



**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. ~ Virtual Only
Featuring Heather Para, PhD, New Mexico State University**

Hello, HAS members - The August monthly members meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 6:00 p. m. Please note that this will be a virtual meeting only. A Zoom link will be emailed to members prior to the meeting date.

We will welcome HAS member and friend, Heather Para, PhD, Curator of the New Mexico State University Museum in Las Cruces, New Mexico. HAS members will remember Dr. Para from past presentations to us when she held a similar position at the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB) in Victoria, Texas.

Dr. Para will present a case study in collector/museum collaboration. Museums that curate and archive archaeological assemblages collaborate with the collectors and avocational archaeologists in their midst, and these invaluable relationships are often underappreciated. Bill Birmingham's relationship with the Museum of the Coastal Bend in Victoria presents an ideal case study. Collaboration with Birmingham, a Texas Archaeological Steward and avocational archaeologist, has shaped the museum's collection since its inception. As he reaches age ninety, the community has benefitted from his influence on both the archaeology and archaeologists of the region for seven decades. A respected authority on lithic identification and an ardent advocate for responsible collection, Birmingham's lasting and far-reaching impact epitomizes such museum/collector collaborations.



Left: Birmingham at the site of La Salle's Fort St. Louis. Right: Birmingham working in the lab at MCB. Photographs courtesy of Dr. Heather Para.



Dr. Heather Para not only serves as Curator of the New Mexico State University Museum, but she also manages the Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program and teaches classes in the Anthropology Department at NMSU. Para holds a PhD from the University of Wales Trinity St. David. With more than thirty years of experience working in cultural and archaeological museums, Para's research has primarily focused on Britain, Greece, coastal Alaska, and Texas. We hope you will all join us virtually for this interesting lecture. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Bob Sewell at president@txhas.org.

Frank Kozar, HAS Vice-President





President's Message – Bob Sewell



HAS Members,

The Texas summer temperatures and rain have taken their toll on our excavation activities. Our planned visit to the Goloby site was cancelled due to the heat and humidity. However, we are now pursuing our commitment to outreach activities. Over the last month we have participated in events at the Pasadena Public Library, where we spoke on archeology and what HAS does, and the Montgomery Memorial Library in Conroe, where we held a show-and-tell for visitors. The folks at the library said this was one of their best-attended occasions. Also, we organized a display at the West Pearland Library Archeology Dig Day along with about a dozen other groups. Many thanks to all the HAS members who assisted!

Above left: Mark Frantz, Bob Sewell, and Tracy Connell at the Pasadena Library. Above right: Don Keyes on point at the Montgomery County Memorial Museum. Below left: Adriana Cardenas and daughter at the West Pearland Library. Below right: John Gorczyk and Nina Diaz at the West Pearland Library. Photographs courtesy of Bob Sewell.



Next month, on Saturday, September 12, we will participate in Native American Heritage Day at the Jesse Jones Park and Nature Center. HAS joined this last year and we are looking forward to contributing again. As usual, I will be asking members for help with this one, so please be checking your emails from president@txhas.org and let me know if you are interested in taking part.

We have our Annual Meeting coming up in September, and a slate of directors has been identified by the Nominating Committee. The names will be announced at the August monthly meeting, with voting taking place via email and the result being announced at the September meeting. See you in the field!

Bob Sewell, President





Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes ~ July 16, 2026

Meeting started by Bob Sewell, president, HAS - Welcome to existing and new members, and non-members.

Membership - 154 members.

Treasury - Funds are good.

Next, HAS project activities were discussed:

- HAS Annual Meeting September 17, 2026
- Appointment of new Board of Directors for 2026/2027
- Nominating Committee appointed: Beth Kennedy, Debbie Eller, Larry Golden. Proposed slate to be announced at August 2026 meeting.
- Voting via email, results to be announce at September 2026 meeting.

HAS has several active archaeological projects:

- Walnut Tree Hill
 - Last visit Saturday May 16, 2026
 - Potential hearths being investigated
 - 2 x partial points recovered
- Goloby
 - Visit on July 11 cancelled due to heat. Recent heavy rains have also curtailed field activities. Might take a hiatus for the rest of the summer to wait for conditions to improve.
 - Brush is being mowed
- Lone Oak
 - Last visit April 25, 2026
 - Another Angostura recovered
 - All artifacts, except last 5 bags, have been processed
 - Photos for report to be obtained

Outreach Activities - HAS has received several outreach requests:

- Pasadena Library System July 8, 2026
- Montgomery County Library System, July 15, 2026. Montgomery County Library was thrilled with HAS' last visit, where over 50 people showed up.
- Pearland Library – July 18, 2026
- Native American Heritage, Jesse Jones Park, September 12, 2026
- MCLS Genealogy – October, 2026

TAS Field School - Several HAS members participated at the TAS field school this year, which was held at Presidio San Xavier in Rockdale, Texas, June 13 through 16, 2026.

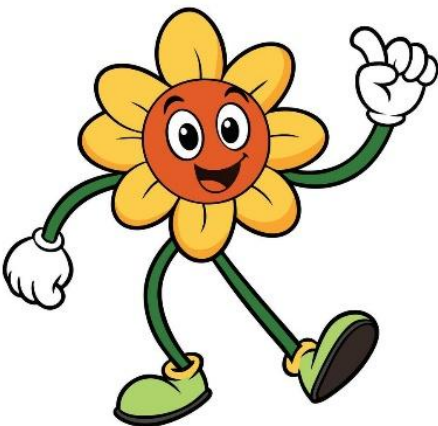
August HAS Monthly Meeting - August 20, 2026. The speaker will be Dr. Heather Para - a case study on museum collaboration with avocational archeologists in Texas and Bill Birmingham of Victoria.

Evening Program - After the president's remarks, our speaker, Alan Slade, Lithic Analyst and Principal Investigator of the Texas Fluted Point Survey, began his presentation on Thomas Hester, a well-known Texas archaeologist who in 1967 wrote one of the first syntheses of Paleoindian points in Texas for an undergraduate class at UT Austin. Hester's work and its lasting legacy were discussed.

John Gorczyk, HAS Secretary



We want to hear from YOU! As always, we welcome your comments and contributions via email to newsletter@txhas.org. Let us know about topics you'd like to see in the future and offer suggestions about how we can improve. We invite and encourage all HAS members and friends to consider submitting content. Report on academics, field school, site work, lectures, cultural heritage, accomplishments, favorite podcasts, reading links, recommended books, academic endeavors, or public outreach. Send photos from an HAS or TAS adventure! What archeological artifact or historical event have you been researching? What interesting trips or explorations have you experienced recently? We hope that you will add your voice to our community's conversation, because a variety of articles help to make our newsletter more interesting. Your contributions may be any length: long, brief, a couple of paragraphs, or photographs with text. We can help with editing. Submissions for upcoming issues are requested by the fifteenth of each month.





~ Registration is Open for the Texas Archeological Society 97th Annual Meeting ~



Registration is open for the 97th Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society, October 2–4, 2026 in Denton. Whether you're planning to present your research, reconnect with colleagues, attend the Friday Night Forum, or to simply enjoy a weekend immersed in Texas archeology, we encourage you to register early and make your plans to join us.

Symposia Abstracts Deadline - August 1, 2026: Symposium organizers must submit their final symposium information and abstracts by August 1.

Paper & Poster Abstracts Deadline - August 15, 2026: Individual paper and poster abstracts must be received by August 15. Please send all symposium materials and paper/poster abstracts to: am-programs@txarch.org.

Register Today: Registration information, conference details, lodging, speakers, and the latest meeting updates can all be found on the Annual Meeting webpage. Registration prices increase on September 18, so go ahead and register now: <https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting>.

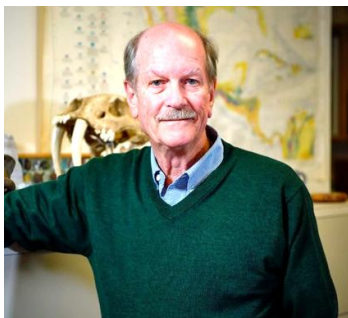
We look forward to welcoming you to Denton this October for an outstanding meeting featuring exciting presentations, special events, workshops, networking opportunities, and the chance to celebrate the rich archeological heritage of Texas.

See you in October!

*Alexandra Younger, North Texas Archeological Society President
Texas Archeological Society 97th Annual Meeting Committee*



Plan to Join the TAS Annual Meeting ~ Denton, Texas ~ October 2-4, 2026



Taking place at the Gateway Center at the University of North Texas in Denton, the 2026 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS). Dr. C. Reid Ferring appears as the Friday evening Public Forum speaker, sharing insights from his long career of archeological research in North Texas and the southern Plains. The Saturday evening banquet address will be delivered by Myles Miller, whose work in Texas archeology and interpretation has helped bring the region's archeological heritage to a wide audience. Learn more at [TAS Annual Meeting](https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting).



~ CALL FOR PAPERS ~



Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for papers, symposia, workshops, panel discussions, and posters to be presented at the Texas Archeological Society 97th Annual Meeting, October 2–4, 2026, at the University of North Texas in Denton. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, academic, and professional archeologist TAS members on any topic of archeological interest. The organizing committee is planning for a series of regional and topical symposia. All presenters must be TAS members and be registered for the meeting. Papers will be limited to fifteen minutes, a constraint that will be strictly enforced. Members are encouraged to consider poster presentations as an alternative to papers. Poster presentations can effectively convey visual, graphic, and quantitative information, and generally reach a larger audience than oral papers. Posters will be wall-mounted, so no easels or rigid backing materials will be necessary. Appropriate mounting adhesives will be provided at the venue. Other presentation formats such as panel discussions, demonstrations, and workshops may be proposed for the approval of the Program Co-Chairs and Annual Meeting organizers. Submit all abstracts as files attached to emails. Abstracts must include the following information: Paper/Symposium/Poster (indicate one); Title; Author(s) and Affiliation(s); and Abstract for each presentation (150 words maximum). Meeting rooms will be equipped with projectors and laptop computers; additional audiovisual needs may be accommodated given prior notice. Contact the Program Co-Chairs, Christopher Goodmaster and Jimmy Barrera, with any questions at am-programs@txarch.org.





Update from Alan Slade, Lithic Analyst and Principal Investigator, Texas Fluted Point Survey

~ Announcement from HAS Member Alan Slade ~

The current Texas Fluted Point Survey database is now available: <https://texasflutedpointsurvey.org/current-database/>.

Left: [Authentic Texas - The Heritage Magazine of Texas](#). Right: [Texas Fluted Point Survey](#).



We enjoyed hearing from Alan Slade at our July meeting, and we appreciate his diligent work researching, gathering, documenting, and making available this important information. The Texas Fluted Point Survey is an ongoing research initiative conducted by Slade that is dedicated to documenting and analyzing Paleoindian fluted projectile points across the state of Texas. By compiling data from collectors, researchers, and field investigations, the survey seeks to enhance understanding of early human occupation, technology, and mobility during the late Pleistocene. This collaborative effort contributes to broader archaeological research on the earliest inhabitants of North America. With more than 1,000 specimens across 178 counties in the state of Texas, this survey helps shed light on where and how the earliest Texans lived, the materials they used, and the tools they made. Collectors, landowners, and community members play a vital role in this work. By sharing information about artifacts in their care, participants contribute directly to ongoing research that benefits both Texas history and the broader understanding of Paleoindian life across the continent.

If you are aware of a point that should be recorded, please complete a form at [Submit a Record](#) or contact Alan.Slade@austin.utexas.edu or TexasFlutedPointSurvey@gmail.com. Source: <https://texasflutedpointsurvey.org/current-database/>.



Archaeological Institute of America Updates – Call for Papers and Call for Editorial Assistant



The AIA 2027 Meeting takes place in Boston from January 7-10, 2027. The Boston Marriott Copley Place will host the exhibit hall, all academic sessions, and most related events. The meeting begins on Thursday, January 7, with the Opening Night Reception. Academic sessions commence Friday, January 8, and conclude on the afternoon of Sunday, January 10. AIA will again offer the option of presenting in-person or remotely and will host a number of hybrid sessions for virtual attendees. **Call for Papers** - online submission is now available. **Monday, August 4, and Monday, August 18, 2025:** Deadline for workshops, open session paper and posters submissions, and any provisionally accepted colloquia and workshops that are resubmitting. **Friday, November 1, 2025:** Deadline for Lightning Session and Roundtable submissions. The Annual Meeting

Committee encourages the submission of organized sessions, papers, or posters that explore approaches to heritage of the Mediterranean and surrounding lands. The region has seen growing interest in how societies today have inherited and used the past, how antiquity and its material remains inform relationships in the present, and how archaeologists can contribute to the value and preservation of the region's heritage for future generations. **Call for Applications - American Journal of Archaeology - Editorial Assistant, Part-Time:** This part-time contract position has a target start date of mid to late August 2026 to allow training overlap with the outgoing Editorial Assistant. **Key Responsibilities:** Conduct preliminary assessment of new article submissions; correspond with authors and reviewers; perform comprehensive technical reviews of manuscripts; formatting; see website for more. **Requirements:** Ph.D. in Mediterranean, Classical, Near Eastern, or Egyptian archaeology or a related field; ability to work hybrid or remotely; exemplary organization and time management skills, time commitment will vary (5–15 hours per week). Compensation will be \$40 per hour and AIA membership at the Professional level and Annual Meeting registration. Applications must include a cover letter, resume, a writing sample, and the names and contact information of three references, sent to aja@archaeological.org by **August 3, 2026**. For more complete and detailed job responsibilities, requirements, and information, see [Call for Applications | AJA](#).





What's Up with Monte Verde?

John Gorczyk, PhD

Earlier this year, you may have seen a flurry of news articles about Monte Verde. A recent study published in the journal *Science* has drawn renewed attention to the Paleoindian site in the Lake District of southern Chile. In March, Dr. Todd Surovell (University of Wyoming) and colleagues used several dating techniques, including radiocarbon and luminescence dating of the strata below the archaeological deposits, to argue for a much later site occupation during the Middle Holocene (ca. 8,200-4,200 B.P.). Their claims, published in *Science*, have caused quite a stir, both within professional circles and among amateur archaeologists in online forums such as the r/Archaeology and r/AskAnthropology subreddits, where people can have their questions answered by vetted experts in the field.

At the heart of the controversy is nothing less than Monte Verde's main claim to fame, its position as the only verified Late Pleistocene site in South America, dating to roughly 14,500 B.P. The site has stood for over fifty years as evidence not only for pre-Clovis peoples in the Americas, but for a much earlier occupation of the continent than was originally believed. Such early dates in a location so far south from Beringia, where humans initially migrated into North America during the Last Glacial Maximum, also indirectly support a "leapfrog" model of the peopling of the Americas, where groups of coastally adapted hunter-fishers hopped down the Pacific Coast to get south of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet.

The most damning evidence, it would seem, presented by Surovell and colleagues is the presence of a well-dated tephra (ash layer) overlying the Monte Verde II (MV II) component. This tephra dates to ca. 11,000 B.P. and was deposited over late Pleistocene peat that contained decaying wood. As the stream channel cut into the ground surface, this late Pleistocene wood was carried down into the streambed, where later the archaeological materials from MV II accumulated. In essence, the authors argue that the wood that was originally selected for radiocarbon dating was not associated with the inhabitants of MV II, but rather the result of non-anthropogenic Quaternary shaping of the river valley.



An aerial view of the of the Monte Verde archaeological site in southern Peru, 2023 photograph released on March 18, 2026. Todd Surovell via REUTERS; <https://english.aawsat.com/culture/5253317-study-suggests-younger-age-monte-verde>. Fair Use Policy. Sourced by Betsy Wittenmyer, HAS Newsletter Editor.

In early May, numerous researchers, including the original excavator of Monte Verde, Tom Dillehay, published numerous rebuttals in the article's eLetters section. Among their critiques, they claimed that Surovell et al. did not actually resample the stratigraphic deposits that produced the early radiocarbon dates in the first place, relying instead on materials from elsewhere in the stream channel. Worse yet, the authors claim that Surovell et al. created a new stratigraphic horizon and attempted to overlay it onto the MV II stratum, a method that makes it difficult to directly compare the two strata. And what about the redeposited wood and archaeological materials brought into association not by human activity, but rather by fluvial processes? Dillehay et al. claim that the woody remains found in MV II cannot be redeposited because they do not exist in the upper levels of the terrace. In fact, paleoenvironmental reconstructions at the MV II site and its surroundings indicate a landscape of sparse, shrubby vegetation—indicating that the logs and tree limbs found at the site had to be carried there by its human inhabitants.

If true, these are major interpretive and methodological errors. Surovell et al. have not yet offered a response to these researchers; so for now, it seems the controversy has been settled, at least on the scientific front. The new dates don't hold up, and Monte Verde retains its integrity as a pre-Clovis site. But in the halls of the internet, some people have already begun to sound the alarm that this study represents a renewed attempt to revive the Clovis-first theory by knocking down one of the foundational pillars of the pre-Clovis edifice. And in fact, Surovell has expressed skepticism of pre-Clovis sites in the past. Whether he and his colleagues went into the study at Monte Verde trying to achieve a predetermined outcome, as some in archaeology forums online have suggested, is unclear, and it doesn't appear that this study is being picked up by any pre-Clovis supporters, if there are even any left.

Of course, even if the earlier Monte Verde dates were ultimately thrown out, the evidence is still mounting for pre-Clovis cultures in the Americas. In South America, sites such as Arroyo Seco and Huaca Prieta contain evidence for human habitation before 14,000 B.P. Here in central Texas at the Gault site, stratified deposits underlying those containing Clovis points suggest that people were visiting the site earlier. And, of course, there are the spectacular remains of fossilized footprints at White Sands National Park in New Mexico, which potentially date to 22,000 B.P.

However the dust ultimately settles from the debate over the Monte Verde dates, it seems almost certain that people were here prior to Clovis. Clovis represented an unprecedented and rapid expansion of people across North America, although in the end it was a short-lived phenomenon. The peopling of the Americas is a fascinating subject, in part because there is still so much we don't know.

Further reading: <https://fundacionmonteverde.cl/repositorio/>; <https://hakaimagazine.com/features/encounters-with-the-maverick-archaeologist-of-the-americas/>; <https://archive.archaeology.org/online/features/clovis/fiedel.html>; <https://gaultfilm.com/news/2022-06-01-interviews-with-tom-stafford-tom-dillehay-jill-patton/>; <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/monte-verde-redated>; <https://archaeology.org/peopling-the-americas-monte-verde/america-in-the-beginning/>; https://www.researchgate.net/publication/245495854_Monte_Verde_Confusion_and_Contradictions.



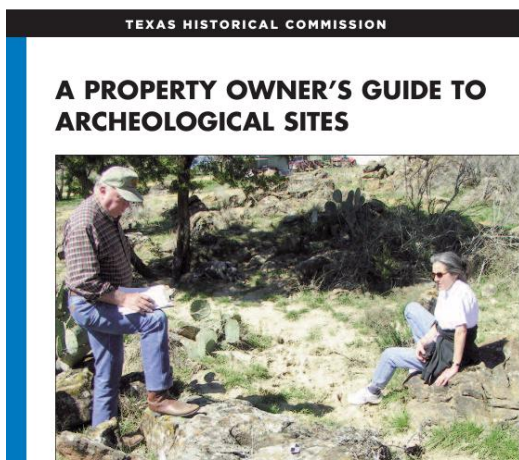
Remember that October is Texas Archeology Month – Time to Order Outreach Supplies

For resources and event information about Texas Archeology Month (TAM) 2026, keep checking [Texas Archeology Month](#) for updates.

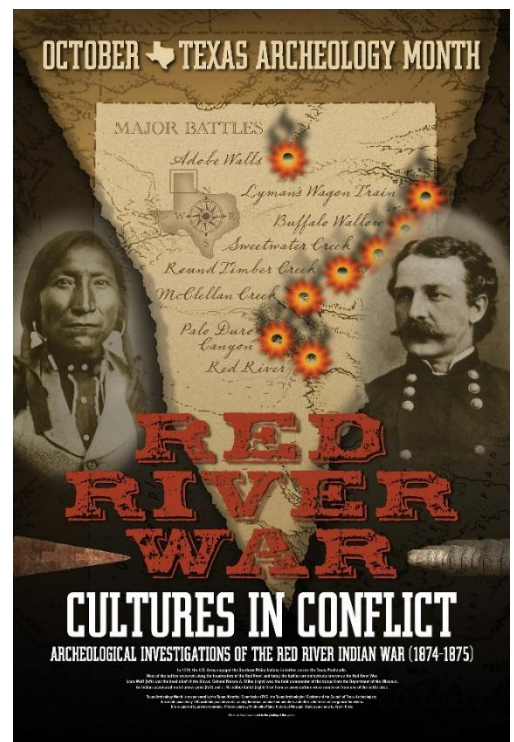
Pinch Pot Kits Available: The ordering system for free kits is open on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to place your requests early. Check the website for ordering links and details.

Order Outreach Materials Early: TAS recommends that you order the free public outreach materials early. Materials include the pinch pot kits, the TAMazine, and other handouts; [Home Page - TAM](#); [Outreach Materials | THC](#).

Submit Your Events to the TAM Calendar: Please submit your planned TAM events through the Partner Portal to ensure they're included on the public calendar and interactive map. Stay tuned for more updates, resources, and opportunities.



Examples of outreach materials available at [Archeology Public Outreach Materials](#).



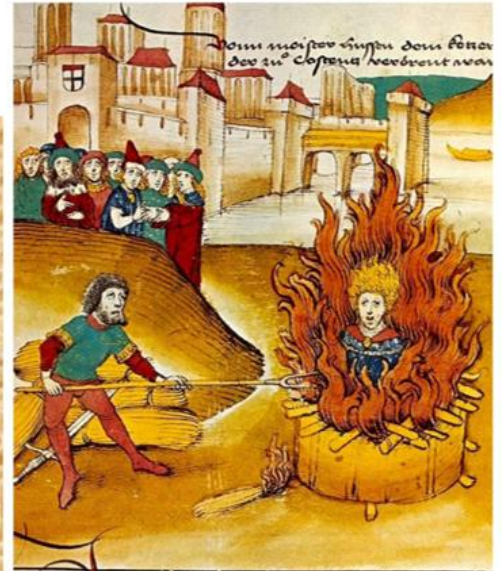
MEDIEVAL SUMMER FUN

Fun Medieval
Things To Make
Your Backyard
'The Place To Be'
This Summer

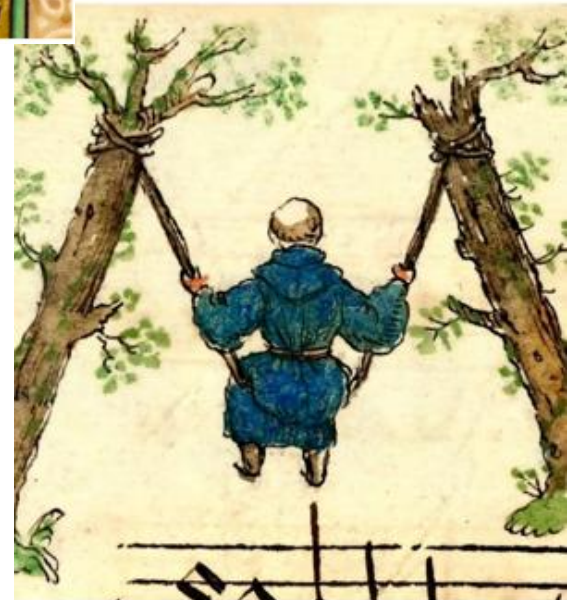
Wireless Bluetooth
speaker



Fire pit



Tree swing



Charcoal Grill and Smoker



Courtesy of Matthew Ponesse, PhD,
Professor of History at Ohio
Dominican University; [Instagram](#);
[Medievalistmatt](#); [Facebook](#).

Game table

Pizza oven



Outdoor Misting
System





Update from CoBALT Archeology, Victoria

The Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team, based in Victoria, has been working at the McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a cooperative agreement with the landowner and the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). While considered a significant Paleoindian site, 41VT141 was also regularly occupied by more recent prehistoric cultures over thousands of years.

We hope our archeology lab will be operational in its new location on the Victoria College campus by late August. Although excavation work remains temporarily paused during the lab move, CoBALT volunteers continue to stay busy with artifact analysis, collections management, public outreach, and preparations for the next phase of research at 41VT141. In addition, CoBALT accessioned artifact collections from 41VT90 and 41VT15 into the Museum of the Coastal Bend collections. As part of the accessioning process, artifacts are measured, identified, photographed, cataloged, and analyzed to better understand their significance and what they contribute to the overall morphology and interpretation of each site. HAS members are always invited to join us.



All photographs above and below courtesy of O.C. Garza; [CoBalt Archeology](http://CoBaltArcheology.com); cobaltarcheology.com; [Museum of the Coastal Bend](http://MuseumoftheCoastalBend.com).



We think the above artifact from a private collection is a shell pendant or gorget fragment that was later modified or repaired. The suspension hole strongly suggests it was worn. The decorative punctations also resemble ornamental shell work seen throughout the Southeast and Gulf Coast regions. Unfortunately, the private collection presents with no provenience at all, so this also could be an historic tourist item, although we are inclined to believe it is prehistoric. Thoughts and suggestions as to the item's age and purpose are welcomed.

~ O. C. Garza, CoBALT Archeology



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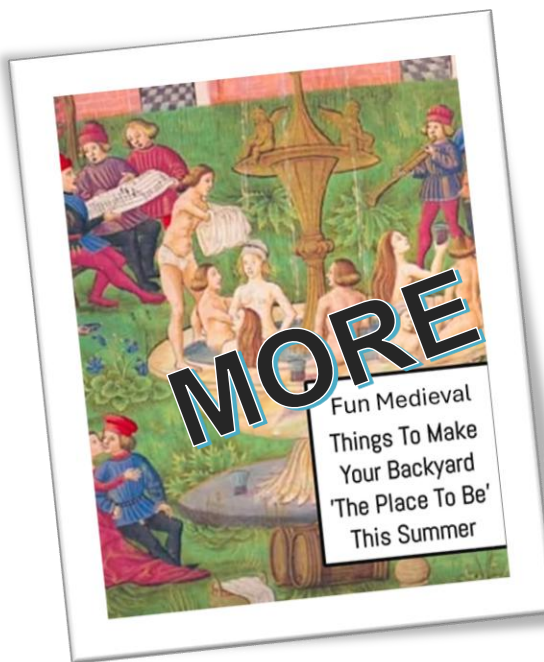
September 12

September 26

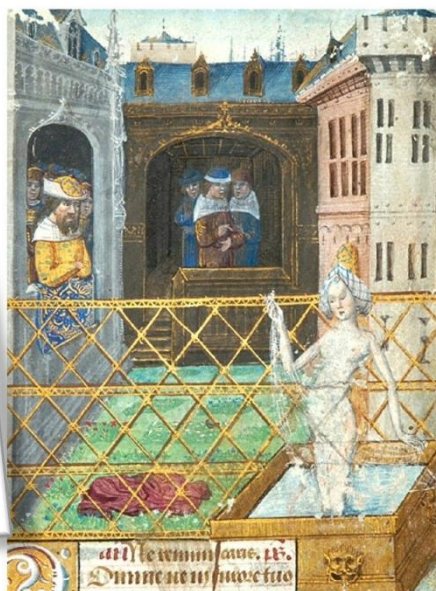
More information
may be found at
[Education
Advisory Board
Application.](#)

Book a tour of the
Gault Site at
[Tours.](#)





Hot tub



Volleyball net



Splash pad



Patio lanterns



Pool inflatables

Courtesy of Matthew Ponesse, PhD, Professor of History at Ohio Dominican University; [Instagram](#); [Medievalistmatt](#); [Facebook](#).





Texas Archeological Society ~ Spring and Summer 2026 Events

Report on Academies

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) convened three learning academies for its members this spring, stretching from El Paso to Houston, with one stop in between.

The TAS Zooarcheology & Osteology Academy was held from February 28 to March 1 in the archeology lab at Rice University. It was once again a very popular academy and a great learning experience for TAS members, led by Rice professor Dr. Mary Prendergast and her team of assistants, along with guest speakers Dr. Manuel Dominguez-Rodrigo (Rice University, on Taphonomy) and Dr. Kristine Korzow (TAMU, on Ancient DNA & Biomolecular Zooarcheology). Subjects covered included learning bone and tooth structure, anatomical terminology, horns and antlers, and analyzing dentition and mammalian crania. Basic human osteology was also covered.



Above left: Participant in the TAS Zooarcheology & Osteology Academy. Right: A mastodon tusk in the Rice University Archaeology Lab. Below left: Rice University student assistants. Photographs by Frank Kozar.



the guidance of instructors Dr. Larry Loendorf, Dr. Charles Koenig, and archeologists Amanda Castaneda and Mark Willis. Academy students learned to interpret and record rock art sites. HAS will welcome Amanda as our speaker in November.

The TAS Archeology 101 Academy was held on April 10-12 in San Angelo at the Fort Concho National Historic Landmark under the guidance of Dr. Jon Lohse, with assistance from the Concho Valley Archeological Society. This academy is scheduled every three years to educate newcomers to archaeology about proper site excavation techniques, screening of artifacts, site identification, and field techniques. Instruction takes place both in the classroom and the field.

Information about TAS Academies being scheduled for 2027 as well as 2027 Field School information will be publicized at the TAS Annual Meeting in October. Enrollment for these well-planned and worthwhile opportunities fills quickly each year, so it is wise to regularly check the TAS website for 2027 dates, locations, and updates.

Field School 2026 Report



Above: TAS Field School Site, June 2026. Photographs by Frank Kozar.

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) held its annual Field School from June 13-20 in Milam County near Rockdale, Texas, at the site of the Presidio San Xavier de Gigedo (41MM18). Part of the San Xavier Mission complex founded by the Spanish (1746-1755), the establishment eventually merged into the San Antonio and San Saba missions. SMU archaeologist Kathleen Gilmore first discovered the presidio and mission sites in the late 1960s, with over 8,000 artifacts recovered. Dr. Tamra Walter of Texas Tech University led the current excavation, along with some of her graduate students. The site lies six miles northwest of Rockdale in a pasture along the San Gabriel River, and conveniently next to the Apache Pass Event Center R/V park, which served as the field school camp site for the week.

Under hot and very humid conditions, the soil developed into a gumbo mix difficult to screen when wet. On our third day of the excavation, nearly five inches of rain fell overnight, leading to the cancellation of digging for the day. We resumed excavations the following day, with no further weather disruptions for the rest of the week.



Left: Opening a new unit.
Right: Excavations underway.
Photographs by Frank Kozar.



Above left: Lots of rain created our own reflecting pool. Below left: Evening agenda in the camp pavilion. Below right: Youth section. Photographs by Frank Kozar.

In my unit in Block C, typical artifacts recovered included small lithic flakes, butchered animal bones, centimeter-sized fragments of Spanish ceramics, pottery sherds, and a large quantity of daub. Spanish missionaries commonly used daub (a thick, cement-like mixture) as a plaster to fill in the walls of temporary wooden structures. Other units, especially the youth section, recovered numerous musket balls, scrap metal, belt buckles, gun flints, French faience, indigenous pottery, colonial glass, ornamental tinklers, lithics, and blacksmith-made square nails.

Houston Archeological Society members and friends attending included Geoff Mills, Beth Kennedy, Louis Hebert, John Swann, Garry Hartmann, Scott Bier, Debbie Eller, Gus Costa, Clint Lacy, Tom Williams, Pam Stranahan, Trudy Williams, and Sue Gross. It was another successful Field School, although we won't be revisiting the site again next year. There are rumors of a West Texas location next June, but definitive information won't be announced until this fall at the TAS annual meeting in Denton.

Frank Kozar, HAS Vice-President



Pam Stranahan adds that there was lots of activity, and she estimates that about 330 registered. Even with the one rain-out day, the site revealed clear definition of activity areas from the past.

Left: A scenic view at TAS Field School! Photograph submitted by **Trudy Williams**.

All HAS members and friends who attended a 2026 Academy or the 2026 TAS Field School are encouraged to submit photos from your experience to *The Profile* at newsletter@txhas.org.





Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation Updates

The Alamo is an active archaeological site with excavations supporting constant preservation of the Alamo Church and Long Barrack as well as construction associated with the long-range Alamo Plan. For the past few years, visitors have had daily opportunities to watch the team work, and they often witness artifact discoveries. Regular archaeology reports are posted at [Archaeology and Conservation Updates](#). Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

June 15, 2026 - Excavations continued at the Alamo Church in EUs 72, 80, 90 and 100. Archaeologists reached an approximate terminal depth of 100 cm below surface in EUs-72 and 90. One surprise artifact, a complete metal bowl, was encountered in EU-72. Excavations in EU-100 reached an approximate depth of 80 cm below surface. Artifact types recovered included construction materials, ceramics, metal objects, and glass. A fragmented toothbrush was encountered.



Left: Complete bowl from EU-72. Right: Toothbrush from EU-100. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - June 15](#) | [The Alamo](#). Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

June 22, 2026 - Excavations continued in EUs 80, 92, and 100. EU-92 is located along the east wall of the Church. The soils were indicative of a redeposition. The artifact types found within this unit include ceramic, glass, metal, and construction materials.



Left: Metal hardware from EU-92. Center: Bottle fragment from EU-92. Right: Ammunition fragment from EU-100. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - June 22](#) | [The Alamo](#). Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

Excavations were completed in EU-100 last week. Archaeologists encountered the natural bedrock and reached an approximate terminal depth of 110 cm below surface. Artifact types found within the unit include ceramic, metal, glass, construction materials, and ammunition. Excavations in EU-80 reached an approximate depth of 70 cm below surface. The artifact types found within this unit include construction materials, metal, ceramics, and glass.



Left: European ceramics from EU-80. Right: Brick fragments, nails, and olive glass shard from EU-80. Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - June 22 | The Alamo. Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

June 29, 2026 - Excavations continued last week at the Alamo Church in EUs 79, 92, and 101. Excavations in EU-79 began last week and reached an approximate depth of 20 cm below surface. This unit is located on the northeast side of the Alamo Church. Immediately below surface and within the modern landscaping deposits archaeologists encountered a portion of the concrete alignment previously encountered in EUs 72, 90, and 100, and several utilities. This concrete is likely left over from early 1900s construction. The artifact types found within this unit include construction materials, metal, ceramics, and glass.



Left: EU-79 at approximately 20 cm below surface, photo facing north. Right: EU-92 at 130 cm below surface, photo facing west. Below: Doll face fragment from EU-92. Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - June 29 | The Alamo. Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

Archaeologists in EU-92 reached an approximate depth of 130 cm below surface. Archaeologists encountered and documented the footing of the Church foundation, but observed no additional features. This unit had quite a bit of cultural material including at least two complete bottles and a fragment from a ceramic doll. Excavations started in EU-101 last week and reached an approximate depth of 80 cm below surface. This unit is located on the southeast corner of the Alamo Church and is adjacent to the old concrete acequia. In the upper levels, archaeologists encountered two utility conduits and the same concrete feature previously documented in several units.



Left: Complete bottle from EU-92.
 Right: Inkwell from EU-92.
 Alamo Archaeology Church
 Preservation - June 29 | The Alamo.
 Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.



Excavations started in EU-101 last week and reached an approximate depth of 80 cm below surface. This unit is located on the southeast corner of the Alamo Church and is adjacent to the old concrete acequia. In the upper levels, archaeologists encountered two utility conduits and the same concrete feature previously documented in several units.

July 6, 2026 - Excavations continued last week at the Alamo Church. EUs 79, 73, 98, and 108 were active last week and EUs 92 and 101 completed excavation and final documentation. Archaeologists started excavations in EU-73. This unit is located on the northeast side of the Alamo Church. Archaeologists reached an approximate depth of 30 cm below surface. Immediately below surface and within the modern landscaping deposit archaeologists encountered a utility conduit. Archaeologists continued excavations in EU 79 and reached an approximate depth of 90 cm below surface. Archaeologists exposed more of the 1900s concrete alignment, and it appears to continue into the next level. Mixed soil deposits from the construction of the concrete are present. Cultural materials include a complete bottle and ceramic sherds.



July 13, 2026 -

Excavations continued last week at the Alamo Church in EUs 73, 98, and 108. Archaeologists continued excavations in EU-73 and reached an approximate depth of 90 cm below surface. This unit has had previous disturbances from utility installations, as well as what may be a redeposition of construction fill as evidenced by the large fragments of concrete. Although the soil deposit indicates a mixed context, archaeologists have found interesting artifacts such as a clay marble.



Above left: Complete amber bottle from EU-79. Above right: European ceramic sherd from EU-79. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - July 6 | The Alamo.](#)
 Below left: Toy die from EU-91. Below right: Clay marble from EU-73. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - July 13 | The Alamo.](#) Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.



Left: Assortment of artifacts. Right: Glass bottles from EU-98. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - July 13](#). Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

Archaeologists began excavations in EU-91 last week. This unit is east of the Alamo Church and adjacent to two previously completed excavation units. Archaeologists reached a depth of 30 cm below surface at the end of the week. These top levels are still within modern deposits. However, a small toy die made from a synthetic material was recovered from the level. Excavations in EU-98 reached an approximate depth of 110 cm below surface. Archaeologists have revealed the wall footer with intact mortar. The soil deposits suggest previous disturbance, likely from the construction of the concrete foundation east of the Church. Archaeologists recovered hundreds of artifacts from the unit, including glass bottles, ceramics, and a musket ball. Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

The Alamo Collection contains manuscripts, objects, and artwork spanning over 300 years of Alamo history. Explore the artifact portal and come back often to see what is new at [Explore the Collection](#).

Tune in regularly to [Stories Bigger Than Texas: The Alamo Podcast](#), a 2026 Award of Excellence winner of the American Association for State and Local History's Leadership in History Awards, the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. The Alamo's Podcast also has won several previous awards in both 2025 and 2026 for Podcast Series from a Cultural Institution.

The Alamo's Archaeology Team Discovers Second Battle-Era Cannonball In Three Months

The Alamo's archaeology team has unearthed another fully-intact, solid cannonball that can be traced to the Battle of the Alamo era. It is the second cannonball the team has discovered in three months. "A cannonball is maybe a once-in-a-lifetime - or in my case, a twice-in-a-lifetime - discovery. It's really exciting," the Alamo's Director of Archaeology Dr. Tiffany Lindley said. "It's the best job in the world." The initial [cannonball was excavated on March 5](#), the day before the 190th anniversary of the world-famous Battle of the Alamo, and is made from solid bronze. This latest cannonball was unearthed on June 2 and is made from solid iron. They were each found in adjacent excavation units outside the northeast corner of the Alamo Church, at approximately the same depth. Dr. Lindley described both units as clean deposit, meaning the layers of soil over time are clearly visible. "What that tells us is that they were in likely their original deposition," she says. "So whenever they were dropped, the very first time - possibly in 1836, probably - they haven't been touched since. And that's what makes them extra special." The Alamo's archaeology team is collaborating with other Alamo experts to determine the cannonballs' sizes and origins. "Though the cannonballs are of different material and they weigh roughly the same size, the newest one is slightly larger and likely was fired from a six-pound cannon," the Alamo's Senior Researcher and Historian Kolby Lanham says. "The likelihood is that the bronze one belonged to the Mexican Army and the iron one belonged to the Texans at some point." While additional analysis is forthcoming, Lanham said based on soil layers documented by the archaeology team and primary sources from the Mexican Army, he believes both cannonballs were used during the Siege and Battle of the Alamo. "The first one we found, I thought, there's no way in the world we just found a cannonball from 190 years ago. And then fast forward just a couple of months, and we found a second one. It's just a huge kind of once-in-a-lifetime deal - but obviously it's happened twice," Lanham said. Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

The two cannonballs side by side. The left was discovered on March 5, and the right was discovered on June 2. [The Alamo's Archaeology Team Discovers Second Battle-Era Cannonball In Three Months | The Alamo](#). Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.



HAS Reference Desk



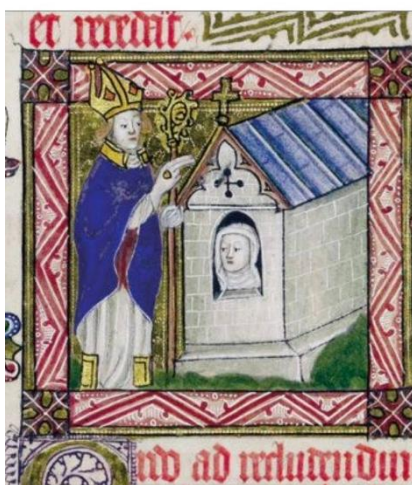
Image: Albrecht Dürer, Erasmus of Rotterdam at his desk, Engraving, 1526. [The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#).

What research on archeology, anthropology, paleontology, or history have you been reading lately? The HAS Reference desk seeks your suggestions about interesting archeology and history news and links. There's lots of historical research and interesting archeology taking place - check out these links: [Archaeologists-discover-second-cannonball-from-the-battle-of-the-alamo-and-it-was-likely-fired-by-texans](#); [Hillfort is 'largest nucleated settlement' in prehistoric Ireland](#); [Ancient Greco-Roman Curse Tablets | HISTORY](#); [Catalogue of the 68 Competitive Designs for the Great Tower for London \(1890\)](#); [The Truth of the Hindenburg Disaster | HISTORY](#); [Off the Grid - Archaeology Magazine](#); [Remarkable Celtic Burial Chamber In Riedlingen And The Artifacts Grave Robbers Never Took - Ancient Pages](#); [The evolutionary history and unique genetic diversity of Indigenous Americans | Nature](#); [What did dogs mean to the ancient Maya | National Geographic](#); [Why this mystery about the ancient Americas has sparked an explosive debate | National Geographic](#); [Human remains discovered beneath Houston roadway raise new questions about historic Black cemetery](#); [Lost Ancient Cities We're Still Looking For | HISTORY](#); [Antakya Museum Hotel Mosaic](#); [Norway's largest Viking hoard with 3,000 silver coins](#); [U.S. recognizes Republic of Texas claims to disputed territory](#); [The Lighthouse of Alexandria is Coming Back to Life](#); [How Blue Jeans Began | HISTORY](#); [Graffiti's Origins and Role Across Millennia | HISTORY](#); [Ancient Roman 'machine-gun' damage discovered on Pompeii walls | Scientific American](#); [Badlands Geology and Paleontology](#); [Archaeologists Discover Alexander The Great's Lost City After 2,000 Years](#); [Indigenous accounting and exchange at Monte Sierpe Band of Holes](#); [Traces of Texas - Eyewitness Account of Santa Anna's first meeting with Sam Houston after the Battle of San Jacinto](#); [Archaeological mission in Oxyrhynchus has found Homer's 'Iliad' inside a Roman-era mummy](#); [Brazil's Ancient Whale Watchers](#); [Was This Odysseus' Sanctuary - New Discovery on Ithaca](#); [11,000-year-old Indigenous village uncovered near Sturgeon Lake - University of Saskatchewan](#); [Report on the 2022 excavations at Wogan Cavern](#); [From hippos to Homo sapiens: cave hidden beneath Pembroke Castle could rewrite Britain's prehistoric story](#); [Ice Age Britain: Finding the First Homo sapiens](#); [12,000-Year-Old Scraps of Elk Hide May Be Oldest Known Examples of Sewing](#); [Massive Ancient City Hidden Beneath Turkey | HISTORY](#); [Wattle and Daub](#); <https://www.livescience.com/chemistry/extreme-crystal-that-formed-in-1945-nuclear-bomb-test-unlike-anything-scientists-have-seen>; [Unique Iron Age shield in Leicester](#); [High-status-roman-woman-buried-in-lead-coffin-with-hairpins-and-exotic-resins](#); [Mysterious Underground Cities](#); <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/fourth-musketeer-d-artagnan-dna>; [Ancient Egypt's First Queen](#); purdue.newsroom/2025/Q4/expedition-to-search-for-amelia-earharts-plane-postponed-to-2026; <https://amelia.prf.org/>; [Tinkler/Dangler/Cone, National Museum of the American Indian](#); [Mysterious Underground Cities](#).





Pop-up mosquito tent



Patio Umbrella



Lazy river raft / drinking keg



Courtesy of Matthew Ponesse, PhD, Professor of History at Ohio Dominican University; [Instagram](#); [Medievalismatt](#); [Facebook](#).



CONCHO VALLEY Archaeology Fair

FREE!
and open to all!



Join Us!

The Concho Valley Archaeology Fair is quickly approaching! Come out to Fort Concho's Barracks 6 for hands-on activities for all ages. Kids can learn archery too! The program takes place from 10 AM to 3 PM, Saturday, September 19, 2026.

YESTERYEAR'S REVISTED
September 19
10 AM - 3 PM

Contact Us
630 S. Oak St.
San Angelo, Texas
325-763-7361
clarkc74@gmail.com

REGISTRATION IS OPEN



TAS 97TH ANNUAL MEETING
DENTON, TX 2026

ANOTHER REMINDER: Early registration is now open for the 97th Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society. Register and mark your calendar for October 2-4, 2026, in Denton, Texas, for three days of archaeological research, engaging speakers, networking, vendors, field excursions, and more.



From the Texas Historical Commission ~ Make History by Working for the Texas Historical Commission



Below are some of the job openings at the Texas Historical Commission. Although positions are available throughout the state, many listings are located in Austin unless otherwise noted.

- [SEE ALL OPEN POSTINGS](#)
- [Division Director for Historic Sites Business Operations](#)
- [Project Reviewer, Courthouse Preservation Program](#)
- [Historic Sites Administrative Assistant](#)



From the Texas State Historical Association

Warehouse Clearance Sale – Check the website below for sale prices on some Texas history classics.

New Books Available - TSHA announces newly published Texas history books from the TSHA Press that present original research, biographies, regional histories, and stories that deepen our understanding of Texas.

Visit [Home](#) | [Legacy of Texas](#).



Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

Please note that meetings will vary between in-person, hybrid, or virtual (via Zoom). The meeting format may change; be sure to double-check the HAS website and your emails for updates prior to each meeting.

August 20 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Heather Para presenting a case study on museum collaboration with avocational archeologists in Texas and Bill Birmingham of Victoria, via Zoom only.

August 30 - TAS Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom. See TAS website for information.

September 17 - 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Dr. Gus Costa. [Trini Mendenhall Community Center](#), 1414 Wirt Road, with a Zoom link available to members.

October 2 - TAS Executive Committee and Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom and in person, Denton. See TAS website for information.

October 15 – 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring HAS member Geoff Mills discussing Angostura points uncovered at the Lone Oak site. [Trini Mendenhall Community Center](#), 1414 Wirt Road, with a Zoom link available to members.

November 19 - 6 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Amanda Castaneda from SHUMLA, via Zoom only.

December 17 – 6 p.m. Come enjoy the annual HAS Christmas party, holiday treats, and year-end recap. [Trini Mendenhall Community Center](#), 1414 Wirt Road, with a Zoom link available to members.

Houston Archeological Society monthly meetings are ordinarily free and open to the public. Many previous HAS presentations are archived on our [YouTube Site](#), where they are available for public viewing. For more information about HAS, visit www.txhas.org, email us at president@txhas.org, or join our [Facebook Page](#).





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

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England will return the Bayeux tapestry to France with an extra panel added

However, HAS members would use the correct Roman numeral of IV!



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