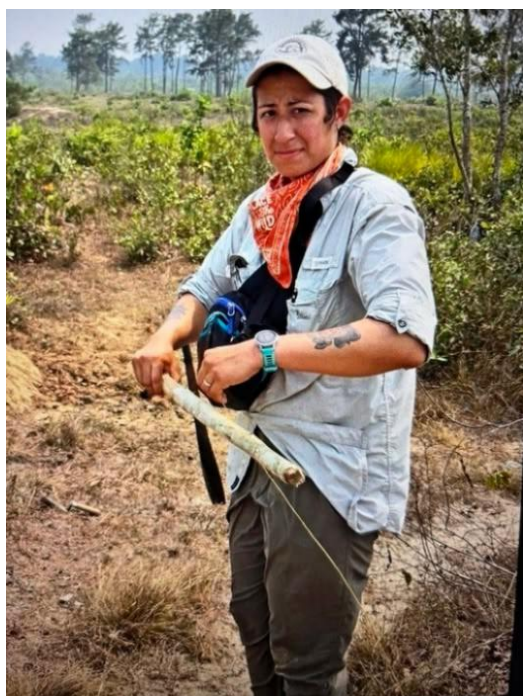




**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, November 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
Trini Mendenhall Community Center ~ Featuring Tori Pagano Discussing the Crying Woman Ranch**



Hello HAS members,

The November meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held in person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, with a Zoom link provided for those who cannot attend in person. We will welcome geoarcheologist Victoria C. Pagano, Group Manager and Principal Investigator with the San Antonio office of Terracon Consultants. Tori will discuss the geoarcheological work initiated in 2024 at the Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754) in Kerr County, an important paleo site where members of HAS have participated in excavations since 2023.

Tori Pagano conducted master's degree research as part of the Ancient Southwest Texas Project at Texas State University, which included excavation and geoarchaeological analysis of the Sayles Adobe alluvial terrace site (41BX2239) in Eagle Nest Canyon, Langtry, Texas (Sayles Adobe Butted Knife; The Developing Tale of Sayles Adobe). Tori has continued to pursue outside research opportunities within geoarchaeology, GIS, and hunter-gatherer landscape use, such as with the Hill Country Archaeological Association (HCAA) and the Pine Ridge Preceramic Project through the Gault School of Archaeological Research.

Preliminary results of geoarchaeological analyses in collaboration with Charles D. Frederick, PhD, reveal deep, intact, stratified deposits that yield cultural materials. The relict paleo terrace preserves a unique window in the depositional and cultural formation history of the site. The work being carried out by the dedicated members of the HCAA provides a new look into the paleo to archaic land use within Central Texas.

We hope you will all join us for this fascinating presentation on Thursday, November 20. The meeting is free and open to the public. Be looking for your meeting reminder email, which will also contain a Zoom link so that HAS members who cannot join us in person will be able to tune in from afar.



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.

See you in the field! Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President



President's Message – Bob Sewell



Hello everybody,

Well, as you can imagine we got rained out regarding the Walnut Tree Hill site on Saturday, October 25, but we will return as soon as we can. In the meantime, outreach season is in full swing and here are a few of the known outreach events coming up over the next few weeks.

First up is the Nature and Outdoor Expo at the Magnolia Event Center, 11659 FM 1488, in Montgomery County. Sponsored by the Lake Creek Greenway Partnership and the Magnolia Rotary Club, the event takes place Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Educational opportunities focus on conservation, outdoor learning, and environmental stewardship, but also include children's activities and a craft fair.

Secondly, HAS will be speaking to the Lower Trinity Basin Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. This presentation will probably take place via ZOOM.

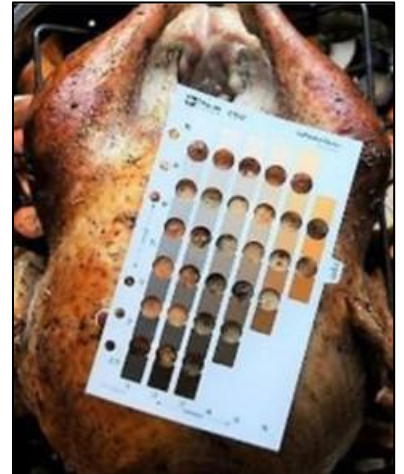
And lastly, Cub Scout Troop 1100 has invited us to participate in their Camp Day at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve on Saturday, December 6, 2025.

We have a busy couple of weeks ahead!

In November we remind our members that HAS memberships for 2025 expire at the end of the year. Please renew now and join us again for more opportunities in the new year, whether in the field, at labs, or attending meetings with presentations by our interesting speakers. If you joined HAS after September 1, 2025, then your membership is already good for 2026. The best way to re-up is go to the HAS Membership page and use your credit card. If you have any questions about the Houston Archeological Society, please email me at president@txhas.org.

Finally – from the HAS family to yours, have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Bob Sewell, HAS President



HAS Memberships for 2026 Are 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 including HAS Reports and Journals. 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.

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2025

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m. – Bob Sewell, President. Welcome to all attendees. This meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Membership & Treasury – Bob Sewell, President. Membership stands at 171 members, including fourteen students and nineteen contributing. The treasury funds are looking good.

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 academics, 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 October 8 to identify electric fence issues. We plan to visit again soon to rewire the fence to protect the site from wandering cattle.
- **Goloby Site (41WL3)**
- **Walnut Tree Hill Site**
 - Our next site visit after Lone Oak will most likely be here, with details to come.
- Lab work has commenced, and cataloging of artifacts from Lone Oak is ongoing. We plan to arrange another lab session soon.
- We are regularly cycling through visits to all three of our active sites, and lab activities are planned as well. Members interested in participating in site visits or lab work may look out for invitations from fielddirector@txhas.org.

TAS Academy – Bob Sewell, President. Registration is live for the Texas Archeological Society's Zooarcheology Academy, which will take place from February 28 to March 1, 2026, at Rice University. HAS will once again be helping to host this event.

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, Texas.
- 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 Bob will be giving a talk to another group in the near future. Any members who are contacted by a FLL group are welcome to direct them to president@txhas.org.
- Upcoming:
 - October 18 is International Archeology Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. As we currently have twelve members helping out with this event, no additional assistance is needed, but anyone interested in attending the event is encouraged to come visit the museum and check out the festivities.
 - HAS will not be participating in Kleb Woods on November 1 this year but will instead be helping out with a different event on this date at the Lake Creek Greenway Partnership in Magnolia, Texas.
 - On the evening of November 13, HAS will be speaking to the Lower Trinity Basin Master Naturalists in Liberty, Texas. Bob will be working this event and would appreciate help from anyone able to make it out there.
 - We also plan to participate in an event with the West Pearland Library in the near future. Details are TBD.

November 2025 Monthly Meeting – Our next meeting will be held in person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center and will feature Tori Pagano speaking about the Crying Woman Ranch.

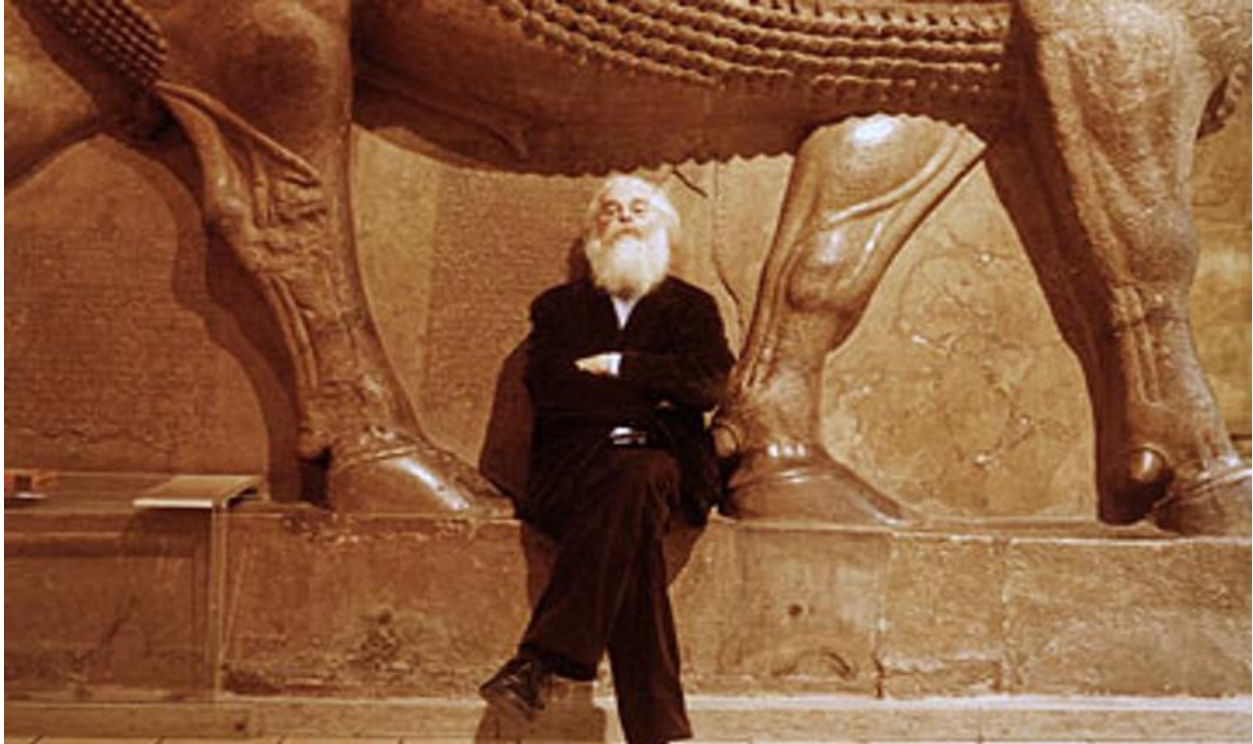
Tonight's presentation will be conducted by Gregg Dimmick, M.D., speaking about Santa Anna's Army in the Texas Revolution, 1835.

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

Noah Newland, HAS Secretary



Archaeology Now ~ Houston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America
Meet the Legendary Irving Finkel, PhD
Keeper of Ancient Mesopotamian Script, Languages, and Cultures Department at the British Museum



Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6 p.m. ~ The Legacy of Mesopotamia ~ Free Event, Reservation Required
GREAT Discoveries in Mapping the Oldest Map in the World

Explore fascinating discoveries about the Babylonian map of the world, which shows the most important cities and rivers. Ever since its discovery, controversy has surrounded its features and interpretation. New research has opened up a wide range of insights about the piece. This talk will explain many new revelations made about this map and demonstrate how knowledge of it passed via Greek, Latin, and Arabic geographers and then forward into the Middle Ages. Does it also contain directions to the location of Noah's Ark? Post-event book-signing and reception. Free admission and free parking. Location: Julia Ideson Library, Reading Room, 550 McKinney Street. Free Parking underneath Jesse J. Jones Central Library, 500 McKinney St. (Lamar St. Entrance). Map and Information [Here](#). [Reserve Your Tickets Here](#).

Other opportunities to hear Dr. Finkel:

Monday, November 10, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. GREAT Discoveries in Medicine: Ancient Mesopotamian Medicine. Introduced by Dr. Peter Hotez, Director, Center for Vaccine Development. Luncheon and talk introducing science and medicine of the ancient world followed by conversation between Dr. Hotez and Dr. Finkel discussing cutting edge medicine today vs. medicine of the ancient world. \$30 per person. Free Parking. Location: The Health Museum, 1515 Hermann Dr. [Purchase Your Tickets Here](#).

Private Classes at the Jung Center with Irving Finkel, Uncover Ancient Texts on Magic, Music, Beer, and the Supernatural. Options for classes on Friday, November 7 at 1 p.m. or Saturday November 8 at 10 a.m. An incredible opportunity: A renowned British Museum superstar scholar teaches classes at the Jung Center that bring the ancient world to life. \$30- \$120 per person. More information at [Friday Tickets](#) and [Saturday Tickets](#).

This series of events is sponsored by the GREAT Campaign and the British Consulate and realized in partnership with the Jung Center, the Houston Public Library Foundation, and the Health Museum.



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 spaces remain, but act quickly!!!

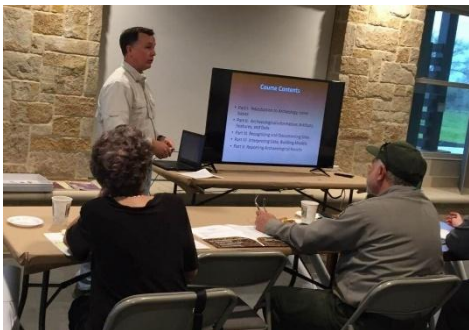


Zooarcheology & Osteology, taking place February 28 - March 1, 2026, in Houston.

Instructors are Dr. Mary Prendergast, Dr. Manuel Domínguez-Rodrigo, and Sylvia Wemanya. Registration Fee is \$175 plus TAS membership; **Register for Zooarch & Osteology**. The 2026 Zooarcheology 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. No previous archeological experience is needed to enjoy this academy. Zooarcheology, the study of archeological animal remains, offers a window into past human subsistence strategies and environments, and can offer insights on many aspects of human-animal interactions

including hunting, fishing, and animal husbandry, as well as animal impacts upon humans (e.g., zoonotic diseases) and vice versa (e.g., animal extinctions). This introductory course will teach basic principles of taxonomy and vertebrate anatomy and will focus on the practical identification of fragmentary bones from animals common to Texas. Participants will learn how archeologists record and analyze faunal data and will discuss interpretation of faunal data. Archeologists must also know how to differentiate animal and human remains. This academy will additionally teach basic human osteology and will include discussion of ethics standards specific to studying human remains. Finally, an emphasis will also be placed on taphonomy, the study of all the processes impacting bone from the death of an animal until its recovery by archeologists: for example, participants will learn to identify marks left by butchery and other human activities; carnivore, rodent, and insect damage; and the effects of subaerial weathering and other post-depositional processes. The team of instructors includes experts in zooarcheology and taphonomy with experience at sites spanning the Pliocene to the historic period. All registrants will receive an instruction manual for this academy. Registration also covers lunch and refreshments. **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. Learning to record and interpret rock art can illuminate how a site was used by people, how people interacted with the natural environment, and how cultural influences developed and transferred among the inhabitants of a region. This Academy will include classroom instruction and field trips where participants will have the opportunity to participate in a rock art recording session at Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site. Classroom sessions will be held at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology. The instructor team includes experienced rock art specialists and archeologists who specialize in Jornada Mogollon culture. For the Hueco Tanks State Park portion of the class, participants will be hiking and are advised that they should be able to climb at least three flights of stairs unassisted.



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 get 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. Classroom lectures

will address the larger field of archeology to help orient new learners with respect to goals, methods, and concepts. For the field portion of the class, participants will be investigating a possible tipi ring site. The Fort Concho National Historic Landmark and the Concho Valley Archeological Society are supporting this Academy.



Updates From the Texas Archeological Society Recent 2025 TAS Annual Meeting

The 96th Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society took place October 10-12, 2025, in McAllen, Texas. Speakers at the gathering included this month's guest, Toni Pagano, as well as other HAS friends and members. Posters, events, and abstracts may be reviewed via the [TAS 2025 Final Program](#). Some of these fascinating lectures are highlighted below, and we look forward to following the work of these researchers to hear more about their progress and publications.



Who Lived at the Point on Long Mountain (41MM4444), presented by Douglas Boyd, Senior Archaeologist (Stantec); Marni Francell; and Aaron Norment. The Point on Long Mountain is an amazing place located one mile east of Red Mountain. It overlooks a stretch of the Little River Valley and a segment of the Camino Real de los Tejas. In June 2025, the TAS Youth Group investigated a portion of this extensive site with permission from the landowners. Investigations consisted of eleven 2x2-m units hand dug between 30 and 50 cm below surface. Evidence of prehistoric occupations includes a dark grey anthroposol, scattered and concentrated burned rocks, and abundant chipped and ground stone artifacts. A variety of dart and arrow points and some pottery sherds reveal repeated occupations throughout the Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods. One large feature may be an earth oven, hinting that communal cooking activities took place at this prominent residential base camp. Many Native American groups lived at this site periodically over thousands of years, including the Tonkawa.

An Inventory of Early Summer Flora and Plants of Potential Cultural Significance at Tonkawa's Red Mountain (Naton Samox), Milam County, Texas, presented by Leslie Bush. A survey of vascular plants was undertaken in conjunction with Texas Archeological Society survey projects during the 2025 Field School. Although efforts were not systematic, each designated habitat type was visited at least once over the course of four days. Habitats consisted of roadsides, fence lines, the dance ground, woodlands (some recently mulched), woodland paths, a spring/seep area, a recently constructed drainage, and the slopes and summit of Naton Samox itself. The property is located in the Post Oak Savannah on Carrizo Sands. This survey provides only a snapshot of the complex and varied flora at the site and additional visits in other seasons are planned. Identification reached 160 taxa, including more than thirty food plants, a dozen medicinals, and many plants for construction, tool handles, cordage, textiles, and basketry.

Seven Kills in 3,000 Years at the Nighthawk Bison Jump (Caprock Canyons State Park), presented by Gus Costa (Rice University). Discoveries at the Nighthawk Bison Jump have paradigm-shifting implications for communal bison hunting practices among precontact people of the southern plains. Testing and data recovery at the Nighthawk State Archeological Landmark have provided thirty radiocarbon dates demonstrating that the hunting facility was used at least seven times between 3,500 and 400 cal BP. These dates situate the site as one of the oldest and longest-tenured Late Holocene bison jumps known. A kill-by-kill account of the multicomponent faunal assemblage and its taphonomy will be provided. The broader jumpscape and possible long-term maintenance activities at this hunting facility will also be considered.

The Early Holocene Record of Indigenous Lifeways at Eagle Cave, presented by Charles Koenig (University of Texas at Austin); Charles Frederick (Consulting Geoarchaeologist); Char Farfadet (Consulting Paleoethnobotanist); Leslie Bush (Macrobotanical Analysis, Inc); and J. Kevin Hanselka (Texas Department of Transportation). The early Holocene archaeological record in Texas is best-known from deeply buried alluvial sites such as Wilson Leonard and Richard Beene. However, this Early Archaic period is generally undersampled, and the open-air contexts of most early Holocene sites limit preservation. Eagle Cave, a large rockshelter in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, has a well preserved and stratified record of early Holocene Indigenous occupations that includes uncarbonized macrobotanical remains, an extensive faunal assemblage, perishable artifacts, and painted pebbles. Discussion covered the ongoing analyses of the 2014-2017 Texas State University collections, focusing on the FCR, lithics, zooarchaeological, macrobotanical, and geoarchaeological records. Our analyses indicate shifts in Indigenous lifeways between 10,500 and 5500 cal BP related to pulses of earth oven construction and incorporation of different food resources. The presence of painted pebbles and significant numbers of deer/pronghorn remains within some earth oven deposits suggests aggregations, ceremonies, and feasting may have occurred.

Excavations at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754), Kerr County, Texas, presented by Mike McBride (Hill Country Archeological Association). Since the summer of 2018, the Hill Country Archeological Association (HCAA) has performed continuous field work investigations at Crying Woman Ranch (41KR754), a multi-component site in western Kerr County, Texas. HCAA's recent work, artifacts recovered, and new stratigraphic evidence of the site provides new data regarding earth oven technology associated with Paleoindian occupations and the advent of earth oven cooking facilities. Additionally, new trenching excavations into sediment layers below the deeply buried earth oven structures have yielded prospective evidence of occupations older than the previously reported 10,250cal BP dates.

Discovery and Rediscovery of Additional Fauna from Bonfire Shelter, Southwest Texas, with Implications for Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction, presented by David Glen Robinson (Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, UT Austin) and Alan M. Slade (Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, UT Austin). Excavation of a sample column for recovery of microfauna took place in 1982 during the 1982-1984 TARL-SP archeological work in Bonfire Shelter (41VV218) in Val Verde County, southwest Texas. The data and all field records of the microfauna column returned to TARL and the Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory (VPL) of UT-Austin were considered lost for four decades. Efforts to find any of the data were unavailing until 2016 and the curatorial rehabilitation of artifacts and records from the site and other locales. The curation inventory thus gained unites stratigraphic relations of the microfauna column with genus and species identifications made by VPL. This study examines the implications of these data for late Pleistocene and early Holocene regional environments and revisits the artifact associations of Bone Bed 2.

Finding a Lost Cause: Presidio San Xavier and the 2025 TAS Field School Investigations, presented by Tamra Walter (Texas Tech University). Founded in the mid-eighteenth century, the location of Presidio San Xavier has been lost to archeologists since the late Dr. Kathleen Gilmore began a search to find the fort and its three associated missions in the 1960s. Gilmore successfully located and excavated Mission San Xavier and identified possible locations for the other two missions and the fort based on a careful reading of historical documents and limited archeological findings associated with the proposed locations. Building on her initial work and subsequent research conducted by the Texas Historical Commission, test excavations and metal detecting at the proposed site of Presidio San Xavier conducted during the 2025 TAS field school suggests that we may indeed have located the site.

Expanding the Boundaries of Long Mountain (41MM444): A Multicomponent Archaeological Site in Milam County, Texas, presented by John Zumwalt (Caddo Mounds State Historic Site). Site 41MM444, overlooking the Little River-Brazos River confluence, was initially only half an acre. A boundary survey by TAS excavated 112 shovel tests, revealing that the site currently encompasses six acres with potential continuation towards a nearby spring at the south boundary and west continuing along the ridge. Artifacts recovered include an Early Archaic Evant point (7,000-9,000 BP) at 55 cm depth and fire-cracked rock down to 100 cm, reflecting millennia of occupation and extensive thermal feature use. Two mound-like features one meter high (7.3 x 7.4 m and 6.3 x 6.6 m) resemble Caddo burial mounds, which would extend this mortuary tradition's geographic range. The absence of pottery in new survey areas may suggest earlier components dominate, while Late Prehistoric pottery remains concentrated at the Point on Long Mountain. These findings establish 41MM444 as a major multicomponent site requiring protection, further survey, and intensive examinations to clarify its occupational sequence and regional significance.

Congratulations to the Annual Meeting and Local Arrangements Committees for planning and facilitating an excellent event. Next year the Annual Meeting will take place in Denton.



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

QUESTION: What are your favorite history or archeology podcasts? Send a quick email to newsletter@txhas.org and let us know, and 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.



[Thanksgiving Images \(pinterest.com\)](https://www.pinterest.com)

International Archeology Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science ~ October 18, 2025

On Saturday October 18, 2025, the Houston Archeological Society again participated in the annual International Archeology Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. We filled six tables with trays of artifacts found in the local area by HAS over the years. We also set up our updated trifold and gave away posters. Twelve HAS members assisted with the outreach and interaction with visitors, and I appreciate their commitment. Many thanks to Tim Blanchard, Jay Durel, Mark Frantz, Louis Herbert, Frank Kozar, Erin Marashi, Dan Massey, Geoff Mills, Cassidy Smith, John Swann, Tom Williams, Melanie Woodhull, and Lillyan Woodhull! We are looking forward to next year.

Bob Sewell, HAS President

Left: In the great hall of the HMNS, from left to right, John Swann, Lillyana Woodhull, Melanie Woodhull, and Cassidy Smith ready for visitors.

Upper right: From left to right, Cassidy Smith, Mark Frantz, and Dan Massey chatting about archeology.

Below right: Lillyana Woodhull (L) and Melanie Woodhull (R).

All photographs by Bob Sewell.



Texas Archeology Month with the Sons of the Republic of Texas



Contributing to the recognition of Archeology Month, Charlie Gordy, our esteemed HAS member, former HAS president, and THC steward, presented a program to the Sam Houston Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas on October 18, 2025, as an outreach program.

Entitled "The Texian Army's Route to the Twin Sisters," the program encompassed the archeological project sites of San Felipe De Austin (41AU2) with an emphasis on the Army's Brazos River training camp (41AU82) and the significance of the Bernardo Plantation (41WL28). Members of the Texas Archeological Society have assisted the Texas Historical Commission in excavating and recording the archeological record of these sites.

Charlie Gordy (L) and Rick Giuffre, President of Sam Houston Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas (R).

Rock Art Hiking in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands

Dan Massey



Fate Bell Shelter, Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site. Photograph by Dan Massey.

Rock art has always taken up space in my mind. I grew up in nineteen-sixties Phoenix hiking with my father and friends. Arizona and New Mexico are covered in Native American petroglyphs: geometric patterns, animals, human figures, scratched or pecked into scorching hot basalt rock faces. Even at South Mountain inside Phoenix city limits, we would stumble across petroglyphs at every turn. The images were simple, often enigmatic, and I was captivated.

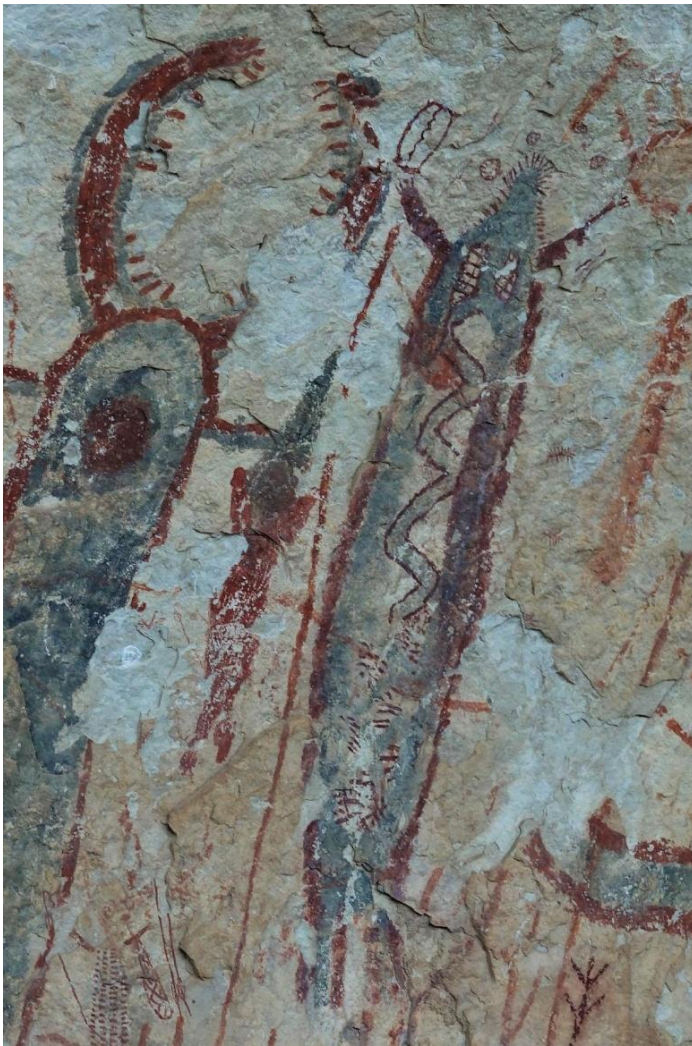
In 2020, with time on my hands, I began to explore the rock art in Texas. On the Texas/Mexico border near Comstock and Langtry, along the Pecos, Devils, and Rio Grande rivers, a culture existed that painted the most amazingly complex and evocative art. Hundreds of sites sheltered under natural cliff overhangs contain not pecked or scratched petroglyphs, but pictographs crafted with natural stone pigments and sap and marrow binders. The Shumla Archaeological Center, the leader in the study of this art, has used radiocarbon methods to date the art at several sites to as far back as 5400 BP. The work shows distinct artistic styles, passed on actively across generations for at least three millennia.

As art, the lower Pecos galleries are amazing. As prehistory, they are pathways into ancient minds.

Difficult hikes

In 2021, I began visiting these sites, most of which are on private land. I took tours first with Seminole Canyon State Park, then with the Witte Museum, and eventually with the Shumla Treks program (see list).

Fate Bell is easily accessible within Seminole Canyon: the panel of five figures in a semi-circle evokes a special time of celebration and ritual. The White Shaman mural is a little harder hike: its complex narrative design has been interpreted as a cosmology of the local people. Halo Shelter is stunning for its complexity and sheer scale.



Above: Halo Shelter. Below: Black Cave. Photographs by Dan Massey.



My favorite single artwork was in Black Cave, a nine-hour round trip hike: two individuals dressed in long headdresses appear to be facing each other, holding hands, perhaps a moment of joining.

The topography is treacherous. The plants are thick at the bottom of the canyons and weaponized with painful thorns. The cliffs erode easily, and the ground can give way. Stories of the lower Pecos in the late nineteenth century attest to the difficulty of the terrain—canyons too deep for railroads to cross, plenty of places to hide or get lost.

I would place the Lower Pecos rock art sites in my top ten list of prehistoric sites I have seen, and that list includes Gobekli Tepe, Mesa Verde, Skara Brae, and Niaux.

How to preserve this art?

The real danger, however, is that the art itself is disappearing. The colors are fading. The rock face is spalling away in flakes or being covered by oxalates. The 1969 creation of Amistad Reservoir inundated several significant rock shelters. Now the lake is raising the humidity in the normally dry area and causing the art to fade and flake. Flooding in the region is increasing. Stable for 5,000 years, it may be gone in a generation.

The Shumla Archaeological Center's primary goal is to preserve this art for the future. Using grant funding and donations, Shumla is digitally documenting and curating a vast graphic database and analysis archive. This includes results from photogrammetry, 3-D modeling, Gigapan panoramics, chemical analyses, and microscopic photography – which you can read about here. The rock art cannot be moved to TARL, and the sites cannot be sealed like Lascaux. The only way to save it for future generations is digitally.

I decided this summer to join the Board of Shumla and support their efforts to preserve these treasures. Shumla is at an exciting inflection point. The non-profit school has an endowed professorship at Texas State, a newly expanded board of directors, and a newly agreed strategic plan. If anyone in HAS wants to learn more about Shumla just email me, I am happy to buy you a coffee in Houston. You can also join a Shumla "Lunch and Learn" held online each month, and tons of virtual visits are available on YouTube.

I encourage you to go on some of the currently offered site hikes with Seminole Canyon and Witte to see this art for yourself (see list).

Why does lower Pecos rock art matter?

Lithic artifacts are not all that remain in our Texas soils, but they dominate. I have done a bit of digging with fellow volunteers in HAS and TAS. But I have always felt that lithic material has limits. How do we get inside the heads of these ancient inhabitants? What did they believe about the world around them? What ideas beyond lithic technology did they share with adjacent cultures? What was their cosmology? What moments in life did they elevate? Celebrate? Fear?

Our Texas rock art in the lower Pecos can tell a very articulate story about the minds of this ancient culture. Today we have the chance to preserve their story beyond our time.

Organizations currently hosting visits to Lower Pecos sites

- Witte Museum
- Seminole Canyon State Park
- Devils River State Natural Area: Sunburst Shelter
- Note: Shumla Treks program is on temporary hiatus

For more information, see Bradshaw Foundation; Rock Art Tours: The Witte Museum; Friends of Seminole Canyon State Park; Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center; Shumla YouTube.

Lower Pecos Sites Visited 2021-2023

Site	Tour Organizer
White Shaman	Witte Museum
Fate Bell	Seminole Canyon SP (SCSP)
VV75	SCSP
Black Cave	Shumla, SCSP
Black Cave Annex	Shumla, SCSP
Red Linear Type Site	SCSP
Bonfire Shelter	Witte
Eagle Cave	Shumla, Witte
Skiles Shelter	Shumla, Witte
Kelley Cave	Shumla, Witte
Vaquero Shelter	Shumla
Painted Shelter	Shumla
Meyers Springs	Shumla
Halo Shelter	Shumla
Vinegaroon	Shumla
Camp Meyers Springs	Shumla



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.



Clovis Blade Core Fragment, north unit

Excavation Day, September 12, 2025: In the north unit, Bill, OC, Roger, Joe, and Lori worked a very deep elevation about 20cm deeper than where a Clovis first flute failure was found. And in fact, a possible fragment of a Clovis blade core was uncovered and next to it was a hearth feature! After comparing it to the Clovis blade cores in the Museum of the Coastal Bend, the core fragment appeared to be the bottom part of a Clovis polyhedral core. We sent photos to Dr. Glenn Goode who felt that, while not as diagnostic as the examples in the museum, given the context and the features on the artifact, it most likely is a Clovis blade core fragment. The crew worked around the hearth feature and will carefully proceed with its recovery next week. Also found was a preform fragment but it did not have any diagnostic features we could identify. On the

Paleo2x Terrace, Frank and Tim worked on the elevation below where a Guadalupe Tool (about 5,500 years old) was found during the last dig. This week's deeper elevation held a reworked Early Triangular that dates about 5,700 years old, an early indicator that the lithic context on the new terrace site is intact. Hopefully that will continue as they work deeper. Also found were organics, debitage, and what looks like a piece of brown ochre. We will try to date some land snails from this unit when we hit the bottom elevation to confirm if the soils and lithic context are both intact. The west unit is brand new, and Mike was holding "Archeology Field Work 101" class for some new volunteers. This provides detailed instruction for new volunteers as they learn how to conduct the measurements to start a new unit and complete the paperwork needed for proper record keeping. They will try to finish that first level of the new unit this week.



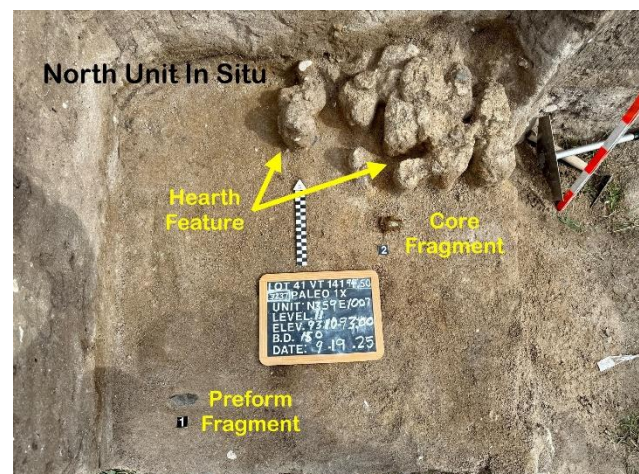
Heavily Reworked Early Triangular, Paleo2x Terrace, screen find

Side B

Excavation Day, September 19, 2025: Bill, Roger, OC, Max, Joe, and Lori worked the west unit at a deep elevation below the Clovis blade core fragment found last week and worked very slowly and carefully around the hearth feature also discovered last week. While searching for charcoal, some organics including turtle and land snails were found near the hearth. The hearth itself appears to be intact (has not collapsed) and almost 20mm tall. The decision was made to preserve the hearth and open the next unit to see how big the feature is. Also found were a preform fragment, core fragment, and a hammerstone fragment, but nothing diagnostic.



Core Fragment & Preform Fragment, north unit



North Unit In Situ

Hearth Feature

Core Fragment

Preform Fragment

In the west unit, Mike, Courtney, Gabby, and Dawn continued their “Field Archeology 101” instruction but finished the first level of the new unit they started last week. They found debitage, fire-cracked rock, and a variety of organics. On the Paleo2X Terrace, Frank and Tim worked two levels below the Guadalupe Tool and one level below the Early Triangular found last week. They found several hammerstone fragments that could be from one large quartzite rock, although one of the larger fragments had been heated. They also found a lot of mussel shell.

Excavation Day, September 26, 2025: After cool weather greeted the excavation team, the day heated up quickly. Two of the three units were new this week and the site received ½ inch of rain since last week. The new unit on the Paleo2x Terrace worked by Tim and Frank produced a core and some organics including deer. The first order of business in the north unit worked by Bill, Roger, and OC was to protect the hearth feature exposed two weeks ago. The hearth appears to be going in a northeast direction, so the decision was made to open a new unit diagonal to the hearth unit to see how large the feature is. The going was hard on the dry ground. Shovels were used on the overburden until the soil was soft enough to switch to trowels. A core was found along with debitage and fire-cracked rock. Organics including deer, turtle, and small mammal remains were discovered. The west unit worked by Gabby and Mike revealed debitage, fire-cracked rock, and a few organics.



Excavation Day, October 3, 2025: In the west unit, Mike and Max worked some rain-induced wall fall that prevented them from getting easy access to the unit. The wall fall yielded some nice lithics including a worn Guadalupe Tool, a well flaked final stage preform, several early stage preforms, and a core fragment. These artifacts can be assigned to a unit but with no elevation or northing/easting locations because they were not found in situ. In the north unit, Roger and OC worked on Level 1 of the new unit diagonal to the hearth feature. They found a non-diagnostic distal but kept using shovels to get below the overburden elevations. On the Paleo2x terrace, Frank and Tim worked at Level 1 of a new unit and found one of the largest utilized flake engravers we have seen. They also found some nice clay balls with residue on the surface.

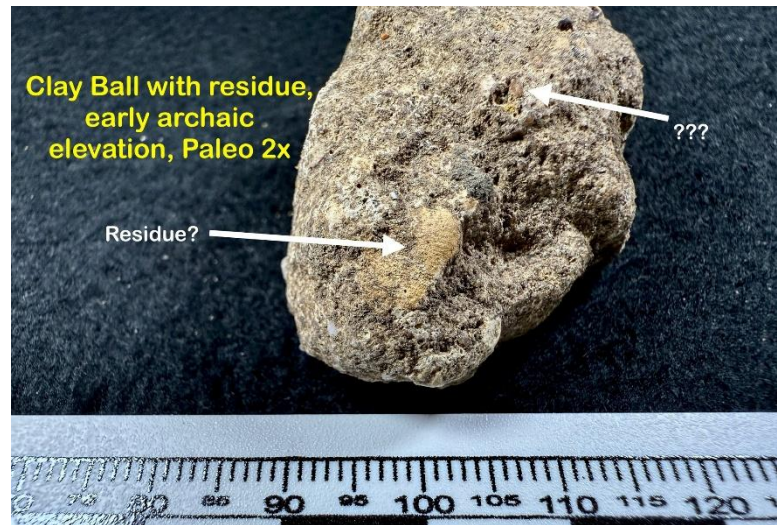


Excavation Day on Archeology Guest Day, October 17, 2025: As part of our Texas Archeology Month events for 2025, we hosted a guest day for members of the Museum of the Coastal Bend and students/faculty of Victoria College. We enjoyed having ten guests who helped us work three units, all of which were at Archaic elevations. In the north unit, Roger, Bill, Max, and guest excavators did not find any diagnostic lithics but did discover clay balls, lots of land snails, and debitage. In the west unit, Mike, Gaby, Bryan, and guest excavators found a few organic artifacts and some debitage. On the Paleo2X terrace, Roger, John, Joe, and Lori found a nice assemblage of clay balls—several of which had traces of residue—and pieces of charcoal. Additionally, they uncovered a sandstone slab fragment that had been heated at some point, fire-cracked rock, and debitage.



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](#).

O. C. Garza



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



Congratulations to all the newly elected officers of the Texas Archeological Society ~ We appreciate your service to the mission of promoting scientific archeological exploration and research, the preservation and conservation of archeological materials and sites, and the curation of their associated information.

President-Elect – Tiffany Osburn (Presidential Term is 2027)

Secretary – Carol Macaulay-Jameson

Internet Chair – Aina Dodge

Nominating Committee Member – Sonny Wheeler

Region 3 Director – Kelton Sheridan

Region 6 Director – OC Garza

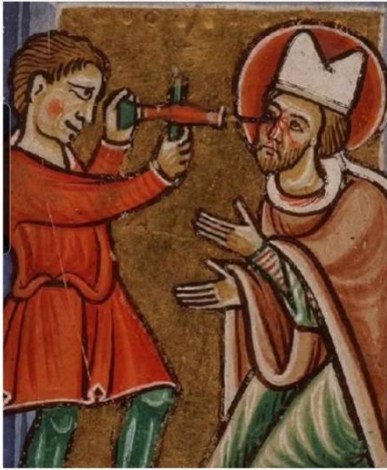
Region 9 Director – Chris Ringstaff

Region 10 Director – Jim Collett



Medieval Suggestions – Preparing for November

Get up-to-date on your shots



Get your home heating system serviced



Order a pumpkin spice latte



Get a new Fall wardrobe



Gather wood for the fireplace



Start wearing your favorite hoodie



Courtesy of Matthew Ponesse, PhD, Professor of History at Ohio Dominican University; [Instagram](#); [Medievalismatt](#).



The Alamo ~ Podcast Explores the Battle of Concepción ~ Excavation Updates



Episode 105 of the award-winning podcast [Stories Bigger Than Texas](#) takes a deep look at the Battle of Concepción, which occurred 190 years ago at one of the Alamo's sister missions in San Antonio. Dr. Bruce Winders explores the battle that took place in October 1835 and what it divulged about the strengths and weaknesses of both sides as the front lines of the Texas Revolution forged ever closer to the Alamo. 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. From the Alamo Newsletter; [Podcast Explores the Battle of Concepción](#).

Archeological excavations continue and regular updates may be found at [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation](#).





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 November 2007 written by the late Fred Kelly.

Ancient Roman Technology: Aqueducts ~ From the fourth century BC to the second century AD, the ancient Romans built many aqueducts to supply water to their

cities and industries throughout the Roman Empire. The city of Rome itself was served by eleven aqueducts built over a period of 500 years—and the huge amount of water they provided was not equaled until the late nineteenth century. The aqueducts were built both underground or elevated, supported by columns, arches, or arcades. Underground pipes helped prevent disease, but exposed channels were easier to maintain. The water flow was dependent on gravity; therefore, the conduits required a slight but constant downward slope of two to three feet per mile. A table-shaped device with a plumb bob and protractor was placed in the channel to calculate the correct slope. When an aqueduct crossed a depression over 150 feet deep, a gravity-pressurized inverted siphon forced the water uphill, a method still employed by hydraulic engineers today. Upon arrival at a municipality, the water flowed into large holding tanks that allowed settlement of mud and pebbles. Then, the water flowed through storage towers, and finally into lead pipes that distributed the water to fountains, baths, businesses, and private homes. Consumers used bronze faucets to control the stream of water, much as in sinks today.



Pont du Gard, France. Britannica.com.

~ Fred Kelly



Texas Historical Commission ~ Apply for Markers for Sites of Undertold Stories and Historical Cemeteries

The submission period for this year's Undertold Marker Program runs until **November 15**. Applications are now available. Submit your ideas for historical markers that fill gaps in history and promote diversity of topics. The THC utilizes marker application funds to sponsor these markers representing untold or undertold aspects of Texas history. Through this program, the THC assists county historical commissions and sponsors of chosen topics by paying for the foundry cost of a historical marker or by completing the research necessary to submit a qualified application. Submit the individual, group, event, building, or site in your community that you think should have a historical marker!

Applications must be submitted by November 15, 2025, to markers@thc.texas.gov. Note that there is no application fee to apply for an Undertold Marker.

The Texas Historical Commission also seeks applications for historic Texas Cemetery designations **year-round** at Historic Texas Cemetery Designation | Texas Historical Commission. A cemetery is eligible for designation if it is at least fifty years old and is deemed worthy of recognition for its historical associations. The very nature of a cemetery being a landmark of a family's or community's presence is considered to validate the criteria of historical associations. Any individual, organization, or agency may submit a request for designation.



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 Medieval Origins of Thanksgiving Dinner - Modern Farmer; Medieval Mulled Wine — Medieval Histories; Archaeologists Mapped a Lost Village Hidden Underwater for 3,000 Years; Underwater Archaeology | The Museum of Underwater Archaeology | Shipwreck | Maritime; Fossilized Footprints - White Sands National Park (U.S. National Park Service); Preservation Houston Digital Walks; Podcasts | Smithsonian Institution; Medieval Secrets Revealed: Archaeologists Discover Reading Stone Beneath World-Famous University; Unique 9th–10th Century Chain-Mail, Helmet Unearthed at Rustavi Fortress, Georgia - Arkeonews



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.

November 20 – HAS Monthly Meeting 6:00 p.m. Featuring Tori Pagano. In person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center with a Zoom link supplied via email to members the prior week.

December 18 – Come in person to enjoy the HAS Christmas party, holiday treats, and a year-end recap.

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.



Upcoming Events

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 Events & Activities Eventbrite; Archaeological Conservancy.

Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust Wales

11/13 – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. GMT/2:30 p.m. Central. Winds and Watermills in Medieval and Post-Medieval Wales, with Gerallt Nash. Follow the development of mills from simple hand querns to the watermills and windmills which replaced them. Innovation and conflict during the Middle Ages was reflected in the technologies of the time, but also in the widespread opposition to manorial mills, which many saw as a means of exploiting the native population by the powerful Anglo-Norman lordships. Abbeys and monasteries played a significant part in the promotion of mills which, in turn, helped sustain their coffers. Minimum donation requested; learn more and register here.

Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)

11/5 – Wednesday, 5 p.m. Pacific/3 p.m. Central. A Dealer, an Insurance Salesman, Seven University Museums, Eighty-Eight Investors, and Three Hundred Classical Antiquities: a Cautionary Tale – a Nancy Wilkie Lectureship in Archaeological Heritage. This virtual talk will recount a recently-uncovered story of an unusual, complex, decades-long antiquities investment scheme orchestrated by Royal-Athena Galleries, a prominent Manhattan-based antiquities dealer, that did not end well for most stakeholders, examining the larger ethical implications of the story and raising questions about the relationship of museums to the art market. For more information, contact ziegler@berkeley.edu.

11/12 – Wednesday, 7 p.m. Central. Archaeology Hour: The People's Arena, speaker Alison Futrell. Register here.

11/25 – Tuesday, Noon Central. Lanka – The Crucial Hub of the Ancient Maritime Silk Road, presented by Dr. Palitha T.B. Kohona, Sri Lanka's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations, former Head of the UN Treaty Section, and former Ambassador to China, discussing the importance of Sri Lanka to the Chinese Silk Road. Throughout history, the area has attracted a multitude of sailors from friendly and marauding navel powers, merchants seeking its exotic products or exchanging them for wares from distant lands, Buddhist monks searching for the sublime Dhamma, and invading empire builders who vainly attempted to conquer the island. Archaeology suggests that hundreds, perhaps thousands, of ships from China visited Lanka, serving as a lucrative hub and central link in trading ventures within the Southern Maritime Silk Route. Information at nationalartsclub.org and Event Listings.

Council for British Archaeology

11/9 – Tuesday, 7:15 p.m. GMT/2:15 p.m. Central. Greenwich Industrial History Society presents Dr. Mark S. Thompson, military historian, discussing the rise of the scientific soldier from 1741 to 1812 and the early days of military education in the British army. Reserve by emailing greenwichindustrial@gmail.com to receive a Zoom link.

11/20 – Thursday, 7 p.m. GMT/2 p.m. Central. This is Archaeology - Early Career Showcase 2025: Voices from the Future of Archaeology panel discussion showcasing the wide spectrum of career paths that make up the modern heritage sector and featuring speakers from a range of

professional backgrounds including fieldwork, historic building conservation, museum curation, and academic research. More at archaeologyuk.org/event-booking-page.

11/24 – Monday, 7:30 GMT/2:30 Central. Gloucester Archaeology reports on excavations at the Cleeve Common Racecourse grandstand, Honeycombe, Severn, Castlemeads, and Armscroft Park, Gloucester. Phil Cox will report on recent geophysical surveys at Uley and in Gloucester. Free, to obtain the Zoom link email mailbox@gloarch.org.uk.

Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series

11/26 – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Bob Moore will present an overview of Sicily, discussing the history and magnificent temples and ruins that rival mainland Greece. Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#) and find more information at the E-MLS website: <https://engelhardtmoores.wixsite.com/lecture-series>.

Friends of the Texas Historical Commission

11/20 – Thursday, 6 p.m. Holidays on the Trail: Returning Home presented by Dr. Will Craddock, Manager of the Official State of Texas Longhorn Herd. As trail drivers headed home, speed was essential as they may have been carrying large sums of money from the sale of their cattle. Consequently, meals were reduced to a minimum to limit time for preparation. Waiting to celebrate after the job was finished shaped the holiday customs of ranching families for generations, reminding us that the truest celebrations come after hard work is through. [Registration](#).

Grand Egyptian Museum, Cairo

11/1 - Saturday, Noon Central. Live broadcast, [RSVP - Livestream of the Presidential Opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum \(GEM\)](#).

Special Livestream Event.

James Madison's Montpelier

11/19 – Wednesday, 11 a.m. Central. The Montpelier Memorialization Committee is working on a memorial to honor the lives and contributions of the enslaved people at James Madison's Montpelier. Henry Anglin, chair of the Memorialization Committee, Allison James, Project Director, and Archaeology's Chris Pasch discuss the final results of archaeology at the site and current design plans. [Lunch and Learn - Montpelier](#).

Kelsey Museum of Archaeology at the University of Michigan

11/7 – Friday, Noon. Virtual Flash Talk, On the Origins of Leptiminus: Constructing Identity in the First Millennium BCE presented by David Stone, Classical Studies. Leptiminus, a city on the east coast of Tunisia, was the site of a Kelsey Museum archaeological project in the 1990s. Research focused on the expansion of the city under Rome, its exports to the empire, and the activities of its suburbs. Settlement and cemeteries of the 5th to 3rd century BCE reflect a time when we see the horizons of inhabitants expanding as they came into more frequent contact with other Mediterranean cultures, allowing insight on North African peoples in the first millennium BCE and the ways material culture was employed to make statements regarding power, identity, and social status. To register for this Flash Talk, fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/nLAPRPWoJwfgcGrm9> to receive Zoom log-in information. Please sign up by 9:30 a.m. on the day of the event.

Kent Archaeological Society UK

11/5 – Wednesday, 7 p.m. GMT/2 p.m. Central. [Communication, language and literacy in early medieval Britain](#), An online talk by Dr. Robert Gallagher, Senior Lecturer in Medieval History, University of Kent., hosted by Canterbury Historical and Archaeological Society. [More information and registration here.](#)

11/20 – Thursday, 7 p.m. GMT/2 p.m. Central. [Making an Early Saxon Sword](#), part of a series of online talks hosted by the KAS, with Experimental Archaeologist Alexander Read. [More information and registration here.](#)

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society

11/11 – Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. GMT/1:30 p.m. Central. [Bermondsey Square: Prehistoric and Roman Settlement, Medieval Abbey and Post-Medieval Mansion](#), presented by Alistair Douglas. In the later Roman period, robber trenches and significant amounts of ceramic building material including opus signinum suggest that substantial masonry buildings were extant to the north of Bermondsey Square. Fragmentary wall foundations of a Saxon minster, the 15th century Cluniac Priory, a grand 17th century building, and 18th century artisan housing provide fascinating insight into the social history of this part of Bermondsey. [More information and registration here.](#)

New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies

11/5 – Wednesday, Noon Mountain/1 p.m. Central. Friends of History Wednesday Lecture Series, The Albuquerque Indian School: Two Sides of a Coin, New Mexico History Museum. Theodore S. Jojola, PhD, online talk. Founded in 1881, the Albuquerque Indian School remained a viable Indian boarding school until its gradual decline in the 70's. During its heyday it fostered remarkable relationships among its school populace, surrounding tribal communities (especially Pueblo and Navajo), and the City of Albuquerque. This lecture will present aspects of its history from the perspective of alumni, administrators, and scholars who were integrally involved in its operations. [Tickets here](#) or register here: <https://tinyurl.com/t534ehdn>, free online, donations welcome. [More Information](#).

North Texas Archeological Society

11/13 – Thursday, 7 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring [Laura Short](#), Senior Principal Investigator with HDR, Inc. design and engineering company. Guests are welcome to join NTAS monthly meetings in-person or via Zoom. To receive the Zoom link, please email info@ntxas.org.

Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center

11/17 – Monday, Noon. Learning from Eagle Cave: Earth Ovens and Indigenous Lifeways in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, presented by Charles Koenig, PhD. For over 10,000 years, Indigenous peoples living in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands have used earth oven baking pits to cook different foods. The time-depth of use combined with the widespread occurrence of oven sites—especially the massive burned rock middens that dot the Lower Pecos landscape—demonstrate the sustained importance of earth ovens within Indigenous cultures. Although many archaeologists emphasize the subsistence role of earth ovens, these cooking features were and continue to be integral components of social aggregations, feasting, and other aspects of cultural expression. This talk examines the early Holocene earth oven record from Eagle Cave, Texas, through the lens of intensification and how earth oven use changed over time. [Click to Register](#); [Lunch and Learn - Shumla](#).

Smithsonian Institution

A current calendar of Smithsonian virtual lectures presented for modest fees may be found at: [Events | Smithsonian](#).

West Essex Archaeological Group

11/10 – Monday, 7:15 p.m. GMT/2:15 p.m. Central. Historian Richard Bale discusses different aspects of living in Roman times using archaeological and historical evidence. Non-members are always welcome to participate, contact [WEAG](mailto:WEAG@weagmembership@outlook.com) at weagmembership@outlook.com. Romans by Richard Bale, Online event, 11/10/2025.

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](#); <https://www.heritagesociety.org/calendar>; [Archaeology Now](#).

Archaeology Now, Houston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America

11/4 – Tuesday, 6 p.m. Dr. Irving Finkel, Assistant Keeper of Ancient Mesopotamian Script, British Museum. Great Discoveries in Mapping: The Oldest Map in the World. Explore fascinating discoveries about the oldest map of the world, which shows the most important cities and rivers. Post-event book-signing and reception. Free admission and parking underneath Jesse J. Jones Central Library, 500 McKinney St. (Lamar St. Entrance), Julia Ideson Library, The Reading Room. [Reserve Your Tickets Here](#).

Caddo Mounds State Historic Site

11/15 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Celebrate Caddo history and culture at [Caddo Culture Day](#), featuring family-friendly activities and traditional cooking demonstrations.

Houston Civil War Round Table

11/20 - Thursday, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. speaker and meeting. Dr. Leah Tarwater discusses Kentucky Soldiers in the Civil War. Salt Grass Steakhouse at 8943 Katy Freeway. Non-members may attend a meeting with one free admission. After attending one meeting at no-cost, non-members will be charged a \$10.00 admission fee, or they can become a dues-paid member.

Houston Heritage Society at Sam Houston Park

11/8 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Book Sale, free parking at 212 Dallas Street.

11/12 – Wednesday, 6 p.m. Evening Speaker Series & Wine Reception. Speaker and Author Thomas E. Chávez shares his research about how Spain supported our country's independence. Through actual fighting, provision of supplies, and money, Spain helped the young British colonies succeed in becoming an independent nation. Soldiers were recruited from all over the Spanish empire and many died fighting British soldiers and their allies in Central America, the Caribbean, along the Mississippi River from New Orleans to St. Louis, Michigan, along the Gulf Coast to Mobile and Pensacola, and in Europe. Based on primary research in the archives of Spain. \$10, [Tickets Here](#).

11/13 – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. [History on Tap](#). Free; every second Thursday of the month, expert speakers bring Houston's rich history and culture to life in a relaxed brewery setting. Mingle with fellow history enthusiasts and enjoy craft brews. Dr. Steven L. Sewell presents Rugged Individualists or Saddle bound Proletarians: The Texas Panhandle Cowboy Strike of 1883, Magnolia Brewing, 1616 Bevis.

11/8 – Saturday, 10 a.m. [From Plantation to Emancipation](#). Tour of three historic houses enhanced with a slave narrative performance by Kijana Wiseman. Ticketed, \$15 and up.

Houston Maritime Center & Museum

11/10 – Monday, 6 p.m. Maritime Monday series, free admission, registration required. SHIPS for America Act with Utsav Mathur and Lindsey Swiger from Norton Rose Fulbright. 2940 Riverby Road, Suite 200, Houston. [Register](#).

Houston Museum of Natural Science

Opens 11/14 - Terracotta Warriors. Learn about the power, artistry, and history of the famed Terracotta Warriors.

Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site

11/8 – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. Annual [Day of Remembrance](#), with powerful presentations, special exhibits, and a family meal honoring the history of those who sharecropped or were enslaved.

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Opening 11/2 – 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, and Vatican City. Plus, get a rare look at the sheer scale of Roman ambition with a re-creation of a section of Trajan's Column.

11/5 – Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Thomas Woltz presents *The Land Is Full: Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects*. Over the past two decades, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects have infused narratives of the land into Houston and other cities around the world. Their local projects include the master plan for Memorial Park including recognition of Camp Logan, the new land bridge, Melvyn Wolff Prairie, and Clay Family Eastern Glades. Free admission, reservation required at [Landscape Architects](#), Lynn Wyatt Theater in the Kinder Building. [Parking Information](#).

Preservation Houston

11/8-11/9 – Saturday and Sunday. Annual [Good Brick Tour](#) including restored historic houses. Fees, \$10 and up, reservations required.

11/13 – Thursday, 6:30 p.m. [History in Print](#) featuring *The Greyhound Diary*, Fondren Hall, St. Paul's United Methodist Church. In 1949, British traveler Judith Montagu, cousin of Clementine Churchill, crossed America by bus, stopping in Houston for champagne at the Bayou Club, a tour of the *Houston Chronicle*, and a boat ride on the ship channel with Jesse H. Jones.

11/16 – Sunday, 2 p.m. [Downtown East Architecture Walk](#), historic walking tour of downtown east of Main Street, once home to Quality Hill, Houston's most fashionable residential neighborhood in the nineteenth century. The area shifted toward commerce with the expansion of the business district and the arrival of Union Station in 1911. By the late 20th century, sweeping redevelopment projects like Houston Center and the George R. Brown Convention Center had dramatically reshaped the landscape. Advance ticket purchase is required for this tour.

11/22 – Saturday, 10 a.m. [Glenwood Art & Architecture Walking Tour](#). This two-hour walking tour traces the changing tastes and the varied social and personal motivations reflected in some of Glenwood's outstanding monuments, which range from elaborate Victorian obelisks and angels to crisp, modern compositions. Along the way, docents will explain the symbolism and stories behind the monuments and will discuss the lives of Houstonians both famous and forgotten who commissioned them. Advance ticket purchase is required for this tour.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

11/1 – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Father of Texas Annual Celebration with Free Admission. Hands-on activities, reenactors, and historic skill demonstrations for a family day honoring Stephen F. Austin.

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

11/8 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Celebrate the grand reopening of the reimagined site with new features including an innovative visitor center, an expanded Star of the Republic Museum with new theaters and interactive exhibitions, and a recreated Washington Townsite.

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

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A portion of the Bayeux Tapestry, c. 1070; [Explore the Bayeux Tapestry online](https://www.bayeuxmuseum.org/) - Bayeux Museum

Wishing you a very bountiful and Happy Thanksgiving!