

THE PROFILE

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Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, August 15, at 6:00 p.m. – Virtual Meeting via Zoom Only Featuring Mike McBride, Project Manager for the Pine Ridge Preceramic Project in Belize

Hello, HAS members! The August HAS monthly meeting will take place on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. This month, our meeting with be virtual only via Zoom, as our speaker, Mike McBride, resides in Fredericksburg. McBride is a past president of the Hill Country Archeological Association and the current Project Manager for the Pine Ridge Preceramic Project (PRP) in Belize. The Project is researching 10,000 years of Pre-Maya occupation in that area of Central America. The link for the meeting will be sent to currently registered members as we get closer to the meeting date.

McBride reports that the Pine Ridge Preceramic Project team recently completed their second three-week season this past May 5–26. Their ongoing work resulted in the addition of dozens of new preceramic lithic specimens to their catalogue, which already contained scores of Paleoindian and Archaic Period pieces from the 2023 season. This growing assemblage continues to validate their observations that the Pine Ridge is developing into the most prolific source of Paleoindian occupation evidence in Central America. As this new data is integrated, theories are developing that link the ancient people and technologies found on the Pine Ridge to a number of similar Pan-American studies of Clovis Era, Late Paleoindian, and Archaic peoples.





Scenes from the presentation to the Bishop Martin High School in Orange Walk Town, Belize, May 2024. Photograph courtesy of Pine Ridge Preceramic Project, Jon Lohse, and Mike McBride.

Concurrently, the project also strives to launch educational and outreach programs that engage others with the ongoing research, including Belizean and foreign professional colleagues and the Belizean public. PRP works with local collaborators to envision and design ways to promote ongoing education and management of preceramic heritage resources. These efforts included a presentation on local history and archaeology to over one hundred students and educators at Bishop Martin High School in the city of Orange Walk Town, north of Belize City. The event served to increase awareness of the area's unique preceramic cultural heritage. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Bob Sewell at president@txhas.org.

For your reference, our future HAS meeting speakers to close out the 2024 year are as follows. In September, we will hear from HAS member Dr. Gus Costa, with his topic to be determined, but possibly discussing the Caprock Canyon site work this year in North Central Texas. Our October speaker is Dr. David Brown, an archeologist with whom we have worked at Kirbee Kiln in Montgomery County. Brown also works on excavations in Texas and Ecuador, and his lecture

will address one of those areas. In November, we welcome Dr. Jerod Roberts from Shumla in Comstock, Texas, who will speak about the morphological figures Shumla is documenting throughout rock art sites in West Texas. December brings our Christmas Party and recap for the year. HAS President Bob Sewell will provide an update on the Society's work this year at the Lone Oak, Goloby, and Obenhaus sites, as well as our recent lab work.

President's Message – Bob Sewell



Well, after an eventful couple of months in terms of the weather, a derecho in May and Hurricane Beryl in early July, we haven't managed to get out in the field much. Units are full of water and access to sites is difficult due to soft and muddy access routes.

Fortunately, we have been able to fall back on catching up on laboratory work. Last Saturday we had a really worthwhile visit to San Felipe de Austin, where we have been lucky enough to be able to make use of the Josey Store at the historic site. This was our second visit and we managed to complete washing, tagging and bagging the last set of artifacts from the Lone Oak Site (41CD168). In addition, we started processing the recently collected artifacts from the

Goloby Site (41WL3). Many thanks to Dr. Sarah Chesney, Site Archeologist, for enabling HAS through the use

of their facilities.

As many of you know, the HAS Annual Meeting is coming up in September, where we elect our Board of Directors for 2024-25. Geoff Mills, Beth Kennedy, and Dr. Sarah Chesney have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee and will be pulling together a proposed slate of directors. This slate will be presented at the August Monthly Meeting. Voting will take place via email/postal ballot and the result will be announced at the September Meeting.

We also have recently received several requests for public outreach activities. These include show-and-tell displays at the Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) at Sugarland in August and the Jesse Jones Park in September. You should have received emails about these. These important activities also afford HAS the opportunity to get our name out in the community, hopefully increasing new membership. If you would like to help with any of these, then please let me know. Any help is much appreciated.

As always, we are keeping an active eye on the weather and can only hope that we can get a long enough dry period to enable our sites to have time to dry out, and then we will be back out in the field.



HAS members at lab. L-R: Jay Durel, Garry Hartmann, Noah Newland, Sharon Menegaz, Bob Sewell. Not shown – Allison Bohn.

~ Bob Sewell, HAS President



Calling All HAS Members – Please send photos and articles for *The Profile*!

We would like **all HAS members** to consider submitting content for *The Profile* newsletter. Please send submissions to <u>newsletter@txhas.org</u>. Report on an interesting on-site experience, academy, field school, lecture, cultural trip, assisting with HAS lab work, or public outreach event! Send photos of yourself on an HAS or TAS adventure! What archeological artifact or historical event have you been researching? We hope that you will add your voice to our community's conversation, as a variety of articles helps to make our newsletter more interesting. Your contributions may be brief, such as a couple of paragraphs or about 250 words. We can help with editing. Please submit information for upcoming issues no later than the fifteenth of each month.

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – July 18, 2024

Welcome - Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. – Bob Sewell, President. We welcome both in-person and online attendees, including several new members. This meeting was the first to be held after the 2024 TAS Field School, and was shorter than usual to allow for more social time following the presentation. The gathering included a show-and-tell of Lone Oak site artifacts uncovered during recent work.

Membership & Treasurer's Report – Louis Hebert, Treasurer. Finances are in good shape. Membership stands at 160 members, with a couple of new members potentially joining tonight. Anybody who is interested in joining is encouraged to fill out the membership form, which can be found on the Membership page at txhas.org.

Newsletter – Betsy Wittenmyer, Newsletter Editor. Many thanks to those who have contributed articles to the newsletter. Members are encouraged to share articles or photos for the August and September newsletters. These can be related to any relevant topics including projects, research, classes or academies, historical or educational trips, or any other interesting experiences that you'd like to share.

Announcements – Bob Sewell, President.

- HAS Board The replacements for board members Emma Baldwin and Leonie Waithman, both of whom recently moved to the UK, were announced: Noah Newland will be replacing Emma as Secretary, while Allison Bohn will be replacing Leonie as Director-at-Large.
- HAS Annual Meeting This year's HAS Annual Meeting will be held on September 19, 2024.
- HAS Nominating Committee Geoff Mills, Beth Kennedy, and Dr. Sarah Chesney will comprise the nominating committee for the election of directors. The slate will be announced at the August meeting. Voting will be conducted via email leading up to the Annual Meeting in September, at which time the result will be announced.
- **95**th **Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting** The details for the 95th TAS Annual Meeting have been announced: the meeting will take place October 25 27, 2024, in Victoria, Texas.

Projects – Bob Sewell, President. Many HAS projects have been paused as we wait for the sites to dry out.

- Goloby Site (41WL3) This project is still active, although storms have paused excavations for the time being.
- **Alleyton** A new project; recently a small team was able to visit the site to put in an initial datum and STP grid. This site contains both prehistoric (Walnut Tree Hill) and historic (Tannery Creek) aspects. Members may keep an eye out for invitations to further activities at this site.
- Lab work Recent lab work at San Felipe de Austin went well; Dr. Sarah Chesney kindly allowed HAS members to make use of the Josey Store building to clean and sort artifacts from various projects. We are currently trying to set up another date to continue this work.

Outreach – Bob Sewell, President. Any members willing to help with presentations at outreach events are encouraged to let us know. We will train you as needed. We have a few outreach activities coming up, including an event at Jesse Jones Park, in Humble, Texas, this September.

August 2024 Monthly Meeting – Our speaker next month will be Mike McBride, discussing the Pine Ridge Preceramic Project in Belize. This meeting will be held online only via ZOOM.

Tonight's presentation will be conducted by HAS President Bob Sewell, who will give an overview of the Texas Archeological Society's 2024 Field School in Nacogdoches County, Texas.

The business meeting was concluded at 6:45 p.m.

Noah Newland, HAS Secretary



Register Now for the Ninety-Fifth TAS Annual Meeting ~ Victoria, Texas ~ October 25-27, 2024

Featuring Speakers Brad Jones, THC Archeology Division
Leland Bement, PhD, University of Oklahoma
Harry J. Shafer, PhD, Curator of Archaeology at the Witte Museum in San Antonio
and Professor Emeritus at Texas A&M University
and Guided Tours of McNeill Ranch (41VT141) and Mission Espíritu Santo (41VT11)



We are pleased to share many advanced details about the upcoming TAS Annual Meeting. You won't want to miss it!

The 95th Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting takes place October 25-27, 2024, in Victoria, Texas, at the Victoria College Emerging Technology Complex. Please note that meal options for the Friday luncheon with Harry Shafer and the Saturday evening awards banquet with Leland Bement are available via the online registration.

For current information and registration, see: https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting

Speakers and Topics

Harry J. Shafer, PhD – Dr. Shafer will give the keynote presentation at Friday's luncheon. Optional box lunches are available and must be selected during the online registration process. His topic will be A Witness to Seventy Years of Texas Archeology: Paradigms, Personalities, and the Texas Archeological Society. Currently serving as Curator of Archaeology at the Witte Museum in San Antonio, Dr. Shafer received his doctorate in Anthropology from The University of Texas at Austin in 1973, after which he joined the faculty at Texas A&M, where he taught anthropology and archaeology for thirty years. Actively involved in archaeological research for the past sixty-five years, his main interest is Texas prehistory, and he has conducted field research across the state covering all time periods, American Southwest Mimbres and Jornada Mogollon, and Lowland Maya lithic technology. He currently resides in San Antonio and continues to stay engaged in archaeology, research, and writing. He has published two books, Ancient Texans: Rock Art and Lifeways of the Lower Pecos, and Mimbres Archaeology at the NAN Ranch Ruin, edited Painters in Prehistory: Archaeology and Art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, and co-authored Field Methods in Archaeology and Maya Stone Tools. Additionally, Shafer has authored or co-authored over four hundred articles in scientific journals, book chapters, and monographs. Dr. Shafer has provided the following preview of his upcoming presentation.

Born in the Great Depression and following Texas archeology and the TAS since I was a kid, I have witnessed and participated in the growth and changes in the discipline over the past seventy years. My first encounter was with the very members of the pioneer generation who established the Texas Archeological Society. I was mentored by the second generation of professional archaeologists who developed the initial state-wide systematic chronological and regional frameworks, and I was a member of the third generation, which began to fill in the gaps of knowledge across the state, challenge the established order, and then pass the torch to the current generations. Major changes in interpretative frameworks or paradigms have occurred during my lifetime, and these were often driven by personalities from both the professional and avocational fields. I will highlight some good archeological discoveries that have informed what we know today, and some bad mistakes along the way. Tragically, the free reign of pay-digs across the state is destroying national register quality sites at an enormous pace. With the now-restrictive federal mandate that puts the clamp on the science of

archaeology, and the willful destruction of archaeological sites, the role of the TAS as a steward of the past becomes more important now than ever.

Brad Jones, THC Archeology Division – Brad Jones will be speaking on Friday night at the Museum of the Coastal Bend, discussing *Presidio Soldiers or Soldados Flecheros? New Interpretations of Daily Life at the 1721-1726 Site of Presidio La Bahia de Zuniga (41VT4), Victoria County.* The Texas Historical Commission's 1999-2002 excavations at the Keeran Site (41VT4) recovered over 125,000 artifacts and numerous features that document the successive French and Spanish colonial occupations. The analysis of the distribution of artifact types and classes across the site in relation to architectural features presents a unique view on the daily practices of the site's inhabitants. This talk focuses on the 1721-1726 Spanish colonial presidio La Bahia de Zuniga component, the earliest permanent Spanish colonial occupation in the Coastal Bend. Spatial analysis of the artifacts and features provides unexpected insights to the materiality of the lives of the inhabitants, revealing the complex interplay of identity, class, and practice, as they adapted to living on the Spanish frontier.

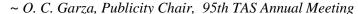
Leland Bement, PhD - On Saturday night, Leland Bement lectures on bison kills sites: *How to Kill a Buffalo When Harsh Words Just Aren't Enough*. The presentation will cover the discovery, excavation, and interpretation of key Oklahoma bison kill sites, representing Clovis, Folsom, and Plainview time periods. Key points include how Paleoindians found bison herds, how they trapped and killed the animals, and how landscape features, bison behavior, and hunter organization combined to ensure multiple successful kills. Evidence indicates that the hunters also incorporated rituals and ceremonies.

Call for Papers: Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for papers, symposia, and posters to be presented at the meeting. The submission deadline is September 15, 2024. For complete information about papers, symposia, and poster presentations, click here: https://www.txarch.org/AM-Papers.

Registration: Hotel and registration information for the 95th Annual Meeting may be found at: https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed for the Registration Desk, the Silent Auction (8 two-hour shifts), and as timers in classrooms during presentations (8 four-hour shifts). Come join our team! Contact Frank Condron at fp.condron@wbcglobal.net.







Ruins of Mission Espíritu Santo (41VT11). Photographs courtesy of O. C. Garza.



2024 TAS Field School Reports - Sarah Chesney, Ph.D., and Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President



The 2024 TAS Field School took place in Nacogdoches the week of June 8 through 15. This year we worked primarily at the Belle Gallant site (41NA346), but also spent some time investigating Ben Gallant (41NA338) and the connection between the two sites. There was also a group that dug shovel tests and 1x1s around all three sites (including 41NA344). The survey team focused their work with the National Forest service folks in Angelina National Forest, and also investigated a potential section of the El Camino Real de los Tejas (on private property).

An absolutely astounding number of artifacts were recovered this year. Artifacts included several thousand (possibly into the 10,000-range) sherds of

Caddo ceramics, many gunflints, hand wrought iron nails, a Caddo pipe bowl, worked petrified wood, and a section of rolled copper. The copper is an extraordinary piece, as it is absolutely an eighteenth-century trade item. Volunteers also discovered many, many projectile points, including some quite small in size. Some knapped glass pieces caused discussion, as the glass looked like more modern nineteenth or twentieth century glass, but it definitely had been worked.

We heard from some great speakers this year, including my friend and colleague, Dr. Carl Drexler, who came down from Arkansas and his field school with the Arkansas Archeological Society to talk about their Caddo salt-making site (the focus of three years of investigations) along with presentations by Dr. Steve Tomka, Dr. Victor Galan, with the Friends of Caddo Mounds, and Rachal Galan, Assistant Site Manager at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site.

It was a great field school overall. Great weather, great finds, and over three hundred attendees, which is an excellent turnout for the second year at the same site.

~ Sarah Chesney, PhD

The 2024 TAS Field School, under TAS Field School Director Dr. Tamra Walter of Texas Tech University, took place on the Gallant Ranch near Douglass, Texas, which is twenty miles west of Nacogdoches. Involving three sites, Caddo structures were built at Belle Gallant (41NA346) and Ben Gallant (41NA338). The Gallant Falls site (41NA344) may be near the location of Nuestra Senora de la Purisma Concepcion de los Hainais, a Spanish mission and presidio established in 1716 by Franciscan missionaries where Hainai Indians lived and farmed. The objective of the field school was to add to the understanding of the mission and Caddo lifeways and define the limits of the mission and Caddo structures themselves. Mission Concepcion was closed in 1721, when it was relocated to the San Antonio area, which was closer to church and colonial resources, and where it remains open to this day.

In addition, TAS survey crews worked in the Angelina and Davy Crockett National Forests and on a section of the El Camino Real de la Tejas National Historic Trail located on private land. The trail runs from Natchitoches (pronounced NAK-A-DISH), Louisiana, to the Rio Grande River, and not only served indigenous and Spanish interests, but became an important immigration route for American settlers entering Texas from the United States.





Many of the HAS members attending field school worked the Belle Gallant site and reported recovering numerous artifacts, with Caddo pottery shards numbering in the thousands.

Caddo pottery sherds, photographs courtesy of Doug Boyd.

Additionally, dozens of small dart and arrow points were uncovered in the units, including two Perdiz points found by HAS member Geoff Mills. Geoff also bisected a post hole. The crew working under HAS member Beth Kennedy uncovered a unique artifact of rolled copper, a distinctive eighteenth-century trade item according to Dr. Sarah Chesney. The youth team found a European trading bead. Archeologist Doug Boyd directed the youth section, with assistance from HAS member Sharon Menegaz and archeologist Marni Francell. The field school lab was administered by Aina Dodge, with Sharon also joining in for a day.



Top Row, left to right: Perdiz point found by Geoff Mills, photograph courtesy of Geoff Mills. Trading bead used by the Spanish, photograph courtesy of Sharon Menegaz. Post hole bisected by Geoff Mills, photograph courtesy of Geoff Mills. Second row, left to right: Rolled copper artifact, photograph courtesy of Doug Boyd. Field school lab, photograph courtesy of Aina Dodge. Young field school participants, photograph courtesy of Sharon Menegaz. Below left to right: Surveying the El Camino Real, photograph courtesy of Gary Fleming. Perdiz point in situ in the youth area, photograph courtesy of Tom Willams.





HAS member Gary Fleming worked in the group surveying in the Angelina and Crockett National Forests and on the El Camino Real. This was a successful conclusion to the 2023 and 2024 field schools in Nacogdoches County. The group of HAS members participating at field school this year included Sarah Chesney, Geoff Mills, Sharon Menegaz, Louis Hebert, Beth Kennedy, Noah Newland, Sandy Rogers, Gary Fleming, Debbie Eller, Tom Williams, Don Keyes, Doug Boyd, and Daniel Alejandro Ramirez Gomez.

~ Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President

Well done, all! Thank you for your important work.



HAS Member Sharon Menegaz



I admit it...I am an archeology junkie. I live vicariously through HAS Zoom presentations; I despair at having to pick one meeting over another at a TAS Annual Meeting. I linger until we are kicked out of a THC Stewards meeting, and then I resort to calling archeologists on the phone....usually because I have a reason in the service of TAS, but also promising them baked goods in exchange for news on their current projects. I can't wait for TAS Field School every June, enduring the panic of planning carefully for keeping track of the kids and adults that constitute our Youth Group, which is rewarding but sometimes feels like herding cats! I will jump at the chance to wash bits of pottery and glass, just to learn from an archeologist who will answer every question I pose. I eagerly take on helping to plan outreach events, in hopes of getting other people excited about

archeology and wanting to join us. My only regret...waiting so long to begin this journey.

I love science and I earned undergraduate and master's degrees in microbiology at UT Austin, after which I worked in various research labs for a few years before changing professions to become an educator. I have been married for over forty years to someone who appreciates my hobby and the wonderful, interesting people in the world of archeology. He holds the self-appointed title of Archeological Chauffer for the times I don't think I can make the drives myself. My only exposure to archeology early on was through reading; an early memory of the tiny library in Tomball is discovering a book about ancient civilizations and their ruins, with chapters split equally between Egypt, Rome, and Greece—and I kept reading. My father spent his early childhood in San Antonio, and when he took me back for visits, we always saw the Alamo and the Governor's Palace. But I found out his favorite mission was Mission Espada, way out by the aqueduct, and those two evocative places really sparked my imagination. An aqueduct like those from Rome (at least it seemed to nine-year-old me), and a mission with ruins and a beautiful tiny chapel were certainly nothing like the German Lutheran churches in Tomball.



Then life brought me four kids and a tiny private school that needed a Biology teacher. I took on those roles with enthusiasm, and we took our kids to as many museums and parks as we could. I always lingered where there was "old stuff," and so did my oldest daughter. When she was about fourteen, she wanted to be an archeologist. My husband discovered information online about the TAS field school....and it was in Marfa. He thought the intense heat would cook this nonsense out of us; but of course, it was just the opposite. We couldn't wait for our daily 1:00 p.m. phone call when we reported to him all the excitement of the day. Rachel got to work with Tom Alex, the Big Bend archeologist, and I had Sue Gross as a crew chief. As soon as we returned home, we made plans to attend the following summer's field school, which was at Gault. The obsession only intensified.

And then, my principal asked me to teach Texas History. How could I resist? So for eleven years, I taught Texas History with the discretion to plan the curriculum around what I thought was important. I taught archeology and Spanish exploration using resources at Texas Beyond History. I focused on La Salle and La Belle for three weeks, even though these impactful topics only took up two pages in the standard textbook. I took my classes on field trips to tour the Gault site, and my seventh graders got to watch La Belle being assembled in the Bob Bullock Museum. We visited the State Cemetery, even though I had to beg the adult chaperones to accompany us by promising them tales of Texas history on the bus ride. As my students became more and more engaged, they took photos with historical markers while on family trips across the state, participating in Picture Yourself in Texas History with a sense of competition as they discovered markers that others had not seen. I also have taught a high school dual credit course, Biology for Science Majors, at Lone Star College-Tomball. At times I fought against schools that wanted to scale back science and history classes, an ongoing battle.

I have been to all but one TAS Field School since 2000, and I have been working with the youth group for about twelve years. I missed some HAS prime projects when I was home with young children, but I worked on Dimond Knoll, Frost

Town, and San Felipe.

Linda Gorski encouraged me to help with education and outreach. Consequently, during Texas Archeology Month each October, I've delighted in helping assemble our show-and-tell displays and encouraging other regional groups to participate and engender interest in archeology. Enlisting my Honor Society kids to assemble pinch pot kids was fun and educational, leading to lots of questions about Texas archeology. The volunteer work seems to grow by the year, and I look forward to more adventures in Texas Archeology.





Above: Sharon Menegaz speaking about archeology work conducted at the Frost Town site in Houston in a presentation to the Klein Chapter of the Texas German Society on March 25, 2024.

Left: Sharon Menegaz as part of the leadership team at the TAS Educators Workshop held on Saturday, February 10, 2024, in Nacogdoches.

We are so thankful for the dedication and experience Sharon brings to HAS. Sharon recently received the Norman Flaigg Certificate of Outstanding Performance at the annual THC Steward Meeting, a recognition of her extensive outreach and education work, including collaborating on workshop ideas for TAS to make available on their website and serving as a leader at the February TAS Educator's Workshop in Nacogdoches. In 2020, Sharon was among the HAS Members honored with the E. Mott Davis Award for Public Outreach, for the Kleb Woods Nature Center Public Archeology Project (Council of Texas Archeologists - E. Mott Davis). Sharon has also received an HAS Merit Award for Education and Public Archeology and the TAS Francis Stickney Field School award.



Resources for Educators

Here are some favorite Texas history and archeology resources for educators recommended by Sharon Menegaz, all free:

Learning Resources | Texas Historical Commission; Teaching Archaeology Guidelines (saa.org); Texas History Awakens

| Interactive Home Page | Texas History Awakens; About TBH (texasbeyondhistory.net); Kids Only

(texasbeyondhistory.net); TBH Teachers: Welcome! (texasbeyondhistory.net); Texas Archeology Month | Texas

Archeological Research Laboratory | Liberal Arts | UT - Austin (utexas.edu); TBH Teachers: Lesson Plans

(texasbeyondhistory.net); and always check the websites of historic sites such as Caddo Mounds SHS.

HAS member Kaity Ulewicz, Archeological Studies Project Planner for the Texas Department of Transportation Environmental Affairs Division, reports that TxDOT has created a new website geared for seventh grade and middle school students: https://timebeforetexas.org/; https://timebeforetexas.org/educator-guide/

https://timebeforetexas.org/; https://timebeforetexas.org/educator-guide/ Reach out to Kaity with any questions at kaity.ulewicz@txdot.gov.



Noah Newland - The New HAS Secretary



My name is Noah Newland, and I am so excited to be taking on the role of HAS Secretary! As a lifelong Houstonian and history enthusiast, I love being able to learn about all the history this area has to offer.

I initially became interested in archaeology as a career when I was in high school and craving a way to interact more directly with the history I was learning. I graduated from the University of Houston in 2015 with a degree in Anthropology, concentrating in Archaeology, and a minor in History. My graduate and professional career then took a turn in the direction of Library Science, and my first library job while I was still in grad school was in the Genealogy and Local History Department at George Memorial Library in Richmond, Texas. This job ended up teaching me so much and getting me even more curious about local Houston and Texas history, as I got to spend so much time there doing research about the area and even my own family history. I have since graduated and now do digital imagery archival work at Johnson Space Center. However, I still love archaeology, and I love that HAS gives me the opportunity to continue to practice and learn about it in my free time. I got the chance to attend my first TAS field school this past June, and it was such a fun and

educational experience that I am already planning to make it out for next year's field school.

Outside of archaeology, my hobbies include hiking and backpacking, rock climbing, and watching movies with my fiancé, Griffin, and my dog, Lyra. I usually try to make it to meetings in person, so feel free to say hi sometime!





Feedback Requested! We want to hear from YOU!

Send a quick email to newsletter@txhas.org and let us know about things such as your regular favorites, which articles and reports did you most enjoy, what did you really read and what did you skip, topics you'd like to see in the future, what could be longer or what should be shorter, what could be omitted, and any other suggestions about how we can improve.

Source: www.webweaver.nu/unclesam.jpg.



Nominations Open for 2024 Preservation Awards

Preserving history and heritage takes effort. Recognize someone in your community for their hard work! The Texas Historical Commission offers annual awards to recognize worthy accomplishments and exemplary leadership in the preservation of Texas' heritage. These awards cover achievements in the fields of archeology, historic architecture, museums, community heritage development, and more. Nominations are open through August 15, see link below.



MAKE A NOMINATION

Update on Archeology at McNeill Ranch Site (41VT141)

The Coastal Bend Archaeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) is based in Victoria and is working at the McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a cooperative agreement with the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). While considered a significant Paleo site, 41VT141 was also regularly occupied by more recent prehistoric cultures over thousands of years.

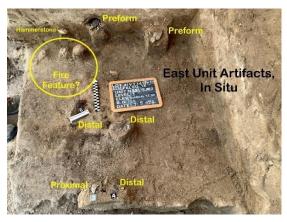
CoBALT threw a going-away party for Dr. Heather Para who joined the faculty of New Mexico State University this summer. She was gifted a pair of horn-handled trowels. We wish her the best of luck at her new position; she will be missed.

With all the rain and heat, it's like a steamy jungle on the site and work has been shutting down by 11:30 a.m. In the east unit, graduate student Summer, Bill, Emilio, and OC found lots of different organics including turtle, bone, snake vertebrae, land snails, burnt sandstone, clay balls, a possible alligator scute, and what appeared to be heated rocks from a possible fire feature. Lithics included hammerstone fragments, distals, proximals and two early-stage preforms found near the north wall and close to each other. Some sandstone rocks with worn faces were uncovered and a micro-flaked scraper was found in the material screen.











The team has been watching a black and yellow Argiope garden spider grow like it was the star in a 1950s monster movie. It lives in the grass next to the east unit, and those working that unit are very cautious!

You can find CoBALT Archeology on Facebook, where you will find weekly posts about the work at the McNeill Ranch site and elsewhere. HAS members are always welcome to join us onsite or in the lab. As always, the MCB archaeology lab is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Stop by the museum's front desk to be directed to the lab.

MCB and CoBALT will serve as the hosts for the next TAS Annual Meeting, which takes place October 25-27, 2024. Plans are progressing, but if you are interested in volunteering, there are many jobs to be done (many of them can be done remotely) before and during the event. If you have time and interest, please contact ocgarza@suddenlink.net or fp.condron@wbcglobal.net.



From the HAS Archives



A repository of past issues of *The Profile* is available on the HAS website wherein you will find a wealth of archived articles, including this piece from July of 2006, continuing the late Fred Kelly's lessons about the names of months (2006 August Profile.pdf; txhas.org).

August was named in honor of the Roman Emperor Augustus (reigned 27 BC-14 AD) and is said to have been placed in the calendar where it is by Augustus because it is the month that his enemy, Cleopatra, died.

This month the ancient Romans finished gathering and storing their crops and honored the creative powers of the goddess, Diana, for their abundant harvest and the new crops to come next year. Diana had many titles including creator of the cultivated crops, protectress of women, goddess of the moon, and goddess of the wild animals and the hunt. The Romans celebrated harvest rites and rituals this month, much as our modern-day Thanksgiving is held later in November.

~ Fred Kelly

Left: Augustus, First Roman Emperor, 63 BCE – 14 CE Portrait Head, 25–1 B.C., <u>Portrait Head of Augustus</u>, <u>Getty Museum</u>. Right: <u>August calendar page with sunflowers by Dutch lithographer Theo van Hoytema</u>, 1902 - Rijksmuseum.





And to focus on cooler thoughts during this hot month, here's an article about a turn-of-the-century Houston ice plant written by the late Louis Aulbach, from the December 2018 issue (2018 December Profile.pdf).

The Crystal Ice Works emerges from the subsurface! Those who pursue historical archeology rely on a broad knowledge of their subject area's historical past. Buildings and other structures from the historical past are long gone, but often their remnants lie in the layers of fill dirt that has been deposited over them in more recent times. These ruins can be exposed during the preparations for new construction. A couple of weeks ago, the grading for the new hike and bike path on the north side of Buffalo Bayou near the McKee Street bridge exposed a portion of a red brick structure at the site of the former Crystal Ice Works, a late nineteenth-century industrial site adjacent to the Texas and New Orleans rail yard on the north bank of the bayou. A local archeological crew under the direction of HAS member Dr. Gus Costa of Coastal Environments, Inc./Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. was sent to the site. HAS members Bennett Kimbell and Tom Nuckols meticulously excavated the feature and revealed the details of the structure that appears to be the foundations of the dual boilers of the ice plant that date from about 1890, as noted on the historic Sanborn insurance map of that location. The site had been identified by Dr. Jason Barrett, TxDOT archeologist and HAS member, from the historical records during the planning stages of

the route for the trail. The quick response by our local archeological team to excavate and document the brick foundations has provided a small but significant verification of the historical record. Great job, HAS members Jason Barrett, Gus Costa and the CEI/MAC crew!

~ Louis Aulbach

Resources: The Ice Industry in Houston —
The Heritage Society: Delivering Blocks of
Ice: The Story of the Icemen Through
Vintage Photos - Rare Historical Photos

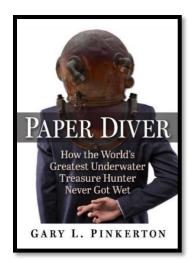


Above: Bennett Kimbell (left), Tom Nuckols (center) and Dr. Brian Clark (right) at the Crystal Ice Works site. Photograph courtesy of Larry Golden. Right: An iceman delivering a block of ice, Houston, 1928. Photo from the Story Sloane Collection. https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/ice-delivery.



Paper Diver by Gary L. Pinkerton

In our July 2021 meeting, HAS enjoyed Gary's presentation about his research and book on Trammel's Trace in East Texas. We congratulate Gary on his newest publication, which is about Harry E. Rieseberg. Learn more about this interesting character through Gary's fascinating research, which revealed much more about Rieseberg's story! Gary updates us about his upcoming book below.



This is a biography of Harry E. Rieseberg, a name most people won't recognize. I encountered Rieseberg while doing research for my book *True Believers*, about a treasure legend in East Texas. In the late 1950s, Rieseberg was a shameless self-promoter who passed himself off as the world's greatest treasure salvor. I quickly learned that, despite his self-proclaimed distinction of underseas adventures, Harry Rieseberg never even got wet.

Harry E. Rieseberg's autobiographical writings include stories like being attacked by a giant octopus while recovering sunken treasure, defending himself from an attack by a fifteen-foot shark with only a diving knife, and surviving a hurricane and a severely broken leg while at sea—all captivating tales for audiences in the 1940s and 1950s, and all invented by a very successful charlatan.

His entire public persona was based on stories he retold in dozens of books and thousands of articles, in which he made claims of feats that were fantasy, but sold as fact. Despite the often-obvious fabrication, his books influenced a generation of legitimate divers and

archaeologists like Sir Robert Marx and Robert Sténuit.

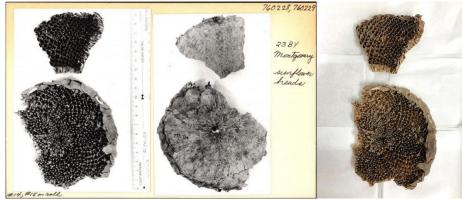
Thoroughly researched, this book uses sources including his personal records and letters to his agents to provide deep insight into the nature of his life, and the way he created a false persona for popular consumption.

I'm very proud of this book, and since HAS members have so kindly followed my writing efforts in the past, I'm offering you free shipping on any orders, using the code FREESHIP. Also, when your copy arrives, it will include my signature and a link to a bibliography of almost 1,900 articles published by Rieseberg over the years. I think you will be fascinated by his story, and I can't wait to share it with you. Thank you for all your support. More information may be found here: https://garylpinkerton.com/orders.



Sunflowers in Archeology





Ancient sunflowers excavated in the Ozarks and Kentucky. Left: A sunflower seed (Helianthus annuus var. macrocarpus) excavated at Newt Kash Shelter, Kentucky. The missing half of the shell from the seed was used to obtain an AMS radiocarbon date of ca. 3500 B.P. Source: Price, T. Douglas, Ancient farming in Eastern North America, 2009, https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.0902617106. Center: Specimens photographed when collected in 1936 from caves and rock shelters in the Ozarks and Kentucky, radiocarbon dated from 3500 B.P. to 400 B.P. Right: The same specimens today. Sources: University of Arkansas, Arkansas Archeological Survey, footnote-left-shelters-of-the-Arkansas Ozarks (uark.edu); Pai, Anjika, footnote-left-shelters-of-the-Arkansas Ozarks (uark.edu); Pai, Anjika, footnote-left-shelters-of-the-Arkansas Ozarks (uark.edu); Pai, Anji

What is this Artifact?

Thomas L. Nuckols

The only remaining structure of what was once the Potter farm (c. 1913-1945) in Valley Wells, Texas, is a shed (Figure 1). Lying on the floor inside the shed is a metal artifact (Figures 2-4). I have been unable to identify it. Do you know what it is? If so, contact me at tlnuckols58@att.net. Any response will be included in one of my future newsletter articles.





Figure 1. The shed.

Figure 2. The metal artifact. My bonnie hat is in the picture for scale.





Left: Figure 3. The top of the artifact with a short length of chain attached. Right: Figure 4. One of two ends of the artifact. Photographs by Thomas L. Nuckols.



A Mughal Crab Bow

Jack Farrell



Mughal kaman bow. Antique bows should not be restrung. Collection of Jack Farrell, photograph by Jack Farrell.

The term Mughal Empire celebrates an Islamic ruling dynasty of India lasting from 1526 until 1857. Timur the Lame's descendant Babur, along with Safavid and Ottoman allies, swept down from the Ferghana area of modern Uzbekistan to establish a foothold in Deli. At its height, the expansive Empire included parts of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Kashmir, as well as most of India.

For thousands of years before any records were kept in the East, the bow was always the first weapon of choice, being a weapon of war used for long-range as well as close-range fighting. Even until the end of the Mughal Empire, although firearms existed, they never attained ascendency over archery due to the skills and rapid shooting of Mughal archers, the relative ease of making and replacing bows and arrows, and the populace's expertise with the ubiquitous bows.

Bows of wood, bamboo, and combinations of the two existed since time immemorial and were effectively used throughout the Indian subcontinent. Perfected and copied by the millions, the bows served some of the largest standing armies of antiquity. Composite bows of horn, wood, and tendon also existed, although among the Mughals these expensive and laborious-to-make bows were restricted to those of the status of knight and above. A composite bow of this era could shoot approximately twice as far as a wood or bamboo bow. They also could last a generation or more, whereas wooden bows might last ten years, or less with vigorous use.

One of the preeminent composite bows of the Mughals was the kaman or crab bow, sonamed by Westerners because of its angled resemblance to the crustacean. In construction typical for Asiatic reflex bows, the ornate lacquer exterior covered a layer of silver leaf to prevent boring insects, with layers of shredded tendon, called sinew, and glue beneath. The wooden core supported a water buffalo horn belly, which faced the archer. Copious amounts of collagen glue concocted from various animal and fish parts fortified the structure. These Mughal bows were produced by apprenticed guildsmen through a lengthy process involving alternating stages of construction and drying that could take up to three years. Stringing up such a bow for shooting required an elaborate procedure of reversing the curved form in what might seem a counterintuitive manner.





Above: Portrait of Prince Azam Shah with bow and arrow, Mughal, Delhi, early nineteenth century. Francesca Galloway Exhibitions, 2014. Source: Works - Asia Week New York 2014 | Francesca Galloway.

Left: A reproduction Mughal kaman bow strung for use. Saluki Bows, The Mughal Bow - Mughal Crab Bow - Archery Historian.

Europeans, particularly the British and Dutch, collected these formidable weapons for display in great halls, castles, and rooms of curiosities. Through military conquest or acquisition, an untold number of Mughal bows were brought back to Europe in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, along with every other manner of armory souvenirs including maces, knives, firearms, and swords. The collapse of the Mughal Empire in 1857 brought an end to the realm's armament guild system and weapon production.

Every year, a few kaman, admired for their craftsmanship and legacy, become available on the ethnographic marketplace and make their way into collections, from Chinese museums to living rooms in Houston.

HAS Reference Desk

What research on archeology, anthropology, paleontology, or history have you been reading lately? The HAS Reference desk seeks your suggestions about interesting archeology and history news and links.

Read more about copper artifacts at Caddo archeological sites: Copper Artifacts in the Southern Caddo Area (sfasu.edu)
North Carolina and trade copper: Archaeologists 2024 Dig Season | 1st Colony Foundation (firstcolonyfoundation.org)
Mughal Empire archeology and history: Mughal-Era Water Tank Unearthed in Northern India - Archaeology Magazine;
Taste of Paradise - Archaeology Magazine; The Babur-nama in English (Memoirs of Babur, Emperor of Hindustan, 14831530) Internet Archive; Virtual reality (VR) tour of Taj Mahal | Archaeology News Online Magazine; Archaeology of
Afghanistan revisited | Cambridge Core; 400-Year-Old Mughal Era Drinking Glass Detects Poison (msn.com); (PDF)
Archaeology of Bangladesh | Mohammad Mahmudul Hasan Khan - Academia.edu; The Mughal Emerald: World's Largest
Engraved Emerald; Incredible Champaner Pavagadh Archaeological Park, Gujarat (imvoyager.com); Finding an archive:
Mughal records | Fifteen Eighty Four | Cambridge University Press (cambridgeblog.org); Aurangzeb's March to the Deccan
Defeat by the Mughals; Humayon's Tomb

Texas archeology and history: https://www.thealamo.org/long-barrack-archaeology-update-june-28; https://www.thealamo.org/long-barrack-archaeology-update-june-28; Canyon Lake levels reveal cave previously hidden underwater; Texas, rarely-seen underwater cave and century-old ruins have appeared | CNN Catskill Mountains: Catskills Ghost Towns of the Ashokan Reservoir - Archaeology Magazine - May/June 2024 Rock art in Venezuela may be from previously unknown culture | Live Science Maritime archeology: World's Oldest Deep-Sea Shipwreck Discovered a Mile Beneath the Mediterranean Sea | Smithsonian (smithsonianmag.com); Ernest Shackleton's flast ship Quest found on ocean floor | CNN | CNN

DNA research: https://www.sciencenews.org/article/new-otzi-iceman-dna-ancestry; https://bit.ly/3W7RuBj
Nile River archeology: loos-temperated-pyramids-stones; https://www.theguardian.com/scientists-find-buried-branch-of-the-nile-that-may-have-carried-pyramids-stones; <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/scientists-find-buried-branch-of-the-nile-that-may-have-carried-pyramids-stones; <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/scientists-find-buried-branch-of-the-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-that-nile-

Williamsburg: Construction for Williamsburg archaeology lab unearths 17th-century building (wtkr.com) Tang Dynasty: Stunning Tang dynasty tomb may portray a 'Westerner' man with blond hair | Live Science



Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

Please note that meetings will vary between in-person, hybrid, or virtual (via Zoom). Some presentations will be uploaded to our YouTube site where they will be archived and available for public viewing. The meeting format may change; be sure to doublecheck the HAS website and your emails prior to each meeting for updates.

August 15 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Mike McBride discussing the Pine Ridge Pottery Project in Belize. This meeting will be held virtually only via Zoom.

September 19 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring August Costa, PhD., discussing Nighthawk Bison Jump in Caprock Canyons State Park.

October 17 – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring David Brown, PhD.

November 21 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Jerod Roberts, Archeologist with Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center, discussing morphological figures throughout rock art sites in West Texas.

December 19 – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Annual Holiday Party.

Houston Archeological Society monthly meetings are ordinarily free and open to the public. Many previous HAS presentations are archived on our YouTube site at www.youtube.com/channel. For more information about HAS, visit www.txhas.org, email us at president@txhas.org, or join our Facebook page at Houston Archeological Society | Facebook.



Be sure to reconfirm details before making plans to attend.

VIRTUAL:

Archaeological Institute of America

8/18 - Sunday, 3 p.m. Pacific, 1 p.m. Central. Recycling for Death: Coffin Reuse in Ancient Egypt and the Theban Royal Caches. The American Research Center in Egypt, Northern California chapter, and the UC Berkeley Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures present a Zoom lecture by Dr. Kara Cooney, professor of Egyptology at UCLA and Chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Free, public registration is limited; contact arcencZoom@gmail.com prior to August 16. Cooney will discuss her latest book, recycling for Death, a meticulous study of funerary datasets and the social, economic, and religious significance of coffin reuse during the Ramesside and early Third Intermediate periods. For more information, please visit https://www.youtube.com/@NorthernCaliforniaARCE, https://facebook.com/NorthernCaliforniaARCE, or https://twitter.com/ARCENCPostings/.

Shumla

8/21 – Wednesday, Noon. Kelsey Hart, MA, the new Curator and Data Manager, presents One Step at a Time: Building Our Capacity for Digital Preservation. Shumla's twenty-five years of rock art documentation and research has produced vast digital data, much of which is in the form of high-resolution photography, GigaPans, and 3D models of rock art panels. <u>Click to Register</u>.

ON-SITE:

Searchable websites listing upcoming events: Upcoming Events | Texas Historical Commission; https://texashighways.com/events/.

Barrington Plantation State Historic Site

8/3 and 8/4 - Saturday, Sunday. <u>Hard Work & Hydration</u>. Hands-on opportunities working with the crops, and samples of switchel, a thirst-quenching drink similar to today's sports drinks.

8/17 and 8/18 - Saturday, Sunday. Cooking in the Quarter and the Kitchen. Cooking using historical recipes.

8/31 and 9/1 - Corn: Field to Table. Learn about the corn crop from field to table.

Brazos Valley Museum

8/3 and 8/4, 8/17 and 8/18 - Saturday, Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Historic Boonville is open the first and third weekends of the month. 2421 Boonville Road, Bryan, Texas. Free admission, information at (979) 776-2195. Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History.

Fanthorpe Inn State Historic Site

8/10 - Saturday. Holland's Grant: A Bicentennial Celebration.

Houston Heritage Society

8/15 – Thursday, Noon. Dr. Debbie Harwell presents Houston – A Second Choice City. Texans are a proud lot, and Houston is no exception. But looking back at some of the city's significant turning points, Houston was not the first choice of location. From the city's founding in 1836 to getting the Houston Ship Channel, the 1928 Democratic Convention, and NASA, Houston city leaders had the last laugh. \$10, or free for Heritage Society members. More information and reservations here.

Houston Museum of Natural History

Various dates -King Tut's Tomb exhibit. Mystery of the Maya interactive exhibit (Sugar Land). Fees, both member and non-member.

8/10 - Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Texas Master Naturalists: Texas Archeological Sites. HAS will have a display.

8/24 – Saturday, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Texas Master Naturalists: Texas Archeological Sites. HAS will have a display.

Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Sites

8/17 and 8/18 – Saturday, Sunday. Ice Cream Social at the Kreische House.

Lake Jackson Historical Society

8/3 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Jackson Plantation, open the first Saturday of every month.

8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31 – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Alden B. Dow Office Museum, open Saturdays.

8/15 – Thursday, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. <u>Something to Chew On</u>, lecture and learn series on history. \$5, information and reservations at https://www.ljhistory.org/event-details/something-to-chew-on-7.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

8/3 – Saturday. Flags over Texas. Learn about the flags that have been used in Texas and make your own paper flag.

8/4 – Sunday, 2 p.m. Public Guided Tour. Join a guided tour of the museum gallery.

8/6 through 8/9, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Quill to Cover: Historic Writing and Printing summer camp for ages 9-13. Learn about the historic press, setting type, and making books from start to finish: using quills, learning folding, sewing, making book cloth, and ending with a small hardback book to take home at the end of the week. \$40, email san-felipe@thc.texas.gov.

8/10 - Saturday. Sit and Stitch in the Villa. Dressmaking.

8/17 – Saturday. A Date with the Press. Learn about printing in 1820-1830 and current projects in the print shop.

8/24 – Saturday. San Felipe de Austin Planning. Choices made during the founding of the city and the naming of the streets.

8/25 - Sunday, 2 p.m. Nature Walk: In the Footsteps of Stephen F. Austin. Join the Gideon Lincecum Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists on a nature walk. Please note this tour will include long periods of standing and walking (approximately 45 minutes) on gravel, grass, and uneven terrain.

8/29 – Thursday, 6 – 9 p.m. Closing reception for the exhibit, <u>Settling Austin's Colony: An Empresario Shapes Texas</u>.

8/31 through 9/2 - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m., and Labor Day Monday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Processing Fibers Part I: Carding, Processing Fibers Part II: Spinning, and Processing Fibers Part III: Textile Art (Free Admission!). A full Labor Day weekend explores all the steps of turning plant fiber into a finished textile product. On Labor Day Monday (9/2), note there will be special hours and free admission: Special Hours: Open Labor Day Monday (Free Admission!) and Last Day To View Temporary Exhibit: Settling Austin's Colony - An Empresario Shapes Texas.

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

- 8/2 Friday. National Coloring Book Day. The museum will supply coloring sheets, markers, crayons, and colored pencils for use, and Texas history themed coloring books will be available for purchase in the gift shop.
- 8/3 Saturday. Bird Watching at the Battleground. From the 1,210-foot-long marsh trail and boardwalk, visitors will spot coastal birds like the red-winged blackbird, roseate spoonbill, wood stork, mottled duck, osprey, and white pelican, as well as other wetland denizens such as the river otter.
- 8/3 Saturday. San Jacinto Family Day: Camp Life Laundry. Learn how laundry was done in the 1830s and help clean bandanas with an old-fashioned washtub and washboard.
- 8/10 Saturday. Cycling Saturday. Grounds open early for bicyclists with no motorized vehicles. Spinning and Weaving. 10 a.m. 1 p.m. Demonstrations by the Bay Area Weavers and Spinners.
- 8/14 Wednesday, 10 11:30 a.m. Arms demonstration. Fire Arms Demonstration. Staff members demonstrate how to fire a musket and rifle, weapons used by both the Mexican and Texian armies.
- 8/18 Sunday. Picture Yourself at San Jacinto. Receive complimentary instant photographs in front of the historic monument and learn about its rich history.
- 8/22 Thursday, 11 a.m. 3 p.m. Battlefield Medicine. Demonstrations of real nineteenth century medical equipment and information about medical theories and techniques including the four humors and grinding traditional remedies with a mortar and pestle.

8/28 – Wednesday, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Cannon firing demonstrations every half hour. <u>Boom: Cannon Demonstration.</u>

Varner-Hogg State Historic Site

8/3 - Saturday. Roots of Refreshment: Lemonade. Learn about the history of lemonade and try historic recipes.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

8/17 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Quill Pen Writing. Learn about the different types of ink, quills, and paper that people in the nineteenth century would have used to write letters, documents, and in diaries.

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

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