



**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, December 12, 2024
6:00 p.m. at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center -
Year End Review, HAS Awards and HAS Annual Holiday Party**

HAS members and friends, please join us for our annual Christmas gathering at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024. Due to the busy holiday season, this gathering will be held on the second Thursday, one week earlier than our usual monthly meetings. Enjoy holiday snacks and socializing as we recap the HAS speakers and archeology projects during 2024, such as Lone Oak and Kirbee Kiln. HAS President Bob Sewell will serve as our host, and he will discuss past and future projects for interested HAS members. **Also, several awards will be presented to HAS members who have contributed particularly to the success of HAS, so please come and visit in-person. You never know, it could be YOU getting an award.** Please bring your favorite holiday treats to share. This holiday meeting is free and open to the public. HAS members should be looking for your meeting reminder, which will also contain a Zoom link so that those who cannot join us in person can tune in from afar. The Trini Mendenhall Community Center is located at 1414 Wirt Road in Houston. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Bob Sewell at president@txhas.org.



*Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season!
Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President*



HAS Memberships for 2025 Are 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 who might enjoy digging up Texas history with us, one trowel-full at a time. You can pay your dues online using a

credit card at www.txhas.org/membership.html. Or, if you prefer to submit your payment by mail, then please print and include this completed form along with your check made payable to Houston Archeological Society: www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf. Our memberships are the best deal in town, available at \$25 (Individual), \$30 (Family), \$15 (Student), and \$35+ at the Contributing Membership level. 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 receive free copies of our current academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals. Please join us!!!! Note: If you joined after September, then your membership is good for 2025.



President's Message – Bob Sewell



As we move towards the end of 2024, I would like to wish all HAS members an enjoyable holiday season, and many thanks for your support during the past year.

Although the 2024 year brought a few ups and downs, we are still thriving and offering our members great opportunities with our monthly meetings, educational presentations, and ongoing activities! We lost three folks from the HAS Board, including Emma Baldwin and Leonie Waithman, both of whom relocated back to the UK. But we were fortunate to gain Noah Newland as Secretary and Allison Bohn as Director-at-Large. We also welcomed Gail Peterkin to the Board.

Many thanks to all our board members for their service, to the property owners with whom we have collaborated, and to this past year's interesting speakers.

Our membership count is still fairly healthy, as are the Society's finances.

We have been working on two prehistoric projects, the Goloby Site near Brookshire and the Walnut Tree Hill Site near Alleyton, both of which are proving to be productive. We will be continuing these for the rest of this year and into next year, so be watching for emails from fielddirector@txhas.org.

We also participated in invitations from other regional societies, including the Hill Country Archeological Association in Kerrville and the Cobalt project in Victoria.

We recently finished up our outreach program for this year with participation in Diggin' Old Stuff Day at Kleb Wood Nature Preserve. We appreciate everyone who has helped with outreach this year.

And of course, it is now membership renewal time. Make sure that you sign up again promptly so that you don't miss out on all the fun. You can easily do this by going to our membership page at www.txhas.org/membership.html.

I look forward to seeing everyone out in the field and at our monthly meetings. If you have any questions about the Houston Archeological Society, please email me at president@txhas.org.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Bob Sewell, HAS President



The Houston Archeological Society was formed in 1959 by a small group of individuals with an interest in archeology and the history of the early inhabitants and settlers of Texas, especially those occupying the upper Texas Gulf Coast and adjoining states. Incorporated on October 10, 1966, the Society sought to bring together persons with similar interests in the science of archeology, thereby creating an atmosphere conducive to the preservation and exchange of historic and prehistoric data of the State of Texas. By supporting research and archeological projects, the Society is able to preserve its mission and promote a wider public understanding and appreciation of archeology and related fields of science. Since 1959, the HAS has organized, directed, and participated in multiple projects associated with salvage efforts of private landowners to minimize the loss of scientific data; mitigation (monitoring) of sites during construction to minimize site disturbance; and excavation of important prehistoric and historic sites as a result of erosion, land development, and environmental degradation. Our projects are located within the upper Texas Gulf Coast Region and include the greater Houston metropolitan area. Owing to the vast expansion of the city of Houston, the HAS has assisted the City in conservation and preservation efforts of historic properties (prehistoric and historic) sites, as well as historic buildings and neighborhoods within Houston. The Houston Archeological Society holds monthly membership meetings with invited lecturers who speak on various topics of archeology and history. All in-person meetings are free and open to the public. In-person meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston. Source: [Houston Archeological Society \(txhas.org\)](http://HoustonArcheologicalSociety.org).

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2024

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. – Bob Sewell, President. Welcome to all attendees, including a few new members. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Membership & Treasurer's Report – Louis Hebert, Treasurer. Membership currently stands at 190 members, with a few new student and family memberships. It is time to renew memberships for 2025! It's a great deal – yearly dues are \$15 for students, \$25 for individuals, and \$30 for families. HAS finances are healthy, and the budget for 2025 is currently being developed.

Newsletter – Bob Sewell, President. Our newsletter editor, Betsy Wittenmyer, couldn't make it to tonight's meeting, but is always on the lookout for more articles or photos for upcoming 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 – doesn't necessarily have to be Texas- or United States-related. Many thanks to those who have contributed articles to the newsletter.

Outreach – Bob Sewell, President.

- Several HAS members attended the TAS Annual Meeting in Victoria, Texas, on October 25th through 27th. We were also able to sell many items and some old HAS reports at the silent auction.
- The Diggin' Old Stuff event at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve in Tomball, Texas, on November 2nd was a success with a great turnout.
- Sharon Menegaz was also able to give a recent outreach presentation to a homeschool group.
- Any folks interested in helping out with giving outreach talks are encouraged to reach out to president@txhas.org.

Projects – Bob Sewell, President.

- **Goloby Site** (41WL3)
 - The site has now been mowed, and we once again have access to our units.
 - We visited recently, and will be working there again on Saturday, November 23rd.
- **Walnut Tree Hill** (Alleyton)
 - Shovel testing is in process at this site.
 - 2 units have been opened, plus another one during our most recent visit in order to get better access to a possible feature.
- Any members interested in participating in upcoming site visits may look out for invitations from fielddirector@txhas.org.
- **Upcoming:**
 - **Kirbee Kiln**
 - This site, located near Montgomery, Texas, centers on a historic kiln and its ancillary structures.
 - HAS has been invited to help out with excavations at this site from February 27th to March 9th, 2025.

December 2024 Monthly Meeting – Next month's meeting will be the last of the year. There will be no official speaker, but Bob Sewell will be reviewing the year's HAS activities, as well as presenting a few HAS awards. Members are encouraged to bring holiday goodies to share!

Tonight's presentation will be conducted by Jerod Roberts, who will be discussing Rock Art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands. Additionally, Roberts shared with us this link to his thesis: <https://bit.ly/411demb>.

The business meeting was concluded at 6:46 p.m.

Noah Newland, HAS Secretary

Upcoming Events - Archaeological Institute of America - Houston Society



Saturday, December 1, 2024, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. AIA Houston Chapter, Archeology Now Free Event – Presenting Irving Finkel, Asst. Keeper of Mesopotamian Scripts, The British Museum, via YouTube. Dreams in ancient Mesopotamia were often considered to contain messages. Specialists knew what dreams meant and were on hand to offer explanations. This talk will introduce the topic of dreams and omens and discuss a previously unknown group of late period cuneiform tablets that use a specific form of magic to make a client have a prophetic dream. This tablet recounts a marvelous dream written down when Alexander the Great ruled Babylon. Don't miss this chance to hear a legend and to participate with your own questions. Make a free reservation at: [Babylonian Dreams of the Future Tickets, Sun, Dec 1, 2024 at 3:00 PM | Eventbrite](#).

Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m. AIA Houston Chapter, Archeology Now Free Event – Notre-Dame de Paris would not have been saved if not for 3D imaging and scanning. This topic will be explored by two experts from distinct fields. On one side is a representative from *Histoverly*, a French company which reinvents the museum experience by leveraging new technologies. On the other side is Natalia Peters, a representative from the French firm, *Iconem*, which specializes in the 3D reconstruction of endangered heritage sites. Their discussion will be moderated by Belle Carroll from Page Architecture and is presented in partnership with Villa Albertine, the Consulat Général de France à Houston, and Alliance Française Houston, and takes place at Alliance Française, 427 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77006. Make a free reservation at: [Alliance Française de Houston : Events](#).



Registration Open for TAS 2025 Academies

Archeobotany Academy - April 5-6, 2025, in Kerrville

Instructors: Dr. Leslie Bush, Dr. Kevin Hanselka, and Dr. Phil Dering - Learn how to recover plant remains from archeological sites and how to interpret their past roles in human society through historical accounts, experimentation, and traditional knowledge at our two-day Texas Archeology Academy, People and Plants. Classroom and field sessions for the Academy will take place in Kerrville on April 5-6, 2025. Join archeologists to learn about past Texas landscapes, plant foods, plant medicine, and how people tended the land. The course will include a brief overview of the many subdisciplines of archeobotany, how each contributes to reconstructions of past practices, and the strengths and drawbacks of each. Class time will be split between a traditional classroom and a ranch near Kerrville where participants will help construct an earth oven, make medicine, and learn to read plants. The class will conclude by opening the earth oven and enjoying the foods we've cooked. Registration Fee: \$125 plus TAS membership. CPE credits available. [Register Here](#).



Lithics Academy - April 12-13, 2025, in Austin

Instructors: Dr. Robert Lassen, Chris Ringstaff, and Dr. Sergio Ayala - Learn to identify stone artifacts and to interpret basic data through exercises in sorting, classifying, and measuring. Learn the process of making a stone tool from cobble to finished product, the uses of stone tools, and the formation of use-wear and breakage patterns. Come and learn more. Registration Fee: \$125 plus TAS membership. CPE credits available. [Register Here](#).

TAS Scholarship Program

Support for participation in TAS activities is provided through Diversity Scholarships, Native American Scholarships, and Student Scholarships. The Scholarship Program is financed by donations from the Council of Texas Archeologists (the state association for professional archeologists), cultural resource management firms, and TAS members. The number of individuals who can be supported by scholarships is largely dependent on the donations received. Scholarships apply to Field School, Annual Meeting, and the Archeology Academies. Applicants may apply for scholarships under all three programs. Once an individual has received any TAS scholarship, they must wait ten months before applying for another scholarship. The deadline to submit scholarship applications is 45 days before the event. For more information, contact Scholarship@txarch.org or [learn more here](#).

Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754) Invitational, November 2024

Several members of the Houston Archeological Society were once again invited to travel to western Kerr County and participate in the Crying Woman Ranch (CWR) Invitational excavation of a Paleoindian site dating back to 10,250 cal. years BP, joining two dozen professional and avocational archeologists from all over Texas. HAS members who participated included Geoff Mills, Gary Fleming, Dan Massey, Garry Hartmann, Jay Durel, and Frank Kozar.

The CWR site has been investigated by the Hill Country Archeological Association at the landowners' invitation since 2018, with occupations in the Middle Paleoindian period through the Late Prehistoric Toyah phase documented previously. As established by primary investigator Mike McBride, our goals for the week's work were as follows.

- The excavation, screening, and analysis of the large earth oven uncovered in Block 2 (Area B) three years ago. At that time, further excavation was paused until professional geoarcheologists could properly oversee the project. Geoarcheologist Tori Pagano directed the work and documentation of this unit, which was the busiest area during the week.
- Continuation of excavations initiated last spring by HAS and NTAS members in the very muddy Block 1 (Area A), where the depth was over two meters and approaching the water table. Previously, several St. Mary's Hall points and a rock formation thought to be a hearth were discovered in this unit.
- Last April, geoarcheologist Charles Frederick, PhD, worked in the backhoe trench and documented many occupational areas in the soil stratigraphy. We screened the dirt that was previously excavated here through strips of chiffon fabric to recover any seeds that might be present in the layers.
- All project areas required the screening of their soil water, a messy project with which we all assisted. This involved adding a cup of baking soda per bucket of dirt, which was then filled with water and mixed with a drill to break down the limestone mud that was near impossible to break apart with water alone. The buckets soaked for five minutes or more to help the process along. The contents were then dumped into a ¼-inch screen and sprayed with a hose, reducing the product down to rocks and chert for analysis (a lovely job when it's 38 degrees outside!!).



Left: Geoarcheologist Tori Pagano documenting the 10,250-year-old bake oven discovered three years ago in Block 2.

Right: Water screening area with Fort Bend member John Rich. Photographs by Frank Kozar.

I worked alongside HAS member Daniel Massey and NTAS member Glenn Butler in the muddy Block 1, where we excavated the potential hearth identified last spring. However, according to Dr. Frederick, it turned out to be just a natural scatter of river rock, with only one large chert nodule and no animal bones or charcoal. We continued to dig to see if there were any deeper areas of occupation. We found none and bottomed out in the water table at 220 cm (nearly 7.5 feet below ground level).



Left: Block 2 bake oven excavation with HAS member Gary Fleming and Jay Durel (top) and Dan Massey (bottom).
Right: Block 1 unit showing its 220 cm depth. An orange marker indicates the location of a recovered chert core and the present water table. Photographs by Frank Kozar.

HAS members Geoff Mills, Jay Durel, Garry Hartmann, and Gary Fleming focused most of their efforts on Block 2, removing the documented earth oven at that site and finding additional diagnostic artifacts and animal bone. A section of the unit was also investigated down to the water table at the same depth as Block 1.

The week was a success overall and HCAA will continue excavations in the future, with invitations issued to other societies in Texas to assist them on a yearly basis.

~ Frank Kozar



Left: Early film star Harold Lloyd with his Christmas tree. Lloyd collected ornaments all year and lashed three trees together to display them. Lloyd's characters included Professor Dean Lambert, an Egyptologist translating hieroglyphic tablets who experiences love and comic adventures in the 1938 film, *Professor Beware*. Harold Lloyd's Christmas Tree – Moon Man Studios Moon Man Studios.

Below: Harold Lloyd as Professor Lambert. Annex - Lloyd, Harold (Professor Beware).



Update from CoBALT Archeology, Victoria, Texas

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 Paleoindian site, 41VT141 was also regularly occupied by more recent prehistoric cultures over thousands of years.

We are excavating again after a pause of several months while avoiding the heat and humidity and also while we organized and co-hosted the recent 2024 TAS Annual Meeting. Mild conditions greeted our team, which included several new volunteers.



The first thing we did was chase away all the scorpions that had moved into the units while we were away. In the west unit, Mike confirmed the unit location measurements and elevations to get things started and took the time to bring our newest volunteers up to speed on the archeological processes for restarting a unit. The west unit is at an Archaic elevation and although the group found no diagnostics, they did find a distal, core fragment, and a large early stage preform. A broken hammerstone was found in the pedestal underneath the distal. A scraper was found in the material screen. They also found some interesting organics including a small mammal mandible and turtle shell.

The east unit was at a very deep elevation approaching bed rock, and the excavating was hard and slow. Matt and new volunteer John found a lot of rock at this elevation including some nicely colored Texas Jasper which we will tumble and give away to lab visitors. An Atlantic Cockle shell fragment was found which reinforces the fact that these prehistoric cultures had contact or were trading with coastal-dwelling cultures. Organics found included bone, burnt bone, land snails, and mussel shells.



HAS members are always welcome to join us at the site. The archaeology lab at the Museum of the Coastal Bend is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stop in at the museum's front desk for directions to the lab.

With the holiday season upon us, CoBalt suggests this perfect Christmas gift for the working archeologist: a Bill Birmingham right-hand drag trowel and aluminum dirt scoop combination! This combination of Bill's most popular tools is discounted for the holiday season, and we will offer free shipping on this product through Christmas, or until supplies run out. Already have a drag trowel and scoop? Click on the following link to learn about more of Bill's tools designed for archeologists, not concrete workers:

<https://cobaltarcheology.square.site>



All photographs courtesy of O.C. Garza.

~ O. C. Garza

Ancient Sites in Wales

Geoffrey Mills

During my recent visit to Wales, I stayed in a B&B in Anglesey, North Wales, overlooking the Moelfre Bay. The property's name, Bryn Awelon, translates to Breezy Hill.

Two prehistoric and one historic site lie within walking distance of the B&B, all located within half a mile of each other. Walking down the rural road, the first site one reaches is Lligwy Burial Chamber.



Left: Bryn Awelon B&B. Right: Lligwy Burial Chamber. Photographs by Geoff Mills.

This archeological site dates to the late Neolithic period, approximately 4,500 to 4,000 years BP. Originally, the structure may have been more of a mound of earth covering the stones, but this interpretation has not been fully resolved. The monument consists of a circle of standing stones surrounding a low chamber. Because the structure was built partially recessed underground, some of the upright stones are actually six feet tall. Resting on top, the massive capstone measures eighteen feet long by fifteen feet wide and weighs an estimated twenty-five tons—possibly the largest in Britain. Excavations in 1909 revealed the remains of approximately twenty-five people, along with Neolithic pottery, animal bones, and shellfish. See these sites for more information: [Lligwy Burial Chamber, Moelfre, Isle of Anglesey \(Ynys Môn\); Archaeologia Cambrensis : Cambrian Archaeological Association, Donald Moore, Thomas Rowland Powel: Internet Archive.](#)

Within half a mile of the Lligwy Burial chamber lie the remnants of the Din Lligwy ancient village. The Welsh word *din* means hill or fortress.



Din Lligwy, remains of a round hut (left) and an entrance to a round hut (right). Photographs by Geoff Mills



Left: View of Din Lligwy site. Right: Remains of a rectangular structure. Photographs by Geoff Mills.

This is a well-preserved example of the type of defended settlement built by the native population of Anglesey during the latter part of the Roman occupation of Wales. It consists of round and rectangular huts, probably not all erected at the same time. The round huts served as dwellings for the Britons, whereas the rectangular structures, used as barns or storage, show the influence of Roman style. The principal period of occupation existed during the fourth century AD, with the earliest habitation possibly beginning in the Iron Age (750 BC to 43 AD).



Lligwy beach. Photograph by Geoff Mills.

In 1907, excavations revealed hundreds of Roman pot sherds, together with animal bones. The remains of a hearth and ironworking suggest that the villagers were craftsmen, whereas finds of Roman pottery and coins suggest they were trading with the Roman invaders. Although the site is now surrounded by trees, originally the residents had a clear view of the sea, about one mile away. For more information, see [More about Din Llugwy Romano-British Village | Cadw](#).

I next walked only a couple of hundred yards from Din Lligwy to visit the third site, Lligwy Chapel ruins. This tiny early twelfth century oratory was built to support the widespread community of Penrhos Lligwy because the central parish church was too distant for some of the parishioners.

Right and below: Lligwy Chapel. Photographs by Geoff Mills.





There was some rebuilding in the fourteenth century, and a small chapel extension with a burial vault beneath was added in the sixteenth century. This was used to bury members of a local family. When the vault was opened, the skeletons inside crumbled to dust when exposed to the air. For more details regarding the chapel, see archive.org/lostchurches.

Anglesey features many prehistoric sites. Geoff has visited others and has reported on them in previous articles. Lligwy Burial Chamber can be compared to Trefignath, and the round huts of Din Lligwy can be compared to the Holyhead Mountain stone circles, both described in the January 2023 issue of The Profile.



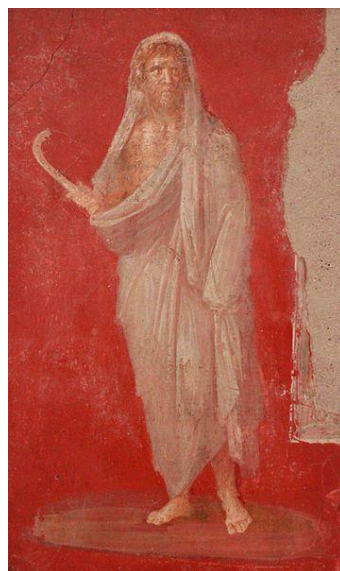
From the HAS Archives



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 December of 2006, continuing the late Fred Kelly's lessons about the names of months ([HAS Profile December 2006](#)).

December was a month eagerly awaited by the ancient Romans. The name comes from the Latin word *decem*, meaning ten, as this was the tenth month in the early Roman calendar before a monthless winter period later was divided into January and February. In the old lunar calendar the period for the gestation of a child was ten months, and so December was considered the month of birth. This month the Romans held a special festival called the Saturnalia, a weeklong rite to the god Saturn celebrated with private parties, special dinners, family celebrations, and the exchange of gifts. Many of the customs of this month were incorporated into the Christian holiday of Christmas after the Emperor Constantine converted the empire to Christianity in the fourth century A.D.

~ Fred Kelly



Saturn depicted in a fresco from Pompeii. Naples Archaeological Museum. Inventory number 8837. [Saturno, Museo archeologico nazionale di Napoli - Catalogue of the Museo Archeologico di Napoli \(inventory MANN\) - Wikimedia Commons](#).



The Archaeological Institute of America offers many awards, fellowships, and grants.

Upcoming deadlines:

December 1: Graduate Student Paper Award

December 15: Anna C. & Oliver C. Colburn Fellowship

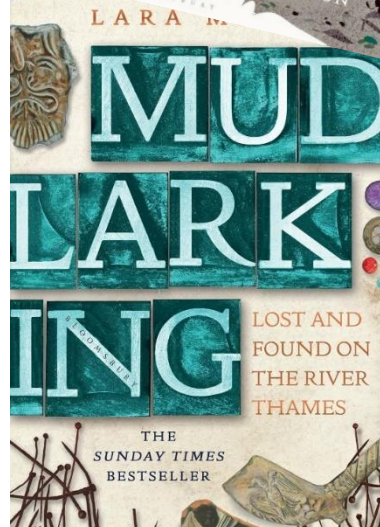
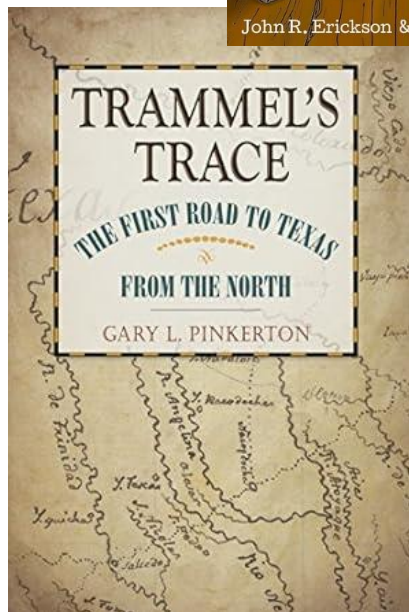
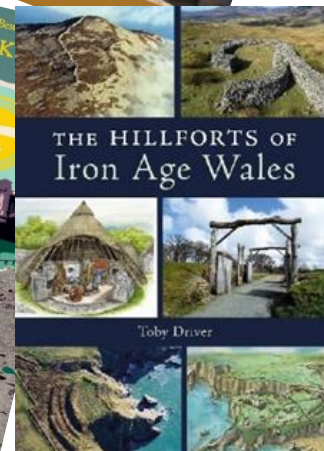
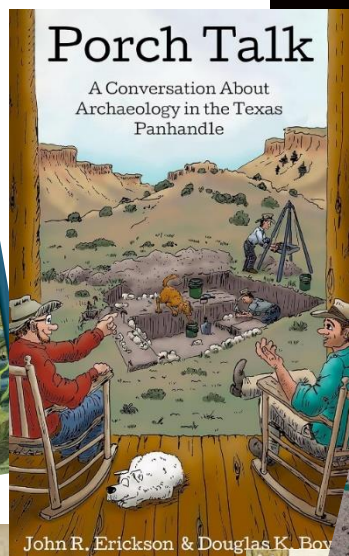
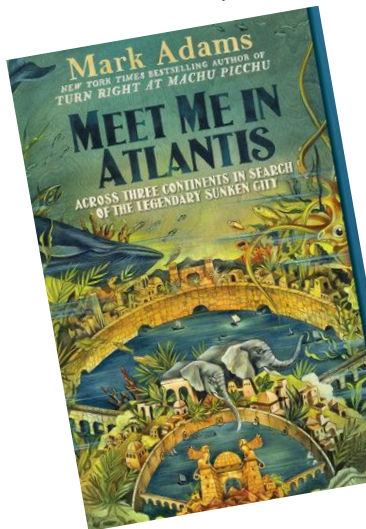
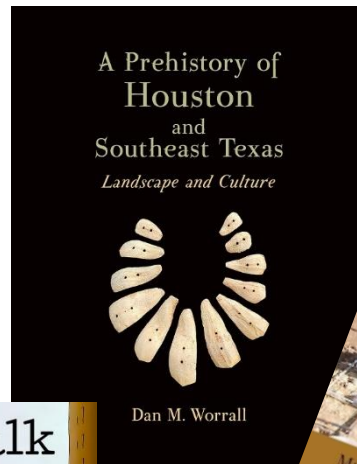
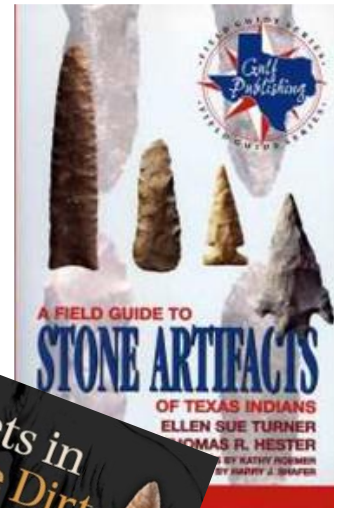
December 15: The Harriet and Leon Pomerance Fellowship deadline has been extended to Sunday, December 15. The Pomerance Fellowship supports individual projects of a scholarly nature related to Aegean Bronze Age Archaeology. Preference will be given to candidates whose project requires travel to the Mediterranean for the above-mentioned purpose.

If you need clarification on the requirements or submission instructions, please contact fellowships@archaeological.org or awards@archaeological.org.

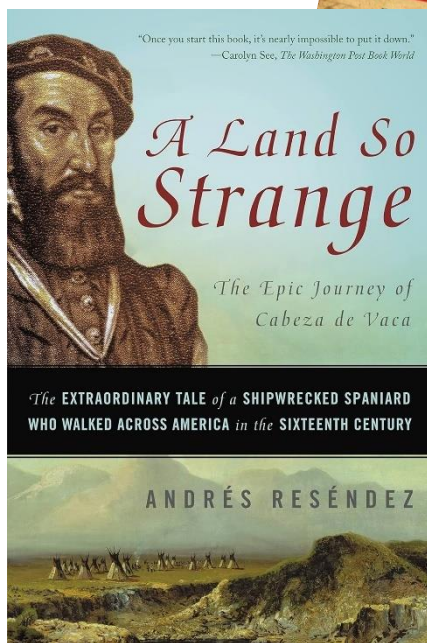
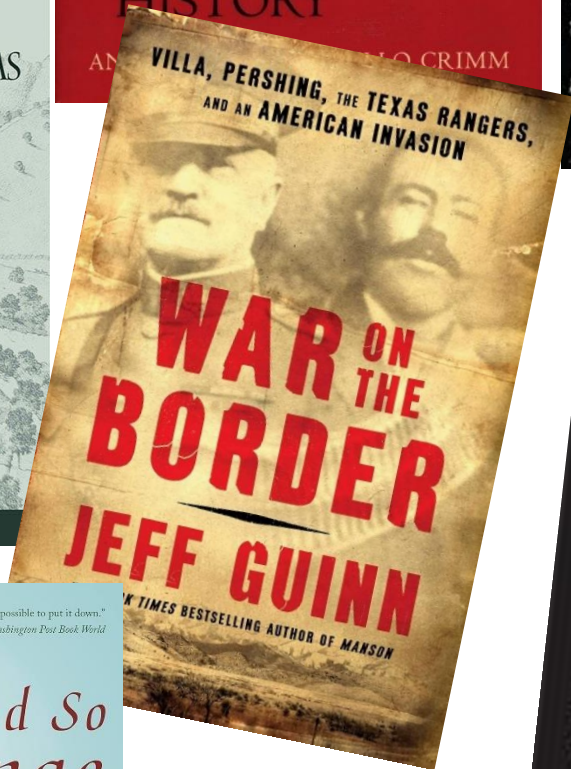
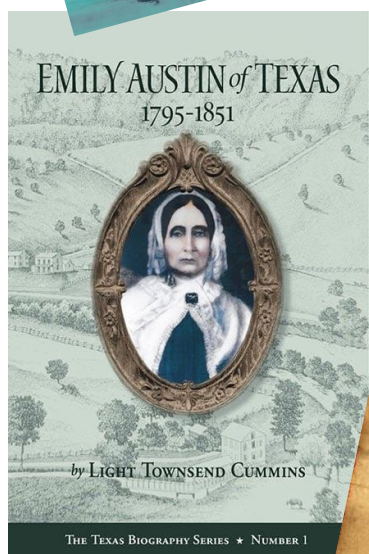
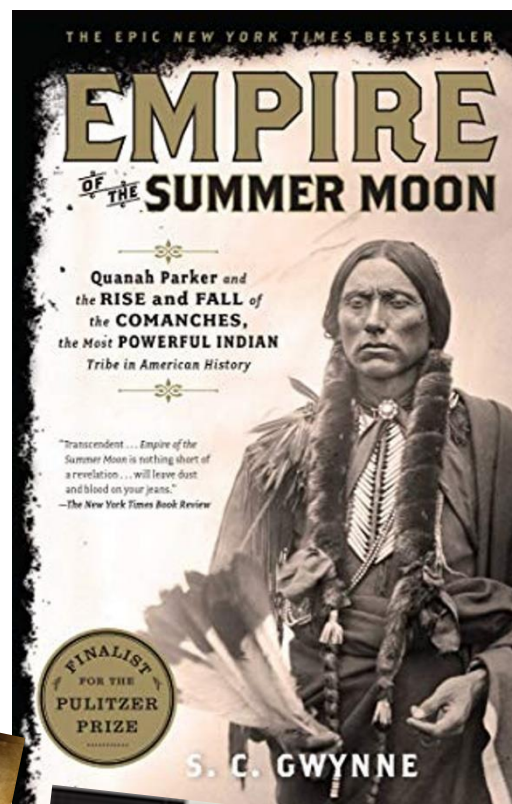
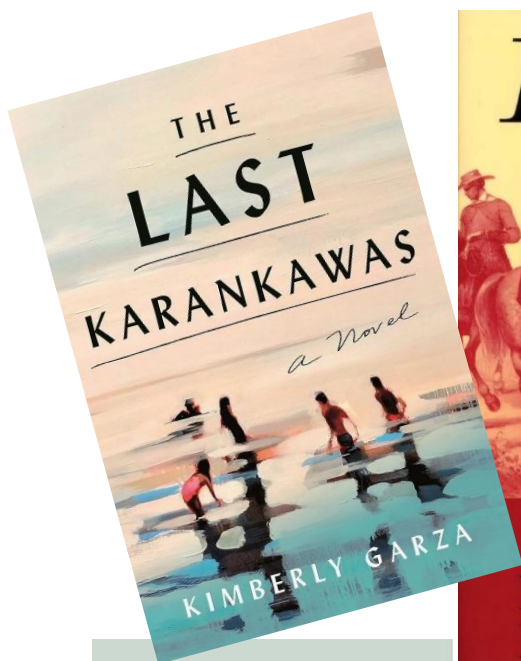


ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE of AMERICA

What is Santa reading?

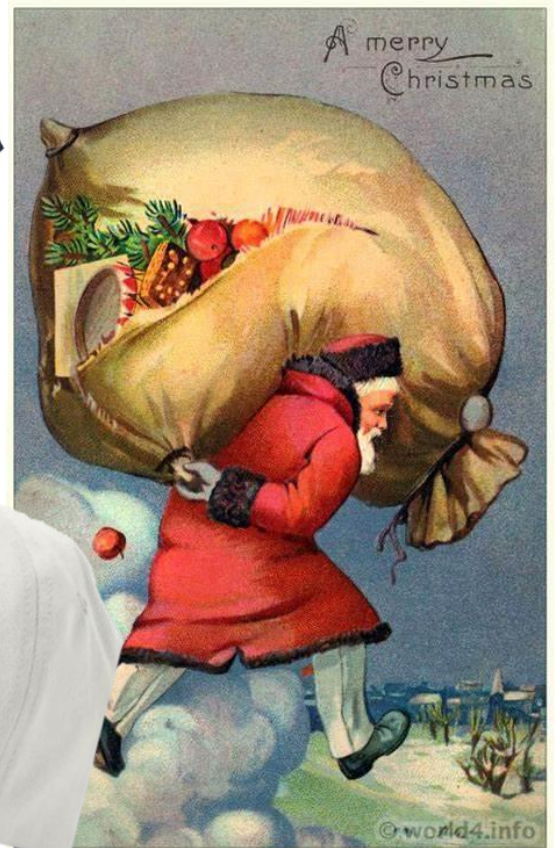


Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians: Turner, Ellen Sue, Hester, Thomas R., McReynolds, Richard L., McReynolds, Richard L., Shafer, Harry J.: 9781589794641: Amazon.com; Meet Me in Atlantis by Mark Adams: 9781101983935 | PenguinRandomHouse.com: Books; Plains Archeological Research: Amazon.com: Porch Talk: A Conversation About Archaeology in the Texas Panhandle eBook : Erickson, John R., Boyd, Douglas K.: Books; Local author takes a long, long look back at Southeast Texas: A Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas: Landscape and Culture Paperback: Worrall, Dan M.: 9780982599631: Amazon.com: Books; Secrets in the Dirt: Trammel's Trace — GARY L. PINKERTON: Amazon.com: Lara Maiklem: books, biography, latest update: <https://nation.cymru/wpcontent/uploads/2023/10/HillfortsofWalescover.jpg>; Christmas Santa Claus Reading Book Greeting c1910 Postcard.



Emily Austin of Texas 1795-1851; De León, a Tejano Family History: Crimm, Ana Carolina Castillo; 9780292702202; Amazon.com: Books; Amazon.com: The Last Karankawas: A Novel: 9781250819857: Garza, Kimberly: Books; War on the Border: Villa, Pershing, the Texas Rangers, and an American Invasion: Guinn, Jeff; 9781982128869; Amazon.com: Books; The Comanche Empire; Amazon.com: Land So Strange: The Epic Journey of Cabeza de Vaca: 9780465068418; Reséndez, Andrés; Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, Gwynn

What's in Santa's bag of gifts?



<https://world4.info/variety-santa-claus-postcards/>; Be Nice To The Archeologist Santa Is Watching Sweatshirt, T-Shirt; Christmas Archaeology Santa Archaeologist Pyramid Sticker | Redbubble; 3D Printable PROFESSOR SANTA ROSA EXPEDITION ARCHEOLOGIST by PAPSIKELS MINIATURES; Spade Necklace, Monogram - Etsy; Lego Architecture Great Pyramid Of Giza Set 21058; Target; LEGO IDEAS - The Roman Archeological Dig Site.



Update from the Gault Site about the New Film, *The Stones are Speaking*.



The Stones are Speaking premiered recently at the prestigious Austin Film Festival, drawing enthusiastic crowds and earning an audience award for best Texas Independent Feature. The audience at Austin's historic State Theater included archaeologists who specialize in the peopling of the Americas, the landowners who helped preserve the site, and archaeologist Michael Collins who revealed Gault's history and protected its legacy.

Filmmaker Olive Talley spent almost five years recording interviews, gathering videos, and working to tell the history of Gault and its people – both ancient and modern. The result is a powerful documentary that explores the peopling of the Americas, the history-changing discoveries at the Gault Site, the vision and revolutionary discoveries of archaeologist Michael Collins, and the power of landowners who choose to support archaeological conservation.

You can see a preview of *The Stones are Speaking* online. The film has drawn strong interest from distributors and enthusiastic coverage from the media. We will be sure to share information about where you can see it as soon as that's available; *The Stones are Speaking* — News and Media Coverage.



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.

Grave Concerns: Houston History Remains Buried in Timbergrove Backyards—The Leader News (Vollmer Cemetery, Harris Co.)

Voices of the Past Cemetery Tour in Montgomery Texas Teaches Junior High Students “The History of the Texas Flag”—

Montgomery County News (New Cemetery)

Pompeii victims aren't who we thought they were, DNA analysis reveals | Live Science; Ancient DNA rewrites stories of some of Pompeii's victims buried in ash - The Washington Post

An Epic of Kings: The Great Mongol Shahnama - National Museum of Asian Art

<https://www.history.com/news/native-american-tribes-facts>

Archaeologists Find Rare Gladiatorial Artifact at British Roman Encampment

The Archeologist.org/[latest news](#)

Have Turkish Archaeologists Found the Final Resting Place of Saint Nick?

From Stonehenge to Santa Claus: the archaeology of Christmas – The Past

Roman Gladiators: Let the Games Begin - Archaeology Magazine - November/December 2024; Gladiator Gym Goes Virtual -

Archaeology Magazine - January/February 2012; Weapons of the Ancient World - Gladiator Weapons - Archaeology Magazine -

May/June 2020; The Roman Arena - Archaeology Magazine; When Lions Were King - Games - Archaeology Magazine -

September/October 2023; The Language of the Arena - Archaeology Magazine

A Roman birthday invitation found at Vindolanda: Tab.Vindol. 291. Birthday Invitation of Sulpicia Lepidina | Roman Inscriptions of Britain: <https://romaninscriptionsofbritain.org>

After traveling for 60 years, a Roman emperor's head returns to Turkey

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/oct/29/lost-maya-city-valeriana-mexico-temple-pyramids-plazas>

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/vikings/1-200-year-old-viking-cemetery-with-stone-ship-burials-discovered-in-sweden>

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquity/article/running-out-of-empty-space-environmental-lidar-and-the-crowded-ancient-landscape-of-campeche-mexico>



Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

Please note that meetings 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.

December 12 – HAS Annual Holiday Party at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 6 p.m. Bring your favorite holiday snack as we review the 2024 HAS year and enjoy each other's company! Please note that due to the busy holiday season, this gathering will be held on the second Thursday, one week earlier than our usual monthly meetings.

January 9 – HAS Quarterly Board Meeting

Houston Archeological Society monthly meetings are customarily 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](#).



Upcoming Events

Be sure to reconfirm details before making plans to attend.

VIRTUAL

AIA Houston/Archaeology Now

12/1 – Sunday, 3 p.m. Lecture by Dr. Irving Finkle of the British Museum, discussing dreams, omens, and a previously unknown group of late period cuneiform tablets that use a specific form of magic to make a client have a prophetic dream. This tablet recounts a marvelous dream written down when Alexander the Great ruled Babylon. Reserve your free space at [Babylonian Dreams of the Future Tickets, Sun, Dec 1, 2024 at 3:00 PM | Eventbrite](#).

American Rock Art Association

12/7 – Saturday, 5:30 PST/3:30 Central. Petroglyphs Of California's Northern Sierra Nevada And Their Protection, presented by Nolan Smith and Bill Drake. This presentation discusses who made the petroglyph images in the northern Sierra Nevada, examples of their images and sites, and site management and protection. The petroglyphs focused on are on and around the El Dorado, Plumas, and Tahoe National Forests. Most of them were made between 500AD and 2,000BC by the Martis Complex, the ancestors of the Washoe tribe.

Archaeological Institute of America

12/10 – 6:30 Central. Dr. Julie Zimmermann will be discussing storytelling in Cahokian culture and artworks. Primary among these stories was that of a hero who wore human head earrings. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#).

12/14 – 2 p.m. Homer and Archaeology: Excavations at the Bronze Age Capital of Iklaina, by Dr. Michael Cosmopoulos, Professor of Greek History and Archaeology at the University of Missouri - St. Louis. Zoom link at [Carnegie Room at the St. Louis Public Library](#).

Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series

12/5 – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Dirk Van Tuerenhout, Ph.D. lectures of the Teotihuacan and the Maya, a long-distance love-hate relationship in Mesoamerica. [Lectures | Lecture Series](#). Virtual lectures announced and archived at [Current Videos | Lecture Series \(engelhardtmooresite.com\)](#).

Eventbrite Free Online Archaeology Events

For listings and more information from various institutions see: [Free Online Archaeology Events | Eventbrite](#).

12/2 – Monday, 1:45 p.m. CST. Megalithic Sites of Britain, presented by Andy Burnham. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-old-stones-the-megalithic-sites-of-britain-a-talk-by-andy-burnham-tickets-1041968735537?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&keep_tld=1

12/12 - Thursday, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. CST. Cremation in the Early Middle Ages, an online book launch to celebrate the publication of *Cremation in the Early Middle Ages*, edited by Femke Lippok and Howard Williams.

Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

12/12 – Thursday, 6 p.m. Home for the holidays at Goodnight Ranch, [Friends of the Texas Historical Commission](#).

Shumla

Schedule and links at: <https://shumla.org/education/lunchandlearn>.

ON-SITE:

Searchable websites listing upcoming events: [Upcoming Events | Texas Historical Commission](#); <https://texashighways.com/events/>.

AIA Houston/Archaeology Now

12/4 – Wednesday, 7 p.m. Panel discussion of 3D imaging and the restoration of Notre Dame. Presented free at the Alliance Française, 427 Lovett Blvd, Houston. Reservations at [Alliance Française de Houston : Events](#).

Barrington Plantation State Historic Site

12/14 and 12/15 – Saturday, Sunday. Cooking in the Quarter and the Kitchen. Cooking using historical recipes.

Bear Creek Park

12/14 – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Winter Festival. Bear Creek Rodeo Arena, 3230 Highway 6, Houston.

Bryan Museum, Galveston

12/7 – Saturday, 11 a.m. First Saturday of each month, special Orphanage Tour. Learn about the history and architecture of this historic building on a special tour that will take you through the building and grounds. Fee, \$10 and up.

12/8 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Holiday Delights: Coastal Christmas, free admission.

12/19 – Book club, *A Land So Strange: The Epic Journey of Cabeza De Vaca* by Andres Resendez. RSVP Bryan Museum Book Club.

Fanthorpe Inn State Historic Site, Anderson

12/14 – Saturday, 6 – 9 p.m. Holiday themed living history event.

Fort Bend Museum

12/6, 12/7, 12/13, 12/14 – Fridays (6 – 8 p.m.) and Saturdays (5 – 8 p.m.) Candlelight tours, wassail, cookies, and crafts in the 1883 Moore home, \$10.

Houston Heritage Society

12/6 and 12/7 – Friday and Saturday, 5 – 8:30 p.m. Holiday Market by Bayou City Hangouts. Buy unique gifts from local small businesses. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Annual Candlelight and Carols Tours at The Heritage Society with the Houston Boys Choir.

12/10 – Tuesday, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. History on Tap: Galveston Pirate Lafitte, by Prof. Hank Leslaurier at North Shepherd Brewing (Free).

12/14 – Saturday, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Visit Houston Experience: Black History Tour. From Plantation to Emancipation – The Freedom Experience. Tour the 1847 Kellum-Noble House, 1866 Fourth Ward Cottage, and 1870 Yates House, UNESCO Sites of Memory that tell Houston's stories from plantation to emancipation. Actors bring the hardships of slavery and the victory of freedom to life in dramatic reenactments. For more information and tickets see Tickets.

12/28 and 12/31 – Saturday and Tuesday, 10 – 11:30 a.m. Watch Night Experience: Black History Tour. On the night of December 31, 1862, enslaved and free African Americans gathered, many in secret, to ring in the new year and await news that the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect. Just a few months earlier, on September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the executive order that declared enslaved people in the rebelling Confederate States legally free. However, the decree would not take effect until the clock struck midnight at the start of the new year.

Houston Museum of Natural History

Various dates – Wortham Giant Screen, Dinosaur Discoveries: A Holographic Adventure. Planetarium, Death of the Dinosaurs.

Lake Jackson Historical Society

12/7 – First Saturday each month, tours of Jackson Plantation.

Kreische Brewery

12/1 – Sunday, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Make nineteenth century toys.

12/13 – 12/22 – 5:30 – 8 p.m. Trail of Lights. Annual lighted trail and historical celebration.

Levi Jordan Plantation

12/7 – Saturday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Two guided tours of the site were offered promptly at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Through 1/12/2025 - Grounded in Clay: The Spirit of Pueblo Pottery

Through 1/20/2025 - Living with the Gods: Art, Beliefs, and Peoples

Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria College

12/5 – Thursday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Holiday Artisans Market. Now in its seventeenth year, the annual holiday market at the Museum of the Coastal Bend features one-of-a-kind gifts from regional artisans and makers.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

12/5 – Thursday, 6 – 7:30 p.m. An Evening as Big as Texas: Reflections on the Lone Star State with Authors Stephen Harrigan and Joe Holley.

12/7 – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Historic Career Fair. Learn about all the jobs, trades, and skills that were necessary to keep the town of San Felipe de Austin running two hundred years ago.

12/14 – Saturday – Christmas Celebration: 10 – 11 a.m. San Felipe Small Town Holiday Parade; 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. Christmas at San Felipe de Austin (Free Admission). Annual celebration of Christmas in Austin's Colony.

12/18 through 12/22 and 12/26 – 12/29 – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Villa de Austin Photoquest.

12/21 – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Exploring Holiday Spices.

12/29 – Sunday, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. San Felipe Nature Walk in the Footsteps of Stephen F. Austin, led by the Gideon Lincecum Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists.

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

12/7 – Saturday, 7 – 9 a.m. 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.

12/7 – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Foraging San Jacinto with Dr. Merriwether Vorderbruggen; learn how to find and identify wild edible plants. Space is limited, reserve tickets at Texas Historical Commission.

12/7 – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. San Jacinto Family Day: Corn Husk Angels. Make a toy like those in the 1830s.

12/11 – Wednesday, 1 – 2:30 p.m. Firearms Demonstration. Battleground staff demonstrate how to fire a musket and rifle, weapons both the Mexican and Texian armies utilized on the fateful day that won Texan independence.

12/14 – Saturday, 7 – 9 a.m. Cycling Saturday. Grounds open early for bicyclists with no motorized vehicles.

12/14 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Spinning and Weaving. Demonstrations by the Bay Area Weavers and Spinners.

12/15 – Sunday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Picture Yourself at San Jacinto; complimentary instant photographs in front of the historic monument and learn about its rich history.

12/19 – Thursday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Demo Day: Fire Making. Demonstrations on how to use a flint and steel to prepare a fire and make your own char-cloth.

12/21 – Saturday, 12 – 3 p.m. Until the Sun Set: Brutality and the Battle of San Jacinto. Step into the shoes of a Texian soldier at San Jacinto for a program with a focus on one of the battle's most difficult aspects.

12/27 – Friday, 1 – 4:30 p.m. The Yellow Rose of Texas: Myth and Fact. A single record from 1850 by an Englishman who visited Texas spun the story of Emily Morgan, an enslaved woman who used her feminine wiles to distract Santa Anna and help the Texians seize victory at San Jacinto. But did that really happen? Join us at this interactive program to answer your questions about the Yellow Rose and learn the truth behind the legend.

12/28 – Saturday, 1 – 2:30 p.m. Cannon firing demonstrations every half hour. Boom: Cannon Demonstration.

Varner-Hogg State Historic Site

12/7 – Saturday, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Guided Tours of the plantation site promptly at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

12/21 – Saturday, 11 a.m. Yuletide Cheer: The History of Wassail. Learn the history of wassail and its Yuletide connections.

Witte Museum

12/7 – Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Hiking tour in the Langtry, Texas area of Bonfire Shelter and Eagle Cave. Bonfire Shelter is a nationally significant site in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands that preserves evidence of what may be the oldest and southernmost bison jump in North America. Eagle Cave, a large occupational site, is found in the same canyon, \$50.

Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. Witte Museum Rock Art Foundation White Shaman Preserve Tours, available September through May every Saturday. Fees \$20/\$25. 2024 Upcoming Tour Dates. Located near Seminole Canyon State Park. Information at (210) 357-1910 or Reservations@WitteMuseum.org.



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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Sewell, President, president@txhas.org
Frank Kozar, Vice President, tupflash@aol.com
Louis Hebert, Treasurer, treasurer@txhas.org
Noah Newland, Secretary, secretary@txhas.org

Gail Larsen Peterkin, Director-at-Large, glpeterkin@comcast.net
Allison Bohn, Director-at-Large, adwbohn@yahoo.com
Geoff Mills, Director-at-Large, geoffm1877@gmail.com
Linda Gorski, Board Advisor, lindagorski@cs.com

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sharon Menegaz, smenegaz@rcseagles.org

AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGY STEWARDS

Elizabeth Aucoin, ek.aucoin@gmail.com
Liz Coon-Nguyen, elizabeth.coonnguyenmd@gmail.com
Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251
Debbie Eller, debajul@yahoo.com
Charlie Gordy, chasgordy@yahoo.com
Bruce Grethen, bruceg999@gmail.com
Sue Gross, suegbobs@comcast.net
Joe D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com
Kathleen Hughes, hughes.kathleen@yahoo.com
Brenda Jackson, brendajacks1@yahoo.com
Ron Jackson, ronj845@gmail.com

Beth Kennedy, bethiekennedy902@gmail.com
Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com
Clint Lacy, clacy13@comcast.net
Sharon Menegaz, smenegaz@rcseagles.org
Tom Nuckols, tnuckols58@att.net
Sandra Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net
John Rich, JohnRich3@sbcglobal.net
Sandra (Sandy) E. Rogers, sojourne47@gmail.com
Gary Ryman, gkryman@gmail.com
Steve Salyer, salyer4@hotmail.com
Bob Sewell, robert-sewell@att.net
Paul Spana, pcspana@comcast.net

Disclaimer: For concerns or issues regarding any article published in this newsletter, please contact the author of the article. The content of any article published is solely the responsibility of the author. Copyright ©2024 by the Houston Archeological Society. All rights reserved.