



**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, April 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Featuring Alexandra Younger Discussing Excavations at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site**



Hello HAS members,

The April monthly members meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2025, beginning at 6:00 p.m. This will take place in person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center as a hybrid meeting also offering a Zoom link for those who cannot join us in person. We invite all members to bring historical or archeology-related maps as a show-and-tell display. The lecture will be recorded, uploaded later, and archived on the HAS YouTube channel

At our April meeting, we will welcome speaker Alexandra Younger, who is a senior archeologist at Integrated Environmental Solutions, LLC, a cultural resources firm in Denton, Texas. Following graduation from Appalachian State University, she began her career as an archeologist in Williamsburg, Virginia. Younger moved to Texas ten years ago and has since earned a Master of Science degree in Geography from the University of North Texas. Her professional experience spans the northern, eastern, and central Texas areas and includes archaic, prehistoric, and historic-age sites. Stone tool analysis, geoarchaeology, remote sensing, databasing, historic ecology, and cultural resource management are among her repertoire of applications in archeology. As the current president of the North Texas Archeological Society, much of her personal time is dedicated to outreach and public archeology.

Younger will be discussing the recent excavations at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, where she serves as the Principal Investigator. A six-year renovation of the museum and associated buildings on the site began in late 2023. Also known as the “Birthplace of Texas,” the town is best known as the site of the Convention of 1836 and the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico. The Texas Historical Commission plans to reconstruct early-to-mid-nineteenth century buildings related to the events and major players of Texas Independence. Alexandra and her team led the investigations to locate and identify domestic and architectural remains of these loci including a tavern where David Crockett once stayed, Sam Houston’s office, and Hatfield’s Exchange where the eighth and ninth Texas congresses assembled. A total of forty-three features were recorded and tens of thousands of artifacts collected, which are currently being analyzed for the purpose of informing the reconstruction that will turn the park into a living history museum. While synthesis of these findings is ongoing, a significant portion of preliminary results from this presentation will be incorporated into the upcoming park and museum improvements.

As HAS members know, we unfortunately had to cancel the March 20 meeting due to our speaker, Becky Shelton, Texas Historical Commission archeologist, having a family emergency. We certainly wish Becky and her family well. Fortunately, HAS members were welcomed to the March 20 lecture by Christophe Besnier, Director of Archaeology Excavations Notre-Dame de Paris, hosted by our colleagues, Archeology Now. Held at the University of St. Thomas, Besnier revealed major new archaeological knowledge discovered during the restoration of at Notre-Dame after the devastating 2020 fire.

The Zoom link for our upcoming April 17 meeting will be sent to currently-registered members as we get closer to that date. I look forward to seeing you in person that evening at the [Trini Mendenhall Community Center](#), 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, 77055. I also hope to see you in the field at our various projects. For more information about this program or the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Bob Sewell at president@txhas.org. More information about Younger and her work may be found at [NTAS 10.10.2024 Alexandra Younger; Texas Archaeologist to Present Excavation Findings](#).

Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President

President's Message

During March, we continued working at all three of our project sites: Lone Oak, Goloby, and Walnut Tree Hill.

Lone Oak - We had a great turnout for the Lone Oak site with fifteen folks participating, seven of whom were new members on their first visit to an archeological site.



Walnut Tree Hill - Our visit to the Walnut Tree Hill site saw us start to open a couple of the shovel tests previously identified as potential units. We only got down to 20cm, so we have not reached cultural deposit level, but found what could be an abrader. The next visit should become more productive.



Goloby - We continued working at the Goloby site and found a biface preform at about 60 cm.



Job Vacancy, Publications Editor - We have an open vacancy for a Publications Editor. Responsibilities will include collecting journal articles and/or report material, proofreading and liaising with the authors, and formatting into a document for publication. Skills should include proficiency with MSWord. Additionally, you will receive exposure to Kindle Direct Publishing/Amazon. This would be a wonderful opportunity for a member to enhance their resume. Contact president@txhas.org if you are interested.

HAS Membership for 2025 - A final reminder that 2024 memberships expired at the end of March. Folks who have not renewed by April 1, 2025, unfortunately will be removed from our membership list. Among the benefits as a member, you will receive invitations to our excavation activities. In addition, you also get to participate in the monthly meetings via Zoom if you cannot make the meeting in-person or if we only conduct the meetings virtually. You can easily sign up again using a credit/debit card by going to our membership page at www.txhas.org/membership.html OR complete the form and mail it in with your check. Our mailing address is on our website. We look forward to welcoming you back to HAS for 2025 and seeing many of you out in the field or at our monthly meetings. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please contact treasurer@txhas.org.

Bob Sewell, HAS President

Resetting the Stones at Stonehenge for Daylight Saving Time

Sometimes captioned as a joke about resetting Stonehenge for Daylight Saving Time for April Fools' fun, this is actually a photo of some of the past "vigorous" restoration of the ancient site ([Curios.com/stonehenge](https://www.curios.com/stonehenge)). In fact, the majority of the stones were altered—"re-erected, straightened, or embedded in concrete between 1901 and 1964"—reconstructions that might be challenged today ([Concrete evidence | New Scientist](#)).



Photograph by R. J. C. Atkinson, 1958.
Source: English Heritage, <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/history-and-stories/history/conservation/>.



North Texas Archeological Society Monthly Meetings Available Via Zoom



We are pleased to welcome Alexandra Younger as our April speaker, and she also serves as the current president of the North Texas Archeological Society. She invites us to attend their monthly meetings, sharing with us that NTAS monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. except in June and December. The meetings are hybrid, held in-person at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in the Research & Education Building and also offered via Zoom. Guests are welcome at no charge. To receive the Zoom link, email info@ntas.org in advance. The upcoming NTAS meeting on April 10 features Kelsey E. Hanson, PhD, presenting *Technologies of Chromatic Prayer: Creating Blue-Green in Chaco Canyon*.

In the Pueblo world of the U.S. Southwest, color is integral to a complex system of relationships connecting cardinal directions, animals, plants, sociopolitical structures, and sacred geographies. The preparation of paint is often viewed as an act of chromatic prayer that reinforces these relationships. This talk explores the social and technological dimensions of chromatic prayer through the production of blue-green paint—a color tied to all-important rain and vegetation—using a case study from Chaco Canyon (A.D. 850–1150). Using innovative micro-sampling techniques and non-destructive methods, Hanson will describe a unique recipe for blue-green identified in Chacoan painted performance media, highlighting its widespread use among Chaco great houses. The act of creating blue-green served as both a powerful expression of identity and a means of participation in Chaco society, offering a unique window into broader social and cultural dynamics. Kelsey E. Hanson is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Arlington, specializing in interdisciplinary and collaborative archaeological research in the greater Southwest. Her work focuses on Indigenous technological innovation, land use, and sociopolitical change, with publications in *American Antiquity*, *Journal of Field Archaeology*, *Ethnoarchaeology*, and more.

Additional monthly NTAS meetings will be held May 8, featuring Yonavea Hawkins, and July 10, featuring Kim Cox. For more information, see the [Calendar](#).



Historic Railroad Maps of Texas

Jimmy Barrera



Figure 1. Gentry, Abram Morrice. Texas and New Orleans Railroad Company. Map of Texas, Showing the Line of the Texas and New Orleans Rail Road and Its Connections in the U.S. Source, 1860. Source: [Library of Congress](#).

The map from 1860 is one of the earliest rail maps for Texas (Fig. 1). This map is particularly interesting since rail was still a relatively new technology, with the concentrated network in eastern states. The year 1860 we know was very significant since the U.S. and Texas were on the brink of entering the Civil War, an event that would transform much, like regular use of rail by the U.S. military from the beginning and through the remainder of the Civil War. The 1860 map shows that Texas had relatively few rail lines, all concentrated around Houston (darker lines with tick marks are existing rail), with a few proposed routes heading north and west from Houston (dashed lines). Besides the rich history of rail across Texas and the U.S., this map may be another indication on how Houston eventually became the largest city in Texas.

The second map is from 1883 and shows the unbelievable explosion in rail infrastructure across Texas within a twenty-three-year period (Fig. 2). Rail lines now crisscross the entire eastern third of Texas, lines had been built across Texas into Mexico, and lines extended westward forming a connection from New Orleans to San Francisco through Texas (the Southern Transcontinental Railroad). This map provides a reminder that neither highway nor airport systems were the first transportation networks linking Texas and beyond. Seeing a map like this also helps explain why those pesky rails seem to be placed throughout cities (blaring the horn) and other areas where cars must stop and wait for trains: probably because the rail was already there before the roads, houses, and towns.

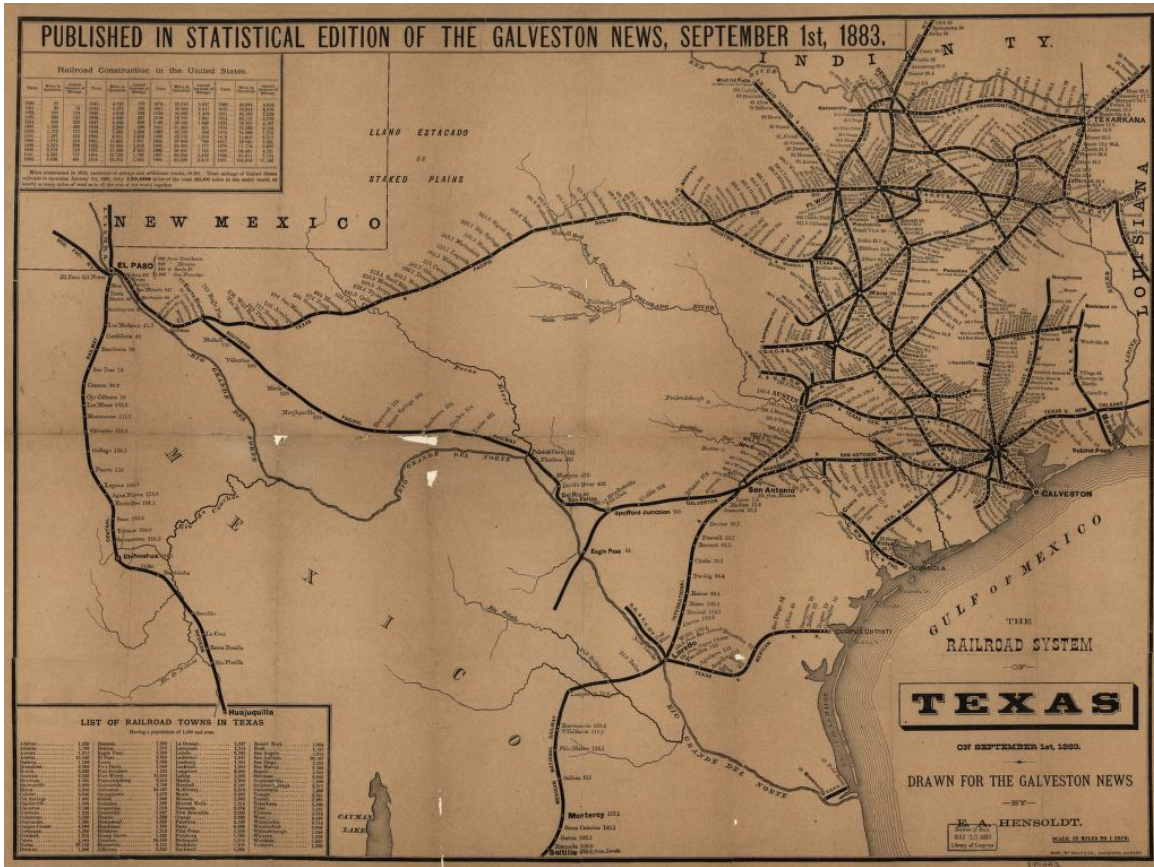
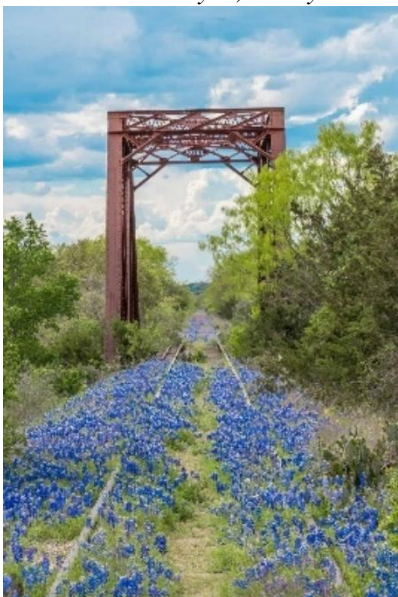


Figure 2. Hensoldt, E. A. Rand McNally and Company, 1883. The railroad system of Texas on September 1st, 1883. Source: [Library of Congress](#).

HAS member Jimmy Barrera (B.A. Anthropology - Texas State University and M.A. Anthropology - Texas Tech University) is an archeologist for the Federal Railroad Administration and involved with archeological projects across the United States. For over twenty-five years, he has conducted archeological investigations in Texas, many other states, Belize, Guatemala, and Oman. A past president of the North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS), he really enjoys staying actively involved with public outreach and volunteer projects via NTAS, TAS, CTA, SAA, and many other organizations. His research interests include public engagement with archeology, historical archeology, regulations, and fields related to site formation and site integrity. Although he resides in Arlington, HAS appreciates his frequent participation at our meetings remotely, his knowledge and expertise, and his leadership at TAS academies. Thank you, Jimmy!



Figure 3. James E. Barrera. Source: [ITAH Editorial Board](#).



Texas railroads continue to develop, modernize, and adapt. On March 3, Railroad Day at the State Capitol, short line railroaders gathered in Austin. Topics included the backlog of infrastructure work. Repairs and updates will encourage businesses to ship by rail rather than adding more truck transport onto the state's highways. House Bill 483 is under review by the House Transportation Committee concerning high speed intercity passenger railways between major Texas cities. From the time the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway Company was chartered in 1850 to the present, trains have provided a foundation for transportation, commerce, and development across our great, expansive state. Read more at Railroad Day at the Texas Capitol, [89\(R\) House Bill 483](#), [History for HB 483](#); [Texas Railroads: Map, History, Abandoned Lines](#); [The History of Railroads in Texas](#); [Railroads](#); [Texas and Pacific Railway](#). Photo source: [Best Spots in Texas](#).



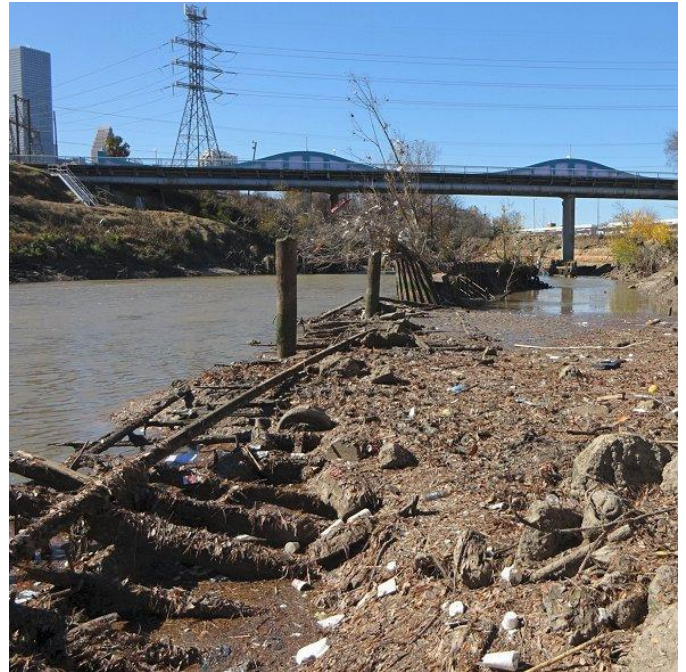
From the HAS Archives – A Long-Forgotten Railroad – With More to the Story



A repository of past issues of *The Profile* is available on the HAS website wherein you will find a wealth of archived articles, including this wonderful article from the February 2018 issue recounting a muddy bayou-side railway quest undertaken by Bob, Larry, Louis, and Linda—the description alone sounds like the makings of a comedy movie! ([2018 February Profile.pdf](#))

HAS Responds to a Rare Opportunity by Louis F. Aulbach

It was a cold, clear, and windy morning in January -- a perfect day for archeology! Although the temperature started the day near freezing, by the time Linda Gorski received the call from Larry Golden (the official HAS Tide Guy), it had warmed up considerably to 39F. Larry had been watching the tide gauge at Manchester in the expectation that the cold front that blew through overnight with sustained winds of 20 to 30 knots would push the waters of Galveston Bay out to the Gulf enough to lower the water level of Buffalo Bayou near downtown to expose the century-old rail tracks along the banks of the bayou near the Elysian Viaduct. This low tide and wind-blown water phenomena comes only once in a blue moon or so. One might not get another chance to see or access these rails for another generation. At 10:50 am, Larry called Linda to report that the rails were exposed! She sent an alert to Bob Sewell and me. We grabbed our archeological gear and rubber boots and sped to the Frost Town site. The low tide would only last for a couple of hours. If we were going to gain the data about the rails, we had to act fast. A little before noon, we all showed up at the McKee Street bridge. From the south bank, we could clearly see a large section of railroad tracks lying on the muddy sandbar at the edge of the north side of the bayou. Although it was about 43F when we arrived at the McKee Street Bridge, it was sunny and windy, too. Donning our rubber boots, we crossed the bridge and made our way down to the hike and bike path above the location of the tracks below the viaduct structure. After we walked down to the sandbar under the old viaduct, the wind was subsiding, and it almost seemed warm. But that may have been the result of exertion, excitement, and/or fear of getting stuck in the gooey mud. The bank was heavily eroded from the recent flooding by Hurricane Harvey, and negotiating the descent into the muddy shore at the water line was treacherous. The mud was like quicksand. It would suck your boots off in a second. In fact, one boot rescue was needed almost immediately. One step and you sank up to ankles in muck. But finally, we all were able to reach the lower level of the bank where a few spots of hard clay, rock, and ancient railroad ties gave us enough support to take the measurements of the rails, the tracks, and the ties. Wildlife was all around. Larry promptly removed a dead possum from the mud next to the railroad ties. A dead armored catfish, a horrible invasive species, was delightfully pitched into the bayou. Overhead,

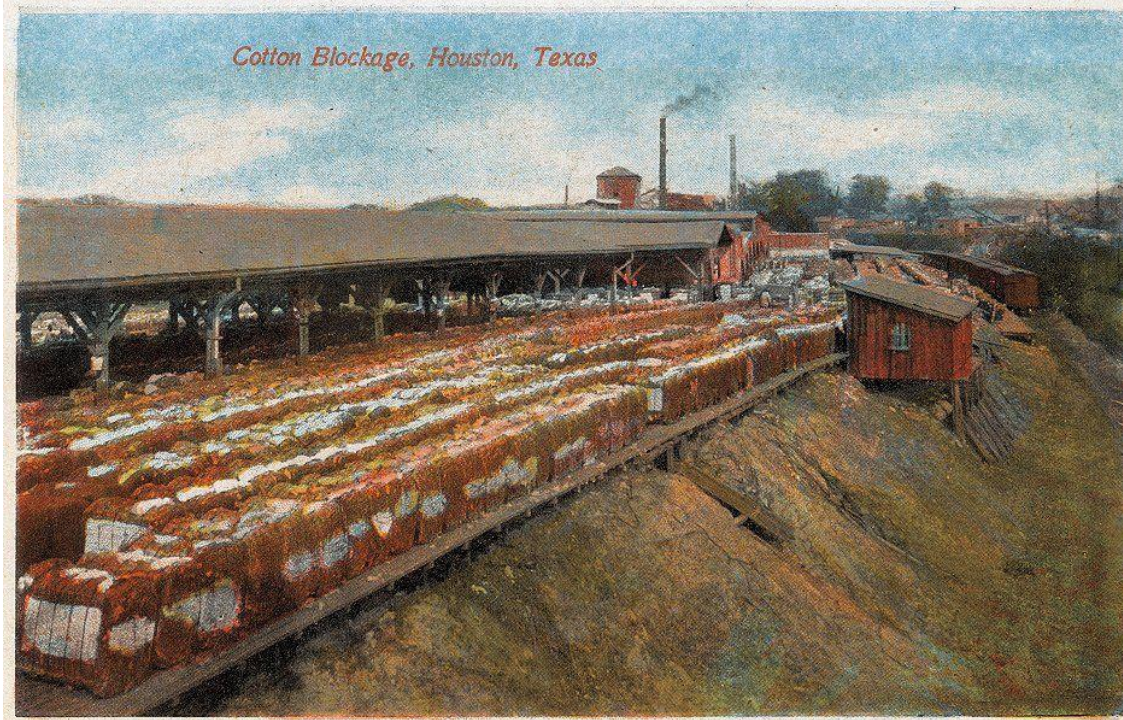
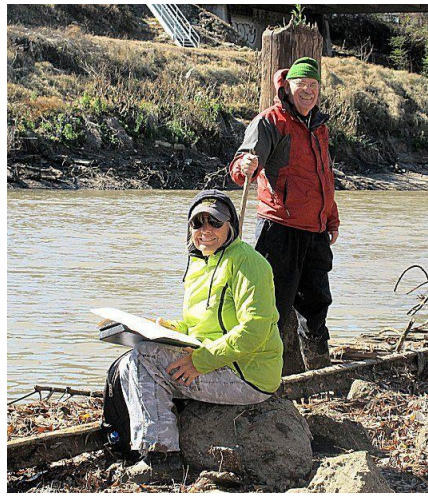


an osprey was watching us and dive-bombing when we got too close to its arboreal perch. We were here because Doug Boyd, the principal investigator for the Frost Town archeological project, asked us to see if we could gather precise measurements of the rails and the tracks in order to determine their age and historical provenience. Once we settled in at the site, Linda communicated with Doug

by phone -- she on a rock at the water's edge, and he in his luxuriously warm office in Austin. The whole crew set about documenting the site. Bob took photos of the rails, the tracks, the spikes, the ties, and general views of the locations. Larry managed to hold a tape measure on the various points of the rail end so I could photograph the measurement. Linda recorded our measurements and observations. The relative location of the tracks to the concrete supports for the viaduct was also noted. We were also able to find one section of the tracks that seemed to be intact enough to measure the width of the track to determine whether it was a standard gauge or narrow-gauge rail track. We attempted to get measurements of the rails as Doug had instructed, but the conditions under which we were working made precise measurements a challenge. We did the best we could under the circumstances. All of the data and photos have been sent to Doug in Austin for his scientific analysis. Before leaving the site, we surveyed the sandbar for about fifty yards downstream. Another rail was partially exposed (about three to four feet) about forty yards downstream of the viaduct, where there was more erosion-exposed bulkhead along the bayou. A trash dump yielded a few broken bottles marked AB on the bottom -- possibly Anheuser-Busch -- and a portion of a jawbone of a horse or mule came out of the sand. With that we climbed out of the bayou corridor to the hike and bike trail above. We had spent about two hours in the mud collecting data on the railroad tracks that may have been part of the Bayou City Cotton Compress facility that operated on that north side of Buffalo Bayou from about 1880 to the mid-twentieth century. As we walked back across the bridge to our vehicles, we could see that the water was already beginning to rise. In a short time, the rails would return to their home beneath the waters of the bayou. So concludes another episode of HAS emergency archeology.

More to the Story

Linda Gorski shares more photos from that eventful day.



Left: Larry and Louis measuring.
Center: Linda and Louis.
Right: Easement thirty feet from viaduct. January 2018.
Photographs courtesy of Linda Gorski.

Below Left: Cotton Blockage, Houston, Texas. Acmeograph Co., c. 1912-1924. Postcard depicting the Houston Cotton Compress Company. The railroad tracks running along Buffalo Bayou can just be seen on the right. The bales of cotton were compressed, then moved down chutes onto barges or trains. [History of Houston - Harris County Texas](#). Courtesy of Linda Gorski. Source: University of Houston, [Image | Cotton Blockage, Houston, Texas | ID: 8c97kq82p | Digital Collections](#).

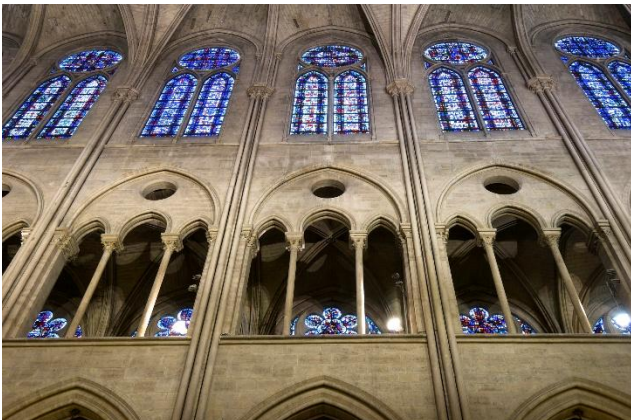
Why Standard Railroad Gauge is a Certain Width

Linda shares an email from the late Louis Aulbach written in 2009, as he contemplated railroad gauge distance.

The United States standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates designed American railroads. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long-distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So, who built those old, rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long-distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since. And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Therefore, the U. S. standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever.

Now, the twist to the story. The next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder "What horse's ass came up with this?"—you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses (two horses' asses).



Notre-Dame: A Wider World

This event series is presented by Archeology Now, the Houston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America. The upcoming lecture, Rebuilding Notre-Dame All Together, features Dr. Jennifer Feltman and takes place on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in Hudspeth Auditorium at Rice University.

Technology and traditional artisans helped Notre-Dame rise again. Discover the collaborations that made this unprecedented restoration possible. Following an appearance on CNN as part of the commemorations of the 5th anniversary of the fire that almost destroyed Notre-Dame, Dr. Feltman, is the only American scholar who is part of the official French

team restoring Notre-Dame de Paris. Feltman is a member of Chantier Scientifique de Notre-Dame, and Assistant Professor of Medieval Art and Architecture at the University of Alabama.

Hudspeth Auditorium at Rice University is near Entrance #8 at University and Stockton Streets. Further information at archaeologyhouston@gmail.com; Notre Dame, A Wider World — [Archaeology Now](#).



Real Places Conference – April 23-25, 2025 – The ninth annual Texas Historical Commission (THC) Real Places Conference will take place both onsite in Austin and online. Topics include historic cemetery preservation, El Camino Real, the early history of Galveston Island, and a report on Loma del Mesquite near the Brownsville ship channel, which is an ancient village where marine shells were manufactured into gorgets, flat disc beads, tinklers, and tools.

HAS Board Member Gail Larsen Peterkin



A native of northern Illinois, Gail Larsen Peterkin holds an undergraduate degree in anthropology and English from the University of Kansas and an M.A. and Ph.D. in anthropology from Tulane University, where she specialized in French Palaeolithic archaeology. She has edited two scholarly books on Late Pleistocene hunting technology and animal exploitation in Eurasia, published by the Archeology Section of the American Anthropological Association (*Hunting and Animal Exploitation in the Later Palaeolithic and Mesolithic of Eurasia*, 1993) and British Archaeological Reports (*Regional Approaches to Adaptation in Late Pleistocene Western Europe*, 2000), and has authored several papers on the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic of Western Europe. She has field experience at Middle Palaeolithic (Neandertal) and Upper Palaeolithic (*Homo sapiens*) sites in France, as well as at prehistoric and historic sites in the American Midwest and Southeast. She also has completed extensive coursework in forensic anthropology

through the Southern Institute of Forensic Science. Gail was on the faculty of Tulane University and Delgado Community College in New Orleans from 1982-2004, offering classes in anthropology, geography, and geology. At various times, she directed Tulane's CRM (Cultural Resources Management) program and was a principal investigator and lab director for R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates in New Orleans.

After moving to Houston in 2004, Gail joined the Houston Museum of Natural Science as a volunteer and occasional staff member, working in Anthropology Collections, teaching Scout merit badge classes, and as a master docent specializing in the Hall of the Americas, the Hall of Human Evolution, and special exhibits related to archaeology. She is the hall coordinator for the John P. McGovern Hall of the Americas and one of the founders/organizers of International Archaeology Day at the museum. She has served as president of the HMNS Volunteer Guild and edits the Guild's quarterly newsletter, *The Dashing Diplodocus*. She is the current president of Archaeology Now (Archaeological Institute of America, Houston Society) and has served on their board for many years. She is a member of the American Anthropological Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Archaeological Institute of America, the Houston Archeological Society, the Paleoanthropology Society, the Society for American Archaeology, and the Texas Archeological Society.



Thank you, Gail, we appreciate your service and experience!

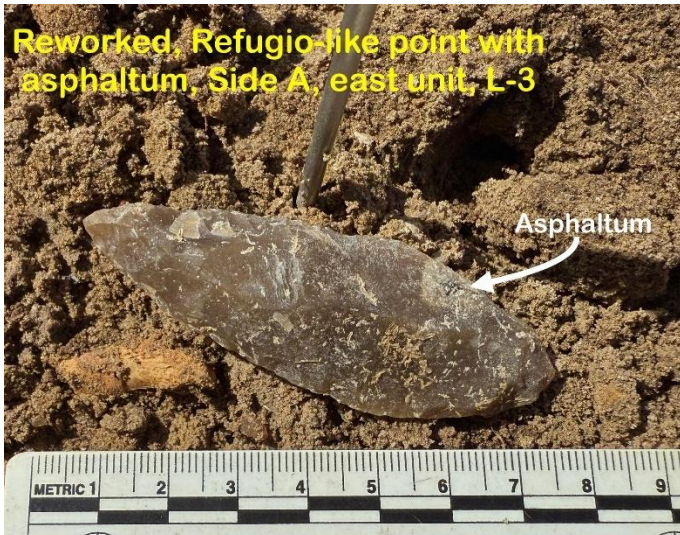
Top: Mitla, Oaxaca, October 2024.

Right: Archaeology Now trip to Paris in December 2024, in conjunction with the season program "Notre-Dame: A Wider World." Photographs courtesy of Gail Larsen Peterkin.



Update from CoBALT Archeology, Victoria, Texas

The Coastal Bend Archaeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) is based in Victoria and is working at the McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a cooperative agreement with the landowner and the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). While considered a significant Paleoindian site, 41VT141 was also regularly occupied by more recent prehistoric cultures over thousands of years.

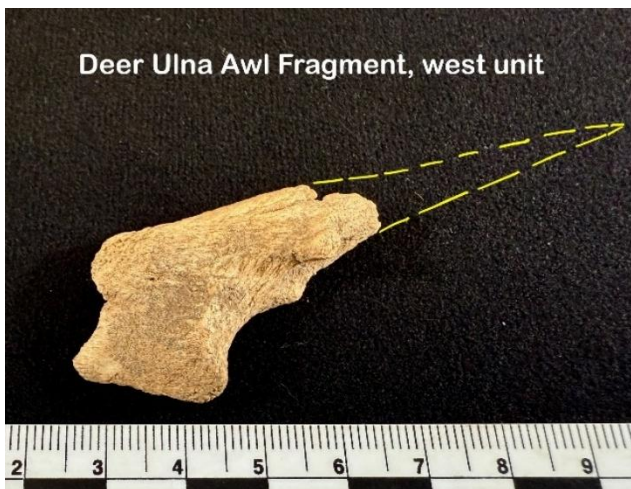


Excavation Day, February 28, 2025: After cancelling last week's excavation because of cold and windy weather, a sunny, warm day made for perfect conditions at the site. Two levels were worked at each unit. Mike, John, Mason, and Cameron worked a bed rock elevation in the east unit but found no artifacts. They also shovel-tested deeper to well below bed rock elevation but did not find anything. In the west unit Jem, Bill, Emilio, and O.C. worked Level 2 and found only one lithic, a preform wedge broken during manufacture. They did find some interesting organics including bone, burnt bone, mussel shell, clay balls, and one special clay ball in two fragments which held charcoal in its core. The screeners found a utilized flake scraper and also what appeared to be a sequent flake. The sequent flake did not have cortex and was micro-flaked on one edge, but that edge was dulled from use. Because of perfect excavation conditions, the team in the west started a new unit at over burden elevations, but all they found was a bit of debitage and a hackberry seed. In the meantime, Cameron cleared some brush from the Paleo2 Terrace where we will begin excavations soon. The team working the east unit also went deeper (Level 3) and found an interesting, heavily reworked, Refugio-like point with visible asphaltum on both faces. The basal edges were ground too. Just like last week, this deeper level gave up a marine Sun Ray shell fragment that might be part of the fragments found last week in the same unit but at Level 1.

Excavation Day, March 7, 2025: Pleasant conditions prevailed for the excavation teams. In the west unit Mike, John, and Cameron worked upper elevations and found two interesting artifacts. First was a tranchet-like flake with a flaked edge removed to leave a sharp cutting edge. Also found was a deer ulna awl fragment, the first we have found in a while. In the west unit, Jem, Joe, Lori, and O.C. worked a deep Paleoindian elevation and found a variety of organics including clay balls, mussel shell, turtle, deer, and a small mammal mandible. Lithics found included a preform distal, several preform proximals, a broken hammerstone, and what appeared to be a sequent flake with a scraper edge.

HAS members are always welcome to join us at the site or in the lab. The archaeology lab at the Museum of the Coastal Bend is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stop in at the museum's front desk for directions to the lab.

O. C. Garza



All photographs are courtesy of
O. C. Garza;
cobaltarcheology.com; CoBalt.

In Memoriam



Carolyn Spock 1946-2025

President, Travis County Archeological Society
Curator/Head of Records, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory
President, Texas Archeological Society 2007

Adapted from a recent announcement from Aina Dodge with the Travis County Archeological Society:

It is with great sadness that I share the news that Carolyn Spock recently passed away. Carolyn was a pillar of Texas archeology and played pivotal roles in many organizations including TAS, the Travis County Archeological Society (TCAS), the Council of Texas Archeologists, and many other worthy causes, archeological and otherwise. Carolyn worked at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) for forty years and retired as Head of Records in 2011. She was one of the first people I met when I started my archeological education. I'm sure many of you can say the same. She was always encouraging and curious. But most of all, she was a walking encyclopedia, and she loved to share her knowledge with all archeologists doing research at TARL. We became better scholars because of Carolyn. She truly was one of a kind.

Source: [Texas Archeological Society Members and Friends](#).

The Travis County Archeological Society (TCAS) will honor Carolyn Spock at their next regular meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. The meeting will take place at Casa Chapala, 9041 Research Boulevard, Suite 100, in Austin (Hwy 183 and Burnet Road). Carolyn grew up in Fort Worth, and after a full life in the discipline of archeology, she retired in Austin. A slide show of her life is being prepared by Aina Dodge and Patricia Mercado-Allinger. If you have any photos you would like to share, please use the Contact Us form on the Travis County Archeological Society website. If you are interested in attending by Zoom, please contact nlmorgan@earthlink.net. Carolyn's family will be planning a memorial service at a future date and TCAS and TAS will share that information upon receipt.



Be sure to see this touching slideshow and memorial to Tim Perttula:

Tim Perttula Memorial: In January 2025, we lost a true pillar of Texas archeology. Tim was a TAS Fellow and the preeminent Caddo scholar. Tim's family wanted to share this memorial slide show and obituary.

[Texas Archeological Society - Announcements](#)

Calling All HAS Members - Send Us Your Photographs of Bluebonnets!

Call for bluebonnet photos with an archeological or historical backdrop! We know you are out in the field all the time. Submit your bluebonnet photos with a location tagline or descriptive line or two, whether taken this month or in previous spring seasons. And, as always, we would like **all HAS members** to consider submitting content for *The Profile* newsletter. Please send submissions to newsletter@txhas.org. Report on an interesting on-site experience, academy, field school, lecture, cultural trip, or public outreach event! Send photos of yourself on an HAS or TAS adventure! What archeological artifact or historical event have you been researching? Add your voice to our community's conversation. Your contributions can be brief, such as a couple of paragraphs or about 250 words. Please submit information for upcoming issues no later than the fifteenth of each month.



Barn and bluebonnets, Betsy Wittenmyer. April 1, 2024, Chappell Hill, Texas.



HAS Reference Desk

What research on archeology, anthropology, paleontology, or history have you been reading lately? The HAS Reference desk seeks your suggestions about interesting archeology and history news and links. Check out these interesting links:

Andrea Carandini, Atlas of Ancient Rome, <https://youtu.be/y9qQhvwX5V8?feature=shared>

[Glaciers around the world are melting, uncovering ancient artifacts](#)

[Celtic carnyx; Today's News - Archaeology Magazine](#)

Historic Discovery Confirms the Quarry That Supplied Limestone for The Alamo, <https://www.facebook.com/WC7FNe>

Appalachian history and archeology, [Archaeology of the Appalachian Region](#); [ATC History | Appalachian Trail Conservancy](#)

Glass egg artifact, [Artifact of the Month | March 2025 | TPW Magazine](#)

[5,000-Year-Old Crystal Dagger Discovered in Spain](#)

[Hidden ancient tomb found in Egypt](#)

Onfim's doodle: A 13th-century kid's self-portrait on horseback, slaying an enemy

Tectonic time lapse: <https://youtu.be/f6bWbDI2ItM>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/archaeologists-uneearth-ancient-clay-puppets-that-resemble-modern-toy-dolls>

[2,200-year-old grave in China contains 'Red Princess of the Silk Road' whose teeth were painted with a toxic substance | Live Science](#)

<https://the-past.com/feature/pitch-perfect-tackling-a-previously-unknown-roman-villa-at-dings-crusaders-rfc/>

<https://cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/dings-crusaders-roman/>

[14 Mysterious Archaeological Discoveries That Still Baffle](#)

<https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2014/03/28/291421915/japanese-baseball-began-on-my-familys-farm-in-maine>

<https://scienceandculture-isna.org/solar-markers-at-paint-rock-tx.pdf>

[Jack the Ripper's identity revealed 130 years on after DNA match](#)

[First-roman-basilica-discovery-city-of-london](#)

[Oldest section of China's Great Wall discovered, pushing back its origin by 300 years | Archaeology News Online Magazine](#)

<https://www.visitmysmokies.com/blog/douglas-lake-tn/girl-finds-fossil-in-the-smoky-mountains/>



Registration for the Texas Archeological Society 2025 Field School is now open! Each summer, the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) sponsors a week-long archeological field school. The program provides training in archeological techniques to Society members and contributes important new data to the state's archeological and historical heritage. No prior archeological experience is necessary. Participants may register for a minimum of three days or for the full week. Several Field School Scholarships are also available. This year the 2025 TAS Field School takes place from June 14-

21 in Milam and Robertson Counties. Red Mountain (also known as Sugarloaf Mountain) is a very important place for the Tonkawa people, who recently reclaimed this ancestral land and will maintain it with the help of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association. The 2025 Field School will be primarily survey-based, with limited excavation for the Youth Group and an exploratory team led by Dr. Tamra Walter. More information at [2025 TAS Field School](#).

Upcoming Events

Be sure to reconfirm details before making plans to attend.

VIRTUAL

Note that most events listed are free of charge but still require advance registration. Some websites listing virtual events and resources: [Texas State Historical Association Events](#); [NTAS](#); [Bullock Texas State History Museum](#); [Virtual Events—Friends of THC](#); <https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/education/educators/professional-development> (On Demand Programs) <https://www.archaeological.org/events>; [Virtual Resources | PAST Foundation](#); [Archaeology Events & Activities in Houston](#); [Eventbrite](#); [Virtual Lectures - Archaeological Conservancy](#).

Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)

4/8 - 6 p.m. Central/7 p.m. Eastern. Professor Elaine K. Gazda, University of Michigan, discusses The Social Role of the Dionysiac Frescoes in the Villa of the Mysteries at Pompeii. More information at [LECTURES | AIA DC Society](#).

4/9 - 7 p.m. Central. Mark Aldenderfer, Archaeology and the Tibetan/Himalayan Afterlife. Recent discoveries and research both challenge and corroborate current understandings and identify previously unknown traditions for commoners and kings. [Register Here](#).

4/17 - 4:30 p.m. Central/6:30 Pacific. Over the past decade, excavations in Alexandria, Virginia, have uncovered the remnants of wharves, warehouses, industries, house lots, privies, and four ship hull remnants—preserved in the waterlogged soil along the Potomac River's edge. Join at [AIA Event Listings - Dr Eleanor Breen, Alexandria Archaeology - AIA-Spokane Society](#).

4/30 - 7 p.m. Central/5 p.m. Pacific. How events at the Roman Colosseum impacted the lives of ordinary individuals. Join at [AIA Archaeology Hour: Alison Futrell. "The People's Arena" - Events Calendar](#).

Archaeological Conservancy

4/10 - 6 p.m. The Grand Meadow Chert Quarry/Wahni Yukon: A Unique Archaeological and Cultural Preserve. Tom Trow, Consulting Archaeologist and Franky Jackson, Cultural Resource Specialist and tribal historian, discuss this preserve in Mower County, Minnesota. Beginning shortly after 1000 CE, the largest procurement site for gray Grand Meadow chert (GMC) in Minnesota covered an area of 200 acres, with deep pits dug through prairie soils. GMC was in high demand for making hide scrapers and small points during the Middle Mississippian Period in the region. Register at [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

Council for British Archaeology

4/3 - 2 p.m. Central/7 p.m. BST. [This is Archaeology - Digging for Erlestoke: How archaeology can aid rehabilitation, improve wellbeing and engender change in the mindset of prisoners](#) Council for British Archaeology. Prisoners from HMP Erlestoke made a genuine contribution to the archaeological record, uncovering a story that spans 6000 years. Register at [Council for British Archaeology](#).

Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series

4/3 - 7:30 p.m. Robert "Bob" Moore, avocational archaeologist and co-founder of E-MLS, presents The City of Petra. More information at <https://engelhardtmoore.wixsite.com/lecture-series>; [About | Lecture Series](#).

Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

4/30 - 6 p.m. Dr. Akram Khater, North Carolina State University, discusses the rich history and experiences of Syrian and Lebanese immigrants and their descendants in the Lone Star State, who began settling in Texas in the 1880s. [REGISTER](#).

Houston Heritage Society

4/2 - Wednesday, 7 p.m. [Live from THS with Mister McKinney: Donald Hayes presents Astrodome history](#). Free on Facebook. [Programs for Adults — The Heritage Society](#).

Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, University of Michigan

4/7 - Noon. Flash Talk, Professor David Potter, Department of Classical Studies, discusses the special exhibition *Gladiators: Life in the Arena*. Must register early at <https://forms.gle/DuqVZE9A6HSdM9c7>.

North Texas Archeological Society

4/10 - Thursday, 7 p.m. NTAS monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. except in June and December. The meetings are hybrid, and guests are welcome at no charge; to receive the Zoom link, email info@ntas.org in advance. April's meeting features Dr. Kelsey Hanson speaking on *Technologies of Chromatic Prayer: Creating Blue-Green in Chaco Canyon*.

Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center

4/16 - Noon. Robert Stein discusses *Interning with Shumla: A Firsthand Account*. [Click to Register](#).

Smithsonian Institution

A current calendar of Smithsonian virtual lectures presented for modest fees may be found at: [Events | Smithsonian](#).

ON-SITE:

Some websites listing upcoming area events: [Archaeology Now](#); <https://texashighways.com/events/>; [State Park Events Texas Parks & Wildlife Department](#); [Upcoming Events | Texas Historical Commission](#).

Archeology Now, Houston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America

4/7 - Thursday, 7 p.m. *Rebuilding Notre-Dame All Together*, featuring Dr. Jennifer Feltman, Hudspeth Auditorium at Rice University, Entrance #8 at University and Stockton Streets. Discover the collaborations that made this unprecedented restoration possible. Further information at archaeologyhouston@gmail.com; [Notre Dame, A Wider World — Archaeology Now](#).

Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Sites

4/19 – Saturday, 3 – 8:30 p.m. Easter on the Bluff. Relive a beloved tradition of the Bluff Schuetzenverein with living history, egg hunts, a bonfire, entertainment, and scenic views.

Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria College

Through May 1 - Vive La France exhibit.

4/3 through 4/6 - Opening of Vaquero, second component of the permanent exhibit, Where Texas Ranching Began.

4/12 – 11 a.m. Hands-on History: Tools of Early Texans

4/24 – 5:30 p.m. John W. Stormont Lecture: Spain and the American Revolution. Blanche De León discusses Spain’s involvement in the American Revolution with an emphasis on Texas ranchers. Free admission and open to the public.

Preservation Houston

4/10 – Thursday, 6 p.m. History tours and jazz music, celebrating historic St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, taking place outside on the church plaza at 5501 Main Street. Free, more information at Preservation Houston | Jazz on the Plaza at St. Paul’s.

4/13 – Sunday, 2 p.m. History of the architecture of St. Thomas and the Menil. Reservations required, \$10 and up. University of St. Thomas/Menil Architecture Walk.

Presidio la Bahia, Goliad

4/12 – Saturday, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Remember La Bahía: the Goliad Massacre and its Effects on Texas' Independence presentations.

Rosenberg Library, Galveston



4/5 - Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – Noon. Bailey Brantley, with the Texas Historical Commission at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, discusses Santa Anna and the Battle of San Jacinto. Free, but advance registration required at 18 Minutes That Changed Texas | Rosenberg Library. Meet in the Wortham Auditorium, Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy Avenue in Galveston, to learn more about the historic event of April 21, 1836. Brantley serves as an educator and interpreter at the site. The Library will also host a Galveston & Texas History Center Show-and-Tell with items that belonged to Santa Anna.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

4/5 – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fire on the Brazos, commemorating the burning of the town.

4/24 – Thursday, 6 p.m. History at Night: Hoosier Truths and Texas Lies. Fanthorp Inn educator Chandler Wahrmond discusses recent discoveries made about Henry Fanthorp’s life before coming to colonial Texas.

San Jacinto State Historic Site

4/26 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. San Jacinto Day Celebration.

Texas State Historical Association

4/25-4/27 - Texas Revolution Rendezvous, Menger Hotel, San Antonio. Admission \$30 and up. More information at Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) - Texas Revolution Rendezvous; Registration.

Varner Hogg Plantation State Historic Site

4/18 – Friday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Governor Hogg’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site

4/5 – Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Gamblers, Horse Racers, & Sports of All Classes: Horse Racing in Washington. REGISTER.



Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

Please note that meetings vary between in-person, hybrid, or virtual (via Zoom). The meeting format may change; be sure to doublecheck the HAS website and your emails prior to each meeting for updates.

April 14 – HAS Board Meeting

April 17 – Featuring Alexandra Younger discussing excavations at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site. Hybrid meeting taking place in person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center at 1414 Wirt, with a Zoom link provided for remote attendees.

May 15 – Featuring Amy Goldstein discussing the Kirbee Kiln site.

June - No meeting due to Field School, no newsletter. See you at Field School in Milam and Robertson Counties, June 14-21.

July 17 - Featuring Gary Pinkerton.

August 21 - Featuring Mike McBride.

September 18 – Featuring Chris Lintz discussing the Antelope Creek Middle Ceramic Period, Part II.

October 16 – Featuring Greg Dimmick.

November - Featuring Tori Pagano.

December – Come enjoy the HAS Christmas party, holiday treats, and a year-end recap.

Houston Archeological Society monthly meetings are customarily free and open to the public. Many previous HAS presentations are archived and available for public viewing on our YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/channel. For more information about HAS, visit www.txhas.org, email us at president@txhas.org, or join our Facebook page at [Houston Archeological Society | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HoustonArcheologicalSociety).



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

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