



# The PROFILE

May 2006

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## John P. Yates to Present “Tracing the Comanche War Trail”

John P. Yates will be the featured speaker at the May 12 meeting with a presentation on “Tracing the Comanche War Trail”. This trail ran over a thousand miles from the Great Bend in the Arkansas River into Durango, Mexico. It served mainly as a plunder trail for the Comanche and Kiowa Indians.

Using sources such as historical accounts, maps, aerial photos, satellite imagery, archeology and on-site inspection, Yates has managed to pinpoint where the trail ran. His presentation will include slides of different locations along the trail.



Yates describes himself as “a shade-tree historian and jake-leg amateur archeologist”. He holds degrees from UT-Austin

and Columbia University. He is a credentialed measurement consultant specializing in results measurement and psychological testing. For 32 years he worked for a major publisher in the field, retiring in 1995. Prior to that, he was a teacher, coach and counselor in public schools, as well as Director of Testing and Counseling at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas.

A long-time avocational archeologist with a keen interest in Native American cultures in the Southwest, Yates is currently writing a book on the Comanche War Trail.

The May 12 meeting will be held in Anderson Hall on the quadrangle of the University of St. Thomas at 7:30p.m. For a detailed map, visit the HAS website at [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org) (Anyone wishing to deliver a presentation at a future meeting should contact Michael Bailey at [mbailey@beamans.com](mailto:mbailey@beamans.com).)

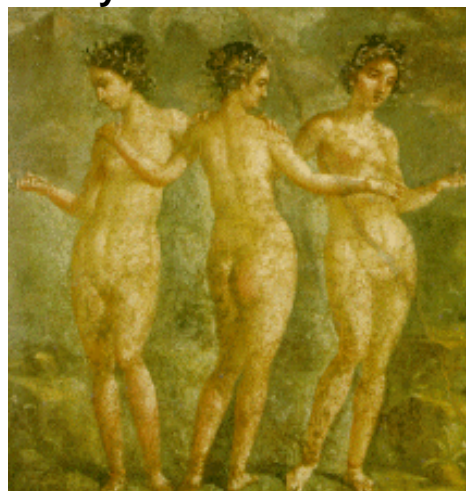
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## The Month of May

May is named after the Roman goddess Maia, from the Latin word “mag”, or grow. This month the ancient Romans honored Maia, an earth goddess, and Flora, goddess of blossoming plants. Spirituality, fertility, blossoms, and the promise of fruitfulness were celebrated this month. May Day festivities were, and are, frivolous and playful to celebrate being alive. But, the Romans also viewed May as a time when the worlds of the alive and the dead were very close together and troubles and problems may arise. However, the month ended with rituals of good fortune and fertility.—Fred Kelly

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**LABORATORY SCHEDULE: May Labs:**  
Mondays, **May 15** and **May 29**, 7:00 pm., Rice U. Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103. **There will be no June labs due to Field School.**



*The Floralia, a depiction of the earth goddesses, Fauna, Maia and Ops.*

## Our Texas Heritage

I've traveled to various places in the world where great historical events have taken place – the Waterloo battlefield near Brussels, the Tower of London, Appomattox Courthouse, to name just a few -- and I always think how cool it would be to actually live there amid all that history. Working in the HAS booth at the San Jacinto Festival served as a vivid reminder that we who live in the Houston-Gulf Coast area are also surrounded by history: the events and places of Texas' past. To our west is Stephen F. Austin's first township; to our northwest is Washington-on-the-Brazos, the Capital of the Republic of Texas; to our south is the site of LaSalle's second expedition to the New World on Matagorda Bay; to our east is the San Jacinto Battlefield, where the deciding battle in Texas' war for independence was fought. At the San Jacinto Festival I talked with at least a dozen people who are descendants of original Texas settlers or of soldiers who fought in the battle. They proudly showed us family trees, documents and artifacts linking their families to Texas history. Once again I think, yes, it's cool to be a person who lives where great events have taken place, and I'm lucky to be one of those!

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### Leland Patterson Receives First Hugh H. Goodrich Trowel Award

The first annual Hugh H. Goodrich Trowel Award of the Friends of Archaeology was presented on April 23<sup>rd</sup> to Leland Patterson for his achievements as an outstanding Texas Archeologist for his dedication to the discipline. Christiane Lampe-Goodrich, spouse of the late Hugh Goodrich, presented the award. Congratulations Leland!

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### A Magic Moment in Time

I was a member of the HAS/TAS Exhibit-Mock Dig team at the San Jacinto Festival on April 22. After spending the morning talking with hundreds of people regarding the significance of the Elizabeth Powell site and the San Felipe de Austin



*Pat Aucoin (right) explains layout of San Felipe township to booth visitors.*

site as precursors to the battle of San Jacinto, I began helping at the artifact table, which featured several types of artifacts found in the Gulf Coast area. Suddenly, nine fourth grade girls with two chaperones arrived at the table. In order to fix their attention, I began telling stories of our ancient ancestors, while getting the girls to handle the pottery sherds, stone tools, animal and fish bones, and to drill holes in dried gourds using stone

perforators. We went over the differences between arrow points and spear points and *rangia* and oyster shells. After a few minutes, a dialogue began and continued for several minutes. When the chaperones announced that it was time to leave, the girls stated that they did not want to leave, that what they were doing was way too interesting. At that moment, it seemed to me that a kind of magic had occurred; we were connecting with each other and with our ancestors. It seemed real that we were part of what there was (the past) and what there is (the present and the future). I am sure that I will not soon forget this episode. I am also sure that other archeologists have had similar experiences and that's what makes archeology and outreach such a rewarding activity. Let the shamans, brujos, brujas, and everyone else around the ancient campfires bear witness—we are preserving our heritage. –Pat Aucoin

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**HAS LIBRARY:** Open on Friday, May 12 from 6:30pm to 7:20pm, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

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**REMINDER:** No June Profile, meeting, or lab due to TAS Field School in Paris, TX, June 10-17. Information available at the meeting or visit the TAS web site: [www.txarch.org/activities/fschool](http://www.txarch.org/activities/fschool).

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## Hundreds Visit HAS/TAS Booth at the San Jacinto Day Festival

The San Jacinto Festival, celebrating the 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Special thanks to volunteers **Pat Aucoin, Diane Baird, Kathleen Barry, Richard and Wanda Carter, Bill Csanyi, Don Keyes, Sheldon Kindall, Pat Meeker, and Linda Swift**. Thanks also to **Leland Patterson** for supplying dried gourds and stone tools and **Carol Lee and Ed Masten** for their help with closing down the exhibits and displays. Also, a big thanks to everyone who contributed items—coins, buttons, beads, ‘jewels,’ etc.-- for the mock dig; the kids loved finding these ‘artifacts.’ While official numbers are not yet available, I can safely say there were several hundred adults and children who visited the exhibits, hands-on displays, and the mock dig. -- *Beth Aucoin*



*HAS Outreach Chairman Beth Aucoin (left) explains importance of Mrs. Powell's Place site and its relevance to San Jacinto and San Felipe.*



*Cool and clean and ready to start the day, Don Keyes awaits arrival of young diggers.*



*Sheldon Kindall's pit draws a crowd of enthusiastic would-be archeologists.*



*No longer so cool and clean, Don Keyes shows youngsters how to screen their dirt.*



*Flintknapper Bill Csanyi demonstrates the ancient art of making stone and bone tools.*

## ARCHEOLOGY. . . LIFE IN THE *PAST* LANE

- **"Links to Teotihuacán"** by Dr. Dirk van Tuerenhout of the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Archeological Institute of America, 7:00 PM, Thursday, May 11th, at the Italian Cultural Center, 1101 Milford.
- **FROM THE EARTH: Photography and Archeology**, Little Archaeology Gallery Exhibit. The Gallery, located at 3907 Yoakum Boulevard adjacent to the library, is open weekdays, 12-6 PM, and will be open prior to this month's meeting.
- **Through the Eyes of the Explorer: Cabeza de Vaca on the South Texas Plains** is an interactive learning resource on [www.texasbeyonddhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyonddhistory.net). According to the website, this is a colorful six-section adventure in which students *of all ages* can learn about the South Texas Plains and the native peoples who lived there.

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### HAS has moved into the 21st century!

We now have a laptop computer and PowerPoint projector. This will make the speakers' traveling load much lighter. And we can do much "classier" presentations, not to mention data bases to support our excavations, outreach programs, etc. I am working on the rules that will be used to check out this equipment, and these will be printed in the *Profile* this summer. – Diane Baird

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Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, [sguillote@hotmail.com](mailto:sguillote@hotmail.com)  
Submit articles no later than June 30 for the July issue.

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

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### *The Profile*

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