Lisa G. Kalmus to Speak on Guns and Ammo of Texas

Lisa G. Kalmus, Curator of the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center at Texas A&M University, will give a presentation on the Guns and Ammo of Texas as represented in the Sanders-Metzger collection at the January 13 meeting. The Sanders-Metzger collection of historic and rare firearms and weapons is one of the largest in Texas, according to the Texas A&M Corp of Cadets website. Containing over 600 weapons, this remarkable collection is known to gun enthusiasts and historians across the United States, especially for the Commemorative Colt Collection. The collection also contains unique weapons, like ancient Chinese hand cannons and ivory hilt crossbows. Currently the collection is under study as researchers trace the history of each firearm. The Sanders-Metzger Collection can be viewed during open hours at the Sam Houston Sanders Corps Center at Texas A&M.

A native of Rosenberg, Texas, Lisa Kalmus is active in state and national museum associations. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Trinity University in San Antonio and a Master of Arts degree in history from Texas A&M University (class of '93). For 8 years Lisa served as Curator of Education at the Star of the Republic Museum at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Since 2001 Lisa has been Curator of Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

The Month of January

January was the month that the ancient Romans honored their god, Janus, the namesake for January. Janus had two faces and keys jangling from his belt. One of his faces looked to the past and one to the future. His keys opened the doors to a new year, new beginnings and new resolutions. So have a libation to the New Year, but remember the Romans poured their libations on the ground rather than drink them. Happy New Year! –Fred Kelly


(Anyone wishing to deliver a presentation at a future meeting should contact Michael Bailey at mbailey@beamans.com.)
President’s Column

A Promising New Year for HAS

I hope your holidays were the best ever, and that this coming year will be prosperous, fulfilling, and happy for each one of you.

My own holiday experience was different, to say the least, due to unexpected major surgery on December 15. However, with a couple of exceptions, I’m recovering normally—impatiently, but normally. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone again at the January meeting.

The year 2006 promises to be a good one for the Houston Archeological Society. We have an outstanding lineup of interesting programs already booked for most of the year (thank you, Michael!). We have a brand-new editor of the Profile, and I think you can tell by this issue that she’s going to be great (thank you, Sara!). In addition to our ongoing work at San Felipe de Austin (thank you Marianne!), we are planning to put in a test pit this month at a prehistoric site (thank you, Sheldon!). Also, sometime this year HAS will publish an important report on our work at the Powell Site, which many of you helped to excavate.

I hope you have taken advantage of the “easy-pay” dues notices sent out recently by Treasurer Karen Acker. It’s a good time to renew your dues and continue to enjoy the benefits of a great new year with HAS. – Linda Swift

Fieldwork

Shell Midden Test Pit
HAS is invited to do a “quick look” at a shell midden on the south shore of Clear Lake. The date of this work is January 21. Details and a map will be available at January meeting.-Sheldon Kindall

San Felipe de Austin
Marianne Marek indicates that fieldwork is almost over for the season. She’ll be scheduling fieldwork on a week by week basis. Contact Marianne Marek, principal investigator, marianne@nstci.com to be added to her e-mail list of volunteers.

LABORATORY SCHEDULE: January Labs: January 16 and 30, 7:00p.m., Rice U. Archeology Lab, Sewall Hall, Room 103. February Labs: Mondays, February 13 and 27.

HAS Membership Renewal
Membership renewal notices were mailed out on December 27. We are hoping that this will simplify the membership renewal process. The HAS membership year is from January through December. Please return your renewal form as soon as possible. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in 2006. -- Karen Acker

HAS LIBRARY: Open on Friday, January 13 from 6:30PM to 7:20PM, 3907 Yoakum Blvd. Book notes and a complete library database are available online at www.houstonarcheology.org

Minutes of the December 9, 2005 Meeting
Linda Swift, HAS President, announced there would be no business meeting. Instead members enjoyed holiday festivities after the speaker’s presentation.
UPCOMING EVENTS

• "Clovis or Not?—First Settlers" lecture by Dr. Michael Collins, Texas Archeological Research Lab, on Thursday, January 12, at 7:00PM. Archeological Institute of America, Italian Cultural Center, 1101 Milford, Houston.

• Texas Heritage Day, Saturday, February 18, 10 AM – 4 PM, Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Keswick Dr., Humble, 281-446-8588, www.hcp4.net/jones.

• San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment, Saturday, April 22, 10 AM – 5 PM, San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Park, Houston/LaPorte, 281-479-2421. www.san Jacinto-museum.org. Flintknappers, display, and kid’s dig volunteers will be needed for both events.

• The East Texas Archeological Conference is scheduled for February 18, 2006 at the Robert R. Muntz Library on the University of Texas at Tyler campus from 9AM to 4PM. Registration is $10 at the door. For additional information contact Mark Walters, walters@tyler.net.

• The Royal Tombs of Ur: Ancient Treasures from Modern Iraq will be on exhibit at HMNS from February 24 – August 12. Information on the exhibit and two lectures that will be offered can be found on the HMNS Website.

• TAS will offer three sessions of the Texas Archeology Academy in 2006. The first session, led by Dr. Harry Shafer will be Lithics: Reading Stone Artifacts, February 11 -12 at Tarrant County Community College NE, Fort Worth. The workshop is designed to provide hands-on experience for recognizing and analyzing stone artifacts, with a focus on how the archaeological record is formed. For registration and information see www.txarch.org. –Texas Archeology Academy

HAS Archeology Lab

In between interesting monthly speakers and exciting fieldwork opportunities, HAS members also have the chance to “get their hands dirty” twice a month at the HAS Archeology Lab in Room 103 of Sewall Hall at Rice University. Lab nights are held the Monday following the meeting and two weeks later from 7PM – 9PM.

Lab Director Melissa May is assisted by Dick Gregg and Beth Aucoin. At lab, members learn to wash, categorize, count, weight, and catalog artifacts. Once prepared for artifact analysis, the artifacts are researched and identified for subsequent write-up and publication. “Within HAS, we have a number of individuals who have a great deal of expertise in identification and analysis of artifacts. One of the great things about lab is that whoever is there on any given night shares a great deal of information and all there learn something new all the time,” advises Beth Aucoin. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the artifacts unearthed by HAS, and become skilled at archeology laboratory techniques at the HAS Archeology Lab.
NPS Archeologist Conducts Archeological Site Assessments After Hurricane Wilma

On 24 October 2005, Hurricane Wilma caused substantial damage to archeological resources at four national parks: Everglades National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, Dry Tortugas National Park, and Biscayne National Park. SEAC Archeologist Margo Schwadron conducted hurricane damage assessments for some of the archeological resources at the four parks, assessing and updating information on the condition of 31 archeological sites. She found, fortunately, that most of the sites had suffered minimal damage. The most severely impacted sites, however, were shell mound sites in Everglades National Park, which suffered erosion. Also damaged was the moat around Fort Jefferson, in Dry Tortugas National Park.-“Projects in Parks”, Archeology E-Gram

Please submit articles for publication to Sara Guillote, sguillote@hotmail.com
Submit articles no later than January 27, for the February issue.

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

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The Profile

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