

TIME CAPSULE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

An affiliate of the Fort Bend History Association

500 Houston Street / Richmond, TX 77469

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January 2020



January 21, 2020. 7PM

Speakers: Dr. Juan Fernandez Diaz

Topic: Ten years of revealing “Lost” Cities and other ancient secrets with Airborne Lidar

Archeology has been revolutionized by remote sensing technologies such as LiDAR, which uses laser pulses to penetrate even the thickest tree canopies to detect the slightest variances on the ground and then identify settlements that were lost to time long ago. This has led to



major discoveries by Dr. Fernandez-Diaz’s team in Mexico and Central America, one of which was documented in the NY Times and Wall Street Journal best-selling book “The Lost City of the Monkey God: A True Story.” Dr. Fernandez-Diaz will provide an overview of the many archaeological projects that his team has undertaken which have enabled a revolution in the way archaeologists identify and map culturally significant sites.

Dr. Juan Carlos Fernandez-Diaz is a Senior Researcher with the National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping (NCALM) of the University of Houston. Since 2009, researchers from the National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping (NCALM), which is jointly operated by the University of Houston and the University of California at Berkeley, have aided archeologists working in Mexico and Central America. Employing airborne light detection and ranging or LiDAR for short, NCALM’s maps have unveiled tens of thousands of ancient Maya structures and hundreds of settlements, many of which were previously unknown to modern science, built by the Maya and other cultural groups through Mexico and Central America. In addition, LiDAR has contributed to mapping ancient agricultural and irrigation systems along with topographic modifications used as for transportation and defensive mechanisms.

Please join the Fort Bend Archeological Society for this presentation which combines some of the most interesting archeological sites in the world with cutting edge technological research led right here in Houston, Texas.

Location: **Gus George Law Enforcement Academy** - 1521 Eugene Heimann Circle, Richmond, Texas.

Everyone is welcome - the program is free and open to the public.

Meeting Minutes from the December Meeting

FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

December 17, 2019

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met at the Tyree House in Richmond, TX.

There were 17 members in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Jay Roussel, President, at 7:40 pm.

Minutes:

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes from the November 19, 2019 meeting. Claire Rogers made a motion to approve, David Rose seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The December 2019 balance is \$2,807.64. Kevon Hunter made a motion to accept, seconded by Blanche Pater. Treasurer's report was accepted.

New Business:

- Jay Roussel discussed the status of the sugar house, a purgery building from the Arcola Plantation's sugar-making operation. Located in Fort Bend County, it is believed to be the last of its kind in the U.S. Jay acknowledged the great work done by Bruce Grethen and Chuck Kelly.
- Officer elections were held. Jay Roussel named the nominees proposed by the nomination committee. No one nominated any others from the floor. The following were nominated:
 - Jay Roussel President
 - David Rose Vice President
 - Paul Spana Secretary
 - Claire Rogers Treasurer
 - Dottie Allen Board Member (3 yr Term)

There was a motion to accept the 2020 FBAS Officers by Blanche Pater and seconded by Bruce Grethen. The following vote was unanimously in favor.

- Jay proposed an amendment to the FBAS bylaws to allow a member other than the president to serve on any boards or organizations that make a request. The Fort Bend History Association requires that the FBAS president sit on their board. Bob Crosser made a motion to accept Jay's proposal. Kevon Hunter seconded it. The amendment was accepted.
- The upcoming plans for the Tyree House (FBAS lab) were discussed. Due to the remodeling and expansion of the Fort Bend Museum located next door, the Tyree House will be used by museum staff for offices as well as being the temporary location of the gift shop. Jay added that landscaping work was being done to the exterior of the Tyree House.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2020, 7:00 pm at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy. The speaker will be Dr. Juan Carlos Fernandez-Diaz, a professor from the University of Houston who specializes in LiDAR. He is author of a book titled "City of the Lost Monkey God".

Meeting adjourned: 7:55 pm

Minutes submitted by: Paul Spana

Treasurer's Report

January 13, 2020

Balance as of December 10, 2019				\$2,807.64
1951	12/22/2019	Claire Rogers	reimbursement - ham for party	61.31
1952	1/13/2020	FBHA	postage for January	5.00
Balance as of January 13, 2020				\$2,741.33

Submitted by
Claire Rogers, Treasurer

Upcoming Meetings:

January 21: See Above.

February 18: Dr. Michelle Marlar will present “The Osiris Temple: An offering which the king gives.” This presentation is based on previous and on-going work Dr. Marlar has conducted in Egypt.

March 17: Dr. Tom Williams will present on the Gault Site in Texas.

April 21: Jason Barrett will present on the lithics collected near Smither's Lake in Fort Bend County, as well as Diamond Knoll.

All meetings are held at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy



Fort Bend Archeological Society
c/o Fort Bend Museum
500 Houston Street
Richmond, TX 77469