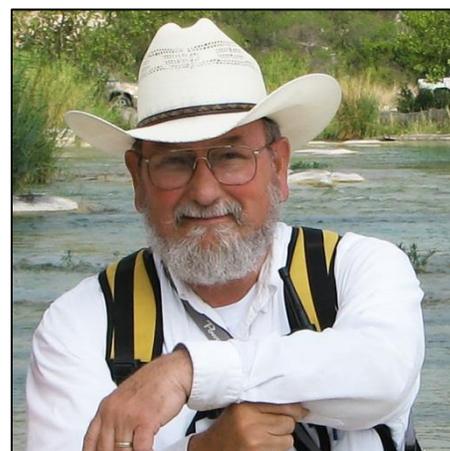




**Thursday, March 21st, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.**  
**“Comments on Painted Pebbles from Southwest Texas”**  
**with Elton Prewitt**

The March meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will feature a presentation by well-known Texas archeologist, Elton Prewitt, on a class of unique prehistoric artifacts called painted pebbles. The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 21, 7:00 p.m. at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center located at 1414 Wirt Road in the Spring Branch area. A social hour will begin at 6:30 with our monthly “show and tell”, snacks and conversation. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public. Please join us!!

“Small painted stones found in dry rock shelters throughout the Lower Pecos Canyonlands have intrigued avocational and professional archeologists for nearly a century,” said Prewitt. “Traditionally interpreted as ritual objects, they often are attributed to women's roles in increase rituals involving fertility and water abundance, with specific motifs linked to natural phenomena relating to life cycles. Post-painting breakage of painted pebbles is common. Once they were used for their intended purposes, they apparently no longer were sacred and were returned to secular use as mundane tools. Many pebbles, whether whole or broken, display pitting and scratching suggestive of knapping tools.”



In his talk Prewitt will discuss the history of pebble investigations, the previously defined styles of painted pebbles and their variability through time. He will also explore the differences in painting techniques, the colors used, and the kinds of stones selected in the sample of over 700 specimens currently under analysis. Some of the problems encountered during analysis of painted pebbles are reviewed, including preservation and post-excavation/collection treatment. Some of the component elements observed and their variation in placement are described. While interpretations of the meaning of the painted images are far from being identified, he and his collaborators on the project, Dr. Jean Clottes of Foix, France, and Dr. Carolyn Boyd of Galveston who holds the Shumla Endowed Professorship at Texas State University in San Marcos, have come up with a few suggestions for avenues of research which he will share.

A native of Kirbyville, Texas, Elton Prewitt received his BA and MA degrees in anthropology and geography from the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Prewitt is currently a Research Fellow at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The University of Texas at Austin. A Registered Professional Archeologist, the retired co-founder of Prewitt and Associates Inc., also holds an adjunct appointment in the Department of Anthropology at Texas State University. He currently serves on the boards of directors of the Shumla Archeological Research and Education Center, and the Gault School of Archeological Research. His area of interest is Texas archeology, and over the past 55-plus years has worked in every part of the state. He has authored or co-authored numerous monographs, articles and book chapters, and has delivered over 90 papers, lectures and talks. His areas of specialty include southern plains prehistory, projectile point morphology, regional Texas chronologies and portable art.

Parking at the Trini Mendenhall Center is free of charge. For more information about this meeting, please contact [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com).



## President's Message – Linda Gorski

As most of you know, the stated mission of the Houston Archeological Society is “to foster enthusiastic interest and active participation in the discovery, documentation and preservation of cultural resources (prehistoric and historic) of the City of Houston, the Houston metropolitan area, and the Upper Texas Coast Region.” To accomplish this goal, HAS holds monthly membership meetings with invited lecturers who speak on various topics of archeology and history. In turn, members of HAS also give lectures and programs to local groups to share our enthusiasm for archeology with others. And February was no exception!

HAS members Sharon Menegaz and Brenda Jackson presented a fantastic outreach program to the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching – CAST – on February 16 in Orange, Texas. Their display of hands-on artifacts was a huge hit with the several hundred teachers attending the conference. They also distributed packets of educational information and activities developed by the Texas Archeological Society and

by Menegaz, HAS Education Coordinator. If you are a teacher and would like one of these packets, please email Sharon at [smenegaz@rcseaglesonline.org](mailto:smenegaz@rcseaglesonline.org)



Who better to pass along our love for archeology than to the Boy Scouts of America!!! Louis Aulbach, Bob Sewell and I presented a program to a group of eager Boy Scouts at Kinkaid School on February 25<sup>th</sup>. These Scouts were awesome! They asked some fabulous questions ... and many of them had great answers to the questions we asked too! I think there are some budding archeologists in this group! We were impressed with these Scouts and with their dedicated leaders and hope to get them out in the field with us soon. If you'd like us to give a presentation to your group, email me at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com) and we'll help you set it up



# Houston Archeological Society

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

### February 21, 2019

**Welcome New Members and Guests to our meeting location at Trini Mendenhall Community Center (Linda Gorski, President).** Our first order for HAS hats is completely sold out! If you'd like one from the next batch, please see Bob after tonight's meeting. They are \$10 each. Also, everyone, please see the drawing completed by Carl Belleri of John Rich taking a nap at San Felipe de Austin!

**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):** HAS membership for 2019 is currently 153, with several more folks added tonight.

**MEMBERSHIPS for 2019 are now being accepted. Anyone who has joined HAS since August is good for 2019. If you were a member in 2018 and have not yet renewed, your membership will end on March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

#### **New Business**

**Publications (Dub Crook):** Next month we will have our first publication for 2019! This report will be a compendium of munitions articles, all written by our munitions expert Tom Nuckols! In May, we will publish our second Roman journal, which will include articles of interest about the Roman legion, Roman temples, Corinth, Capernaum, and the Emperor Constantine, among others.

**Reports and Journals for members to pick up (Louis Aulbach):** Members have picked up all the journals and reports for tonight. We will bring more next month!

**Monthly Show and Tell (Linda Gorski):** Everyone, please be sure to check out our "show and tell" for tonight: John Lumb's collection of doctors' knives! Also, several HAS members visited John Kemp's house in the Heights to do some metal detecting to determine the history of the site, and discovered a hole from which they pulled 1,052 buttons! See Larry Golden for a display after the meeting. Many buttons are still left in the hole for a return visit!

#### **Projects and Events:**

**East Texas Archeological Conference Tyler Texas (Linda Gorski):** HAS members Dub Crook and Dan Worrall are both scheduled to present at this meeting, which will be on Saturday, February 23. Email me for more information.

**Cotton Field Report (Dr. Jason Barrett):** Dr. Barrett reports that the site was back-filled last Saturday.

**Kleb Woods Public Archeology Project (Ashley Jones):** Our next date for work at Kleb Woods is Friday, March 1, and we'll be doing a public outreach for Sharon Menegaz's 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is a great opportunity to get a trowel in the ground and to help students learn about archeology! Anyone who is interested should contact Sharon.

**San Felipe de Austin Shovel Testing (Sarah Chesney):** We have been working on more STP's at San Felipe. We also plan more work behind the museum in preparation for the building of houses representative of those at the original town of San Felipe. Additionally, we have found what possibly may be a wagon rut!

**Archeology Now Presents "On The Trail" (Jack Farrell):** The AIA-Houston Society will help sponsor this event at the HMNS this coming Saturday, February 23, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event will focus on discovering the background of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo through an exploration of the world's horse cultures, as well as Bedouin and Native American cultures. Jack will also present a program on March 7 to the Houston Gem and Mineral Society on A Brief History of Asian Archery.

**March Program: Elton Prewitt will present on the Painted Pebbles of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands.**

**February Meeting Program: Dr. Tom Williams from the Gault School discussed pre-Clovis artifacts recovered at the site.** Thomas Williams is the Assistant Executive Director of the Gault School of Archaeological Research and a Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Prehistory Research Project in the Anthropology Department, Texas State University. He has worked on the Gault Site collections for the past 6 years and has published on the early cultural materials. His research focus is the earliest human occupations of the Americas, specifically stone tool technology, manufacturing processes, and broader patterns in global human expansion. He earned his PhD in Archaeology from the University of Exeter, UK.

*Beth Kennedy, Secretary*

## Return to Cotton Field – What One Long Trench Revealed

By Dr. Jason Barrett and Linda Gorski

As most of you know, the Houston Archeological Society has been actively involved in excavations at the Cotton Field site (41HR155) on the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Colorado County for several years. This property, south of Columbus on the Colorado River, is owned by HAS members Rita Tait and Ed Jackson. Led by HAS member Dr. Jason Barrett, surveys on this property began in 2014 and three TAS field schools were held here from 2014 to 2016 with Dr. Barrett serving as the PI (Principal Investigator).

Following the final field school, the site was left open and HAS continued to excavate, finally completing the last of the work planned at the site in December 2016. The excavation area was left open as Rita and Ed had hoped to find a university interested in continuing excavations at the site. However, Hurricane Harvey flooded the excavation area, and the decision was made to backfill the site to prevent further damage. On Saturday, February 9, 2019 we returned to Cotton Field for the last time, accompanying Dr. Barrett and Dr. Charles Frederick, the leading geoarcheologist in Texas. Members of the Houston and Brazosport Archeological Societies – along with backhoe expert David Calame from Borderlands Archeology – were on hand to help accomplish the work.

According to Dr. Barrett, the Cotton Field site at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch is located beneath a meter of recent floodplain sediments. Excavations over a period of three years produced several thermal cooking features, bison and deer processing areas, and numerous large mussel shell clusters indicative of meal preparation. Early excavations at the site proved it to be well stratified, with a consistent separation between the Toyah phase assemblage of higher deposits and an underlying Austin phase assemblage. Broadly speaking, Perdiz, Bonham, and Alba arrow points characterized the upper deposit, while Scallorn arrow points and a small number of dart points were typically identified in deeper excavations.

Frederick completed a detailed analysis of sediments from the site after the 2014 field season, revealing occupation episodes in even greater detail. In all, it now appears that eight to ten well-stratified occupation episodes are present at the site, with potentially more located in the deeper, unexcavated sediments. On Saturday Barrett and Frederick excavated a long, 3.5 meter deep trench across the site prior to backfilling. In the walls of the trench, bits of mussel shell, animal bone, fire-cracked rock, stone tools, and prehistoric pottery jutted out, juxtaposed against the many color and texture changes. Barrett showed how the various dark bands represented former living surfaces, while Frederick added that many other living surfaces, unassociated with obvious differences in soil color, were revealed by microscopic differences in sand volume. While often unobservable while excavating, the lineal distribution of artifacts across these past surfaces seemed so obvious when staring at the 6-ft-long, 3.5-ft-deep exposure. Obvious too were the many pits that extended below floor surfaces, most containing charcoal and fired cobbles.

Although field excavations at the site now have been completed, HAS members continue to sort and catalog the many artifacts that were recovered during excavations. Once that work is complete, those artifacts can be analyzed by specialists and a picture of the activities that once took place at the site between about AD 650 and AD 1500 will take shape. Thanks to Ed and Rita for being such gracious hosts and allowing us to dig up Texas history (and prehistory) on their property!!!



David Calame from Borderlands Archeology ran the backhoe.



Dr. Frederick and Dr. Barrett giving a lesson in profiling to the crew



Dr. Jason explaining what the staining on the walls of trench means.

## LEON SLIP – THE TEXAS STATE GLAZE? – Larry Golden

If there was a vote to choose the most unique Texas glaze or slip for utilitarian ware, which potter would it be?

First choice - Would have to be the Leon slip produced by Meyer and Schultz from the 1880s to 1944 at Atascosa TX, which is unique to the state and was not used by other potters. In the Georgeanna Greer and Harding Black book "THE MEYER FAMILY: MASTER POTTERS OF TEXAS" one paragraph describes the location of the clay vein " *The slip glaze clay which the Meyer plant used for the majority of its glazed pottery, the workmen dug from a small hill on the Leon Creek bank and prepared themselves. Exposed by the creek's cutting through the hill near the old Frio City Road crossing, the yellow clay outcrop belonged to Milton Friedrich, a San Antonian who generously allowed interested parties free access to the area for digging. Although few of their local competitors did so, the Meyers dug from the clay bank regularly as the need arose, on their way to and from San Antonio. They continued to extract Leon slip clay until 1944 when the land became United States Government property. It is now within the boundaries of Kelly Field*"



A second paragraph describes how we get these unusual colors for utilitarian wares." *The Leon slip clay glaze has an almost endless variation in its color and finish. Thickness of the glaze depended upon thickness of the slip solution, and this fluctuated. Deeper colors resulted from thicker coatings of glaze. Color and texture of the glaze also varied with firing conditions. The position of pots in the kiln subjected them to different temperatures, thereby affecting the finish. A pot near the firebox became bright and shiny in the 2300 degree heat, while one at a greater distance, firing at 2100 degrees, emerged with a dull or mat finish. Weather conditions during the firing also exerted an influence. On a cold day the intense draft of the kiln produced an oxidizing atmosphere and resultant yellow and brown colors. In contrast, the poor draft on a humid summer day created a reducing environment and colors in shade of greens or celadon."*

*The Meyer family has donated the 2 acre pottery site to the Archeological Conservancy for future studies and excavations.*

*Other choices would include Milligan Frazier (slave) who was a potter for Jefferson Nash (an Edgefield trained potter) in Marion County during the 1860s and operated "Milligan's Jug Works" in the 1890s. He was known to gather bottles, break them and grind them into a fine powder, mixing them with powdered sand and water. He then would apply this mixture like paint to his wares on occasion. Milligan typically used an alkaline glaze which would show great runs of dark green glaze over a lighter green.*

*Who would leave out the Wilson family of potters (slaves 1857- 1860s and freedmen 1860s -1903) and their alkaline glaze with its great runs and spots?*

**YOU CHOOSE!**

## Notes on Munitions: Hodge's Bend Cemetery

By Tom Nuckols

My eldest son John has taken an interest in old cemeteries and historical markers. Recently, he and I visited a cemetery near his home east of where Old Richmond Road and Pheasant Creek Drive intersect in Sugar Land, Texas. A historical marker at the cemetery entrance reads:

### Hodge's Bend Cemetery

A veteran of Swamp Fox Francis Marion's  
South Carolina brigade  
during the American Revolution.  
Alexander Hodge (b. 1760) brought  
his family to Texas in 1825. Hodge  
was prominent among the Old  
Three Hundred settlers; his sons  
fought in the Texas Revolution. His  
1828 land grant from Stephen F.  
Austin, named Hodge's Bend, included  
the site for this cemetery. First  
grave here was that of his wife  
Ruth, who died in 1831. Hodge was  
buried here in 1836. The cemetery  
contains about 75 graves, including  
those of Hodge's descendants and  
other early settlers in the area.  
The last burial here was in 1942.

After reading the marker, I stood there for a while with that “I can’t believe what I just read feeling”; one of Steven F. Austin’s Old Three Hundred Colonists had fought with Francis Marion’s brigade!

I learned about Francis Marion when I was a kid. From 1959 to 1961, Walt Disney produced a television miniseries (eight episodes) called “The Swamp Fox.” The show starred Leslie Nielsen and was loosely based on Marion’s American Revolutionary War exploits. The show’s theme song “Swamp Fox, Swamp Fox, tail on his hat”, was sung by Nielsen (Wikipedia 2018).

Francis Marion was born in Berkley County, South Carolina in 1732. At the age of 15, Marion became a sailor on a ship bound for the West Indies. In route, the ship sank. Marion and some of his crew mates escaped in a life boat.

Marion returned to South Carolina and managed his families’ plantation. At the age of 25, Marion joined the South Carolina militia during the French and Indian War (1754-1763) and fought against the Cherokees Indians. Marion found that the Cherokees used the landscape to their advantage, concealing themselves in the backwoods and conducting devastating ambushes. Eventually, he would use these tactics against the British in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1773, Marion purchased a plantation called “Pond Bluff” in Orangeburg County, South Carolina. In 1775, he was elected to the first South Carolina Provincial Congress. After the 1775 American Revolutionary war battles of Lexington and Concord, Marion was commissioned a captain in one of three regiments voted on by the Provincial Congress. His first assignment involved building Fort Sullivan in the harbor of Charleston, South

Carolina. In 1779, he and his troops fought in the failed Franco-American attempt to take the British-occupied city of Savannah, Georgia.

In March of 1780, Marion attended a dinner party in Charleston at the home of a fellow officer. The host in accordance with 18<sup>th</sup>-century custom, had locked all the doors of his house while the guests toasted the American Revolutionary cause. Marion sensed a trap and escaped by jumping out a second-floor window, breaking an ankle in the fall. By leaving town to recuperate, he eluded capture by the British who occupied the town in May.

In August, 1780, Marion took command of a 50-man militia and began using guerilla tactics to attack the British. Because of this, South Carolina became an inhospitable place for the British.

In November, 1780 British Lieutenant Banastre Tarleton chased Marion's militia for 26 miles over a seven-hour time period. After Marion and his men escaped into a swamp, Tarleton stated: "As for this damned old fox, the Devil himself could not catch him." Because of this, the locals who hated the British nicknamed Marion "The Swamp Fox."

Marion never attacked the British in frontal warfare, but repeatedly surprised larger bodies of Loyalists or British regulars with quick surprise attacks and equally quick withdrawal from the field. British General Charles Cornwallis observed "Colonel Marion had so wrought the minds of the people, partly by the terror of his threats and cruelty of his punishments, and partly by the promise of plunder, that there was scarcely an inhabitant between the Santee (River) and the Pee Dee (River) that was not in arms against us."

After the war, Marion returned to his plantation and served several terms in the South Carolina State Senate. He died at his plantation in 1795, at the age of 63, and was buried at Belle Isle Plantation Cemetery in Berkeley County, South Carolina (Oller 2016).

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## HAS EMBROIDERED HATS

The first batch of HAS embroidered hats has sold out. We have ordered another batch that should arrive shortly. They are \$10 each and are only available for purchase by HAS members. If you are interested in purchasing one of them then please contact Bob Sewell [robert-sewell@att.net](mailto:robert-sewell@att.net).



# Native Plants of Texas – Then and Now: Prickly Pear Cactus

## By Beth Kennedy



Courtesy of Jon Sullivan  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org>

Anyone having had the misfortune of brushing against a prickly pear cactus knows the plant's spines can result in a situation requiring their tedious removal with tweezers, and sometimes even a visit to the doctor for extraction of a spine(s) stubbornly lodged in the skin, and accompanied by the occasional infection! Yes, the infamous prickly pear (*nopal*, in Spanish) has long been vilified for the health dangers its thorns pose to both humans and animals, as well as for its affinity for dry, hot climates and rocky landscapes barren of vegetation other than mesquite trees, conditions distinctly unattractive to many people, particularly those with a preference for fertile, green fields, or towering, lush forests. Matt Turner in his book *Remarkable Plants of Texas* (2009, 248) asserts that when the Texas Legislature in 1995 named the prickly pear cactus the official State Plant, "those outside the Southwest might well have remarked on the mounting evidence for the inherent insanity of Texans"! For all the negative press surrounding prickly pear, however, this native plant actually has an important place in the history of Texas, serving at times as a vital food source for both humans and animals.

Prickly pear cactus belongs to the genus *Opuntia*, and around 10 varieties can be found growing in varying densities in all parts of the state except the Northeast (Rakowitz 1997, 15). The cacti form dense, sometimes almost impenetrable, thickets growing up to eight feet across and five feet high. The plant itself typically has flat, rounded, or oval, pads (*nopalitos*), with two types of spines:

harder, larger spines, and small, barbed, almost invisible, hair-like spines that easily detach from the pad when coming in contact with an animal's nose, for example, or a person's clothing or bare skin! Indeed, attempting to gather the tunas, or walking along a trail while ignoring surrounding vegetation can be a precarious experience in prickly pear country! However, the prickly pear, depending on the species, produces very colorful flowers ranging from yellow, to red to orange to magenta, as well as a delicious, very sweet, red to purplish edible fruit (tuna). Prickly pear varieties are determined by pad size, spine distribution on the pads, and spine and fruit color and size; however, as the species are difficult to identify, they are often lumped into the generic "prickly pear cactus" (*Opuntia*) category!

Throughout Texas history, and that of the Southwest United States and northern Mexico, various parts of the prickly pear cactus have provided sustenance and remedy for a variety of human conditions, with the pads and tuna of the plant playing the foremost roles. As with most cacti, the pads and roots of the prickly pear are uniquely designed for water retention. The pads are flat but act as the plant's stems (prickly pear have no leaves), and possess the ability to store large amounts of water, along with their shallow, horizontal roots that can collect very minute amounts of rainfall. Also, as with most other cacti species, the prickly pear has the ability to gather carbon dioxide at night and process it during the day, a means of conserving water during gas exchange (Turner 2009, 251). Thus, as a food and moisture source, prickly pear ranks high on the list among Texas' Native American groups, as well as early explorers in the state!

In prehistoric times (archeological evidence suggests millennia into the past), prickly pear pads have been used as a food source, along with luchuguilla and sotol, but unlike those two other food sources, prickly pear could be eaten raw, giving it an advantage of rapid availability for human consumption. In addition, prickly pear fruit, which matures from mid to late summer, has a high sugar content (around 70 to 80% sugar in the form primarily of fructose). Before the introduction of sugar cane and honeybees to the New World, native peoples took advantage of this high sugar content in the fruit, along with the vitamin C, calcium and phosphorus it provided. Evidence exists for this from the 9000 year- old cooking pit, located in Val Verde County, near a Devil's River tributary, in which prickly pear fruit and seed were the second most abundant plant remains found (walnuts remains were the most abundant). Additionally, along the Pecos River, 6000 year- old coprolites contained prickly pear seeds and seed fragments, another indication of the fruit's importance (Turner 2009, 251-253).

Moving into historic times, Cabeza de Vaca's recounting of the Narvaez expedition, which landed on the Texas Gulf Coast in late 1528, offers numerous examples of the importance of prickly pear tuna as food for Native Americans they encountered there. In one account, de Vaca mentions two Indian groups (the Mariames and Iguaces) who traveled into prickly pear country to gather tuna, after which they ventured into the area around the lower Guadalupe River to feast on pecans. De Vaca describes the tuna as follows, saying they were ". . . the size of eggs. They are black and bright red and taste good. They eat them three months of the year, in which they do not eat anything else" (Carson 2018, 100-101). De Vaca also later mentions that he and members of another Indian group "ate many tuna leaves, and roasted them that night in an oven . . . . It gave off so much heat that in the morning, they were ready to eat" (Carson 2018, 137). Another explorer to Texas, La Salle, also encountered the prickly pear while in Texas, as described in the Journal of Henri Joutel, ". . .the leaves [he is referring to the pads] are full of quills, and even the fruit have them all around." Joutel goes on to recount how one of LaSalle's men unfortunately consumed a tuna without wiping off the thorns or "stripping the fruit," a mistake that cost the soldier his life due to the small thorns becoming entrapped in his throat, causing a deadly inflammation that suffocated the man (Joutel 1998). Indeed, taking great care while gathering either prickly pear tunas or the pads is paramount in avoiding what could become a deadly threat to one's life. This fact was known by Indians who took advantage of the pads and tunas as a food source. The pad's spines may be removed by either singeing or scraping, after which they may be consumed in a variety of ways such as eating them raw, or boiling, roasting or steaming the pads (Turner 2009, 251). As Joutel's account indicates, tunas should be rubbed or washed, or even peeled to prevent ingestion of thorns which may have attached themselves to the fruit. Indians making use of this cactus as food, using various techniques for spine removal, include the Mescalero and Lipan Apache, Kickapoo, Karankawa, Jumano, Comanche, Tonkawa, and Kiowa (Turner 2009, 254).

Another significant use of prickly pear pads was (and in some cases, still is) for the treatment of skin conditions, including insect bites, sores, sunburns, ulcers, snakebites, and boils, as well as for sores around the mouth or infected gums. The pads were rendered free of spines, cut laterally, and the inside, gelatinous "goo" was used as a poultice. This technique was employed, for example, by the Mescalero Apache and the Kiowa, as well as ranchers up and down both sides of the Rio Grande. And, interestingly enough, the gel can be used to varnish buckskin moccasins (the Kiowa); to fix colors painted on skins (Appalachian tribes), or boiled with tallow, to harden candles. When mixed with charcoal, the gel can be used as a sun screen, and finally, even today, recommended by survivalists, the gel and pads can be stirred into muddy water and allowed to form a scum which, when it settles, drags impurities and sediment down to the bottom, thus leaving clear water on top (Turner 2009, 252). One final note about the use of prickly pear in Texas is its importance to the survival of both livestock, particularly cattle, as well as wildlife, especially in the western and southern areas of the state. While it is scientifically not a good food source, in hard times it can be used to feed cattle, after spine removal on both sides of the pads. Wildlife, including javelina, many bird species (turkey, quail and dove, and road runners), white tail deer, the Texas tortoise, jack rabbits, fox and coyote, packrats and mice, honey bees, and butterflies, to name a few, use this plant for shelter, food, or a source of nectar (Rakowitz 1997, 15-16).

Although in ways, the prickly pear has been a mixed blessing in Texas, the State Legislature in 1995 designated it as the official state plant. Justifications stipulated for this act include the following: this plant is a "hearty and beautiful denizen of the Texas landscape"; it "provided nourishment to the earliest inhabitants" of the state; it is a "staple of the Mexican diet, and has a growing popularity in Lone Star cuisine"; "is often grown as forage for cattle and has had a tremendous positive impact on the vital Texas cattle industry"; and finally, "has proven to be a popular landscape choice for all who want to have a little bit of Texas in their own backyards." In the opinion of the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the prickly pear "is singularly qualified to represent the indomitable and proud Texas spirit as an official state symbol (House Concurrent Resolution #44).

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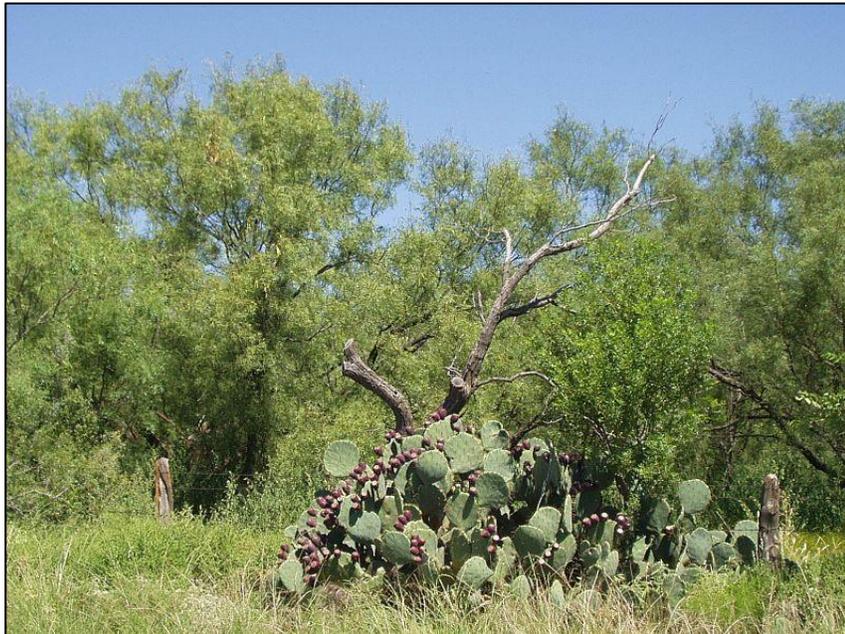
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*Prickly Pear Cactus in Central Texas*

*Photographer Pschemp*

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## **HAS Memberships for 2019 Are Now Due**

**We hope you will renew your membership in the Houston Archeological Society and maybe even give a membership as a gift to someone you know will enjoy digging up Texas history with us – one trowel full at a time. You can download a membership form here <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf>**

**Our membership is the best deal in town:**

**\$25 Individual membership**

**\$30 Family Membership**

**\$35+ Contributing membership**

**\$15 Student membership**

**Remember that benefits of your membership include the unique opportunity to dig with us at archeological sites in the area, work with us at our labs where we process artifacts from those sites, and your FREE copies of our current academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals. Please join us!!!!**

**Houston Archeological Society**  
**Monthly Meeting Programs for 2019**  
**6:30pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)**  
**Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road**

**April 18, 2019** - Jeffrey Girard, **Discovery and Recovery of a 14<sup>th</sup> Century Dugout Canoe on the Red River**

**May 16, 2019** - Dr. Jason Barrett, **Trade Trails and Meeting Locations in SE Texas Prehistory**

**April 18, 2019** - Jeffrey Girard, **Discovery and Recovery of a 14<sup>th</sup> Century Dugout Canoe on the Red River**

**May 16, 2019** - Dr. Jason Barrett, **Trade Trails and Meeting Locations in SE Texas Prehistory**

**June – No meeting due to TAS Field School**

**July 18, 2019** – Report on TAS Field School at Palo Duro Canyon

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS then visit our website at [www.txhas.org](http://www.txhas.org) or email [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com). You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at [newsletter@txhas.org](mailto:newsletter@txhas.org). Please submit articles no later than March 26th for the April 2019 issue.

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