www.txhas.org

Thursday, September 20th, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

"Prehistoric Archeological Artifacts Recovered in Southeast Texas" With Wilson W. "Dub" Crook

The September meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held on **Thursday**, **September 20**, **7:00 p.m.** at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center located at 1414 Wirt Road in West Houston. This will be the Annual General Meeting of the Society when the new Board for 2019 will be elected and awards will be presented. Long-time HAS member, **Wilson W. "Dub" Crook**, will give an update on his research on the Andy Kyle Archeological Collection which is curated at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center in Liberty, Texas. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public.

As most of you are aware, the Houston Archeological Society was requested by the Sam Houston Regional Library to assist them in the development of a new interactive exhibit on the prehistory of Southeast Texas using the Andy Kyle Archeological Collection. The



late Mr. Kyle donated his 30,000+ piece collection to the Center in 1986 but it had remained largely unstudied until last year. The Kyle Collection includes stone tools, historic and prehistoric points, Native American pottery and other material from 95 archeological sites in 9 counties in Southeast Texas. Beginning in February, 2017 and continuing through May of 2018, HAS members went through the entire collection separating out diagnostic artifacts to be included in the new museum exhibit. The exhibit was opened to the public on June 9 of this year and features nearly 400 artifacts ranging from the Clovis period (ca. 13,000 years BP) to the Late Prehistoric (ca. 1500 A.D.)

Dub will discuss some of the more outstanding discoveries made during his work on the collection including (1) the first known Clovis artifacts from Liberty County, (2) the presence of a complete Carrollton Phase Archaic assemblage from sites in Liberty County, (3) use-wear analysis on two unique tools from Southeast Texas known as the Harvey Biface and the Perkin Pike, and (4) a unique ceramic vessel whose pottery type was previously only known from four sites along the Mississippi River.

Mr. Crook is a Life Member (Fellow) of the Houston Archeological Society, a Life Member of the Dallas Archeological Society, a member of the Texas Archeological Society, a member of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, a Life Member of the Gault School of Archeological Research, a Research Fellow with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, and a Fellow of the Leakey Foundation. He is also an Archeological Steward for the State of Texas. He is the author of 125 papers in the field of archeology and has recently published his third book titled *The Archeology and History of Paul's Missionary Cities*.

Parking at the Trini Mendenhall Center is free of charge. Overflow parking is in the grocery store parking lot across Wirt Road from the Community Center or along the residential street adjoining the Community Center. For more information about this program or about the HAS, please contact Linda Gorski, at lindagorski@cs.com.



President's Message – Linda Gorski

CONGRATULATIONS TO NORMAN G. FLAIGG AWARD WINNERS

I am just so proud to announce that three HAS members, Sandy Rogers, Bob Sewell and Charlie Gordy, received the prestigious Norman G. Flaigg Award for Outstanding Performance at the annual summer workshop of the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Archeological Stewards Network (TASN) held on Saturday, August 18th at the San Felipe de Austin Museum. Please give these folks a high five when you see them!

You're probably wondering "What is the Texas Archeological Stewards Network"? According to the THC, the State of Texas probably contains more than two million archeological sites, left behind by at least 12,000 years of human occupation.

Working alongside the THC, members of the TASN serve a critical role in bringing public archeology to life in their own communities. Stewards are selected volunteers from across the State of Texas whose efforts in preservation, education and research are an essential part of the THC's statewide archeological program. The TASN is one of the most innovative and successful programs of its kind in the nation and has served as a model for similar organizations in other states.

The TASN mission statement is to preserve, educate and contribute to our knowledge of Texas' archeological heritage. The network consists of a select group of experienced and capable avocational archeologists who work on a strictly volunteer basis to assist the THC to achieve these goals which include Recording new sites, Educating the public, Monitoring known sites, mentoring and motivating youth, seeking protective designation and easements for important sites, assisting in cultural resource projects, recording private artifact collections, carrying out emergency or "salvage" archeology projects, and serving as a local resource on archeological matters.



Sandy Rogers, Bob Sewell, and Charlie Gordy receiving their awards from Pat Mercado-Allinger and Jeff Durst

This year's award to Sandy Rogers, Bob Sewell and Charlie Gordy recognizes the reported accomplishments of the top 10% of all stewards statewide!! Presenting the awards were Pat Mercado-Allinger, THC's Texas State Archeologist, and Jeff Durst, our THC Regional Archeologist. HAS also had several Honorable Mentions for the award which recognizes the top 20% of Stewards reporting. They are Louis Aulbach, Wilson "Dub" Crook, Linda Gorski, and Tom Nuckols. Way to go y'all!!!!!

You can find a list of all the local members of the Texas Archeological Stewards Network on the back page of the Houston Archeological Society's newsletter, The Profile, including this issue. These are the local folks to contact if you need help with an archeological question.

MINUTES

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting August 16, 2018

Welcome New Members and Guests to our new meeting location at Trini Mendenhall Community Center. (Linda Gorski, President)

Treasurer's Report (Bob Sewell): Bob reported amounts in the HAS checking and savings accounts. If any member is interested in more information about HAS finances, please see Bob.

Membership (**Bob Sewell**): Bob reported a current membership of 210. We are the largest regional archeology society in the state!

New Business:

Nominating Committee (Linda Gorski): The nominating committee this year is composed of Sharon Menegaz, Geoff Mills and Frank Kozar. Geoff Mills presented the slate of officers for 2019: President – Linda Gorski; Vice-President – Larry Golden; Secretary – Beth Kennedy; Treasurer – Bob Sewell; Director at Large – Ashley Jones. Dub Crook and Liz Coon-Nguyen have 1 and 2 years left, respectively. The slate of officers will be voted on at the September meeting.

Publications (Dub Crook and Louis Aulbach): Louis will distribute recent Journals and Reports NEXT MONTH. Also, beginning in September, Louis will be doing specifically publications! Dub Crook reported on future publications. The next journal issue will come out near the end of 2018 and will include a wide variety of topics ranging from Paleo Indian to the Late Prehistoric, and including topics such as geological and archeological methodology. Dub also reports we have received great response about our publications from all over the country, with some papers appearing on academia.edu, as well as serving as required reading at UCLA!

Monthly Show and Tell (Linda Gorski): Larry Golden will be in charge of each month's show and tell. Last month he had a large display of English clay pipes. This month he has a display of glass flasks dating from 1830 – 1920. If you have a collection you'd like to display at our meeting, please let Larry know.

Projects:

Frost Town (**Linda Gorski**): All artifacts collected from features 23 and 33 have been cleaned, sorted and bagged. Until Doug Boyd comes back in September to finish up another segment of the project, we are done.

Kleb Woods Public Archeology Project (Ashley Jones): As of right now, the heat and mosquitos are too bad to do any work on this project. Ashley is looking at a couple of weekends in September.

September program: This will be our Annual General Meeting when the new board is elected. Our speaker will be Dub Crook who will give an update on the Andy Kyle Collection Project in Liberty County and the extreme importance to Southeast Texas archeology that the project has revealed.

August Program: Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski presented a program on Ostia Antica, their third walking guide to archeological sites in Rome,

Finally – We must end our meetings at 8:30 and I'd like to ask everyone's help in putting up the chairs and cleaning the room.

Beth Kennedy, Secretary

HAS Members Complete One Last Frost Town Lab

On Saturday, August 4th, Frank Kozar hosted over a dozen HAS members at his home in Spring for a field lab to wash and sort the last batch of artifacts to come out of the Frost Town project. As most of you know, we have been working with TxDot and Doug Boyd of Prewitt and Associates at the Frost Town site in downtown Houston for several years. Over 250,000 artifacts have been recovered from this site and members of HAS have handled a lot of them – and this lab was no exception. Rumor has it that Doug may be back at Frost Town later this fall to start another project and we're really looking forward to working with him again! Thanks HAS members for volunteering for this terrific project!



The Team in Frank's driveway



More of the lab team washing artifacts.



We recovered a huge number of marbles at the site – this is just a small collection



Mary Compton sets up flats



Frank Kozar sorting artifacts



Frank Kozar and Larry Golden examine the artifacts that have been washed and are drying in flats before bagging.



Patterned and painted ceramics



Interesting metal artifacts



Once the artifacts were dry, the team sorted them, bagged them, tagged them, put them in boxes and labeled the boxes ready to be delivered to Austin to Doug Boyd.

Another job well done!

FROST TOWN SHARDS: GLASS CANDY CONTAINERS - Larry Golden

Among the more amusing artifacts recovered from the Frost Town archeological site were the glass candy containers. Recovered from different features at the site these containers span over 50 years of children and parents making the trip to the local five and dime store or eagerly awaiting the catalog delivery from Sears or Montgomery Ward. The contents of these toy containers were typically sugary multi-colored pellets. There are over 400 known toy and souvenir containers featuring comic characters, guns, cars, firetrucks, military vehicles, animals, landmarks, etc. as well as a host of seasonal holiday items and figures.

The first American made container came in the form of the Liberty Bell, introduced at the "1776 – 1876 Centennial Exposition" by the Croft, Wilbur & Co. Confectioners of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The majority of candy the container manufacturers were located in Pennsylvania with the heart of production being in Jeanette. Manufacturers in Jeanette included Jeanette Glass Co., Victory Glass Co., J.H. Millstein, J. Stough Co., T.H. Stough Co. and the J.C. Crosetti Co. and these companies spanned the peak of production from the 1900s to the 1960s.

The groups of photos below show some of the shards recovered from Frost Town together with the complete container associated with them.





1930s locomotive, Victory Glass Co. Jeanette, Pa.





1900s barn style lantern, West Bros. Grapeville, Pa.





1940s fire engine, Victory Glass Co. Jeanette, Pa





1950s ribbed base lantern, T.H. Stough Co. Jeanette, Pa

Shards recovered and not shown included a 1940s rabbit by T.H. Stough Co. and a 1940s streamlined car by the Victory Glass Co.

Native Plants of Texas – Then and Now: "Spanish Moss" By Beth Kennedy

When many people think of the "Old South," they call to mind a grove of trees, most often Bald Cypress or Live Oak, laden with long drapes of a gray-white plant called "Spanish Moss." Surprisingly, this plant is neither native to Spain, nor is it a true moss! It is, though, ubiquitous across the South and into East and Central Texas, and has been a plant of some importance to both Native Americans and later settlers in these areas, and is still in use today in a variety of ways!



Photo Courtesy of Koyaanis Oatsi

Spanish Moss actually is a bromeliad, a taxonomic group numbering around 51 genera

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Spanish-moss-tree.jpg

and 3,475 species that includes pineapple and other often very colorful succulent house plants (Christenhusz and Byng 2016). The plant is composed of small grayish-white scales that individually grow up to about 6 centimeters long and 1 millimeter wide, and a unique aspect of Spanish Moss is that these individual plants cling to each other, often producing long, thick strands that resemble hair. The strands sometimes measure up to 18 or so feet, and can be seen hanging from the limbs of trees or sometimes telephone wires and fences. Unlike Mistletoe, it is not parasitic, as one might think. Instead, it is an "air plant," or epiphyte, in that its scales obtain water and other nutrients primarily from the air. Therefore, it does not grow roots into, nor does it sap nutrients from its host plant (although sometimes it may grow so densely that it prevents tree limbs from absorbing light as they should). Spanish moss is primarily a coastal plant with an affinity for the warm, humid climate of Eastern Virginia, south through North Carolina and Florida, and then west all the way into Central Texas. Spanish moss requires little water, in that its scales can trap and hold water until needed, and it is obviously shade tolerant!

Apparently, the first reference made to Spanish Moss in the Americas was Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca's mention, while being held captive on what was possibly Galveston Island, of Karankawa Indian women wearing a body covering made from a wool found growing on trees (quoted in Turner 2009). Jean Louis Berlandier, an early nineteenth century natural scientist/botanist on an expedition to study Indians in Texas, reported in 1828 that the Tonkawa and Caddo placed the moss under furs to soften sleeping pallets; the Atakapa used it as a diaper and as wicks for alligator-oil lamps (Berlandier, 1969). Other reports of Native American women wearing skirts made of Spanish moss have appeared in accounts from Louisiana and Florida, and there is archeological evidence showing that Native Americans in the southeastern United States used it to temper clay for vessels, and as a binding agent in wattle-and-daub dwellings (Carocci 2010). Additionally, French and Spanish colonials throughout the area where Spanish Moss was used by Native Americans apparently enjoyed naming the plant at each other's

expense: the French referred to the moss as *barbe espagnole*, meaning "Spanish beard", and the Spanish, in turn called it *perruque francaise*, or "French wig." Texas settlers in the 19th century saw the plant as an indication of foul air that often brought on disease. Those who settled in areas where Spanish Moss was found (humid, low-lying areas along coastlines, rivers and swamps) were aware, although they didn't understand that mosquitos transmitted disease, of an association between malaria, yellow fever, chills, etc., and the plant (Turner 2009).

As far as uses of Spanish Moss in more recent times, harvesting and ginning for commercial use as padding in car seats, mattresses and furniture occurred until the late 1930's. It was also used for mulch, and is today still used as mulch in craft making and in the floral industry in hanging baskets and other types of floral arrangements. Yes, humans find the plant useful, but so do animals such as birds, bats, frogs, lizards, and snakes! For example, yellow-throated warblers and northern parulas use the mats of moss for their nests, and one type of jumping spider (Pelegrina tillandsia) calls it home. Although Spanish Moss can be harvested and cured for home or garden use, reader beware: the moss contains a variety of insects, including sometimes the dreaded red bug, locally referred to as "chigger," in the strands reaching the ground (Booth, 2018)!

Spanish Moss has a definite place in the cultural history of Texas and the southeastern United States! Additionally, it plays an important role in the ecosystems of these areas in that it serves as habitat for a variety of animal species, and adds to the unique beauty of the South.

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Join HAS at International Archeology Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science

By Linda Gorski

Members of the Houston Archeological Society will participate in the Saturday, October 20th International Archeology Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. This will be the fourth year that we have taken part in this international event. Please read the announcement below from Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Curator of Anthropology at the HMNS who is organizing the event. We have reserved at least five tables for our HAS displays and hands on activities. Now we are looking for volunteers to man the tables and share the excitement of archeology with HMNS visitors. Please email me at lindagorski@cs.com if you can help us between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. - even for an hour or two.



Celebrate International Archeology Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, October 20, 2018

Archaeologists and related professionals are invited to participate in the Fourth Annual International Archaeology Day festivities at the Houston Museum of Natural Science on Saturday, October 20, 2018 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Once again, the event will feature displays outdoors and in the Grand Hall (accessible to the public free of charge) and in Glassell Hall, the Hall of Human Evolution, the Hall of Ancient Egypt, and the Hall of the Americas (accessible with museum admission; only museum-based displays will be placed inside the ticketed area).

Tables are available for CRM firms, academic departments, and all professional and avocational archaeological organizations that wish to set up booths, displays, or demonstrations. IAD is great opportunity to showcase archaeology and your research - and to engage, inform, and educate the general public about archaeology and related disciplines. The event was well attended over the past years, and visitors left excited about the many facets of archaeology - both local and farther afield. A few popular activities in the past years included artifact identification, mapping, flint-knapping, drone demonstrations, underwater archaeology, forensic anthropology, artifact displays, and museum touch carts and hall tours. The sky's the limit - literally!

The museum will supply tables, table coverings, and chairs. They will be set up and ready to go early Saturday morning. Please let us know about how many tables and chairs you will need, and if you require access to an outlet for audiovisual equipment. We will make sure tables and booths are placed accordingly. In addition, the Volunteer Guild of the Houston Museum of Natural Science will provide a hospitality room downstairs in the Volunteer Library, equipped with coffee, water, and light snacks. Look forward to seeing you there!

Important Announcements

HAS Annual Meeting

The September Meeting will be the Society's Annual Meeting where we will vote on the nominations for the Board of Directors for next year.

As presented at the August meeting the nominations are:

President: Linda Gorski
Vice President: Larry Golden
Secretary: Beth Kennedy
Treasurer: Bob Sewell

Director-at-Large: Ashley Jones

The current Vice President, Louis Aulbach, will continue as the Publications Coordinator. Dub Crook and Liz Coon-Nguyen will remain as Directors-at-Large with 1 and 2 year terms respectively remaining.

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"Show and Tell" New Feature of HAS Monthly Meeting

If you missed the August 16 meeting of the Houston Archeological Society, you missed a fabulous display of glass flasks dating from 1830 – 1920 collected by HAS member Larry Golden. As you know Larry has instituted a new "show and tell" addition to our monthly meetings including a display of English clay pipes at the July meeting. The collection of flasks featured many colored examples as well as flasks with a variety of decorations. One of the best websites we've discovered for researching bottles and flasks is https://sha.org/bottle/. This website was developed by a member of the Bureau of Land Management who continues to update it in his retirement on the Society for Historical Archeology website. It is one of the most valuable research tools we've encountered.







Following the theme of the September 20th meeting, <u>Prehistoric Archeological Artifacts Recovered in Southeast Texas</u>, members of HAS will bring a display of stone tools, points and pottery for "show and tell". Come join us!

Houston Museum of Natural Science Lecture

"Facing the Past - Cases in Forensic Sculpture" by Amanda Danning

Forensic sculptor Amanda Danning performs facial reconstructions on skulls whose true appearance is unknown. She has worked on the most exciting anthropology finds in North America as well as criminal contemporary cases. Danning's captivating presentation combine will history and forensics technology. and artwrapped-up in brilliant visuals with



powerful story telling. Many HAS members know Amanda Danning for her facial reconstructions of the skulls recovered on the San Jacinto Battleground.

Nationally recognized, Danning's works have been featured in numerous books, articles and television programs. Over 100 of her sculptures are on display in the United States, including the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Early Bird to 9/17 - Members \$10, Tickets \$16. Regular price starting on 9/18 - Members \$14, Tickets \$20

Groups including the Houston Archeological Society receive \$5 off the regular nonmember ticket price for each lecture at the Museum - early-bird and regular prices. Present coupon code **Lec\$5off** at HMNS box office or 713.639.4629. (Coupons not accepted online). For more information see http://store.hmns.org/DateSelection.aspx?item=4034

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Programs for 2018/2019 7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June) Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road

October 18, 2018 – Linda Gorski – Happy Hollow: Emergency Salvage Archeology at a 19th Century **Brothel site in downtown Houston**

November 15, 2018 – Merle Hudgins – "Treasures Found and Unfound Along the Texas Gulf Coast" taken from text found in her latest book War Between the States Changed Texas Forever / pre-Civil War, Civil War, post-Civil War

December 13, 2018 - Linda Gorski - Annual Wrap up of 2018 HAS Activities

January 17, 2019 - Dub Crook - The Conquest of Canaan: Who Were Those Guys at Jericho?

February 21, 2019 - Dr. Tom Williams - Update on pre-Clovis artifacts recovered at the Gault Site.

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS then visited our website at www.txhas.org or email lindagorski@cs.com. You can also ioin **Facebook** our page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Please submit articles no later than September 25th for the October 2018 issue.

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

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