Houston Archeological Society

THE PROFILE

www.txhas.org

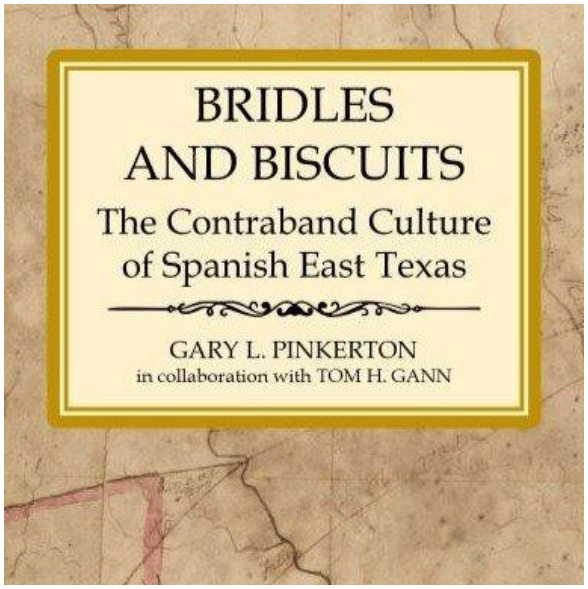
Vol. 14, Issue 6

Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, July 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Featuring Gary Pinkerton
Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road

Greetings HAS members! The July members meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will take place in person on Thursday, July 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m., at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center located in the Spring Branch area of Houston at 1414 Wirt Road. A Zoom link will be forwarded to HAS members via email as we get closer to the meeting date, for those who cannot join us in person. Veteran HAS members will recall that in July, HAS members traditionally report on excavations at the June TAS Field School. Since the majority of adult activities at this year's Field School centered on surveying instead of digging, we decided that Bob Sewell will provide a short Field School review, and we have also booked a speaker. We are pleased to welcome HAS friend Gary Pinkerton.

Since he first learned that a rut across his family land was the route of an historic road into early Texas, Gary's passion for research and writing about the history of East Texas has resulted in the publication of four works of history.

Trammel's Trace: The First Road to Texas from the North (2016) presents the history of a 200-year-old byway and its role in early smuggling and migration into Texas beginning in the 1800s. His second book, *True Believers: Treasure Hunters at Hendricks Lake* (2017), tells the story of men who believed in a Texas treasure legend enough to search for it. *Paper Diver: How the World's Greatest Treasure Hunter Never Got Wet* (2024) profiles Harry Rieseberg, who made a living out of being a skilled liar, writing about underwater exploits that never happened. Gary's latest work, *Bridles & Biscuits: The Contraband Culture of Spanish East Texas* (2025), focuses on a period between 1770 and 1813 that has been called "the last Spanish episode of the Texas drama." Gary holds a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from the University of Houston and a bachelor's degree in social work and psychology from East Texas A&M University, and he spent his career working in human resources. As an independent researcher, he contributes to diverse projects and is a web designer focusing on non-profit organizations. He is a Fellow of the East Texas Historical Association and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Alliance for Texas History, a new historical organization. For more information, see www.GaryLPinkerton.com, www.atxh.org.



We hope you will all join us for this interesting presentation as we welcome Gary and enjoy getting together. This meeting is free and open to the public. Be looking for your meeting reminder, which will also contain the Zoom link so that those HAS members who cannot attend in person will be able to tune in from afar. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Bob Sewell at president@txhas.org.

Wishing you a great Fourth of July, summer vacation, and Field School experience. I look forward to seeing you in the field soon!

Frank Kozar, HAS Vice-President

President's Message – Bob Sewell

The last visit to Lone Oak saw a small turn-out, which was not surprising since it was a mid-week visit. The electric fence had been breached by the cattle, with three inside munching on the luscious grass. A return visit was required to repair holes in the electric wire. In our active units, we only really found debitage, but this was not unexpected, since we are getting below the cultural level. However, there is still much more potential at this site. We didn't manage to get out to the Goloby site on June 14 due to the rain, but we returned on June 21, as we rotate between Lone Oak, Goloby, and Walnut Tree Hill. Finally, we have invested in a gas-powered weedwhacker for clearing the copious brush at these sites

We have accumulated a fairly large number of artifacts that we need to start processing. This encompasses cleaning, sorting, and cataloging the items. Cleaning can be a bit messy, so we normally do this outdoors. In the past we have gathered in an accommodating HAS member's driveway. Sorting and cataloging can be performed indoors, and we have discussed using a room at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, where we would have the advantages of air conditioning, a central location, and internet access. We will keep you posted of dates for lab activities.

Summer has now arrived, so we will need to schedule around the possible heat, but we will still be out in the field as often as we can. Keep an eye on your emails or please feel free to contact me at president@txhas.org.

Congratulations to our HAS Members Recently Honored at the Texas Historical Commission Stewards Network Meeting!

At the THC Archeological Stewards Network Meeting in May, several HAS members were recognized for their contributions.

The Norman G. Flaigg Award for Outstanding Performance is awarded annually at the TASN workshop to stewards whose reported accomplishments rank in the top ten percent for all TASN members. These scores are compiled from information provided in biannual reports, reflecting hours, mileage, public presentations, collection recording, distribution of materials, and monitoring, recording, and designating sites.

The Jim Word Award for Archeological Stewardship is presented annually at the TASN workshop to stewards after ten years of service, and for each subsequent decade served.

Norman G. Flaigg Award for Outstanding Performance – Bob Sewell

Jim Word Ten Year Award - Charlie Gordy, Sue Gross

Congratulations to Bob, Charlie, and Sue, and thank you for your important work as THC Stewards!

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2025

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

Membership & Treasury – Louis Hebert, Treasurer. We are at 146 members so far for 2025, and the treasury funds are looking good.

Newsletter – Bob Sewell, President. Thank you to our newsletter editor, Betsy Wittenmyer, for her hard work on the newsletter every month! Thank you also to those who have contributed articles to the newsletter. We are always on the lookout for more articles or photos for upcoming newsletters. These can be related to any relevant topics 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.

Projects – Bob Sewell, President.

- **Lone Oak** (41CD168)
    - This site remains a great educational site for new members interested in trying their hand at excavation.
    - Our last visit to this site was on April 19, and our next will probably be in about a week or so. As many of our recent site visits have been on weekends, we may plan our next Lone Oak visit on a weekday.
    - Weed growth will probably need to be cut soon, so any participants in our next visit who have access to a weedwhacker are encouraged to bring it along.
- **Goloby Site** (41WL3)
    - Our last visit was May 10, and we plan to return soon.
    - Similarly to Lone Oak, participants in our next visit are encouraged to bring a weedwhacker if they have one, as weed growth is present at this site too.
- **Walnut Tree Hill Site**
    - Our last visit was March 22, and our next is planned for May 17. Weeds aren't too bad here but a weedwhacker couldn't hurt.
- All three of our active sites have upcoming visits planned and are still consistently yielding artifacts. Members interested in participating in site visits may look out for invitations from fielddirector@txhas.org.

Upcoming – Bob Sewell, President. TAS Field School is coming up from June 14-21. It will take place in Milam and Robertson Counties and is expected to consist mostly of survey activities of Red Mountain (also known as Sugarloaf Mountain), although there will probably be some excavations planned for at least the youth group. Participants in field school are invited to contribute something (anything from a few sentences or photos to a whole article) to our newsletter to showcase anything interesting they may find, or simply any experiences they'd like to share!

Publications Editor – We are pleased to introduce our new Publications Editor, Kevin Risley! Mr. Risley's first duty in this role will be locating individuals to write articles for a potential journal that HAS would like to publish within the next year. Members who are interested or know someone who may be interested in contributing to a journal or other publication are welcome to reach out to president@txhas.org.

July 2025 Monthly Meeting – As usual, we will not be having a meeting in June due to TAS Field School. Our next meeting will be held in July, and our speaker will be Gary Pinkerton. This meeting will be in-person with a virtual option via Zoom. Tonight's presentation will be conducted by Amy Goldstein, who will be discussing the work she does on excavations at Kirbee Kiln.

The business meeting was concluded at 6:48 p.m.

Noah Newland, HAS Secretary

Start Planning for Texas Archeology Month in October
and the TAS 96th Annual Meeting, October 10 - 12, 2025, in McAllen, Texas

Reservations are now open for the Embassy Suites by Hilton at the McAllen Convention Center; more information may be found at TAS Annual Meeting.

Preparations for Texas Archeology Month (TAM) 2025 are well underway. Whether you're hosting an event, coordinating a school program, or looking for ways to get involved, there's a lot to look forward to in October. This year, TAM will pay special tribute to the thirtieth anniversary of the discovery of La Belle, the famed 17th-century French shipwreck found in Matagorda Bay. The story of La Belle and its excavation remains one of the most significant archeological finds in Texas history. Special programs and exhibits will highlight the ship's historical importance, the groundbreaking conservation efforts that preserved its artifacts, and its impact on our understanding of early Texas exploration. Additional tools and opportunities for TAM 2025 include the following.

15,000 Pinch Pot Kits Available: The ordering system for free kits will open in July on a first come, first served basis, so be sure to place your requests early. Watch the website for ordering links and details.

Volunteer Kit-Building Opportunities: Volunteer sessions will be taking place at facilities across the state for assembly of pinch pot kits. These events are coordinated by local partners and offer a great way to get involved and support TAM. Check the website for upcoming dates and locations as they become available.

Order Outreach Materials Early: TAS recommends that you order the free public outreach materials early. Materials include the pinch pot kits, the TAMazine, and other handouts; Home Page - TAM; Outreach Materials | THC.

Submit Your Events to the TAM Calendar: Please submit your planned TAM events through the Partner Portal to ensure they're included on the public calendar and interactive map. Stay tuned for more updates, resources, and opportunities at the following website.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH

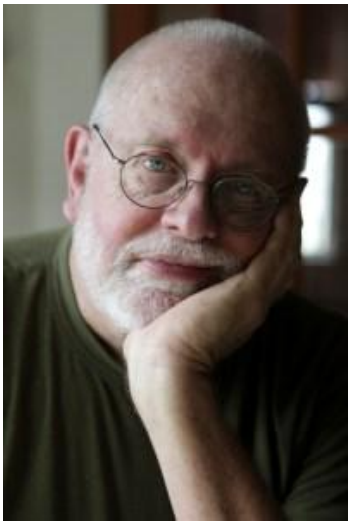
TAS Field School Publicity: See this news coverage of the 2025 TAS Field School in the Red Mountain and Rancheria Grande area, Milam County, including interviews of participants, as reported by Austin's Fox 7 News: Archaeology dig helps Tonkawa Tribe rediscover Texas roots | FOX 7 Austin.

Feedback Requested! We want to hear from YOU!
Wishing you a Happy 4th of July, Independence Day!

Sources: www.webweaver.nu/unclesam.jpg; Free 4th of July Vintage Postcards - Vintage Holiday Crafts.

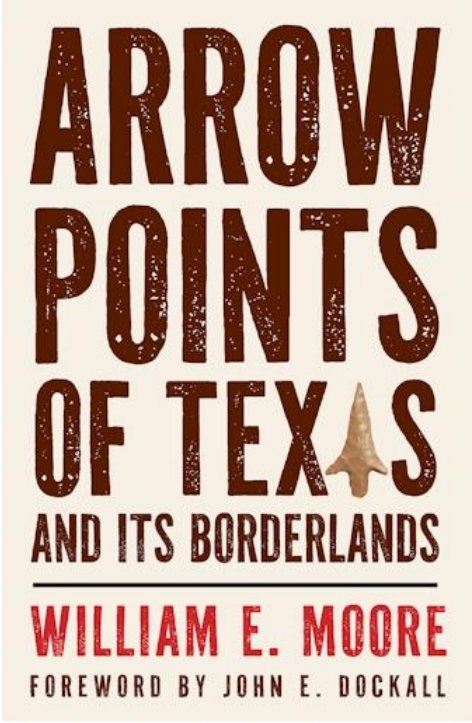
As always, we welcome your comments and contributions! Let us know about things such as your regular favorites, which articles and reports you most enjoy, topics you'd like to see in the future, and suggestions about how we can improve. Please send in submissions and news to newsletter@txhas.org.

***Arrow Points of Texas and Its Borderlands* by William E. Moore**
Archaeologist, Author, Founding Member, and Lifetime Member of HAS



In his youth, Bill Moore already enjoyed archaeology, inspired by issues of *National Geographic* and *Natural History*. He found articles about Mesa Verde and Navajo National Monument particularly intriguing (NG 1941-1960: Internet Archive). On a family camping trip to Garner State Park, Moore fell into conversation with the local resident running the gift shop, who hunted for arrowheads during the off-season. This man owned a copy of the annual *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society* (Vol._24_1953.pdf), which he loaned Moore to read. The list of officers included a TAS Trustee, Dick Worthington, who lived in Houston. Once back home, Moore telephoned Worthington, who advised him about the inauguration of a new local society and warmly invited him to attend one of the first HAS meetings—if not the very first—taking place in the Ezekiel B. Cullen Building on the University of Houston campus. Bill's parents drove him to the meeting, and he became a founding member of our Society in 1959, at age 16. Wayne Neyland began giving him a ride home. They would often stop for coffee with HAS friends for more archeology conversations, and "Billy" listened intently. Moore participated in his first HAS excavation at the Jamison Site with Lawrence Aten (1959-1961; Excavations at the Jamison Site (41LB2), Liberty County, Texas (Lawrence E. Aten) | the Digital Archaeological Record; HAS Report 1.pdf). Read more of Moore's early memories in *The Journal of the Houston Archeological Society* 134:17-19 (HAS Journal 134). HAS was a big part of Moore's life for many years and provided his first insight into proper methods. As the years passed, archaeology and cultural resources consulting became Bill Moore's profession.

Moore holds degrees in Geography (BS) and English (MA) from Sam Houston State University, and Anthropology (MA) from Texas A&M University. During his tenure as an archaeologist, he was the owner and sole proprietor of Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA), an archaeological consulting business located in Bryan, Texas. He has authored numerous magazine articles and books. Although recently retired, he continues to write, and his latest work, *Arrow Points of Texas and Its Borderlands* (2025), has just been published by Texas A&M University Press.



State and federal entities of the relatively new United States may have set borders—but archaeological history does not. *Arrow Points of Texas and Its Borderlands* illuminates surviving archaeological material in the form of Native American arrow points commonly found in Texas and the surrounding regions. After a fourteen-year gap without an updated field book, Moore has assembled the latest research on typology and distribution. Incorporating points found not only in Texas, but also in the nearby areas of Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and northern Mexico, this book provides, in the words of the foreword by noted lithic specialist John E. Dockall, "a much-needed synthesis of regional and chronological data that will be useful to professional and avocational archaeologists alike." Indeed, by taking such an approach, Moore helps to alleviate some of the persistent confusion arising from arbitrary boundaries and resulting provincial perspectives. Including helpful references, a field guide, and distribution maps, in addition to detailed illustrations, the book pulls together in a single, easy-to-use volume much information that was previously diffused among an array of archives and gray literature reports. For more information and to purchase a copy, see https://www.tamupress.com/arrow-points-of-texas-and-its-borderlands.

We congratulate Bill, an esteemed professional, HAS founding member, and friend, on this important work!

Almost Loot: The Story of a Seco Corrugated Bowl from Cottonwood Spring Pueblo (LA 175)

Tuesday Critz

Tuesday Critz just completed her M.A. in Anthropology at New Mexico State University, where she has worked with HAS friend, Dr. Heather Para. Critz's thesis research focused on the exchange of ceramics, which she explored by conducting compositional analysis of ceramics from the NMSU field school at Cottonwood Spring Pueblo, where she worked as a crew chief and teaching assistant for the 2023 and 2024 seasons. She has collaborated with Dr. William Walker and Dr. Judy Berryman on research regarding migration in the southern Jornada Mogollon. Critz has worked extensively in field and museum settings including serving as a field intern at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in 2011. She received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Missouri and will be returning there this fall to pursue her doctoral degree.

In the summer of 2016, a Seco Corrugated bowl (Figure 1) was recovered from the floor of a room in a large El Paso Phase (AD 1275/1300 – 1450) pueblo called Area A at Cottonwood Spring Pueblo (LA 175). Cottonwood is a large site, spanning over a mile, that witnessed several occupations. It is located in south central New Mexico, in the western foothills of the San Andres Mountains and just to the west of White Sands National Park.

Seco Corrugated is a Mogollon Brown Ware that has characteristic obliterated coils on the exterior and a smudged interior (Laumbach 2024). Seco Corrugated bowls likely served as utility wares used in activities like catching ground corn meal (Laumbach 2024). With the rare exception, utility wares are not part of extensive trade networks (Harry et al. 2013). Seco Corrugated was produced at several locales within the eastern Mimbres region from AD 1300 – 1400 including Puskas Pueblo and the Beyer Site (Figure 2) as well as several sites in the vicinity of Cañada Alamosa, including Victorio, Pinnacle, and an unknown locale (Ferguson et al. 2024; Laumbach 2024).

Figure 1. Selenite (left) and reconstructed Seco Corrugated bowl (right) from Cottonwood Spring. Photograph by Tuesc

For my master's thesis, I sampled Mogollon Brown Wares from Area A, including this Seco Corrugated bowl. I submitted these samples for neutron activation analysis (NAA), a type of compositional analysis that generates a chemical signature for each sherd. I was then able to compare my samples with established compositional groups. I found that in Area A, 45% of the samples came from the closest source that was likely produced in either Puskas Pueblo or the Beyer Site, 70 km to the west. Surprisingly, 35% came from sources nearly twice as far away, in the vicinity of Cañada Alamosa, 130 km to the northwest.

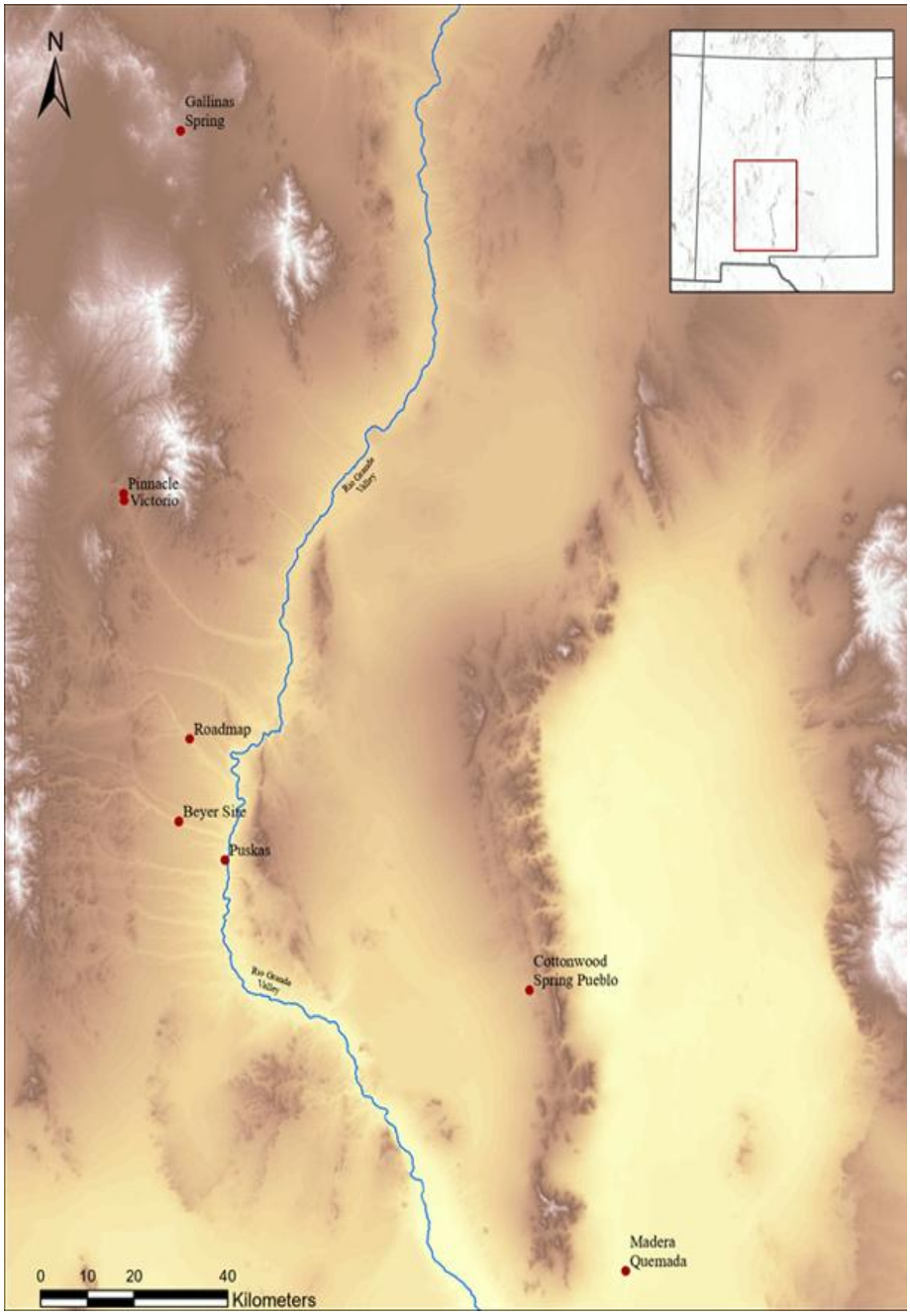


Figure 2. Map showing the location of Cottonwood Spring Pueblo (LA 175) as well as sites that produce Seco Corrugated (Puskas Pueblo, the Beyer Site, Victorio, and Pinnacle). Image by Tuesday Critz.

A small sherd from the Seco Corrugated bowl that was found on the floor of a room in Area A was submitted in my NAA sample. That bowl was produced at the nearby Puskas Pueblo or the Beyer site. It was then likely used for utilitarian purposes before being left with a large chunk of selenite in it on the floor of a room, as part of a ritual closure when people left the site and moved elsewhere. But that's not the end of the story. Sometime between 1926 and 1987, this site was looted, a bulldozer came within a meter of this bowl (Figure 3), and it was almost lost to history (Chapman 1926; Lekson and Rorex 1987). Finally, in the summer of 2016, it was recovered by the NMSU field school.

Figure 3. Seco Corrugated bowl from Cottonwood Spring Pueblo (LA 175) in situ. See bulldozer scar in foreground. Photograph courtesy of Dr. William H. Walker, La Frontera Archaeological Program.

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Lekson, Stephen H. and Allen S. Rorex. 1987. *Archaeological Survey of the Cottonwood Spring and Indian Tank Sites, Dona Ana County, New Mexico*. Submitted to White Sands Missile Range, Report No. 8634.

In the Field ~ Encounters with Wildlife

Geoff Mills

When we return to a Houston Archeological Society (HAS) excavation site, we first remove any unit covers, e.g., plywood or tarps. Next, we check for any critters that might have taken up residence while we were away. At HAS, we respect all the creatures we find, and we move them to a place of safety away from our digs. The only exception is ants, with whom we cannot coexist while digging.

Snakes are of particular concern, and we do occasionally find them in our units. At Lone Oak in April, we discovered a snake that may have been either a copperhead or a rat snake. The snake was scooped up in a bucket and relocated far away from the unit. A couple of years ago at this same location, we came across a coral snake (*Micrurus tener*) near our excavations. Although generally not aggressive, they are highly venomous.

Above left: Possible copperhead snake at Lone Oak, photograph by Geoff Mills. Above right: Texas coral snake. Source: Texas coral snake (A Guide to Snakes of Southeast Texas), 5 Facts About the Texas Coral Snake that Might Surprise You.

Center left: Eggs discovered at Walnut Tree Hill site.
Center: Gopher bioturbation at San Felipe.
Center right: Texas Brown Tarantula at Palo Duro.

Below left: Scorpion and family at Lone Oak.
Below right: Leafcutter ant trail at San Felipe.

All photographs by Geoff Mills.

Recently at Walnut Tree Hill, Frank Kozar and I uncovered small eggs, which we hypothesized to be those of a snake or lizard. They were deposited quite deeply, about 30 cm from the surface. The eggs were carefully removed and reburied away from our unit.

Bioturbation from gophers is common at all our dig sites. These prolific burrowers produce the well-known surface mounds. They often tunnel into the sides of our units while we are away, leaving a pile of earth or sand that we analyze separately from our normal 10 cm layers. On the positive side, the gopher mounds sometimes expose artifact debris such as flakes, highlighting potential excavation sites. We have never seen the actual live gophers, but we certainly find signs of their activity.

During the Palo Duro Field School in 2019, a tarantula about three to four inches in size appeared in my unit. We simply transferred this spider to nearby undergrowth. I came across something even more creepy at Lone Oak: a scorpion carrying its family on its back. While working closer to home at San Felipe de Austin near the museum, I observed a track of leafcutter ants. Although they transport the harvested leaves back to their nest to farm fungus, a trail of shredded leaves marks their presence.

During the Palo Duro Field School in 2019, members of HAS rented a house. A herd of Barbary sheep eyed us from next door, though docile and quite tame. At Lone Oak, the local farmer grazes his cattle, but they can be quite disruptive to excavation activities. For this reason, we erected an electric fence to keep them out of the units.

The most common critters we find in our units are toads. They nestle into the soft soil in the sides and floors of our units. We simply scoop them out, so they are safe and do not disturb our digging.

Clockwise from upper left: Barbary sheep at Palo Duro; cattle grazing at Lone Oak; nine-banded armadillo at Kleb Woods, muddy toad at Walnut Tree Hill.
Below Right: Rufus Kelly enjoying the shade and soft soil. All photographs by Geoff Mills.

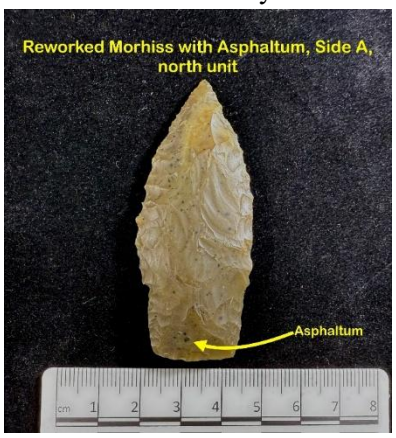
HAS supports the Kleb Woods event, "Digging Up Old Stuff," where we have worked with groups of local school children and scouts. The last time I was there, I came across a nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus Linnaeus*) on the road while walking from the site to the car park.

Finally, our units can attract far less threatening creatures. In this case we can see Kathleen Kelly's dog Rufus keeping cool at Arroyo Dulce.

Come join us in the field at the intersection of history and habitats, where you might discover not only features and artifacts, but also fauna.

Update from CoBALT Archeology, Victoria, Texas

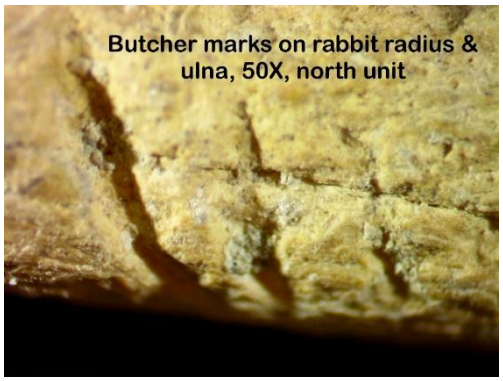
The Coastal Bend Archaeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) is based in Victoria and is working at the long-term excavation McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a cooperative agreement with the landowner and the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). While considered a significant Paleoindian site, 41VT141 was also regularly occupied by more recent prehistoric cultures over thousands of years. The following report highlights some recent artifacts identified at this active project.

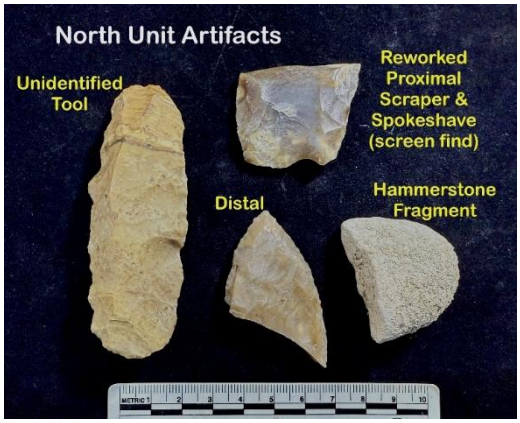


Excavation Day, May 2, 2025: In the north unit, O.C., Ben, Ann, Joe, and Lori worked in a productive elevation that transitions from Late Archaic to Middle Archaic. Some hammerstone fragments and lots of organics from deer, turtle, and rat were uncovered in the upper elevation level. Fire-cracked rock, burnt sandstone, and clay balls appeared at all elevations of this unit. Our first diagnostic was a reworked Morhiss point with asphaltum trapped near some hinges in the haft area (Morhiss Projectile Point). This regional point dates to about 2,800 BP and this specimen was alternately beveled. Joe and Lori were deeper in the unit and found the base of a Pedernales point that could date as old as 4,000 BP (Pedernales Projectile Point). They also found a snapped preform distal with a reworked base.

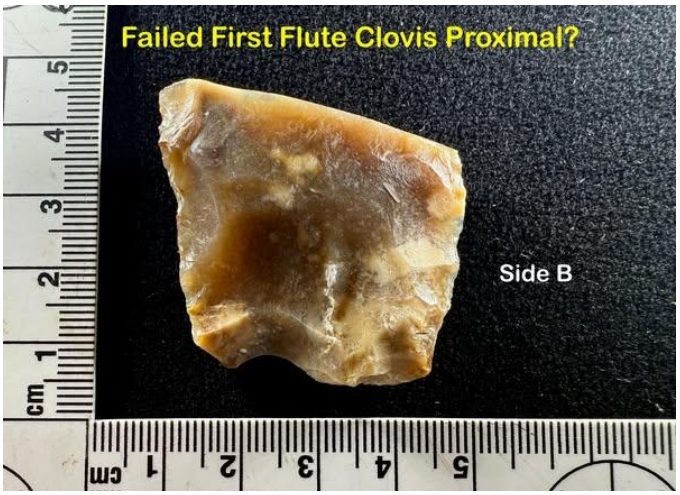
Excavation Day, May 16, 2025: In the north unit, Bill, Ben, and O.C. worked a transitional elevation between Archaic and Paleoindian which produced some interesting organics. Clay balls, burnt sandstone, and what might be several hearth rocks were uncovered, including some rabbit bones with butcher marks. A marine cockle shell fragment was found, which could indicate travel to and from the coast. A possible metate fragment was found at the bottom of the unit and was left in place for later excavation.

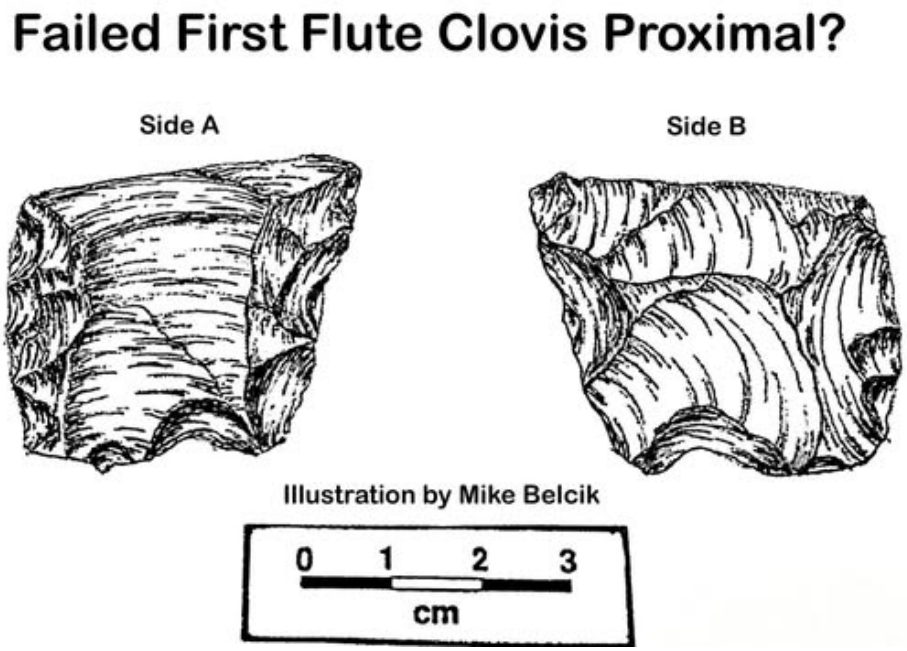
Excavation Day, May 23, 2025: In the north unit, O.C. and Cameron discovered fire-cracked rock and some burnt sandstone. They found a deeply beveled distal, a hammerstone fragment, and a very interesting, gouge-like tool with three bits, including two on each end of one of the faces. Another interesting lithic was a preform proximal that appeared to break with a failed basal thinning overshot flake. The proximal was repurposed into a scraper along one edge and near the failed thinning flake a spokeshave was created and used until the concavity was dulled and smoothed.





We believe that we found our first Clovis artifact during the May 23 excavation. Found 110 cm below datum, the artifact appears to be a Clovis first flute failure which broke the preform. The B side of this proximal is not a typical Clovis form, however after studying first flute failures in Clovis literature and online, there appear to be large variances on Side B when a first flute attempt on Side A fails.





HAS members are always welcome to join us at the site or in the archaeology lab at the Museum of the Coastal Bend, which 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; Archaeology | Museum of the Coastal Bend | Victoria, TX.

All photographs courtesy of O. C. Garza, CoBalt Archeology, and CoBalt Archeology.com.

O. C. Garza

O. C. Garza, HAS Friend, Wears Many Hats

Many of you know HAS friend O.C. Garza, who served as Publicity Chair at the recent 95th TAS Annual Meeting in Victoria and also stays active with the Museum of the Coastal Bend Advisory Board and CoBALT Archeology. An award-winning photographer who lives in Victoria, O.C. has worked over the years as Communications Director for the City of Victoria, Station Manager for TV15, the Victoria City television channel, and as a columnist for *The Victoria Advocate*.

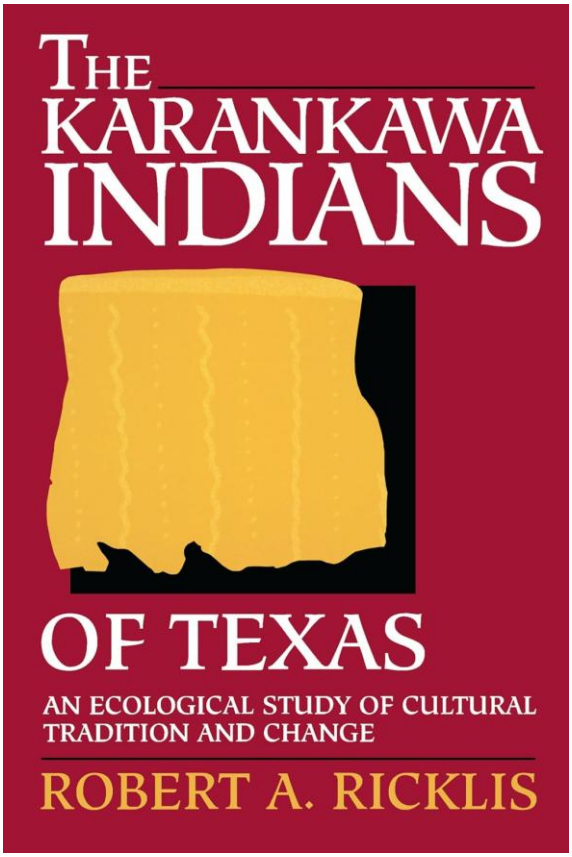
Additionally, this avocational archeologist, community leader, professional photographer, writer, and multitalented colleague also plays drums for the Rusty Steins Polka Band! Archeologists love a cold brew and a bit of fun after a hot day at an excavation site, and you might want to make a trip to join them for some polka music on Sunday, July 20, in Jourdanton, St. Matthew's Hall, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Rusty Steins regularly play throughout September at Czech Fests in Nada, Yorktown, Goliad, and Victoria, Texas. October weekends are filled with fall festivals in El Campo, Nazareth, Victoria, Wharton, and Blessing. For more information about the band or CoBALT, contact O.C. at ocgarza@suddenlink.net.

Top: German Alpine Hat.
Center Left: O.C. photographing birds at Port O'Connor, Texas; OC Garza Photography.
Center Right: OC Explains Screening.
Below Right: View from the stage with the Rusty Steins Polka Band. Photograph by O.C. Garza.

Source: Free 4th of July Vintage Postcards Vintage Holiday Crafts

The Karankawa Indians of Texas: An Ecological Study of Cultural Tradition and Change



Written by Robert A. Ricklis, edited by Thomas R. Hester, published by the University of Texas Press, 1996

Reviewed by Garry Hartmann

I acquired this book sometime in the late 1990s due to my vocation and personal interest in Texas prehistoric cultures and lifeways, and this book addressed a lot of my questions. I was involved with salvage archaeology at five different coastal sites at the time, and this book provided some insight and perspective during my daily work.

"Popular lore has long depicted the Karankawa Indians as primitive savages who eked out a meager subsistence from fishing, hunting, and gathering on the Texas coastal plains. That caricature hides the reality of a people who were well-adapted to their environment, skillful in using its resources, and successful in maintaining their culture until the arrival of Anglo-American settlers."

Ricklis describes the Karankawa on the middle Texas Coast and their initial dealings with the first Europeans they ever met, who happened to be LaSalle's 1685 ill-fated party as the group arrived in the lower Matagorda Bay area. The interactions began cordially, but deteriorated over time, as readers likely know. Five Karankawa tribes inhabited separate areas along the gulf, living in harsh environments. He tells how they moved around their combined and shared areas on a seasonal basis to exploit and gather resources for sustenance.

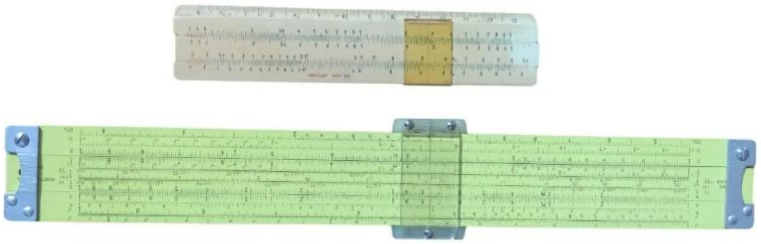
Ricklis paints a detailed picture of the Karankawa people from Archaic times through the Texas Colonial period. These five Karankawa tribes ranged along the Texas coast from the Rio Grande to lower Galveston Bay. They traveled inland several miles along waterways to hunt bison; however, they were quick to return to the bayous and back bays under their control. Then, of course, the influence of Spanish Missions and the eventual Texas Colonial movement brought decades of growing hostilities that ultimately led to the loss of Karankawa traditional tribal culture and their virtual decimation.

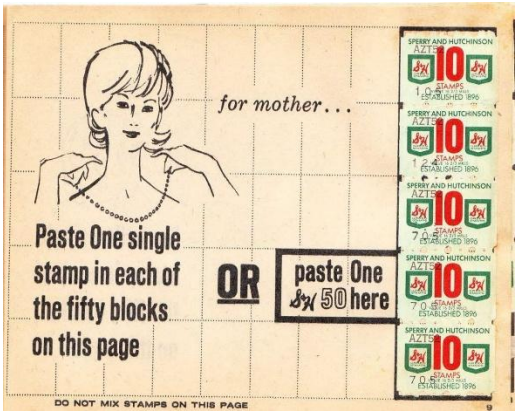
The author synthesized information from fieldwork he personally conducted, as well as discoveries from related prehistoric sites, in a detailed, succinct, and orderly presentation that was easy to follow. The beginning of pottery use, a description of pottery types on the Texas coast, and conversion to the bow and arrow are all discussed within the covers of this book. I recommend this interesting read packed with valuable research data.

For more information, see The Karankawa Indians of Texas : an ecological study of cultural tradition and change: Ricklis Internet Archive; Karankawa Indians of the Texas Coast - Houston Maritime Center & Museum; Karankawa Indians; Galveston's First Settlers: The Karankawa| Rosenberg Library Museum; Karankawa fact sheet, Texas Indians; Karankawa Descendants are Reclaiming Their Heritage After Being Written Off as Extinct; https://karankawas.com/.

Things You Used That Are Now Considered Artifacts

Those of us of a certain vintage ourselves will recognize these items that are now more than fifty years old and qualify as artifacts. What other now-obsolete objects can you recall that were once so common in your own daily life? Send your suggestions and images to newsletter@txhas.org.





Sources: A timeline for pull tabs – Pull Tab Archaeology; Typology – Pull Tab Archaeology; Vintage Bell System Western Electric Harvest Gold Rotary Model 500- Bananarama; Antique Telephones; BBC - A History of the World - Object : Slide Rule; History of the Slide Rule; Vintage slide rule, eBay; S&H Green Stamps Ushered in Age of Rewards Programs; S&H Green Stamps Had Consumers Saving By the Book - Antique Trader.

Happy Independence Day!

John W. Dennett, pub. Yankee Doodle, The Spirit of 1776 Patriotic Postcard; Flags of All Nations, Woman Holding American Flag; Americans Forever Poem.

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. In several 2009 newsletters, John M. Keahey reported on memorable Texas Revolution-era cannons. In this adapted excerpt from the May issue, Keahey discusses his research and opinion about the famous Gonzales Cannon (The Profile).

Gonzales Come and Take It Cannon

As currently displayed, the Gonzales Cannon appears somewhat farcical and not very threatening. It is a miniature cannon, 22 inches long and made of iron. Its homemade carriage sported two solid wood wheels sawn from tree trunks on a recycled cart axle. The bore is not much larger than the standard military smoothbore musket of the day. It apparently had no cannonballs to fire, and certainly none that exploded. As the story goes, in 1831 it had been given by the Mexican Army to the citizens of the town of Gonzales for protection. As hostilities with the Texian colonists became imminent, the Mexican Army came to Gonzales to retrieve their property. The Texians resisted the Mexicans under an impromptu flag which stated, "Come and Take It." The cannon and other more effective weapons were fired at the Mexicans, and one Mexican soldier was killed (probably not by the cannon). That ignited the Texas Revolution. Later during the Texian march to attack San Antonio, the homemade wheels rotating on the wooden axle made a loud screeching noise and repetitively caught fire due to friction. The cannon was unceremoniously dumped in a river. In 1936, some boys swimming in the river found the cannon barrel, and it was displayed in the Gonzales Post Office until moved to the Gonzales Memorial Museum. This is the current accepted story. At least one of the witnesses who saw the actual Gonzales cannon in person in 1835, Noah Smithwick, described it as an old six-pounder field cannon, not a miniature cannon. A six-pounder would be normal field artillery for the period. Armies typically traveled with six, nine, or twelve-pound cannons. This meant that the weight of the round solid iron cannon balls used as ammunition by these cannons weighed approximately six, nine, or twelve pounds, respectively. The reason that the Mexican Army was probably willing to loan this full-size cannon barrel to the Texian settlers was that the vent, the small hole at the breech with which the main charge was fired, had grown larger with corrosion. This made the cannon less effective when fired, not to mention more dangerous to the crew, due to blast of pressure through the enlarged vent. A period powder horn scrimshaw does illustrate the Gonzales Cannon as a full-size artillery piece requiring horse-drawn transportation. This type of cannon would be potentially repairable, worth owning, worth fighting over, and is something that the Mexican Army would actually want returned. Obviously, the cannon displayed as the Gonzales Cannon that started the Texas Revolution does not match any of these criteria. Catholic frontier missions sometimes had small bore cannons with which to scare off hostile tribes. The cannon found by the boys in the river and on display is probably one of those—a Texas colonial-era piece, but perhaps not the true Gonzales Cannon. That field piece may still be in the river.

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. There's lots of historical research and interesting archeology taking place - check out these links: Archaeologists Find Remnants of America's First Soldiers; Revolutionary War barracks in Virginia AP News; The 13 Colonies of America As They Were on July 4th, 1776 Map; Uniform Buttons of the United States, 1776-1865; Colonial and post-colonial ceramics CATsession.pub; New research reveals oldest tombstone in the US came from Belgium | Archaeology News Online Magazine; Key, M.M., Rossi, R.K. (2024). Sourcing the Early Colonial Knight's Black "Marble" Tombstone at Jamestown, Virginia, USA. *Int J Histor Archaeology.* doi:10.1007/s10761-024-00756-4; The Declaration of Independence | Constitution Center; Verifying North Carolina's Turn Toward Independence: Archeology at Moore's Creek National Battlefield; Roman basilica remains uncovered in office block basement; Archaeological Treasures Hidden Beneath the Colosseum | Discover Magazine; Cotswold Archaeology - Virtual Museum; Cotswold Archaeology - Reports Archive; High-Tech Imaging Allows Researchers to Read Handwritten Medieval Arthurian Tales Hidden in the Binding of a Property Record; The Mystery of Siberia's 'Ice Maiden' Mummy | HISTORY; Peer Inside a 2,000-Year-Old Egyptian Cat Mummy; Explore Rome's Hidden Underworld, Where a City Lurks Beneath a City; Archaeologists Found a 5,000-Year-Old Fortress That Nature Had Hidden for Centuries; 12,000-Year-Old Rock Carvings Leave Researchers Baffled, Hint At Lost Civilization; The Amazon and unlocking a lost human history - Washington Post; How the Secrets of an Ancient Greek 'Computer' Were Revealed; What Was the Shot Heard Round the World?

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.
City of London Archaeological Society
7/18 – Friday, 7 p.m. BST/1 p.m. Central. Monthly presentation on a variety of archaeological topics. Events – COLAS.
Council for British Archaeology
7/24 – Thursday, 7 p.m. BST/1 p.m. Central. Bronze, beer and boats: Bringing Prehistoric archaeology to life at Stanwick Lakes. Register at https://www.archaeologyuk.org.
Friends of the Texas Historical Commission
7/24 - Thursday, 6 p.m. Friends of the Texas Historical Commission (neoncrm.com) presents Texas Takes Shape: A History in Maps from the General Land Office. Learn about the maps that have changed the course of history through the lens of the General Land Office (GLO) archives. Register at Registration.
Gloucestershire Archaeological Society
7/5 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. GMT+1. Symposium featuring six speakers discussing excavations including Roman, Bronze Age, and medieval periods. Archaeology in Gloucestershire 2025 Tickets, Sat, Jul 5, 2025| Eventbrite.
Kent Archaeological Society
7/1 – Tuesday, 8 p.m. BST/2 p.m. Central. Mayor-making and other civic ceremonies at the Kent Cinque Ports.
North Texas Archeological Society
7/10 – Thursday, 7 p.m. Monthly meeting of NTAS. Kim Cox discusses the ongoing work at SHUMLA Archeological Research & Education Center, in person and via Zoom. Request Zoom link in advance at info@ntxas.org.
Shumla Archaeological Research & Education
7/16 – Wednesday, Noon. David Keim reviews research and results so far in 2025. Register at Lunch and Learn.
Smithsonian Institution
A current calendar of Smithsonian virtual lectures presented for modest fees may be found at: Events | Smithsonian.
Texas State Historical Association
7/15 – Tuesday, 7 p.m. Witte Museum CEO and President Dr. Michelle Cuellar Everidge discusses the museum's statewide impact.

ON-SITE:
Archeology Now, Houston Society of the Archaeological Institute of America
Through 8/2 - The Great Restoration Adventure: Celebrating the Craftsmen of Notre-Dame. Julia Ideson Library Exhibit Hall, 550 McKinney Street, Houston.
Brazos Valley Museum, Bryan
7/19 – Saturday, 9 a.m. to Noon. Butterfly crafts and butterfly release at 10 a.m. More at Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History.
Bryan Museum, Galveston
7/17 – Thursday, 5:30 p.m. Discussion of the Western Art of Frank Reaugh. Tickets at Blackbaud.
Fanthorpe Inn State Historic Site
7/5 – Saturday, 7 p.m. Discover the story of Dr. Richard Rodgers Peebles, a respected citizen of the Republic of Texas who was held as a political prisoner in the Grimes County jail during the Civil War.
7/12 and 7/13 – Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Amnesty for All Offenses: The 160th Anniversary of Fanthorp's Pardon. Special tours focused on Henry Fanthorp's pardon from President Andrew Johnson and readings of the Juneteenth orders throughout the day.
Fort Bend Archeological Society
7/15 – Tuesday, 7 p.m. Fort Bend Museum Exhibit Gallery, 410 South 5th Street, Richmond. Dave Dyer discusses his book, *The Road to San Jacinto: Retracing the Route of Sam Houston's Army.*
Jornada Research Institute
7/7 through 7/10 – Monday through Thursday. 2025 Archaeoastronomy and Celestial Geometry Conference, Ruidoso Convention Center, NM. Featuring speakers from across the American Southwest, greater North America, Mexico, and Europe. $60 fee.
Kreische Brewery and Monument Hill State Historic Sites
7/5 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Ich Bin Ein Amerikaner. Independence Day festivities including a laser shooting gallery, historic games, patriotic crafts, themed tours of the grounds, and ice cream-making.
Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site
7/19 – Saturday, 4 – 6 p.m. On the Plantation Porch: Video & History, discussion with artists and historical educators.

7/25 through 7/27 – Friday through Sunday. Scouts BSA Archeology Day Camp. Scouts will receive instruction from experienced archeologists, completing requirements for the Archaeology Merit Badge through hands-on projects, research, and presentations.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

7/4 – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Red, White, and Blue Holiday Program: Dyeing with Cochineal.

7/5 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Red, White, and Blue Holiday Program: Dyeing with Indigo.

7/6 – Sunday, 1 – 4 p.m. Red, White, and Blue Holiday Program: Carding Fibers.

7/27 – Sunday, 2 p.m. San Felipe Nature Walk in the Footsteps of Stephen F. Austin, led by Texas Master Naturalists.

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

7/5 – Saturday, 7 a.m. Bird Watching at the Battleground, the native prairie, tidal marsh, and bottomland forest appear much as they did during the Battle of San Jacinto and are home to more than 200 species of birds.

7/5 – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. San Jacinto Family Day: Badges, Buckles, and Buttons. Learn about the various types of military insignias worn by Mexicans and Texians during the battle of San Jacinto.

7/12 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Spinning and Weaving, demonstrations by the Bay Area Weavers and Spinners.

7/14 – Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Revolutionary Flag Making. Discuss and view flags of the revolution, using both artifacts of the San Jacinto Museum and materials pulled from the museum's archives.

7/21 through 7/23, Monday – Wednesday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Experience San Jacinto Summer Camp- July Session**.** Participants learn about history before the battle, the battle itself, and its aftermath through a variety of activities, crafts, and demonstrations.

7/26 – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Demo Day: Toy Touch Table.

Varner-Hogg State Historic Site

7/26 – Saturday, 10 a.m. – Noon. FamilySearch Genealogy Workshop.

Some additional websites listing upcoming area events: Archaeology Now; https://texashighways.com/events/; State Park Events Texas Parks & Wildlife Department; Upcoming Events | Texas Historical Commission.

1776, Second Continental Congress delegates sign the Declaration of Independence | by Bonnie K. Goodman | Medium

Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

Please note that meetings 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.

July 17 - 6:00 p.m., featuring Gary Pinkerton speaking on the Alliance for Texas History and his recent book. In-person meeting at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road; hybrid with a Zoom link provided to members via email.
August 21 - Featuring Mike McBride.
September 18 – Featuring Chris Lintz discussing the Antelope Creek Middle Ceramic Period, Part II.
October 16 – Featuring Greg Dimmick.
November 20 - Featuring Tori Pagano.
December 12 – Come enjoy the HAS Christmas party, holiday treats, and a year-end recap.

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

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

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American National Flag with Thirteen Stars. c. 1845-1860 (Mexican War to Civil War Era). RareFlags.jpg (1200×614).