Thursday, February 15th, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.
“The Archeology of Arrows Along the Texas Coast: Observations from the La Salle Affair in the 1680s” – Brad Jones

Anyone interested in the prehistory (and history) of the Gulf Coast region will want to attend the Thursday, February 15th meeting of the Houston Archeological Society when Brad Jones, Collections Manager for the Texas Historical Commission, will discuss the Archeology of Arrows along the Texas Coast and the ill-fated La Salle expedition in the 1680s. The meeting will be held 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.

La Salle’s failed expedition to establish a French colony on the Mississippi in 1684 left behind a rich archival record from both French and Spanish eyewitnesses. Among these are several observations on the social context of arrow use among the indigenous groups that were encountered between 1685 and 1690. Reading between the lines, these documents have interesting implications for interpreting arrows found in regional archeological contexts as well as across Texas. Drawing on results from the THC’s excavations of La Salle’s wrecked ship La Belle and the site of his settlement of Fort St. Louis and 1720-26 Spanish Presidio La Bahia, the talk examines how these early records enrich our understanding of the archaeology of arrows and the persistence of this technology among indigenous communities in the changing social contexts of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Bradford M. Jones has been an archeologist for eight years for the Texas Historical Commission’s Archeology Division (AD). Currently the Curatorial Facility Certification Program Manager and AD’s Collection Manager, Mr. Jones has over 20 years of experience in the archaeology and history of Texas, Ecuador and Peru. In addition to serving as the La Belle Collection Manager, Mr. Jones is an editor and author of the La Belle technical volume and currently working on the analysis and publication of the THC’s excavation of the site of La Salle’s Fort St. Louis and the 1720s location of the Spanish Presidio La Bahia.

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 HAS, please contact Linda Gorski, at lindagorski@cs.com.
President’s Message – Linda Gorski

HAS Members and Friends –

Have any of you ever trolled the internet looking for opportunities to attend an archeological field school anywhere in the United States or the world? You can spend thousands and thousands of dollars to pay someone to let you dig in the dirt, not counting the travel and lodging expenses! Did you know that you can attend a weeklong field school right here in Texas that will cost you much less and give you the opportunity to dig with some of the most experienced professional and avocational archeologists in the state!

It is not too early to make plans to join members of the Texas Archeological Society (and a bunch of your fellow Houston Archeological Society members) at this year’s TAS Field School, June 9 – 16, at Camp Wood in Real County, Texas. Registration for this event opened on January 21 and you can read all about it at https://txarch.org/get-involved/field-schools

In a nutshell, the Texas Archeological Society’s annual summer Field School will return for a second year to the beautiful Nueces Canyon in Camp Wood and Barksdale. We will continue our work assisting Dr. Tamra Walter and her students from Texas Tech University with their research on the archeology of Mission San Lorenzo de la Cruz. Once again, we will be welcomed into the communities of Camp Wood and Barksdale and hosted by the Nueces Canyon Mission Restoration Organization. And we are right on the banks of the beautiful Nueces River for swimming and kayaking and rafting after a hard day’s work in the field!

Best news is the whole family can attend these TAS Field Schools. The Youth Program gives your kids an opportunity to work with other kids from around the State who are also interested in digging up Texas history – one trowel full at a time! For specific information about youth activities at field school see https://txarch.org/get-involved/field-schools/youth-program

Other good news - the Houston Archeological Society has set aside funds in our 2018 budget for two scholarships to the 2018 TAS field school for college students. These funds will cover registration and a one-year membership in TAS (you must be a member of TAS in order to attend field school). For information about these field school scholarships please email lindagorski@cs.com
MINUTES
Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting
January 18, 2018

Welcome New Members and Guests: Linda Gorski (President): The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., with Linda’s introduction of two guests: Bryan McCauley, Site Manager at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site and Sarah Chesney, the new on-site archeologist there.

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.

Budget: (Bob Sewell): Bob presented the 2018 budget to the group. Some items on the budget specifically mentioned were the following: that overall, expenses are similar to those of last year; in this upcoming year, we will print 150 copies each of 2 special reports and 2 journals; the Board is looking for ways to reduce our publishing costs by not printing as many hard copies; a lot of our publications were purchased last year; we will need to purchase new screens and stands for field work. Motion to approve the 2018 budget: Mary Needham; Motion Seconded: Tom Williams; All ayes for approval.

Audit Committee (Linda Gorski): Last year, John Lumb, Charlie Aulbach, and Geoff Mills did a great job on our auditing, so we are bringing them back for this year! Thanks to these three people for their work!

Membership Drive (Bob Sewell): Our drive is now underway! Please renew your membership as soon as possible! As of this meeting, we have 88 members.

New Business:
Meeting Location (Linda Gorski): After a few tense weeks, Michelle Clayton has confirmed that we will continue to meet in Doherty 009 through August. We will have to renew our contract for the fall and winter semesters.

Publications (Dub Crook and Louis Aulbach): Dub stated that in 2018, 2 special reports and 2 journals will be published. He also said that at the last Board Meeting, members discussed the fact that we have had around 200+ members in the past, but we give out only 70 to 80 publications at our meetings. So, please try to pick up your publications so we don’t have to hold them for you. Louis will distribute recent journals and reports tonight after the meeting.

Lab Report (Linda Gorski): Watch emails and newsletters for updates on Labs at Linda’s.

Projects:
Frost Town (Dr. Jason Barrett): Although decking is currently being removed on the Elysian Viaduct, the structure is still standing. The project may not resume until early-mid 2018! Linda asked members to watch for Louis Aulbach’s upcoming articles on recent projects in that area.

Kleb Woods Public Archeology Project (Ashley Jones): We had a terrific turnout on December 2! January 20, this coming Saturday, is our next field work date. Two things will happen: excavation of additional units or participating in a search party to scope the northern parts of Kleb Woods, using aerial photos, to locate where Sam Houston’s army crossed Groce’s Plantation on its way to San Jacinto!

Archeology Academies (Linda Gorski): The Archeology 101 Academy (March 9-11) will be here in the Houston area at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, and is for those people interested in learning more about basic archeology technique. John Lohse will be the classroom instructor, and Sunday will be a field day. Check the TAS website for registration forms and other information. These academies will fill up fast so register early.

Other Announcements (Linda Gorski): We have agreed to host the 2020 TAS Conference here in Houston.

Program for February:
Brad Jones, Collections Manager/Curatorial Facilities Certification Program Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission, will present The Archeology of Arrows along the Texas Coast: Observations from the La Salle Affair in the 1680’s:

Tonight’s Program:
Dub Crook presented Archeology at three Middle Stone Age Sites in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

- Beth Kennedy, Secretary
Notes on Munitions: Lot 566, San Felipe de Austin (41AU2)
By Tom Nuckols

In 1824, Steven F. Austin founded the town of San Felipe de Austin. The town served as the unofficial capitol of Austin’s colony. Sometime in 1829 or 1830, Joseph White built the Farmer’s hotel on Town Lot 566 in San Felipe.

While semi-finished, the Farmer’s Hotel served as the town hall. After 1833, the building served as a dwelling for Joseph Urban, but was large enough that the Urban family took in boarders. In 1836, Urban described the building as being thirty-two feet square with a brick walled cellar six feet deep.

On March 30, 1836, a small Texas army force led by Mosley Baker set fire to San Felipe de Austin to keep it from falling into the hands of the advancing Mexican army during the Texas Revolution.

Recently, archaeological excavations were conducted on Lot 566 by Coastal Environments Inc. (CEI) under contract by the Texas Historical Commission, Historic Sites Division. Cox McClain Environmental Consulting (CMEC), was CEI’s sub-contract partner overseeing the excavations with Missy Green (CMEC) acting as the Project Archaeologist. Archaeologist Jon Lohse (CEI) served as Principal Investigator. The Houston Archeological Society and members of the Texas Historical Commission Archeological Stewards Network assisted with the excavations.

Analysis of the artifacts excavated on Lot 566 yielded eighty munitions artifacts. These seventy-five were sub-divided into twelve categories:

- Lead shot, both mold and shot tower made (n=34).
- Lead buckshot, both mold and shot tower made (n=8).
- Unfired lead spherical muzzle-loading rifle or pistol bullet, mold made (n=4).
- Fired (severe impact damage) lead spherical muzzle-loading rifle bullet, pistol bullet or musket ball (n=2).
- Lead sprue.
- Muzzle-loading gun part (a broken piece of gun lock side plate).
- Ribbed percussion cap (n=2).
- Nondescript pieces of lead (n=18).
- .22 caliber rimfire lead cartridge bullet, fired and impacted.
- .22 caliber rimfire .Short cartridge case (n=2).
- .38 caliber (badly degraded) rimfire or center-fire cartridge (brass or copper?) containing a lead bullet.
- Unknown caliber (.30/.32?) rimfire or center-fire lead cartridge bullet, fired and impacted.
First Aid Corner: Hypothermia by Elizabeth Coon-Nguyen

Most folks in Texas hear the word hypothermia and imagine the top of Mount Everest or a scene from the movie Fargo. It would seem impossible that anyone would be at risk for hypothermia in a town that shuts down at the mere chance of freezing weather! But the risk is there, especially for those of us working outside for extended periods, even in temperatures well above freezing!

Hypothermia is a term describing the condition of a person’s core body temperature dropping. Normal core temperature is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit or even slightly higher. Mild hypothermia sets in with core temperature dropping to 95 degrees and severe hypothermia is defined by a core temperature at or below 82 degrees. When exposure to cold ambient temperatures causes the body to lose heat faster than its regulatory mechanisms can make heat, core body temperature drops. The body loses heat through direct radiation from the skin, which is why covering exposed skin, including the head is so important to prevent heat loss. Losses are greatly increased and sped up with the additional exposure to moisture, wind, and direct contact with cold surfaces such as the ground, all of which are present during any archeological field work! Cold water immersion causes the fastest loss of heat, up to 25 times faster! Certain individuals will be at higher risk of hypothermia due to advancing or very young age, underlying medical conditions, use of certain medications that can impair the thermoregulatory system, and use of alcohol or other substances.

Symptoms of hypothermia change as the condition becomes graver and less blood flow and oxygen are directed to the brain and other vital organs. The first sign that the body is having trouble creating heat quickly enough is shivering. Any shivering person in the field needs to be sent for a “warm up” right away, preferably indoors or to a sheltered area with a warm non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated sweet drink. Any more concerning symptoms should be addressed immediately. Any wet clothing should be removed. Individuals should be covered in warm, dry blankets or clothing and allowed to lie down if possible (not in direct contact with cold surface of course). As core temperature drops below 95 degrees, mental confusion will set in, as well as possible slurred speech, fatigue or exhaustion, and loss of coordination. Eventually in the more severe ranges of temperature loss, loss of consciousness reduced respiratory rate and poor or threats pulse rate will occur, requiring emergent medical care and resuscitation. They should be handled gently, with no rubbing or vigorous movements. Warming pads or bottles may be placed to the core only; avoid heat to the extremities. Monitor breathing and pulse regularly while awaiting medical help as there is increased risk of cardiac/pulmonary arrest, which could necessitate initiating CPR. Because individuals who are beginning to show signs or symptoms of hypothermia often do not realize or recognize their symptoms, it is very important for crew members to monitor the team and speak up if concerned.

Prevention of hypothermia is the key, followed by early detection and treatment in the field to prevent progression to more severe problems. Coverage of the entire body, including the head, with layers of quick dry synthetics is recommended for anyone planning a day outside. No cotton! Cotton absorbs moisture and holds it next to the skin, hastening heat loss. Any wet clothing should be changed as soon as possible, so extra dry socks and layers are a good idea to have on hand just in case.

Risks for hypothermia are not as severe in our climate as in more northern areas, but the risk is there and is probably increased because of the lack of experience and knowledge most of us possess. Hopefully this will serve as an important reminder to experienced field workers to watch out for less experienced crew members!

Sources:
https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/what-is-hypothermia
https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hypothermia/symptoms-causes/syc-20352682
HAS Responds to a Rare Opportunity by Louis F. Aulbach

It was a cold, clear and windy morning in January -- a perfect day for archeology! Although the temperature started the day near freezing, by the time that Linda Gorski received the call from Larry Golden (the official HAS Tide Guy), it had warmed up considerably to 39F. Larry had been watching the tide gauge at Manchester in the expectation that the cold front that blew through overnight with sustained winds of 20 to 30 knots would push the waters of Galveston Bay out to the Gulf enough to lower the water level of Buffalo Bayou near downtown to expose the century old rail tracks along the banks of the bayou near the Elysian Viaduct.

This low tide and wind-blown water phenomena comes only once in a blue moon or so. One might not get another chance to see or access these rails for another generation of so.

At 10:50 am, Larry called Linda that the rails were exposed! She sent an alert to Bob Sewell and me. We grabbed our archeological gear and rubber boots, and sped to the Frost Town site. The low tide would only last for a couple of hours. If we were going to gain the data about the rails, we had to act fast. A little before noon, we all showed up at the McKee Street bridge. From the south bank, we could clearly see a large section of railroad tracks lying on the muddy sandbar at the edge of the north side of the bayou.

Although it was about 43F when we arrived at the McKee Street Bridge, it was sunny and windy, too. Donning our rubber boots, we crossed the bridge and made our way down to the hike and bike path above the location of the tracks below the viaduct structure. After we walked down to the sandbar under the old viaduct, the wind was a lot less and it almost seemed warm. But, that may have been the result of exertion, excitement and/or fear of getting stuck in the gooey mud.

The bank was heavily eroded from the recent flooding by Hurricane Harvey, and negotiating the descent into the muddy shore at the water line was treacherous. The mud was like quicksand. It would suck your boots off in a second. In fact, one boot rescue was needed almost immediately. One step and you sank up to ankles in muck. But, finally we all were able to reach the lower level of the bank where a few spots of hard clay, rock and ancient railroad ties gave us enough support to make the measurements of the rails, the tracks and the ties.

Wildlife was all around. Larry promptly removed a dead possum from the mud next to the railroad ties. A dead armored catfish, a horrible invasive species, was delightfully pitched into the bayou. Overhead an osprey was watching us and dive-bombing when we got too close to its arboreal perch.
We were here because Doug Boyd, the principal investigator for the Frost Town archeological project, asked us to see if we could take precise measurements of the rails and the tracks in order to determine their age and historical provenience. Once we settled in at the site, Linda communicated with Doug by phone -- she on a rock at the water’s edge, and he in his luxuriously warm office in Austin.

The whole crew set about to document the site. Bob took photos of the rails, the tracks, the spikes, the ties and general views of the locations. Larry managed to hold a tape measure on the various points of the rail end so I could photograph the measurement. Linda recorded our measurements and observations. The relative location of the tracks to the concrete supports for the viaduct was also noted. We were also able to find one section of the tracks that seemed to be intact enough to measure the width of the track to determine whether it was a standard gauge or narrow gauge rail track.

We attempted to get measurements of the rails as Doug had instructed, but the conditions under which we were working made precise measurements a challenge. It's the best we could do under the circumstances. All of the data and photos have been sent to Doug in Austin for his scientific analysis.

Before leaving the site, we surveyed the sandbar for about 50 yards downstream. Another rail was partially exposed (about 3 to 4 feet) about 40 yards downstream of the viaduct where there was more erosion-exposed bulkhead along the bayou. A trash dump yielded a few broken bottles marked AB on the bottom -- possibly Anheuser-Busch -- and a portion of a jawbone of a horse or mule came out of the sand.

With that we climbed out of the bayou corridor to the hike and bike trail above. We had spent about two hours in the mud collecting data on the railroad tracks that may have been part of the Bayou City Cotton Compress facility that operated on that north side of Buffalo Bayou from about 1880 to the mid-twentieth century.

As we walked back across the bridge to our vehicles, we could see that the water was already beginning to rise. In a short time, the rails would return to their home beneath the waters of the bayou. So concludes another episode of HAS emergency archeology.
Excavations at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve – Linda Gorski

After an exceptionally foggy start to the day, members of the Houston Archeological Society continued the public archeology project at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve in Tomball on Saturday, January 20.

A team of four HAS members including John Rich, Bob Baxter, and Tom Williams led by archeologist Dan Warren did a walking survey of Kleb Woods, identifying and logging into a GIS potential sites to be excavated. Another team that included Frank Kozar, Joshua, Helen and Annie Farrar, Craig Jansen, Bob Sewell, Beth Kennedy, Don Keyes, Geoff Mills, Wade Boeker and Linda Gorski, led by PI Ashley Jones, opened two new units in the area near the house gardens where four units have already been excavated. We were also joined by local historian Glen Camp who shared with us an enormous amount of research that he has on the Tomball area and especially on Kleb Woods which was a family farm whose owners were descendants of early German immigrants who settled in Harris County in the 1840s.

The best news is that you and your kids can help us as we dig up Texas history at Kleb Woods - one trowel full at a time!!! We invite you to join us at our next public archeology day at Kleb Woods on Saturday, February 10, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. We will continue excavating the two units we opened in January and will be doing Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys in the area of the gardens to locate potential foundation features and other anomalies. If you’d like to join us next time please email me at lindagorski@cs.com so I can send you more information.
Upcoming Lectures at the Houston Museum of Natural Science

A Century of Marine Archaeology in Egypt by Emad Khalil

Thursday, February 8, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Emad Khalil, executive director of the Alexandria Centre for Marine Archaeology and Underwater Cultural Heritage, will overview the extensive marine archaeological sites of Egypt, the major crossroads of the ancient world. His excavation projects include The Sunken City of Heracleion, the legendary gateway to the Mediterranean prior to Alexandria once recently found near the mouth of the Nile, and Marsa Bagoush, a port city on the route between ancient Alexandria and Paraetonium with several shipwrecks. Although this site was mapped by the British Royal Navy in 1861, it is only now being properly investigated. Dr. Khalil will also introduce the use of virtual reality in these projects. Members $12, Tickets $18.

Receive $5 off the regular ticket price of $18 for Thursday's lecture at the Museum. Present coupon code Lec$5off at HMNS box office or 713.639.4629. (Coupons not accepted online.)

For more information click on http://store.hmns.org/DateSelection.aspx?item=3857

Hearth, Heart, Home: Skara Brae's Early Stone Age Dwellings by Nick Card

Tuesday, February 20, 2018 – 6:30 p.m.

What was it about an ancient windswept place in the remote Orkney Islands that caused people to invest so much effort in creating one of the earliest examples of permanent homes? Skara Brae, a Stone Age village and UNESCO World Heritage Site, features unique stone-built homes, stone furniture, and an ingenious drainage system.

Nick Card, manager of the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology, will provide insight for what this Neolithic site teaches us about the meaning of home today.

Co-sponsored by Archaeological Institute of America with support from Schlumberger, British American Business Council and Houston Highland Games Assoc. Members $12, Tickets $18

For ticket information click on http://store.hmns.org/DateSelection.aspx?item=3855
Texas Courthouse History Day at Kleb Woods Nature Center

Friday, 9th February, 2018 is Texas Courthouse History Day at Kleb Woods Nature Center! Join them for an extraordinary presentation on all of the county courthouses in Texas presented by Wayne Wendel. Wayne spent four years traveling to every county seat in Texas photographing each courthouse for the Texas Historical Commission. He will share his photographs and stories of these outstanding examples of architectural styles, as well as the architects who designed them.

All are welcome to attend this program suitable for adults and students middle-school aged and up. Please feel free to share this announcement. As with all programs offered at Kleb Woods, this program is FREE, courtesy of Commissioner Steve Radack, Precinct 3.

Friday, February 9 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Kleb Woods Nature Center auditorium, 20303 Draper Road, Tomball.

Texas Archeological Society Archeology 101 Academy is coming to the Houston Area!

Attention HAS members! The TAS Archeology 101 Academy is coming to the Houston area. This important academy will be held 9 – 11 March, 2018, at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, located in the town of San Felipe, Texas, just east of Sealy, about an hour west of downtown Houston. And the Houston Archeological Society is the host this year!

The course’s primary goals are to provide each participant with the tools necessary to identify, properly record, and assess an archeological site. The first step in managing archeological resources on private lands is to know the site is there, and learning something about that site. Intensive classroom instruction by Dr. Jon Lohse will begin on Friday evening and run through Saturday. On Sunday all participants will participate in a real excavation at San Felipe de Austin State Historic site, one of the most important archeological sites in Texas, to learn excavation techniques from experienced crew chiefs.

The Archeology 101 Academy will be held in the newly developed museum facilities at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site and the Sunday dig will be held on two of the most historic blocks of the San Felipe de Austin site. This will be an excellent opportunity for participants to enjoy the State Historic Site and also nearby Stephen F. Austin State Park for camping, hiking, and biking! Plus you’ll get a preview of the new museum which is not scheduled to open to the public until late April!!!

For complete information on this exciting Archeology 101 Academy that is being held so close to Houston you will not require lodging or travel expenses see https://txarch.org/civicrm-event/185
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

March 15, 2018 - Dan Warren “Steam Yacht Anona: History, Archaeology, and Looting of a Deepwater Shipwreck”.

April 19, 2018 - Steve Davis, “Excavations at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site: What one Ceramic Sherd can tell us”.

May 17, 2018 - Dr. Gus Costa – “Borderland Bannerstones of Texas”.

June – No Meeting due to TAS Field School

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/

Please submit articles for publication to The Profile Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Submit articles no later than February 24th for the March 2018 issue.

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS
- Linda Gorski, President, president@txhas.org
- Louis Aulbach, Vice President, vpresident@txhas.org
- Bob Sewell, Treasurer, treasurer@txhas.org
- Beth Kennedy, Secretary, secretary@txhas.org

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
- Sandra E. Rogers, Region V Director, sojourne@att.net

AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGY STEWARDS
- Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net
- Louis Aulbach, lfa1@att.net
- Wilson “Dub” Crook, dubcrook@kingwoodcable.com
- Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251
- Charlie Gordy, chasgordy@yahoo.com
- Linda Gorski, lindagorski@cs.com
- Sue Gross, suegbobs@comcast.net
- Joe D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com
- Kathleen Hughes, hughes.kathleen@yahoo.com
- Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com
- Sandra & Johnny Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net
- Sandra E. Rogers (Sandy), sojourne@att.net
- Gary Ryman, gkryman@gmail.com
- Brenda and Ron Jackson, brendajacks1@yahoo.com
- Steve Salyer, salyer4@hotmail.com
- Bob Sewell, robert-sewell@att.net