Texas Archeological Society-ww.txarch.org

FEBRUARY MEETING: The Xibun Valley in Belize, Rebecca Storey, PhD, Associate Professor of Anthropology, U of H, February, 11, 2005.
March presentation by Carol McDavid, PhD. "Pragmatism, Politics, Descendants & Communities: Public Archeology Today."
Anyone wishing to present should contact Muriel Walker at 281-392-7504.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE:
Mondays, February 14 & 28, 7:00 p.m. Rice University Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103.

HAS LIBRARY: Library hours are 6:00 p.m. to 7:20 p.m., Friday, February 11.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:
This month's column is all about membership. First, let's give a final round of applause of all the new members that joined us in the past 12 months. The group includes Sabrina Ceballos, James Foley, Jeannine Garnett, Larry Golden, Sara Guillotte, Vasta Kumar, Jose Loredo, Jr., Stephanie Malone, Jennifer Morehead, Joanna Mundy, Irene and G. Perez, Terrell and Cat Sword, and Fanethia Cox Todd. Welcome!

Veteran members, if you haven't met these folks yet, please seek them out at the next opportunity and get to know them.

In addition, it's time to re-up for 2005. The Houston Archeological Society needs you, so please don't get left off the membership rolls by neglecting to renew on time! OR just bring your renewal to our Secretary, Karen Acker, at the February meeting.

Finally, we need to continue recruiting new members in 2005. Everyone should bring friends, distant relatives, and anybody you know with an interest in archeology to our meetings. The February meeting is a good time to do this, because renowned archeologist Dr. Rebecca Storey will be sharing a fascinating glimpse of her work in Belize. See you there!

Linda Swift, President

MARK YOUR CALENDER!

- Jesse Jones Heritage Day, Saturday, February 19, 2005, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. We need volunteers! Contact Beth Aucoin.

- San Jacinto Day Festival & Battle Reenactment, Saturday, April 23, 2005, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Volunteers needed, contact Beth Aucoin, ekpl.aucoin@prodigy.net, or 281-480-6151.

NEED TO FIND US? Compliments of Fred Kelly:

LOCATION MAP

1. M. D. Anderson Hall
   3900 Mount Vernon
   University of St. Thomas

2. McAgy Archaeology Library
   3907 Yoakum
   University of St. Thomas

Articles Needed! The Profile looks a little bare sometimes. If you've read a good book, seen a show, attended a lecture, or taken a trip that refers to Archeology, please consider writing a paragraph of two and submitting it to me for publication. We have enough members that surely an audience can be found for any interest.

Mary Barbara Gold, Editor, mary.gold@humble.k12.tx.us
Michael Shermer, writing in *Scientific American* magazine as "Skeptic", compiled the life span of 60 past civilizations, including Sumeria, Mesopotamia, Babylonia, the eight dynasties of Egypt, the six civilizations of Greece, the Roman Republic and Empire, and others of the ancient world, plus various civilizations since the fall of Rome, such as nine dynasties (and two republics) of China, four in Africa, six in Central and South America, and six modern states of Europe and America. These civilizations endured a total of 25,234 years, according to Shermer, which averages out to 420.6 years per civilization. However, the 28 civilizations since the fall of Rome only average 304.5 years each. Schermer wonders if our species is not equipped to survive for long periods in large populations.

Fred Kelly, fwkelly@aol.com

---

**Notes on the Xibun Valley Lecture:**

The Xibun valley is not likely to be very well known by anyone. It is in Central Belize and the Xibun is a major river. The archaeological project is run by Patricia McAnay of Boston University and is a multi-year effort to understand this area during the Late Classic Period (c.600 – 900 AD). Much of the area was pretty well abandoned after the Late Classic until Colonial times. Of interest is that this was a prime cacao growing area. One of the sites is called the Hershey site after the company which grew chocolate there until 10 – 15 years ago; it is believed that the Maya were growing cacao as a "cash crop" here as well. The lecture will focus on evidence of a very elaborate mortuary ritual present at the site of Pakal Na, further evidence of the area’s probable chocolate wealth.

---

**Lifespan of Civilizations Diminishing:**

The Profile
ATTENTION ALL HAS MEMBERS: The annual membership drive is underway. Please fill out the form and send it with your dues.

2005 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Houston Archeological Society, P O Box 6751, Houston, TX 77265-6751

Name__________________________________________________________
Address_____________________________________________________
City/State/Zip__________________________________________________________________________
Phone (home)____________________(work)___________________________
E-mail_________________________________________________________________________________

Type of Membership (please circle one)  Individual - $20.00      Contributing - $30.00 +
                                            Family - $25.00            Student - $10.00

ALL MEMBERS MUST SIGN THE FOLLOWING PLEDGE:
I pledge that I will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any present or future federal, state, or local statute concerning cultural resources, or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes or engage in the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques.

Signature___________________________________ Date____________________

Texas Heritage Day Celebration:
Saturday, February 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Jesse H Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Kenswick Dr, Humble. Members will participate in flintknapping demonstrations, assist with a mock dig, and staff archeological displays while visitors make their way to the Redbud Hill Homestead and the Akokisa Indian Village. This is a very popular annual event. If you can help, contact Beth Aucoin, ekpi.aucoin@prodigy.net, or 281-4870-6151. For additional park information call 281-446-8588 or www.cp4.hctx.net/jones.
To submit articles to The Profile, contact Mary Barbara Gold, 3303 Big Spruce, Kingwood, TX 77339, 281-360-5226, or mary.gold@humble.k12.tx.us.