neat to see Dr. Costa work the bone out of the ground. While the days were hot, muggy, and mosquito filled, it was all worth it to come back to base camp and spend time bonding with new and old friends. There were great presentations after dinner that opened my eyes to new things like facial reconstruction and soil analysis. I'll never forget the late nights sitting in the dark talking about whatever came to mind and sitting in companionable silence. Those are the sort of memories that make you excited for future field schools. Thank you all that helped me out and guided me through the week. I want to thank the Houston Archeological Society for their generous sponsorship that allowed me to participate this year. It was well worth it. I had the best time of my life and hopefully this is only the beginning. To Field School 2017!"



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HAS Acquires Two Microscopes

HAS is now the proud owner of a couple of brand-new microscopes! Thanks to generous donations by Wilson “Dub” Crook and Larry Golden, we now have two Dino-Lite Digital Microscopes with accessories. Both microscopes (models AM4111T and AM4518T) are handheld and achieve a resolution of 1.3MP and a magnification of 20x – 200x. For the techies amongst you, the AM4518T has extended image processing features such as Extended Depth of Field (EDOF) and Enhanced Dynamic Range (EDF). These tools will help enormously in the Lab for examining use wear patterns on the Cottonfield artifacts.



HAS members testing out one of the microscopes



The AM4815T microscope setup

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2016
7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
M. D. Anderson Hall, St. Thomas University

August 18, 2016 – Ashley Jones, RPA “**Archaeological Investigations of the Treviño-Urbe Rancho (41ZP97), San Ygancio, Zapata County, Texas**” - In November 2015, Raba Kistner Environmental, Inc. conducted archaeological investigations of GPR anomalies and of architectural features of the Treviño-Urbe Rancho (41SP97), in San Ygancio, Texas. San Ygnacio, located along the northern banks of the Rio Grande, was initially settled as part of the Nuevo Santander colony. In the 1820's, Jesús Treviño purchased land in the area and established a ranch. The initial structure - a fortified, one-room shelter constructed in 1830 – reflects the dangers faced by the early colonists of Nuevo Santander at the end of the 19th Century. By 1871, the ranching complex, including a multi-room home and walled courtyard, was completed. New colonists arriving in the area led Treviño to plan the town of San Ygnacio. The Treviño-Urbe Rancho is the one of the few remaining standing structures from this time period north of the Rio Grande. Archaeological investigations of the property identified three possible features and approximately 5,000 artifacts, including ceramics, faunal remains, personal items, and architectural materials were recovered. Jones will discuss the history of the property, and how the cultural materials and architectural features identified during the investigation of the ranch provide insight into the lives of the Treviño and Uribe families.

September 15, 2016 – Lauren Cook, Ph.D. candidate at Texas A & M University “**Geoarchaeological Investigations of the McFaddin Beach site, Texas**”. McFaddin Beach (41JF50), in Jefferson County, Texas is a 32 kilometer-long beach, stretching from High Island in the west to Sea Rim State Park in the east. Since the 1950s, artifacts from almost all periods of Texas pre-history have been recovered on this beach. The projectile points found on McFaddin Beach are redeposited materials from offshore, submerged locations. Results indicate that projectile point distribution is significantly correlated to longshore drift and hurricane activity in the Gulf of Mexico. Recent studies have been performed to test whether artifact distributions along the beach are correlated with sediment grain size patterns and distributions along the coast. This paper discusses the results from these studies and the role currents, longshore drift, and hurricane activity have on artifact distribution and implications they may have for identifying the offshore site locations of these artifacts. This paper will also review further research plans and studies to better understand the presence of Paleoindian peoples on the Texas continental shelf and throughout Texas. We will also set a date for a field trip to McFaddin Beach for HAS members.

October 20, 2016 – Erin Phillips, Archeologist with Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. “**Moundville, Alabama**”.

November 17, 2016 – Ben Pfeiffer, Archeologist at Levi Jordan Plantation, “**Levi Jordan Plantation Before and After the Civil War**”.

December 15, 2016 – Linda Gorski, President, Houston Archeological Society, “**Overview of HAS Projects for 2016**”.

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS visit 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/>

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Note: Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Submit articles no later than July 27th for the August 2016 issue.

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

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