



## Inaugural Presentation of Dimond Knoll Site at October 17 Meeting

Dr. Jason W. Barrett, Texas Department of Transportation Regulatory Archeologist, will be the speaker for the Thursday, October 17, meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. The program, which will celebrate Texas Archeology Month, is the first public discussion about excavations and artifacts recovered at 41HR796, the archeological site discovered during surveys for the proposed route of SH 99 in northwest



**Dr. Jason, left, analyzes an artifact with HAS screeners John, Louis, and Linda.**

Harris County. Artifacts recovered at this site include late Paleo-Indian lithics, dating it as one of the earliest sites ever

found in Harris County. The program will begin at 7:00 pm in M.D.

Anderson Hall at St. Thomas University.

Site 41HR796, also known as the Dimond Knoll site, was discovered in the early fall of 1996 during the initial cultural resources survey for Segment E of the proposed route of SH 99, also known as Grand Parkway. In October and November 2006, the site was revisited to conduct National Register eligibility testing. Overall, the testing data indicated that the site included a Late Archaic occupation, possibly beginning ca. 2500 BC, and an Early Ceramic occupation during the first few centuries AD. Data-recovery investigations were conducted from the beginning of May to October 2012. Unexpectedly, a previously undetected and deeply buried paleosol was identified along the northern edge of the site. Within this paleosol, archeologists discovered a San Patrice dart point, revealing the site to be more than 5,000 years older than previously believed.

Artifacts found within the upper 60 cm or so included both Late Prehistoric pottery and arrow points and

Late Archaic dart points. The next 40 cm or so contained items associated with the Late and Middle Archaic periods. Intensive investigation of the underlying paleosol identified both Early Archaic and Late Paleo-Indian components.

Data analysis is only in its preliminary stages. Still, archeologists have been able to make several intriguing observations. First, the relatively modest-sized site has yielded an extraordinary number of bifacial dart, arrow point, and knife forms (834 have been identified to date). Of those, nearly half (411) are unbroken and retain utilitarian value. In an area as lithic resource-poor as Houston, why were so many usable tools left behind? Secondly, there is a notable decrease in material quality over time, with later periods relying more on regionally-available, coarse-grained petrified woods. Is this change related to resource depletion, changing mobility patterns, or some other factor? As a final observation, the diversity of arrow, dart, and knife types identified at the site (during all periods) suggests that it may have been part of a regional trade network and/or migration corridor. Dimond Knoll's proximity to the La Bahia road - originally an east-west Native American trail that was later utilized by the Spanish - offers tentative support for this theory.

A native Rhode Islander, Dr. Barrett earned both his master's and doctorate degrees from Texas A&M University. Since 2005 he has worked as a regulatory archaeologist at the Texas Department of Transportation.

For a campus map of St. Thomas University, go to [www.stthom.edu](http://www.stthom.edu) and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20, Anderson Hall. Street parking is available as well as paid parking (\$2) in Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. Teachers can receive one hour of CPE credit for attending this lecture.

## President's Message

HAS members –

Happy Texas Archeology Month! Each October, The Texas Historical Commission (THC) sponsors TAM in association with the [Texas Archeological Society](#) and the [Council of Texas Archeologists](#). Here are a few paragraphs about Texas Archeology Month from the THC website:

*If the history of human experience in Texas were a book, most of the pages would be blank. For all we know about human cultures, lives, and activities in Texas, many more stories of Texas' past remain unknown and await discovery. Texas Archeology Month (TAM) celebrates this spirit of discovery. It's an opportunity for Texans to understand the:*

- *Depth and richness of our heritage, from the former dwelling sites of prehistoric hunters and gatherers to historic shipwrecks and military sites*
- *Historical significance of the state's archeological sites*
- *Importance of proper archeological practices*
- *Contributions made by professional and avocational archeologists to our understanding of Texas' ancient and recent past*

The Houston Archeological Society will be sponsoring two programs to celebrate Texas Archeology Month. First will be our monthly meeting on Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Thomas University when Dr. Jason Barrett will present the first ever public presentation on excavations at 41HR796 – the Dimond Knoll Site - and the subsequent screening project. See the article about this presentation elsewhere in The Profile. The second will be an “Open Day” at the Dimond Knoll Screening Site when we will invite several groups interested in history and archeology to join us for a day of discovery. For more information about Texas Archeology Month and to see a calendar of TAM activities across the state (including those sponsored by HAS) go to <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/texas-archeology-month> and click on TAM Calendar.



**Board members for 2013-14, left to right: Carole Roberts, Director; Louis Aulbach, VP; Linda Gorski, President; Kathleen Hughes, Director; Lenore Psencik, Secretary. Not pictured: Robert Killian, Treasurer; and Don Keyes, Director.**

me at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com) or call me at 713-557-1496 if you have any comments or questions about HAS.

As we celebrate Texas Archeology Month, I want to thank every single member of the Houston Archeological Society for their contributions to the society in the past year. Last year's board and members can be justifiably proud of what we accomplished as a society in 2012 - 2013. Your new board was elected at the September meeting and held its first Board meeting on Wednesday, October 2. Already I can tell it's going to be a busy year!

In my president's message next month I will highlight some of the Society's accomplishments last year (and there were many!) and talk about what's in store for 2013 – 2014. Trust me, it's going to be a busy year! In the meantime, I hope to see you at the Dimond Knoll Screening Site each weekend and at the monthly meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Please email

## October and November Lab Dates

Lab will be held on October 28th only, as October 14th is the mid-term recess for Rice students. In November, we'll meet on November 11th and 25th. We've made great progress on the analysis and cataloging of two surface collections from our coastal margin shell-midden site, but we still have work to do. We'll meet at the usual time and place: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. Best parking is in the Founders Court/Visitors Lot and requires a credit or debit card; cost is still \$3.50/hr. A campus and parking map can be found at [www.rice.edu/maps](http://www.rice.edu/maps). Hope to see you there.

--Beth Aucoin

## Minutes of the Houston Archeological Society – Annual Business Meeting September 19, 2013

President Linda Gorski called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests. There were a total of 28 attendees, including 2 guests signed in.

Linda made the following announcements:

- Treasurers Report – Checking account balance \$5,603.27; Savings Account \$9,459.13
- HAS Membership – 114 members
- Dimond Knoll Screening Project – Dr. Jason Barrett, TxDot Principal Investigator (PI) provided an update. There have been 834 objects recovered at this site. Please come to our October meeting as Dr. Barrett will provide the first public presentation showcasing the Dimond Knoll site work. Screening is on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- 2014 TAS Field School – Site is at the Tait-Jackson Plantation in Columbus, Texas. Members of the HAS, BAS and FBAS will support TAS as regional archeological societies in putting on the field school. Plans are being made to prepare the site and expect more upcoming announcements regarding participation in that activity.
- Lab at Rice University – Scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 14<sup>th</sup>. Announced in the Profile.
- Next HAS Meeting – Dr. Jason Barrett, TxDot Archeologist and HAS member, will give the first public presentation about the excavations at the Dimond Knoll site 41HR796 and the subsequent screening project.

Election of the HAS 2013-2014 Officers – Bob Sewell presented the slate of nominees and asked for any other nominations from the floor, there were none. The quorum of 10% of the members was present, and a vote was called for. Motion to elect the Nominees by acclamation made by Linda Swift, seconded by Bill Haskell. For: unanimous, Against: none.

### **2013-2014 HAS Board Officers are as follows:**

Linda Gorski, President

Louis Aulbach, Vice President

Robert Killian, Treasurer

Lenore Psencik, Secretary

Don Keyes, Director-at-Large

Carol Roberts, Director-at-Large

Kathleen Hughes, Director-at-Large

Ruth Matthews, Texas Parks and Wildlife Region 4 Cultural Resources Coordinator, presented a very interesting program titled “Archeological Projects in the 15 Texas State Parks in Region 4.”

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. HAS members and guests then enjoyed snacks provided by Beth Aucoin and Tracy Connell.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Please try to be quiet if you arrive prior to 6:45 p.m. as there is a university class in session until that time. --Lenore Psencik, Secretary

### **Invitation to HAS: Conference on Mesoamerica in Houston**

The organizers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual South Central Conference on Mesoamerica would like to invite the membership of the HAS to our conference on November 1-3, here on the University of Houston campus. On Friday afternoon at 3:00 pm I will be presenting a workshop on craft specialization. At 5:30 there will be a reception followed at 6:30 by our keynote speaker Christopher Pool, who will present a paper entitled Olmec Archaeology and Early Mesoamerica. On Saturday and Sunday there will be a total of 53 15-minute presentations on Mesoamerica, featuring internationally and nationally recognized scholars. Registration is free! But attendees must register for the conference to attend Christopher Pool’s paper. If you have any additional questions about the conference please let me know and I will be glad to address them. Visit <http://southcentralmeso.org/> for registration and information.

I hope your membership will be able to attend.

Randolph (Dolph) J. Widmer, PhD  
Associate Professor of Anthropology  
University of Houston

## HAS Screening Project Update

October is Texas Archeology Month ... and we kicked it off by welcoming 28 Texas history students from Rosehill Christian Academy in Cypress to our Dimond Knoll Screening project. These students worked so hard and recovered some interesting artifacts! They can come back anytime!!!!



Savannah Whitfield recovered a nice large piece of Goose Creek pottery – and it's a rim sherd! With our circumference chart we should be able to figure out how big the pot was!



Dr. Jason is holding a preform recovered by student Addie Lyons



Carlos Soto (left) drove all the way over to our screening site from Austin to work with us. Bob Sewell is showing him the ropes.



Christian Combest recovered the point of the day!

Artifacts recovered this week included a large preform, a big oyster shell, a core, several pottery sherds, and this nice large point. Great job team!



## Upcoming Archeology Events:

### **Houston Archeological Society/Texas Department of Transportation**

**October 19** - Joint Archeological Project at Dimond Knoll Site (41HR796). TxDOT initiated a novel public outreach program in association with their investigations at the Dimond Knoll site (41HR796) in February of this year. With the cooperation of the Houston Archeological Society, TxDOT arranged to have sediments from the site moved to an off-site location for screening. These sediments fell outside the study sample in the approved scope and would not have been otherwise excavated. Participants from the Houston, Brazosport and Fort Bend archeological societies have participated nearly every weekend in the project, as well as archeology students and professors from several local colleges. The project has also been host to several school groups and by a large group from the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The public is invited to join to participate in this important project. Sponsored by Houston Archeological Society and TxDOT. 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Free. Screening site, Cypress area. For information and directions email Linda Gorski at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com), 713-557-1496. Visit web site at [www.txhas.org](http://www.txhas.org).

### **Texas Archeological Society**

**October 25-27** – Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society in Del Rio, Texas. **On Saturday, October 26, at 2:00 pm, our own Linda Gorski, Dr. Jason Barrett, and Rich Weinstein will present a paper on the HAS Dimond Knoll Screening Project.** In addition, they will be doing a poster presentation on the project that same day. If you're going to the Annual Meeting, be sure to attend these!

### **Friends of Archaeology**

**October 20** - Louis F. Aulbach to speak on "History and Archaeology of Buffalo Bayou." [If you missed this fascinating program at HAS, here is your chance to see it!] 5:00 pm, Anderson Hall, University of St. Thomas campus. Reception after Lecture. For more information, contact William S. (Bill) Tuttle at 281-496-0644.

### **Archaeological Institute of America-Houston Society**

**October 19** - [APACHE ANCIENT ENCOUNTERS](#) - Buffalo Bayou International Archaeology Day: Ancient Houston, KBR Kids Day. Come celebrate International Archaeology Day by learning about the first people who lived along Buffalo Bayou, right where the Kids Day Festival is being held. 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**October 27** - [HERITAGE EXCURSIONS](#) - Cemetery Tour: Visit historic Houston cemeteries: Founders, College Park, Olive Wood, and Beth Israel. Docents at each location will help you get to know more about Houston and its founders.

**November 9** - [APACHE ANCIENT ENCOUNTERS](#) - Ancient Texas: Pioneer Days. Discover the life of early Texans. Toss an atlatl, see how arrowheads are made, create your own rock art and a Cherokee trade bead necklace and excavate a trash heap.

**November 12** - [LECTURE SERIES](#) - Dark Cave, Bright Visions: Life & Art in Ice Age Europe.

For more information, visit the web site at <http://aia-houston.com>.

### **Texas Historical Commission and Texas State University**

**November 14** – "The Monterrey Shipwrecks Project" a presentation at the Moody Gardens theater in Galveston, starting at 6:30 pm with a viewing of educational material, followed by a presentation by two of the Principal Investigators. This project occurred in July of 2013 and involved an ROV investigation of three shipwrecks 170 miles off of the Texas-Louisiana coast at a depth of approximately 4500 ft. They are believed to date to the earlier part of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century and possibly represent a privateer and two prizes or consorts. An unusual aspect of this project was that the offshore portion of the investigation was streamed live online to a large audience that was able to send inquiries to the educators and archeologists during the broadcast. **Note: HAS will have a table, posters, brochures, etc. there, and everyone is invited to attend.** This presentation is free and open to the public.

(Continued next page)

## Houston Museum of Natural Science

**November 17** – “Our Own Backyard: Ancient Texas Art,” Discover ancient Texas art treasures at a presentation geared toward families by an archaeologist who works to connect people of all ages with land and cultural heritage. Afterwards, create your own rock art. 2:00 pm at the Museum, 5555 Hermann Park Drive. Free with museum entrance ticket. For more information, visit the web site at [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org).



## Texas Foundation for Archaeological Research

**October 21 - November 11**, 4 Monday evenings, 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. "A History of London" By Dr. William J. Neidinger. In this 4-lecture series Dr. Neidinger will embark upon a study of the history of London, from the arrival of the Romans in the first century BC to the reign of Queen Victoria. Each lecture will be a discussion of the events of London's history as reflected in the remains, monuments, buildings, and archaeological finds. When archaeology or literature so enable, he will look at some cameos of London life throughout the ages.

Location: St. Agnes Academy, 9000 Bellaire Blvd, Houston TX 77036. For additional information and to register for "London," visit <http://www.tfahr.org/london.html>.

**Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at [swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net).  
Submit articles no later than November 7 for the November 2013 issue.**

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

#### HAS BOARD MEMBERS

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#### TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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