



Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, May 19th, 2022

Dr. Jon C. Lohse

The Calf Creek Horizon: A Mid-Holocene Hunter-Gatherer Adaptation in the Central and Southern Plains of North America”



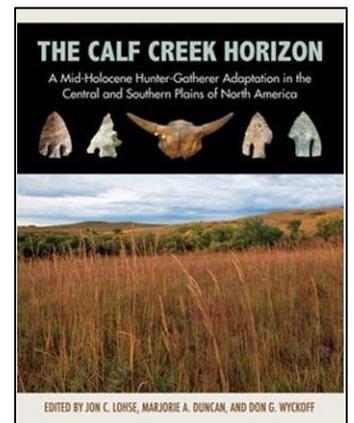
The Thursday, May 19th meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will feature a presentation by professional archeologist, Dr. Jon Lohse on the Calf Creek cultural horizon. Our plans are to hold this meeting in person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center at 1414 Wirt Road in Houston beginning at 6:30 p.m. with social hour before the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. We will also offer this meeting and program to our members via Zoom (members will receive the link via email shortly before the meeting). The program only will also be presented via YouTube livestream starting at 7:15 at this link <https://youtu.be/doH8q20oWh0>

Often characterized by distinctive chipped-stone technology, the Calf Creek cultural horizon made its first appearance in the central and southern plains of North America some six thousand years ago. Distributed over a known area of more than 500,000 square miles, it is one of the largest post-Paleoindian archaeological cultural complexes in North America.

One of the most notable aspects of Calf Creek culture is its distinctive, deeply notched bifaces, many of which show evidence of heat-treating. Recent targeted dating suggests that these unique traits, which required exacting knapping and other techniques for production, arose in a relatively narrow window, sometime around 5,950–5,700 calendar years before the present. Given the wide geographical distribution of Calf Creek artifacts, however, researchers surmise that these technological innovations, once adopted, spread fairly quickly throughout the associated cultural groups.

This talk presents some of the highlights and recent lessons from work on the Calf Creek Horizon. The recently published volume (TAMU Press) *The Calf Creek Horizon* brings together for the first time in a single source fine details of geographic distribution, regional variability, typology, and technological aspects of Calf Creek material culture. This first-ever “big picture” view will inform and direct related research for years to come.

Dr. Jon C. Lohse is a Senior Associate with Terracon Consultants, Inc. where he manages a team of natural and cultural resources experts and consultants. He is the Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Gault School for Archaeological Research, and an affiliated researcher in the Anthropology Department at Rice University. He has been a professional practicing archaeologist for what feels like a very long time; he received his MA (1994) and PhD (2001) from UT Austin. He’s a native Houstonian and seventh generation Texan. He lives about a quarter of a mile from this meeting hall with his wife, archaeologist Dr. Molly Morgan Lohse, their two children, and his mother, former HAS member Margie Elliott. His latest publication is the edited volume titled “The Calf Creek Horizon: A Mid-Holocene Hunter-Gatherer Adaptation in the Central and Southern Plains of North America” (Texas A&M University Press, 2021).



For more information on this meeting email president@txhas.org

President's Message – Larry Golden

Well!!! She did it, Linda Gorski has moved on to Hilton Head, she's left, she's gone like "Elvis has left the building" gone.

Talk about big shoes to fill, with all those years of successfully leading HAS+++ , Linda will be missed! So bear with us while we adjust and we shall carry on.

If you missed Dr. Mary Prendergast's talk last week at the monthly meeting you truly missed an interesting talk, so please view it on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9S-bHXRT3A>.

It's not too late to register for the TAS Field School in Kerrville June 11-18. For more info see their website at <https://www.txarch.org/Field-School>.

The latest HAS journal #144 is out and available for pick up at the May 19th monthly meeting at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center.

At this time, we have paused the Lone Oak excavations, while we investigate an additional prehistoric location for possible excavation opportunities. STAY TUNED.

San Felipe de Austin site archeologist Dr. Sarah Chesney has advised HAS to be ready for possible shovel tests beginning in July.

James Woodrick, who has worked with HAS on several projects, will be presenting his talk on "The Cannons of San Jacinto" on Saturday May 7th 5pm – 7pm at the San Jacinto Museum. See the San Jacinto Battleground Facebook site for more info.

Also, the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site will continue their rebuild of the grass house and are looking for volunteers. Check out this link if you are interested <https://sites.google.com/view/friendsofcaddomoundssh/volunteer/projects/grass-house>

Watch for details about more of our activities, field work, events, and programs in the HAS newsletter and on the Houston Archeological Society Facebook site. If you have missed a meeting, please view them on our Houston Archeological Society – YouTube channel.

If you have additional questions about HAS, please email me at goldenlarry58@gmail.com

Larry Golden

Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2022

Larry Golden, HAS president, welcomed Members and Guests to our April meeting via Zoom and YouTube Livestream. Meeting began at 7pm.

Treasurer's Report (Bob Sewell):

Bob reported amounts in the HAS checking and savings accounts. If any member is interested in more information about HAS finances, please see Bob. From the amount Bob announced in HAS accounts, a check for \$15,000 has been paid to Chet Walker for Geophysical Survey

Membership (Bob Sewell): We have 174 members so far in 2022. Membership is down from our total membership of 251 members last year, but hopefully the numbers will pick up once the outreach projects start up in the summer.

- **Website (Bob Sewell):** The website is currently not experiencing any problems. If you experience a problem, please email Bob at treasurer@txhas.org.
- **Newsletter (Bob Sewell):** Thanks to everyone who has contributed an article to our newsletter. If you have a topic for an article dealing with Southeast Texas archeology, and need help with writing it, please contact Bob.
- **HAS Hats (Bob Sewell):** The hat order has arrived. Hats can be mailed but there will be an added cost for postal charges (\$3 for one hat, \$5 for two)

New Business:

Update on Lone Oak, Frelsburg, TX: We have been working the Lone Oak site for several years. The site is still giving artifacts but nothing new, so we feel we have done as much as we can do at this time. There is a nearby property that is available to start as a new project. This new site is also in Frelsburg. A walking survey has been done and it seems this site has a lot to offer (tools, debitage, points). The landowner is excited to have us work on his property and will open for entire membership. A project proposal will be written as required by the HAS constitution. Announcements will be sent out to membership once the site is approved to start work.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution: Louis Aulbach recapped the proposed changes to the HAS Constitution.

The proposed amendments will be sent to all members by email from the Secretary, Diana Cooper to be reviewed. At the next in-person meeting in May, we will take an in-person vote. Any questions can be emailed to Diana Cooper at email: secretary@txhas.org.

Reports and Journals (Louis Aulbach): Journal, # 144 is available and will be ready to pick up at the May meeting. The articles will focus on the San Felipe de Austin Dig by John Lohse, Horseshoes in Texas, a Thimble from the 18th or 19th century from France found in Frost Town, and another article about Camp Kirby in Dickenson, TX, a civil war camp by Charly Gordy, ceramics from Cottonfield by Tim Perttula, and information from Mike Woods about a Butted Knife Found in Comal County.

Obituary:

Sadly, we have to announce that Johnney Pollan passed away on April 4, 2022. He was a curator at the Brazos Port Museum. He was a founding member of the Brazos Port Archeological Society and long-time THC steward and long-time HAS member. Please keep his family in your thoughts.

Next month program – May 19th: Dr. John Lohse will be the speaker in person at Trini Mendenhall Community Center and via Zoom/YouTube. He is a senior associate with Terracon Consultants, Inc. His talk will be on Calf Creek Horizon: A Mid-Holocene Hunter-Gatherer Adaptation in the Central and Southern Plains of North America.

Caddo Mounds – July 8 – 14 – Rebuilding of the house destroyed by tornado. When more information is available, details will be sent to membership.

Tonight’s Program: Held virtually via Zoom from the Rice University Archeology Lab, the program featured a presentation by Dr. Mary Prendergast, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Rice. In 2021, Rice University renovated its archaeology laboratory and expanded the possibilities for teaching and research with the generous donation by the Houston Archeological Society of the William McClure Faunal Collection. Dr. Prendergast demonstrated her work through a slide show. Dr. Prendergast provided the virtual tour of the new laboratory, followed by a presentation of ongoing teaching and research projects, including student analyses of animal bone remains from Varner-Hogg Plantation, and a discussion of opportunities for future HAS collaborations with the Rice University team.

Google the YouTube Video “Old Bones get new life in renovated Rice Laboratory” for more insight on the lab.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 p.m.

Diana Cooper, Secretary

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HAS Memberships for 2022 Are Now Due

We hope you will renew your membership in the Houston Archeological Society and maybe even give a membership as a gift to someone you know will enjoy digging up Texas history with us – one trowel full at a time. You can either pay your dues online using a credit card at <http://www.txhas.org/membership.html> or download a hardcopy of the membership form from <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf> and mail it to us with your payment.

Our membership is the best deal in town:

\$25 Individual membership

\$30 Family Membership

\$35+ Contributing membership

\$15 Student membership

Remember that benefits of your membership include the unique opportunity to dig with us at archeological sites in the area, work with us at our labs where we process artifacts from those sites, and your FREE copies of our current academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals. Please join us!!!!

Johnney Pollan Jr. 1947 – 2022

Our good friend, **Johnney T. Pollan, Jr.** passed away early on April 4, 2022.

Johnney just turned 75 on March 23. He was a proud Texan, being raised in the shadows of the Alamo and missions in San Antonio. He could recite many historical facts about Texas history and enjoyed sharing his knowledge of Texas history and archeology with everybody. He graduated from Trinity University, and then worked as an engineer and computer programmer for The Dow Chemical Company for many years before retirement. He then went back to work doing the same thing for Dow as a contractor, as well as teaching classes of Dow software Mod V computer programming at Brazosport College, before he fully retired just a few years ago.



Johnney was the Curator of Archeology at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science. He was a founding member of the Brazosport Archeological Society, as well as a long-time member of the Texas Archeological Society, and other regional societies in Texas. Johnney was instrumental in the archeological sites being documented in Brazoria County, from prehistoric to the local historic plantations. He worked on many notable archeological sites in Texas, as well as a summer youth program in Illinois. He attended many TAS Field Schools from El Paso, Panhandle, Central, East, and South Texas, as well as being a “camp boss” for the 1994-95 TAS Field Schools in Lake Jackson. He was a steward for the Texas Archeological Steward Network and was recently involved with a project for the Partners for Archeological Site Stewardship national program. He taught archeological classes for the Brazoria County Master Naturalists for many years, as well as providing many school classes with displays and lectures on archeology.

Johnney was a friend and mentor to many of us in archeology, and we will miss him tremendously, as well as his memory of long forgotten facts about archeology and history.

Johnney is survived by his wife Sandra, their children Trey, Heather, and Erin and their families.

Notes on Munitions

Fired and Unfired Cartridge Bullets By Tom Nuckols

Introduction

There are two types of cartridge bullets that are often recovered on archaeological sites that were once, but no longer, part of a rimfire or centerfire¹ cartridge. I refer to these bullets as “fired cartridge bullets” and “unfired cartridge bullets”.

Fired Cartridge Bullets

Fired cartridge bullets are bullets that have been fired in a gun. These bullets usually exhibit some degree of damage caused by:

1. falling to the earth at the end of their flight.
2. hitting an object that terminates their flight, such as a tree trunk or a target.
3. striking an object while in flight, a ricochet² for example.
4. a combination of 2 and 3.

Fired cartridge bullets are also imprinted on a portion of the length of their outer surface caused by the left-hand or right-hand twist rifling³ in the barrel bore from the gun they were fired in.

Examples of Fired Cartridge Bullets

Three fired cartridge bullets imprinted with right hand twist rifling are shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Three fired cartridge bullets imprinted with right hand twist rifling. The two bullets on the left were fired in a handgun, a revolver and pistol respectively. The bullet on the right was fired in a rifle.

¹ A rimfire or center-fire cartridge, is a complete round of ammunition fired in a rifle or a handgun. A cartridge consists of a metallic case of either brass or copper, a bullet, gun powder, a primer and usually, but not always, a headstamp

² A ricochet is a rebound, bounce or skip off a surface by a bullet while in flight. Unlike in the movies or television shows, not all ricocheting bullets make a sound. Those bullet ricocheting sounds are “canned sound effects” (pre-produced sound effects to create exactly the right sound, of exactly the right duration for the production). In all my years of shooting, I have only heard two bullets make a ricochet sound. They were 22s (22 caliber Long Rifle) fired out of a rifle. The ricochet sound that they made were a subtle whine of short duration. I was wearing ear plugs at the time. A ricochet sound can only be made by a bullet when it is fired in a gun with a rifled barrel.

³ Rifling is the spiral grooves in the bore (inside) of a gun barrel. Rifling imparts a spin to a bullet that improves its aerodynamic stability and accuracy. Depending on the gun manufacturer, rifling spins a bullet in either a clockwise or a counterclockwise direction in what is called “right hand twist rifling” or “left hand twist rifling”. When a bullet travels down the bore of a gun, its surface is imprinted with a positive impression of the bores rifling.

The two bullets on the left were fired in a handgun, a revolver and pistol respectively. Both bullets do not appear to have suffered any appreciable damage. The bullet on the right was fired in a rifle, and it has damage to its nose.

In Figure 2, the revolver bullet on the left and the rifle bullet on the right, are called monolithic bullets, because



Figure 2. A .38 caliber, Long Colt revolver cartridge recovered at Frost Town. Photograph courtesy of Prewitt and Associates, Inc. The part of the bullet below the white horizontal line, once sat inside the cartridge case.

they are made out of a single material, lead. The bullet on the right, is coated with a thin layer of copper wash to reduce the amount of lead residue (commonly referred to as 'leading' of the barrel) left over in gun barrels after they are fired.

The pistol bullet in the middle is called a built-up or jacketed bullet because it has two parts, a lead core and an outer jacket of metal. The jacket material of this bullet is probably a copper alloy. Jacketed bullets are more reliable than lead monolithic bullets when used in the cycling system of a semi-automatic pistol and prevents leading.

Unfired Cartridge Bullets

Unfired cartridge bullets are bullets that have not been fired in a gun, but for whatever reason, they are no longer part of a cartridge; they have become separated from their cartridge case.

Example of an Unfired Cartridge Bullet

A few years ago, while conducting excavations at the historic site of Frost Town (41HR982) near downtown Houston, archaeologists with Prewitt and Associates, Inc., uncovered Feature #33, a brick cistern in Block "C". One of the numerous artifacts found inside the cistern was a centerfire, brass-cased, .38 caliber, Long Colt

revolver cartridge containing a lead bullet (Figure 2). The cartridge was so degraded that shortly after recovery, the bullet separated from the case, taking a portion of the case mouth with it. See Figure 3, for a pristine version of the above-mentioned cartridge.



Figure 3. A centerfire, brass cased, .38 caliber, Long Colt, revolver cartridge, containing a lead bullet. This is a pristine version of the cartridge depicted in Figure 2, Picture from https://military-history.fandom.com/wiki/.38_Long_Colt_

References

Bussard, Mike, et al., *Ammo Encyclopedia: for all rimfire and centerfire cartridges, plus shotshells*. 6th edition (Minneapolis, MN: Blue Book Publications, Inc., 2017).

Nuckols, Tom. "Notes on Munitions: A .38 Long Colt Center-fire Cartridge from Frost Town (41HR982)." *Houston Archeological Society newsletter, The Profile*, July, 2018, <https://www.txhas.org/PDF/newsletters/2018/2018%20July%20Profile.pdf>, page 4.

A Relic of Houston's Railroad Era

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

One of the largest artifacts from Houston's railroad era of the early 20th century is on display in a public space that is so inaccessible that many Houstonians have never seen it!

We are speaking of the Strauss Bascule Bridge that is located along the hike and bike trail on the north bank of Buffalo Bayou between McKee Street and Jensen Drive. Access to the trail is found on the west side of the McKee Street bridge where a paved walkway curves down the bank and then turns east as it goes under the bridge. Continue east on the path for about 500 yards until the overpass complex of Interstate 69 is overhead. After you have adjusted your hearing to the remarkable din of the vehicular traffic above, you realize that there is something peculiar here. There is a drawbridge under the highway!

The drawbridge, in the classical design with a leaf hinged on the north bank of the bayou that lowers to the base on the south side, is a bascule bridge built in 1912 for the Houston Belt and Terminal Railway Company. The bridge was designed by Joseph Strauss, the owner of the Strauss Bascule Bridge Company of Chicago and built by the Wisconsin Bridge and Iron Company (see Figure 1).



Figure 4: The dedication plaque of the Strauss Bascule Bridge provides the basic information about its construction. (Photo: Louis F. Aulbach)

A bascule bridge is a moveable bridge with a counterweight that continuously balances the span throughout the entire upward swing. The term bascule comes from the French word for seesaw. A bridge of this design requires very little energy to operate. The fixed trunnion bascule design rotates around a large axle (the trunnion) to raise the bridge (see Figure 2).

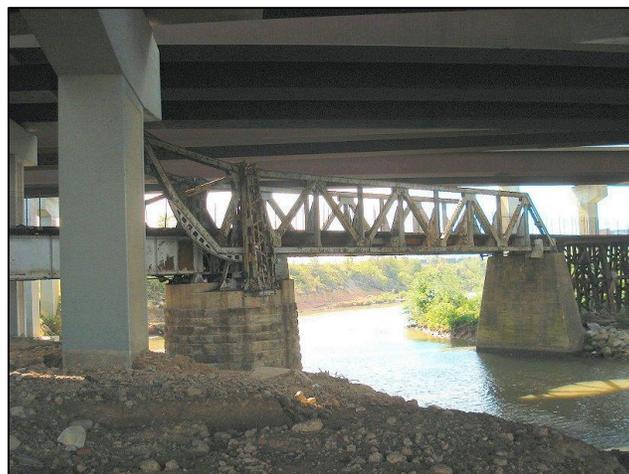


Figure 5: The Strauss Bascule Bridge is permanently fixed in its original location under the I-69 bridge over Buffalo Bayou. (Photo: Louis F. Aulbach)

The axle with its large gears is on the north bank. The enormous counterweight for the bridge has been moved from the bridge mechanism and rests a short distance northeast of the bridge, several yards away. Bridges of this type are sometimes called a “Chicago bascule” since the design was developed and perfected by Joseph Strauss of Chicago and used for many of that city's bridges.

Joseph Baermann Strauss was born January 7, 1870, in Cincinnati and he graduated from University of Cincinnati in 1892. Ten years later, he established his firm. The bascule bridge in Houston is one of about four hundred bascule bridges that Strauss had completed by 1916. In that year, the City of San Francisco solicited ideas for a bridge across the bay, and Joseph Strauss responded with a large-scale proposal that included a massive cantilever on each side and a central suspension segment. Strauss spent more than a decade gathering support for his design for the Golden Gate bridge.

Finally, construction of the bridge began on January 5, 1933, and the Golden Gate bridge was completed by April 1937. The Golden Gate Bridge was truly Strauss's life work. Strauss died May 16, 1938, in Los Angeles, a little more than a year after the completion of the bridge.¹

The renovation of the US 59 (now I-69) overpass and access ramps in 2003 called for the restoration of this historic drawbridge. The bridge is permanently locked in the down position since the roadbed has become part of the bikeway system along Buffalo Bayou. The Strauss Bascule Bridge provides access for hikers and bikers to the trails on both sides of the bayou.

The Strauss Bascule Bridge was commissioned by the Houston Belt and Terminal Railway Company at a time when Houston's economy was growing rapidly. The city proudly touted its commercial prowess based on shipping, railroads, and cotton in the popular slogan of 1912: “Houston, Where 17 Railroads Meet the Sea. The largest Inland Cotton Market in the World.” The bridge was a major component of the railroad enterprise of Benjamin F. Yoakum to provide both freight and passenger terminal operations for his Gulf Coast Lines roads - the Trinity and Brazos Valley Railway, the Beaumont, Sour Lake, and Western Railway, and the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railway. The Houston Belt and Terminal Railway was chartered in 1905, and in 1911, the HB&T completed the construction of Union Station, a facility that it operated for over sixty years.² Today, the former passenger terminal of Union Station is a component of the Ballpark at Union Station (aka Minute Maid Park).

Although the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco is clearly the structure that gave Joseph Strauss his worldwide fame, this 1912 bascule bridge in Houston is Strauss's second most famous bridge. At least, we like to think so!

Footnotes

1. Aulbach, Louis F. *Buffalo Bayou, An Echo of Houston's Wilderness Beginnings* (Houston: Aulbach Publishing, 2012), 478-480.
2. George C. Werner, “Houston Belt and Terminal Railway,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed April 07, 2022, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/houston-belt-and-terminalrailway>. Weiskopf, Douglas L. *Rails Around Houston* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009), 9, 71.

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2022
6:30pm Third Thursday of every month

June – TAS Field School – No program

July 21st – **Field School Attendees** - Report on 2022 Field School in Kerrville, Texas

August 18 – **San Felipe de Austin staff:** The Villa de San Felipe de Austin – (speaker to be announced)

September 15–**Gavin Miculka** - Octoberfest in LaGrange - an archeological history of the Kreische Brewery

October 20 – Texas Archeology Month Program – to be announced

November 17 – **Eleanor Stoddart**, TPWD Cultural Resources Coordinator for Region 4 – report on Archeological activities at 15 local TPWD sites

December 15 – **HAS President** – Wrap up of 2021 Activities

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are normally free and open to the public. For more information about HAS then 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/>

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Please submit articles for the June 2022 issue no later than 25th May 2022.

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

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