



**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, December 18, 2025
6:00 p.m. at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center - Year End Review 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 18, 2025. Enjoy holiday snacks and socializing as Bob Sewell, President, and Frank Kozar, Vice President, serve as our hosts, presenting a recap of the many HAS projects and events this past year.

HAS members participated in the Texas Archeological Society academies in early April, beginning with the Archeobotany Academy in Kerrville under the tutelage of Dr. Leslie Bush, Dr. Kevin Hanselka, and Dr. Phil Dering. Participants constructed and filled an earth oven, and then after twenty-four hours enjoyed the tasty cooked sotol, wild onions, carrots, potatoes, and other native plants. We foraged in the woods, hammered vegetation into twine, and learned how indigenous peoples transitioned from hunter-gatherers into farming. During the Lithics Academy in Fort Worth, Dr. Robert Lassen, Dr. Sergio Ayala, and archeologist Chris Ringstaff explained and demonstrated stone tool manufacturing, use wear and break patterns, and tool uses. Also in April, members of HAS traveled to Hunt, near Kerrville, to work at the Crying Woman Ranch (CRW) paleolithic site. Our group has traveled there for three years to join the CWR invitational dig. This year, volunteers excavated an earth oven and a new unit near a midden, which revealed several interesting finds including a notched quartz crystal that was possibly used as a pendant. June brought the annual TAS field school, held in Milam and Robertson Counties and focused on surveying Red Mountain and a portion of the El Camino Real de los Tejas at Ranchero Grande. Many Native American groups lived in this area periodically over thousands of years, including the Tonkawa, and Late Prehistoric pottery findings establish Red Mountain (Naton Samox) as a significant multicomponent site. HAS members stayed busy in October attending the TAS Annual Meeting in McAllen, as well as assisting at various HAS public outreach events including Archaeology Day at the Houston Museum of Natural History, the Montgomery County Memorial Library in Conroe, and the Lake Creek Greenway Partnership in Magnolia.



We hope that you will join us at this holiday gathering, which is free and open to the public. 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. We will provide snacks and light beverages, and please feel free to bring your favorite holiday treats to share. The Trini Mendenhall Community Center is located at 1414 Wirt Road in the Spring Branch area of 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***

How a bountiful feast was prepared thousands of years ago in Texas – roasted in an earth oven. Archeobotany Academy, photographs by Frank Kozar.





President's Message – Bob Sewell

As we move towards the end of 2025, I would like to wish all HAS members an enjoyable holiday season, and many thanks for your support during the past year.

This has been another successful year for HAS. We are still thriving and offering our members great opportunities with our monthly meetings, educational presentations, and ongoing activities!

We retained six existing board members and welcomed John Swann as a director-at-large. 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 healthy, as are the Society's finances.



We have been excavating 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 are also continuing work at the Lone Oak Site near Frelsburg. We will be returning to all three regularly, 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 McNiell Ranch project in Victoria.

We have been engaged with the First Lego League Challenge, where students plan projects integrating robotics with archeology. It will be interesting to see what the various teams design. Our community outreach programs progress, with several on the calendar for this month and 2026. We appreciate everyone who has helped with outreach this year, an important mission for HAS.



Christmas Gifts For Archaeology Lovers | DigVentures

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. HAS members should be receiving email reminders.

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



HAS Memberships for 2026 Are Now Due: Please take a moment to 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 trowelful at a time. You may pay your dues online using a credit card at [HAS Membership](#). Or, if you prefer to submit your payment by mail, then please print and include this completed [Membership Form](#) along with your check made payable to Houston Archeological Society. 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 our current academic publications. Please renew today, we want you out there with us! Note: If you joined HAS after September 1, 2025, then your membership is already good for 2026.

<https://www.dreamstime.com>





Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2025

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. – Bob Sewell, President. Welcome to all attendees, including a few new members.

Membership & Treasury – Bob Sewell, President. Membership stands at 176 members, including fourteen students and nineteen contributing. With the end of the year coming up, it is time to renew your HAS membership! Renewals are due at the end of December, and a reminder email has already been issued earlier this month. Thank you to the forty-three members who have already renewed their membership for 2026. Treasury funds are looking good, and the 2026 budget has begun to be prepared.

Newsletter – Bob Sewell, President. Thank you so much to those who have contributed great articles to the newsletter! We are always on the lookout for more content for upcoming newsletters. This can be anything from a photo with a brief explanation to a longer article about any relevant topic, including projects, excavations, 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. Anyone wishing to contribute is invited to contact newsletter@txhas.org.

Projects – Bob Sewell, President.

- **Lone Oak** (41CD168)
 - Our last visit to this site was on November 15. We had a great turnout with ten folks attending, including five new members. During this visit we were able to get the electric fence re-cabled, which should hopefully help with keeping the cattle away from the site.
- **Goloby Site** (41WL3)
 - We are hoping to have an opportunity to return to this site in the near future.
- **Walnut Tree Hill Site**
 - Visits here are paused for the hunting season, which will end around mid-January.
- We are regularly cycling through visits to all three of our active sites. Members interested in participating in site visits may look out for invitations from fielddirector@txhas.org.

TAS Academy – Bob Sewell, President. The Texas Archeological Society's Zooarcheology & Osteology Academy will take place from February 28 to March 1, 2026, at Rice University. HAS will once again be helping to host this event. Although registration is full at this time, interested members can join the waitlist at <https://txarch.org/Academies> in case any spots open up. The other two upcoming TAS Academies (Rock Art in El Paso on March 21-22 & Archeology 101 in San Angelo on April 10-12) still have some spaces left.

Outreach Activities – Bob Sewell, President

- Thank you to the twelve members who have signed up to participate in our Outreach Support Team. Members interested in helping out with outreach events are invited to contact president@txhas.org.
- HAS has received several requests to provide presentations and/or displays for schools or other organizations.
- We recently participated in an outreach event on October 4 at Montgomery County Memorial Library in Conroe.
- On November 1 HAS tabled at an event for Lake Creek Greenbelt Partnership in Magnolia.
- The youth robotics competition FIRST Lego League (FLL) has selected archeology as their theme for this year's event. HAS, along with many other local archeology organizations, has received many requests from these groups to talk or partner with them, and the THC has appointed a coordinator to handle incoming FLL communications. One of these groups recently joined us for our August meeting as well as a visit to the Lone Oak site, and they would like to return to demo their project for us in the near future. Any members who are contacted by a FLL group are welcome to direct them to president@txhas.org.
- Upcoming:
 - On December 6 we will be presenting for Cub Scout Pack 1100 at Spring Creek Park.
 - We also plan to participate in an event with the West Pearland Library in the near future. Details are TBD.

December 2025 Monthly Meeting – Our next meeting will be held on December 18 at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center. Although we will have no official speaker, Bob Sewell, President, and Frank Kozar, Vice President, will be giving a review of HAS's activities in 2025. Join us for a holiday party following the presentation!

Tonight's presentation will be conducted by Tori Pagano, speaking about her work with the Hill Country Archeological Association (HCAA) at Crying Woman Ranch in western Kerr County, as well as a brief update about the Pine Ridge site in Belize.

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

Noah Newland, HAS Secretary





Excavation Day at the Lone Oak Site - November 15, 2025

On Saturday, November 15, 2025, ten members visited the Lone Oak site near Frelsburg, Texas. This is one of our favorite sites and, again, it didn't disappoint. The weather was gorgeous for November, and we welcomed five new participants: Jacob Cantu, and the Mayronne family, consisting of Amy, David, Natalie and Kyle.

Frank Kozar worked on sorting out the electric fencing with a stretch of brightly colored rope rather than electrical wire. The rest of the team started tidying up the units since they had been left unattended for almost two months.



Left: The Mayronne family, Kyle, Amy, David, and Natalie. Right: Natalie Mayronne shows off the lanceolate blade. Lone Oak Site, photographs by Bob Sewell.

As is not uncommon, it was one of the new folks, Natalie, who found a fantastic lanceolate blade. It was in the north-west corner of one of the units so we will need to explore that area during further visits.

This find has demonstrated yet again what a great site we have at Lone Oak. So, if you have not visited the site yet then make sure that you do as soon as you have time.



Lake Creek Greenbelt Preservation EXPO – Saturday, November 1, 2025

Saturday, November 1, saw Louis Hebert, John Swann, Tom Williams, and Bob Sewell participating in the Lake Creek Greenbelt Preservation Expo in Magnolia, Montgomery County. This was the first time our Society has been involved, and the outreach activity went really well. There were over seventy-five exhibitors alongside HAS, as we displayed artifacts and posters across three tables in a premiere position right inside the main entrance area.

The event was very well set up in a fantastic event hall with really helpful volunteers on hand to assist as we unloaded our supplies. We made numerous new friends and contacts, and we hope to be back again next year.



Left: HAS Members Tom Williams, John Swann, and Louis Hebert at the ready. Right: Louis Hebert discusses the HAS display.



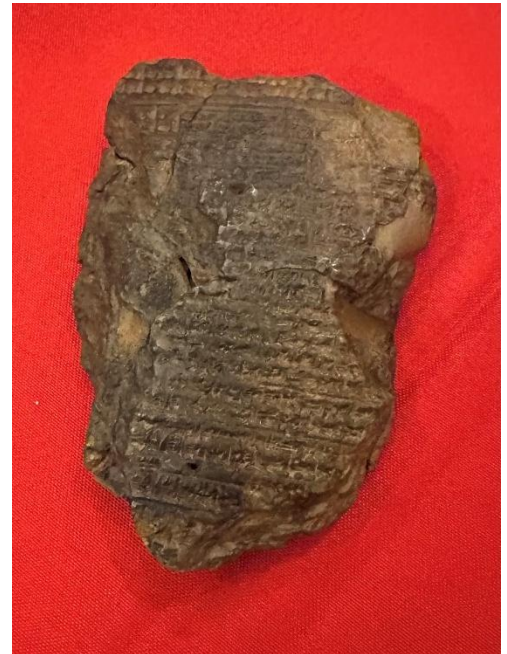
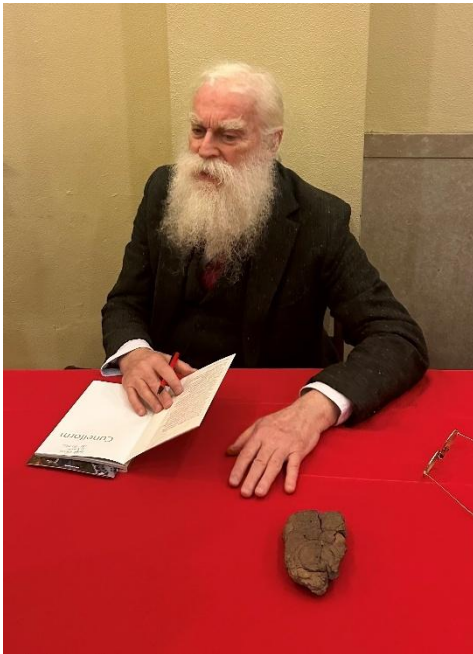


Irving Finkel Returns to Houston

Gail Larsen Peterkin

Dr. Irving Finkel, the Assistant Keeper of Ancient Mesopotamian Script, Languages, and Cultures in the Department of the Middle East at the British Museum, spent a weeklong residency in Houston in November, sponsored by Archaeology Now, the GREAT Campaign/British Consulate in Houston, the Houston Public Library Foundation, the Health Museum, and the Jung Center.

The week kicked off with a free public lecture, “Mesopotamia GREAT Discoveries in Mapping: The Oldest Map in the World,” at the Julia Ideson Library on November 4. Always an entertaining and dynamic speaker, Dr. Finkel discussed the sixth century BCE Babylonian *mappa mundi*. The map is on a clay tablet with cuneiform inscriptions written in Akkadian, both above the map and on the reverse of the tablet. The text above the illustration relates the traditional Babylonian creation story. The circular map below the inscription is the oldest known depiction of the Mesopotamian world, shown from above. It is circular and centered on the Euphrates River, with the city of Babylon straddling the river. Seven other cities or population centers are shown as smaller circles: Assyria, Bit Yakin, Der, Habban, Susa, Urartu, and an unnamed city in the east.



The known world is surrounded by two concentric circles, labeled the “Bitter River” (ocean). Eight foreign regions (*nagu*) are shown as triangles (mountains) beyond the ocean. In 1995, British Museum volunteer Edith Horsley discovered a missing piece that fit exactly into a gap in the larger tablet. This discovery allowed Dr. Finkel to match the cuneiform descriptions on the reverse of the tablet to the triangles, which were arranged counter-clockwise. He also found a reference to the Ark, the subject of his 2013 book *The Ark Before Noah: Decoding the Story of the Flood*. The boat was described as resting on a mountain in Urartu—known as Ararat in Hebrew! Dr. Finkel and the British Museum are working on additional projects related to the map. A forthcoming book will include the Babylonian calculation of the circumference of the earth, which is not far off from the calculation of Eratosthenes (40,000 km) and the actual modern measurement (40,075 km)!

A second public lecture took place at the Health Museum on November 10, “Mesopotamia GREAT Discoveries in Medicine.” The earliest Mesopotamian medical text dates to 2500 BCE. It is a cuneiform tablet from Syria that advocates the use of the “snake plant” to treat four different maladies. While some afflictions are attributed to normal causes, others are attributed to sorcery (devils, demons, or ghosts). Nevertheless, many inscriptions conclude with the optimistic phrase, “He [the patient] will get better!” By the time of Hammurabi in the eighteenth century BCE, both healers and magicians

were part of the established medical system. The most comprehensive medical text is the Nineveh Medical Encyclopedia, recovered from the library of Ashurbanipal (Assyria, 669-630 BCE). It consists of fifty tablets that organize medical knowledge and treatments in twelve anatomical divisions, extending from head to foot. Prescribed “drugs” include local plants, minerals, animal parts, and “unpleasant substances” (e.g., wolf sweat, bear feces, and human semen).

After the presentation, Dr. Finkel conversed informally with Dr. Peter Hotez, the Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Hotez, who also co-directs the Center for Vaccine Development at Texas Children’s Hospital, is an outspoken advocate for vaccination, and was a reassuring presence during the COVID-19 pandemic. His most recent publications include *The Deadly Rise of Anti-Science: A Scientist’s Warning* (2023) and *Science Under Siege* (2025), written with climatologist/geophysicist Dr. Michael E. Mann.

In between the two public lectures, Dr. Finkel discussed “The Future of Dead Languages” with students at Rice University and the University of Houston. He also conducted a weekend workshop at The Jung Center, with classes including “How Script Began,” “Great Cuneiform Inscriptions,” “Amulets and Magic Spells,” and “On Ghosts.”

Did You Know? In addition to his academic work, Irving Finkel has also published fiction! While many of his books are intended for a young audience (*The Last Resort Library* 2007, *The Princess Who Wouldn’t Come Home* 2008, *Swizzle de Brax and the Blungaphone* 2010), he has also penned adult historical fiction—the family-friendly *Miss Barbellion’s Garden* 2012 and *The Writing in the Stone* 2018.



Photographs by Gail Larsen Peterkin.



Feedback Requested! We want to hear from YOU!
Question: What are your favorite history or archeology podcasts?

Send a quick email to newsletter@txhas.org and let us know! Also, we’d like to hear about things such as which articles and reports you most enjoyed, topics you’d like to see in the future, and any other suggestions about how we can improve. All HAS members and friends are invited to submit content on topics such as visits to historic sites, TAS academies, archeological field work, education travel, related interests, experiences, research, insights, and publications. We solicit and welcome your thoughts and contributions!

Image: [Santa Royalty-Free VectorStock](#)





A Report from the Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting

Noah Newland



During the second weekend in October, I was lucky enough to be able to travel to McAllen, Texas, for this year's Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Annual Meeting. My dad also has taken an interest in archeology since attending TAS Field School in Milam County with me this past June, so the two of us made a road trip of it. During the moments when we weren't listening to talks at the Annual Meeting, we had a lovely time exploring local restaurants, coffee shops, and bookstores in McAllen.

As always seems to be the case, our biggest difficulty throughout both days of the meeting was trying to decide which speakers to hear, as nearly every subject on the schedule sounded fascinating to us. Of all the presentations I saw, I found that some of my favorites were those given by students and recent graduates, many of whom brought fresh new outlooks and insights from other disciplines to the study of archaeology. Greer Testa's lecture on Nasca Hummingbirds was an engaging exploration of pollinator iconography on ceramics of the ancient Nasca culture, and Annalise Rogers synthesized archaeological and archival findings to give a superb summary of her work at the French Legation in Austin, as well as new perspectives on the history of the site's occupation. Of course, after having participated in this year's TAS Field School together, it was also very rewarding for both my dad and me to attend the symposium discussing some of the findings, results, and new questions that the Field School's work in Milam County produced. We're both looking forward to the opportunity to return next summer to continue this work and start excavations! Overall, I'm so grateful that the Annual Meeting gave me the chance to share my love for archaeology with my dad and to learn so many new things in the process.



Above: Lecture about Field School at the TAS Annual Meeting, photographs courtesy of Noah Newland. Below: Onsite at the 2025 TAS Field School in Milam County this summer, photograph by TAS, [Texas Archeological Society - Field School](#).

The 96th Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society took place October 10-12, 2025, in McAllen, Texas. Posters, events, and abstracts from the event may be reviewed via the [TAS 2025 Final Program](#).





Update from CoBALT Archeology, Victoria, Texas

The Coastal Bend Archaeological Logistics Team, based in Victoria, is working at the McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a cooperative agreement with the landowner and 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.

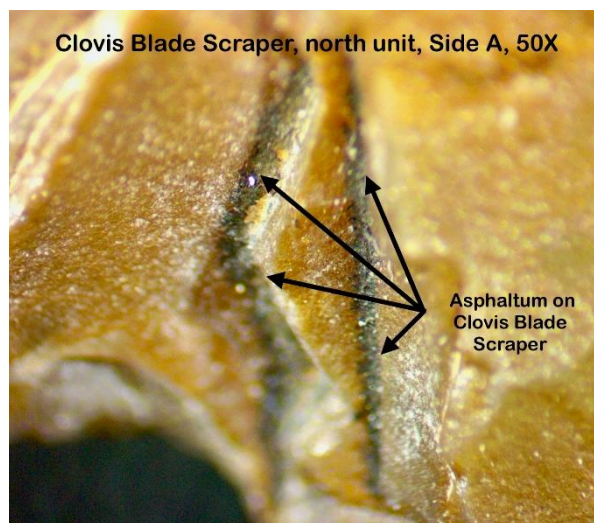
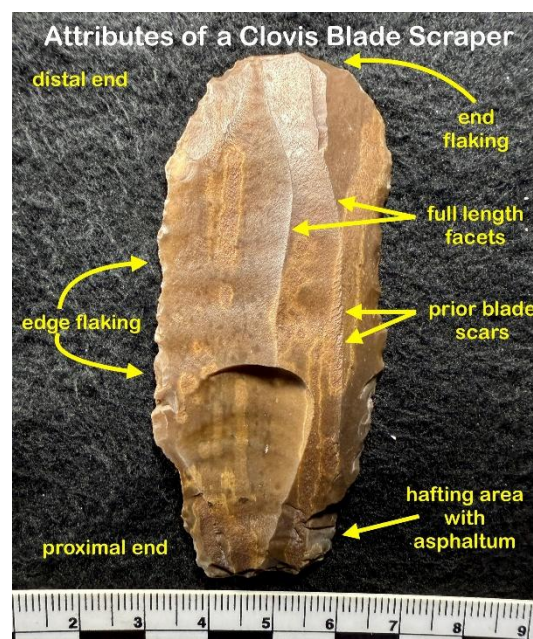


Excavation Day, October 24, 2025: Cool conditions greeted our team as three units were excavated. In the west unit, Mike, Gaby, and Max are at an elevation initiated by a late-to-mid Archaic component that can be very productive. They found a late-stage biface preform along with some debitage and fire-cracked rock. Working level three of a unit on the Paleo2x Terrace, Frank, Lori, and Joe encountered some large clay balls and a core fragment indicating what may be a hearth feature near the center of the unit. Several other fire rocks were uncovered at the southern boundary of this unit. Mike, Roger, and OC worked the north unit at an early Archaic elevation and encountered lots of debitage, fire-cracked rock, and organic material including land snails, clay balls, burnt deer bone, and burnt sandstone. Lithics found in situ included a large chopper and a distal. A hammerstone and core fragment were found on the material screen.

Excavation Day, October 31, 2025: In the west unit, Mike and Max found some debitage and fire cracked rock, plus a distal that appeared to be broken during manufacture. In the north unit Bill, OC, and Roger worked two levels. In level two, a biface preform and several cores were uncovered, along with a utilized flake scraper. On the Paleo2x Terrace, Lori, and Joe uncovered more clay balls and a core fragment from the unfinished unit from last week. In level three of the north unit, Bill, OC, and Roger found a core, a damaged hammerstone, and an unidentified Paleo point. This elevation also held a large number of clay balls, some with charcoal and residue, as well as deer bone, mussel shell, and turtle bone. Some sandstone fragments were found, probably from a sandstone slab.



Excavation Day, November 7, 2025: In the north unit, Bill, Roger, and OC were working at a deep Paleoindian elevation where two Clovis artifacts were found in the last two months. Today they found two Clovis blades, although they were very different types of blades. First was a Clovis blade scraper broken at the proximal end. This blade scraper was hafted and had both edge flaking and end flaking and was alternately reflaked while hafted. There was asphaltum residue on the proximal end in the haft area. Initially, we didn't think this blade scraper was made from Edwards chert, but under a black light it glowed "pumpkin orange" indicating it was made of Edwards chert. The second Clovis blade was originally thought to be debitage but on closer examination turned out to be a utilized crested Clovis blade. These blades are common in a Clovis blade core reduction and are flaked off to shape the core for blade removal. This crested blade had a worn edge, and the wear analysis and low angle indicate it was possibly used as a knife and/or scraper. It also glowed orange under a black light, indicating it was made from Edwards chert. Also found in this deep Paleoindian elevation was a utilized flake scraper with no Clovis features at all. In addition to these three lithics, the level held a lot of organic materials including clay balls, burnt clay/sandstone, mussel shell, a variety of land snails, debitage, and fire cracked rock. Special thanks to Dr. Tom Hester, Dr. Harry Shafer, and Dr. Glenn Goode for their analysis of these Clovis artifacts. In the west unit, Mike and Max did not find any artifacts, and on the Paleo2X terrace, Frank and Tim opened another level but did not uncover any artifacts either.



HAS members are always welcome to join us at the site or in the lab. 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. You can follow CoBalt Archeology's progress at [CoBalt Facebook](#).

With the holiday season upon us, CoBalt suggests this perfect Christmas gift for field work: a Bill Birmingham right-hand drag trowel and aluminum dirt scoop combination! Click on the following link to learn about more of Bill's thoughtfully designed [archeology tools](#).

~ O. C. Garza

All photographs are courtesy of O.C. Garza. Source: [CoBalt](#).



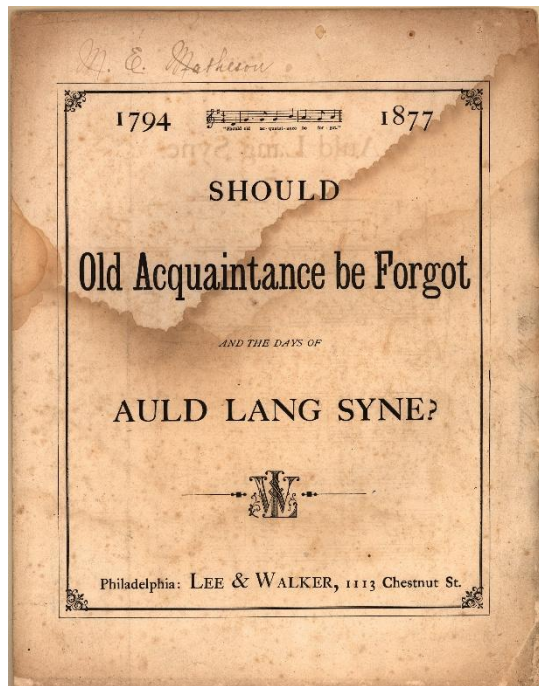


*The Houston Archeological Society wishes you and your loved ones a very happy holiday season!
Festive times bring good cheer, joyful memories, and the opportunity to catch up with dear friends.*

~ https://youtu.be/W_6Vs8pADrQ ~

*Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*



*And surely, you'll buy your pint cup!
and surely, I'll buy mine!
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

*We two have run about the hills,
and picked the daisies fine;
But we've wandered many a weary foot,
since auld lang syne.*

*We two have paddled in the stream,
from morning sun till dine;
But seas between us broad have roared
since auld lang syne.*

*And there's a hand my trusty friend!
And give me a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a right good-will draught,
for auld lang syne.*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

Sources: [Digital Scriptorium](#); [Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University](#); URL: <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/sheetmusic>; [Vintage Christmas cards](#).





Catching Up With a Dear HAS Friend ~ An Update From Linda Gorski ~
~ Thank You for Your Years of Leadership and Dedication to the Houston Archeological Society
and Texas Archeology ~



As many of you may remember, I was president of the Houston Archeological Society for a good number of years!!!! Being part of HAS and digging up the history of the Houston area – one trowelful at a time – was one of the most amazing experiences of my life! I was also a Texas Historical Commission Archeological Steward, which offered the opportunity to participate in archeological investigations in southeast Texas and across the state. The long and short of it I was not born a Texan, but I got there as quickly as I could, immersed myself in the history of the state – and swore I'd never leave!

That is, however, until 2022, when our youngest daughter moved to South Carolina and informed us in no uncertain terms that since we were both closing in on eighty, she was NOT coming to Houston to take care of us! So, like good (aging) parents, we moved lock, stock, and barrel to South Carolina and bought a little piece of paradise (that our daughter found for us) on Hilton Head Island. How my life has changed!!!

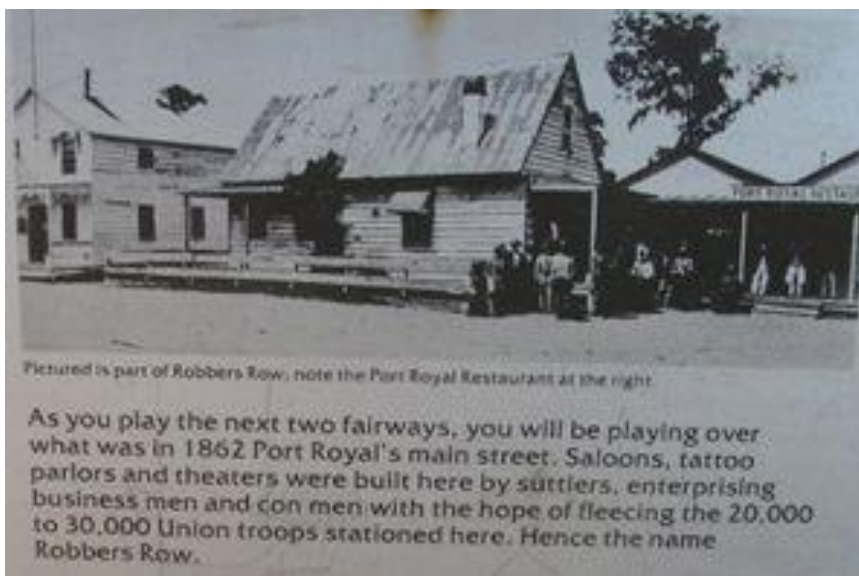
First of all, we live within spitting distance of the ocean and within walking distance of our two golf courses. Playing golf has become somewhat of an obsession. I play at least three times a week, and for the past two years I have been the Ladies Golf Chair and vice president of our golf club. In short, I have become seriously addicted to the game. We've also become crazy avid Savannah Bananas fans. In fact, at one Bananas baseball game we attended, they ran a contest to recognize the longest-married couple in the stadium and, at almost sixty years wed, Rick and I won. The owner of the team brought us down to the field, we kissed, danced, and made complete fools of ourselves. Here's a photo of us with Jesse Cole, owner of the Savannah Bananas. (Actually, my secret desire is to become a member of the Savannah Banana Nanas – the cheerleading and dance squad – one of the requirements is you must be over sixty 😊) So this is what our lives have become!!



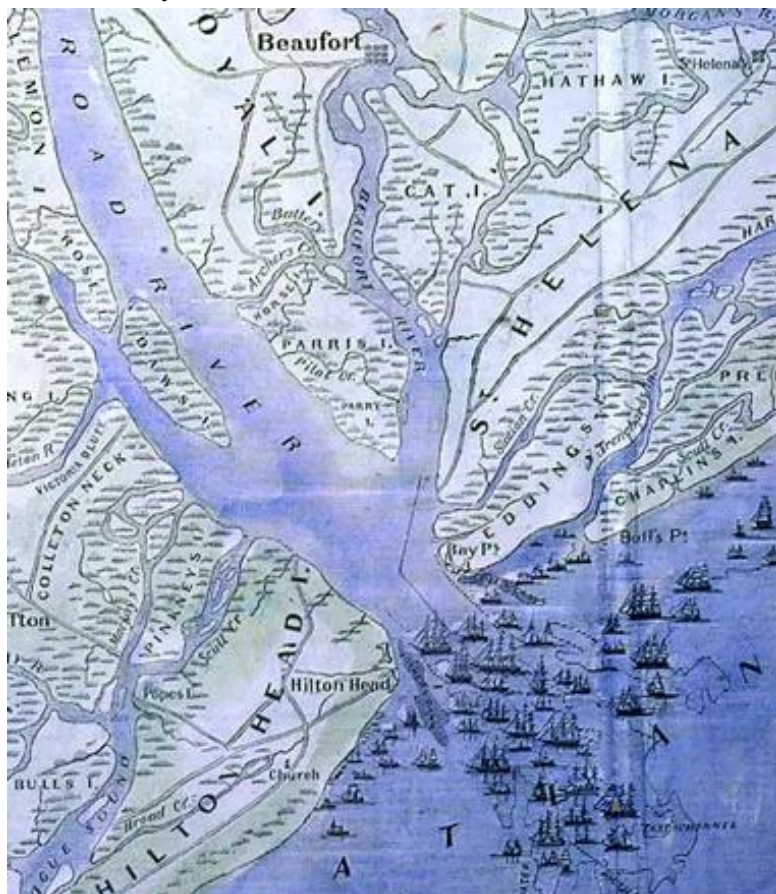
Except on Saturdays.

On Saturdays I return to my true love – archeology.

Believe it or not, there is a local archeological society that I joined within weeks of moving to the island. For those of you who don't know, Hilton Head has an amazingly interesting history beginning with Native American settlements and sites including the Sea Pines Shell Ring (38BU7, the most pristine example of a shell ring on the southeast coast!), followed by European exploration and English plantation agriculture (indigo, rice, and cotton), which led to the development of the unique Gullah culture. The island also played a significant role in the Civil War, serving as a Union blockade station and the site of the first self-governing town of formerly enslaved people, Mitchelville. At one point there were 50,000 Union soldiers stationed on Hilton Head Island, and in my small neighborhood alone there are still remnants of two forts including Fort Walker. In fact, Robbers Row golf course is built in and around former battlements and other sites from the Civil War, and several of the golf holes feature historical markers highlighting what formerly stood on those sites.



One of the historical markers on Robbers Row golf course.



On the Civil War era map of Hilton Head Island to the left, the location of our house would be just south of the heel of the island—the original “Hilton Head” explored and named by English Captain William Hilton in 1663, and very near the site of the Battle of Port Royal Sound, the Civil War's second amphibious battle, which occurred on November 7, 1861.

In addition to ongoing archeological investigations on the island, there are several sites off-island that offer opportunities to participate in excavations. The dig with which I've been involved is just off the island and located at an eighteenth-century plantation site on private property. Nothing is standing above ground, but we have uncovered numerous foundation features and domestic artifacts. The most exciting development is that we've also uncovered several prehistoric artifacts, including lithics, and especially, Woodland period ceramics.



Our group spent a good deal of time researching the site in local libraries, archives, and deed records before even setting foot on it! We initially used metal detectors and an app called Tect O Trak at the site to determine if there were concentrations of artifacts in any particular area. Using those methods as well as a drone survey, we targeted an initial area to excavate which turned out to be the remains of a plantation era building that had burned to the ground. Working at this site has made me appreciate the history and archeology of South Carolina, just as I appreciated the history and archeology of Texas while working with HAS. I'm blessed to have found a group of folks who love digging in the dirt as much as I do! And the story continues as we go into our next fall and winter season excavating this site. Hopefully, I will have updates for you as we explore more of this site and others down the road. In the meantime, if you have any questions about life in South Carolina and the glorious Lowcountry, please [email me](#).



Sources: [Pin on Art - Santa Claus](#); [Mid Century Golfing Santa](#); [Pinterest](#).





~ Long-Time HAS and TAS Member Pam Wheat-Stranahan ~
~ Thank You for Your Decades of Contributions to Education and Texas Archeology ~



Recently recognized in *Authentic Texas* magazine for her service in the fields of education and archeology, we at HAS are so proud of Pam's work over the years, and we wholeheartedly agree with the accolades she has accumulated. Stranahan spent fifteen years in public and private education, eventually becoming a school principal. She then served as the Director of Education at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, as well as the Executive Director of the Texas Archaeological Society, where she became a Fellow in 2011. Stranahan served as HAS president in the 1980s, Education Coordinator for the *Houston's History Underground* exhibit at the Harris County Heritage Society, Curator of the *Dig It* gallery at the Houston Children's Museum (grand opening), and was given the HAS Merit Award in 1989. The Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce named Stranahan their 2013 Citizen of the Year, and in 2024, she received the highly esteemed Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Historical Commission. She remains active in archeology and history in Aransas County, where she and her husband, Phil, retired.

Authentic Texas is published by Texas Heritage Trails, LLC, a coalition of the five nonprofit Heritage Trail Regions from across the state, with expansive mission goals including featuring preservation efforts by champions and stewards of Texan histories and legacies such as that of Pam Wheat-Stranahan, and highlighting the rich heritage of Texan sites, attractions, and communities. Please read more in this detailed article featuring HAS treasure [Pam Wheat-Stranahan](#). Sources: [About - Authentic Texas](#), [Aransas County historical groups honor volunteer Pam Stranahan](#).



~ A Conversation With Margie Fullen, HAS Member Since 1962 ~
~ Thank You for Your Foundational Contributions to Gulf Coast and Texas Archeology ~

Margie Fullen recalls many important archeological events from the early days of HAS. The Fullens were involved with numerous significant archeological surveys in Texas, such as the Chambers County site of the 1750s mission, presidio, French trading post, and middens now known as the [El Orcoquisac Archeological District](#). Working with John Clay of Houston and State Archeologist Curtis Tunnell, the location was verified in 1966-1967 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in Texas in 1972.

Margie and her late husband, Lou, moved to Houston when Lou served in the Air Force teaching radar technology at Ellington Field. The couple stayed in the area when Lou began a career at Schlumberger Well Services as a research and development electronics technician.

In the early 1960s, the Fullens heard that agates could be found at Falcon International Reservoir. Margie and Lou took a vacation to the lake, searched for agate-bearing rocks, and realized that the surface finds they were seeing might be artifacts. They collected them, unaware that the rocks should be left in place, because at that time there was little public knowledge about the conservation of archeological sites.

Once home, the Fullens showed the stones to a friend, who agreed they looked like artifacts. He was able to put the Fullens in touch with a coworker, [Alan Duke](#), an HAS founding member also serving as the Society's president. From that point the Fullens began their journey to become avocational archeologists, and Lou attended the monthly HAS meetings held in a basement classroom on the University of Houston campus.

The 1962 discovery of Karankawa graves during commercial development of Jamaica Beach (41GV5) and the subsequent reports piqued the interest of the entire Fullen family, including toddler Jean and infant John ([HAS Newsletter No 10.pdf](#)), and they all became even more involved in learning about Texas archeology. Margie recalls making a bed in the back of their station wagon where the children could take a nap during weekend site work.



Panoramic view of the Mitchell Ridge site as it appeared in 1989, looking southwest across Eckert Bayou. The site is concentrated along crest of the ridge, which is marked by the larger trees seen in the background to the left. Assembled from photos taken by Lou Fullen. [Mitchell Ridge](#).

Margie remembers many colleagues and projects from these early days of the development of the Houston and Texas Archeological Societies. In fact, she recalls how Dr. E. Mott Davis and Dr. Ed Jelks chose to use the spelling of “Archeology” that omits the “a,” although Mott later informed Margie he somewhat regretted that decision. The simpler spelling persists today, and both spellings are acceptable.

The important discoveries on western Galveston Island led to the HAS work with UH Professor Frank Hole and Rice graduate student Barbara Burger on the indigenous sites at [Mitchell Ridge](#) (41GV66) during the 1970s. The 1978 TAS Field School took place at the site. Margie modestly credits so many, but Lou is cited as a pivotal member of that investigation ([Mitchell Ridge Investigations](#)). HAS soon became involved with the UT archeological salvage project associated with the survey of the land now inundated by Lake Livingston ([Archaeological Testing of Site 41PK69 Polk County, Texas](#)). The Society gained members and started to establish a relationship with professional archeologists who guided the weekend site work, training members in proper techniques. HAS collaborated with the Chambers County Historical Commission (chaired by Villamae Morehead Williams) in site testing and reporting.

Bringing Lou’s expertise in electronics and technology into play, the Fullens promoted appropriate and responsible use of metal detectors before the method was deemed fully acceptable. Both Lou and Margie were elected President of HAS at different times during this period of the Society’s growth. Lou also served on the TAS Board and as TAS President over the years. HAS avocational archeologists sought professional and academic support, which they received with appreciation from Rice, the University of Houston, and the University of Texas.

The Fullens and HAS members supported the campaign for more robust state oversight of archeological sites, and 1965 saw the creation of a State Archeologist position. This was followed by the Texas Antiquities Code in 1969. Today the State Archeologist falls under the auspices of the Texas Historical Commission, which evolved from the Texas State Survey Committee established in 1953.

Eventually, even the Fullen grandchildren, now in their thirties, participated in TAS summer field schools. Lou passed away in 2017, and Margie has slowed down. But we appreciate her sharp memory and treasure her tales from the decades. Lou and Margie volunteered tirelessly for over fifty years in efforts to scientifically conserve archeological resources and educate others about the importance of cultural heritage. Thank you, Margie, for the dedication, influential support, and many contributions that you and your family have made to Texas archeology!

Sources: [El Orcoquisac: A Spanish Outpost at Wallisville \(1756-1771\) \(September 2011\) | Archive - 2011 | Kevin Ladd | Local Writers' Columns | Center for Regional Heritage Research | SFASU](#); [HAS Newsletter No 10.pdf](#); [Burger-1976-Mitchell-Ridge.pdf](#); [Mitchell Ridge](#) ; [Burger-1976-Mitchell-Ridge.pdf](#); [State Archeologist](#); [Nuestra Señora de la Luz Mission](#); [Clearly Vintage](#) (below).



We will continue to catch up with HAS members and friends in our January issue. Join us again next month – and submit an article yourself – please share some of your archeology memories and update us about what you have been doing this past year!





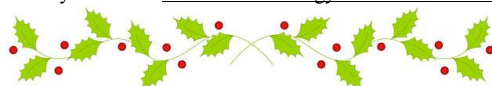
The Alamo ~ Podcast and Excavation Updates



Recent episodes of the award-winning podcast [Stories Bigger Than Texas](#) discuss topics including recent archaeological finds and the Battle of Gonzales. Episode 107 celebrates the Alamo's strong ties to the U.S. Army. When Texas joined the United States in 1845, the Alamo served as an Army outpost and depot for the next thirty years. Listeners will hear the Alamo's Senior Researcher and Historian Kolby Lanham, a military veteran, reveal the indelible mark the U.S. Army left on the Alamo and how the Alamo continues to remember a longstanding partnership with the nation's oldest military branch. Episode 109 discusses the Tampico Expedition, an alliance between revolutionary Texans and Mexican federalists. You can stream the Alamo's podcast [through the website](#), listen and subscribe [on YouTube](#), or subscribe and download on your preferred podcasting app, including Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

Preservation, conservation, and archaeological work continue, with excavations underway at the Alamo church. Archaeologists encountered a compact caliche surface at approximately 60 cm below surface. A large utility was documented across the northern portion of the unit, with additional cut trenches visible in the profile indicating that old utilities were present in the area. The artifacts recovered from this unit include a large quantity of construction related materials, such as nails, as well as glass and other artifacts. EU-134 was excavated to a maximum depth of 150 cm below surface. Archaeologists exposed the church foundation down to the natural hardpan. Additionally, the foundation for the buttress was exposed. A minimum of three construction episodes were identified in this unit: the original foundation construction, a later episode that appears to be the product of repairs to the church, and a third construction which is likely associated with the late 1800s installation of a police substation. Archaeologists in EU-136 reached a terminal depth of 100 cm below surface. The most prominent feature in this unit was the limestone alignment, which spans the entire east-west length of the unit. However, another significant feature was encountered; fragments of a wooden post were found against the façade of the alignment. The post was documented and carefully removed for further analysis.

Reprinted from the Alamo website, where regular updates may be found: [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation](#); [Photograph Source](#).



Updates from the Archaeological Institute of America

December 1: Graduate Student Paper Award – Graduate students contribute substantially to the success of the Archaeological Institute of America's Annual Meeting by delivering papers based on original research. Through its Graduate Student Paper Award, the Archaeological Institute of America recognizes this contribution and encourages outstanding research by students. [Click here to learn more](#). **December 15: Anna C. & Oliver C. Colburn Fellowship** - The AIA offers a fellowship of up to \$9,000 to support

studies at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens for up to one year. Applicants must be U.S. or Canadian citizens or permanent residents, current AIA members at the Graduate or Professional level, and either pre-doctoral or within five years of earning their Ph.D. The application deadline is **December 15, 2025**. Click here to learn more or send questions to awards@archaeological.org. **American Journal of Archaeology Resource:** Make note of this [AJA Open Access platform for the American Journal of Archaeology](#).



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTE of AMERICA



Updates from the Texas Historical Commission

Stakeholder residents, the Houston Office of Preservation, Stantec, and the Texas Historical Commission are collaborating on nominations for the National Register of Historic Places in Houston. For more information, visit [Historic Preservation: Lyons Avenue and Norhill - Historic Preservation Manual](#). [Teach Texas History](#) provides resources and information about the Texas Historical Commission's [State Historic Sites](#) to support classroom instruction, professional development, and all who enjoy Texas history. [Real Places Conference 2026](#) - Register by December 5 for a reduced registration fee.

- [This booklet](#) discusses the important role that [longhorns](#) have played in our state history.
- Learn about notable Texans [Charles Goodnight](#) and [Antonio Navarro](#), or how [German immigrants](#) shaped the Lone Star State.
- Ken Burns' [The American Revolution](#) includes a [rich bank of accompanying educator resources](#).
- [Washington-on-the-Brazos](#) has [reopened](#) with a [new YouTube channel](#) of informational videos.
- Plan a visit to the [National Museum of the Pacific War](#) to see the newly renovated George H.W. Bush Gallery ([opening December 6](#)) filled with new artifacts, interactive features, and immersive storytelling.
- Visit a state historic site to [taste eggnog](#), [enjoy holiday lights](#), or [experience a Victorian Christmas](#).
- The [Texas Historic Sites Atlas](#) identifies historical markers along your route.
- [Follow the State Historic Sites social media platforms](#) for event updates.



Edible Edifices – in Gingerbread!

Clockwise: [Gingerbread Leaning Tower of Pisa](#); [Washington D.C. Capitol in Gingerbread, Epcot 2020](#); [Gingerbread Pueblo, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center's Gingerbread Contest Winner](#); [Gingerbread Roman Colosseum with Cookie Gladiators and Penguin Spectators](#); [Eiffel Tower in Gingerbread](#); [Winter Solstice Gingerbread Stonehenge](#).



Fish trumpet



Battlefield toilet brush



Head on a stick



Medieval Holiday Gift Suggestions



Buff-body™ shapewear



Courtesy of Matthew Ponesse, PhD, Professor of History at Ohio Dominican University; [Instagram: Medievalistmatt](#); [Holly stock illustrations, Royalty-Free](#).



Combustible hat



Bird holster



"Barely-there" mesh hunting shorts





From the HAS Archives

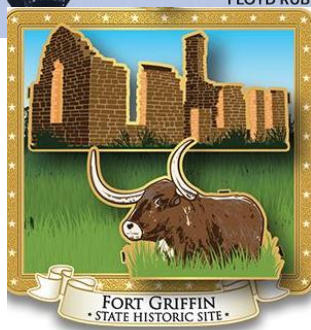
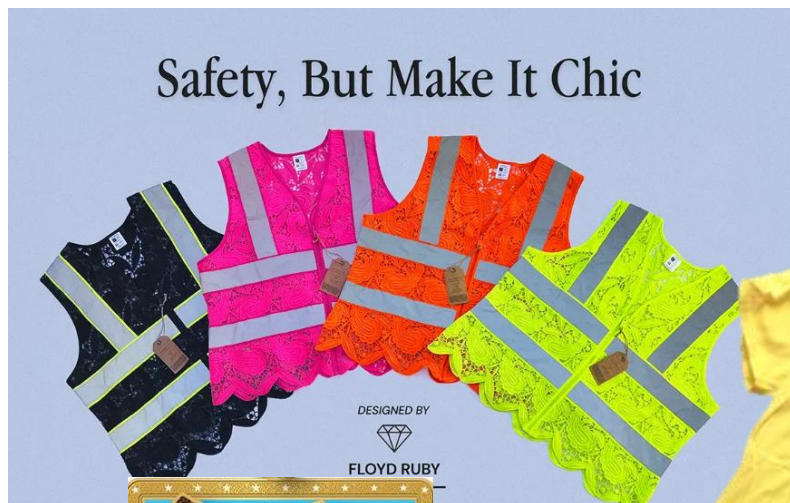


A repository of past issues of *The Profile* is available on the HAS website wherein you will find a wealth of archived articles, including this adapted article on the Damek Site in Liberty County from April 1962, written by the late Alan R. Duke, an HAS founder and president.

The Damek Site, about fourteen miles east of Dayton, Texas, and a mile and a half from the Trinity River, was brought to light by the heavy rains of Hurricane Carla. The site is on a large sand hill which is a part of a ridge parallel to the Trinity. There is a big spring just north of the site. Many of the hills nearby show evidence of occupation. The site was planted in potatoes at the time of the hurricane. The rain cut big gullies in the sloping field, exposing numerous flint artifacts and potsherds. The flint artifacts are mostly Perdiz, Gary, and Alba points, with one cache of eighteen small knives. The pottery is mostly Goose Creek Plain and Incised but other types, as yet unidentified, are present. Perhaps the most interesting things found so far are a pair of earspools. They appear to have been associated with one of the site's documented burials. The spools are 2.75 inches in diameter across the large, grooved flange, two inches across the smaller flange, and .75 inches thick. The center of the spool is pierced by a hole 7/16 inches in diameter. The large flange is coated with a green material which has been identified by the Shell Research Laboratory as turquoise, a departure from the usual copper sheet used on earspools and also significant in that turquoise is not found in this area. It has been determined also that the spools are made from a ceramic clay not found near the Gulf Coast but found in Mexico and also eastward toward the Mississippi River. The clay in the spools was not fired above one hundred degrees centigrade. The writer excavated a five-by-five-foot test pit, four feet deep, but found flint chips and potsherds in the top eighteen inches only. The soil is essentially pure sand, with occasional striations showing evidence of organic material. Full scale excavation would be required to establish the area of heavy occupation, since cultivation over the years has caused sand to wash from the upper to the lower part of the hill. Photograph: Alan R. Duke at the Jamaica Beach Site, 1962. [HAS Journal No 122.pdf](#).



More Gift Ideas for the Archeology Enthusiast in Your Life



The Original Lace Safety Vest™, Designed by Floyd Ruby: LEGO Minifigs: Famous Monuments and Places Built in Lego: Christmas Gifts For Archaeology Lovers DigVentures: 2025 THC Ornament: Fort Griffin.





Limited Registration Still Available for TAS 2025 Academies ~ Enroll Soon!

Texas Archeological Society Academies provide learning opportunities in archeology for those interested in more in-depth training regarding archeological goals and procedures. Taught by esteemed experts and limited in class size, these popular classes swiftly reach capacity enrollment. At this moment some spaces remain, but act quickly!!!



Zooarchaeology & Osteology, taking place February 28 - March 1, 2026, in Houston: FULL. Instructors are Dr. Mary Prendergast, Dr. Manuel Domínguez-Rodrigo, and Sylvia Wemanya. Registration Fee is \$175 plus TAS membership; **Register for Waiting List.** The 2026 Zooarchaeology and Osteology Academy is a two-day TAS event that offers an introduction to the identification, analysis, and interpretation of archeological animal and human skeletal remains. Classroom and hands-on laboratory sessions will be held in the Archaeology Laboratory of Rice University. The Houston Archeological Society is supporting this Academy.

Rock Art, taking place March 21–22, 2026, in El Paso. Instructors are Dr. Larry Loendorf, Dr. Charles Koenig, Amanda Castañeda, and Mark Willis. Registration Fee is \$125 plus TAS membership; **Register for Rock Art.** The 2026 Rock Art Academy is a two-day TAS event that explores regional rock art archeological sites, cultural history of the Jornada Mogollon region, and how investigators use this information to interpret the complex human interactions and ideological systems throughout the past. Classroom sessions will be held at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology. The instructor team includes experienced rock art specialists and archeologists.



Archeology 101, taking place April 10 – 12, 2026, in San Angelo. The instructor will be Dr. Jon Lohse. The Registration Fee is \$125 plus TAS membership; **Register for Archeology 101.** The 2026 Archeology 101 Academy is a three-day TAS event that teaches participants about site identification, recording, and proper excavation techniques in the field of archeology. Archeology is destructive, so it is important to get it right the first time. Learn how to identify, record, and investigate an archeological site by learning the proper field techniques and receive a general introduction to archeology. This Academy will include classroom instruction and field trips where participants will have the opportunity to participate in an archeological excavation. Classroom sessions will be held at Fort Concho National Historic Landmark with a field session at the Chaparral Ranch.



Lone Star Landmarks - in Gingerbread!

Gingerbread Alamo; Gingerbread Whataburger and Candy Car Collision; Gingerbread Build Off - AIA 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. [The Ear Spool Site \(41TT653\): A mid-15th to early 17th Century A.D. Caddo site in the Sulphur River Basin, Titus County, Texas](#); [The Archaeology of the Archaic Periods in East Texas](#); [Ceramics Exhibit - NMSU Round Up](#); [Caddo Fundamentals - Spiro and the Arkansas Basin](#); [Small-tyrannosaur-nanotyrannus-new-study](#); [Massive 3,000-year-old Maya site in Mexico depicts the cosmos](#); [1,000-Year-Old Canoe Recovered from NC's Largest Lake](#); [Diadem of Princess Khenmet - Egypt Museum](#); [A Stash of 30 Hidden Bayonets Discovered in Valley Forge](#); [Lewis Chessmen](#); [Miscellaneous tracts relating to antiquity / Society of Antiquaries of London](#); [Lewis Chessman Auction | Sotheby's](#); [Strangely Engraved Rock Is Map](#); [Ancient Maya monument reveals Ix Ch'ak Ch'een, the 6th-century queen who ruled the city of Cobá](#) | [Archaeology News Online Magazine](#); [Archaeologists Uncover How Wine Likely Looked, Smelled, and Tasted in Ancient Rome](#); [Messages on missiles: Here is a Sugar Plum for You!](#) | [Ancient Origins](#). Yes, you read this correctly: [Austria: 60 years after tourist stole a skull from a cathedral, he sent it back](#).



Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

Please note that meetings will vary between in-person, hybrid, or virtual (via Zoom). The meeting format may change; be sure to doublecheck the HAS website and your emails prior to each meeting for updates.



December 18 – 6 p.m. Come in person to enjoy the HAS Christmas party, holiday treats, and a year-end review of HAS projects and events during 2025.

2026 Schedule

January 6 – HAS Board Meeting.

January 15 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Caitlin Gulihier (Terracon Consultants, Inc.) discussing the twentieth century industry of candelilla wax extraction in the Chihuahuan Desert, including large factories at Lajitas, Glen Springs, and Fresno Canyon. In person with a Zoom link available to members.

February 19 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Sammi Burke, New Mexico State University graduate student, discussing insect imagery in Mimbres pottery, via Zoom only.

March 19 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Becky Shelton, Texas Historical Commission, via Zoom only.

April 16 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Bethany Miller, New Mexico State University graduate student, via Zoom only.

May 21 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Kelly Jenks, Professor at New Mexico State University, via Zoom only.

June – No Meeting. See you at TAS Field School.

July 16 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting with a TAS Field School recap.

August 20 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Heather Para, via Zoom only.

September 17 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Gus Costa. In person with a Zoom link available to members.

Houston Archeological Society monthly meetings are ordinarily free and open to the public. Many previous HAS presentations are archived on our [YouTube Site](#), where they are available for public viewing. For more information about HAS, visit www.txhas.org, email us at president@txhas.org, or join our [Facebook Page](#).



Selection of Upcoming Events – Virtual and Onsite

Be sure to reconfirm details before making plans to attend.

VIRTUAL:

Note that most events listed are free of charge but still require advance registration. Some websites listing virtual events and resources: [Texas State Historical Association Events](#); [NTAS](#); [Bullock Texas State History Museum](#); [Virtual Events–Friends of THC](#); [The Story of Texas On Demand Programs](#); <https://www.archaeological.org/events>; [Virtual Resources | PAST Foundation](#); [Archaeology Eventbrite](#); [Archaeological Conservancy](#).

Cotswold Archaeology

12/4 – Thursday, 7 p.m. GMT/2 p.m. Central. A discussion of the contents and context of the Sizewell C coin hoard, presented by Alexander Bliss. In April 2023, Oxford Cotswold Archaeology discovered an 11th century coin hoard while excavating ahead of construction in Suffolk; [Eventbrite](#).

Council for British Archaeology

12/4 – Thursday, 7 p.m. GMT/2 p.m. Central. Project Director Emily Wapshott reports on excavations at Great Torrington Castle and its role in the town's physical and cultural landscape. Free, [reserve tickets here](#).

Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

12/18 – Thursday, 6 p.m. Cooking demonstration of nineteenth century holiday food. Register at [Virtual THC Event](#).

James Madison's Montpelier

12/17 – Wednesday, 11 a.m. Central/Noon Eastern. Blacksmithing at Montpelier: Moses and his Customer Base. Learn about the 1780s ledger books and the research on slag, scrap iron, and archaeology at the site, [REGISTER](#).

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

12/9 – Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. GMT/12:30 p.m. Central. Excavations and discoveries in Whitechapel covering over 2000 years of London archaeology, including Iron Age farmsteads, Medieval manors, sites of Tudor entertainment, 17th and 18th century pleasure gardens, and taverns; [lmas.org.uk/lectures](#).

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center

12/4 – Thursday, Noon Mountain/1 p.m. Central. Traceological Analysis of Turquoise Objects from Mesoamerica, Northern Mexico, and the American Southwest: Technological Styles and Interactions, presented by Emiliano Ricardo Melgar Tisoc, PhD. There are thousands of turquoise objects found in different archaeological sites of Mesoamerica, northern Mexico, and the American Southwest. Most of the past research about them focused on these artifacts' symbolic meaning, morphology, trade, and use but very few studied their manufacturing traces. In this lecture, Mexico archaeologist Dr. Emiliano Ricardo Melgar Tisoc presents a traceological approach to analyze and characterize their manufacturing techniques using experimental archaeology and scanning electron microscopy. Free, register at <https://bit.ly/Amerindonline12042025Tisoc>.

12/15 – Monday, 7 p.m. Mountain/8 p.m. Central. Architecture and Labor Organization at Betatakin and Keet Seel, Northern Arizona, free online presentation by archaeologist Katie Williams, PhD, sponsored by Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (AAHS), Tucson. Dr. Williams explores whether the 1250-1300 CE Tsegi phase Ancestral Pueblo residents of the Betatakin (Talastima) and Keet Seel (Kawestima) cliff dwellings worked together as households, suprahouseholds, or communities to build large pueblos, documenting variability in architectural attributes such as earthen materials, mortars, plasters, and daub. [More information and registration](#).

12/18 – Thursday, 7 p.m. Mountain/8 p.m. Central. Precolonial History of the Santa Cruz Valley and the Arizona-Sonora Borderlands, lecture by Hunter M. Claypatch, Ph.D. Southern Arizona's Santa Cruz River valley was one of the most important regions in the precolonial Southwest United States and Northwest Mexico. In the arid Sonoran Desert, the river provided an oasis for early hunter-gatherers and later sedentary populations. This portion of the river crosses the U.S.-Mexico border and renders evidence for material culture that spans several thousand years, serving as a contact zone for precolonial Hohokam and Trincheras populations. <https://www.oldpueblo.org/Food-for-thought>. [More information](#). [Register here](#).

Trust for Welsh Archaeology

12/18 – Thursday, 1 p.m. Central. Lecture on Swansea Castle; [Register for Tickets](#).

ON-SITE:

Some searchable websites listing upcoming events in Texas: [State Parks - Texas Parks & Wildlife Department](#); [Alamo Events](#); [State Historic Sites](#); <https://texashighways.com/events/>; [AIA Event Listings](#); [Archaeology Now](#); <https://www.heritagesociety.org/calendar>.

American Institute of Architects (AIA)

12/6 – Saturday, 9 – 11 a.m. Bicycle tour of historic Third Ward, meet at HCC's San Jacinto Memorial Green, 1300 Holman, \$10 -\$15. [Tickets here](#).

12/13 – Saturday, 9 – 11 a.m. [Montrose Walking Tour](#), meet at Menil Collection Bookstore 1520 Sul Ross, \$10-\$15. [Tickets here](#).

12/13 – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Annual Gingerbread Build-Off. Levy Park, 3801 Eastside, [Gingerbread Build Off - AIA Houston](#).

Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, Bryan

12/2 – Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. Artisan crafts, music, refreshments in the museum. Exhibits on Texas history, the legacy of the Brazos River.

Houston Civil War Round Table

12/11 – Thursday, 6 p.m. Dinner/7 p.m. Meeting and Speaker. Gary L. Chandler, graduate student award recipient. Non-members may attend a meeting with one free admission, then for \$10 or membership dues. Meetings at Salt Grass Steakhouse, [8943 Katy Freeway](#).

Houston Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park

Ending in December - Coastal Cowboys Exhibition about the network of Texas coastal ranches and the distinct ways of ranching life amid sand, salt, and sea; and the University of Houston Mexican-American History & Culture in Houston mural.

12/11 – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. [History on Tap](#).

12/13 – Saturday, 10 a.m. [From Plantation to Emancipation](#).

12/12 and 12/13 – Friday and Saturday, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. [Annual Candlelight & Choirs Tour](#) and [Houston Heritage Holiday Market](#).

12/24 – Wednesday, 3 p.m. Annual Christmas Eve Service at St. John Church.

12/27 – Saturday, 10 a.m. [From Plantation to Emancipation](#).

Houston Museum of Natural Science

Exhibits on view – Terracotta Warriors, King Tut's Tomb, Model Train Through Texas Geography and Sites. Wortham Giant Screen Theater, [Mysteries-of-China](#) captures one of the great archaeological events of the modern age, telling the story of ancient China.

Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Sites

12/12, 12/13, 12/17 through 12/23 – Annual [Trail of Lights](#). Walk along the historic trail with themed light displays, the decorated Kreische House, and costumed interpreters. Stroll the Trail of Lights from 5:30-8:00 p. m. (last admission 7:45 p.m.) on ten nights, December 12, 13, and 17-23. Special weekend Festival Nights (Dec. 12-13, 21-23) include live entertainment, holiday refreshments, family crafts, and visits with Santa.

Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site

12/6 – Saturday. 11 a.m. Taste and learn about [Eggnog](#).

McFaddin-Ward House Museum, Beaumont

12/6 and 12/7 – Saturday and Sunday, 5 – 7 p.m. Annual admission-free Holiday Open House Weekend with festive refreshments, live music, carolers, and children's activities.

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Ongoing Exhibit –Art and Life in Imperial Rome: Trajan and His Times, featuring treasures—majestic marble portraits, vivid frescoes, and elegant furnishings—from the great museums of Rome, Naples, Vatican City, and see a re-creation of a section of Trajan's Column.

12/13 – Saturday, 2 p.m. Discussion about the material cultures of the ancient worlds with the curator. Free with museum admission.

Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria

12/4 – Thursday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Holiday Artisan Market with goods crafted by regional artisans. Free admission and open to the public. Also on view, updated exhibits about the Spanish Legacy in the Coastal Bend.

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

12/6 – Saturday, 6 – 11 p.m. Fields of Honor is a powerful commemoration of the 21,500 Texans who gave their lives in armed conflict. Thousands of candles will illuminate the San Jacinto Battlefield, honoring their sacrifice and legacy. Volunteers are needed.

Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site

12/13 – Saturday, 4 – 8 p.m. Candlelight Christmas. A Christmas tour exploring 134 years of history of those both enslaved and free.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

12/12 and 12/13 – Friday and Saturday, 6 – 8:15 p.m. Annual Candlelight Christmas with costumed interpreters, festivities of the season, musket fire, music, and dancing. Purchase tickets here.



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

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