



# The PROFILE

September 2007

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## Dub Crook to Discuss the Late Prehistoric Period Of the East Fork of the Trinity River

The September 14<sup>th</sup> HAS meeting will feature HAS member Dub Crook offering a reassessment of the Late Prehistoric along the East Fork and its tributaries. Numerous sites of the Late Prehistoric period occur along the East Fork of the Trinity and its tributaries in a roughly north-south corridor from Collin County in the north to northwestern Kaufman County. These sites were originally described by R. L. Stephenson in 1952 as a distinct cultural construct which he named the “Wylie Focus”. Additional work was done in the 1960’s and 1970’s by other groups, which helped to further refine the characteristics of the Wylie Focus.

In 1988, William Martin and James Bruseth discredited the concept of the Wylie Focus based on excavations of Late Prehistoric sites at Richland/Chambers reservoir, located 100 km to the south.

As part of an on-going effort to reassess the Late Prehistoric along the East Fork and its tributaries, Dub Crook and Mark Hughston have reviewed all the previous work done in the region, in addition to their own excavations at seven of the region’s sites. The results of 30 years of research have shown the sites along the

East Fork and its tributaries differ in terms of cultural material from Late Prehistoric sites to the west along the Elm Fork of the Trinity, to the east in the Sulfur River drainage, as well as farther south along the main branch of the Trinity. Mr. Crook will discuss the material differences between these sites, and show that while having a culture similar to their surrounding neighbors, the Late Prehistoric inhabitants of the East Fork appear to have had a unique set of cultural traits that sets them distinctly apart.

The September meeting will be held at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall of the University of St. Thomas, at 1:30 p.m. For a detailed map, visit our website at [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org). Parking: use the Moran Center Parking Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark (\$2 fee), or park in Faculty Parking Lot S at Montrose and Branard after 7:00 p.m. (no charge).

**October Program:** To be announced. Anyone wishing to deliver a future presentation should contact Michael Bailey at [m Bailey@beamans.com](mailto:m Bailey@beamans.com)

**HAS Meeting Minutes:** No business meeting in August.

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**LABORATORY SCHEDULE:** **Sept. 17** (1 night only): continue work on artifacts from the Barnhill site WH17; **Oct. 15 & 29; Nov. 12 & 26; and Dec. 17** (1 night only). HAS Lab nights are held on the Monday following the monthly meeting and then two weeks later from 7-9 pm in Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. Check the HAS website, [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org), for a map.

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**HAS LIBRARY NEWS** The library will be open on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm-7:20pm, 3907 Yoakum Blvd.

## Swan Song

What an adventure it's been serving as your president for the past three years! The Houston Archeological Society has accomplished a lot in this period of time through the efforts of our dedicated members. These are the highlights that come to mind when I think back over my three terms in office:

- **Improved Communication:** We enriched the content and improved the appearance of *The Profile* and switched to e-mail distribution wherever it was possible, to save postal costs. We doubled-up on issues of the Journal in order to bring it up to date; the 2007 issue is expected to be published in late 2007. We started up a program to publicize our meetings more widely via e-mail announcements to media and other groups. Our web site stayed up-to-date and continued to inform.
- **Excavation Projects:** We finished the last excavation at the Powell site and began researching the artifacts. The Powell Site Report, Part 1 of 3, was published this year, and Part 2 of 3 is in the pipeline. As for other projects, there were only two other HAS-sponsored digs: one at Clear Lake that proved not to be an archeological site, and one next door to Maison Rouge in Galveston. However, our members were active in other nearby projects such as San Felipe de Austin, Champ d'Asile, and the Brazoria Antebellum Mansions survey.
- **Outreach Programs:** We have had a very strong outreach program, participating all three years in the San Jacinto Festival and the Father of Texas Celebration. We have worked with many Boy Scout troops on archeological merit badges, as well as making presentations at schools, including an all-day marathon in February in Katy at Kilpatrick Elementary School. The school year culminated with our participation in the "Time Travelers" program with the local AIA chapter, in which HAS planned and carried out a mock dig at Houston's Askew Elementary School. We're now on the road to hosting a TAS Lithics Academy in January, 2008 at the University of St. Thomas. Finally, we have been able to make significant donations to the San Felipe project as well as the University of St. Thomas.
- **Programs:** Both of our vice presidents of programs have brought us outstanding programs by distinguished lecturers. Every one of our lectures has been informative and interesting.
- **Library and Lab:** Our Archeological Library was kept organized and purged of outdated/redundant books by holding periodic book sales. Our Lab artifacts at Rice U. were reorganized and future lab projects identified.
- **Administrative:** Two years ago we revised the HAS Constitution and Standing Rules to bring them up to date with current procedures. We also purchased equipment for programs and outreach activities, including a PA system, a laptop computer and a projector. Our membership records are well-maintained in an Access data base. Finally, as I've said many times before, our meeting refreshments achieved new heights in yumminess. I take no credit for all of these accomplishments. You, the members, made it happen. Along the way you have taught me a great deal, and you have enriched my life. Thanks for the memories! --Linda Swift

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## Fieldwork Opportunity in Nacogdoches

There is a unique site in downtown Nacogdoches that Tom Middlebrook has been working on this summer that contains artifacts from the earliest occupations of Texas - the Spanish colonial period of Nacogdoches 1779-1800 with majolica, faience, and Caddo material. Other pits in the site have early 19th century edge wares, transfer wares, annular wares, hand painted, etc.

These units are very productive of artifacts - they have recovered at least thirty glass beads of many colors, a half dozen gun flints, large portions of reconstructable Spanish colonial and Caddo ceramic vessels, even a half (green shell-edged) plate, early nails, other metal objects, gaming pieces, early bottles

and tons of animal bones. And an Archaic dart-point for good measure was thrown into one of these pits.

These objects are the earliest European artifacts yet excavated in the "oldest (chartered) town in Texas". They may help us understand more about Spanish lifeways (and interactions with Native Americans) on the eastern colonial frontier in the last few decades of the Spanish period. That alone indicates the significance of this project.

The next scheduled Saturday workday is Sept 8. Interested participants can contact Tom Middlebrook directly at [TMdlbrk@aol.com](mailto:TMdlbrk@aol.com) (preferred) or 936-556-0854. --Sue Gross



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The **Texas Archeological Society's 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** will be held in San Antonio, Texas, October 26-28, 2007. For information visit [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org).

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# Archeology. . . Life in the Past Lane!

The **Annual Awards of the Houston Archeological Society** will be presented at the October meeting.

**Texas Cemeteries:** The new brochure *Rescuing a Historic Cemetery* from the Texas Historical Commission is now available online and provides tips on how to start researching cemetery records and conduct cemetery surveys. The brochure also gives information about the RIP Guardian program for neglected historic cemeteries and how to get additional assistance for your project.

To download the publication, visit [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us), select “Cemeteries,” then “RIP Guardian” and scroll down to the bottom for the link to the PDF. –Anne Shelton

**Sam Houston Museum, Huntsville, October 11.** Roger Moore, chief archaeologist of the San Jacinto Battlefield will speak on the current excavation at the battle site and the on-going efforts to restore the site to its 1836 appearance. Wine & hors d'oeuvres reception at 6 p.m. Lecture at 7 p.m. No fee. Artifacts from the battlefield survey will be on loan at the museum from Oct 8 thru Oct 24 courtesy of the Texas Parks and Wildlife. Call Sandy Rogers, Registrar Sam Houston Museum, for more information. 936-661-9882.

**Free Public Lecture:** TFAHR invites you to a free public lecture on our summer 2007 excavations by Dr. William J. Neidinger entitled **Excavation of an Ancient Macedonian Town**, Sunday, September 30, 2007 at 7:00 pm, St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, Bagby Parish Hall, 717 Sage Road, Houston. A description of the lecture and a map showing the location can be found at [www.tfahr.org/093007lect](http://www.tfahr.org/093007lect). Please feel free to bring guests!

**A Tale of Two Empires: Part I, The Byzantine Empire.** This is a new 6-lecture series by Dr. Neidinger that will be presented on Monday evenings beginning Oct 8, 2007. Fee: \$73 per person, St. Martin’s Episcopal Church, Bagby Parish Hall, 717 Sage Road, Houston, 77056.

**Lucy’s Legacy: The Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia**, presented by the **Houston Museum of Natural Science** will be on exhibit August 31 – April 20, 2008. This incredible exhibit tells the story of Ethiopia over the past 5 million years. It contains the fossil of Lucy and royal artifacts and ancient manuscripts from a dynasty Ethiopians believe stretches back to the son of the biblical King Solomon and Queen of Sheba. Tickets for members are \$9 and non-members \$20. For detailed information visit [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org)

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## Learning from Cabeza de Vaca

The earliest accounts of Texas' native peoples were given to us by Cabeza de Vaca and his companions. Shipwrecked on the Texas Gulf Coast in 1528, these men made their way from the shores near present-day Galveston to Mexico City during a seven-year ordeal. Their reports of that amazing journey provide fascinating--albeit enigmatic--glimpses of native lifeways and the various odd-sounding foods they extracted from often harsh landscapes. In a new exhibit on *Texas Beyond History*, anthropologist and archeologist **Alston Thoms** draws on studies of traditional foods and cooking technologies to infer what the various unidentified roots, tubers, nuts, fruits, and fish may have been, how they were prepared, and much more. This vividly illustrated Special Exhibit, a series of essays, is quite unlike other exhibits on TBH. We hope you'll take a look and, as always, let us know if you spot errors, typos, or have criticisms or comments. –Susan W. Dial, co-editor, [www.texasbeyondhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net)



*Image of Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, Wikipedia.*

## Roman Technology – Metallurgy

The ancient Romans made extensive use of metals that had been discovered many centuries before them, such as gold, silver, tin, and iron. Examples of small scale steel making date back to the fourth century BC, but steel was not widely used during Roman times. Lead was commonly used by the Romans for piping, kitchen utensils, and food and drink vessels (lead poisoning may have been very common!). While tin-alloyed bronze had been discovered back in the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC, the Romans first made bronze wire cables. Another Roman discovery was brass, an alloy of copper and zinc, which is as strong as bronze, easier to work and more attractive; if the zinc content comprises 20 percent, brass looks much like gold, and it was considered a precious metal. Knowledge of brass-making made up part of a discipline that was later named *alchemy*. –Fred Kelly



Example of a Roman sestertius, made of silver or bronze.-- Wikipedia.

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Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, [sguillote@hotmail.com](mailto:sguillote@hotmail.com)  
Submit articles no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> for the October issue.

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

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*The Profile*

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