

# Current ARCHEOLOGY IN TEXAS

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Figure 1. Overview of test excavations at Bernardo Plantation main house.

## Collaboration for Discovery

### Bernardo and Pleasant Hill Plantations, Waller County

*Pat Mercado-Allinger and Jim Bruseth*

Recent archeological work at two plantations in Waller County is providing a peek into what life was like for Stephen F. Austin colonists during a pivotal period in Texas, when the Republic of Texas faced off with Mexico in a fight for independence.

Several historical accounts mention two plantations situated near the natural ford of the lower Brazos River in modern-day Waller County: Bernardo, the 1822 plantation of Jared Ellison Groce II (one of the Old Three Hundred settlers in Stephen F. Austin's colony) and the nearby Pleasant Hill Plantation established 11 years later by his son, Jared Ellison Groce III. There are two historical markers describing the Groce family plantations and the associated Groce's Ferry. However, precise information about the locations of these two early-19th-century plantations was lacking until recently, when archival research by history buffs Greg Dimmick, M.D., of Wharton and James Woodrick of Austin resulted in important findings. After their discovery of the important details about the Bernardo and Pleasant Hill plantations was reported to the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeology Division (AD), Jim Bruseth, the division director, decided to survey the identified areas with the agency's magnetometer and ground-penetrating radar (GPR) instruments in the hopes of detecting buried architectural features.

From the outset, this project has been a collaboration involving Dimmick, who is a member of the Houston Archeological Society, and Woodrick; AD archeologists; co-principal investigators Dr. Carol McDavid and Robert Marcom of the Community Archaeology Research Institute (CARI); Houston area THC archeological stewards; and members of the Brazosport, Fort Bend, Houston, and Texas archeological societies.

State Historian Light Cummins, a scholar of late 18th and early 19th century Anglo-American migration to Texas, visited the sites to observe the remote-sensing operations.

“Bernardo was where plantation history began in our state with the planting of the first cotton crop in the Austin colony, and in terms of slave numbers, it remained the largest plantation in the Republic of Texas,” said Cummins, who was interviewed for an article that appeared in *The Medallion*, a THC publication (Head and Rhodes 2010:5).

Bernardo’s role in Texas history also includes its use as the site of preparations for Sam Houston and his Texian troops in March and April 1836, before their pivotal clash with the Mexican Army under the command of General Antonio López de Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Last year, arrangements were made with the landowner, Greg Brown, to allow remote sensing investigations in August and test excavations in October and December (Figure 1). The archeological discoveries summarized here were made possible because of Brown’s keen interest in Texas history and his gracious hospitality. The entire project team thanks him for making this archeological project possible.

## Bernardo (41WL28)

### House Complex

THC personnel conducted magnetometer and GPR surveys in the area where the Bernardo main house complex was believed to be located. Fortunately, important information about the size and layout of the owner’s house and associated buildings is available from sketches made in the 1930s by Sarah Wharton Groce Berlet (Woodrick 2009:14). These sketches were based on descriptions by her father, William W. Groce, grandson of Jared Groce II. According to archival records, the house was constructed of logs and had 1½ stories, with two rooms on the upper level. Berlet’s sketch (Figure 2) shows the ground floor as having a central hallway flanked by two rooms on each side, with a fireplace in each of these four rooms (Woodrick 2009:18). Remote sensing provided intriguing results, revealing several possible wall alignments near a collapsed cistern that is visible on the site surface (Bruseth et al. 2009:6–8). Strong anomalies indicate where buried chimney features are likely located.

The focus of subsequent test excavations was on the main house, with units placed in areas where remote-sensing surveys had detected anomalies. Testing revealed two fireplace foundations (one sandstone and one brick), as well as the remains of brick skirting along the eastern exterior wall. The sandstone fireplace (Figure 3) is believed to be one of the two original fireplaces, while the brick feature along the eastern exterior wall likely represents part of a house addition (Bruseth et al. 2009:10) that was constructed after a brick kiln was established at the plantation. Test units also were placed in areas where the western and southern house

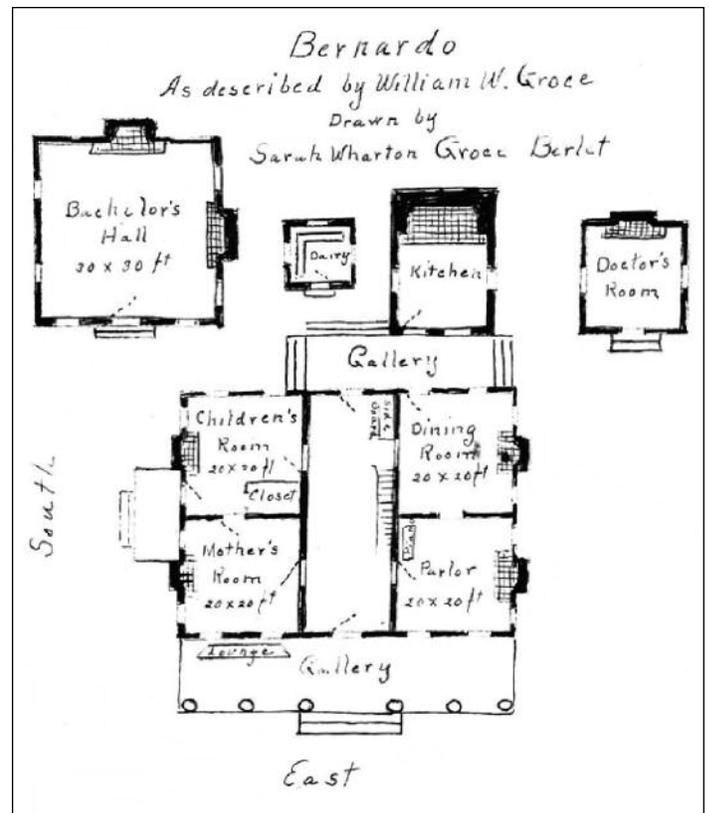


Figure 2. Circa 1930s sketch of the Bernardo Plantation main house and associated outbuildings (Woodrick 2009:18).



Figure 3. View of exposed sandstone chimney foundation, Bernardo Plantation main house.

walls were indicated by the remote sensing surveys. Both test areas successfully identified brick skirting alignments, which provided important confirmation of the size and configuration of the building. Analysis of the recovered artifacts, which include a large amount of window glass shards, will be conducted by the CARI team.

A few test units also were excavated in an area to the northeast of the main house, where a strong magnetic signature was detected. Testing in this area revealed brick rubble and a mix of household artifacts. Additional excavations at this location are needed to identify this feature.

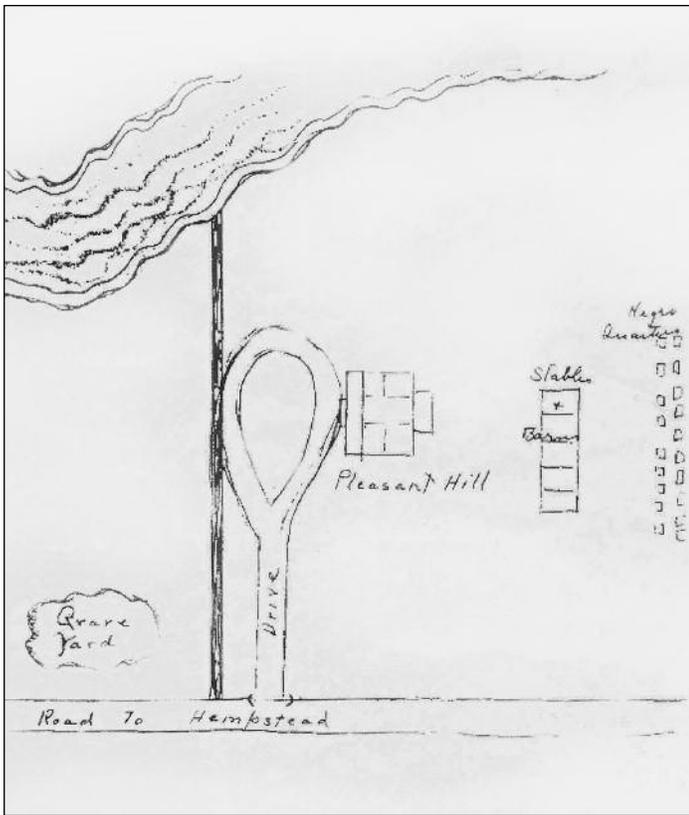


Figure 4. Circa 1930s sketch of the Pleasant Hill Plantation main house and associated outbuildings (Woodrick 2009:28).

### *Bernardo Slave Quarters*

Additional magnetic survey work was done in an area where another Berlet drawing showed an overseer's house, kitchen/day nursery building, and rows of slave quarters arranged around "Bernardo Lake." According to Woodrick's (2009:70) research, the location of this former lake is about 1.25 km south of the main Bernardo house. Magnetometer results show a series of ferrous anomalies in what appear to be groups or clusters that could either reflect sheet refuse discarded around the slave structures or represent iron objects associated with later farming and ranching activities (Bruseth et al. 2009:15). Further investigation of a sampling of these anomalies will be necessary to test these hypotheses.

### *Bernardo Cemetery*

GPR investigations were conducted at the Bernardo cemetery, where grave markers lie scattered on the ground surface. Survey results indicate several areas where scraping or probing should be conducted in order to determine the presence of additional graves.

### **Pleasant Hill (41WL29)**

Dense wood and brush prevented the use of either of the remote-sensing instruments in the area suspected to contain the remains of Pleasant Hill. Metal detectors were therefore

used to search for evidence of the plantation house and outbuildings. We believe this effort was successful in locating the approximate boundaries of the plantation complex. Here again, a Berlet sketch (Figure 4) provided useful guidance, showing the owner's house, with a stables/barn building and slave quarters to the rear (north) (Woodrick 2009:28).

The artifacts recovered during the shovel testing of the anomalies located by the metal detector denoted a similar pattern, with separate concentrations of functionally distinct artifacts. Household items such as bottle glass, whiteware ceramics, and pieces of a cast iron cooking pot and a stove were found in an area that is believed to represent the house site. A cluster of metal artifacts encountered downslope from the house site, including a hoe blade, square nails, cinch ring, and other items, strongly suggest that this is where the Pleasant Hill stables/barn building was located. Possible evidence for the slave quarters is currently limited to what appears to be a sandstone cobble hearth feature with ash and charcoal (Bruseth et al. 2009:26). Clear identification of this feature's function and association with the plantation or an earlier, prehistoric occupation of the area will require further investigation.

### **Future Plans**

Further research at Bernardo and Pleasant Hill will continue to be a collaborative effort, with CARI managing the project. Both sites offer important opportunities to examine the full range of stories about this early chapter of Texas history, from the planters to the enslaved individuals who once worked and lived on the land.

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*Pat Mercado-Allinger has been involved with public and private sector archeological projects throughout the state for more than 30 years. Her research interests include the prehistory and history of the Texas Panhandle-Plains, coastal archeology, and rock art studies. She has been with the THC since 1984 and has served as state archeologist since 1996.*

*Jim Bruseth has served as the director of the THC Archeology Division (formerly the Archeological Planning and Review Department) and deputy state historic preservation officer since 1987. He has been active in Texas archeology for 36 years, specializing in Native American, French Colonial, and Spanish Colonial archeology.*

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## The Search for Santísima Trinidad de Salcedo

*Jeff Durst*

The town site of Santísima Trinidad de Salcedo was placed on the east bank of the Trinity River near present-day Midway in 1807 as part of a chain of Spanish settlements between San Antonio and Nacogdoches established to protect Spanish Texas against foreign and Native American incursion. The exact location of the site has long been lost and has been the subject of considerable debate.

From April 28 through May 1, 2009, archeologists from the Texas Historical Commission (THC), with help from a number of East Texas volunteers and THC stewards, conducted a search for the site of Santísima Trinidad de Salcedo, commonly referred to as Salcedo. The town attracted few Spanish settlers, but, ironically, it did attract several immigrants from Louisiana, the very people it was established to dissuade from settling in the area. After a failed attempt to eradicate the interlopers in 1809, the Spanish returned in 1813, captured the town, and destroyed it.

### The Search for the Old Spanish Town

The ground search for the site was guided primarily by archival documentation, with special attention given to the archival map showing the original 1810 survey produced shortly after the settlement was established (McGraw et al. 1998:369–371). Based on the archival data pertaining to the location of the site and utilizing the original survey of the settlement, several possibilities for the location of the site were proposed. Local landowner Randy Parten, a longtime researcher of the site and supporter for this project, identified an area near the community of Vistula as a possible fit (Figure 1). Additional possibilities were proposed by Texas General Land Office Archeologist Bob Skiles, who also has conducted extensive research regarding the location of the site. Still other areas were proposed based on landforms in the area that presented promise.

The initial area surveyed was the one suggested by Parten as the possible site of Salcedo. Fifty shovel tests were conducted in this area, but while the site fit well with the archival information, no artifacts from the period of Salcedo were recovered. The subsequent area that was tested was

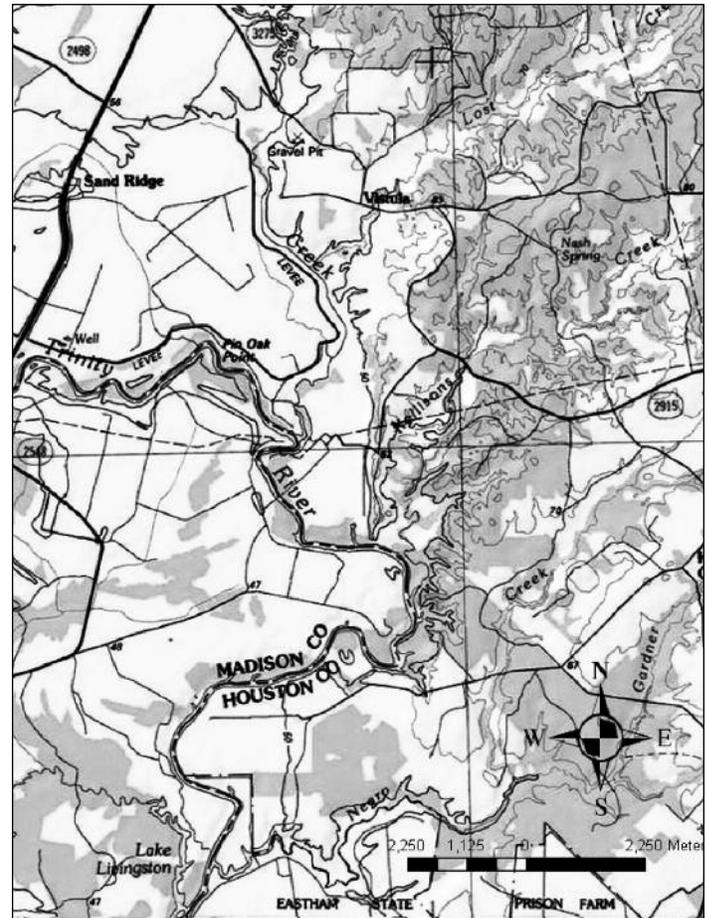


Figure 1. Numerous maps—from historic mid-19th century maps to this U.S. Geological Survey topographic map of the general area where Salcedo is thought to be located—have been utilized to help narrow the search for the old Spanish settlement. (USGS 7.5 Series: Minute Quad Map, Sand Ridge 3195-212, 1984)

selected based on projections made by Skiles. These projections placed the site on a high ridge overlooking the Trinity River and very close to a previously recorded site (41HO83). Archeologist William Sorrow also proposed that this location might have been the location of Salcedo, although he found no definitive artifacts from Salcedo. This particular site was identified, but 17 shovel tests placed across the area yielded

mostly prehistoric artifacts, with a small amount of late-20th-century material also present.

Beyond the area where the shovel testing was done on the high ridge, a visual surface survey was conducted up the Trinity River toward Brushy Lake. This area is comprised of relatively high ground that borders the bank of the Trinity River. Although much of this area is covered with mature pine trees, there are numerous locations where ground visibility is excellent. Examination of all these areas and other soil exposure locations failed to produce any artifacts from the Salcedo time period.

The next area that was tested consisted of two parcels located on high ground on either side of Hyde Gulley, which empties into the Trinity River. Three separate areas were selected around Hyde Gulley for metal detector survey, but the few artifacts that were found related to 20th-century-farming activity, not to the Salcedo time period.

Another survey for Salcedo was conducted on Parten property, known locally as the Gin Lot. This area consists of a broad upland terrace along Big Creek. Historian Jean Epperson suggested this to be the location of Salcedo, based on her examination of archival documents. An extensive metal detector survey was conducted at this location, but once again no artifacts from the Salcedo time period were recovered. The survey did produce evidence of a late-19th-century homestead with a broad scatter of broken metal farm implements.

The final area surveyed was Clark's Hill, where a surface survey and a metal detector survey were conducted on the top of that long ridge. This ridge has some of the highest land adjacent to the Trinity River in this area, and it would have offered a good point for defense of Salcedo from foreign incursion. The work on this landform failed to locate any artifacts dating to the time of Salcedo, although several early-20th-century and late-19th-century artifacts were found at the extreme southern point of the ridge.

## Conclusion

This survey work, which was conducted to search for the site of Santisima Trinidad de Salcedo, did not find any hard evidence indicating the location of the site. Numerous other suitable landforms exist in the immediate area and should be searched. We estimate that only about 15 percent of the possible locations for Salcedo have been investigated, and we recommend additional survey work to continue to narrow the search.

THC archeologists will return to the area in May to continue following additional leads for the location of the site. Eventually, and with persistence, the town site of Santisima Trinidad de Salcedo will be found. It is of particular

interest to note that April marked the 200th anniversary of the original mapping of the site in 1810.

## Acknowledgements

This THC project to locate the site of Salcedo was initiated by an invitation from local landowner and historian Randy Parten to survey locations on his and neighboring properties. We greatly appreciate his strong interest in locating the site. We also thank him for his generous hospitality during our survey. He and his staff provided the meals for our entire crew as well as accommodations at his ranch headquarters for several of the crew. Other individuals also have helped the project immensely. These include Bob Skiles of the General Land Office and historian Jean Epperson, who have both researched many archival documents and found critical information to aid our field search.

Our volunteer field crew consisted of several THC stewards, including Sheldon Kindall, Dick Gregg, Pat and Beth Aucoin, Sandra Rogers, Don Keyes, Bob Ward, and Tom Nuckols. Additional volunteer field crew members were Ken Farris from Madisonville and David Zellar from Huntsville. Rounding out the field crew were three members of the Houston County Historical Commission: Marty Cash, Maxine Moore, and Jim Renfro. This project would not have been possible without the marvelous assistance of this dedicated group of volunteers.

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*Jeff Durst joined the THC in 1999 to help direct the agency's work at the Fort St. Louis archeological project. Since 2001, he has served as regional archeologist for the THC's Forest and Independence/Tropical regions. In addition to his work in Texas, Durst has worked in New Mexico and Belize. His research has focused on the prehistoric Maya civilization with a concentration on the archeology of the Maya Lowlands. Before coming to the THC, Durst was employed by the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio where he served as a project archeologist. Durst has authored and coauthored numerous publications and papers on the archeology of Texas, New Mexico, and Belize; he is currently working on his doctoral degree at the University of Texas at Austin.*

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Rules Clarify Agency's Role in Regulation of Cemeteries

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) continues to work with its legal representative in the Office of the Attorney General, the State Registrar's Office of the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Texas Funeral Service Commission on issues that have emerged since House Bill 2927 was implemented on September 1. The bill, which

made changes to the Texas Health and Safety Code, was passed by the 81st Texas Legislature to strengthen cemetery protection in the state and to clarify which state agencies have jurisdiction over cemeteries.

In an effort to explain the THC's role in assisting in the regulation of "unknown" and "abandoned" cemeteries, THC commissioners approved a first draft of new rules at their January 29 quarterly meeting. These proposed rules were published in the *Texas Register* in March. The final version of the rules was adopted on April 22.

### Commissioners Courson and Crain Visit Archeology Lab



State and Federal Review Section Team Leader Mark Denton (foreground, left) presents aspects of the Archeology Division's (AD) state and federal review process to Texas Historical Commission members John W. Crain (next to Denton) and Leslie "Kirk" Courson (foreground, right) during an intensive training session on AD programs that was conducted on January 27 at the AD's Archeology Lab. Also present were (left to right) State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger, Curatorial Facility Certification Program Coordinator Elizabeth Martindale, Marine Archeologist Steve Hoyt, AD Director Jim Bruseth, AD Support Staff Team Leader Donna McCarver, and Regional Archeologist Jeff Durst.



This biface was found eroding from a cutbank at Site 41TV2020 on City of Austin property.

## THC Recovers Artifacts Found on City of Austin Land

A legal victory won by the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeology Division (AD) during fall 2009, reaffirms that the State of Texas, under the Antiquities Code of Texas, owns archaeological artifacts recovered from public lands.

The case (*The State of Texas and the Texas Historical Commission v. Steve Ashley*) was the result of a lawsuit filed in 2004 by the THC against Steve Ashley in district court.

The purpose of the lawsuit was to regain possession of a Walnut Creek biface (stone tool) and other artifacts that had been collected by Ashley from City of Austin land seven years ago.

According to AD Director Jim Bruseth, Ashley could not be persuaded outside of court that the items belonged to the State of Texas under the Antiquities Code.

"At one point, Mr. Ashley indicated he would give the artifacts to the University of Texas for permanent curation, but despite our repeated attempts to get this accomplished, nothing happened," said Bruseth. "When we found out that Mr. Ashley was attempting to sell the biface, the THC filed suit for the return of all the artifacts."

The case was heard in early November, and on November 10, the judge ruled in favor of the THC. Since then, the artifacts have been returned to the State of Texas. According to Bradford Jones, AD collections manager and project archeologist, the Walnut Creek artifact collection also includes 17 other chipped stone tools (six bifaces, 10 projectile points, and an edge-modified flake). These artifacts have been submitted to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin for permanent curation.

## THC Annual Conference Features Archeology Sessions

Archeology was a prominent topic at the Annual Historic Preservation Conference, where eight Archeology Division (AD) staff members gave presentations, were involved in content development, or helped with conference planning. The conference, which is organized each year by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in association with Preservation Texas, was held on April 22–24 in Houston. The conference hosts professional and volunteer preservationists as well others interested in history.

At this year's conference, AD staff members Bradford Jones and Elizabeth Martindale represented the division on the agency-wide program planning committee and were involved with other AD staff in planning or presenting four different sessions or workshops that focused on the role of archeology in the preservation community. Jones is the AD collections manager and project archeologist, and Martindale is the coordinator of the THC Curatorial Facility Certification Program. Regional Archeologist Tiffany Osburn also helped develop session materials.

In a session entitled "Thinking Outside the Shadowbox: Archeology, Preservation, and Local Community," Jones and THC regional archeologists Jeff Durst and Dan Potter discussed the important role that archeology can play in preserving significant prehistoric and historic sites and developing a sense of community. By highlighting recent collaborations among THC staff, local governments and agencies, county historical societies and commissions, universities, and private landowners, the session sought to redefine the perception of archeology as an exclusively artifact-based discipline to one with the potential to promote cultural enrichment through archeological sites and investigations.

"In doing so, we create a greater sense of community and promote awareness of the importance of archeological site preservation," said Jones.

In a workshop called "Roll Up Your Sleeves and (Pretend to) Get Dirty: Hands-on Activities for Your Archeology Event," THC Historic Sites Division site managers Bryan McAuley and Jennifer Price joined Mickie Ross, educational programs coordinator at Georgetown's Williamson Museum, to share ideas to promote archeological awareness. Drawing on elements that have been successfully used in educational

archeology programs, the workshop focused on ways to share archeological content in nonexcavation sites such as classrooms or festival sites.

Mark Denton, the AD's state and federal review section coordinator, participated in an important session discussing the recent changes to state cemetery laws as a result of the passage of House Bill 2927 in 2009 (see related story, page 6). Denton, former THC Cemetery Preservation Coordinator Gerron Hite, and Texas Funeral Service Commission Executive Director O. C. Robbins discussed how these changes provide much-needed protection to both prehistoric and historic burials and how this legislation affects both private individuals and governmental agencies when dealing with the discovery of human remains.

Finally, AD Director Jim Bruseth and State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger presented a session showcasing recent

archeological investigations at the Bernardo Plantation site in Waller County (see related story, page 1). Copresenters included avocational historian James Woodrick as well as Carol McDavid and Robert Marcom of the Community Archaeology Research Institute. The session highlighted the results of metal detector, magnetometer, and ground-penetrating radar surveys as well as recent test excavations. While informing conference attendees about the ongoing fieldwork at this historic archeological site, the session also discussed how the site is a prime example of state and private parties coming together to contribute to the advancement of archeological knowledge, the deepening of our knowledge of Texas history, and the preservation of important historic sites.



THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe (left) and Commissioner and Archeology Committee Chair John W. Crain (right) are pictured with Dr. Nick Trierweiler (second from left) of the Ecological Communications Corporation and Mason Miller of Hicks and Company, Inc.



THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe (left) and Commissioner and Archeology Committee Chair John W. Crain (right) pose with TBH editors Dr. Steve Black and Susan Dial.

## Three Groups Receive Merit Awards in January

The Texas Historical Commission presented Awards of Merit in Archeology to three groups during the commission's January quarterly meeting in Austin.

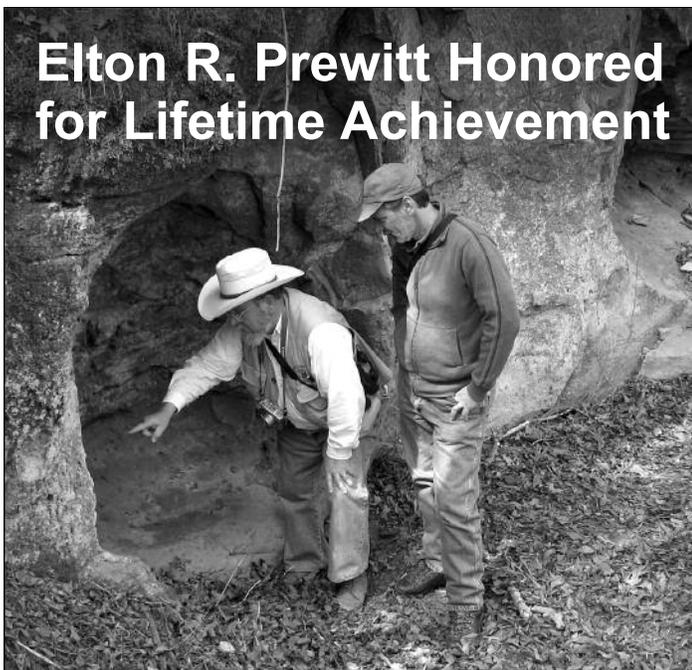
The Ecological Communications Corporation and Hicks and Company, Inc., were honored for public outreach efforts associated with their investigations of the Paleoindian deposits at the Vara Daniels site in Austin's Zilker Park.

Texas Beyond History (TBH) editors Dr. Steve Black and Susan Dial and the rest of the TBH staff were presented

with an Award of Merit in Archeology for their creation and maintenance of the web site, which is a public education service of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin in partnership with 16 other organizations.

"The web site is a marvelous educational tool for the school children and citizens of the State of Texas," said Mark Denton, the Archeology Division's state and federal review section coordinator.

## Elton R. Prewitt Honored for Lifetime Achievement



Elton Prewitt (left) and Regional Archeologist Jeff Durst record petroglyphs at the Gibson Rock Art Site (41TN12) in March 2009, prior to its nomination for State Archeological Landmark status.

Austin resident and registered professional archeologist Elton R. Prewitt was selected as the 2010 recipient of the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology and was honored at the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Annual Historic Preservation Conference (see related story, page 7). The award is named in honor of Texas' first state archeologist, who served as THC executive director from 1981 to 1999.

In presenting Prewitt with this award, the THC salutes his significant and ongoing contributions to Texas archeology. Twice a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin)—with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a master's degree in geography—Prewitt embarked on a career in archeology in 1963 as an archeological assistant with the university's Texas Archeological Salvage Project (TASP). Following a stint with the U.S. Army, he participated in TASP excavations in Central Texas, the Lower Pecos, and East Texas.

Later employment with the THC's Office of the State Archeologist, UT Austin's Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL), Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation (now the Texas Department of Transportation), and UT Austin's Texas Archeological Survey involved Prewitt in a variety of cultural resource management projects that took him to every region of the state. Prewitt even worked for the person this award memorializes, documenting archeological collections at the Smithsonian Institution that were derived from site investigations conducted in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas.

In 1979, Prewitt blazed a new career path. With his wife Kerza, he established a private archeological consulting firm, Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (PAI), the first independent business of its type in Texas. Over the years, many of today's established archeologists gained valuable experience while working on PAI projects. In the midst of running a business, Prewitt somehow found the time and energy to direct three consecutive field schools (1982–1984) at the Rowe Valley site in Williamson County for the Texas Archeological Society (TAS).

Prewitt's list of publications is extensive, including numerous cultural resource management reports, monographs, and journal articles. His publications reflect such research interests as the prehistoric cultures of Texas and adjacent areas, projectile point morphology, regional cultural chronologies in Texas, hunter-gatherer mortuary practices, and the application of remote-sensing techniques to archeological inquiry.

Prewitt has held a number of elected and appointed offices for the Register of Professional Archeologists (grievance coordinator, 1999–2000), American Cultural Resources Association (member, board of directors, 1999–2001), TAS (president, 1986), and the Council of Texas Archeologists (president, 1983). He also has served on volunteer advisory boards for the THC, including the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network Advisory Board (1983–present), Antiquities Advisory Board (member, 1995–2005; vice chair, 1997–2005), and the National Register State Board of Review (member, 1984–1990; vice chair, 1986, 1988, 1989; chair, 1990). His efforts and accomplishments have been recognized by such honors as the THC Certificate of Appreciation for 10 years of service on the Antiquities Advisory Board (2005), THC Archeologist of the Year Award (1994), and Fellow of the Texas Archeological Society (1990).

Since his retirement in 2002, both Elton and Kerza Prewitt have devoted much of their time and abilities to the Shumla School, Inc. ([www.shumla.org](http://www.shumla.org)), a nonprofit archeological research and education center located east of Del Rio, in Val Verde County. Elton Prewitt serves as an active board member, researcher, and instructor while Kerza maintains the center's web site.

The couple recently demonstrated their dedication to the Shumla School and its mission by pledging \$250,000 to create an endowment. The purpose of this endowment is to support the organization's rock art and regional research programs.

As if these activities weren't enough to keep him occupied in his retirement years, Prewitt is an adjunct lecturer for the Anthropology Department at Texas State University (2006–present) and a research fellow at TARL. He also continues to undertake independent consulting work.

## The Blockade Runner Conundrum

### Is it the Wreck of the *Will-O-The-Wisp* or the *Caroline*?

The investigation of a shipwreck discovered in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike in a spot off the Galveston coast has raised questions about the identity of a previously identified wreck nearby.

The new wreck was one of two discovered off Galveston Island during a remote-sensing survey conducted by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to locate and remove debris left in the water after the hurricane hit in fall 2008. Of the two shipwrecks, one was previously known and the other was not. The known, recorded wreck was located in the early 1980s by local divers and identified as the *Will-O-The-Wisp* (41GV90), an iron-hulled, side-wheeled steamer built specifically as a blockade runner during the Civil War. The vessel ran aground on February 9, 1865, just outside of Galveston, and the event is well recorded although the location is rather general. Two antiquities permits were issued for investigation of the wreck in the 1980s; however, it appears from a search of the records that no archeological investigations were ever carried out, and there is no record of how the wreck was originally identified as the *Will-O-The-Wisp*.

Another blockade runner, the *Caroline*, was lost off Galveston on July 8, 1864. Little is known about the *Caroline*, except that it started out as a tugboat called the *Union* and was converted for use as a blockade runner. While operating as a blockade runner, the vessel was captured twice, sold at auction each time, renamed by the new owners, and resumed service as a blockade runner. The final name of the vessel was the *Caroline*. The wreck of the *Caroline* has never been located, and it was hoped that the unidentified wreck discovered by the GLO might be the *Caroline*. With the aid of Texas Historical Commission (THC) marine stewards Andy Hall, Craig Hlavinka, Jack Jackson, and Doug Nowell as well as volunteer Amy Borgens, this new wreck was investigated during July 2009.

The diving investigations revealed details of construction and design that were not consistent with the tug *Caroline* but were exactly what one would expect for the *Will-O-The-Wisp*. Specifically, the wreck was built with an iron hull and used four steam boilers of a particular type and arrangements (Figure 1).

Although much of the wreckage was reburied by ocean currents between the time of the sonar survey and the diving investigation, the boiler/engine room area was still exposed (Figure 2). The engines were gone, but the boilers of the unidentified wreck were laid out exactly as shown in

Figure 1, which was the known arrangement from plans of the *Will-O-The-Wisp*. The type of boiler found on the wreck is known as a gunboat boiler because its low profile is appropriate to the design of low-profile vessels trying to minimize both visibility and target size. This type of boiler would be consistent with the *Will-O-The-Wisp*, a purpose-built blockade runner, and not the tug *Caroline*.

Diving investigations are scheduled for this summer to examine site 41GV90, previously identified as the *Will-O-The-Wisp*. The goal is to collect sufficient information to support or contradict the previous assessment of the vessel's identity. Perhaps the 41GV90 wreckage features will be more consistent with a steam tug like the *Caroline* and the record will need to be corrected.

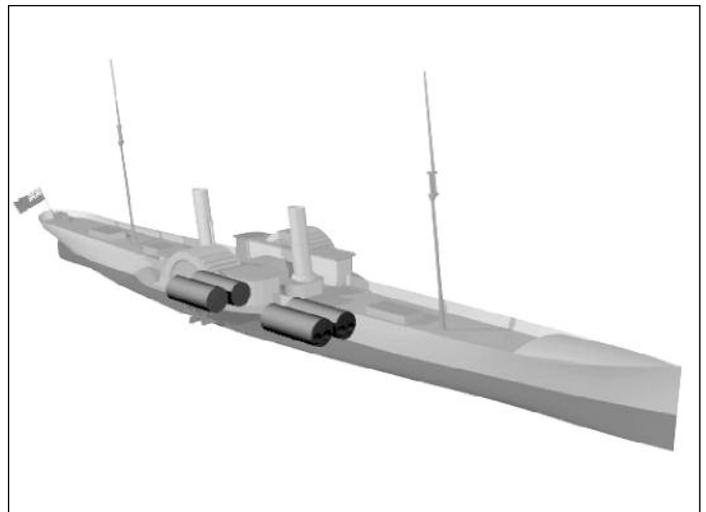


Figure 1. *Will-O-The-Wisp* steam boiler positions.  
(Image by THC marine steward Andy Hall.)

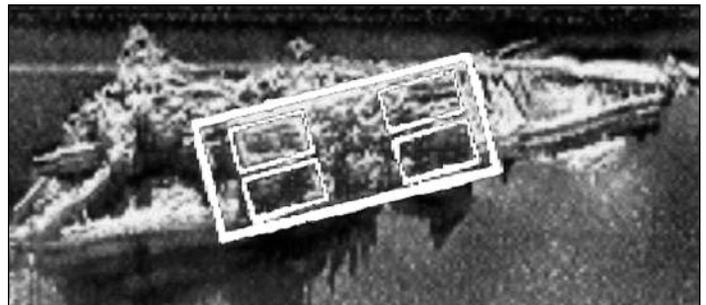


Figure 2. Small rectangles indicate approximate boiler locations on the unidentified wreck. The large rectangle is the approximate exposed area investigated by divers.

## Austin Will Host Conference on Historical Archeology

Austin will host the 2011 Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) Conference on January 5–9 at the Hilton Austin, which is located adjacent to the Austin Convention Center. According to the SHA web site, this “subfield of archaeology studies the emergence, transformation, and nature of the Modern World.”

The conference, which is expected to draw more than 1,000 participants, is being organized by a committee headed by Dr. James E. Bruseth, director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Archeology Division, and Dr. Maria Franklin, an associate professor in the University of Texas (UT) Department of Anthropology. State Archeologist Pat Mercado-Allinger will be in charge of local arrangements, and Dr. Carol McDavid of the Community Archaeology Research Institute will serve as program chair. McDavid will be assisted by Terrestrial Program Director Michael Strutt (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) and Underwater Program Director Filipe Castro (Texas A&M University).

Other committee members include:

- **Audiovisual Director**—Mark Denton, THC
- **International Liaison Chairs**—José Zapata, THC; John

Carman, University of Birmingham; Gustavo Ramírez, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia

- **Popular Program Director**—Pam Wheat-Stranahan, Texas Archeological Society (TAS)
- **Photographer**—Bill Pierson, THC
- **Tour and Events Director**—Maureen Brown, TAS
- **Volunteer Director**—Nedra Lee, UT Austin
- **Workshops Director**—Jamie Brandon, University of Arkansas

Conference offerings include workshops, panel discussions, and presentations on the latest research in historical archeology. Scheduled bus tours include visits to the Spanish Colonial Missions Trail in San Antonio, the Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation laboratories at Texas A&M University, and select Texas Hill Country wineries. A special reception at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum also is planned for conference attendees.

For more information, contact Bruseth (Jim.Bruseth@thc.state.tx.us) or Franklin (mfranklin@mail.utexas.edu).

## Steve Hoyt Named to New National Work Group

At the invitation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, State Marine Archeologist Steve Hoyt has been named a founding member of the newly formed Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group (CHRWG). The group is organized by the National Marine Protected Areas Center, which advises both the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The purpose of the new group is to provide technical expertise and recommendations on submerged cultural

resources to the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) as part of the continuing development of a National System of Marine Protected Areas.

Hoyt is employed with the Texas Historical Commission's Archeology Division. He attended the first CHRWG meeting on February 25–26 in Arlington as well as a meeting of the entire MPA FAC on April 19–23 in Charleston.

## CFCP and Collections Staff Work on *Belle*, Certification Projects

As part of her mission to ensure the proper care and management of select archeological collections belonging to the State of Texas, Curatorial Facility Certification Program (CFCP) Coordinator Elizabeth Martindale is regularly involved in a variety of duties related to artifacts held in trust by organizations across the state.

Over the past months, she was involved in two *Belle*-related projects. In November, Martindale and Bradford Jones, who serves as the collections manager and project

archeologist in the Archeology Division (AD), visited the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History (CCM) and accompanied CCM staff during visits to other La Salle Odyssey museums in Bay City, Edna, Palacios, Port Lavaca, Rockport, and Victoria. The purpose of the visits was to examine the *Belle* collections on loan at each institution and update inventory records. In December, the THC hosted H  l  ne Tromparent, museum conservator at the Mus  e National de la Marine in Paris (see related story, next page).

In other CFCP activities, preparations are underway to certify three Texas Historical Commission (THC) curatorial facilities, including the AD's Archeology Lab, Historic Sites Division Repository, and the Sam Rayburn House Museum. Twelve curatorial facilities have been certified to date.

The Anthropology and Archaeology Laboratory at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon were

awarded 2009 Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF) grants totaling \$30,000 to improve the collections management of state-associated, held-in-trust collections at each facility. TPTF grants are available to any facility holding state-associated, held-in-trust collections.

For more information about the CFCP, including a current list of certified facilities, visit the THC web site at [www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aacfcps.html](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aacfcps.html).

## French Government Representative Views La Salle Artifacts

Museum Conservator H el ene Tromparent, a representative of the Mus ee National de la Marine in Paris, visited the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in December to view artifacts from La Salle's ship, the *Belle*. During her visit, Tromparent also viewed other artifacts related to the French explorer's ill-fated expedition in Texas.

Under an international agreement, the Republic of France holds official title to the hull of the *Belle* and all other artifacts found with the ship. The Mus ee National de la Marine is the organization that has the authority to represent the French government in matters related to the *Belle*.

During her five-day stay in Texas, Archeology Division (AD) staff took Tromparent to visit museums along the Gulf Coast that are part of the La Salle Odyssey tour. The tour tells the story of La Salle's expedition and related THC excavations via a series of exhibits in seven museums in Bay City, Corpus Christi, Edna, Palacios, Port Lavaca, Rockport, and Victoria.

Stops were made at the Corpus Christi Museum (CCM) of Science and History, the official curatorial repository of the *Belle* artifacts, and at the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB) at The Victoria College. At the CCM, the group visited the *Belle* exhibit and toured the museum's extensive artifact collections. In Victoria, the focal exhibit at the MCB features seven of the eight iron cannons recovered by the THC during its excavation of the French settlement, Fort St. Louis, in southern Victoria County.

"One of the most spectacular discoveries of the excavation were the cannons that guarded La Salle's settlement," said MCB Director Sue Prudhomme "The Spaniards found and buried the cannons in 1689, planning to use them later when they built their own fortress on the same site. When they returned to build Presidio la Bahia in 1721, the Spanish were unable to locate the cannons. They remained buried for over 300 years."

Tromparent and the AD group also visited College Station, where the hull of the *Belle* is undergoing preservation at Texas A&M's Conservation Research Laboratory, and the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, where the *Belle* is expected to be on display by October 2013.



Museum Conservator H el ene Tromparent (right) of the Mus ee National de la Marine in Paris is shown with THC steward Bill Birmingham and CFCP Coordinator Elizabeth Martindale.



In Victoria, Tromparent (second from right) listens to a presentation by MCB Director Sue Prudhomme (right). Also pictured are THC steward Bill Birmingham (center), and three MCB advisory board members—Amy Mundy (far left, foreground), Gary Worsham, and Michael Cloud.



Fourth graders from Mission Valley Elementary in Victoria watch THC steward Bill Birmingham demonstrate a pump drill. A steward since 1992, Birmingham volunteers at the Museum of the Coastal Bend at The Victoria College. Courtesy Museum of the Coastal Bend.

## Archeology Celebrations Held in 59 Texas Counties

Nearly one quarter of all Texas counties had a Texas Archeology Month (TAM) event in October, with 59 counties organizing at least one event. This year's celebration included 106 events, which were held in 68 cities ranging in

size from the largest population hubs (Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, and El Paso) to smaller communities such as Lipscomb, Shumla, and Carlos.

An enduring vehicle used by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and many partner organizations to tell the real stories of Texas' archeological past for 20 years, TAM drew approximately 25,000 people across the state to participate in the annual celebration.

Coordinated by the THC in association with the Texas Archeological Society, the Council of Texas Archeologists, and the THC's Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, TAM comes to life each year through the work of hundreds of volunteers around the state who plan and execute the events in their communities. Local TAM event hosts and sponsors include state, local, and regional archeological societies; county historical commissions; museums; educational institutions; municipal, county, state, and federal agencies; and private firms.

According to the 2009 TAM survey, which was conducted in November by the THC's Archeology Division, organizers faced a number of difficulties this year. Challenges included attendance surprises (some reported low attendance while others reported standing-room only), a rainy October, volunteer-related issues, and funding problems (donations were down from community groups because of economic conditions). One group even reported a problem with rattlesnakes!

Despite these and other challenges, most of the survey respondents indicated they would sponsor a TAM event in 2010. As one respondent put it, "People love archeology."

## TAM 2010 Calendar Deadline Is June 17

If you want your Texas Archeology Month (TAM) event to appear in the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) TAM 2010 Calendar, you must send a completed Event Form to the THC's Archeology Division by June 17.

Only events open to the public can be included in the Calendar, but if you have activities (such as school tours) that are part of a larger event, those can be mentioned as long as the public has access to the same activity at another time during the month. Inclusion of any limited participation TAM activities will depend on space availability.

For your convenience, we are including the TAM Event Form in this newsletter (see page 14). You can download additional copies at [www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aapdfs/TAM\\_evnt\\_frm\\_10.pdf](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aapdfs/TAM_evnt_frm_10.pdf).

In addition to the TAM Calendar, the THC distributes a selection of materials free of charge to TAM event hosts. These include a manual called *How to Plan and Manage an Archeology Fair*, a unit for teachers called "Texas Archeology

in the Classroom," posters, and brochures. To request free copies, fill out the Materials Order Form included in this newsletter (see page 15) and available for download at [www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aapdfs/TAM\\_ordr\\_frm\\_10.pdf](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aapdfs/TAM_ordr_frm_10.pdf).

Unfortunately, no TAM 2010 grants will be awarded through the Texas Preservation Trust Fund program.

### Mailing Information

Mail your Event Form and Materials Order Form to: Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276. You may also fax your forms to 512.463.8927. The Event Form also can be sent as an email attachment to [marialuzm@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:marialuzm@thc.state.tx.us). The Materials Order Form should be sent to [donna.mccarver@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:donna.mccarver@thc.state.tx.us).

### Need Help or More Information?

Contact Texas Archeology Month Coordinator María de la Luz Martínez at [marialuzm@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:marialuzm@thc.state.tx.us) or 512.463.9505.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH (TAM) • OCTOBER 2010  
EVENT FORM

EVENT TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

EVENT DESCRIPTION—Be as specific as possible and give details. Provide descriptions of activities and presentations, lecture topics, demonstrations and any other interesting details that will attract public attendance. Attach separate sheet if necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

EVENT DATE(S) \_\_\_\_\_ EVENT HOURS \_\_\_\_\_

EVENT OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC? (a requirement for calendar listing) \_\_\_\_\_ ADMISSION FEES \_\_\_\_\_

EVENT LOCATION—Include name of place where event will be held, such as Blank County Museum.

Name of Place \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (include directions if necessary) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

EVENT SPONSOR(S) \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFORMATION—Provide name, phone number and email address (if available) of one or two people who can be reached easily and web address of organization. This information may be printed in the Calendar of Events booklet and listed on the THC web site.

(1) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Web site (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Name, organization and mail address for main event coordinator:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

TAM MATERIALS ORDER FORM—Download and submit this form to request brochures, posters, calendars and other materials for your TAM event. The form is available at [www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aapdfs/TAM\\_ordr\\_frm\\_10.pdf](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aapdfs/TAM_ordr_frm_10.pdf).

DEADLINE—Complete one Event Form for each event and return it by **June 17, 2010**, or email the required information by the same date.

PHOTOS—We welcome color photos of TAM 2009 for possible publication in the TAM 2010 Calendar of Events booklet.

MAILING ADDRESS

TAM, Archeology Division, Texas Historical Commission

P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276

Fax: 512.463.8927

FOR MORE INFORMATION—Contact the TAM Coordinator, 512.463.9505, [marialuzm@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:marialuzm@thc.state.tx.us); or the Archeology Division, 512.463.6096, [archeology@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:archeology@thc.state.tx.us).

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH (TAM) • OCTOBER 2010  
MATERIALS ORDER FORM

All materials provided free of charge to TAM event hosts

How to Plan and Manage an Archeology Fair

Archeology fairs emphasize hands-on activities, displays and interactive exhibits. This manual contains a step-by-step checklist for planning a fair and ideas for activities, including spear toss with atlatl, demonstration dig, flintknapping, wild-plant use, pottery making, rock art painting, basket making, story telling, tipi life, traditional foods and weaving. Also included are handouts to be used with various activities, as well as forms for scheduling volunteers and requesting publicity. About 40 pages long, the manual is intended for three-hole punching and placement in a notebook so you can add information, forms and other activity ideas of your own.

Texas Archeology in the Classroom: A Unit for Teachers

You can use this valuable classroom resource throughout the year. The four-part unit includes the following:

- Background sections that explain how archeologists work, provide overviews of archeological sites and discuss Native Americans in Texas from Paleoindian to Historic period.
- More than 20 activities or lesson plans using archeological topics for learning across the curriculum.

TAM 2010 Calendar Booklets

This colorful booklet contains listings and descriptions of upcoming TAM events throughout the state—approximately 100 in all. Event sponsors can mail them out for publicity and distribute them before and during their events.

Posters

TAM posters are available upon request.

Brochures

Brochures feature a variety of archeological topics. A special folder to hold and display the brochures is also available.

ORDER FORM

Please send me:

\_\_\_ Copies of *How to Plan and Manage an Archeology Fair*     \_\_\_ TAM posters  
\_\_\_ Copies of the TAM 2010 Calendar booklet     \_\_\_ *Texas Archeology in the Classroom*

Brochures: Indicate how many of each brochure you would like to receive.

\_\_\_ *How to Get Involved in Texas Archeology*    \_\_\_ *Documenting Archeological Collections*    \_\_\_ *Historic Texas Lands Plaque*  
\_\_\_ *Texas Archeology Month*    \_\_\_ *Texas Archeological Stewardship Network*    \_\_\_ *Destruction of Archeological Sites in Texas*  
\_\_\_ *A Property Owner's Guide to Archeological Sites*    \_\_\_ *What Does an Archeologist Do?*    \_\_\_ *Laws that Protect Archeological Sites*  
\_\_\_ *Marine Archeology in Texas*    \_\_\_ *State Archeological Landmark Designation: A User's Guide*    \_\_\_ *Artifact Collecting in Texas*  
\_\_\_ Special folder to hold and display the brochures

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

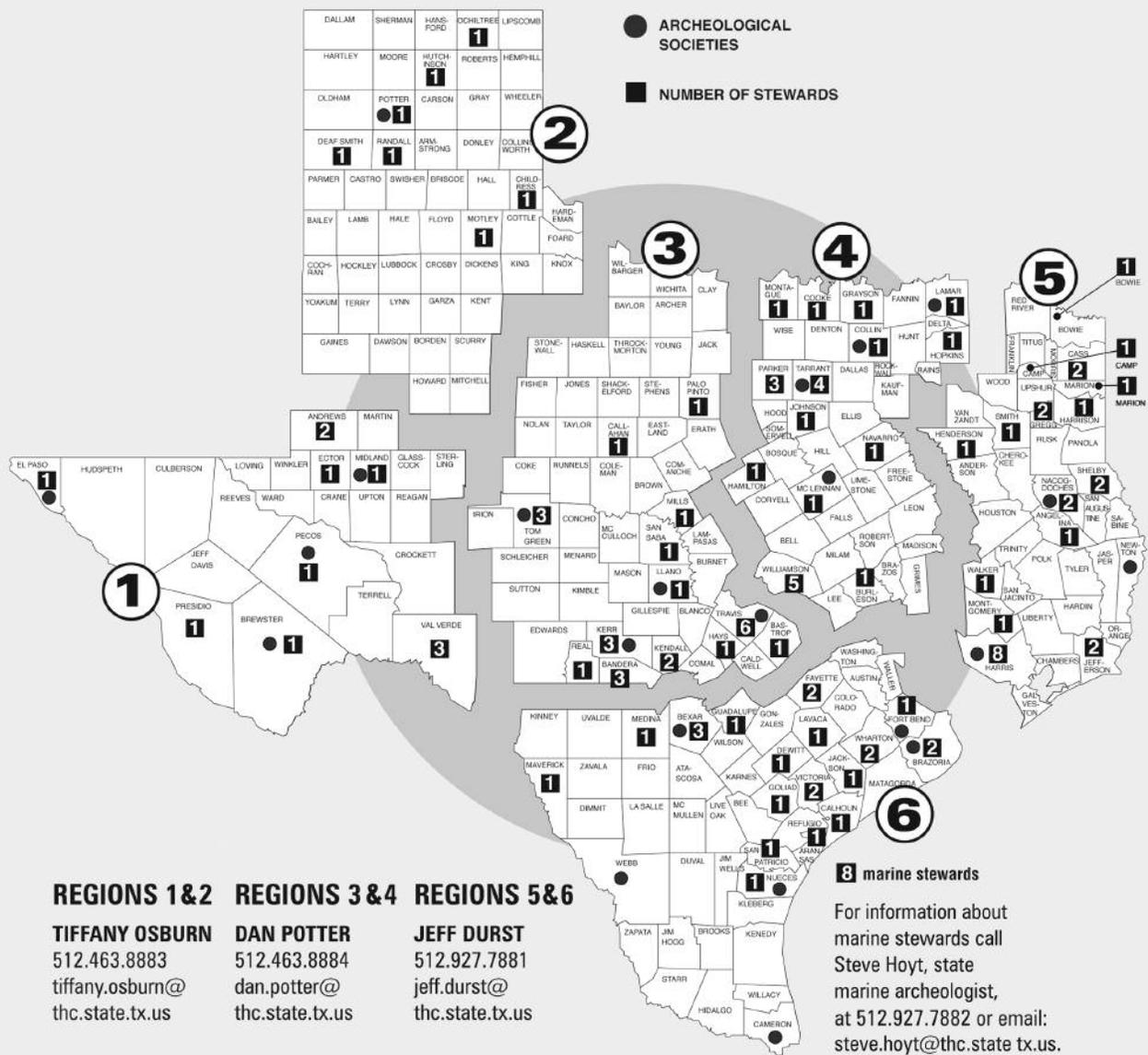
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Send requests to TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, Archeology Division, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276; fax 512.463.8927; or email donna.mccarver@thc.state.tx.us. For more information call 512.463.6090.

Please allow a minimum of one week for delivery.

# REGIONAL AND STEWARD NEWS



**REGIONS 1&2** TIFFANY OSBURN 512.463.8883 tiffany.osburn@thc.state.tx.us

**REGIONS 3&4** DAN POTTER 512.463.8884 dan.potter@thc.state.tx.us

**REGIONS 5&6** JEFF DURST 512.927.7881 jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us

**8 marine stewards**  
For information about marine stewards call Steve Hoyt, state marine archeologist, at 512.927.7882 or email: steve.hoyt@thc.state.tx.us.

## Regional Archeologists' Reports



### Mountain/Pecos & Plains

Members of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) who are located in the Mountain/Pecos and Plains regions continue to work diligently on conducting archeological surveys and research, monitoring sites, and handling

public outreach. Combined, they contributed more than 1,450 volunteer hours toward stewardship activities and drove more than 5,500 miles across the region. More than 135 pieces of educational literature or outreach materials were distributed. The presentations and workshops conducted by stewards were attended by more than 225 people in the region. In addition, Regions 1 and 2 stewards assisted at least nine landowners; 21 agencies, organizations, or institutions; and four individuals. Stewards recorded four new sites, monitored 10 sites, and conducted or participated in 10 site investigations. This group of stewards also spent a



At Evans Depot, Rolla Shaller takes time to work on his notes.

significant amount of time documenting, analyzing, and conserving at least five artifact collections.

Sadly, we lost one of our own last year. TASN steward **David Dorchester** passed away in December. His contributions to the stewardship network and to Texas archeology will be lasting, and he will be remembered.

Since August 2009, **Alvin Lynn** investigated four archeological sites. He also works continuously on the documentation, conservation, and analysis of two artifact collections. He assisted two landowners, one individual, and three agencies. In October, Lynn worked with steward Rolla Shaller, Texas Historical Commission (THC) Regional Archeologist Tiffany Osburn, and a small group of volunteers to complete excavations at Evans' 1868 supply depot (41RB111).

**Marisue Potts Powell** monitored three sites and investigated two sites. She provided a presentation on the Blanco Canyon archeological site in Floyd County that is believed to be related to Coronado's expedition in the American Southwest. The presentation was given during a district meeting of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in Lubbock. Powell also served as docent at the Motley County Museum for several tour groups from Lubbock and at the Bunkhouse Museum at Mott Creek Ranch, where she described Native American cultural practices and artifacts. In addition, she has been conducting research related to the Bluff site on Mott Creek Ranch and works continually to maintain the site.

**Rolla Shaller** monitored one site and conducted excavations at Evans Depot in October. He also has been working

with Chris Lintz, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) cultural resource specialist, on lithic cache research. Shaller regularly attends meetings of the Randall County Historical Commission and is currently researching and writing historical text for a THC subject marker.

**Jack Skiles** monitored several significant sites and assisted five agencies and institutions. He assisted Dr. Steve Black, a Texas State University (TSU) assistant professor, with mapping efforts in Eagle Cave. This work will support activities conducted by the TSU summer field school that will be held at his ranch in Langtry (see "Looking Ahead," June 7–8, page 23).

**Evans Turpin** organized a PowerPoint presentation that was presented at the Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies Annual Symposium, which was held April 9–11 in New Mexico. He has recorded three new sites and monitored four others during this reporting period. Turpin also is working with the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Rock Art Task Force to record sites in the Pecos County area.

**Doug Wilkens** monitored three previously recorded sites and participated in two site investigations. He also assisted two landowners during the preceding months. Wilkens worked with elementary school teachers to produce a slide presentation for a fifth-grade class on archeological work he had done locally. In October, he conducted another weeklong field project at the M-Cross ranch with Doug Boyd, vice president at Prewitt and Associates, Inc.; landowner John Erikson; and Tiffany Osburn. This work targeted specific architectural features and orientation of a Plains Village structure.



REGIONS 3 & 4 • DAN POTTER

### Forts/Hill Country & Lakes/Brazos

Stewards in Central and North Texas have completed a range of tasks and projects over the past six months. In addition to individual activities, this group participated in a regional workshop held in Austin on February 12 (see story, page 21).

**Tom Adams** gave a presentation about the TASN to the Brownwood Historical Association and received positive feedback from attendees.

**Del Barnett** provided an update on Goldthwaite's Legacy Plaza project, which will include native plant gardens and a Native American interpretive center. A home donated



This stone-lined, hand-dug well was recorded during a TASN archeological survey in Kimble County by Joe Beavin. The well is associated with a historic ranch headquarters dating to the late 19th century.

to the project was converted into a temporary base for visiting scholars and archeologists conducting studies in the area. THC literature is distributed from that facility to the public. Barnett has written five articles in the Goldthwaite newspaper on archeological topics in support of the Legacy Plaza project. In addition, he was primarily responsible for work at the Hale site that included remote sensing.

**Joe Beavin** recorded 36 new archeological sites as part of major ranch surveys in Kimble, Edwards, Uvalde, and Comal counties. This is an unusually high number of new sites recorded and a noteworthy achievement. (Regional Archeologist's Note: Following Joe's initial survey in Kimble County, I visited with the ranch families who hosted his work, and they were pleased and impressed with Joe and the work he did. Joe did a great job in Kimble County, and we're very grateful to have him as part of the TASN.)

Over in Comal County, **Frank Binetti** reports four new archeological sites recorded and eight others monitored. He also provided archeological presentations to more than 300 people in the last six months. (Good going Frank!)

**Jay Blaine** worked on a number of tasks, including public speaking events and consulting with professional and avocational archeologists and fellow stewards on historic artifact identification and conservation.

**José Contreras** added more than 1,000 miles to his vehicle while helping others on archeological issues.

**Dorothy Grayson** was active with various Hill Country Archeological Association (HCAA) activities, including archeological testing for private landowners in the Medina area.

**Ken Headrick** monitored three sites over the past half year and distributed a significant number of pieces of archeological literature during that period.

**Jay Hornsby** monitored or investigated several sites recently and assisted a number of individuals.

**Doris Howard** helped record two new sites in the Llano Uplift region. During this period, she also helped a number of individuals and agencies, including the THC, TAS, and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). Howard does much of her work in conjunction with the Llano Uplift Archeological Society, based in Llano County.

**Bryan Jameson** logged more than 2,000 miles, recorded four new sites, and helped a number of individuals or organizations during the last six months. Retired from a career in the aviation industry, Jameson has had more time to travel around North and Central Texas, where he has added his outstanding skills to numerous projects, including Tenoxtitlán in Burleson County, the Hale site in Mills County, and private-land survey work in Gillespie and Blanco counties. Jameson also is finishing a draft article related to the Sprague site in Hamilton County. [Regional Archeologist's Note: During a recent survey in Gillespie County, Bryan tore a pretty good chunk of his hand while crossing a barbed-wire fence on the property. He had to be forced to go to the emergency room (ER) in Fredericksburg to get the gash sewed up. After waiting for Bryan's treatment to be completed, we went back into the ER to see how he was doing—there he sat, hand encased in bandages, explaining the importance of archeology to half of the ER medical staff, who were all clustered around him eagerly asking questions about Gillespie County archeology.]

**Roger Johnson**, a new steward in Travis County, monitored one site and gave an archeological presentation featuring the Wilson-Leonard site. (Great to have you with us, Roger!)

**Cathy McCool** is another new steward, off to a strong start assisting landowners and organizations. She logged more than 1,500 miles in this endeavor.

**Tammy Kubecka** of Burleson County is new to the TASN but has taken off running in her first year. During October, Kubecka coordinated the Burleson County Archeology Awareness Week with help from TPWD and THC State Marine Archeologist Steve Hoyt, who gave a presentation on steamboat wrecks on Texas rivers. Kubecka also participated in the Washington County Living History Festival in October, working a booth where she distributed brochures and fielded questions about the archeology of the area.

**Bonnie McKee** worked on a State Archeological Landmark (SAL) designation and a public presentation.

**Nick Morgan** spends much of his archeological pursuits at the Joyful Horse site in Bastrop County, where testing has been ongoing for several years.

**Glynn Osburn** spent several hundred hours monitoring or assessing archeological sites and preparing a public presentation. Two landowners were assisted during this period.

**Ona B. Reed** assisted several landowners and traveled many miles (as always). She also worked on several interesting projects, including a successful archeology day in Gainesville.

**Larry Riemenschneider** recorded eight new sites and helped landowners in the San Angelo area. Work continued at Fort Chadbourne, and he also has been recording sites on private ranches in Irion County, both historic and prehistoric. (Larry continues to be one of our most active stewards.)

**Jim Schmidt** clocked more than 100 hours of work at the THC lab on several collections, and he also worked at Archeology Day at the French Legation Museum in Austin. (These are just two of many jobs Jim takes on year in and year out.)

**May Schmidt** worked at the THC lab and at the French Legation Museum in Austin. She spent substantial time on TAS Annual Meeting activities, working on local arrangements and the silent auction.

**Frank Sprague** gave a public presentation on archeology and assisted two landowners in Hamilton County. He also continues to host the Baylor Archeological Field School on his property.

**Paul Stein** monitored or assessed five sites and gave a public presentation on archeology. He also assisted four landowners during this period.

**Alice Stultz** assisted landowners and worked on 10 collections recently, logging in nearly 200 hours and almost 1,000 miles during the past six months.

**Art Tawater** has stepped up numerous times to assist the THC in recent months. He made a major contribution to a recent large survey in Gillespie County. He also has been researching a probable historic stagecoach stop in Wise County, and he and Bryan Jameson have teamed up with Tammy Kubecka to conduct historical research on Fort Tenoxtitlán, Burleson County. (Regional Archeologist's Note: Art was indispensable in the Gillespie County survey—31 sites were recorded, a lot of ground was covered, and several SAL nominations will result, thanks to Art's hard work.)

New steward **Bob Ward** volunteered at Archeology Day at the French Legation Museum in Austin and was on the field crew at Bernardo Plantation (see story, page 1). (Thanks so much Bob, and welcome to the TASN.)

**Buddy Whitley**, who recently retired and now has more time to devote to archeology, worked with LCRA archeologists and historian Dan Utley on a San Saba project. He also worked at the Hale site in Mills County with a number of stewards and THC staff.

**Kay and Woody Woodward** report that hunting season curtailed field activities in Kerr County and surrounding counties during this reporting period; however, both Kay and Woody were involved in training fellow HCAA members in such activities as site recording. In addition, both were

heavily involved in HCAA's annual archeology celebration in Kerrville. Woody identified artifacts, and Kay reports an interesting rock art activity—paint made of bone marrow, yucca bulb suds, and ochre is applied with twisted-leaf yucca brushes.



## REGIONS 5 & 6 • JEFF DURST

### Forest & Independence/Tropical

**Beth and Pat Aucoin** of Harris County continue to be active with the ongoing search for the lost French site of Champ d'Asile in Liberty County. Under the direction of archeologist Roger Moore, they also have continued to work with a group of local stewards and other volunteers to survey the San Jacinto Battleground in Harris County. Beth also worked on the Bernardo Plantation project (see story, page 1) in Waller County, joining other TASN members and THC Archeology Division staff, as well as many volunteers from various organizations. These groups include the Brazosport Archeological Society (BAS), Community Archaeology Research Institute, Fort Bend Archeological Society (FBAS), Houston Archeological Society (HAS), and TAS.

**Bill Birmingham** of Victoria County remains very active in the Coastal Bend region (see photos, pages 12, 13). He recently teamed up with fellow steward Ben McReynolds to identify a previously unrecognized type of projectile point in his region. The new type was named the Anaqua point, and an image and description of the new type will be included in the updated version of Ellen Sue Turner's and Thomas R. Hester's *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians*. Birmingham also continues to volunteer hundreds of hours at the Museum of the Coastal Bend, helping with the curation of the archeological collections.

**Jimmy Bluhm** of Victoria County recently donated his incredible collection of nearly 7,000 artifacts to the Museum of the Coastal Bend in Victoria. The collection, which covers the entire time span of prehistory in the Coastal Bend region, is being documented and recorded for permanent curation at the museum. Bluhm continues to be a strong advocate for public outreach in his region, and he recently guided 11 Boy Scouts through a 20-hour Archeology Merit Badge program.

**Pat Braun** of Aransas County was busy lately with the identification of a previously unrecorded historic site in the town of Fulton. The site was uncovered by street repair work that exposed a trash midden dating from the mid-to-late 1800s. Braun also worked recently with others to create a new Morhiss Mound site exhibit at the Museum of the Coastal Bend. Because the famous Morhiss Mound

site was originally excavated as part of a joint effort between the University of Texas at Austin and the Work Projects Administration in the early 1940s, the original exhibit was linked to the museum's World War II exhibit, which highlights Victoria's connections to the war effort. Besides the six THC stewards who volunteer their time at the Museum of the Coastal Bend, there is a fantastic group of volunteers who deserve recognition. This group includes Judd Austin and Lynn Calhoun-Bludau, who also volunteered countless hours in the lab during the THC Fort St. Louis project.

**Bob Crosser** of Fort Bend County always remains busy with his numerous archeological endeavors in his part of the state. Recently, he assisted THC Regional Archeologist Tiffany Osburn with a ground-penetrating radar survey of the cemetery and plantation house at the Bernardo Plantation in Waller County. He and fellow stewards Dick Gregg and Tom Nuckols also joined forces to perform a ground conductivity survey over the cemetery at the Bernardo Plantation.

**Dick Gregg** of Harris County worked on several different projects during the past few months. He continued to assist the FBAS with the processing of artifacts recovered from the Lamar site (41FB268). Gregg also helped with the ground-penetrating radar and ground conductivity surveys recently completed at the Bernardo Plantation in Waller County. He continues to assist with the ongoing search for the site of Champ d'Asile in Liberty County and joined a cadre of folks for a shovel test search in November.

**Patti Haskins** of Gregg County was busy over the past few months with her efforts to document the extensive Buddy Jones Caddoan pottery collection housed at the Gregg County History Museum. Haskins has devoted countless hours to help preserve this amazing collection that contains more than 700 complete Caddo vessels. Recently, she organized an exhibit on the Patton site, a Cypress Basin Late Period and possibly Contact Period site, using materials from the Jones collection. The exhibit is currently on display at the Gregg County History Museum, located in downtown Longview.

**Sheldon Kindall** of Harris County spread out his volunteer time over a number of interesting and diverse projects. For several years he has been a driving force in the search for the French site of Champ d'Asile, located somewhere along the east bank of the Trinity River in Liberty County. In November, joined by numerous fellow stewards and THC staff, Kindall continued his quest, this time at one of the primary sites where the colony is thought to have been located. Although this effort, which involved shovel and backhoe testing, did not produce convincing evidence of the French site, Kindall will continue to search. In addition to his Champ d'Asile work, Kindall also participated in the magnetometer survey of the Bernardo

Plantation in Waller County and the ongoing survey of the San Jacinto Battleground in Harris County.

**Tom Nuckols** of Harris County is a new TASN member who started his tenure at a strong pace. During the past few months he worked with fellow stewards, as well as THC staff and other groups, on the Bernardo Plantation survey, assisting with remote-sensing work at the site. Across the Brazos River from Bernardo Plantation, Nuckols joined the HAS, BAS, and the Austin County Historical Association in their search for the site of Sam Houston's Army campsite. Nuckols also continues to maintain an avid interest in the search for the French site of Champ d'Asile, volunteering countless hours over the history of the search, both as a HAS member and as a steward.

**Johnney and Sandra Pollan** of Brazoria County are always busy with a variety of projects in their area. Most recently, Johnney worked with a local sandpit owner who recovered a human skull from a depth of 45 feet below the present surface. The skull was transferred to Dr. Michael Collins, a research professor in the Department of Anthro-



Bob Ward was among the many stewards and volunteers who recently assisted with the THC excavations at Bernardo Plantation near Hempstead.

pology at TSU-San Marcos, who sent it out for radiocarbon dating. The initial results indicate a date of 3000 years BP. Both Johnney and Sandra have been working on the identification of early transfer wares from several sites in Nacogdoches where the East Texas Archeological Society has been working near the original Spanish Colonial main plaza. Along with their work on the Brazoria County Antebellum Plantation survey, they both remain extremely active with the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science in Lake Jackson.

**Sandra Rogers** of Walker County is always busy, and the past months have been no exception. In October, Rogers conducted an archeology fair for 107 fourth graders at the Sam Houston Museum in Huntsville. In December, she was on the team that worked on the Bernardo Plantation project in Waller County. In addition, Rogers collaborated with landowners in her area during the past few months to submit SAL nominations for two privately owned pieces of property.

**Mark Walters** of Smith County recently submitted another article for publication in the *Caddo Archeological Journal*. His latest article is entitled “Redwine or Pie-Crust Mode Forms in East Texas Caddo Ceramics and Comparisons with Sprocket-Rims of Southwest Arkansas.” Walters also recently participated in a mapping and testing project at the Boxed Springs site (41UR30) in Upshur County, which is an extremely important Early Caddo mound complex.

## THC Steward Also Honored by Panhandle Group Joe D. Rogers Elected as TAS President in October



Joe D. Rogers works on the Stallings site during the 2006 TAS Field School.

Texas Historical Commission (THC) steward Joe D. Rogers accepted the president’s gavel at the 80th annual meeting of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) held in Del Rio in October 2009. Two months later, on December 16, he was honored by the Panhandle Archeological Society (PAS) in Amarillo during its 32nd Annual Floyd V. Studer Banquet and Lecture. The Panhandle event, an annual salute to recognize

outstanding contributions to the field of archeology, is named after a former TAS and PAS president.

In an open letter published in the winter 2009 issue of the TAS newsletter, *Texas Archeology*, Rogers writes, “What I find exhilarating (about archeology) is the continual uncompromising search for understanding. I try to explain to my students that, unlike a CSI episode where they have all this physical evidence to solve a single crime, this discipline uses a few lithics, shards, and soil stains to see how an entire society lived and interacted. It just . . . does not get any better than that.”

A member of the THC Texas Archeological Stewardship Network since 2002, Rogers is a retired public school history teacher. He taught for 34 years at Hereford Independent School District and was recognized for teaching excellence throughout his career. In 1980 and 1981 he was named the teacher of the year at Stanton Junior High School, and in 1985 he was similarly recognized for his work at La Plata Junior High School. In 2002, Rogers was honored as the Texas Education Agency Region XVI Secondary Teacher of the Year.

In addition to his archeology activities, Rogers currently teaches history on a part-time basis at West Texas A&M University. Previously, he served as PAS president and TAS Region I director.

## Stewards Sharpen Research Skills at One-Day Workshop

Central and North Texas stewards improved their research skills at a workshop organized by Regional Archeologist Dan Potter on February 12. The one-day workshop, held in Austin, featured a morning training session led by retired Texas Historical Commission Chief Historian Dan Utley.

Entitled “Chasing Clio through the Courthouse (and Other Locales),” the presentation covered such

topics as research design; how to delve into county courthouse records; utilizing local and regional collections, maps, libraries, and Internet-based resources; and the use and role of oral history.

Following Utley’s presentation, the workshop participants took a guided tour of the historic map archive and research rooms at the Texas General Land Office and the Texas Natural Resources Information System.



## Looking Ahead

If you would like to get involved in a regional archeological society, visit the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) web site at [www.txarch.org/Contacts/regions.php](http://www.txarch.org/Contacts/regions.php) to locate one near you.

### APRIL 22–24

**Annual Historic Preservation Conference:** This event is hosted by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in association with Preservation Texas. Sessions, workshops, tours, and panels on important preservation issues and case studies are conducted by experts in architecture, archeology, economic development, heritage tourism, and marketing. Information: THC Marketing Communications Division, 512.463.6255.

### MAY 16

**Free Historic Sites Day:** All THC historic sites offer regular services and tours free to the public on this day. The event is held in conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Preservation Month and the National and Texas Travel and Tourism Week (May 8–16). Information: [www.texashistoricsites.com](http://www.texashistoricsites.com) and [www.preservationnation.org/take-action/preservation-month](http://www.preservationnation.org/take-action/preservation-month).

### MAY 17–JUNE 4

**Field Methods in Rock Art Course:** SHUMLA offers a hands-on course in rock art recording methodology through the Office of Extension Studies at Texas State University. Information: <http://shumla.org>.

### MAY 24–28

**Archeological Prospection Workshop:** "Current Archeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century," Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, Mercer County, N.D. Cosponsored by the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site and the National Park Service-Midwest Archeological Center. Information: [www.nps.gov/history/mwac](http://www.nps.gov/history/mwac).

### MAY 24–JUNE 4

**2010 Archaeological Field School:** Hosted by Courson Archaeological Research, this field school takes place outside of Perryton, Texas, and features excavations at three sites—Chill Hill (41RB132), Eastview (41RB153), and Spider Peak. Information: [http://coursonarchresearch.com/2010\\_field\\_school/index.html](http://coursonarchresearch.com/2010_field_school/index.html).

### JUNE 7–8

**Summer Archaeological Field School:** This five-week, hands-on training course sponsored by the Department of Anthropology at Texas State University-San Marcos takes place in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of southwest Texas. Information: [www.txstate.edu/anthropology](http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology) (look under "Field Schools & Internships").

### JUNE 12–19

**Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Field School:** Work will focus on an extensive multicomponent prehistoric site located in Medina County. Information: <http://txarch.org/> (go to calendar).

### OCTOBER 1–31

**Texas Archeology Month:** Annual statewide celebration promoting the appreciation of scientific archeology, prehistory, and Native American cultures, as well as the stewardship of Texas' archeological resources. Information: [www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aatam.shtml](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aatam.shtml).

### OCTOBER 22–24

**TAS Annual Meeting:** This year's meeting will be in Corpus Christi, Texas, where professional and avocational archeologists will present papers, poster displays, and exhibits. Information: <http://txarch.org/> (go to calendar).

### OCTOBER 27–30

**2010 National Preservation Conference:** Held in Austin this year, the conference provides an opportunity to share ideas and learn from practitioners who are setting new standards for the preservation field. Information: <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/>.

## Texas Archeology Month Calendar Deadline: June 17

Send your completed Event Form to THC's Archeology Division for use in 2010 TAM Calendar. Information: See page 13, or go to [www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aatam.shtml](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/archeology/aatam.shtml).

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