



April Program: Reassessing the Texas Revolution and the Alamo

Dr. Bruce Winders, Curator and Historian at the Alamo, will be the speaker at the Thursday, April 19 meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. The title of Winders' program is "Reassessing the Texas Revolution: Placing the Alamo in a Historical Context."

Dr. Winders will show how the interpretation of the Texas Revolution has undergone a great deal of change in the past 20 years. No longer does it center on just a few well known names like Houston, Travis, Bowie, and Crockett. Historians have shown the event to be much broader and more complex than previously presented. The study of the Texas Revolution has matured into a real historical field. Dr. Winders will discuss key features of the current interpretation of the Texas Revolution.



Dr. Winders received his PhD from Texas Christian University in 1994. He has been at the Alamo since 1996 and is in charge of all site interpretation, exhibitions, and the content of the on-site tours. He is the author of several books, including *Sacrificed at the Alamo: Tragedy and Triumph in the Texas Revolution* (2004); *Davy Crockett: The Legend of the Wild Frontier* (2003); *Crisis in the Southwest: The United States, Mexico, and the Struggle for Texas* (2002); and *Mr. Polk's Army: The American Military Experience in the Mexican War* (3rd printing 2002).

The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. in Room 103, Anderson Hall, The University of St. Thomas, 3800

Montrose, Houston, Texas 77006. For a campus map, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20. Paid parking (\$2) in Moran Center at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark.

This Day In Houston's History: April 19, 1900

On April 17-20, the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress convened in Houston for its 11th annual meeting. The Congress set as its mission the promotion of commercial interests in those territories and states located to the west of the Mississippi River. The Congress brought in delegates and representatives from the various states and territories, to discuss various trade issues and was addressed by then Governor of Texas Joseph D. Sayers. The April 19th agenda included discussions of issuance of patents to individuals for mineral deposits in Utah; a consideration of the rights of states, towns and counties to levy taxes as they see fit; and a discussion of a channel connecting Houston to the Gulf of Mexico for the grand sum of \$300,000.

--Karl Huebchen

Source: The Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress. (1900). The Official Proceedings of the Eleventh Convention of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress. Houston, Texas: The Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress.

Lab Schedule for April

The Archeology Lab in Sewall Hall at Rice University will not be open for HAS lab work until after April 20th, the end of classes for Rice students. A tentative lab night will be scheduled for Monday, April 30th; lab attendees will be notified via e-mail prior to that date. Reminder: the Founder's Court/Visitors Lot requires a credit card; you may access a map at www.rice.edu/maps.

-- Beth Aucoin



President's Message

Meeting Reminder

Place: University of St. Thomas (UST)

Where: Anderson Hall; Room 103

When: April 19, 2012

Time: 7:00-9:30 P.M.

Greetings to all!

This year marks the 53rd Anniversary of the Houston Archeological Society (HAS). The original founders consisted of a few individuals from the Houston area with an interest in archeology and a passion for understanding the early inhabitants of the Upper Gulf Coast and adjoining states. Though our organization remains ever evolving, the spirit of the HAS mission remains strong:

To foster enthusiastic interest and active participation in the discovery, documentation, and preservation of cultural resources of the city of Houston, the Houston metropolitan area and the Upper Texas Gulf Coast Region.

The milestones in our history give us opportunity to reflect on years past and to document our successes. Today, we are over a hundred members strong and growing. We anticipate the new website to reach a greater number of archeological enthusiasts, all of which we hope will become members of the HAS. Please take some time and review our new website at www.txhas.org.

Organizational Updates.

In an age of regulatory compliance, we, as stewards of the archeological record are required to follow local, regional, state and Federal laws, regulations and statutes that guide the discipline of archeology. At our upcoming membership meeting, following Dr. Winder's presentation, I will be giving a brief Power-Point presentation, that I hope will answer many of the questions you, as members, have asked over the past several months. We will also go over any questions you have concerning the new website.

Hope to see you at the upcoming meeting.

--Karen Belvin, President

Announcing: www.txhas.org!

Our new and long-awaited Houston Archeological Society website is up and running at www.txhas.org. Check it out!

At the moment, you can't Google the site or use other search engines to find it, because any new website takes a few weeks to become recognized by the search engines. For now, just enter the address, www.txhas.org in the address area of your browser, and you'll get there.

We have a short period of time in which we can "tweak" the overall layout and format, and President Karen Belvin is the person to contact if you have suggestions or comments about that. Karen has worked diligently to bring this project to fruition, and she deserves congratulations on a great-looking, informative website and a job well done.

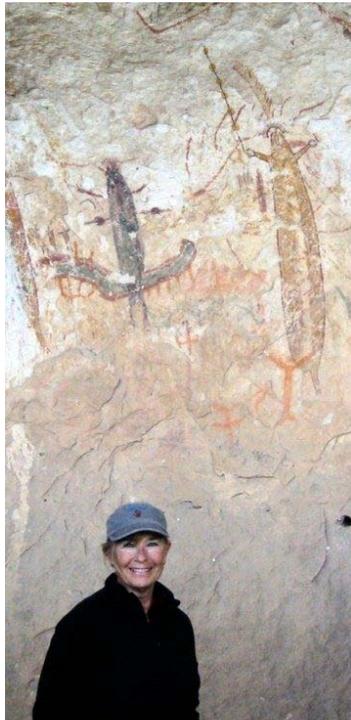
--Linda Swift

SHUMLA: Real Science = Better Understanding of Lower Pecos Canyonlands Rock Art

Ask me where my favorite place in the world is and I'm likely to say, "Anyplace west of the Devils River in Texas." Fortunately, I have the opportunity to spend a lot of time in that area, thanks to my position as a member of the Board of Directors of SHUMLA, a publicly supported, non-profit archeological research and education organization located about 50 miles west of Del Rio in southwest Texas. Since its founding in 1998, SHUMLA has become recognized as an international leader in educational outreach, environmental advocacy and rock art research education.

"The Lower Pecos River Region of southwest Texas and northern Mexico provides one of the best-preserved and longest records of Native American lifeways in North America, from 11,000 BP to European contact," says my friend, SHUMLA executive director, Dr. Carolyn Boyd. "It is considered one of the most significant archeological regions in the world. Due to a combination of ecological and geological factors, rockshelters in the region house uniquely preserved archeological remains. Depicted on the walls of these alcoves and caves are magnificent polychrome murals dating to 4,000 years ago or possibly even earlier."

More than 250 rockshelters in the 5,000-square-mile Lower Pecos region are known to contain rock art dating to the Archaic Period and new sites are discovered each year. Jean Clottes, PhD, former advisor to the Ministry of Culture of France and past president of the International Federation of Rock Art Organizations, said during a recent visit to SHUMLA "It is my considered opinion – after having seen rock art on all the continents – that the Pecos River Rock Art is second-to-none and ranks among the top bodies of rock art anywhere in the world." Clottes has spoken on behalf of the region being added to the list of World Heritage sites maintained by UNESCO.



HAS member Linda Gorski doing research at Halo Shelter



Dr. Carolyn Boyd, Executive Director of SHUMLA, at White Shaman shelter

Recognizing the international importance of rock art sites in the area, SHUMLA launched the Lower Pecos Rock Art Recording and Preservation Project in 2009, the most intensive rock art documentation project ever undertaken in the region. The goals of the project are to preserve the rock art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, to identify current threat levels to the rock art, to produce a multimedia digital library containing the rock art data collected, and to establish global comparative and collaborative research projects utilizing the data collected in the Lower Pecos.

SHUMLA has recently been highlighted in several publications, including the March 2012 issue of *Texas Highways Magazine*, the *San Antonio Express-News* and the *Del Rio News-Herald*. For more information about SHUMLA and its educational programs see www.shumla.org.
–Linda Gorski

Archeology: Life in the Past Lane

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 17, 7:00 pm: Next HAS Meeting. Dr. J. Randolph Widmer, Associate professor of Anthropology at the University of Houston, will present a program on Maya ritual craft production site that utilizes obsidian use wear analysis as a method. Location: UST, Anderson Hall.

Saturday, May 15, 6:30 p.m. "Night of the *Titanic*," at the Burke Baker Planetarium, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Drive. Experience the *Titanic*'s last day - April 14, 1912 - to discover what went wrong. The evening ends with a screening of the planetarium film "Night of the *Titanic*." Co-sponsored by Archaeological Institute of America-Houston. Admission: \$18, or \$12 for HMNS and AIA members. For More Information call 713-364-6344. Website – www.aia-houston.com. Facebook – www.facebook.com/houstonarchaeology.

Sunday, April 22, 2012, 4:00 - 5:30 pm "The Changing Spirit of Rome," a new lecture by Dr. William J. Neidinger, who will present three buildings which exemplify the evolution of Roman sculpture and architecture from the second to the fourth century AD: Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli, Diocletian's Villa at Split, and the Arch of Constantine at Rome. Location: The Women's Institute of Houston, 2202 Avalon Place, Houston TX 77019. Advance registration is necessary for this lecture because seating is limited. To register phone the Women's Institute at 713-529-7123. Online registration is available at <http://www.wih.org/sunday.html>.

TAS Field School Online Registration Now Available

The Texas Archeological Society's 2012 Field School will be held June 9-16 at the Devils River State Natural Area north of Del Rio. Online registration is now open (along with the ability to use your credit cards). See the 2012 Field School home page at <http://txarch.org/Activities/fschool/fs2012/index.php> or go directly to the registration page at <http://txarch.org/forms/fieldschool/index.php>. There is a new receipt design this year that lets you see just what you have ordered.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.

Submit articles no later than May 3 for the May 2012 issue.

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

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