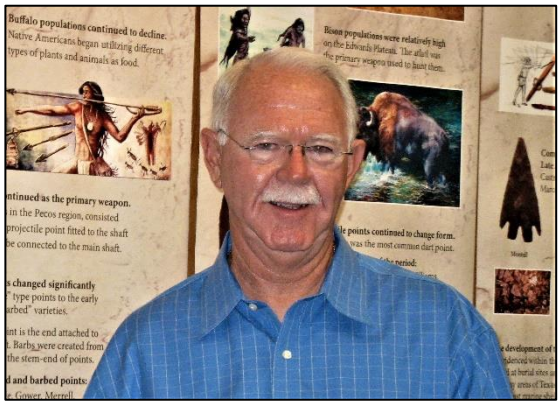
Houston Archeological Society

www.txhas.org

THE PROFILE

Vol 10, Issue 5

Thursday, May 20th, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.
"41KR754 – A New Multicomponent Site Containing Late Paleoindian Through Late Prehistoric Assemblages: Kerr County, Texas" – Steve Stoutamire



The next monthly meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held on Thursday, May 20th via ZOOM and YouTube Livestream**.** This month's program will feature a presentation by Steve Stoutamire from the Hill Country Archeological Association who will speak on 41KR754 in Kerr County. Steve will also discuss the 2021 TAS Field School, hosted by HCAA, which will be held at a neighboring prehistoric site in Kerr County. HAS members will receive a link to the ZOOM meeting shortly. The business meeting will start at 7:00 but we will open the meeting to HAS members at 6:30 to offer everyone 30 minutes to socialize. The program will begin 7:15 on Zoom and will also be livestreamed to non-members starting at 7:15 p.m. on the HAS YouTube channel at https://youtu.be/PA_kJT1wuH8.

The Hill Country Archeology Association began investigations at 41KR754 in August, 2018 after an invitation by the owners, who had recognized ancient cultural material on the surface of a river terrace on their ranch. Initial visits by the HCAA focused on pedestrian surveys particularly in the area of two middens located within the site. These surface areas yielded a good density of chert tools and diagnostic dart points. With the encouragement of the owners to excavate and identify more cultural definition, the HCAA began controlled excavations in December, 2018.

Initial excavations revealed a robust assemblage of Middle Archaic through Late Prehistoric dart and arrow points along with various lithic tools, organics including bison bone, pottery, obsidian flakes and other apparent trade items. In July of 2019 the first Paleoindian point was found on the site after the landowner had dug a new ditch for a water line. The point was found in the soil heap which had come from the ditch and was identified as Saint Mary's Hall. Operations then focused within that area of the site, recovering a total of 20 SMH, four Angostura and one possible Golondrina. One C14 date was obtained from bone closely associated with several of the SMH points and yielded a date of calibrated 10,248-10,193 YBP. Operations continue at the site as of April, 2021.

Steve Stoutamire is a retired petroleum geologist. He received a BA in Anthropology (1972) from Florida State University and an MS in Geology (1975) from Texas Tech University. During a 32-year career in the petroleum industry he held technical, business and managerial positions in both domestic and international operations. Since retirement in 2007, he and wife Nancy have lived near Kerrville, Texas. He is an active avocational archeologist and regularly works to educate the public through teaching classes and giving archeology lectures. He works with private landowners, by their invitation, to help them understand archeological sites on their property. He is also a member, past president, and current field committee chairman of the Hill Country Archeological Association, a member of the Texas Archeology Society, the Gault School of Archeological Research and the Center for The Study of First Americans. He serves as vice chairman of the board of the Gault School of Archeological Research at the University of Texas, Austin. He also serves as a Texas Archeology Steward for the Texas Historical Commission.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact HAS President, Linda Gorski, at lindagorski@cs.com.

President's Message – Linda Gorski

HAS members and friends,

The Houston Archeological Society's Public and Educational Outreach Programs are Baaaaack!!!!

Four members from HAS hosted the first post-Covid in person Public Outreach event since early 2020 for a group of scouts from Cub Scout Pack 1100 in Cypress at Spring Creek Park in Tomball on Saturday, April 10. Sharon Menegaz, Jay Gavitt, Louis Aulbach and yours truly guided the scouts through several activities including ceramic reconstruction, artifacts sorting, corn grinding and identifying artifacts in our large display of authentic hands-on prehistoric and historic artifacts. Thanks to Sharon Menegaz who put together several notebooks that our scouts could use as flip charts, we also presented our program on "What is Archeology" without electronic media!!! If you are interested in scheduling an outreach program for your group, please contact us at publicoutreach@txhas.org.

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Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 1100 in Cypress at the Archeology Outreach Program on Saturday, April 10.

Cub Scouts match points from our hands-on prehistoric artifacts bin to those depicted on the First Texans poster.

Scouts taking part in ceramic reconstruction activity With HAS member Louis Aulbach and scout leader.

Cub Scouts from Pack 1100 in Cypress examining and even cleaning hands-on artifacts!!!

Who says archeology can't be fun?? Scouts enjoy making masks from bovine pelvic bones and an alligator skull.

Look forward to seeing you at our next Zoom presentation! Please email me at president@txhas.org if you have any questions about the Houston Archeological Society.

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting
April 15, 2021

WELCOME to our HAS Monthly Meeting, held via ZOOM! We are so glad everyone can join us tonight. **(Linda Gorski, President).**

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. The Audit Committee recently went over the books thoroughly and found no problems. All accounts are in order. Linda said "thanks" to Louis Aulbach, Mike Woods and Geoff Mills for serving on the committee.

Membership (Bob Sewell): Our membership currently stands at 206, which includes around 20 new members, many of whom came from our Academy 101 workshop in March!

Website and Newsletter (Bob Sewell): Our website is going great with no outages. Additionally, our newsletter has received many positive comments. Thanks to those who have submitted articles of such high quality! Linda also thanked Bob for making the newsletter such a success!

New Business

Publications (Dub Crook): Journal #143 on Western U.S. archeology is already out. Please see Linda if you have not received your copy. Also, the Lone Oak Phases I and II Report #36 has been sent out! Again, contact Linda to have your copy mailed; or you can pick it up at either Louis Aulbach's or Linda's house. We hope to have HAS Report #37, a shorter publication, on the Lone Oak Phase III site (a lithic workshop) out later this year, and Journal #144 (General Texas Archeology) by the end of 2021. Note: all reports and journals come with your individual ($25/year) and family ($30/year) membership.

Upcoming Projects (Linda Gorski):

San Felipe de Austin, Garden Lot 26: Work at this site, located on the property of Kathleen Kelly, is ongoing. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Linda Gorski!

Outreach Programs: Linda Gorski and Sharon Menegaz): We have resumed some of our outreach programs. On Saturday, April 10, Linda, Sharon, Louis Aulbach, and Jay Gavitt visited with Cub Scout Pack 1100 at Spring Creek Park. The day was a success! Our next outreach day will be on April 24th at Kleb Woods, where we will meet with a Girl Scout troop! If you are interested in getting involved in HAS outreach, please let Linda know.

Tonight's Program: Bioarcheologist Dr. Catrina Whitley, and archeologists Ron Ralph and Reign Clark presented a program entitled "Back to Bondage: The Story of the Sugar Land 95." This project has been the subject of many recent news stories when construction efforts at a school site in Sugar Land revealed 95 graves of former convicts. Work at the site revealed the largest unknown convict cemetery in the state of Texas. Ongoing work on DNA, isotype analysis, and genealogical research will hopefully result in the location of descendants and name placement on markers at the Bullhead Convict Labor Camp Cemetery.

May Meeting: Steve Stoutamire of the Hill Country Archeological Association will present a talk entitled "A Newly Discovered Paleo Indian and Multicomponent Site in Kerr County, Texas."

Beth Kennedy, Secretary

TAS FIELD SCHOOL TO BE HELD JUNE 12 – 19 IN KERRVILLE, TEXAS

If you are thinking about attending the Texas Archeological Society Field School June 12 – 19 in Kerrville, Texas, please be sure to check out the "Intro to TAS Field School: A Guide for Newcomers" at this link: https://youtu.be/DP1x2VTkUtU This program was presented live on Thursday evening April 22 but will remain on the TAS YouTube channel indefinitely.

Tiffany Osburn, professional archeologist, long time TAS Member, and Chairman of the Field School Committee gives a short presentation and leads a panel discussion designed to help prospective first-time Field School Attendees know what to expect in June. She will briefly discuss the archeology, the camping situation and how to prepare, the organized chaos that always is "Day 1" and the various evening programs planned for the group. HAS member Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen fielded some excellent questions from potential attendees and that dialogue is also part of the presentation.

Additional Field School information and registration forms are available on the TAS website at https://www.txarch.org/tas-field-school

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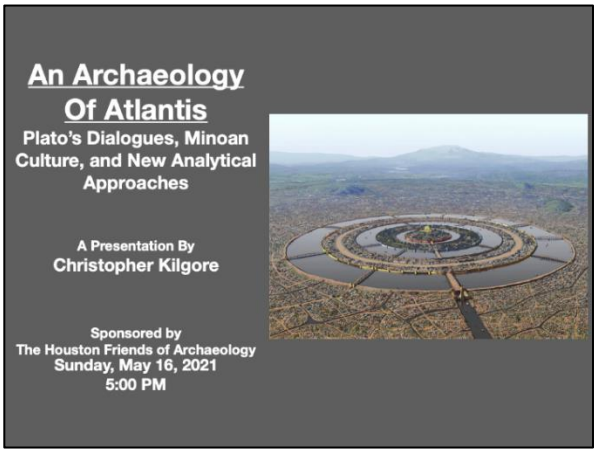
A Lecture from The Friends of Archaeology - An Archaeology of Atlantis: Plato's Dialogues, Minoan Culture, and New Analytical Approaches by Chris Kilgore May 16 - 5pm via Zoom



Members of the Houston Archeological Society are invited to join the Friends of Archeology for their lecture coming up on Sunday, May 16th at 5 p.m. on the Archeology of Atlantis. Plato described Atlantis as a circular land comprised of concentric zones of earth and water. A cosmopolitan city-state with a grand infrastructure, it supposedly exploded and sank into the ocean in a single day. Many modern archaeologists believe Plato's tale is an oral history of Minoan culture, which suffered a catastrophic volcanic explosion around 1,600 B.C. Chris Kilgore will review the Platonic and archaeological materials, and then share his original insights into literary and iconographic parallels between these ancient sources and modern cultures. Together, these suggest that unrecognized remnants of Atlantean civilization survive to this day in isolated locales.

Christopher Kilgore is a cognitive archaeologist and art historian based in Houston. He has presented his original research at museums, universities, and scholarly conferences in the United States, France, Britain, Spain, and Belgium. He is a featured lecturer in the École Doctorale of France's Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, the world's oldest natural history museum. Chris received his MA in Art History from the University of Houston, where he was the Art History Writing Fellow.

You can Join the Zoom Meeting at the link shown below. Hope to see you there!

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89180771420?pwd=d3hpWEhBWk41OXhzeWVlcXIvY3VUUT09
Meeting ID: 891 8077 1420
Passcode: 815235

Notes on Munitions
Accoutrements - My Powder Horn
Part 3 of 3
By Tom Nuckols

A few years ago, I received a powder horn (horn) as a gift. The horn is engraved with the name "J.H. RANNEY" (Figures 1 & 2).

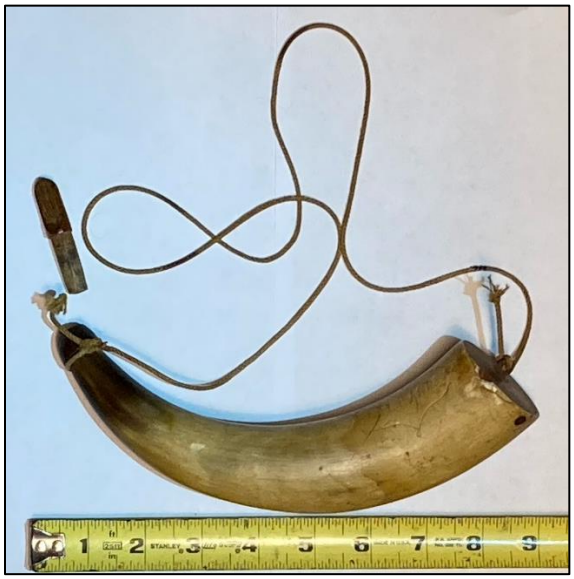


Figure 1. My powder horn with the wooden stopper removed. Author's photograph.

Figure 2. Close up view of the engraved name "J.H. RANNEY". Photograph courtesy of Bryant Boutwell, Ph.D.

The horn was purchased at an antique shop in Liberty, Texas. Curious about the horn's provenance, I went to the antique shop and was told by the owner, that the horn had been acquired at an estate sale in Cleveland, Texas. The horn is rather small and would not have held enough black gun powder for very many shots if used in conjunction with a muzzle-loading rifle. However, if it is an authentic period piece, perhaps it was used for short duration hunting trips, and not for traveling long distances through the wilderness (Figure 3).

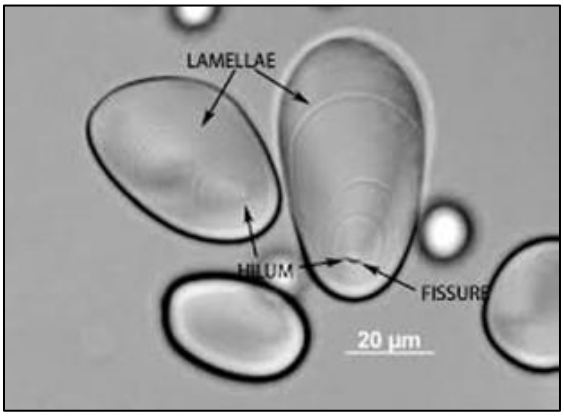
Figure 3. Size comparison. The horn at the bottom is about average size. The horn at the top is approximately the size of the Author's. Picture courtesy of Pinterest @ https://www.pinterest.com/academimedical/powder-horns.

ARCHEO CORNER: STARCH GRAIN ANALYSIS

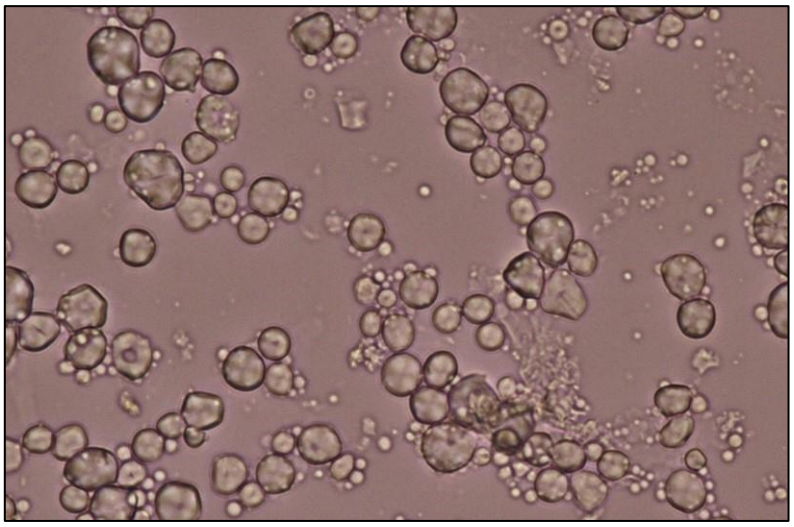
Wilson W. "Dub" Crook, III

Starch Grain Analysis is a technique used by archeologists to try and determine if plants were used by the aboriginal inhabitants at a site and if so, what types. Starch is a form of energy stored in plants through the process of photosynthesis. When the plant needs energy, the stored starch is converted back to sugar (glucose) and consumed.

In food plants, certain hardy elements such as starch grains can survive and be identified hundreds or even thousands of years later. Starch grains, which are ubiquitous to all plants, have a strong resistance to drying, grinding, or even light burning such that they frequently survive in soils and on archeological artifacts. Artifacts in particular, can collect starch grains and protect them from decay from microorganisms thus providing a mechanism for their long-term preservation. The technique of Starch Grain Analysis relies on the ability of a trained researcher being able to microscopically observe and identify different types of starch grains. This type of analysis may initially focus on food types but can also allow insights into a broader range of human behavior including medicines and the manufacture of adhesives or cosmetics.



General anatomy of a starch grain

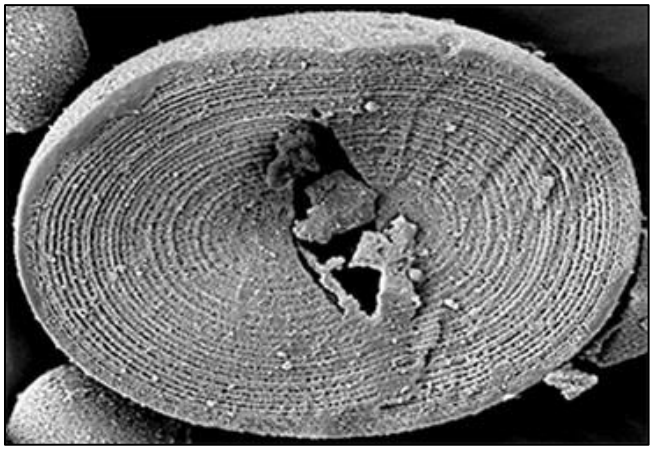


Maize (corn) starch grains.

Starch grain analysis is basically a four-step process involving sampling, extraction of the starch grain, slide mounting and viewing, and identification. On artifacts, the first three steps are often combined by placing the artifact under a high-power microscope at a laboratory. For testing of soils, the four-step process is usually followed. The initial analysis of an artifact for the presence of starch grains is conducted at about 50x to identify prospective areas for detailed analysis. Higher powered microscopes are then used at powers up to 1000x – strong enough to be able to see starch grains as small as a few microns in diameter. Starch grains are generally under 100 microns in size and are best viewed at magnifications from 200-800x. For example, a typical maize (corn) starch grain ranges in size from 5-25 microns in diameter. For very small starch grains, a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) is sometimes used which also has the capability of taking photomicrographs for later identification of the species types present.

For soil analysis of starch grains, the individual granules are removed from the soil and mounted on a slide using water, glycerol, or even glycerine jelly. The slide is then allowed to dry before microscopic examination. Large reference collections of starch grains from most known plants are used to help identify the species present in the sample.

Starch grains can sometimes become more readily identifiable if they are stained a darker color before microscopic examination. A common stain that is used in starch grain analysis is Logol's Iodine because iodine easily binds to starch but less easily to other substances. Features that facilitate identification of the type of starch grain present include the presence of the hilum (core of the grain), growth lamellae, and shape and size of the grains.



Cross-section of a potato starch grain

Starch grain analysis works best in later archeological periods such as the Late Prehistoric period when domesticated agriculture began to become more commonplace. Evidence from earlier time periods depends on analyzing implements used to grind nuts or seeds (manos) or blades used in cutting grasses.

Ground stone artifact (mano) from Texas.
Starch grains were recovered from the surface of the artifact.

Starch grain analysis is not a perfect science but provides another tool which potentially can aid the archeologist in determining the history of a site. In some cases, starch grains can become degraded. Factors such as heat, dehydration, desiccation, water absorption, or damage from fungi can affect the structure of the grains making identification more difficult. In some cases, even within the same plant species, starch grains can differ in shape and size. However, if unaltered, the size, shape, and structure of most plant starch grains has varied little over time which can aid in their identification. Starch grains have been successfully recovered from stone tools (ground stone tools such as manos and metates in particular), ceramic sherds, dental calculus from teeth in burials, animal remains, and from soils. All help to determine the diet of peoples and when they began to exploit various wild and domesticated food

Various starch grains including maize recovered from a ceramic vessel from French Guiana.

The Flat Arches of Buffalo Bayou

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski.

The city of Houston goes by many nicknames. One that dates to as early as the 1860's is The Bayou City.[1] The phrase Houston, the Bayou City is not heard as often today as it was in the past, except perhaps only when the rains fill the bayous and flooding occurs. Nevertheless, the identification of Houston with Buffalo Bayou, the stream along which the city was built, emphasizes the strong connection of the bayou to the history of the city.

To the observant pedestrian on the hike and bike trail along Buffalo Bayou in downtown Houston, there are numerous remnants of the city's historical past. The artifacts that we would like highlight in this article are the so-called flat arches of Buffalo Bayou near the Rusk Avenue bridge.

Located on the banks of Buffalo Bayou a few yards west of the Rusk Avenue bridge are two abandoned concrete structures in the form of a flat arch. One arch is on each side of the bayou, and both can be easily seen from the hike and bike trail on either side of the bayou (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Each arch is composed of two columns that are connected by a flat cross member. The alignment of the arches suggests that they supported the same structure. What, then, was structure that these arches supported?

Figure 2. A view of the flat arches from the north bank of Buffalo Bayou.

Figure 1. The flat arches viewed from the south bank of Buffalo Bayou.

The arches are free standing objects that are not connected to any current feature on the bayou at this time. They must date to an earlier period of development along the bayou. The question is: in what period were the arches built, and what structure were they related to?

The usual resources for historical research are books, periodicals, and newspapers. But, in additional to those tradition sources, another tool for historical research is the collection of historical aerial photographs that is available from services such as Google Earth.

By looking at an aerial photo of this section of Buffalo Bayou from 1988 (Figure 3), it is possible to identify the historical features along the bayou. The Sam Houston Coliseum, built in 1937, can be seen in the lower part of the photo. The pedestrian bridge that provided access from the parking lot on the north side of the bayou into the parking garage of the Coliseum is seen in the circle labeled A (Figure 3:A). Initially, one might suspect that the flat arches may have been supports for the pedestrian bridge. However, on close observation, it is clear that the pedestrian bridge lies too far west to be the feature of the flat arches.

On the other hand, in the circle labeled B (Figure 3:B), there is a structure that does appear to be in the correct location of the flat arches. This feature appears to be a large traffic sign over the main lanes of Interstate 45. This segment of the freeway was renovated by TxDOT in the year 2000, and the traffic sign was removed to accommodate the improvements to the highway. The flat arches, however, that supported the sign were left in place on the banks of the bayou.

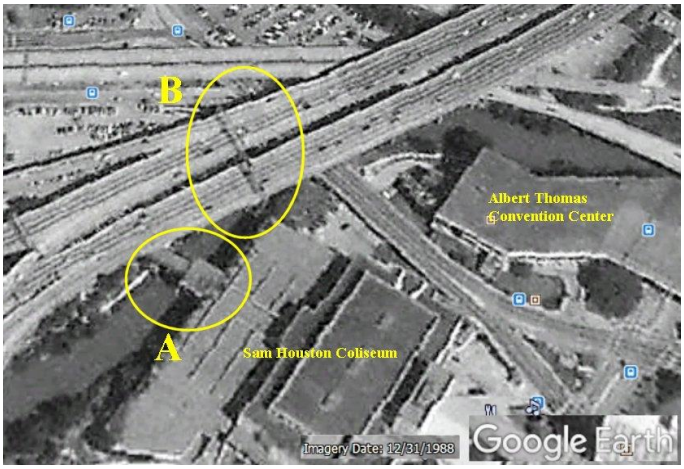


Figure 3. An aerial photo of the area from 1988.

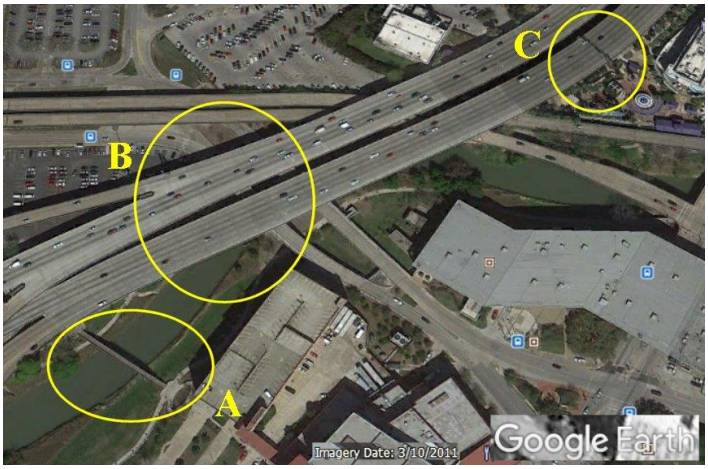


Figure 4. An aerial view of the area from 2011.

Figure 3. The new traffic sign on I-45 northbound.

Apparently, the flat arches will remain in place as a "secret" reminder of the historical development of the freeway system in this bend in the course of Buffalo Bayou. You will now be able to amaze your friends with this story of the Bayou City!

To read more stories about the development of Houston and its suburbs along Buffalo Bayou be sure to read our publication *Buffalo Bayou: An Echo of Houston's Wilderness Beginnings*, available from Amazon at: https://www.amazon.com/Buffalo-Bayou-Houstons-wilderness-beginnings/dp/1468101994/

Footnotes

1. *Houston, A History and A Guide* (Houston: Anson Jones Press, 1942), 72.

2022 TAS Geoarcheology 201 Academy (Please Consider a Donation!)

Ken Lawrence

The most common feedback from every Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Geoarcheology Academy that we have held is a request for more hands-on instruction and more up-close field exposure. Dr. Charles Frederick and Karl Kibler have wanted to do this in the past, but there has always been some obstacle to prevent it with one of them being a location that is available and warrants the attention. We now have such a location at the McNeill Ranch on the Guadalupe River near Victoria, which is where the last Geoarcheology Academy in Feb. 2020 was held in partnership with the Museum of the Coastal Bend at Victoria College, the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT), and the McNeill family. The McNeill Ranch contains site 41VT141 that CoBALT has been working on for decades and was the subject of Michael Aiuvalasit's thesis. This site and location contain an excellent mix of archeology from Late Paleoindian up to the present and geomorphic processes that are excellent for a more hands-on academy.

This academy will be ambitious and will have many "firsts" for the TAS. We are in the beginning stages of putting this course together and are attempting to determine our possibilities and limitations. Briefly, some of the goals include having chronometric data (both OSL and 14c) completed by the time of the course to discuss with the academy participants. As you may know, the results of the OSL samples will take many months to obtain and we are attempting to hold the academy in the Spring of 2022. So, we will need to collect and submit the samples by early summer to achieve this schedule.

With all of that preamble here is what we currently envision. There will likely be a classroom and field component to the course with the field component being the priority. In the field, we would have at least 6 open trench profiles across the site that will have been previously analyzed, documented, and interpreted by the geoarcheologists. For the fieldwork, the academy participants would be broken down into groups of 5-6 people who would go from trench profile to trench profile for a specified amount of time at which a geoarcheologist would instruct and discuss that profile with the group. The participants would record each profile and compose an interpretation. At the end of the course, the results of the geoarcheologist analyses and interpretations will be provided. Obviously, the specifics of the academy will adjust as we get further along in the process and development.

We have six geoarcheologists confirmed (Dr. Charles Frederick, Karl Kibler, Jim Abbott, Brittney Gregory, Dr. Gus Costa, and Ken Lawrence) who will be taking part in the instruction of the academy. We have planned two separate academies of 25 participants held over a four-day weekend in the Spring of 2022. The first group would be Friday-Saturday and the second group would be Sunday-Monday. We intend to hold a social event on Saturday night for both groups to participate if they want.

The course is intended to provide opportunities to analyze and describe soils in the field and compare with the geoarcheological descriptions and analyses. Get a better knowledge of soils-geomorphology approach to interpret a landscape and a comprehension of geoarcheological reports and how best to work with them. Discuss dating profiles using radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) and their interpretation. Note that the results of the analyses will be provided to all participants in the TAS Geoarcheology 201 Academy Field Guide and then curated with the other archeological investigations (e.g., CoBALT) that have occurred at the site.

We are soliciting funds to help pay for the upfront chronometric dating and limited logistical expenses required to develop this academy. Any amount is accepted but a minimum of $500 will reserve a spot for one person. We have not yet established a firm cost for this academy, but it will be in the neighborhood of $250 per participant (who will have to be a TAS member). The TAS is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible. We intend to have the names of the "sponsors" listed on the Academy Field Guide.

We are directing everyone to donate to the TAS general fund and specify that your donation is for the TAS Geoarcheology 201 Academy Fund (https://www.txarch.org/donate). Please contact me if you have any questions at klawrence@swca.com.

Texas Archeological Society
Geoarcheology 201 Academy

McNeill Ranch (Victoria County) **Spring 2022**

2 separate sessions of approx. 25 participants held over a four-day weekend (Fri-Sat and Sun-Mon)

Designed to provide participants with:

- Opportunities to describe soil profiles in the field and compare your results with geoarcheological descriptions of the same profiles;
- Understand how to use a soils-geomorphology approach to dissect a landscape;
- Discuss dating of profiles using radiocarbon and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL)

Instructors:

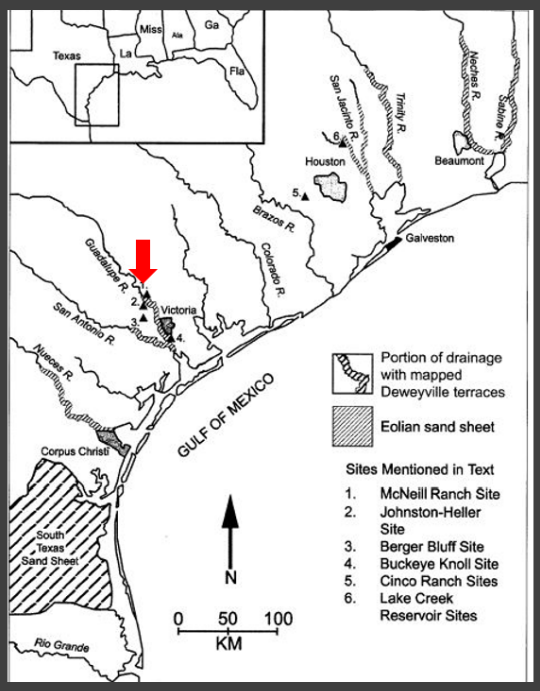
- Charles Frederick
- Karl Kibler
- Jim Abbott
- Brittney Gregory
- Gus Costa
- Ken Lawrence

Seeking Donations to TAS General Fund for Development

- Preparation for this academy requires funding for dating and logistics
- We can't do it without up front support
- Any amount accepted but a minimum $500 Donation will reserve a spot for one person
- We are happy to accept larger donations (TAS is a 501 (c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible)

For further info please contact any of the following:

Ken Lawrence klawrence@swca.com
Charles Frederick charlesthegeoarchaeologist@gmail.com
Karl Kibler karl@ctgeoarch.com



Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2021
6:30pm Third Thursday of every month
(Until further notice meetings are virtual for members only)

June 17 – No meeting due to TAS Field School.

July 15 – **Gary Pinkerton**, Trammel's Trace – the First Road from Texas to the North.

August 19 - **Dr. Catherine Jalbert, Shannon Smith** – Archeology at Levi Jordan and Varner Hogg Plantations.

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are normally free and open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 situation they are currently being conducted virtually for members only. 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 issue no later than 25th May, 2021.

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

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