



# The Profile

July, 2008

## Archeology at the Top of Texas: the 2008 TAS Field School

The Texas Archeological Society's annual Field School was held June 13-21 at the Courson Ranch in Ochiltree County in the far northern Texas Panhandle. Early reports from attendees indicate the Field School was successful and fun, with the usual challenges presented by Mother Nature. Tent campers in Wolf Creek Park were "treated" to a high-intensity wind storm that blew some tents away, but everyone survived to dig some more. Our July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature reports from HAS members who attended Field School, so be sure to join us for a lively retelling of their adventures at the "top of Texas."

According to the report of Principal Investigator Dr. Scott Brosowske on the TAS web site, the 2008 Field School was composed of four sites: Chill Hill, Halston, Evans's 1969 Military Supply Depot, and a group of Late archaic/ Woodland camp sites.

Chill Hill was a horticultural Antelope Creek phase village located on a dividing ridge between two tributaries of the Canadian River. Discovered in 2005, this site is quite large—600,000 square meters, with plentiful artifacts scattered about the surface, and remains of houses, middens, storage facilities, hearths, and other activity areas known to be buried at shallow levels. The goal of this Field School was to uncover enough structures to begin to understand how the village was laid out and organized. In addition, Dr. Brosowske hoped to begin to understand Chill Hill's relationship to other sites scattered up one of the streams.

The Halston site is a historic Indian encampment occupied from time to time between 1825 and 1875 near the Buried City site on Wolf Creek. Artifacts already recovered include metal arrowpoints, horse tackle, tin and brass items, glass beads, buttons, butcher knives, awls, parts of guns, etc. The goals in excavating this site included 1) determining how many times the site was occupied, 2) gaining an understanding of when the crucial transition between bone and stone implements to metal ones occurred, and finally, 3) comparing and contrasting the lifeways of this culture with other known contemporary Indian cultures.

The 1868 Military Supply Depot was established by Brevet Lieutenant Colonel A. E. Evans, who commanded a group of 525 men from Ft. Bascom, New Mexico, Ft. Lyon, Colorado, and Kansas. The fort was established as part of General Philip Sheridan's 1868 winter campaign against raiding Indians. Dr. Brosowske planned for Field School participants to excavate the living quarters to determine any differences in areas occupied by officers, enlisted men, teamsters, and guides, to determine types of food consumed and whether there were any diet differences among the different types of occupants.

While there are thousands of Late Archaic/Woodland sites in this region, a group of five stratified sites have been identified on a tributary of the Canadian River that represent encampments over two thousand years from 1000 BC to AD 1000. Excavations in this area were planned to help date the transitions from the use of the atlatl to the bow and arrow, to development of ceramics to possibly horticulture.

As always, pedestrian surveys were planned, with one crew identifying historic sites with metal detectors, and one crew identifying prehistoric sites.

Our July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall of the University of St. Thomas, at 7:30 p.m. Parking: Use the Moran Center Parking Garage at the corner of W. Alabama and Graustark, or park in Faculty Lot S at Montrose and Branard after 7:00 pm. For a detailed map, visit our website at [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org), or e-mail [HASEvents@aol.com](mailto:HASEvents@aol.com).

**August meeting:** Next meeting is Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, featuring a program on the Texas Chihuahua Trail in Presidio County by Victoria Scism.

**Lab Schedule:** We will meet on July 14<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. Check [www.houstonarcheology.org](http://www.houstonarcheology.org) for a map.

## The Prez Sez

I hope everyone is having a good summer. A bit warmer and drier than last year, I would say.

Things continue to unravel and ravel (?) at HAS. The books have been inventoried, packed, and moved to a storage unit in Manvel. And that isn't so far from the University of St. Thomas. We have the books, reports, etc., that we will keep, and we will have a HUGE book sale, hopefully in September.

All the members who helped make this move easy will be "hurrahed" at the July meeting. Be there!

Now for the unraveling. We no longer have storage space in the Anderson building. They are adding classrooms where the storage booth used to be. I'm still trying to get verification that we can use Anderson in July and August. If not, a sign will be posted where we are meeting. There may or may not be refreshments in July.

July is the month that we see and/or hear about Field School. Since we'll be back at the same dig site next year, you should know all about it, so you can decide if you want to participate.

I am very pleased that our new members are kicking in and becoming involved. The purpose of HAS is to *do* things, not just sit, listen and watch! I hope the enthusiasm continues to grow over into the long-term and not so long-term members

See you at the meeting!

-- Diane Baird, HAS President

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### Minutes of the May, 2008, HAS Meeting

Diane Baird, HAS President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

#### Announcements:

- Volunteers are needed to help move boxes of library books on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Karen Acker gave a membership report stating that the HAS current membership is around 97; there were 6 new members and 27 that did not renew.
- Richard Carter reported on the Website.
- Linda Swift reported that the Journal could be picked up at the meeting.
- Diane said the TAS Field School would be held in the Panhandle near Perryton and the dates were June 14-21.
- Diane talked about the Yates tour.
- The Awards Committee will consist of Beth Aucoin, Richard Carter, and Wanda Carter.
- The Audit Committee will be headed by Roy Whitney and 2 other volunteers.

#### Program:

Michael Bailey, HAS V-P, introduced the speaker, Douglas Boyd of Prewitt & Associates, who spoke on the "Archeological & Historical Investigations at West Columbia, First Capital of the Republic of Texas."

--Submitted by Muriel Walker

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### What I Did on My Vacation

Your editor has just returned from a great Mediterranean cruise, including archeological tours of Rome, Corinth, Mycenae, and Olympia. However, since the Mediterranean has been occupied for thousands of years, most everywhere you go is a historical site. People there often refer to "new" buildings dating from the last fire in the 16<sup>th</sup> century!

If there is time on the July program, I'll share a few pictures. Meanwhile, here is a photo of the famous Lions Gate at Mycenae.

--Linda Swift



## Texas Beyond History Needs Galveston Photos

I am working with Bob Ricklis on a TBH exhibit on the Mitchell Ridge site (GV66) on Galveston Island. As many of you will know, this occupation and cemetery site dating to the Late Prehistoric through Early Historic periods was excavated by the HAS and TAS in the 1970s and by Ricklis in 1992, leading to a substantive 1994 report. The site records are curated here at TARL, and Bob has provided additional photos, so we have a pretty good set of excavation, feature, and artifact photos to work with.

But, as TBH viewers will know, images are essential to tell a good story, especially context, context, context -- the land, the critters, the natural processes. Sequences showing similar or contrasting landscape views at different seasons and conditions (winter-summer, calm-storm, etc.) are particularly useful in helping convey a sense of time and place.

We need context photos of three sorts:

- (1) Galveston beach, waves, dunes, storms, weather, etc.
- (2) Galveston Bay margins, main bay, reefs, secondary bays and bayous, weather, etc.; and
- (3) Typical native wildlife -- plants and animals, especially those that were consumed by native peoples and especially those that are pictured in Galveston Bay (or Upper Coast) area, and in more or less natural settings. Not to be picky, but these need to be decent photos (in focus and actually show things that help tell story), although we can and will do Photoshop work to crop, remove extraneous modern stuff, and balance color as needed.

We need these in digital form (although we could scan prints or slides if they are really good shots and you can get them to me at TARL), preferably color JPGs of at least 1200 pixels in maximum dimension (prefer 1500 or more, especially when the things of interest are only a small part of the photo). Unfortunately, we have no funds to pay use fees, thus we need your permission to use these gratis. Please provide credit information (photographer) and give me basic info (what picture shows,

where picture taken and approximately when taken).

I realize this is a heck of a lot to ask, but if you happen to have such photos that you would be willing to share for a good cause (or know someone who would), please contact me.

Long-shortly yours,  
Stephen L. Black, Ph.D.  
Co-Editor, [www.texasbeyondhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net)  
Texas Archeological Research Laboratory  
University of Texas at Austin  
512-471-5998

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### New San Felipe Book Due Soon

Marianne Marek has sent us a notice regarding a new book, soon to be published, authored by Pat Goodrich, entitled, *San Felipe and the Battle for Bexar, December 5-10, 1835: Blueprint for a New Nation*. According to the notice:

“We did not steal Texas from Mexico as some say: we were invited to come! Mexico wanted a buffer between them and hostile Indians. They wanted to settle Texas before France and Spain did. They liked the American system with State governments.

“Read about the courageous settlers who endured severe hardships. Share the thrill of founding a new country in the wilderness. Meet Gail Borden, the unsung hero who kept the colony informed about the progress with his weekly newspaper and in troubled times the importance of words being mightier than swords. Learn how the despot Santa Anna broke Mexico’s earlier agreement to Texas.

“This book includes details about the important strategic BIG BATTLE neglected by many historians.

“Get your name on a list; it will be popular.”

For more information, write the author at P.O. Box 418, Pinehurst, TX 77362, or phone 281-356-2429.

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**The 79th TAS Annual Meeting** will be October 24-26, 2008, in Lubbock. Start now making your plans to attend.

## Update on Excavations in Macedonia

The Texas Foundation for Archeological & Historical Research is sponsoring a project at Bilazora, Macedonia that is in its second week of excavations. Here are a few excerpts from their last report:

“You might remember from last week’s update that we found an amphora handle with a stamp on it. This handle has been cleaned, photographed and drawn, revealing the inscription which tells us that the amphora came from the island of Thasos.

“Approximately 20 meters of the large defensive wall on the north side of the acropolis have been uncovered. ...The pottery sequence accords with what we know about the history of Bilazora, that it was inhabited from the 7<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century BC until its destruction by the Celts and then the Romans in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.

“South of the defensive wall, we have discovered an extensive destruction layer. We have excavated through collapsed wattle-and-daub walls, large deposits of charcoal and masses of burnt mud brick underneath a thick layer of terracotta roof tiles. Within this destruction layer was a deposit of smashed Hellenistic pottery (amphoras, bowls, jugs, etc.). These destroyed structures we presume [represent] the last days of Bilazora.

“We are taking still and video images of our work, for use in our Tell Ubivis project. This is the project in which TFAHR, with local volunteers, builds a set of mock ruins for students to excavate under the direction of a teacher who has participated in a TFAHR excavation. Next school year, the Tell Ubivis project will come to Startzville Elementary School in Canyon Lake, Texas.”

--*Eulah Matthews and Bill Neidinger*

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Please submit articles for publication to Linda Swift, [swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net)  
Submit articles no later than July 25 for the August issue.

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

#### HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Diane Baird, President, [diba1995@att.net](mailto:diba1995@att.net)

Muriel Walker, Director-at-Large, [murielwalker02@comcast.net](mailto:murielwalker02@comcast.net)

Michael Bailey, Vice President, [m Bailey@beamans.com](mailto:m Bailey@beamans.com)

Phyllis Bradley, Director-at-Large, [pebradley@worldnet.att.net](mailto:pebradley@worldnet.att.net)

Ed Masten, Treasurer, [cleee@hcpl.net](mailto:cleee@hcpl.net)

Lucia Bonno, Director-at-Large, 713-961-0455

Kathleen Barry, Secretary, [kate\\_barry42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kate_barry42@sbcglobal.net)

#### TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, [ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net](mailto:ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net)

Don Keyes, [keyes\\_don@hotmail.com](mailto:keyes_don@hotmail.com)

Sheldon Kindall, [kindall1@peoplepc.com](mailto:kindall1@peoplepc.com)

Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251

Bev Mendenhall, [bmend2@yahoo.com](mailto:bmend2@yahoo.com)

Joe D. Hudgins, [manso@jdhudgins.com](mailto:manso@jdhudgins.com)

Richard L. Gregg, [rlgregg@worldnet.att.net](mailto:rlgregg@worldnet.att.net)

Sandra & Johnny Pollan, [pollanone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pollanone@sbcglobal.net)

Marilyn & Walter Horton, [wmh@houston.rr.com](mailto:wmh@houston.rr.com)

Sandra Rogers, [sojourne@consolidated.net](mailto:sojourne@consolidated.net)

#### TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Pat Mercado-Allinger, [pat.Mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:pat.Mercado-allinger@thc.state.tx.us)

Jeff Durst, [jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us)

#### TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sue Gross, Region V Director, [suegbobs@houston.rr.com](mailto:suegbobs@houston.rr.com)

Laurie Moseley, President, [tasinquiries@txarch.org](mailto:tasinquiries@txarch.org)

Pam Wheat-Stranahan, Executive Director, [pwheat@vplus.com](mailto:pwheat@vplus.com)

Web Site: [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org)

*The Profile*

**Houston Archeological Society**

P O Box 6751

Houston, TX 77265-6751

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