



**Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Featuring August Costa, PhD, Speaking on the Nighthawk Bison Jump in Caprock Canyon State Park**

Hello HAS members - The September members' meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held in person on Thursday, September 17, at 6:00 p.m. This will be a hybrid meeting with both an in-person gathering at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center and a Zoom component for those members who cannot join us there. The Trini Mendenhall Community Center is located at 1414 Wirt Road in the Spring Branch area of Houston. The link for the Zoom meeting will be sent to currently registered members as we get closer to the meeting date. This serves as the Society's Annual Meeting, when the new board of directors will be introduced by HAS President Bob Sewell. We will welcome August "Gus" Costa, PhD, as our speaker. An independent consulting archeologist who provides specialist support in geoarchaeology, artifact, and faunal analysis, Gus earned a doctorate focusing on paleoanthropology at Indiana University, where he was a Fulbright and Leakey Foundation fellow conducting expeditions to India supported by the National Science Foundation. His academic work in India focused on the earliest human occupation of South Asia. Gus has more than twenty-five years of experience in archeology and has carried out field and lab-based work in Asia, Africa, and Europe, as well as numerous projects domestically.

Gus is an adjunct lecturer at Rice University where he has taught courses in geoarchaeology, paleontology, paleotechnology and Asian Prehistory. Gus has contributed to numerous cultural resource surveys and acted as a consulting geoarchaeologist and analyst for survey, testing, and large data recovery projects. He has served as principal geoarchaeologist and faunal analyst for the Nighthawk Bison Jump Project since May of 2022. Dr. Costa is the principal investigator for ongoing salvage investigations at the Nighthawk Bison Jump in Caprock Canyons State Park, which will be the subject of his presentation.

Discoveries at the Nighthawk Bison Jump have paradigm-shifting implications for communal bison hunting practices among precontact people of the southern plains. Testing and data recovery at the Nighthawk State Archeological Landmark have provided thirty radiocarbon dates demonstrating that the hunting facility was used at least seven times between 3,500 and 300 years BP, establishing the site as one of the oldest and longest-tenured Late Holocene bison jumps identified. Gus will provide an account of the multicomponent faunal assemblage and its taphonomy as well as broader jumpscape and possible long-term maintenance activities.



We hope you will all join us on September 17 for this interesting lecture, which is free and open to the public. Be looking for your meeting reminder, which will also contain the Zoom link so that those HAS members who cannot attend in person will be able to tune in from afar. 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

Photograph courtesy of August Costa, PhD.





President's Message – Bob Sewell

HAS Members and Friends –

September is when HAS elects the Board of Directors for the following year. On Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., we will hold our Houston Archeological Society Annual General Meeting including the election of officers for 2026-2027. The nominating committee consisting of Beth Kennedy, Debbie Eller and Larry Golden have identified the following individuals as nominees for the following Board positions.

The nominees are:

- Bob Sewell – President
- Frank Kozar – Vice President
- John Gorczk – Secretary
- John Swann – Treasurer (three-year term)
- Geoff Mills – Director-at-Large (three-year term)
- Gail Peterkin – Director-at-Large (two-year term remaining)
- Louis Hebert – Director-at-Large (one-year term), replacing John Swann



I am especially pleased that the existing Board members have agreed to stand for the 2026-2027 season, and I am also proud that the Nominating Committee members have confidence in nominating us. All members who were on the membership record for the August meeting should have received an email regarding the voting process. Many of you have responded, but if you have not then there is still time. So, make your voice heard.

Excavation activities have been reasonably quiet due to the excessive heat, mostly requiring some tidying up after leaving the units for several weeks. But we will be back in the field as the weather cools; more information to come.

Volunteers Needed for Community Outreach

Outreach activities were quiet for the last month, but we have the following requests coming up. Please monitor your emails as we request assistance with these activities:

- Saturday, September 12, 9 a.m. to Noon: Native American Heritage Festival, Jesse Jones Park and Nature Center, 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble
- Saturday, October 3: Genealogy Day, Montgomery County Memorial Library, 104 Interstate 45 North, Conroe
- Saturday, October 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: International Archeology Day, Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Drive
- Saturday, October 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Nature and Outdoor Exposition, Magnolia Event Center, 11659 FM 1488, Magnolia

If anyone can assist with HAS Outreach Support, please let me know at president@txhas.org. We have the presentations ready, and we can train you. It's not difficult; it just takes a bit of your time and can be very rewarding.

Bob Sewell, President



Note: The regular editor of *The Profile*, Betsy Wittenmyer, will be taking a period of Family Medical Leave. In the interim, issues will be abbreviated. Please continue to send your news, contributions, and photographs to newsletter@txhas.org. All content is greatly welcomed and appreciated.





Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes ~ August 20, 2026

Virtual (Zoom), 21 participants. The meeting started at 6:30 p.m., led by Bob Sewell. Welcome to existing and new members.

Membership - 162 members, including 16 professionals. Treasury - Funds are good, still in the black and plenty of discretionary funds.

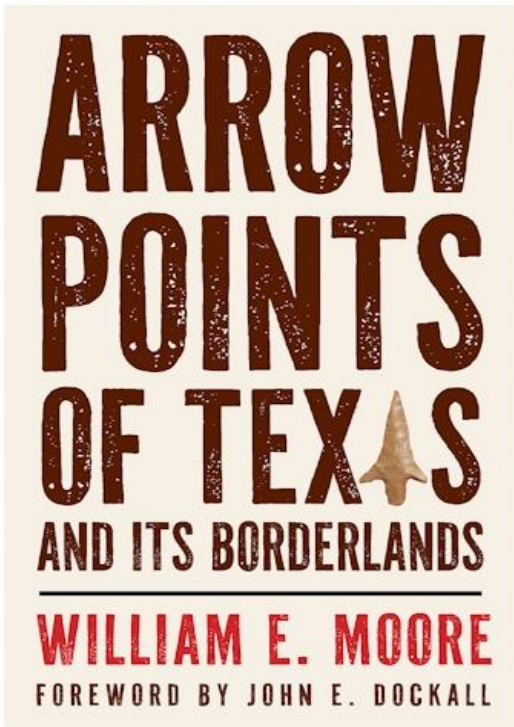
1. Appointment of new Board of Directors for 2026/2027
 - a. Annual meeting every September. The big deal this time around is the election of a new slate of directors.
 - b. Nominating Committee appointed:
 - i. Beth Kennedy, Debbie Eller, Larry Golden
 - c. Proposed slate:
Bob Sewell – President
Frank Kozar – Vice President
John Gorczyk – Secretary
John Swann – Treasurer (three-year term)
Geoff Mills – Director-at-Large (three-year term)
Gail Peterkin – Director-at-Large (two-year term remaining)
Louis Hebert – Director-at-Large (one-year term), replacing John Swann
 - d. Voting via email. Email will be sent after this meeting.
 - e. Results to be announced at September 2026 meeting
2. Project Activities- heat still an issue, but the HAS has still been out in the field periodically
 - a. Walnut Tree Hill
 - i. Last visits August 8 and August 15, 2026
 - ii. Rock features being investigated - Potential hearths, but have to do more analysis on the features before that can be verified. Maybe an additional 10-15 cm
 - iii. Concentrate due to upcoming hunting season- not as big an issue as initially thought, so don't need to concentrate as hard on it.
 - b. Goloby
 - i. Visit on 11th August cancelled due to heat
 - ii. Brush is being mowed
 - c. Lone Oak
 - i. Last visit 4/25/26
 - ii. Another Angostura recovered
 - iii. All artifacts, except last box have been processed
 - iv. Photos for report to be obtained
 - v. Next visit is 8/29 (not 8/22 as initially suggested by email), heat and weather permitting.
3. Outreach Activities
 - a. Several more requests received:
 - i. Native American Heritage, Jesse Jones Park, Sept 12, 2026
 - ii. MCLS Genealogy – October 3, 2026
 - iii. HMNS International Archeology Day – October 17, 2026
 - iv. Typically need more volunteers than usual- more than 3 or 4.
4. Next Meeting
 - a. September 17, 2026
 - b. HAS Annual Meeting
 - c. Dr. Gus Costa
 - i. Investigations at the Nighthawk Bison Jump Site
5. Tonight's speaker: Dr. Heather Para, curator at NMSU (New Mexico State University) museum. Dr. Para spoke about her collaborations with Bill Birmingham at the Museum of the Coastal bend in Victoria, and about the good work that museums and collaborators can do if done properly.

John Gorczyk, HAS Secretary





**Review of *Arrow Points of Texas and its Borderlands* by William E. Moore, HAS Founding Member
Published by Texas A&M University Press**



During HAS excavations at our active project sites, we often unearth projectile points. Most of these are dart points which would be hafted onto spear or atlatl projectiles. We also recover arrow points, e.g., Perdiz, Scallorn, depending on the site. Most of our artifacts tend to be dart points.

Bill Moore's book offers far more than descriptions of arrow point types. His discussion of typing methods places arrow points in a broader context of form, material, and location, extending beyond Texas. Moore introduces a wide range of source materials, including chert, obsidian, fusion glass, and even gar scales, and provides an extensive list of places where these materials have been found, especially quarries and outcrops. I found his discussion of how to distinguish dart points from arrow points especially useful.

The book discusses arrow point types found not only in Texas but also in the nearby areas of Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and northern Mexico. These comprehensive descriptions include original recorders, similar types, age, description, cultural affiliation, known sites, comments, and distribution.

The appendices provide more general information, including a very comprehensive list of references, evidencing Bill's penchant for details and thoroughness.

Arrow Points of Texas and Its Borderlands-
Texas A&M University Press.

At HAS we currently use Sue Ellen Turner and Thomas R. Hester's publication, *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians*, as our reference guide in the field. After reading *Arrow Points of Texas and its Borderlands*, I think that we should include Bill's book as our onsite reference for arrow points.

Geoffrey Mills, HAS



Register for the Texas Archeological Society 97th Annual Meeting, October 2 – 4, 2026



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.

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
TAS Annual Meeting Committee*

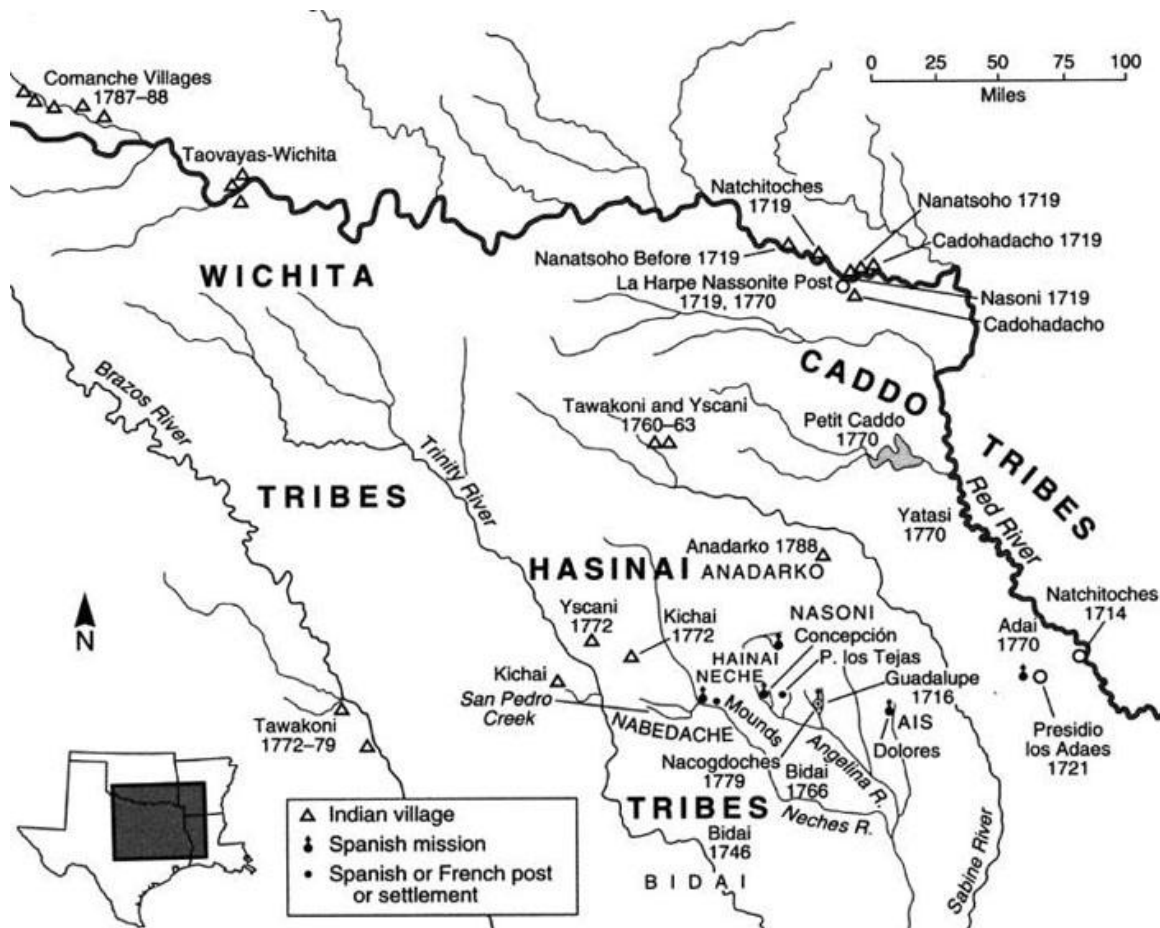




Some Notes on the Identity of the Bidai (Bidais, Bedias) Native People of Southeast Texas

Ted A. Campbell

The Bidai people (also spelled Bedai, Bedias, Biday, or Viday and many other variations) were a Native American people historically located in what is now southeast Texas, between the lower Trinity River above the lands of the Orkokisak, the upper West Fork of the San Jacinto River (present Spring, Texas), and the Navasota River. They may have been the last Native group in southeast Texas to survive living within their own communities, even into the twentieth century.



Tribes of East Texas. Native Displacement in Walker County | East Texas History.

Spanish explorers and missionaries encountered them in the early eighteenth century and identified them as part of the larger Caddoan cultural and linguistic family. A chief of the Caddo people had told Spanish General Mier y T ran in 1828 that,

... the small tribes called the Tejas, Badaeses [Bidai], Navadachos [Nabedache], and Nacodochitos had been cut off previously from the Cad s [Caddo] tribe. This also was verified by several residents and confirmed by the identity of their language.¹

The name “Bidai” is derived from a Caddo word for “brush wood” and it would make sense for Caddo to refer to them as inhabiting the “brushwood” of what we now call the Post Oak Savanna (or Post Oak Belt) of Texas.

Twentieth-century scholars came to suspect that the Bidai people might be part of the family of Ish k people including the neighboring Orkokisak (Akokisa, Orcoquisac) people of the lower Trinity River in Texas and the Atakapa Ish k people of southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana, especially because Spanish administrators in Texas placed Bidai on a reservation

with Orkokisak (Akokisa). I am inclined to think that the jury is still out on whether they were culturally more related to the Caddo or to the Ishák peoples whose lands adjoined theirs.

A small but ambiguous glimpse into Bidai culture survives thanks to Rufus Grimes, a descendant of early settlers in Navasota, Montgomery, and Grimes counties in Texas, who recorded a handful of words remembered by older residents. These words were sent to the Smithsonian's Bureau of American Ethnology in the late 19th century, likely to ethnologist Albert S. Gatschet. Although the vocabulary list was limited, it included basic terms for people, animals, and objects, such as the word for "deer" (*kósh*) and "man" (*táwa*). The words Grimes recorded for the Bidai people include two words from the Mobilian Trade Language or the Choctaw language on which the Mobilian Trade Language was based. However, the words for numbers that Grimes recorded do not resemble the words for numbers from Mobilian. I wonder if what Grimes heard, handed down from earlier settlers, was not the Bidai language itself, but a trade language that Bidai people expected other groups (including European American settlers like Grimes) to understand.²

By the mid-18th century, the Bidai had established peaceful trade relations with Spanish missions near present-day Nacogdoches and San Antonio, while also interacting with French traders from Louisiana. They adopted some Catholic practices through contact with Spanish missions but remained autonomous. Their relations with neighboring tribes such as the Atakapa Ishák and Orkokisak were complex, involving shifting alliances, shared ceremonial practices, and occasional conflict.

A Catholic mission church between Klein and Tomball in North Harris County kept records of a Bidai family baptized there in the 1840s, with their well-known chief, Francisco, serving as their baptismal sponsors.³

By the early nineteenth century, the Bidai population, like the populations of other native groups, had declined due to disease and displacement, and yet there were Bidai people living in Montgomery and Grimes counties until the early twentieth century. A particularly poignant testimony comes from Chester Telge, who recalled stories from his grandmother in the early twentieth century about the "Bedais" who had once camped near the family farm in Waller County, leaving behind fragments of pottery and stone tools. His grandmother's accounts, passed down orally, suggest that remnants of the Bidai people remained in the area well into the modern period, blending into local populations or preserving cultural continuity through hidden or informal means.

The Telge family had purchased land in northern Harris County in the 1850s. Dan M. Worrall's *Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas* relates that Chester Telge recalled that the Bidai were still there in his youth in the early twentieth century. In an interview with archeologists, Telge recalled that his father and grandfather periodically gave beef and hides to nearby Bidai people, while his grandmother exchanged a loaf of bread for a catfish on baking days. This pattern apparently continued into the early 1920s, when one day the bread left on the porch remained untouched at sundown, leading his grandmother to conclude that "the Indians are no more."

This is a truly remarkable account: I know of no other account of native people of Southeast Texas extending into the twentieth century except those of native peoples who intermarried with other groups. Both narratives about the location of the Bidai people suggest that the Bidai had moved farther south than their historic territory, into southeast Texas areas, into lands formerly occupied by Orkokisak peoples.

Some Sources:

Aten, Lawrence E., "Indians of the Upper Texas Coast: A Regional Overview" in Charles Hudson, ed., *Indians of the Greater Southeast* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1978), 342–356.

Gatschet, Albert S., field notes and correspondence, Bureau of American Ethnology, ca. 1880s–1890s. The Bidai wordlist recorded by Rufus Grimes was reportedly sent to Gatschet and preserved in Smithsonian records.

Telge, Chester, reminiscences of Bidai people cited in Dan M. Worrall, *A Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas* (Fulshear: Concertina Press, 2021).

Worrall, Dan M., *A Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas* (Fulshear: Concertina Press, 2021).

Zamponi, Raul, "Unclassified languages" in *The Languages and Linguistics of Indigenous North America* (De Gruyter, 2024).

Notes:

¹ Manuel de Mier y Terán, *Texas by Terán: The Diary Kept by General Manuel de Mier y Terán on His 1828 Inspection of Texas*, edited by Jack Jackson (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000), entry for 3 June 1828, p. 80.

² The list of Bidai words is given in Raul Zamponi, "Unclassified Languages" in *The Languages and Linguistics of Indigenous North America* (De Gruyter, 2024), pp. 1627–1648. There is also a Wikipedia page that gives the list of known words: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bidai_language

³ Worrall, *Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas*, 124-125.



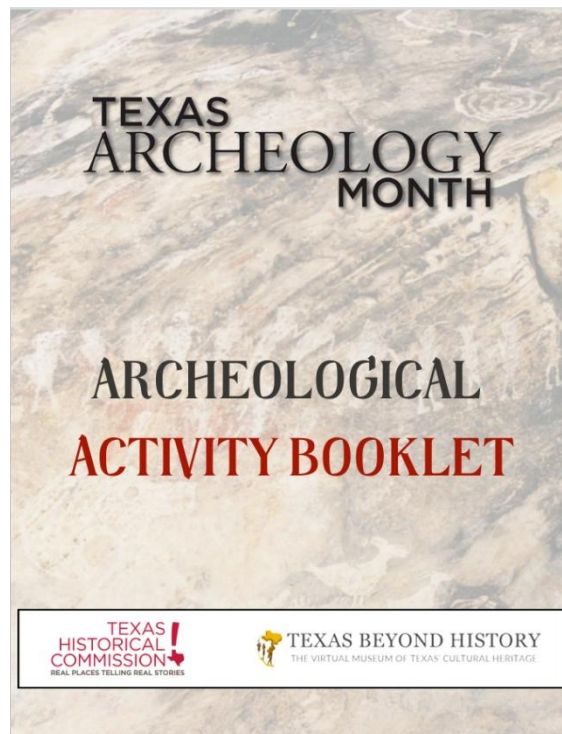
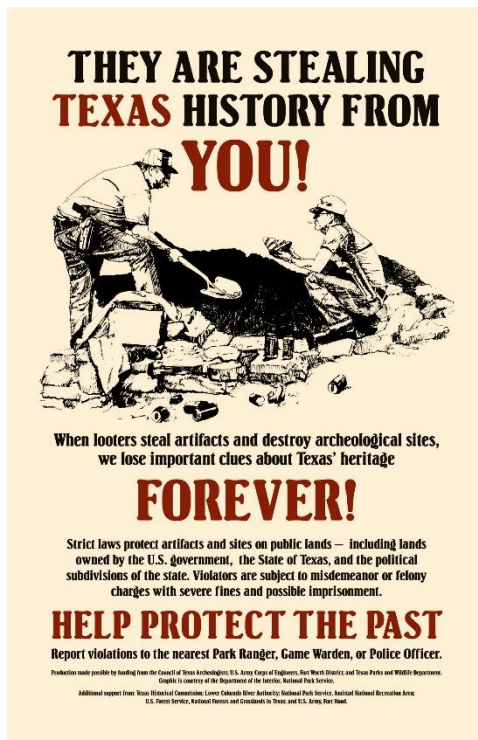
Remember that October is Texas Archeology Month – Time to Order Outreach Supplies

Throughout October, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) coordinates Texas Archeology Month (TAM) throughout the state. For resources and event information, 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](#).





Archaeological Institute of America Updates – Call for Papers



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. **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.



Source: www.webweaver.nu/unclesam.jpg.

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 academies, 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 makes 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



TAS 97TH ANNUAL MEETING
DENTON, TX 2026



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 Oakes St.
San Angelo, Texas
325-763-7361
clarkc74@gmail.com



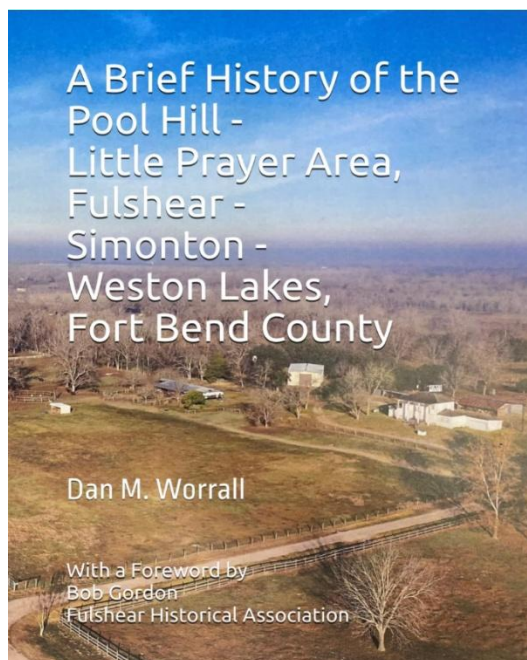


Historian and HAS Member Dan Worrall – Lectures and Publication

Saturday morning, September 19, HAS member, author, and historian Dan Worrall will be speaking at the Katy Prairie Welcome Center. Dan will discuss the pre-history of the Katy Prairie, exploring the human and natural history of the region over thousands of years. He will trace the indigenous presence on the Katy Prairie back some 13,000 years, including the prairie's role as a seasonal migration corridor for bison and how indigenous communities used controlled fire and hunting practices to shape the landscape. He'll also discuss the history of the Akokisa people, including a nearby hunting camp visited by Spanish military expeditions in the early 1700s.

Pre-history of the Katy Prairie with Dan Worrall
 Saturday, September 19 | 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
 Indiangrass Preserve & Katy Prairie Welcome Center
 31975 Hebert Road, Waller, Texas
 Register here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/q8a4jp4>

On the evening of Thursday, October 22, the Fort Bend Museum in Richmond is hosting an event for Texas Archeology Month. Alongside several speakers, Dan will be giving a presentation entitled *Recent Updates to an Understanding of Bowser Mound and Long-Distance Transport of Burial Goods in Late Archaic Time*. For more information, contact Emma Snow at the [Fort Bend Museum](#).



Worrall recently published his ninth book, which is entitled *A Brief History of the Pool Hill - Little Prayer Area, Fulshear-Simonton - Weston Lakes, Fort Bend County*. It is available for sale on Amazon, and proceeds all go to the Fulshear Historical Association.

Pool Hill lies in a little-known corner of our area that preserves a remarkable concentration of Native American, Texian, African American, and German and Czech immigrant history. Archaeological evidence shows 12,000 years of Native American occupation, including Bowser Mound (41FB3), a 3,500-year-old burial mound that is the oldest known manmade structure in the Greater Houston area. Burial artifacts found there connect the region to far distant areas including Lake Superior and Ontario. The area was later settled by members of Stephen F. Austin's Old 300, including Noel Roberts and David and John Randon, who established plantations worked by enslaved African Americans. In 1859, James Pool founded a plantation on what became known as Pool Hill. After emancipation, many freedmen remained and formed the Little Prayer community, part of a larger network of freedmen settlements in the region. In 1873, local freedmen founded Lively Hope Missionary Baptist Church, the first Black church in the Fulshear-Simonton area. In 1910, German American rancher John Bowser and his wife Mary

Ash built a prominent neoclassical home at Pool Hill, now the oldest surviving residence in the area and a refuge during the great flood of 1913. The site also includes the 1855 Matěj Novak dogtrot log cabin, relocated from Praha, Texas, and recognized as the oldest Czech building in Texas. Today, this historic rural landscape faces increasing development pressure as Fulshear and Simonton continue to grow, threatening a rare and irreplaceable link to the region's past.

Make plans to read, listen, and learn about Dan Worrall's ongoing research throughout our region's fascinating cultural landscape.

Additional sources: [The Bowser Mound and Bowser House: 3,500 Years of History Between Fulshear and Simonton](#); [12,000 Years on a Quiet Hill: Dan Worrall on the History of Pool Hill](#); [Fulshear Historical Association](#); [Amazon.com: Dan Michael Worrall](#); [Coastal Prairie Conservancy](#).





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.

In partnership with the Museum of the Coastal Bend, we are preparing exhibits and activities for Texas Archeology Month in October. One exhibit will feature the remarkable flintknapping skills of CoBALT founding member Jimmy Bluhm, who also recreated other forms of Native American material culture, including pine-needle baskets and hollowed-out wooden drums.



Much of our recent “beat-the-heat” work has involved cataloging the museum’s extensive collection from 41VT15, one of the most important archaeological sites in Victoria County. Bill Birmingham worked and studied 41VT15 for more than six decades, and fellow CoBALT members Smitty Schmiedlin, Sonny Timme, Don Will, and others donated artifacts they collected from the site. Together, these collections and extensive field notes provide an important record that help archaeologists understand how stone tool technologies and lifeways changed through time in the Texas Coastal Bend.

Although our excavation remains temporarily paused during the lab move, CoBALT volunteers continue to stay busy with artifact analysis, collections management, public outreach, site surveys, and preparations for the next phase of research at 41VT141.

O. C. Garza, CoBALT Archeology



Do You Know Some Good Archaeology Jokes?

The Profile solicits your archaeology or history jokes, cartoons, witty poems, or even humorous stories from the field. Please submit them to newsletter@txhas.org!

English court jesters from the 14th century | Photo credit: Mary Evans Picture Library 2021. Source: [The history of court jesters in Britain | DiscoverBritain.com](https://www.discoverbritain.com/history/court-jesters-in-britain/)



From the Gault School of Archaeological Research

Check out this beauty found in Gault's Area 12. Note the identification on the specimen tag was changed from "projectile point" to "Clovis preform." Work doesn't end when artifacts come out of the field and go to the lab. In fact, far more work is performed in the lab on archaeological collections. In this case, it appears that additional study in the lab determined that this artifact was unfinished. A Clovis preform is a partially shaped stone tool blank that Paleoamerican knappers were preparing to turn into a finished, fluted Clovis projectile point. In other words, it's the stage before the flute is struck and before final edge thinning and sharpening.

What makes a Clovis preform identifiable?

- Bifacial shaping - Both faces have been flaked to create a symmetrical outline.
- General lanceolate shape - The outline resembles a Clovis point but is thicker and less refined.
- No flute yet - The distinctive channel flake removed from the base is absent.
- Heavier, thicker cross-section - Preforms are bulkier because thinning and pressure flaking come later.
- Preparation for fluting - The base may show grinding or early platform preparation.

Archaeologists often find preforms in manufacturing areas at Clovis sites like Gault, alongside debitage (flake debris), showing the step-by-step production sequence.

Why do preforms matter? Clovis preforms help archaeologists understand:

- Manufacturing techniques - including how knappers prepared a piece before attempting the risky flute removal.
- Raw material choices - Clovis knappers selected high-quality cryptocrystalline stone like the chert common throughout the Gault Site.
- Skill level and failure rates - fluting often breaks points; preforms show the stages before that critical step.
- Technological comparisons - unfinished Clovis and Folsom preforms highlight differences between the two traditions and help narrow down age.

Reprinted courtesy of Raegan King, Executive Director, Gault School of Archaeological Research; gaultschool.org; [Gault Facebook](#).

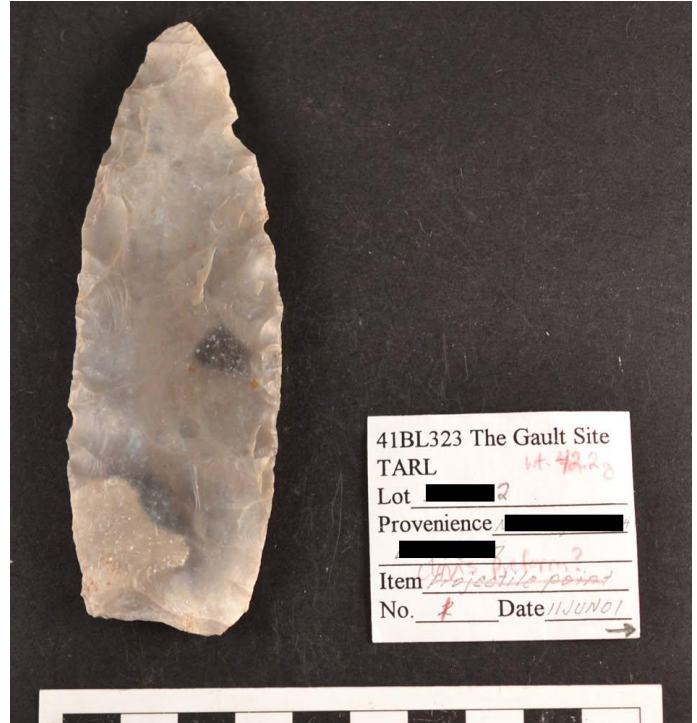


Photo from the Gault collections at the [Texas Archeological Research Laboratory](http://TexasArcheologicalResearchLaboratory).





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.

July 27, 2026 - Excavations continued last week at the Alamo Church in EUs 73, 91, and 93. New excavations began in EUs 25 and 99. Excavations in EU-93 reached an approximate depth of 90 cm below surface. Archaeologists found a medicinal bottle with a maker's mark "W.D. Albini & Co., 315 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, Tex." The W.D. Albini & Co. was located at 315 Alamo Plaza from 1895 to 1902. Other interesting artifacts include decorated earthenware and a partial metal pan, likely a cooking pan.



Left: Complete bottle from EU 93. Right: European ceramic from EU-93. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - July 27](#). Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

August 3, 2026 - New excavation units 46, 52, and 54 were opened last week on the north side of the Alamo Church. EU-94, located on the east side of the church, continued excavations. EU-46 is located on the north transept of the Alamo Church. Cultural materials include large quantities of flat glass, nails, a mule shoe, and unidentifiable ferrous metal fragments. Archaeologists reached an approximate depth of 40 cm below surface.



Left: Muleshoe from EU-46. Right: Two-holed button and Annular Ware rim sherd from EU-52. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - August 3](#). Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

EU-54 is north of excavation units 52 and 46. Soils within EU-54 show evidence of modern impacts, with the presence of a PVC pipe and sand. The cultural materials are low in density but include construction materials, unidentified ferrous metal, ceramics, and flat glass. Archaeologists have reached an approximate depth of 10 cm below surface. EU-94 excavations are

located on the east side of the Church, adjacent to the reconstructed acequia. The soil deposits are indicative of modern construction impacts due to the presence of a PVC pipe in the southwest corner and loose concrete blocks in the northwest corner. Cultural materials include unidentified ferrous metal, nails, ceramic, flat and container glass, construction material, and shell buttons. Archaeologists reached an approximate depth of 30 cm below surface.

August 10, 2026 - Excavation continued in EUs 46, 52, and 54 last week on the north side of the Alamo Church. Archaeologists in EUs 46 and 52 reached an approximate depth of 100 cm below surface. At approximately 100 cm below surface a compacted caliche surface was encountered that spanned both units. This surface was an intentionally prepared “floor” that served as level ground for people of the past to utilize. While additional analysis is required, the preliminary interpretation is that this surface was used during the life of the mission. In the level immediately preceding this surface, archaeologists encountered several Valero sherds, a known Spanish Colonial ceramic type. Additionally, archaeologists recovered a high quantity of colonial brick fragments. EU-46 also encountered a posthole that extended through the surface. Archaeologists in EU-54 reached an approximate depth of 80 cm below surface. A possible posthole was identified in the center of the unit and will be explored this week. The soil stratum still indicates disturbance from prior construction; however the soil is starting to transition to a new soil type. The presence of cultural materials remains low from the previous week, likely due to the previous impacts.



Clockwise from above left: Brick fragments from EU-46 from a single level. Posthole in EU-46, photo facing south. Valero Ware from EU-52. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - August 10](#). Exposed hardpan in EUs 46 and 52 at approximately 130 cm below surface, photo facing south. [Alamo Archaeology Church Preservation - August 17](#). Courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.

August 17, 2026 - Excavation continued in EUs 46, 52, and 54 last week on the north side of the Alamo Church. Archaeologists in EUs 46 and 52 completed excavations at a terminal depth of approximately 130 cm below surface. These units were excavated in tandem. Both units encountered the natural hardpan at the base. The Church foundation was exposed, allowing the preservation team to document the existing conditions of the stone and mortar. No artifacts were

recovered from the bottom levels of the units. Archaeologists in EU-54 completed excavations at an approximate depth of 100 cm below surface. At this depth archaeologists exposed the same surface previously encountered in EUs 46 and 52. There was a large post mold in the center of the unit that penetrated through the surface. A clay pipe crossed the unit in the northeast corner. The high count of nails and metal fragments recovered from the unit are reflective of later construction activities. Report and photographs are courtesy of The Alamo Trust, Inc.



Daguerreotype of the Alamo Chapel of San Antonio de Valero Mission, c. 1849. William J. Hill Texas Artisans and Artists Archive. Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

From the MFAH - Bayou Bend: This daguerreotype c.1849 is the earliest known documentation of the Alamo Chapel of San Antonio de Valero Mission, and is also presumed to be the earliest extant photographic image made in Texas. Showing the exterior facade of the chapel ruins, it is the only known photographic view of the Alamo made prior to its reconstruction in 1850. Although the photographer is unknown, the daguerreotype was likely given by Edward Miles, a local Bexar County official in the late 1840s and 1850s, to a family named Batterson of New England. It remained in private hands until it was sold to Governor Briscoe, who donated it to the Briscoe Center in 1993. Photograph shows the front of the chapel ruins with three figures standing in front of it near the entrance. It is in a dark brown or dark red leather case with a small metal hook clasp.





The Alamo Podcast Reveals an Author's Journey to Trace the Life of William Barret Travis



Episode 145 of the award-winning [Alamo Podcast](#) series reveals the man behind the famous pledge of the Alamo Siege, "Victory or Death." In an upcoming biography of William Barret Travis, lawyer Edith Pollitz explores the man behind the myth. Listeners will hear what she's learned from poring through Travis' handwritten documents as well as her mission to help Alamo researchers of the future. You can stream the Alamo's podcast through the website, listen and subscribe on YouTube, or subscribe and download on your preferred podcasting app, including Apple Podcasts and Spotify. Courtesy of the Alamo Trust, Inc.



Wishing you a wonderful start to the school year! *Teach Texas History* is here to provide [resources and information](#) about the THC's [State Historic Sites](#) to support professional development or classroom instruction. The [recorded professional development lectures from Humanities Texas](#) include a series on [Spain in Texas](#), [Transition to Mexico](#), and [Mexican Texas](#).



HAS Reference Desk

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: [September/October 2026 - Archaeology Magazine](#); [The five Best books on ancient history](#); [Ashes from Pompeii reveal what the doomed city smelled like 2,000 years ago](#); [1,000-year-old Viking treasure hoard is discovered in northern Germany](#); [Does 1,800-Year-Old Mosaic Depict the First Known Image](#)



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

of a Woman Fighting Wild Beasts in an Ancient Roman Arena; <https://historicengland.org.uk/>; [The Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland](#); [The Etruscans: From the Heart of Ancient Italy - Featured Exhibition](#) | [San Antonio Museum of Art](#); [Kingship and Power in Assyria - San Antonio Museum of Art](#); [Oldest Roman Library in the Iberian Peninsula Identified at a Villa in Spain](#); [Berlin's Medieval Origins](#); [Digs & Discoveries](#); [Ashmolean Museum: British Archaeology Collections - Carved Stone Balls](#); [Hundreds of Geoglyphs Discovered in Amazon Rainforest](#); [Elamite helmet with divine figures: A warrior king's 3,500-year-old bronze armor depicting a raptor and gold-plated gods](#); [Ancient DNA reveals shaman buried near Stonehenge was female, 'breaking stereotypes' of Early Bronze Age women](#); [Ancient Egyptian tombs with dozens of gold 'tongues' discovered along the Mediterranean Coast](#); [Protective spirit emerges after 1,600 years hiding near Hadrian's Wall](#); [Rare Merlin and King Arthur text found hidden in binding of medieval book](#); [On the Trail of Trails: A Dialogue - Archaeology Southwest](#); [Trails as Transcendental Archaeology - Archaeology Southwest](#); [Dr Aaron Wright, Archaeology Southwest - Rock Art 137 Podcast Interview](#); [Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series](#); [Home - Old Pueblo Archaeology Center](#); [City of Galveston Cemetery Management System](#); [Researcher claims he's found King Alfred the Great under a car park in Winchester](#) | [The Independent](#).





Fashion Suggestions from the Past

STEAL HIS LOOK STEAL HIS LOOK



Blue Enamel
Three Leg Pot/Hat
\$199.98



'Mr. Hoots'
Handmade
Felt Owl Doll
\$22.65



Parachute Dress/Tunic
100% Linen
\$25.19



Funtime Novelty
Plastic Chicken
Leg Prop \$4.99



Adult Onesie Wolf
Costume (lower half)
\$48.99

HangingHippo
Slackline Kit
\$99.00



Natural Black
Long Wavy
Synthetic Wig
\$39.90



Waterproof Terry
Bib with Pocket
\$11.60



Men's Studded
Sheepskin
Leather
Rock Vest
\$215.00



'Dark Kermit' Special Edition
12-Inch Plush Muppet Toy
with Feather \$199.99



Pink and Blue
Streamers/Tassels
for Gender Reveal
\$13.00



Vegan Leather Black Heel
Pumps with Buckled Ankle
Straps \$130.99

Courtesy of Matthew Ponesse, PhD, Professor of History at Ohio Dominican University; [Instagram](#); [Medievalistmatt](#); [Facebook](#). Image sources: Morgan Library and Art Museum, MS M.796, fol. 49v; Portrait of Maximilian Philipp Hieronymus, Duke of Bavaria-Leuchtenberg, by Sebastiano Bombelli, c. 1666.



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.

September 17 – 6:00 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 – 6:00 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 – 6:00 p.m. Monthly meeting featuring Amanda Castaneda from [Shumla](#), via Zoom only.

December 17 – 6:00 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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Sewell, President, president@txhas.org
 Frank Kozar, Vice President, tupflash@aol.com
 Louis Hebert, Treasurer, treasurer@txhas.org
 John Gorczyk, Secretary, secretary@txhas.org

Gail Larsen Peterkin, Director-at-Large, glpeterkin@comcast.net
 John W. Swann, Director-at-Large, jswann@bcm.edu
 Geoff Mills, Director-at-Large, geoffm1877@gmail.com
 Linda Gorski, Board Advisor, lindagorski@cs.com

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sharon Menegaz, menesharon43@gmail.com

AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGY STEWARDS

Elizabeth Aucoin, ek.aucoin@gmail.com
 Liz Coon-Nguyen, elizabeth.coonnguyenmd@gmail.com
 Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251
 Debbie Eller, debjajul@yahoo.com
 Charlie Gordy, chasgordy@yahoo.com
 Bruce Grethen, bruceg999@gmail.com
 Sue Gross, suegbobs@comcast.net
 Joe D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com
 Kathleen Hughes, hughes.kathleen@yahoo.com
 Brenda Jackson, brendajacks1@yahoo.com
 Ron Jackson, ronj845@gmail.com

Beth Kennedy, bethiekennedy902@gmail.com
 Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com
 Clint Lacy, clacy13@comcast.net
 Sharon Menegaz, smenegaz@rcseagles.org
 Tom Nuckols, tnuckols58@att.net
 Sandra Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net
 John Rich, JohnRich3@sbcglobal.net
 Sandra (Sandy) E. Rogers, sojourne47@gmail.com
 Gary Ryman, gkryman@gmail.com
 Steve Salyer, salyer4@hotmail.com
 Bob Sewell, robert-sewell@att.net
 Paul Spana, pcspana@comcast.net

Disclaimer: For concerns or issues regarding any article published in this newsletter, please contact the author of the article. The content of any article published is solely the responsibility of the author. Copyright ©2026 by the Houston Archeological Society. All rights reserved.

STEAL HER LOOK



Medieval Linen
Veil and Wimple
Set \$48.99

Men's Classico
Grey Felt Bowler
Hat \$65.00



Artificial Birds with
Real Feathers Set
\$14.99



Wheat straw (for
thatch) 80 sq. ft
\$9.28

Home-Sweet-Home
Novelty Fun Hat
\$36.26



Swan Flag/Summer
Garden Banner \$12.95

'Laundry
Day'
Barbie
\$14.99



Courtesy of Matthew Ponesse, PhD, Professor of History at Ohio Dominican University; [Instagram](#); [Medievalismatt](#); [Facebook](#). Image source: Temptation of St Anthony by a follower of Hieronymus Bosch, c. 1501.

