



The PROFILE

February, 2008

February Program: Determining Seasonality from Plant Remains

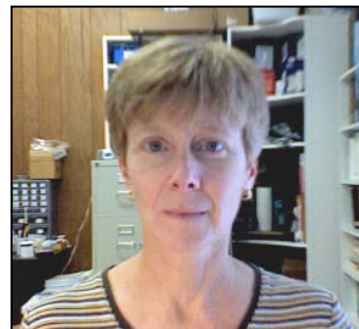
The February 8 HAS meeting will feature archeobotanist Dr. Leslie Bush, whose topic will be “Assessing Seasonality from Plant Remains”.

Using carbonized remains of food plants to determine at what season a feature or site was used can be difficult. Many plants can be easily dried and stored, resulting in a potential lag of several months between the time of plant harvest and the time of plant consumption. Also, resources such as bulbs and tubers are available more or less year-round.

Unlike food plants, burs presumably came to archeological sites unintentionally, clinging to human clothing or the fur of prey animals. Because their presence reflects the immediate disposal of nuisance plants, burs can be extremely useful indicators of seasonality. Results of a four-year study of specimens collected in southern Indiana show which burs can be expected at which seasons. Implications for Texas and possibilities for future research will be discussed.

Leslie Bush is an Austin-based archeobotanist who analyzes plant remains from archeological

sites though her small business, Macrobotanical Analysis. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University, and her dissertation was published in 2004. Her clients include museums, academic institutions, avocational societies, and contract firms primarily in Texas and states bordering the Ohio River.



The February meeting is at our usual location in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30 p.m. For a detailed map, visit our website at www.houstonarcheology.org. or e-mail HASEvents@aol.com.

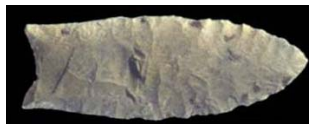
March Program: "Indianola: Rediscovering the Ruins of a Lost Port City" by Steve Hoyt, State Marine Archeologist. Anyone wishing to deliver a future presentation should contact Michael Bailey at m Bailey@beamans.com.

HAS Library News: The library will be **closed** on Friday, February 8th, due to preparations for the move.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: February 11 and 25 labs, 7-9 p.m.: Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. Check the HAS website, www.houstonarcheology.org, for a map.

“Archeology 101” Academy Features Visit to World-Famous Gault Site

The recent Houston Lithics Academy was the first in a series of three spring Academies sponsored by the Texas Archeology Society (TAS). Archeology 101 is next in Belton, February 8-10, with field work planned at the world-famous Gault site, which has yielded more Clovis artifacts than any other known Clovis site. The



final spring seminar is the Rock Art Academy in Van Horn, February 29-March 2, where participants will visit and examine rock art in the field. These weekend courses provide learning opportunities in archeology for those interested in more in-depth information on archeological goals and procedures. For more information visit www.txarch.org.

The Prez Sez

We had a wonderful weekend hosting the TAS Lithics Academy on January 26 and 27. It was wonderful because of the leadership of **Richard Carter**, who oversaw the Academy, and the great job **Wanda Carter** did in providing food and drinks. The Carters are amazing! They made an ever-changing situation look easy. The whole weekend went smoothly, and the evaluations proved it.

Richard was ably assisted by the rest of his committee, made up of **Charlie Gordy**, in charge of setting up the room, **Suzanne Patrick** and **Mike Wood**, publicity, and **Lucia Bono** and **Linda Swift**, registration. I sold books and helped any way I could. Cookies were supplied by **Linda Swift**, **Lucia Bono**, **Kathleen Barry**, **Muriel Mueller**, **Marcia Kelly** and **Diane Baird**. Kudos to **Phyllis Bradley**, as well as **Pam and Jim Robbins** (friends of the Carters), for helping us at the setup on Friday. Thanks, also, to **Pat and Beth Aucoin**, who created a display of the Powell Site project and brought lithics examples for the class to see. If I have left anyone off the list (some cookies just appeared in the room), please let me know. And ask us about Wanda's banana pudding and chocolate eclairs. Yum!

Thanks so much to everyone who assisted in this HAS endeavor! We had a good turnout and even picked up some new members. Yippee! We sold some of Joan Few's and Greg Dimmick's books, as well as numerous reports. The Powell reports really sold well.

We are beginning to inventory the library, in preparation for our move. If you can help, please contact me at 713-895-9682 or at my email address. All help will be appreciated. I hope to have definitive news about the library by the next meeting. I've heard from someone at St. Thomas, and they indicated we may have a little more time than originally thought for finishing the move.

Archeologist Bob Marcom will soon contribute an article on the Freedman's Town project, with information on how HAS members can get involved. Read it, get interested and go out and dig. It's been a while since we had the opportunity to get our hands dirty.

Until the meeting on the 8th, keep well and flexible. The weather seems to be changing daily! I'll see you there.

-- Diane Baird



Photo by Linda Swift

Richard and Wanda Carter with Wanda's banana pudding at the Lithics Academy

Houston Archeological Society Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2007

HAS President Diane Baird opened the business meeting before the program due to the length of time needed for the videos. Announcements and other business were as follows:

- HAS soon will lose access to the HAS library area, and the books will need to be moved soon..
- HAS meetings will still be held in Anderson Hall at least until May 2008 until further notice
- Four volunteers are needed to locate a meeting place with space for the library.
- Ed Masten gave a financial report: Operating account balance: \$2,664.94, Savings: \$9,412, Total: \$12,076.94.
- Richard Carter announced that there are only 2 weeks until the Lithics Academy, and he urged everyone to register as soon as possible if they plan to attend. Wanda Carter is in charge of food.
- Motion to approve December minutes was made by Beth Aucoin and seconded by Linda Swift; minutes were approved.
- Vice-President Michael Bailey introduced speaker Fred Kelly. The program was from a British television show, The Time Travelers.
- Diane expressed thanks to Mary LeBlanc for her snacks and Kathleen Barry for the Pecan Pie. The meeting was then adjourned.

-- Submitted by Kathleen Barry

Archeology. . . Life in the Past Lane

Seminole Canyon State Park and Shumla School present the **Archaeolympics** on Saturday, February 9th from 1pm to 4pm. The event will have atlatl and rabbitstick accuracy contests (Team, Adult Individual, Youth Individual) and a friction firestarting race (simple hand drill only). Seminole Canyon is located in Val Verde county about 35 miles west of Amistad National Recreation Area. A limited number of camp sites is available in the park, with primitive camp sites at Amistad and more campgrounds, RV parks and hotels in the Del Rio area.

Fees: All visitors age 13 and older pay the \$3 per person park entry fee, and competitors of any age

pay an additional \$5 that registers them to compete in all 3 individual events. For more information, contact Jack Johnson at jjohnson@shumla.org, or call him at 432-292-4848.

The **2008 East Texas Archeological Conference** will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 8:30AM to 4:00PM at the Robert M. Muntz Library (Room 401) at the University of Texas at Tyler. The conference brings together avocational and professional archeologists as well as the general public to discuss recent archeological discoveries and research in East Texas. For more information contact Tom Middlebrook, TMdlbrk@aol.com, cell 936-556-0854.

Lithics Academy Wrap-Up

The Spring 2008 Lithics Academy was a success! We had 40 attendees, 5 TAS folks, and me, on the registration list, along with workers Wanda Carter and Diane Baird. Both TAS and HAS got new members. We also made a few bucks selling books and HAS publications. Our part came in under budget, and Wanda and Linda Swift played big parts in that accomplishment. We did everything expected of us, on time and on budget, with no complaints from staff, TAS officials, or participants. I thank each of the committee members. Setup on Friday evening was directed by Charlie

Photos by Linda Swift



Chris and Christopher Wells observe flintknapping demonstration by Dr. Cary Voss of Victoria College.

Gordy, who did a great job getting several dozen tables and hundreds of chairs, in, out, and around, and generally setting up the room the way we wanted it. Tear-down and clean-up were relatively painless, taking another couple of hours

Sunday afternoon. Suzanne Patrick and Mike Wood did remarkable work on publicity, especially considering the multiple roadblocks and detours they encountered. Suzanne had 1,000+ schools to contact! Mike faced similar circumstances in contacting museums, societies, colleges, and universities. Linda and Lucia Bono had the check-in table prepped and manned so well that there was never anyone waiting for folders and nametags. I

call it a success when a participant enters the room, immediately picks up his stuff, and is off to the coffee pot! No muss, no fuss. Many thanks to Lucia for generously donating the attendee folders, note pads, and pens.

Wanda arranged for attendees to use the cafeteria instead of catering both meals, and it worked out great; it was actually cheaper than the catered meals. So she only had to arrange drinks and snacks. Diane Baird had a number of members bake cookies, and Wanda made desserts for both afternoons. No one went hungry. The total food bill was under budget by \$9. There was so much stuff left over--plates, coffee, tea, cups, spoons, etc.-- that we shipped off four paper sacks to next week's Archeology 101 Academy. Thanks again to all those who helped. It was a pleasure working with



Ethel Bowman (left) and Lucia Bono sort lithics by type



John Nuckols (left), Bob Schlemmer, and Lynn Yakubik get hands-on analysis of lithics broken during manufacturing.

-- Richard Carter

Ancient Roman Technology – Central Heating

Central heating for buildings was developed in Anatolia before 1200 BC, but the technology was then lost until re-discovered by a Roman businessman, Gaius Sergius Orata in about 80 BC. Roman builders then applied Orata's heating system, called a *hypocaust*, to public baths and private homes. In this system, the floor was raised off of the ground on stacks of square thin tiles called *pilae*. Spaces were left under the



floor by the *pilae* stacks and also constructed in the walls so that hot air from a furnace could circulate through them and then out of the building through roof flues. The hot air thus heated the rooms but did not pollute the air in them. Rooms needing the most heat were positioned closest to the furnaces, which were very labor intensive and could only be afforded for public works and wealthy homes.

Central heating died out with the fall of Rome and was not revived until modern times.

Please submit articles for publication to Linda Swift, swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net
Submit articles no later than January 30th for the February issue.

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Diane Baird, President, diba1995@att.net

Michael Bailey, Vice President, m Bailey@beamans.com

Ed Masten, Treasurer, clee@hcpl.net

Kathleen Barry, Secretary, kate_barry42@sbcglobal.net

Muriel Walker, Director-at-Large, murielwalker02@comcast.net

Phyllis Bradley, Director-at-Large, pebradley@worldnet.att.net

Lucia Bonno, Director-at-Large, 713-961-0455

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpi.aucoin@prodigy.net

Sheldon Kindall, kindall1@peoplepc.com

Bev Mendenhall, bmend2@yahoo.com

R. L. Gregg, rlgregg@worldnet.att.net

Marilyn & Walter Horton, wmh@houston.rr.com

Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com

Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

J. D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com

Sandra & Johnny Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net

Sandra Rogers, sojourne@consolidated.net

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Pat Mercado-Allinger, pat.Mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us

Jeff Durst, jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sue Gross, Region V Director, suegbobs@houston.rr.com

Carolyn Spock, President, c.spock@mail.utexas.edu

The Profile

Houston Archeological Society

P O Box 6751

Houston, TX 77265-6751

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