

Archeology Committee
Meeting
July 26, 2021
10 A.M.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

AGENDA
ARCHEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Capital Extension
Room E1.030
1400 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701
July 26, 2021
10 a.m.

(or upon the adjournment of the 8:30 a.m. Antiquities Advisory Board meeting, whichever occurs later)

This meeting of the Archeology Committee has been properly posted with the Secretary of State's Office according to the provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code. The members may discuss and/or take action on any of the items listed in the agenda.

1. **Call to Order** – *Chair Bruseth*
 - A. Committee Introductions
 - B. Establish a Quorum
 - C. Recognize and/or excuse absences
2. **Minutes** – *Bruseth*

Consider approval of the April 26, 2021 Archeology Committee meeting minutes
3. **Division Director's Report** – *Jones*
 - A. Update on Archeology Division programs and staff - *Jones*
 - B. Marine Archeology Program Update – *Borgens*
 - C. 1554 Shipwreck Project Overview – *Borgens/McKee*
 - D. 1554/*La Belle* Collections Update - *Jones*
 - E. Texas Archeological Society Field School Overview – *Osburn*
 - F. CFPCP Program Update - *Jones*
 - G. Upcoming activities/events - *Jones*
4. **Adjournment** – *Bruseth*

NOTICE OF ASSISTANCE AT PUBLIC MEETINGS: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, large print or Braille, are requested to contact Esther Brickley at (512) 463-5768 at least four (4) business days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

ITEM # 1

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ARCHEOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Members as of 7/01/2018

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ITEM # 2

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ARCHEOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING #104

Minutes

AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center
Grand Salon ABC
1900 University Avenue
Austin, TX 78705
April 26, 2021
11:30 a.m.

Note: For the full text of action items, please contact the Texas Historical Commission at P.O. Box 12276, Austin TX 78711 or call 512.463-1858

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jim Bruseth opened the Archeology Committee (AC) meeting on April 26, 2021 at 11:30. Bruseth announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Governor's suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act. He noted that the meeting would be held in person, via videoconference, and was authorized under Texas Government Code Section 551.127. The public was invited to attend via Zoom under the registration link provided. He noted that the THC recommended mask use and physical distancing throughout the meeting. Bruseth stated that digital material would be made available on the Texas Historical Commission's webpage.

Bruseth announced that the members could discuss and act on any of the items listed on the agenda. He welcomed everyone to Archeology Committee meeting and called the roll.

Members Present

Jim Bruseth
Pete Peterson
Tom Perini
Earl Broussard

Members Absent

Bruseth announced that all members were present, a quorum established, and the meeting was opened.

2. Approval of Minutes

Bruseth called for the approval of the AC minutes for February 2, 2021. He asked if the committee members had any changes that needed to be addressed.

Bruseth heard no changes and moved to approve the AC minutes for February 2, 2021.

Earl Broussard seconded the motion.

Bruseth called for a vote, heard no objection, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Report

Bruseth called on Archeology Division Director Brad Jones to begin the report on the Archeology Division. He noted that the commission would be hearing from Archeology Division staff members Amy Borgens, Emily Dylla, and Rebecca Shelton. Bruseth welcomed the archeologists to the meeting.

Brad Jones noted that the Archeology Division remained busy. He first reported on a looting case along the Frio River in Uvalde County. Regional archeologist Tiffany Osburn was contacted by the Uvalde County District Attorney's office about looting taking place on private property. Jones showed a photo of a large looters pit that contained artifacts dating from the archaic period. Law enforcement apprehended the looters, and Osburn helped officials with the assessment of over 1 million dollars in damages to the site for the prosecution.

Jones explained that assessments for looting cases were developed by asking contracting firms to assess equivalent excavation costs based on how much damage was done. He informed the committee that a range of estimates was received, and that the THC selected the median estimate. Jones shared his excitement that law enforcement was increasingly collaborating with THC archeologists and that they would both move the prosecution forward.

Jones also reported on Osburn's meeting with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and with Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD). The meeting focused on a looting case and the donation of artifacts to TPWD. As part of the meeting, regional archeologist Osburn met with BLM staff to discuss artifacts from a cemetery looting case in San Marcos. Jones hoped that Osburn could present her work in the future.

Jones provided a quick update on the Millington Site in Presidio County following a brush fire. Jones presented photos of the damage to the fence and site. He explained that the local archeological steward Charlie Angel and Tim Gibbs from TPWD had provided on the ground reports. Jones stated that the THC was working to rehabilitate the fencing on the site. His conclusion was that there was no significant damage to the archeological site components.

Next, Amy Borgens was called on to provide a report on the 1554 shipwreck investigations that the Archeology Division was conducting with the National Park Service (NPS) and South Padre Island.

Borgens reviewed THC involvement with the project with NPS since October 2020. The project was tasked to evaluate the condition of the two 1554 shipwrecks site after Hurricane Hannah. NPS approached the THC as a project partner. Sponsored by NPS the group worked out of Port Mansfield for ten days.

Borgens discovered in October of 2020 that remote sensing targets for the Espiritu Santo and San Esteban remained. This led to the conclusion that there were still buried cultural remains on the seafloor. She noted that from the archeological perspective this was fantastic. Borgens explained that NPS was still interested in these wrecks and that they continued to have problems with beach visitors coming to find silver coins. She noted that the project was not completed in October and that she was returning for a second project in May to work with NPS to search for a third shipwreck

that was presumed destroyed by the dredging of the Mansfield Cut, to conduct additional remote sensing work, and to conduct terrestrial archeological work on a Spanish salvage camp on the beach.

Jones called on regional archeologist Emily Dylla to discuss her Lost Cemetery Internship program.

Dylla stated that this was a new internship project and that the THC had started receiving interns in the fall of 2020. She stated that the internship program was an inter-division collaboration between the Archeology Division and Jennifer McWilliams in History Programs Division (HPD).

Dylla highlighted HPD's Cemetery Program project that focused on identifying and mapping cemeteries across the state. The program currently maintains a database with 15,700 entries, with a smaller number of these cemeteries mapped on the THC's Site Atlas. Dylla explained that this database accounted for roughly 31% of the 50,000 cemeteries across the state. To better document these cemeteries, historic and modern topographic maps are compared to find cemeteries that had fallen off the map. Dylla described how interns researched maps, identified cemeteries, and documented results. Dylla and McWilliams then review these and make additions to the Atlas. She said that the Archeology Division benefited from the identification of the lost cemeteries on the Atlas for regulatory reviews and research purposes.

Dylla showcased a screenshot of a typical internship meeting and pointed out that the program was currently fully virtual. Accessibility to the internship was available across the state and was intended to stay that way. Dylla explained that they hosted guest speakers every other week to provide the interns with a robust internship experience.

Thus far McWilliams and Dylla identified two priority areas for the program that include the Rio Grande Valley border area and east Texas. The Rio Grande Valley border area is complete but east Texas was targeted due to formerly high population of enslaved people and the poor documentation of cemeteries. Dylla shared that the interns had to date reviewed 359 quadrangle maps, found 689 cemeteries, and documented 63 lost cemeteries. She stated that over the summer they would continue evaluating and adding locations to the Atlas, migrating data to a proper database, and continuing to research until the state of Texas was fully covered. Dylla stated that they would publish results and encouraged their interns to present their research.

Jones thanked Dylla and agreed that the internship was a great pandemic project. He noted that it was nice for the interns to live and work on a project in their regions and not have to come to Austin.

Jones called on regional archeologist Rebecca Shelton who coordinates the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN).

Shelton introduced herself and stated that the TASN was in its 37th year of the program. She presented that the membership had grown steadily over the years. Shelton explained that they had turned to a holding pattern of 139 stewards. She noted that the management of the program was diversified. The main role of the program was to assist the Archeology Division with public and private inquiries of archeological sites, collections, fostering local historical commission, and supporting local museums.

Shelton reported that despite the pandemic's restrictions 67 out of the 134 stewards submitted their bi-annual reports. The TASN contributed 8000 hours within the six-month period. The stewards had adapted quickly to the work-safe protocols and worked in small teams. Stewards had worked at San Felipe de Austin and Houston stewards had collaborated at the Lone Oak site in Colorado county. She shared that results of the work would be published. Other outreach efforts included numerous digital presentations to large groups.

Shelton discussed plans to expand and improve the network. One new program served as a pilot program with the History Program Division to develop their own History Stewards focusing on archival and historic research. The initial five members were selected this year. TASN was also working with the THC regional archeologist/tribal liaison Marie Archambeault and federally recognized tribal members to develop a tribal stewardship program. This program focused on collaborating with tribal stewards and conducting work on tribal lands.

Jones thanked Shelton. He expressed that the TASN was a signature program and that he was very proud of it. Jones shared that they had received many comments from outside of Texas on the quality of the program. It was noted that Shelton engaged with states outside of Texas.

Earl Broussard asked if the stewards had the ability to utilize the Atlas.

Jones stated that it was a perk of the membership. This was one way for non-professional archeologist to gain access to the Atlas. He shared that stewards are vetted and sign a code of ethics. Jones explained that stewards must use restricted cultural resources data safely and appropriately.

Jones, who remains the Curatorial Facilities Program coordinator, thanked the committee for approving the THC's repository at the last meeting. Jones shared that the Witte Museum in San Antonio would be the next museum to be evaluated. Staff members at the Witte had submitted their self-evaluation package in April. He noted that the next step would be an on-site evaluation. The committee was informed that the museum housed collections from the Trans- Pecos, owned part of an SAL site, and therefore wanted to make sure that they could store their artifacts. Jones hoped for this review to be ready by the July quarterly meeting.

Jones noted that he had attended the National Association of State Archeologist meeting that occurred simultaneously with the Society of American Archeologist conference. He shared that 36 of the state archeologists were present. He was happy to report that Texas was doing great compared to some of the other states. Jones expressed that some state archeological offices had suffered through the pandemic. He appreciated the support that the THC's Archeology Division received.

Jones reported on the Council of Texas Archeologists meeting. He noted that the group met on a bi-annual basis and represented the academic, regulatory, and cultural resource management professionals in Texas.

Jones reported that the annual Texas Archeological Society's (TAS) field school would be hosted from June 12th to the 19th and would be conducted in Kerrville. He shared that the archeologist would be excavating a large pre-historic site that was primarily archaic. The committee was informed that TAS was implementing protocols to make sure that it was pandemic safe. Jones shared that Tiffany Osburn was critical in organizing the event and that he hoped for a solid staff attendance.

Jones concluded by following up on the marine archeology presentation. He noted that Borgens had briefly presented on the terrestrial archeology component of the 1554 project. Jones shared that the THC was approached by NPS to conduct geophysical work on the salvage camp associated with the 1554 shipwrecks, but NPS instead decided to do an assessment of the age of the landforms to verify the appropriate age given the very dynamic environment. NPS had agreed to pay for the optically stimulated Luminescence and that THC regional archeologist/geoarcheologist Arlo McKee would assist NPS with generating samples. Jones shared that further geophysical and ground penetrating radar testing would be conducted if the data were promising.

Bruseth thanked the staff for their presentations and the work they conducted for the Commission.

4. Adjournment

Bruseth asked for a motion to adjourn.

Broussard moved Bruseth adjourned the meeting.

Quarterly Report

Archeology Division
April–June 2021

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

This quarter Archeology Division (AD) staff have been increasingly involved in public archeology and field visits as the pandemic eases. A major component of this is the annual Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Field School, June 12–19. Cancelled in 2020, this year the field school focused on an Archaic Period occupation on a terrace above the Guadalupe River. The site is privately owned by Texas Archeological Steward Network member Marvin Golke, and was selected as an outcome of his work with the Hill Country Archeological Association members to define the site and establish the necessary relationship to make it possible. As the TAS Field School Committee Chair, THC regional archeologist Tiffany Osburn was critical in organizing the field school and conducted geophysical survey investigations in preparation. Over 350 people attended, including kids, beginner and seasoned avocationalists and professionals, and members of Native American tribes, making this a critical public outreach event for THC staff. During the event THC regional archeologist Rebecca Shelton organized training in the ethical and professional use of metal detectors for investigations, and THC History Programs Division staff Jennifer McWilliams and Carlyn Hammons conducted cemetery recording workshops. Virginia Moore, Maggie Moore, Maximilian Hall, and Brad Jones also participated.

Additional events of note include:

- April 2—AD staff attended virtual Spring Meeting of the Council of Texas Archeologists
- May 12—Visit to Alamo Phase I excavations and St. John's/Mission Concepción (Brad Jones, Emily Dylla)
- April 14–18—Attended SAA Annual Conference, including National Association of State Archeologists Annual Meeting (virtual) (Brad Jones)
- May 6–9—Trip to Cameron County with staff and local stakeholders in Brownsville, Port Isabel, South Padre Island and SpaceX (Emily Dylla, Hänsel Hernández)

- May 2–3—Trip to Young, Kaufman, Smith, and Anderson counties to assist a landowner, place an SAL marker at the Shackleford Site (41SM494), and check on Pace McDonald Mound (Maggie Moore, Arlo McKee)
- May—Regional archeologist Drew Sitters was lead author on a publication in the TAS Spring Newsletter Vol. 65, No. 2: *Sourcing Obsidian from the Eubank Site (41BR103) in Brown County, Texas* by Drew Sitters, Michael D. Glascock, Thomas R. Hester, and Timothy K. Perttula
- May—Regional archeologist Arlo McKee is a coauthor with May Yuan (UT Dallas) of an upcoming article in the *Journal of Geographic Systems: How may machine learning give new concepts of scale in geospatial research?*
- June 1–2—Visit to current testing of two sites in Denton County; visit to potential unverified cemetery site near Fort Worth (Arlo McKee)

MARINE ARCHEOLOGY PROGRAM (MAP)

Archeological work during this quarter by the MAP included fieldwork related to the Padre Island 1554 Flota archeological sites, conducted in May. This is a continuation of a National Park Service (NPS) and THC collaborative project commenced in October 2020. Underwater geophysical investigations included close-order and sub-bottom surveys of the locations of the excavated shipwrecks *Espiritu Santo* (41WY3) and *San Esteban* (41KN10) and survey of new areas to search for *Santa Maria de Yciar*, presumed destroyed when Mansfield Cut was created. The THC is already planning future work with NPS based on the successful results of the May fieldwork. THC regional reviewer and geoarcheologist Arlo McKee collected sediment samples from NPS site 41KN11 for optically stimulated luminescence (OSL). Comparative portable X-ray fluorescence (PXRF) analysis of ballast and potsherds from 41KN10, 41KN11, and 41WY3 has also been arranged by NPS. The OSL and PXRF studies should help determine if 41KN11 instead

represents shipwreck overwash artifact deposition due to storm surges rather than the 1554 Spanish salvage camp.

As part of the ongoing 1554 archeological investigations, the THC is working with NPS Padre Island National Seashore (PAIS) and their Submerged Cultural Resources intern Claudia García Quinones to produce a Spanish-language digital booklet on the 1554 shipwrecks. The MAP was invited by the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) to produce content for the publication as part of its ongoing series. In late May 2021, the MAP completed its re-inventory of the 1554 artifact assemblage curated at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History (CCMSH). During the CCMSH visit, Amy Borgens and Jennifer McCullough (CCMSH collections manager and registrar) hosted NPS PAIS for a “behind the scenes” cross-training tour of the collection. In addition to this public outreach event, Borgens presented a talk for the Deep East Texas Archeological Society on June 7, “River Relics: Texas’ Forgotten World War I Shipwrecks of Jefferson and Orange Counties.”

REVIEW AND COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Under the auspices of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas, the State and Federal Review Section staff of the AD reviewed approximately 2,543 proposed development projects during the period of April 1–June 30. Of those, about 88 archeological surveys were required to determine whether any significant cultural resources would be adversely affected, and approximately 18,528 acres were surveyed. About 171 historic and prehistoric sites were recorded, and of those, 14 were determined eligible for listing in the National Register and 130 were determined not eligible, with 27 of undetermined eligibility.

CURATORIAL FACILITIES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (CFCP)

The THC’s CFCP ensures that state-associated archeological collections are properly curated. Of note this quarter, the Witte Museum in San Antonio submitted the self-evaluation component of the CFCP application in April. Their submission reflected a thoughtful revision of their collections management policy and procedures to ensure compliance with CFCP program requirements. The field review is scheduled for September 2021.

In his capacity as State Archeologist, Jones and AD staff work with volunteers, interns, and Texas Archeological

Stewardship Network (TASN) members on AD collections. Since May, Jessica Ulmer (University of Maryland) has been working with Maggie Moore and Marie Archambeault on reviewing AD’s NAGPRA collections. AD also welcomed in June 2021 Preservation Scholar Alejandra Navarette from Texas State University, who will be working with Marie Archambeault on improving outreach and website content relating to the federally recognized Native American tribes that have a connection to Texas. Additionally, AD offered three summer internship positions to students from three Texas universities: Allison Hopson (Texas State), Tyler Tucker (Texas A&M), and Chesley Hinds (UT Austin). They will work with Brad Jones, Max Hall, and Amy Borgens on curation tasks associated with AD collections. Additionally, Dr. Russell Skowronek (UT Rio Grande Valley) was granted permission from THC to conduct nondestructive portable X-ray diffraction analysis on the brass vessels recovered from *La Belle* as part of a study of the technology of Spanish and French colonial brass containers in North America.

BOIS D’ARC LAKE PROJECT

For more than a decade, review staff have evaluated documents and reports for survey, testing, and data recovery efforts at the Bois d’Arc Lake project in Fannin County. AR Consultants, Inc. (ARC) identified or revisited 202 historic and prehistoric sites, 21 of which were subsequently tested for NRHP eligibility. Most of the sites will be avoided and preserved in place, but data recovery began in 2018 at six prehistoric sites determined eligible for the NRHP that would be adversely affected by the lake. The sites were occupied from the Archaic period to the Late Caddo, with high intensity of occupation during the Middle Caddo period. These sites were hamlets with complex residential areas, and ARC recorded hundreds of features for food processing and preparation, post molds and hearth features indicative of residences, and funerary features. Three historic cemeteries were also identified within the area of impact for the lake; after mitigation, the burials will be reinterred at a nearby cemetery.

Reviewers Bill Martin and Rebecca Shelton made multiple site visits over the years to observe the work in progress and guide the development of data recovery scopes of work. The fieldwork will be complete this June, and with the heavy spring rains, the lake has begun to rise.