

# SOUTHERN TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

PO BOX 791032, San Antonio, TX 78279

October 2004

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3

## STAA Quarterly Meeting

**Saturday, October 23, 2004**  
University of Texas at San Antonio  
Science Building, Room 2.03.12  
San Antonio, TX

### Agenda

**\$5.00 Adults and children over 11**  
**\$2.00 for students with College IDs or for children under 11**  
Guests are welcome.

**12:00 Registration and Socializing**

**1:00 Business Meeting.**

**1:15 Dr. James E. Bruseth of the Texas Historical Commission,  
"Investigations of the La Belle Ship Wreck and the Ft. Saint Louis  
Settlement."**

**2:15 Break and Refreshments**

**2:40 Dr. Robert Hard, University of Texas at San Antonio, "Farming and  
Warfare during the Late Archaic Period in Chihuahua, Mexico."**

**3:20 Adjourn.**

**Directions to the Meeting Place:** >From downtown San Antonio, go west on Interstate 10. Exit UTSA BLVD, cross over the expressway and proceed west on UTSA BLVD for 1.6 miles. Turn right onto Edward Ximenes Avenue and park at the northwest end of parking lot #6. The Science Building will be the building to the northeast of this parking area. **The lecture hall is located on the 2nd Floor, third corridor, room 12. For an illustrated map of the main campus, see [www.utsa.edu/maps](http://www.utsa.edu/maps).**

**About our Speakers:** **Dr. James E. Bruseth** received his bachelor's degree from the University of New Orleans. He received his master's and doctorate degrees from Southern Methodist University (SMU). He is also the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at the THC. He has been active in Texas archeology for more than 26 years, specializing in Native American, French Colonial and Spanish Colonial archeology.

Dr. Bruseth served as the project director of the excavation and recovery of La Salle's shipwreck, the *Belle*, in Matagorda Bay, Texas, and directed the excavation of La Salle's Texas colony, Fort St. Louis.

**Dr. Robert Hard:** Is professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at San Antonio and is a former director of the Center For Archaeological Research (CAR). He has spoken to the STAA on several occasions is a an advocate for STAA and South Texas and Northern Mexico archaeology and preservation.

## NEWS AND NOTES

**-October is Texas Archaeology Month** and events are planned throughout the State. In the San Antonio area, exhibits include El Dia de los Muertos at the Institute of Texan Cultures running from October 24- November 21. Also, an ongoing exhibit at the Witte Museum on Ancient Texans. Check it out at [www.witemuseum.org](http://www.witemuseum.org) on the web and [www.texancultures.utsa.edu](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu).

**-The Hill Country Archeology Association is hosting an Archeology Fair** on Saturday, October 16 at the Kerr Arts & Cultural Center in Kerrville. This free event is open to the public and will feature demonstrations, displays, artifact identification and speakers. Speakers include Dr. Robert Hard from UTSA and Mr. Perry Steele. The family fun event runs from 10 am to 4 pm. Don't miss it. If you'd like to help out, contact Kay Woodard at 830-896-8049. Volunteers are welcome.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct 16** HCAA Archeology Fair, Kerr Arts & Cultural Center, Kerrville. (see News & Notes for more details).
- Oct 23** STAA Quarterly Meeting - details in this newsletter.
- Oct 29-31** Texas Archaeological Society Annual Meeting, Bryan, Texas. See [www.tas.org](http://www.tas.org) for details.

- Nov 6**                    **Monthly STAA LAB- UTSA CAR 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Call Rick Young 210-458-7823 for more information.**
- Dec 4**                    **Monthly STAA LAB- UTSA CAR 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**
- Jan 15, 05**    **Tentative date for the STAA Annual Meeting.**

## Summer Field School and STAA Quarterly Meeting

The Southern Texas Archaeological Association (STAA) held a summer field school in Medina County, Texas, near the historic settlement of Quihi. The STAA had an excellent opportunity to conduct test excavations, site survey and document collections in a region in which very little archaeological research has ever been done. Dates for the field school were July 24-August 1, 2004.

Fieldwork was focused at two prehistoric sites, 41ME132 and 41ME133. Both sites have important data related to the chronology of prehistoric occupation in the Quihi Creek drainage. Artifacts from one site go back to at least 10,000 years ago, with recurring occupation continuing up to early Historic times.

On Saturday of the week of Field School, STAA held its last quarterly meeting. We had many guests from the local community attend and learn about archaeology of their area. **Chairman, Paul Stein** opened the meeting and after a brief business portion, introduced our special guest speaker **Dr. Bruce Albert** who shared his talk, "Early Climates in Northeastern Mexico and Adjacent Areas: Results of Pollen Research."

Dr. Albert shared that most of the present day dry creek beds were lakes during the Holocene Period. His pollen analysis reflects proof of major climate changes following the end of the Ice Age some 13,000 to 8,500 years ago.

After a break for refreshments, we heard from **Dr. Thomas R. Hester** who provided an overview of Archaeology in the Quihi area and slides from the 2004 STAA Field School. He expressed appreciation to Landowners: Mr. and Mrs. Russell Mangold and Mr. & Mrs. Glen Lindsey for their allowing STAA to conduct the field school on their property and for their most wonderful hospitality.

Thirty-five participants worked throughout the week and learned much under the direction of Principle Investigator, Dr. Thomas R. Hester. Many thanks go out to Skip Kennedy for his logistical and operations oversight, He also served as chief cook and bottlewasher with the help of Jonelle Miller. Additional thanks to Sue

Turner who directed the laboratory work; David Calame director of the survey efforts and Curt Harrell who served as photographer.

Thanks to our Hospitality director, Barbara Packard and her daughter for the wonderful spread of food and refreshments for the meeting and the folks from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Quihi for the meeting room.

### **STAA To Recognize a Few Good People!**

Rick Young is heading up the Awards Committee. This committee is **seeking nominations** from you, our members for persons or organizations to be considered for their contributions to Texas Archaeology and STAA. The award categories that our being considered are as follows:

**The Dee Ann Story Award** for Archaeological conservancy efforts. The **Archaeological Public Service Award** is to recognize outstanding contributions to Southern Texas Archaeology by a company, public agency, private foundation, or other organization. The **Jimmy L. Mitchell Outstanding Avocational Award** is presented for outstanding contributions to South Texas Archaeology. The **C.K. Chandler Lifetime Archaeological Achievement Award** is for exceptional meritorious service to the Southern Texas Archaeological Association.

If you have any possible nominations, please contact **Rick Young at 210-458-7823** or [ryoung17@satx.rr.com](mailto:ryoung17@satx.rr.com). The committee will review your suggestions and nominations and determine if appropriate and which award category.

### **Texas Beyond History Web Resource- A Valuable Tool.**

*Texas Beyond History* is a public education project of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin. Its purpose is to interpret and share the results of archeological and historical research on the cultural heritage of Texas with the citizens of Texas and the world.

On this website you will find information on and images of many different aspects of the cultural legacy of Texas, a legacy spanning at least 13,500 years. Yes, people have been living within the borders of the modern political state of Texas for at least 13,500 years. In more concrete terms, that is over 540 human generations! For most of that immense time span, there is no recorded history, no books, and no eyewitness accounts. Instead all we have to tell the stories of much of the cultural heritage of Texas are mute stones, ancient campfires, broken bones, and delicate traces of once-flourishing societies. This is the "material evidence" upon which

archeologists base most of our interpretations. The arrival of the first Spanish explorers in the region in the early 1500s ushered in the historic era in Texas and the creation of the written documents and drawings upon which historians depend.

*Texas Beyond History* covers not only the prehistoric peoples-Indians or Native Americans-but also much of the early history of the Spanish, French, Mexican, and Anglo explorers, missionaries, soldiers, miners, traders, and settlers who lived and often died in Texas. And later history, too-German farmers, Black freedmen, and Mexican-American laborers among others.

It is a wonderful tool for children, Teachers and anyone with a desire to learn more about Texas History. Check it out at [www.texasbeyondhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net)

**Don't forget to visit our Website at [WWW.staa.org](http://WWW.staa.org)**

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**Southern Texas Archaeological**

**Association Newsletter  
PO Box 791032  
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**Meeting Notice Enclosed-October 23**