



Thursday, May 17th, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

“Borderland Bannerstones of Texas: Old Finds and New Data from 41HR184” – Dr. Gus Costa

HAS Member and professional archeologist Dr. August Costa will present the program at the Thursday, May 17th meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. Dr. Costa’s talk will focus on some very unique prehistoric artifacts recently recovered at a site in west Harris County. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the basement of Doherty Library Room 009 on the campus of the University of St. Thomas. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public.

Five fragmentary groundstone artifacts, interpreted as bannerstones were recently recovered from 41HR184 in western Harris County, Texas. Bannerstones are geometric, groundstone objects, marked by a central, drilled perforation. Bannerstones are found in Archaic contexts throughout the woodlands of the American Southeast. These artifacts are rare and are often fashioned in exotic stone materials. These pecked, ground, and polished stones represent some of the first lapidary art known in America and reflect a significant ethno-geological knowledge of exotic stone sources and their properties. Bannerstones are found in a variety of settings including mortuary contexts where they sometimes appear to have been ceremonially broken. Only a handful of bannerstones are known from well-documented archeological contexts in Texas. The new specimens from 41HR184 significantly increase the overall sample of Archaic bannerstones from controlled excavations in Texas. In this talk, Dr. Costa will describe these new specimens and place them within a broader context of Archaic bannerstone finds from Texas. More detailed studies of bannerstone materials, technology, and temporal contexts are needed to better understand the role these items played in Archaic Period society.



Dr. August “Gus” Costa earned a doctorate focusing on paleoanthropology at Indiana University, where he was a Fulbright and Leakey Foundation fellow conducting expeditions to India supported by the National Science Foundation. His academic work in India focused on the earliest human occupation of South Asia. Gus led a field program that identified the most productive Ice Age fossil locality in western India and discovered a new species of extinct antelope as well as numerous prehistoric artifacts. Gus has more than 18 years’ experience in archeology and has carried out field and lab-based work in Asia, Africa and Europe, as well as numerous projects within the US including Texas, Arkansas, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Indiana. Dr. Costa served as an adjunct lecturer at Rice University where he has taught courses in geoarchaeology, paleontology, paleotechnology and Asian Prehistory. Gus has also been active in public archeology in Texas and previously served as lab director/advisor for the Houston Archeological Society.

Since 2015 Gus has worked for Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc./Coastal Environments Inc. where he now serves as a Principal Investigator/Project Manager, geoarcheologist, and analyst. Gus has contributed to numerous cultural resource surveys and acted as a consulting geoarchaeologist and analyst for both survey and data recovery projects in southeast Texas. More recently Gus has supervised excavations in northeast Texas, as well as large archeological monitoring projects in the Greater Houston area.

For a campus map of the University of St. Thomas, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the Interactive Map, Building 22, Doherty Library. Street parking is available as well as paid parking in Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Linda Gorski, at lindagorski@cs.com.



President’s Message – Linda Gorski

HAS Members and Friends –

The Houston Archeological Society is known across the state of Texas for its education, public outreach and community service efforts. Recently, a team of HAS volunteers led by professional archeologists Ashley Jones and Kristi Miller Nichols of the archeological firm Raba Kistner, Inc. added hugely to that reputation. And, as president of HAS, I can’t help but brag about them!

As most of you know, Ashley is our PI on the Kleb Woods Public Archeology project in Tomball, Texas. This project was undertaken last year at the request of the staff at Kleb Woods Nature Center and Harris County Precinct 3. The proposed archaeological investigations are scheduled to have several components: first, a ground penetrating radar study to identify locations of foundations, middens, and other sub-surface archaeological features; second, sub-surface investigations of anomalies identified by GPR and of areas identified by the PI; and third, a public outreach component that includes sponsored excavations. HAS has already conducted several

archeological digs at the site during which the public has been invited to participate.

Recently the first ground penetrating radar study was conducted on a portion of the site by volunteers from HAS supporting the professional archeologists (Jones, Nichols and Dan Warren of P & C Scientific, LLC) and several anomalies were found which will be further investigated in the coming months. However, the GPR survey that day did not stop there!



The GPR Team at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve



GPR surveying at the Fritsche Cemetery

Ashley and Sharon Menegaz, the HAS volunteer coordinator for the project, had been contacted by a cemetery association from the nearby Neudorf-Fritsche Cemetery in Cypress asking for help in locating unmarked graves in this very historic German cemetery. The cemetery association had been trying for years to get a GPR survey done on the site without much luck. But fortunately for them the Raba Kistner team has a strong community service and public outreach component and quickly agreed to do the work. In a three-page handwritten letter Ashley received following the survey from Roland Dossman, President of the Fritsche Cemetery Association, the outpouring of gratitude was obvious.

“She (Ashley) is a project archeologist with a company called Raba Kistner who had GPR and often did community service work. They would help us locate unmarked graves at no cost to us. To date almost twenty unmarked graves have been located. In your prayers, give God thanks. Also thank him for Ashley Jones and the owner of Raba Kistner for his thinking that a company should give back to the community it serves and also to all those individuals who gave their time on a Saturday afternoon to help us, including the GPR operator (Nichols) who drove from San Antonio to Houston and then back the same day.”

Kudos to the whole team and especially to Ashley Jones and Kristi Nichols for a job well done! Watch for more information about our next project weekend at Kleb Woods.

MINUTES

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting

April 19, 2018

Welcome New Members and Guests: Linda Gorski, President, called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM, and extended a special “welcome back” to Beth and Pat Aucoin!

Treasurer’s Report (Bob Sewell): Bob reported amounts in the HAS checking and savings accounts. If any member is interested in more information about HAS finances, please see Bob.

Membership (Bob Sewell): Current membership totals 194. All 2017 members who have not renewed have been moved to the inactive list.

New Business

Publications (Louis Aulbach): Louis continued to distribute Journal #138 (“Special Issue Dedicated to Etruscan and Roman Archeology”). The new Special Report #30 (“Dalmanutha, Rosslands and Sunny Slopes Farms: Three New Fauresmith Industry Sites in the Eastern Cape Province, Republic of South Africa,” by Dub Crook) was distributed to members in attendance at tonight’s meeting. These publications are complimentary to paid HAS members. Non-members may purchase copies. Next month’s publication will be Special Report #31 (“Mossy Grove Culture Ceramics from Montgomery, Walker, Polk and San Jacinto Counties” by Tim Perttula).

Lab Report (Linda Gorski): Watch this space! We will be cleaning Frost Town and Cotton Field artifacts soon. Members not wishing to dig at Frost Town can choose instead to participate in “Labs at Linda’s.”

Projects

Frost Town (Dr. Jason Barrett): Frost Town is in full swing again. Archeologist Doug Boyd has set aside piles of dirt for HAS to screen. Some very interesting artifacts have been recovered, including a Todd Shipyards token, an 1893 Chicago World’s Fair Souvenir, numerous bottles, marbles, buttons, etc. Dr. Barrett also reports the finding of another cistern! He also announced that the Institute of Texan Cultures exhibit called “Brewing Up Texas” includes a bottle from the Frost Town Site! Members are invited to join us at this project.

Kleb Woods Public Archeology Project (Ashley Jones): Ashley reports that a GPR survey of three areas produced one with good results which needs further interpretation. Also, GPR of a local cemetery resulted in locating 20 additional, previously unknown, graves. The cemetery association is very thankful for our help! The next date at Kleb Woods is April 21, which will be a public education day. Forensic artist and sculptor Amanda Danning will be appearing at Kleb Woods on Tuesday, April 24, and you are welcome to attend but must make an rsvp through HAS member Sharon Menegaz.

TAS Field School 2018 (Linda Gorski): This year’s field school will be held again at Camp Woods on the Nueces River. Many HAS members are going. HAS will award two scholarships to students over the age of 18 to help them attend. See Linda for more information after the meeting. Applications are on the table outside.

Heritage Society Exhibit (Linda Gorski): This exhibit will open May 16 and will feature artifacts from the Milam Street Dredge Project that HAS members processed and Joshua Farrar, HAS member and A & M grad student, conserved for his doctoral thesis. Larry Golden has also donated artifacts, as has Doug Boyd and TxDOT from the Frost Town archeological site. Watch for the article in our May newsletter about this exciting exhibit.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site (Linda Gorski): The grand opening of the new museum is on April 27th beginning at 1:30 PM. HAS, which has participated in many archeological excavations there, is looking forward to some of the artifacts we recovered being on display. Bryan McCauley, San Felipe de Austin Site Manager, says that they are using a lot of archeology and multi-media in the exhibits. Bryan and 4 other staff members at the museum were recognized tonight at the meeting: Shelley Wong, Sarah Chesney, Eleanor Stoddart and Danielle Brissette.

May Program

Dr. August Costa – “Borderland Bannerstones: Old Finds and New Data from 41HR184”

Five fragmentary groundstone artifacts, interpreted as bannerstones, were recently recovered from 41HR184 in western Harris County, Texas. Bannerstones are geometric, groundstone objects, marked by a central, drilled perforation. In this talk, Dr. Costa will describe these new specimens and place them within a broader context of Archaic bannerstone finds from Texas.

APRIL PROGRAM

HAS member Steve Davis presented an excellent program highlighting archeology at San Felipe through the discovery of a distinctive “flow-blue” white body earthenware ceramic sherd with a sea shell pattern that was discovered in 2017. This presentation detailed the research, yet ongoing, into this artifact with the stated goal of determining who may have brought such a distinctive ceramic artifact to a pioneer outpost on the frontier of Texas.

Beth Kennedy, Secretary

Work Continues at Frost Town site in Downtown Houston

By Linda Gorski

Since most of our HAS members know about the archeological project at the Frost Town site in Houston, we'll dispense with words this month and have a picture story about the project and the artifacts that both the professional team and HAS volunteers are recovering at the site. Thanks again to TxDOT and Prewitt and Associates, Inc. for giving us this terrific opportunity to dig up Texas history with them! Watch for emails from Bob Sewell about future work dates at the site.



HAS volunteers at Frost Town normally screen dirt that has been piled up from cultural features.



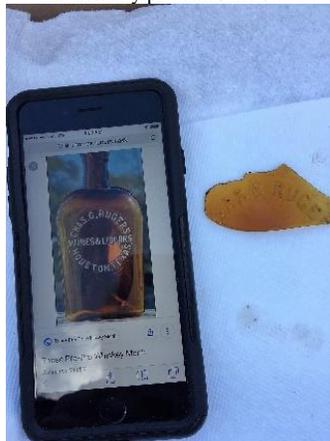
But on this occasion our team was asked to excavate a gully on the site. The deposit has artifacts from the Civil War era and earlier.



The professional team excavating a very shallow feature and showing our team the concentration of ceramics they just recovered. See the prize in the next photo.



This is what they recovered – sherds from a very early 19th century English ceramic plate that actually pre-dates the site!!



We have a great resource in HAS member Larry Golden who can find information on the internet virtually the minute we recover an artifact. This is a sherd of a glass bottle recovered and the complete bottle on Larry's phone.



Sherds of a 25-gallon crock from cistern Feature 23. Almost enough to reconstruct it!



We've recovered literally hundreds of marbles at the site. These came out of cistern Feature 23 in just one morning.



Military button – several have been recovered from each of the features.



Just washed diagnostic ceramic shards recovered by HAS volunteers from cistern Feature 13

A GLASS SHARD FROM FROST TOWN: PHENIX DAIRY

Identifying a shard of glass with only a few letters instantly becomes a game of “Wheel of Fortune” given the “H NI” and one’s knowledge of local bottles. PHENIX DAIRY! Now the remaining questions need to be answered age, location, etc.

Morris Oldham was born April 1886 in Springfield, Ohio and graduated from Cornell University in 1910 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. As Linda had mentioned in last month’s newsletter, we found Mr. Oldham moved to Houston and sold his first bottle of milk in 1914. The Phenix Dairy was born and established many Houston dairy industry firsts; first to produce homogenized milk and buttermilk, deliver refrigerated milk directly to the refrigerator, pasteurize milk properly and make day time deliveries. “Now for the rest of the story...”. Mr. Oldham being a very generous and religious man allowed employees to purchase stock at reduced prices and in 1949 established the Oldham Little Church Foundation with a three million dollar trust. In 1952 Phenix Dairy merged with the Foremost Dairy allowing him to devote his time to his foundation. Mr. Oldham passed away in July 1955. The Oldham Little Church Foundation still provides grants today. His initial trust of three million dollars has generated over forty-three million dollars in grants to over 16,400 churches. (For more information and history on the Oldham Little Church Foundation see www.oldhamlcf.org)



To date our Phenix milk bottle shard we turn to the *sha.org* site and find in 1933 that milk bottles began to be produced with “Applied Color Labeling” which was popular through the 50’s and early 60’s. Our shard has orange ACL letters “H NI”. The shard appears to be from a square bottle which was popular during the 40’s. Buck Glass Co., Baltimore, Maryland (1909-1961) Vice President Royden “Roy” Blunt invented the square milk bottle in the early 40’s which became the industry standard. AS A SIDE NOTE THE BUCK GLASS CO. CLOSED ITS LAST “BLOW SHOP” IN 1918, FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER THE INVENTION OF THE OWENS AUTOMATIC BOTTLE MACHINE.

In closing:

1. 1914 - Phenix Dairy founded
 2. 1933 – Applied Color Labeling used
 3. Early 1940’s – Square milk bottle standardized
 4. 1952 – Phenix merges with Foremost
- Possible milk bottle age early 1940’s - 1952



1948 Houston Dairy Days



Phenix Token



Phenix Trolley Sign

First Aid Corner: TETANUS! by Liz Coon-Nguyen

Anyone involved in any activity in the dirt is at risk of exposure to tetanus, especially if that activity could involve contact with or puncture by sharp objects such as rusty metal, sharp glass or ceramic shards!

Spores of the anaerobic bacterium *Clostridium tetani* can survive for years in the environment, especially soil, and are ubiquitous. They are not killed by disinfectants, heat or desiccation. Once introduced into a favorable anaerobic environment, such as the base of a puncture wound, they germinate. A tetanus infection does not incite a significant inflammatory response and therefore infected wounds may appear quite benign, without the redness, warmth or drainage associated with a typical wound infection. The bacteria produce a neurotoxin, tetanospasmin, which is responsible for the clinical symptoms of a tetanus infection.

The neurotoxin causes rigidity and muscle spasms, often of the abdominal muscles and facial/neck muscles. It is the facial involvement that is the reason for the name “lockjaw”. As rigidity progresses, victims suffer severe pain, with the possibility of bone fractures and ultimately respiratory failure. Mortality rates are estimated at 10-20%, even in the era of modern medicine.

Thankfully tetanus infection has become quite rare in developed countries due to childhood vaccination. The relatively few cases tend to occur in un-vaccinated or under-vaccinated individuals, so it is important to stay up to date with tetanus boosters throughout life. By age 70, fewer than 30% of individuals retain immunity, primarily because of failure to maintain tetanus boosters every 10 years!

In the event of a puncture wound, it is important to thoroughly wash the area. This is also an excellent opportunity to seek out a tetanus booster if it has been 5 or more years since the last dose! Keep the wound clean to avoid further contamination. Seek medical help immediately if any symptoms should occur.

References:

<https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/229594-overview#a6>

<https://www.cdc.gov/tetanus/clinicians.html#symptoms>

https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/tetanus/symptoms-causes/syc-20351625?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=abstract&utm_content=Tetanus&utm_campaign=Knowledge-panel

Dumped and Forgotten Below the Milam Street Bridge: Houston in the Civil War May 16 – August 4, Heritage Society Museum, Houston

By Linda Gorski

The Houston Archeological Society (HAS) is proud to announce its contributions to the newest exhibit that will open on May 16 at the Heritage Society Museum in Sam Houston Park, downtown Houston. Among the highlights of the exhibit, entitled “*Dumped and Forgotten: Below the Milam Street Bridge: Houston the Civil War*” is an amazing, never-before exhibited Civil War era archeological collection that has received new life with modern conservation treatments and has been researched by experts in munitions from the HAS.

After the war ended in 1865, munitions, once housed at the Kennedy building located at Travis and Congress, were dumped into the bayou. In addition, a blockade runner and two associated barges, moored on Buffalo Bayou at Milam Street, were scuttled. The disposal of the weaponry was part of an effort to deprive both rebel deserters and approaching Union forces of the equipment and supplies of the Confederate government.

This collection was first discovered in the summer of 1968, as a local salvage group organized an excavation of Buffalo Bayou near the Milam Street Bridge in the hopes of recovering long-forgotten Civil War artifacts. After these artifacts were dredged from the Bayou in 1968, they were stored in a series of facilities before members of the Houston Archeological Society along with Ginger Berni, Curator of Collections, at the Heritage Society, located them. HAS members, including several Civil War experts, were tasked with sorting, identifying and cataloguing the literally hundreds of artifacts. HAS member and PhD graduate student at Texas A & M University, Joshua Farrar, then conserved many of these artifacts at the A & M Conservation lab and is currently writing a report on this collection for his thesis. Now, these artifacts, along with others on loan from numerous local institutions and collectors, can help shed light on the impact of the Civil War on the Houston area.



Joshua Farrar conserves artifacts at Texas A&M



A collection of Parrot Shells from Buffalo Bayou



Musket balls retrieved from Buffalo Bayou

Among the private collectors loaning items to the exhibit is HAS board member Larry Golden who has provided several Civil War items recovered by his family in the 1960's from the mudflats at the Townsite of San Jacinto, including uniform buttons, buckles, bullets, bone buttons, saddle parts ... and even a bowie knife! TxDOT and Prewitt and Associates, the archeologists in charge of the Frost Town archeological site in downtown Houston, have also recovered many Civil War era items at the site and are loaning them to the Heritage Society for this exhibit. The best part is that



Civil War era buckles



Bowie knife recovered from the San Jacinto Town Site

members of the Houston Archeological Society, working with TxDOT and PAI at Frost Town, recovered many of these items including a pair of wooden dice, pieces of a Civil War era scroll flask, period ceramics, and a commemorative medal from a Civil War Veterans Reunion held in Houston in 1903!!!

The purpose of this exhibit is to educate visitors about Houston's role as a commercial hub in the Civil War and to discover what happened to these artifacts once abandoned in the bayou. Other stories that will be addressed include urban slavery in Houston and Juneteenth, an area Union prison camp, "Fort Humbug," the murder of General John Wharton in downtown Houston, blockade running and much more. Information about this exhibit should be posted soon on the Heritage Society website at <http://www.heritagesociety.org/>

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HAS Publications Schedule 2018

The following publications will be made available to members on record at the Monthly Meetings shown.

March 2018 (Distribution already started): Journal #138 – Special Issue Dedicated to Etruscan and Roman Archeology.

April 2018: (Distribution already started): Report #30 - Dalmanutha, Rosslands and Sunny Slopes Farms: Three New Fauresmith Industry Sites in the Eastern Cape Province, Republic of South Africa. This is a special paper on the three Fauresmith Industry sites that Dub Crook has been working on in South Africa.

May 2018: Report #31 – The Strawberry Hill Site (41SJ160) Ceramic Vessel Sherd Assemblage, San Jacinto County, Texas and Comparisons to other Mossy Grove Culture Ceramic Assemblages. This is a report by Tim Perttula on the Strawberry Hill Site ceramics and other sites from Southeast Texas.

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2018
7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
Doherty Library, St. Thomas University

Programs for 2018

June - No Meeting due to TAS Field School

July 19, 2018 - Field School Update

August 16, 2018 - Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski - "Archeological Sites in Ostia Antica"

September 20, 2018 - Wilson "Dub" Crook - "Update on the Andy Kyle Program" / HAS Annual Meeting

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS then visited our website at www.txhas.org or email lindagorski@cs.com. You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

There will be no newsletter in June, but we will be back in July. Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Submit articles no later than June 28th for the July 2018 issue.

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

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