GEAR UP FOR FIELD SCHOOL: KERRVILLE AWAITS!

Tiffany Osburn

This year, the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) invites members to attend the annual summer Field School at along the banks of the Guadalupe River in Kerr County. Kerrville offers much to visitors year-round and will be the ideal location for the upcoming field school. TAS is being welcomed with open arms by the Hill Country Archeological Association, the City of Kerrville, as well as Kerr County. The subjects of archeological investigation are rich this year. The primary Field School goal will include excavation of a prehistoric archeological site on a terrace of the Guadalupe River, and the historic component will excavate and map a historic community dancehall and one room schoolhouse. As always, participants can choose to spend the week conducting historic excavation, prehistoric excavation, survey, or lab. The survey option offers the opportunity to discover new archeological sites and learn proper recording techniques on nearby ranches while the lab participants will help process the volumes of artifacts as they come in from the field excavations. The dates for the 2020 Field School will be June 13-20. We know this will be a field school to remember!

We’re excited to work under the leadership of Dr. Eric Oksanen, our Principal Investigator. Read on to learn more about our fearless leader and our archeological objectives.

Nearby Lodging and Restaurants

As always, we encourage TAS members to camp at the arranged field school campground and join us for breakfast and evening meals. However, for those requiring alternatives, there are numerous hotels and other accommodations available in the Kerrville area.

Please visit the Kerrville Convention & Visitors Bureau website at www.kerrvilletexascvb.com for links containing a wealth of information about lodging accommodations, dining, and “things to do”. Also Kerrville-Schreiner Park’s website www.kerrvilletx.gov has photos and a map layout of their mini cabins, the Park Cabin, and the Ranch House/Carriage House that can be rented.

Campgrounds

The TAS campground will be located within two adjacent parks: River Star Park and Flat Rock Park. When you arrive Friday to set up your camp in the park or check into your hotel, come to the registration area in River Star Park near the Pavilion to sign in and receive your name tag, crew assignments, and other information.

Registration, Meals, and Evening Programs will be held at the Pavilion at River Star Park. Flat Rock Park offers river front property adjacent to Kerrville Lake on the (continued, page 3)
TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY® ETHICS

• Members of TAS must abide by all terms and conditions of the TAS bylaws and all Federal and State antiquities laws or regulations.
• TAS does not condone the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes.
• TAS does not condone the disregard of proper archeological field techniques or the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data.

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Lea Sanchez

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Office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. During other hours please leave a message on the answering machine.

Opinions, unless otherwise stated, are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Society.

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Guadalupe. Unlike last year these parks do not offer formal campsites with water and electricity. There will be electricity available in the park for phone charging and other necessities, but these will be shared between campers. Water will be available at the main pavilion area as well as a few other locations throughout the park. There are numerous shade trees in both parks but, as always, we encourage attendees to bring a shade shelter for use in camp or in the field.

The cooking trailer will be conveniently located near registration at the Pavilion in River Star Park. You may prepare your own meals, or our cooks will be serving breakfast and supper all week for paying customers. See the registration form to sign up for those meals. Ice will also be available for purchase near the registration area.

Portable toilets will be scattered throughout the campground and adjacent to the main excavation area. A trash container will be provided at camp for your use, so bag your trash and use the dumpsters. Campfires are not permitted.

Please see the General Info and Camp page for what to expect in camp, camp rules, suggested camp equipment, and general daily schedule.

The Camp Boss or designee will remain in camp during the day to provide security. Please comply with directions of the Camp Boss.

Meet the PI: ERIC OKSANEN

Eric Oksanen

I’m Eric Oksanen, the supervising archeologist for the 2020 Kerrville field school. When not at field school, I am a staff archeologist at the Texas Department of Transportation with 25 years archeological experience throughout Texas. My introduction to archeology was at the University of Toronto, where I studied history and archeometry and conducted my first field work – winter-time remote sensing surveys at First Nations sites and nineteenth century historic sites. I discovered archeology in Texas was a warmer paying job.

In 2003 I had the good fortune to join the first graduate class in Anthropology at Texas State University in San Marcos at the invitation of Britt Bousman. I started class three days after the birth of our daughter, Elizabeth, whom I carried around campus and occasionally penned in a 1-x-1. Working for the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS), I conducted field work in Texas and in South Africa. My main area of research has been the Late Paleoindian transition to the Early Archaic. My thesis examined the Late Paleoindian and Early Archaic occupations at the edge of the Balcones Escarpment and the Blackland Prairie.

At SWCA, I spent two (!?) years examining the extensive trove of data and artifacts from the Gatlin Site (41KR621), SWCA’s data recovery excavations in Kerrville for TxDOT. The Gatlin Site is approximately 800 meters from the 2020 field school. Years later, after I joined TxDOT, Steve Stoutamire and the Hill Country Archeological Association were kind to host me on several occasions to lecture on the Gatlin Site. It was during one of these meetings that they showed me artifacts from a nearby property and introduced me to the owner, Marvin Gohlke. Marvin’s site had similar diagnostics and sediments but several significant differences. The enthusiasm of the HCAA and Marvin’s stewardship of his property were key factors for accepting the role of field school archeologist. As a TxDOT archeologist, Marvin’s backhoe was another enticement.

I currently live in the hinterlands between Buda and South Austin with my wife, Alison, and our five children, Monica, Elizabeth, David, Sarah Jane, and Violet, some cats, and a guinea pig. My spare time is spent experiencing our fine state highway system between Buda, north Austin, and San Marcos. Any remaining spare time is then used making vegetarian lomein and fried rice and washing dishes.

(continued, page 4)
Field Work

The TAS 2020 field school is in Kerrville, on Marvin Gohlke’s ranch and overlooking the Guadalupe River. Our host society, the Hill Country Archeological Association (HCAA), has been exploring, mapping, excavating, and analyzing the site since 2013.

Entrance to the Ranch from the River. All photos this page courtesy Steve Stoutamire.

Burned rock, lithic debitage, and the occasional tool projectile point, are visible on the surface where the oldest diagnostic artifact, a Late Paleoindian dart point (ca. 8,500 years B.P.), and the youngest, an arrow point (ca. 800 B.P.) were recovered. However, the significance of the site lies beneath the surface, where HCAA have recorded archeological deposits spanning the Archaic (ca. 8,500–1,200 B.P), beginning with an Early Archaic hearth, dated with charcoal to ca. 7,400 years B.P., and associated Bandy dart point.

Back Hoe Trench Through Main Midden

The Early Archaic was a period of climatic transition to which the inhabitants of Central Texas adapted by adopting new foods and cooking methods. We see this at the 41KR744-Kemosabe Site– with the numerous rock hearths and evidence of earth ovens, a cooking technique requiring long periods of cooking, access to limestone, and firewood. This tradition continued for thousands of years, culminating in the creation of at least four burned rock middens. The surrounding environment contains abundant resources for the inhabitants: a variety of plants and animals, water, limestone and access to a variety of excellent chert deposits in rounded and tabular cobbles and chunks. This chert was used to make tools for use at the site and elsewhere. We know people traveled and traded across regions in Texas and beyond, and that Hill Country chert was carried or traded long distances from the source. Rivers such as the Guadalupe may have served as travel corridors between the Central Plains and the Texas coast.

Having a record of human activity and environmental data spanning thousands of years allows us to explore changes through time at one location. At many Central Texas sites, thousands of years of occupation are intermixed, and it is difficult to associate material and features with a distinct moment. At the field school, we will investigate a range of Archaic occupations represented in the buried deposits, with discrete features providing opportunity to collect detailed information about climate and the environment, technology, food, and social structure and interactions as snapshots in time.
(continued from page 4)

Less than 800 meters to the east is the Gatlin Site (41KR621), excavated and analyzed from 2003 to 2008. The Gatlin Site is on the same terrace and is likely contemporaneous with 41KR744 and this gives us the opportunity to contrast and compare two locations. Initial comparison suggests the sites were used for different purposes.

Objectives of the 2020 TAS Field School:
Preserved distinct and discrete features are essential to creating an accurate cultural and paleoenvironment record. The field school investigations will:

- Integrate with the ongoing investigations and objectives of the HCAA.
- Refine the depth and boundaries of the site.
- Refine the depositional history and physical characteristics of the site.
- Expand the existing excavation at the Early Archaic strata and sample Middle and Late Archaic components.
- Document and sample one of the middens.
- Collect associated data of the past environment and climate.

2020 FIELD SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Tiffany Osburn

Other activities include evening lectures, workshops, the Archeolympics competition, and of course the Wally margarita party with live music. Participants in a 1.5-hour metal detecting class, sponsored by the Education Committee, will receive a certificate of completion. Also, teachers receive CPE credit hours for most Field School activities including afternoon and evening programs (please indicate your interest on the registration form).

On Thursday evening of field school, the TAS will host an artifact identification night and public presentation for the local community. Professional and avocational archaeologists will be available to provide artifact type identifications and other information about private collections. We encourage everyone to come and talk with the archaeologists about their artifacts and the unique history of the Kerrville area! This event will take place at the Pavilion at River Star Park.

The 2020 TAS Field School in Kerrville will also offer a unique opportunity to participate in a cemetery workshop hosted by the Texas Historical Commission’s Cemetery Preservation Program. The workshop will include on-site, hands-on learning opportunities covering cemetery topics such as research, site recording, archeological investigations, preservation, remote sensing demonstrations, and tours of local cemeteries with various challenges and/or cultural influences. This low-impact workshop will be offered during our workday on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and participants of any skill level can join us for one, two, or three days. If you are interested in attending any of the cemetery activities, please check the Cemetery Workshop box on the TAS field school registration form and you will be contacted via email with details and availability.

(continued, page 6)
Archeolympics 2020

All are invited to compete in the fifth annual field school Archeolympics on Wednesday. Archeolympics are a series of games and activities designed mostly to test knowledge of tasks, or skills, that prehistoric people relied on for daily survival, such as hunting skills and fire starting. This event is all about having fun and learning about ancient lifeways. This year we will have three primitive skill events, Friction Fire Starting, Atlatl, and Rabbit Stick throwing. We may also have a couple of other events, Cordage Making and 1-x-1 m Unit Layout. Sign-up sheets will be available during Field School and we look forward to having lots of folks give it a try. Winners will receive award certificates.

For fire starting, participants must provide their own spindle, hearth board, and kindling. Both hand and bow drills are fine and the first person to produce a visible flame will be the winner. Rabbit stick throwing will have two categories, youth (12 and under) and adult (13 and over). Soccer balls will be used as targets simulating small game, and scoring will be for accuracy. Rabbit Sticks will be provided but you may bring your own. The Atlatl competition will be divided into novice and skilled classes. We will probably have enough darts for all but if you have an atlatl and darts, please bring them. There will also be a team contest with 2-5 person teams. Targets will be set up on hay bales and again, accuracy will determine winners. If you have your own atlatl or darts, consider bringing them.

Sign up will be available at registration. Several instructors will be available to help you practice to win!

CEMETERY WORKSHOP

The 2020 TAS Field School in Kerrville will also offer a unique opportunity to participate in a cemetery workshop hosted by the Texas Historical Commission’s Cemetery Preservation Program. The workshop will include on-site, hands-on learning opportunities covering cemetery topics such as research, site recording, archeological investigations, preservation, remote sensing demonstrations, and tours of local cemeteries with various challenges and/or cultural influences. This low-impact workshop will be offered during our workday on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and participants of any skill level can join us for one, two, or three days. If you are interested in attending any of the cemetery activities, please check the Cemetery Workshop box on the TAS field school registration form and you will be contacted via email with details and availability.
## 1. FEES (MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE – See No. 5 below)

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Children, 6 and under No charge

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**Registration Total**: $ _____

**Meals Total**: $ _____

**T-Shirt Quantity**: $ _____

## 2. FIELD WORK

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## 3. 5. SUBTOTAL FEES: IMPORTANT – SEE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

| Registration Total | $ _____ |
| Late Registration (+$10/person) | $ _____ |
| Meals Total | $ _____ |
| T-Shirt Qty. _____ x $20 | $ _____ |

**TOTAL FEES**

| $ _____ |

## 4. YOUR MAILING ADDRESS:

- **Street** _____________________________
- **City** _____________________________
- **State** _____________________________
- **Zip** _____________________________
- **E-Mail Address** _____________________________
- **Home Phone** _____________________________
- **Cell Phone** _____________________________

## 6. TEACHER CREDIT (CPE)

- **MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO**: TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

  **Send to**: Sylvia Gunn

  **5 Adler Circle, Galveston, Texas 77551**

  **E-mail**: gunnagal42@gmail.com

  Enclosed 1st payment $ _____
  Balance Due June 11 $ _____

## 7. CEMETERY WORKSHOP

-  **FIRST INSTALLMENT MUST BE 50% OF TOTAL FEES**

  - **Spring 2020 – 8. REVERSE SIDE**
    - **SIGN ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT**
    - **AND LEGAL RELEASE**
    - **COMPLETE OTHER APPlicable SECTIONS**
ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT
(Required for registration)

Individually and on behalf of any family members and sponsored minors attending the TAS Field School with me, I hereby pledge and agree:

- To pay for all meals I/we eat that are provided by TAS.
- To respect the rights of other participants, keep the camping area clean, and avoid disturbing other campers.
- To abide by the rules and codes of conduct of the TAS Field School, to obey the instructions of directors and other officials of the Field school, and to perform such archeological work and camp chores as may be assigned to me/us by Field School Directors and officials.
- To care for and turn in all equipment, records, and supplies that do not belong to me/us; to collect and excavate archeological materials only when and where instructed by Field School officials; to properly record and turn in all artifacts and to keep records and controls in all archeological work.
- To abide by the terms and conditions of the Texas Antiquities Statutes.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE AND AGREE TO ALL ITEMS:

Signed____________________________________________________
Date_________________________________________

LEGAL RELEASE
(Required for registration)

- I hereby release the Texas Archeological Society and the property owners from any and all liability for the safety and wellbeing of me or members of my family while attending the 20______TAS Field School. I/we will respect the rights and property of landowners and will not damage or destroy public or private property.
- I approve the use by TAS and other sponsoring organizations of any photographs of me or members of my family taken by the official Field School photographers during scheduled Field School activities for use in publications or publicity and promotional projects.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE AND AGREE TO ALL ITEMS:

Signed _________________________________________________
Date ________________________________________________
Printed name __________________________________________

AIDE TO YOUTH PROGRAM
(For parents or sponsors of Youth Group participants)

Parents or guardians are encouraged to sign up to work with the youth group. Parents or guardians can sign up for a single day, but the youth group supervisors encourage participation for the duration of your field school.

SPONSOR AGREEMENT
(Required for persons under 18 years of age unaccompanied by parent or guardian; must be completed, notarized, and included with registration form)

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

I___________________________________, parent or guardian of ______________________________________, a minor, residing at ___________________________________________________________________, hereby release the Texas Archeological Society and the property owners from any and all liability for the safety and wellbeing of said minor while he/she is attending the 20_____ TAS Field School. I hereby appoint _________________________________ adult sponsor for this minor, and the sponsor has agreed to assume this responsibility.

Subscribed and sworn before me this ______day of ____________________, 20_____ Parent or Guardian (____) __________________ Phone __________________
Notary Public In and For the State of ___________

TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR:

I,____________________________________ having been appointed adult sponsor of ______________________________________, a minor, by his/her parent or guardian,______________________________, hereby agree to this appointment and further agree to assume the responsibility of said minor at the 20_____ TAS Field School.

Subscribed and sworn before me this ______day of ____________________, 20_____ Sponsor (____) __________________ Phone __________________
Notary Public In and For the State of ___________
2020 Geoarcheology Academy

Jimmy Barrera

The Geoarcheology Academy was held February 15-16, in Victoria. Saturday’s classroom and hands-on sessions introduced geoarcheology, elements of landscapes, sediments and soils, a soil texture exercise, describing and sampling soils, soil attributes, stratigraphy, and extracting information from dirt. Saturday’s class and hands-on exercises were filled with lively discussions between the class and instructors. The class received a copy of Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils, published by the Natural Resource Conservation Service and discussed some key areas of this terrific resource. The information was well presented and planned, and the course gave participants a solid foundation of knowledge for geoarcheological observations and interpretation.

Sunday’s field trip to the McNeill Ranch began with a brief orientation of the lower Guadalupe River valley and archeological site on the McNeill Ranch. The Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) provided participants with a tour and history of the archeological site and investigations. Over 100 late Paleoindian type projectile points have been recovered from this site! The instruction at McNeill Ranch included a review of the Pleistocene-age terrace, Holocene-age terrace, bioturbation in action (hello gophers), quick forming laminae, argillic clays, calcium carbonates, and alluvial deposits laden with archeological materials. The review of the Guadalupe River terraces and archeological site allowed individuals to ask questions and have interesting discussions along the way.

The Academy would like to thank the CoBALT members, the staff and volunteers from the Museum of the Coastal Bend at Victoria College for providing the classroom facility, excellent snacks and coffee, to the McNeill family for allowing us access, and to our fantastic instructors, Dr. Charles Frederick and Mr. Karl Kibler.
Note from Geoarcheology Instructors:

Based on feedback from Geoarcheology Academy participants, we are contemplating organizing an advanced Geoarcheology Academy, “Geoarcheology 201,” if you will. We envision this academy to be a small group (no more than 20-25 participants), field-oriented, hands-on course involving description and interpretation of soil-stratigraphic profiles and dissection of a late Quaternary alluvial landscape. To do this effectively will require considerably more up-front investment in time and money than a normal academy, specifically to support the cost of a backhoe to open and close trenches and a limited amount of radiocarbon/OSL dating. More specific details, particularly regarding funding, will be addressed over time by the TAS Academy and Fund-Raising committees. If interested in helping with a contribution, please contact Jimmy Barrera, chair Academy Committee (james_e_barrera@yahoo.com).

Ceramics and Archaeology 101 still have seats available!

TAS members are invited to the 2020 Ceramics Academy, March 28-29, 2020. Participants will receive hands-on experience with identification and analysis, as well as an overview of ceramic artifacts, through instruction and presentations led by Dr. Chris Lintz (retired TPWD), Marybeth Tomka (TARL), and Rebecca Shelton (THC). This weekend-long workshop will take place at the Fort Concho National Historic Landmark in San Angelo. An extracurricular tour of Fort Concho will be offered to academy participants.

The fundamental TAS Academy, “Archeology 101” is open to TAS members for an introduction to the field of archeology, May 1-3, 2020. Participants will learn to identify, assess, and record archeological sites. Laboratory exercises, hands-on exercises and lessons on mapping, reporting, and protecting our heritage from destruction are part of this academy. Instruction and presentations will be led by Dr. Jon Lohse (Terracon Consultants, Inc.), with Sunday field excavations overseen by Principal Investigator Dr. Sarah Chesney (THC). This weekend-long workshop will take place at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, starting Friday evening and finishing around lunchtime Sunday. An extracurricular tour of the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site will be offered to academy participants.

TAS membership is required to attend these academies. The $100 registration fee for the academy includes refreshments, lunch (both days), a class manual, and more! TAS scholarships are available and we encourage folks to apply: https://www.txarch.org/scholarships. For teachers, CPE credits are available. No previous archeological experience is necessary!
STOP PRESSES!!!
NEW DATE ANNOUNCED FOR
91st TAS Annual Meeting
Houston, Texas
October 29-November 1, 2020

Linda Gorski

Due to an unexpected development at the Omni Houston Hotel Westside, site of the upcoming 2020 Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting, the dates have had to be changed to October 29 – November 1. In addition to concessions offered by the Omni to meeting attendees, the date change also presents us with the opportunity to have fun with a Halloween theme for the Saturday night banquet. Costumes anyone😊? We are thrilled that our Public Forum Speaker, Doug Boyd, and the Banquet Speaker, Dr. Carolyn Boyd, have arranged their schedules to present on the new dates. Watch for announcements in this newsletter and on the HAS Website at www.txhas.org. If you have any questions please contact Linda Gorski lindagorski@cs.com or Bob Sewell Robert-sewell@att.net, event Co-Chairmen.

Known as “The Gathering of the Clan”, we expect 400+ avocational and professional archeologists from across Texas and from surrounding states to attend. The Fort Bend Archeological Society and the Brazosport Archeological Society will join us in sponsoring what we hope will be the most successful TAS meeting ever. You will be receiving much more information about this important meeting in the coming months!!!!

Here are some things you need to know NOW about this very important meeting:

Special Rate Hotel Reservations at the Omni for October 29 - 31 are Now Available!

Many plans are already in the works for this meeting which will be held at the Omni Hotel Westside, at I-10 and Eldridge Parkway. We sponsored the 2015 TAS meeting at this location and it was a huge success. We hope to repeat that in 2020. The cost of the hotel rooms this year will be $119, which includes free parking in over 600 spaces at the hotel.

First Call for Papers

Professional Archeologists Dr. Jason Barrett and Dr. Gus Costa have already started collecting abstracts of papers and poster presentations for this meeting and have published their First Call for Papers. Abstracts must be submitted through the online web form available at the 2020 TAS Meeting URL:

Four $500 Scholarships are Available for Students

The Houston Archeological Society had planned to offer two $500 scholarships to college students attending the meeting who will also present a paper or a poster presentation. However, thanks to a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous we are now able to offer FOUR $500 scholarships! These scholarships should pay for meeting registration including lunch on Saturday and the Saturday night banquet, two night’s accommodation at the Omni, and an annual membership to TAS. If you’d like to apply for this scholarship please contact HAS Education and Scholarship Coordinator Sharon Menegaz at smenegaz@rcseaglesonline.org.

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Public Forum and Banquet Speakers are Confirmed

We are very excited to announce our two major speakers for the event. Friday night’s Public Forum (October 30) will feature professional archeologist Doug Boyd with Prewitt and Associates who will give a presentation on the exciting excavations at the Frost Town site in downtown Houston where over 250,000 artifacts were recovered. The Saturday night (October 31) Banquet speaker will be noted rock art expert and founder of the SHUMLA School for Rock Art Research, Dr. Carolyn Boyd. We are planning a fun Halloween theme for this banquet, including a costume contest, so watch this space for more information!

Sponsorship and Donor Information is Now Available!

Fiscal year about to end? Need to spend your budget? Desperate to give your money to something other than the IRS this time of year? Sponsor the TAS Annual Meeting!

With Donor levels for every budget, everyone can afford to support archeology in Texas!

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And don’t forget about donations-in-kind and auction items!

If you have any questions about this meeting, please contact co-chairs Linda Gorski at lindagorski@cs.com or Bob Sewell at Robert-sewell@att.net.

See you in October!
TAS 2020 ANNUAL MEETING
PUBLIC FORUM

BRICKS, BOTTLES, AND BONES AT FROST TOWN:
*Historic Archeology of a 140-year-old Working-Class Houston Neighborhood*

Douglas K. Boyd, Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting

Doug Boyd excavating a cistern at Frost Town Archeological site in Houston, photo by Linda Gorski.

Douglas K. Boyd, senior archeologist with Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting will present the Public Forum program at the 2020 TAS Annual Meeting to be held in Houston, October 29–November 1. The public forum will be held on the Friday night of the conference, October 30. Boyd’s presentation will feature a preliminary report on recent excavations in Frost Town, a 140-year-old working class Houston neighborhood.

Beginning in the 1830s, German immigrants settled in a prominent bend of Buffalo Bayou located just downstream from the famous Allen’s Landing. Named after its founders, Jonathan and Samuel Frost, the community called Frost Town covered eight city blocks. It began as a few scattered tents and evolved into a thriving neighborhood that survived for more than 130 years. It is one of Houston’s oldest neighborhoods, and it grew up in the shadow of Houston’s downtown business district.

Throughout its lifespan, Frost Town was a working-class community. Like many similar urban neighborhoods across the United States, the ethnic makeup of Frost Town changed over time. The dominant groups that lived there were German immigrants/German Americans from the 1830s–1890s, African Americans from the 1890s–1920s, and Mexican immigrants/Mexican Americans from the 1920s–1970s. By the 1930s, the Hispanic residents called it *Barrio del Alacran* (the scorpion neighborhood) and, by the early 1950s, the City considered it to be a slum area. The fate of the community was sealed when a large swath of the houses was removed in the mid-1950s for the construction of the Elysian Viaduct bridge. The last houses were torn down in the 1990s for another freeway construction project.

A Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) road improvement project triggered the first investigation of Frost Town in 2004. Archeologists were called in to examine the site because TxDOT would be removing the old Elysian bridge and replacing it with a larger and safer roadway. There were no surface indications that this had once been a residential community, but archeologists quickly discovered intact archeological remains of the former community in every trench they dug. This eventually led to a series of more extensive archeological testing and archival research from 2008–2015, followed by large scale “data recovery” excavations in 2016 and 2018. For this project, Prewitt and Associates’ archeologists collaborated with TxDOT’s Archeological Studies Program and many volunteers from the Houston Archeological Society. This work discovered over 1,400 (continued, page 14)
residential and nonresidential features and recovered more than 250,000 artifacts associated with households from all time periods.

This program will look at the history and historic archeology of Frost Town as it evolved over 140 years. The analysis of the archeological evidence is still underway, but the features and artifacts are already revealing some exciting insights into the people who lived in Frost Town at different times. In many cases, groups of artifacts can be linked with specific time periods and households. These materials can reflect differences in social and economic status between households and changing status over time. Some artifacts—such as German-made dolls and hand-painted Mexican pottery—also reflect the ethnicity of the residents. Some features do, too. Lines of buried, upside-down bottles turned out to be garden and walkway borders that are strongly linked with German-immigrant households. Oral history interviews with former residents also provide rich narratives illuminating the final days of the Alacran community.

The program will also look at the mystery of the Chinese opium pipe bowl and Chinese porcelain recovered from a yard pit at an early twentieth-century bordello.

Douglas K. Boyd is a senior archeologist with Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting (Austin) with more years of experience than he would like to admit. He began his archeological career in the 1970s while in junior high and high school, working on several archeological projects for West Texas State University and the Llano Estacado Museum. He received a BA degree in General Studies-Archeology from West Texas State University in 1983 and an MA degree in Anthropology from Texas A&M University in 1986. Boyd spent 33 years at Prewitt and Associates, Inc. serving as a project archeologist, project manager, or principal investigator on numerous cultural resources management (CRM) projects throughout the state.

Boyd has worked on many prehistoric and historic archeological site investigations, primarily in Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. He has published more than 150 CRM reports and articles for books, professional journals, and popular magazines. He has presented hundreds of archeology programs and site tours and collaborated on a wide variety of public outreach products, from popular brochures to internet web sites to documentary films. Boyd also serves on the Texas Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Board and the Antiquities Advisory Board to the Texas Historical Commission. One of his more rewarding outside activities is his role in the Youth Group dig for the Texas Archeological Society’s annual field school. The 2020 field school in Kerrville with be Boyd’s 20th year as one of the Youth Group Directors.

A Chinese opium bowl excavated at the Frost Town Archeological Site has an amazing story to tell, which Doug Boyd will share in his talk, photo courtesy the author.
TAS ANNUAL MEETING
BANQUET SPEAKER

Update on Rock Art Research in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands
Dr. Carolyn Boyd, Texas State University

The 2020 Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting is literally right around the corner, coming up October 29-November 1 at the Omni Westside in Houston, Texas! This year we are privileged to announce Dr. Carolyn Boyd as our Saturday night (October 31) Banquet Speaker.

As most of you know, Dr. Boyd is the Shumla Endowed Research Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Texas State University. She is the founder of a nonprofit organization, Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center (www.shumla.org), which was established in 1998 to preserve the oldest known “books” in North America – the rock art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands in southwest Texas and Coahuila, Mexico.

These ancient images engraved or painted on the landscape provide a visual record of global human history. They represent a fragile and irreplaceable heritage of worldwide significance. The Lower Pecos canyonlands of southwest Texas and northern Mexico contain some of the most spectacular and complex rock art in the world, ranging in age from 4,000 years ago to the time of European contact. Information gleaned from these ancient pictorial manuscripts is not only shedding new light on Texas prehistory, but on the prehistory of North America. Join Dr. Carolyn Boyd as she presents an overview of the methods used by Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center to preserve this important record of human history through documentation, education, stewardship, and research.

Boyd is the ex officio head of research for Shumla and serves as Vice President on the organization’s board of directors. She also is an active member of the Rock Art Network, a working group established by the Getty Conservation Institute and the Bradshaw Foundation to promote, protect, and preserve rock art globally. http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/rockartnetwork/

Boyd received her doctorate in archaeology from Texas A&M University based on her analysis of the 4,000-year-old rock art of the Lower Pecos. She is author of Rock Art of the Lower Pecos, published in 2003 by Texas A&M University Press and The White Shaman Mural: An Enduring Creation Narrative, published in 2016 by the University of Texas Press, which received the 2017 Scholarly Book Award from the Society for American Archaeology. Boyd teaches Field Methods in Rock Art, a four-week field school offered through Texas State University and gives numerous lectures around the country and abroad.

Currently, Boyd serves as the Principal Investigator for Shumla’s Alexandria Project, a baseline documentation project of over 300 rock art sites in the Lower Pecos region. The goal is to establish a georeferenced graphic database of over 300 rock art sites. Boyd and her colleagues are using this reference library to conduct an iconographic investigation that will identify, describe, and interpret the content of these ancient murals. The information encoded in the images is sufficiently rich to inform archaeological research into territoriality, information exchange, labor organization of foragers, and the origins and tenacity of myth.

If you have questions about the TAS Annual Meeting contact co-chairmen Linda Gorski at lindagorski@cs.com or Bob Sewell at Robert-sewell@att.net.
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VOLUNTEER with PIT!

David Foxe, USFS

We now have two Passport in Time (PIT) projects advertised for the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas. One is for fieldwork on the Davy Crockett and Sabine National Forest, and the other is for artifact processing/cataloging at Stephen F Austin.

Questions? Contact David Foxe: david.foxe@usda.gov or 936-639-8526.

Please see the following links for further information:


Alvin Lynn Receives the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology

Becky Shelton, TASN Liaison, THC

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) offers a variety of awards to recognize worthy accomplishments and exemplary leadership in the preservation of Texas’ heritage. Created in 2002, the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award replaced the Award of Excellence in Archeology that had been instituted in the 1990s. The award was named in honor of former State Archeologist and THC Executive Director Curtis Tunnell and recognizes an individual for outstanding lifetime accomplishments in archeological research and/or preservation. A member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) since 1998, Alvin Lynn was presented this prestigious award at the Real Places 2020 conference in Austin, January 31st. Lynn joins several other TASN members to receive this honor: Jay C. Blaine in 2003, Teddy Lou Stickney in 2010, and Bill Birmingham in 2018.

Lynn’s passion for archeology has been intrinsic to his life for over 60 years. He grew up in Matador, Texas and first visited the Connelee Peak excavations in the late 1940s, which led him to preserve more than 1,500 artifacts from the site. He is still well-known in Matador from his displays of more than 500 typed projectile points and accompanied pamphlet that are still proudly displayed inside the First State Bank. He achieved both BA and MS degrees in geology from West Texas State University between 1961 and 1972, which lead him to research Tecovas and Alibates lithic sources. For most of his professional career, he taught at the Dumas Independent School District High School, where he developed programs to introduce students to archeology in both the field and lab. After retiring in 1994, he began pursuing his personal research on history and archeology, which resulted in him volunteering at several county and regional museums in the Panhandle. This passion has also led him to participate in the Texas Archeological Society, the Panhandle Archeological Society, and other regional groups where he has given many presentations on his personal research, such as the Adobe Walls Battle, the Red River War, and historic trails. Although he has contributed to numerous books, articles, and Texas Beyond History, his book on Kit Carson and the First Battle of Adobe Walls may be his most recognizable publication and is now in its second printing with Texas Tech Press. Currently, Lynn still participates actively with the monthly meetings of the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum and the Panhandle Archeological Society and is always eager to discuss the archeological work that is currently ongoing in the region.

Commissioner John Crain (THC) and Executive Director Mark Wolfe (THC) present Alvin Lynn (TASN) the Curtis Tunnell award, photo courtesy of the Texas Historical Commission, thc.texas.gov
TDOT Roadside Chat

TDOT’s archeologists have a busy year ahead.

- In the past year, TDOT wrapped up work on a centuries-old site below a bridge on FM 407 in Denton County. On the final day of a 2019 survey, Raba Kistner archeologists found remnants of burned rock, animal bones and mussel shells about three feet below the surface. These remains initially appeared to be several discrete cooking features, but careful excavation over a broad area revealed that the materials were part of a large burned rock midden. In 2019, archeologists from TDOT and SWCA, Inc. further investigated the site. These excavations documented the central cooking feature within the midden as well as several other hearths on the outskirts of the site. The site preserved evidence of animal butchering from the cut marks on animal bone and evidence of camas cooking from carbonized bulb fragments. Since sites such as this one are rare, TDOT sought counsel from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Federally-Recognized Tribes to keep the project on track while also respecting the site’s integrity.

TDOT will supplement the excavations with additional mitigation by developing and implementing law enforcement training in NAGPRA and culturally competent procedures when burials are encountered during TDOT projects. The training is intended to educate law enforcement officers on the policies and procedures for working with culturally sensitive burials and keeping burial discoveries out of the public eye.

The Road Ahead

- Later this month, TDOT will start data recovery excavations at two sites in Starr County, in the lower Rio Grande Plains, a region not well studied. Previous excavations at both locations provided radiocarbon ages that range from 3,200 years before present (BP) and 1,500-500 years BP to the mid-twentieth century. During previous investigations, TDOT recovered faunal remains and carbonized plants (a rarity for the region). Chris Ringstaff will lead the data recovery efforts as Principal Investigator, through February and March; you can learn more about findings by staying in touch with TDOT (see details below).

- At the intersection of two highways in Bolivar, archeologists have unearthed the story of cattle trails, famous outlaws, and a blacksmith shop owned by a freed African American slave in 1870. TDOT will be hosting a meeting soon with consulting parties to discuss options for education and outreach as part of mitigation.

- The Casa Frio Site in Frio County comprised a burial in what appeared to be a burned prehistoric pit house. TDOT worked with several groups to investigate the site, including Federally Recognized Tribes, the THC, and avocational archeologists. Dr. Charles Frederick and several professional archeologists evaluated the context of the find using careful field observations and laboratory analysis of sediment samples. They analyzed the sediment samples using various techniques, including computed tomography (CT) scanning. CT scanning is a non-invasive x-ray technique common in medical applications.

(continued, page 19)
(continued from page 18)

These intensive studies have thrown doubt on the field interpretation. This analysis now suggests that the burial did not occur in a pit house and instead may have occurred within a hole formed from natural processes.

These projects reflect the various stages of our program. TxDOT wants to work more with consulting parties on projects like this, and that includes TAS members and stewards. Join us for a webinar on March 25th at 2 pm to learn more about our work in Frio County and upcoming projects throughout the state. Stay up to date with TxDOT archeology by following this QR code to take our survey (if you haven’t already!) and subscribe to our page by visiting www.txdot.gov, keyword: “Archeology.”

Join us on March 25th for our webinar:

Meeting Link – https://txdot.webex.com/txdot/onstage/g.php?MTID=e656a8175ac0cf306b0bec9c7e881647

Call in: 1-415-655-0003
Event number (access code): 736 217 478
Event password: Enviro2020@

TAC Tours to Peru, Britain Megaliths, Iran, and Yucatan!

Dr. Richard Pettigrew, Archaeological Legacy Institute

Tours to places of great archaeological interest are just the latest addition to the services we offer from our nonprofit, Archaeological Legacy Institute. You may know us from our website, The Archaeology Channel (archaeologychannel.org; TAC), launched as a streaming-media platform in 2000, which amazingly was 20 years ago. We added audio programming in 2001 with the Audio News from Archaeologica (now a very popular podcast); launched our annual film competition, TAC International Film Festival, in 2003 (archaeologychannel.org/festival); began producing our own films in 2004; took to the air with cable TV programming in 2010; and organized the first trip in 2017 for our TAC Tours program, which now features five tours. All of these initiatives serve in the performance of our nonprofit public mission to tell the human story.

Our nonprofit is reaching out to people across the country about the new travel opportunities we have developed. Building on the success of our first tour, to Iran in 2017, we have expanded TAC Tours to include sites in Malta, Peru, Britain, Iran, and the Yucatan! We are registering participants for the last four of these tours now and we invite you to join us. We’ve created a place where you can go to learn about all of our tours: archaeologychannel.org/tours.

TAC Tours is a program set apart from others by our commitment to storytelling and expert guidance. We believe that a tour should be far more than a photo-op or a checked box on a bucket list. For us, a tour is an opportunity to perform our mission to tell the human story, in this case by bringing people to the real sites where history took place. Each tour is unique. We like to embed the background in the tour process, so each destination represents an episode in the historic timeline and has a comfortable place in the temporal, cultural and environmental context.

Here are the remaining tours we have on the 2020 calendar:

Peru: Machu Picchu and the Nazca Lines
June 13-23 2020

Once home to many ancient societies, Peru is home to many of the Western Hemisphere’s greatest wonders! Led by archaeologist and (continued, page 20)
archaeoastronomer Dr. Christopher Powell, and custom-designed for us, this tour aims to highlight the life and culture of ancient Andean societies, including the Inca, Nazca and the Paracas. Watch the sun rise over the ancient city of Machu Picchu (where we will spend two days), get a bird’s-eye view as we fly over the Nazca Lines and enjoy the company of friendly llamas as you learn about indigenous weaving techniques. We will immerse you in the rich history of Peru, including visits to the Larco Herrera Museum to see the largest collection of pre-Columbian art, and the Ica Museum, which holds the famous and mysterious elongated skulls of the Paracas culture.


The Megalithic Britain Experience

September 11-23, 2020

An epic journey from the Orkney Islands to Stonehenge visiting Neolithic and Bronze Age megalithic and henge sites with Rupert Soskin and Michael Bott, the makers of the film, “Standing with Stones.” The Orkneys visit includes Skara Brae, Europe’s most complete Neolithic village and Maes Howe, one of Britain’s most majestic passage graves. We’ll travel from eastern to western Scotland alongside Loch Ness—maybe we’ll see Nessie! In the Lake District, we’ll see the stone circles of Long Meg and Her Daughters, the sixth-largest in Britain, and Castlerigg, whose majestic beauty inspired Romantic poets. We’ll spend a couple of nights in Stratford-Upon-Avon, Shakespeare’s home, along the way stopping at Arbor Low, one of the best preserved henge circle monuments in Britain. We’ll see Silbury Hill, the largest man-made mound in Europe, and Avebury, Britain’s largest stone circle. And we’ll tour the remarkable cultural landscape of the Salisbury Plain and take in a sunrise visit to Stonehenge within the stones.

Registration deadline: June 11, 2020

The Heartland of Ancient and Medieval Persia

October 18 - November 2, 2020

Involving bazaars, caravansarais, castles, gardens, inscriptions, monuments, mosques, museums, temples, tombs, and ziggurats covering more than 5000 years in the Cradle of Civilization, TAC Tour of Iran remains one of our most popular tours, and features many unique and culturally enriching experiences. As with all of our tours, it is led by an expert guide to ensure that you gain a comprehensive understanding of the geography, culture and history of Iran. In particular, our tour seeks to cover history from the pre-Iranian times through the Achaemenid, Parthian and Sassanian empires, to the complex Medieval period. This 16-day tour, our fourth tour of Iran, is our best-value tour, featuring the biggest bang for the buck. The tour (continued, page 21)
(continued from page 20)
features museum visits, excursions to many World Heritage sites and plenty of shopping opportunities. It’s entirely safe, proceeding under the wings of our excellent and highly experienced guide, Mehdi Fatemi. Registration deadline: July 18, 2020

Ancient Maya Cities of the Yucatán
December 1-10, 2020

Join 21-year archaeologist and archaeoastronomer, Dr. Chris Powell, to see stunning Maya cities representing 3000 continuous years of Maya civilization, including Dzibilchaltun, Izamal, Chichén Itzá, Mayapan, Uxmal, Kabah, and Labna. In this, our second Yucatan tour, we also visit Tihosuco and the Caste War Museum, as well as the Grand Museum of the Maya World in Merida. A really fun-tastic element is a chance to swim in a beautiful cenote! Registration deadline: September 1, 2020

OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER WEBINAR

Texas Historical Commission
Planning to submit a historical marker application? Join the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Historical Marker staff for a webinar covering the 2020 Historical Marker application materials.

The free webinar will cover how to fill out the application forms, upcoming important dates for applicants and county historical commissions (CHCs), and review the thematic priorities for the 2020 cycle. The webinar is open to the public.

Webinar Information:
Thursday, March 26, 2020
10:30 am - 11:30 am
To register, please visit: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8744883673191744013.
If you have any questions, please email markers@thc.texas.gov or call 512-463-5853.
The Texas Archeological Society promotes knowledge and preservation of Texas archeology.

The Society encourages: scientific archeological exploration and research • the preservation and conservation of materials and sites • the interpretation and publication of the data attendant thereto.

Ethics
• Members of TAS must abide by all terms and conditions of the TAS Bylaws and all Federal and State antiquities laws or regulations.
• TAS does not condone the practice of buying and selling artifacts for commercial purposes.
• TAS does not condone the disregard of proper archeological research techniques or the willful destruction or distortion of archeological data.

I accept the invitation to join and agree to support the mission of the Texas Archeological Society.

The TAS operates on a calendar year, January to December. For each year, a member receives the Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society and current newsletters. Please indicate below the year for your membership.

Please note our newsletter is now available in digital format only and is available on the TAS Website in the Members Section.

If you wish to pay by credit card, please join or renew online at http://www.txarch.org.

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