Thursday, January 18th, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

“Excavations in South Africa” – Wilson W. “Dub” Crook

The first meeting of the Houston Archeological Society in 2018 will be on Thursday, January 18, 7:00 p.m. in the basement of Doherty Library on the campus of St. Thomas University. Long-time HAS member, Wilson W. "Dub" Crook, will discuss his recent work at three Middle Stone Age sites in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

The period between the end of the Early Stone Age and the beginning of the Middle Stone Age in Africa is one of major technological development spurred by environmental changes. The simple pear-shaped hand axe, the staple tool of the Acheulean industry for over a million years, suddenly disappears and is replaced by a complex lithic industry characterized by purposefully prepared cores, prismatic blades and the first known projectile points. In South Africa, this new lithic regime is known as the Fauresmith Industry and has been dated between ca. 450-600 thousand years ago.

Sites belonging to the Fauresmith Industry have been recognized across the northwestern part of South Africa but have hitherto not been reported as far south as the Eastern Cape Province. In 2013, HAS member Dub Crook discovered two new Fauresmith sites near the town of Burgersdorp in the Eastern Cape Province. In the fall of 2017, Dub returned to the area for test excavations at both sites and in the process, discovered a third site which appears to have been a lithic quarry. Dub will discuss his recent work at the Dalmanutha, Rosslands and Sunny Slopes Farms sites including their lithic assemblages which contain some of the earliest known projectile points in the world. He will also discuss how the change in technology from the Early to Middle Stone Age is probably linked to the evolutionary development of the hominids present at the sites from the earlier Homo erectus to the more advanced Homo rhodesiensis.

Mr. Crook is a Life Member (Fellow) of the Houston Archeological Society, a Life Member of the Dallas Archeological Society, a member of the Texas Archeological Society, a member of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, a Life Member of the Gault School of Archeological Research, a Research Fellow with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, and a Fellow of the Leakey Foundation. He is also an Archeological Steward for the State of Texas. He is the author of 114 papers in the field of archeology and has recently published a book on The Peoples of the Bible.

For a campus map of the University of St. Thomas, go to www.stthom.eduand 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 –

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays surrounded by family and friends! We have so many fantastic programs, events and field projects coming up in 2018 and I can’t wait to share them with you!

And speaking of upcoming events in our area, we have a rare opportunity coming up March 9 - 11, 2018, when the Texas Archeological Society brings its popular Archeology 101 Academy to the Houston area - specifically to San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site in San Felipe, Texas, just a few miles west of Katy. Archeology 101 is an intensive course that will be taught by professional archeologist, Dr. Jon Lohse, of Coastal Environmental, Inc. in Houston. The course will instruct attendees how to recognize and document archeological sites in Texas. It provides background information on the archeology of the state and how to identify archeological sites, both prehistoric and historic in nature. Instructions are provided for accurate on-site recording that allows archeologists to assess the importance and significance of a site or sites and contribute to the synthesis of the state’s cultural heritage. The primary goal of the course is to provide each participant with the tools necessary to identify, record, and assess an archeological site. After a day of classroom instruction, participants will spend the second day in the field at a real archeological site, digging up Texas history - one trowel full at a time - with five very experienced crew chiefs leading the way.

A special added attraction of this Archeology 101 is the location in which it will be held - San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site in San Felipe, Texas. Commemorating the pivotal years of Texas’ history, San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site preserves the location where Stephen F. Austin established his colony in 1823. At this site you walk in the footsteps of early pioneers in Texas history at what was once the social, economic, and political center, as well as the first capital of the provisional government of Texas. And if you take this course, you will be among the privileged few to actually participate in an archeological excavation on this hallowed ground. You will also be among the first people in Texas to tour the newest museum in the state at San Felipe de Austin.

Because this academy is being held in the Houston area, you will not have to travel a great distance to get there and may choose not to incur hotel expenses but to commute from your home. Registration information for this Academy is located on the Texas Archeological Society website at https://txarch.org/events/archive?event_type=9

Please also see the flier highlighting this event on the next page of the newsletter. Note that teachers can receive CPE credits for taking this course and there are also scholarships available.

The Houston Archeological Society is hosting this Archeology 101 Academy and we look forward to welcoming you! If you need any information, please email me at lindagorski@cs.com
Houston Archeological Society  
Monthly Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2017

Welcome New Members and Guests (Linda Gorski)

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): Membership so far in 2017 is 209. Memberships for those joining after September 1, 2017, are good for the 2018 year! The MEMBERSHIP DRIVE for 2018 is now underway! Please renew your membership before 1 January!

New Business: 
New Meeting Location (Linda Gorski): MD Anderson Hall will be under renovation for the remainder of the school year, so we will continue to meet here in DOHERTY 009 for the time being. Please watch your emails in January for another possible change in the meeting location due to classroom scheduling conflicts.

Publications (Dub Crook and Louis Aulbach): If you joined HAS tonight, you may pick up your three publications from Louis. Dub reports that 2017 has been a banner year; however, in 2018 we may have even more publications, possibly four. The next journal (#138) comes out in the first quarter next year and covers Roman and Etruscan archeology. Two Special Reports are coming, one on the topic covered at the January meeting (Dub’s archeological work in Africa), and the other authored by Tim Perttula on pottery types of our area. Another journal (#139) on general archeology topics, will come out in the summer to fall of 2018.

Lab Report (Linda Gorski): Watch emails for updates on Labs at Linda’s. No labs have been held in several weeks. Erin Phillips at CEI has agreed to be our lab director.

Projects:
Frost Town (Dr. Jason Barrett): Dr. Barrett recently visited the site, and although the bridge is being demolished, the work is going slowly. The project may not begin again until early-mid 2018, hopefully in February. Dr. Barrett has been working on what we excavated, as well as papers related to Frost Town. Also, the Brazosport Archeology Society is studying white ware from the site.

Kleb Woods Public Archeology Project (Linda Gorski): Ashley Jones, the PI on this project, reports a terrific turnout of twenty members on December 2! Our next date for Kleb Woods will be January 20. Watch for more information.

Archeology Academies (Linda Gorski): The March Archeology 101 Academy will be here in the Houston area at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site! John Lohse of CEI will conduct the Saturday program, and we will be doing a dig there on Sunday. Check the TAS website for registration forms and other information. These academies will fill up fast so register early.

Program for January – Our very own Dub Crook will once again kick off the New Year with a presentation on his recent work at three Middle Stone Age sites (dating from 450-600 thousand years ago) in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

Program for December: Linda Gorski presented an overview of the past year in photos! Many HAS members were featured in the presentation.

Special Award to Dub Crook (Linda Gorski): This year at the TAS meeting, Dub Crook was awarded the coveted Golden Pen Award. This award is presented to an avocational TAS member for a significant published contribution or contributions to Texas archeology. Dub has received this award for his many publications this year including his book The Late Prehistoric of the East Fork of the Trinity which has become the “go to” volume on the archeology of that area.

Beth Kennedy, Secretary
HAS Members Win Awards at TAS 2017 Meeting

The Texas Archeological Society held the 2017 TAS Annual Meeting in Grapevine, Texas, in October. Many HAS members were present and several of our folks won coveted TAS Awards.

Debbie Eller (below left) and Linda Gorski (below right, with 2017 TAS President Charles Frederick) each won the TAS President’s Award for Exemplary Service to Archeology in Texas.

Debbie Eller (below left) and Linda Gorski (below right, with 2017 TAS President Charles Frederick) each won the TAS President’s Award for Exemplary Service to Archeology in Texas.

Tim Perttula (below left) won the TAS Lifetime Achievement Award, and Dub Crook (below right) won the Golden Pen Award for best publications by an avocational TAS member.

Tim Perttula (below left) won the TAS Lifetime Achievement Award, and Dub Crook (below right) won the Golden Pen Award for best publications by an avocational TAS member.

Congratulations to all our HAS award winners!
Announcing
Texas Archeological Society’s Archeology 101 Academy

Friday-Sunday March 9-11 San Felipe, Texas
Academy Instructor: Dr. Jon Lohse

Does archeology strike an interest in you? Come and learn the basics behind archeology and partake in hands-on experiences to strengthen your understanding.

For more information including registration, Visit https://txarch.org/events
Scholarship Opportunities: https://txarch.org/get-involved/scholarships
Registration Fee: $100 plus TAS membership. CPE credits available
SULPHIDE MARBLES — Larry Golden

Recovered from the town site of San Jacinto, this sulphide marble made of clear glass with a zero imprinted on a “coin” appears to be a rare find in historical archeology. Sulphides were imported from the Thüringen region of Germany, produced from the 1850’s to approximately 1910 with peak imports to the U.S. in the 1870’s to late 1880’s.

These large clear glass marbles are individually made and range in size from 4 to 5.5cm. The figures inside typically have a silvery appearance and were made of molded kaolin, china clay or gypsum and fired in kilns. The lucky child could choose from a variety of figures including the alphabet, numbers, farm animals, domestic animals, wild animals, fish, birds, religious and human figures.

Baumann (Collecting Antique Marbles, 1970) describes two methods of production. The first method heated the end of a glass rod by one workman while another pressed the figure into the soft glass, the glass at the bottom was then folded toward the center enclosing the figure. Marble scissors were then used to round out the marble. The second method, which is similar, required the figure to be placed on top of a soft mass of glass and the glass folded around the figure and then rounded out.

Block and Payne (Sulphide Marbles, 2001) describes the blown method, with the glassmaker blowing down the punty creating a hollow space in the glass. The second worker would use glass shears to snip open the end of the hollow gather, the pre-heated figure was then placed into the opening and pressed close, the air was then sucked back out of the punty causing the glass to collapse around the figure. The marble was then reheated and rounded on a marver.

Possibly only the children of the well-to-do could afford to have such marbles for the everyday use or possibly the use wasn’t every day and merely kept to be shown.
WHAT’S IN YOUR …. MOUTHWASH
By Linda Gorski

A couple of years ago several members of the Houston Archeological Society took part in a three day emergency salvage archeology project at a site in downtown Houston where two historic buildings were being demolished. While we were shovel testing at this historic site we recovered several bottles which eventually told the story of the site - Happy Hollow - one of the earliest red light districts in Houston!

Many of the vintage bottles we recovered originally contained “female medications” - so appropriate to the site! Many others held every day toiletries - like this Listerine bottle. However, a little research on this bottle revealed a history of this product - still produced today - that you need to know!!! This Listerine bottle, recovered from the bottle trench at the site, will make you think twice when you use your mouthwash in the morning!  According to an excellent website on the history of the Lambert Pharmaceutical Company of St. Louis Missouri, https://oldmainartifacts.wordpress.com/2011/10/16/listerine-lambert-pharmacal-company-st-louis-mo/, Listerine was invented in 1879 as powerful surgical antiseptic. It was later sold, in distilled form, as both a floor cleaner - and as a cure for gonorrhea and ringworm!

But Listerine wasn’t a runaway success until the 1920s, when it was pitched as a solution for “chronic halitosis” - a then obscure medical term for bad breath. Listerine’s new ads featured forlorn young women and men, eager for marriage but turned off by their mate’s rotten breath. “Can I be happy with him in spite of that?” one maiden asked herself. Until that time, bad breath was not conventionally considered such a catastrophe. But Listerine changed that. As the advertising scholar James B. Twitchell writes, “Listerine did not make mouthwash as much as it made halitosis.” In just seven years, the company’s revenues rose from $115,000 to more than $8 million.” And now you know “the rest of the story”!

If you have a bottle you’d like us to help you identify, email me back at lindagorski@cs.com and send a photo!
First Aid Corner: Poison Ivy, Oak, and Sumac – Liz Coon-Nguyen

“Three leaves and shiny? Do NOT wipe your hiney!”

An important plant for anyone in the outdoors to learn to recognize, especially in Texas, is Poison ivy, aka Toxicodendron radicans. These plants contain an oil called urushiol which incites an allergic reaction upon contact in approximately 85% of the population. The ensuing rash tends to be very itchy and located directly along the areas of contact. It tends to be red with blisters that will break open and then crust over as it heals. The rash may not appear for 12 to 72 hours after contact, and even more delayed reactions can occur, sometimes giving the impression that scratching causes spreading. Typically the rash resolves on its own within a few weeks. For a few folks, the reaction may be more intense and widespread, necessitating medical attention at the doctor’s office, urgent care facility or emergency room.

The best treatment for poison ivy is prevention! Learning to identify and avoid these plants is most helpful. Wearing long sleeves, gloves and long pants to protect the skin from contact with the urushiol oil while in the field is common sense. There are barrier creams containing bentoquantam which can be applied to protect the skin from the oil. Also avoid putting these plants in the burn pile! Urushiol molecules are disseminated in the smoke, potentially causing lesions in the air passages and lungs! It is also possible to indirectly contact the oil by touching clothing or pet fur that has come into contact.

If you do come into contact with any plants, it is recommended to immediately wash the area with soap and water or an alcohol containing preparation in order to remove the oil. Also wash any clothing, shoes, tools or pets that have come into contact. If a rash does appear, many sufferers find traditional anti-itch remedies helpful, such as calamine lotion, steroid creams, baking soda, colloidal oatmeal baths or anti-histamines. Any rash that causes swelling or is located on the face or groin deserves medical attention, as do any additional symptoms of swelling, fever, dizziness, or respiratory difficulty.

Poison ivy likes to grow in the understory of wooded areas as low brush or a vine. It has glossy green leaves in sets of 3 which turn color in the fall and can have smooth or serrated edges. Poison oak can also occur in 3-leaf clusters as well as 5 or 7 leaf clusters but leaves are larger and more rounded, looking similar to an actual oak tree leaf, though unrelated. Poison sumac occurs in groups of 7-13 leaves and grows in swampy areas. All three are endemic in Texas and most of the US.

** This article is not intended to diagnose or treat medical conditions, nor to be a substitute for appropriate medical attention! **

Sources:

https://www.webmd.com/allergies/ss/slideshow-poison-plants
Excavations at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve — Linda Gorski

Members of the Houston Archeological Society continued the public archeology project at Kleb Woods Nature Preserve in Tomball on Saturday, December 2. As many of you know, Kleb Woods was a family farm whose owners were descendants of early German immigrants who settled in Harris County in the 1840s. As part of our multi-year public archeology project we will be excavating areas identified as foundation features of early buildings on the site. And you and your kids can help us as we dig up Texas history at Kleb Woods - one trowel full at a time!!! Once again, we had a huge turnout of HAS members plus a couple of local college students who are working toward their degrees in archeology and anthropology. Our incredible PI on the project, Ashley Jones, a professional archeologist with Raba Kistner, directed the crew as we took four units down to sterile. We recovered several artifacts this time, including white ware and yellow ware sherds and many nails and other bits of metal. If you missed it, I hope these photos will encourage you to join us at our next archaeology day at Kleb Woods will be Saturday, January 20th, 8 A.M. – 1 P.M., when we will be opening units in another area. Please email me at lindagorski@cs.com if you’d like to join us so I can send you a map to the site and other details.


January 18, 2018
“Sights and Sounds—Mapping and Modeling Synesthetic Experiences in Ancient Maya Cities” by Heather Richards-Rissetto
4:00pm  Founder's Room (Lovett Hall, Entrance B, 2nd Floor) TBD
For the ancient Maya, sights and sounds worked in concert to create synesthetic experiences that influenced daily life and shaped society. Spatial configurations of temples, ball courts, stelae, dwellings, and other architecture played integral roles in shaping and re-shaping city life. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) offer tools and methods to derive quantified and geovisualized data to explore the potential roles of vision and sound in structuring human interaction and experience. And yet, GIS alone, leaves untapped research avenues. Digital technologies such as photogrammetry, laser scanning, and airborne LiDAR allow us to create 3D models of extant architecture within contemporary landscapes. But what about missing architecture? How do we simulate ancient cities rather than simply visualize present archaeological landscapes? 3D Modeling software affords us possibilities to reconstruct non-extant architecture but typically requires time-consuming manual modeling. An alternative—procedural modeling—applies “standardized” rules to rapidly generate 3D architectural models allowing 3D reconstructions of ancient cities based on GIS data. Exporting these 3D GIS-derived data into an immersive Virtual Reality platform allows for cross-disciplinary humanistic and scientific analysis. In this talk, Dr. Richards-Rissetto will discuss how the MayaCityBuilder Project is using GIS and 3D data in multiple platforms to explore sight and sound in eighth century Copan—today a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Honduras.

Heather Richards-Rissetto is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

January 25, 2018
“New Light on Henricus Martellus’s World Map at Yale (c. 1491): Multispectral Imaging and Early Renaissance Cartography” by Chet Van Duzer
4:00pm Double Studio Classroom, Moody Center for the Arts, 2nd floor
In this talk Van Duzer will give an account of a recent project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to make multispectral images of a world map made by Henricus Martellus in about 1491, which is held by the Beinecke Library at Yale. This large map has long been thought to be one of the most important of the fifteenth century, and was thought to have influenced Martin Waldseemüller’s world map of 1507, but the many texts on the map were illegible due to fading and damage, and thus its exact place in Renaissance cartography was impossible to determine. The new multispectral images have rendered most of the previously illegible texts on the map legible. Van Duzer will explain why the Martellus map was an excellent candidate for multispectral imaging, describe the process of making the images, show the results, and give an account of the place of the Martellus map in late fifteenth- and early sixteenth-century cartography.

Chet Van Duzer is an NEH-Mellon Fellow at the Library of Congress and a board member of the Lazarus Project at the University of Rochester.

Registration is required. All lectures are free and open to the public but seating is limited. On-campus parking is not free. For registration info visit http://hrc.rice.edu/spatialhumanities/ls
Programs for 2018


February 15, 2018 – Brad Jones, “Social Life of Arrows”

March 15, 2018 – Dan Warren “Underwater Archeology in the Gulf from the Perspective of Damaged and Looted Sites”

April 19, 2018 – To be announced

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

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 January 26th for the February 2018 issue.