

Archeology Committee

October 17, 2022



Archeology Committee
October 17, 2022
09:00 A.M.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**AGENDA
ARCHEOLOGY COMMITTEE**

The Stella Hotel
Celeste Ballroom
4100 Lake Atlas Drive
Bryan, TX 77807
October 17, 2022
9:00 AM

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** – *Chairman Bruseth*
 - A. Committee Introductions
 - B. Establish a Quorum
 - C. Recognize and/or excuse absences
2. **Approval of Minutes** – *Bruseth*
Archeology Committee Meeting (July 25, 2022)
3. **Division Director's Report** - *Jones*
 - A. Update on Archeology Division Programs and staff
 1. Texas Archeology Month
 2. Marine Archeology Program
 3. Texas Archeological Stewardship Network
 - B. Upcoming activities/events
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.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Archeology Committee
Members

4/28/2022

James (Jim) Bruseth

6806 Rio Bravo Lane
Austin, TX 78737
512-288-6053
Email: jim.burseth@gmail.com

Gilbert E. "Pete" Peterson III

c/o Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711
Email: gpeterson@bigbend.net

Tom Perini

Perini Ranch Steakhouse Owner
P.O. Box 728
Buffalo Gap, TX 79508
325-572-3339 / office
Email: tom@periniranch.com

Earl Broussard, Jr.

Chairman of the Board/Founder
TBG Partners
1705 Guadalupe Street, Ste. 500
Austin, TX 78701
512-327-1011 / office
Email: earl.broussard@tbgpartner.com

Donna Bahorich

c/o Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711
Email: donna.bahorich.thc@gmail.com

ITEM # 1

CALL TO ORDER

Today's date is October 17th, 2022 and the time is
[09:00AM]

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.

ITEM # 2

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ARCHEOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Double Tree Suites by Hilton Hotel

2nd Floor

Houston Room

303 W 15th Street

Austin, TX 78701

July 25, 2022

10:00 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 July 25, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. Bruseth announced that the members would discuss and act on any of the items listed on the agenda. He welcomed everyone to the Archeology Committee meeting and called the roll.

Members Present

James Bruseth

Pete Peterson

Donna Bahorich

Tom Perini

Members Absent

Earl Broussard

Bruseth announced that Earl Broussard was absent. He called for a motion to excuse the absence.

Pete Peterson moved.

Donna Bahorich seconded the motion.

Bruseth heard no objection, a quorum was established, and the meeting was opened.

2. Approval of Minutes

Bruseth asked if changes or corrections were needed for the April 28th, 2022, AC minutes, and hearing none, called for a motion to approve.

Peterson moved.

Tom Perini seconded the motion.

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

3. Division Report

Jones opened his division report and introduced the Archeology Division's Preservation Scholar - Andrea DeLeon. He provided highlights from the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network's (TASN) annual meeting at THC's Washington-on-the-Brazos (WOB) state historic site, thanked the WOB staff for a successful event.

Jones showcased photographs and details about the annual Texas Archeological Society's (TAS) Field School that was hosted in Kerrville in June. He shared that the 2023 TAS Field School would take place in Nacogdoches.

Jones presented the most recent copy of the Medallion that focused on archeology, including the 50-year anniversary of the THC excavation of the 1554 shipwrecks. He reminded the committee members and the public that the discovery of the shipwrecks lead to the enactment of the Texas Antiquities Code.

Jones provided also details on the preparations for the upcoming Texas Archeology Month (TAM) in October.

Bruseth thanked Jones.

4. Adjournment

Bruseth motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Bahorich seconded the motion.

ITEM # 3

Quarterly Report

Archeology Division
July–September 2022

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

During the past quarter, AD was fortunate to host Preservation Scholar Andrea DeLeon, a Texas A&M anthropology undergraduate student. She worked with Brad Jones, Amy Borgens, and Max Hall on a number of collections-based projects that provided her a broad perspective on AD's programs and a career in preservation including a review of A&M's held-in-trust documentation to facilitate future certification; reinventory of Lake Gilmer and the Old Socorro Mission archeological collections; gunflint analysis of examples recovered by the THC at Fort St. Louis/Presidio La Bahia; and artifact photography. In addition, THC archeology staff continue to be involved in a broad array of public and agency events including:

- July 1–3—AD Tribal Liaison joined staff from THC's Museum Services and Bullock Museum to visit the Ysleta del Sur Tribe in El Paso and Mescalero Apache Tribe in Mescalero, N.M. (Marie Archambeault)

July 2022—Conducted archeological investigations at the prehistoric Gold Sands site in Lee County (Drew Sitters)

- July 2022—Attended Texas Wildlife Association's annual meeting and spoke with over 50 landowners about the preservation of cultural resources on private property (Drew Sitters)

- August 26–27—Visited NRHP-listed Paint Rock site in Concho County with the landowners and Dr. Jeremy Elliot of Abilene Christian University, who is working with indigenous communities to interpret the rock art. Recorded historic site on private property on the Three Nails Ranch in Callahan County. (Drew Sitters)

- August 3—Visited UT-Austin field school at prehistoric and historic sites in eastern Travis County (Tiffany Osburn, Brad Jones)

- August 11—Visited ARC lab in Dallas to discuss Bois d'Arc Lake project; transferred loan of West Texas sites back to SMU (Rebecca Shelton)

August 20—Presentation to Bluestem Naturalists in Sherman (Rebecca Shelton)

- September 19—Site visit with USACE, City of Texarkana, and Caddo Nation regarding the pool raise at Lake Wright Patman (Maggie Moore, Brad Jones)

- September 20–21—Attended TxDOT's Tribal Consultation meeting in Fort Worth held in conjunction with the TxDOT Environmental Conference (Brad Jones, Marie Archambeault, Maggie Moore)

- September 27—Presentation to UT-Austin undergraduate course on the archeology of colonialism in Texas (Brad Jones)

MARINE ARCHEOLOGY PROGRAM (MAP)

On July 15, the THC celebrated the semicentennial anniversary of the agency's investigations of the 1554 Spanish Plate Fleet, the earliest academic and state-sponsored excavations of an underwater archeological site in the U.S. the MAP completed the THC webpage on the 1554 Spanish Plate Fleet, submitted an article to *Sea History* magazine, and worked with the Texas Archeology Month (TAM) team to finalize the TAM 2022 poster in English and Spanish. The translation was prepared by Preservation Scholar Andrea DeLeon with assistance from Jose Luis Casabán, Research Associate at the Institute of Nautical Archeology, Texas A&M University.

In October 2021, the MAP finished digitizing its collection of "legacy" contractor underwater archeology final reports for inclusion in the Restricted Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas), as these reports are part of the searchable Atlas' abstract database and frequently consulted and downloaded by archeologists. As part of this effort, the MAP is currently reassessing its historic shipwreck database, also presented in Atlas, and has currently reviewed 36 percent of the 1,902 shipwreck entries. This quarter, the MAP completed reformatting and collating, as a three-volume manuscript, all the annual reports produced for the MAP's "blanket" Underwater Antiquities

Permit No. 2035, which summarizes the MAP investigations from 1998 to 2018. The three volumes are collectively just over 340 pages and are available on Atlas. As part of this overall project, State Marine Archeologist Amy Borgens completed a report summarizing the 2006–07 MAP investigations of the submerged port of Indianola. Student intern Hunter Johnson assisted with the report by coauthoring the artifact analysis and contributing artifact photography. The results of this report are needed for ongoing investigations and report preparation by contract archeological firm Gray & Pape for the Matagorda Ship Channel Modification Project in Matagorda Bay.

Borgens was excited to participate in two events associated with the movement of USS *Texas* from her berth at San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site (SJBSHS) to drydock at the Gulf Copper shipyard in Galveston—hosted by the Battleship Texas Foundation and the THC at SJBSHS and by the Galveston Naval Museum at Seawolf Park. Public outreach this quarter included a presentation for the Friends of the THC virtual event series and a presentation and separate class lecture for the Nautical Archeology Program at Texas A&M University.

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 Archeology Division reviewed approximately 2299 proposed development projects during the period of July 1 through September 26. Of those, approximately 60 archeological surveys were required to determine whether any significant cultural resources would be adversely affected, and approximately 13,742 acres were surveyed. Approximately 324 historic and prehistoric sites were recorded, and of those, 66 were determined eligible for listing in the National Register and 151 were determined not eligible, with 107 of undetermined eligibility.

CURATORIAL FACILITIES CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (CFCP)

The THC's CFCP ensures that state-associated archeological collections are properly curated, and AD maintains over 300 archeological site collections and is currently managing several research projects. In the past quarter, volunteers Faizan Khan, Allison Hopkins, Chesley Hinds, and TASN member Janet Dye assisted in

reinventorying and repackaging collections from the *La Belle* Shipwreck, San Felipe de Austin, Lake Gilmer, and Brazos Santiago Depot. Khan and Hopkins are also co-authoring an article for the Texas Archeological Society with Jones and pottery from the first location of Presidio La Bahia. In September, two new student interns were accepted by AD to work with collections: Aliyah Anderson (Austin Community College) and Samantha Hernandez (University of Texas San Antonio). Finally, AD is collaborating with staff from the Bullock Texas State History Museum to incorporate AD archeological collections into their exhibits.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP NETWORK (TASN)

Preparation is underway for the Fall 2022 *TASN News*. Our goal is to launch it before the TAS Annual Meeting in October. We appreciate all the submissions and work put into the publication.

We will be holding a TASN Business Meeting Friday afternoon during the TAS Annual Meeting in Tyler, October 21–23. In addition, THC staff are hosting a symposium. Presentations will cover a broad range of subjects highlighting the many THC programs, with presentations from the TASN reports.

Nominations for the TASN are being accepted on our website through year-end.

The TASN program will be highlighted at the 2023 Society of American Archeology annual meeting in Portland, Ore., March 29–April 3. We were invited to present in the symposium “Site Stewardship Matters: Comparing and Contrasting Site Stewardship Programs to Advance Our Practice.” This session will include highlights and program statistics for stewardship programs throughout the U.S.

Our dear friend and fellow TASN member Barbara Chadwick passed away August 31. We will honor her contributions and impacts to the discipline of archeology in the upcoming newsletter.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH (TAM)

Each October, the THC and our partners promote archeology-related public engagement activities for TAM. AD and Historic Sites staff have worked with volunteers to make and distribute over 4,000 pinch pot kits already and are on track to exceed our goal of 5,000 kits.

ITEM # 4