



Thursday, January 21st, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.
“Kingwood’s First Inhabitants: The Timber Fawn Clovis site (41HR1165)
in Kingwood, Harris County.”
Wilson “Dub” Crook



The next meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be on Thursday, January 21 2016, 7:00 p.m. in Anderson Hall at St. Thomas University. Long-time HAS member, **Wilson W. "Dub" Crook**, will discuss the discovery and analysis of “Kingwood’s First Inhabitants: The Timber Fawn Clovis site (41HR1165) in Kingwood, Harris County.” The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at MD Anderson Hall, University of St. Thomas and is free of charge and open to the public.

The Gulf Coast has the highest density of reported Clovis points of any region in Texas; however the total number of points recorded from the region (n=119) is somewhat skewed due to large quantity from one locality, McFaddin Beach in Jefferson County (n = 97). Within Harris County, documented occurrences of Clovis points include a single point from the Addicks Reservoir survey, a Clovis point from the Galena site, and seven additional points known from local collections. In addition, several other Clovis points from Harris County can be found on local collector websites. All of these occurrences consist of single isolated finds none of which were in a site context and without any associated Clovis age tools such as blades, end-scrapers, graters, etc. These occurrences have now been augmented by the discovery of a new Clovis site in the Kingwood area of northeast Harris County.

In late 2014, KB Home began developing a new sub-division in the Kingwood area of Harris County known as “Rivergrove”. One afternoon, Houston Archeological Society (HAS) member Lenore Psencik was walking through the new sub-division and looked at the piles of soil that had been piled up at the end of a new street named “Timber Fawn Trail”. Sticking out of one pile adjacent to the street was a large, complete highly curved blade. Recognizing the artifact to be of probable Clovis affinity, Psencik contacted Dub Crook who also lives in the Kingwood area. Several visits to the site in December of 2014 discovered fragments of several additional blades, a large biface and the base of a fluted projectile point on the surface in the same area as the initial blade discover. Recognizing the significance of the finds, Crook initiated contact with

the management of KB Home in order to secure permission to conduct a surface survey of the entire area to recover any additional artifacts. This request KB Home graciously granted and members of the HAS conducted an extensive surface survey of the entire area on February 4, 2015 with a number of additional artifacts recovered. All the artifacts are consistent with a single Clovis age occupation; no other artifacts from any additional occupational period were found.



Clovis blade

Selection of large blades

Clovis point base

X-Ray Fluorescence analysis on the chert artifacts shows that many originated from the Edwards Plateau region, with a large number from the area of the Gault site (41BL323). It is therefore possible that the aboriginal residents of the Timber Fawn site are related to the Clovis occupation at the famous Gault site.

Mr. Crook is a Life Member (Fellow) of the Houston Archeological Society, a Life Member of the Dallas Archeological Society, a member of the Texas Archeological Society, a member of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, a Life Member of the Gault School of Archeological research, a Research Fellow with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, and a Fellow of the Leakey Foundation. He is the author of over 90 papers in the field of archeology and has recently published a book of the Late Prehistoric of the East Fork of the Trinity.

For a campus map of St. Thomas University, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20, Anderson Hall. Street parking is available as well as paid parking (\$5) in Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. For more information about this program or about the HAS, please contact lindagorski@cs.com.



President's Message

Happy New Year HAS Members and Friends!

My favorite part of being president of the Houston Archeological Society is the opportunity to interact with HAS members on a daily basis. Some of our members come to every monthly meeting, take part in every project and show up at every activity so I see them quite often. Many of our members who live locally join us as often as they can. A few of our members live in such far flung places as Washington, DC, Colorado, Louisiana and other parts of Texas, making it difficult for them to join us for most if any of our activities.

Occasionally I get a call from an out of town member wanting to reconnect on a more personal basis with HAS. Last month I had the distinct pleasure of visiting with one of our long-time members, Mike Marshall, who was extremely active in HAS for many years. He and his wife moved to Brenham several years ago and tackling Houston traffic is just too much for him right now so he vicariously enjoys HAS activities through our newsletter and website.

Mike is a master flintknapper and shared some of his amazing creations with us as we chatted. He regaled us with stories about growing up in Baytown and how his mother encouraged him to spend every day after school outdoors searching the mudflats and beaches for artifacts (mostly to keep him out from underfoot while she cooked dinner, he said). He also shared some fantastic memories of working in the field with other HAS members including photos and newspaper articles highlighting projects he had worked on in the 1980s and 1990s.



He harkened back to the days of the "Sheldonites" (named for Sheldon Kindall) when HAS members did a survey of archeological sites from a skiff along the shores of Galveston Bay. He showed us an impressive newspaper article that ran in the Houston Chronicle in 1988 highlighting a massive project HAS conducted along the banks of White Oak Bayou.



I considered this visit with Mike such a gift. I took copious notes as he spoke and he was kind enough to pass along documents including photos, maps and articles for the HAS archives ... an incredibly important donation to our society's history! Despite the fact that he is quite ill, Mike's enthusiasm for archeology and his vivid memories of the years he spent digging up Texas history with HAS was palpable. The visit with him reminded me again how lucky we all are to have each other and to share the passion we all have for archeology.

So as we kick off 2016 I look forward to sharing lots of memories with you in the New Year! See you at the meeting on January 21st!

Linda Gorski, President Houston Archeological Society

Minutes

Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting

December 17th, 2015

Welcome everyone – Louis Aulbach

In Linda Gorski's absence, Louis Aulbach welcomed new members and guests. A total of 41 members and guests were signed in.

Treasurer – Tom Nuckols

Checking Account: \$9908.71 Savings Account: \$11933.16

Membership - Bob Sewell

We have 198 members. Membership forms at back. All new and renewing members get a bumper sticker and a copy of the newest HAS Report and Journal.

New Business

- **86th Annual TAS Meeting** – Bob Sewell. The final accounts have been prepared. The meeting made a net profit of \$12909.13. TAS share is 50%. The remainder is split between HAS, BAS, and FBAS. HAS share is \$2151.52.
- **2016 Budget** – Tom Nuckols. The 2016 budget is being prepared. Once approved by the Board it will be presented for approval by the membership at the January 2016 membership meeting.
- **HAS Journal #135** – Dub Crook. Journal #135 is now complete. It contains 8 papers. The proof copy is under review. It is anticipated that the Journal will be available to members at the January 2016 membership meeting. Also, 2 special reports are planned - Timber Fawn site and Reminiscences of Moses Austin Bryan. Journal #136 is planned for mid-year 2016.

Projects

- **Cotton Field Site** – HAS members were excavating on Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6 at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch, Columbus, Texas. This was hugely successful. A feature was found, in what was thought to be sterile at 40cm below surface. Surrounding units are planned to be opened up in future in order to expose the whole feature. The next visit will be January 23-24, 2016.
- **Lab at Rice University.** Dr. Gus Costa is working with Rice University on the lab dates for 2016. They may change from Monday to Tuesday evenings.
- **TAS Field School 2016.** TAS Field School 2016 will again be held at the Tait Ranch in Columbus June 11-18. More information in January.
- **Frosttown Project** – Dr. Jason Barrett. The Project Team are waiting on the safety report/plan. It is hoped that work will commence in early 2016.

Program for December – Louis Aulbach presented a review of the Society's activities during 2015.

Program for January 2016 – HAS Lifetime member Wilson "Dub" Crook will discuss the discovery and analysis of "Kingwood's First Inhabitants: The Timber Fawn Clovis site (41HR1165) in Kingwood, Harris County."

Many thanks to all those folks who brought their favorite holiday snack to the meeting social.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21st, 2016.

Bob Sewell, Secretary Houston Archeological Society

Notes on Munitions – Book Reviews

by Tom Nuckols

I purchased these books for my library in 2015:

Cannons of the Texas Revolution by James V. Woodrick. If you've ever had any questions concerning the cannons used by the Mexican and Texas armies during the Texas Revolution, this book has the answers.

Purchased at the San Felipe de Austin Historic Site gift shop located in the Josey Store Visitors Center.

Author Woodrick's other works: *Bernardo*, *Crossroads*, *Social Center and Agricultural Center of Early Texas* (available on Amazon) and *Archeological Activities at 41AU82, Houston's "Camp West of Brazos"*, an article in Volume 82/2011, Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological Society.

Colonel Burton's Spiller & Burr Revolver, An Untimely Venture in Confederate Small Arms Manufacturing by Matthew W. Norman. A fascinating account of how the Confederacy armed itself during the Civil War.

Purchased at Half Price Books, 1011 Westheimer.

Peters & King, The Birth & Evolution of the Peter's Cartridge Co. & The King Powder Co. by Thomas D. Schiffer. I was rather disappointed when I received this book via Amazon, assuming that it would be a reference source for identifying (dates, variants, etc.) Peter's manufactured rimfire and center-fire cartridges. It wasn't. However this book does provide an interesting history of the two companies' with plenty of illustrations and contains useful information concerning Peter's cartridge case headstamps used on rimfires' and shot gun shells.

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Aboriginal Rock Art – Houston Museum of Natural Science

On 28th January, 2016 at 6:30pm, the Houston Museum of Natural Science will present a talk on "Aboriginal Rock Art" by Peter Veth. Friends of HAS will receive a discounted rate of \$13 with **coupon code Lec\$5off**. Present coupon code at HMNS Box Office or 713.639.4629 when purchasing tickets. (Coupon code not accepted online.)

For more information visit

http://www.artshound.com/event/detail/441941826/HMNS_AIA_Distinguished_Lecture_Series_Expression_in_Aboriginal_Rock_Art_by_Peter_Veth

SAN JACINTO TOWNSITE

INFORMAL MILITARY TIMELINE BY ARTIFACT

Many of you have seen the display featuring artifacts collected from the mudflats in the area of the old San Jacinto Townsite near the Lynchburg Ferry. However, you probably don't realize the amount of military artifacts recovered from the site (mud). All items were surface finds - no digging and no metal detectors. Below is an informal list and timeline for these artifacts.

BUTTONS

- 1820-1830 Navy button
- 1832-1839 Mexican "6" button(only other"6"buttons were recovered at the "Sea of Mud")
- 1840's Texas Navy button, Scovill
- 1860's "C" Calvary button ,T.E. Miller ,Houston(Confederate)
- 1860's "I" Infantry (Confederate) button
- 1860's "D" Dragoon(Union) button
- 1860's "A" Artillery(Union) button
- 1860's New York States Seal button
- 1860's Virginia States Seal button, maker unknown
- 1870's N H D V C button
- 1870's U.S. Navy , American Hard Rubber

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1830's -? Large brass saddle buckle with copper tongue, possible Calvary buckle (Mexican, Texan or Civil War)
- 1830's -? Brass saddle strap attachment?
- 1860's Union sword plate buckles
- 1860's Model 1859 Union cavalry spur
- 1860's? Bowie style knife. From Confederate Veteran Paper Feb.1912 "An Almost Forgotten Shrine" by H.O. Nelsen) Recounts his time spent in the town of San Jacinto while Confederate Naval ships were being repaired at one of the shipyards.

"We converted an old abandoned sawmill into an armory, where flintlock guns were changed for percussion caps, and where we made bowie knives fashioned after an original one in the possession of our major. A razor like edge was put to every weapon that left my armory, with a cow horn handle and copper guard made from the boiler tubes within the mill. A rawhide scabbard hid this vicious 'toothpick'."

- 1918-1919 Hog Island Shipbuilding badge. A partial badge, made from copper, was recovered from the townsite. Upon entering WWI the government formed the Emergency Fleet Corporation to construct ships, which then hired the American International Shipbuilding Corporation to build and operate the largest shipyard in the world. The Hog Island Shipyard was located on the Delaware River near Philadelphia and employed 30,000 workers and built 122 ships in 4 years, launching one every 5 days. The shipyard was over a mile and a quarter long with 28 docks. Ships from Hog Island never saw action in WWI, they did see use in WWII.



Thanks to all HAS members who spent time identifying the buttons and other artifacts.

- Larry Golden

HAS November Lab at Rice featured Forensic Palynologist - Dr. Andrew Laurence

On Monday, November 30th, 2015, Dr. Andrew Laurence, Forensic Palynologist, presented a mini-workshop to HAS members and Rice University students on Plant Microfossils in the Archeological Context. In this lab he discussed his graduate research on airborne starch contamination and its impact on the archeological record, particularly amongst fire-cracked rock (FCR) features in Central Texas. His research aimed to obtain direct evidence of the starch-rich plants cooked in earth ovens by analyzing residue adhering to the FCR.

Dr. Laurence has a strong background in palynology and was recruited by the Department of Homeland Security in 2012 to work for them, becoming the first professional forensic palynologist in the United States. Since then he has analyzed samples of pollen from all over the world and developed new methods of obtaining pollen grains for a wide variety of sample types. The lab for HAS members discussed how important it is not to contaminate sites before artifacts are examined. Dr. Laurence also discussed the pros and cons of cleaning artifacts in the field before they can be examined in the lab.

For the Spring 2016 semester at Rice we will have lab meetings on Tuesdays 7-9 PM. The spring lab agenda is not yet set. However we will meet at least once a month, including January 19th, February 9th, March 15th and April 5th. Dr. Jason Barrett plans to bring the Cotton field collection to Houston sometime next year. Future HAS labs will likely focus on processing and analysis of Cotton field materials. Lab will convene more frequently if this occurs. Please stay tuned for additional lab dates.

Our next lab on January 19th will focus on processing and sorting legacy HAS materials from the Barnhill and Clamon sites 41WH17 and 41WH18.

- *Dr. Gus Costa. Lab Director*

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DON'T FORGET MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS DUE

It's that time of the year again!! If you have not done so already, it is time to renew your HAS Membership for 2016. For just \$25 for an Individual, \$15 for a Student, or \$30 for a Family you can continue to be part of the most active Archeological Society in Texas. You can find a membership form on our website at

<http://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf>

Cotton Field Site Work Continues January 23 and 24, 2016

As most of you know, we are continuing archeological excavations at the Cotton Field site at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas, that we began during TAS Field School in 2014 and continued in 2015. Our next work weekend at Cotton Field is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, January 23 and 24, and we hope you can join us. The Cotton Field site, located in Colorado County, offers ideal conditions for studying the Late Prehistoric period, spanning both the Austin phase (ca. 700AD -1200AD) and the subsequent Toyah phase (1150AD -1500AD) in Texas. Thanks to our landowners, Rita Tait Jackson and Ed Jackson, we are continuing our excavations under the direction of HAS member and Field School PI, Dr. Jason W. Barrett.

Our excavations on December 5 and 6 revealed some extraordinarily interesting occupation features, especially one in Unit C that HAS member Tom Williams and his team are excavating.

If you plan to join us in January, please email me back at lindagorski@cs.com so I can add you to our Cotton Field contact list and send you directions to the site as well as other important information including cancellation notices in case of severe weather. You must be a member of the Houston Archeological Society or one of the other regional archeological societies or the Texas Archeological Society to participate. If you are not yet a member of the Houston Archeological Society, please see our website at www.txhas.org and click on "Membership". In the meantime, here are a few photos to whet your appetite for some fieldwork in the New Year!



Saturday morning dawned clear and bright as nearly 20 folks were assigned to their units.



SNAKES! Every time we remove the tarps from the units to begin work we find snakes. This time we found three!



... but why was everyone gathered around this blue bucket instead of digging???



John Rich, our snake catcher, not only captured three snakes but a snakeskin as well!!! Way to go, John!



Tom Williams carefully excavating an interesting occupation feature in Unit C



When field school in June 2015 had to be called after 3 days due to heavy rains, the site was covered with plastic tarps. This is a photo of the east side of the site which has remained covered and has collected rainwater, leaves, dirt and mud. This weekend Dr. Jason put together a crew to clean the site.



A cooking feature in Unit M is being carefully excavated and removed by Dr. Gus Costa so his crew can take the unit down to the next level.



Here Dr. Jason, Rita Tait Jackson (not just a generous landowner but a darned hard worker!) and Sue Gross drag heavy and muddy tarps off the site.



Dr. Jason Barrett and Bob Sewell examining an artifact that has been recovered from Unit H.



Dr. Jason with Lori Maloy who traveled all the way to Columbus from Sherman to dig with us.



By the end of the day Sunday, the entire site was clean as a whistle, covered with landscaping fabric and ready for our fieldwork coming up January 23 and 24, 2016. Hope to see you then!

- Linda Gorski

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2016
7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
M. D. Anderson Hall, St. Thomas University

February 18, 2016 - Brad Jones – **Gifts for the Indians: French and Spanish Trade Goods on the Texas Coast in the 1680s.** Brad Jones, archeologist with the Texas Historical Commissions Archeology Division will present a program highlighting La Salle's 1684 expedition to establish a French settlement on the Mississippi River which unexpectedly resulted in one of the first prolonged engagements between Native American and European peoples in the Texas Gulf region.

March 17, 2016 - Eleanor Stoddart - **Cultural Resource Subsurface Survey and Archeological Monitoring of the Proposed Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage, Houston, Harris County, Texas.** In early 2015, Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. conducted cultural resource subsurface survey field investigations and archeological construction monitoring of the proposed Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage. The focus of the investigations was on Blocks 119 and 161 in downtown Houston. Over 12 features (including cisterns, brick pavements and trash pits) and 2100 artifacts including glass, ceramics, architectural and personal items as well as faunal remains were recovered from Block 161. Eleanor Stoddart, a professional archeologist with Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. will discuss how these artifacts and features shed light on some of the moderately wealthy early inhabitants of Houston during a time when Houston was undergoing rapid economic and cultural development changes.

April 21, 2016 - TBA

May 19, 2016 - Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski - **Rome in Ruins – Archeological Sites along the Aurelian Wall.** HAS President Linda Gorski and HAS Vice President Louis Aulbach will present a program highlighting portions of their newest book, *Along the Aurelian Wall – Rome in Ruins – A Self-Guided Walk*. Most travelers who visit Rome as tourists have a limited amount of time to see the sites. They do the “Caesar shuffle” – see the Colosseum and the Roman Forum -- and think they have seen it all. This talk will highlight the archeological sites of ancient Rome, from the city's founding in 753 BC to the end of the Roman Empire in 476 AD, over 1200 years of cultural history. The program will feature photos of many of these ancient sites which are off the beaten tourist track.

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS visit our website at www.txhas.org or email lindagorski@cs.com. You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

Note: Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Submit articles no later than January 28th for the February 2016 issue.

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