

TIME CAPSULE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

An affiliate of the Fort Bend History Association

600 Houston Street / Richmond, TX 77469

281-342-6478 ext. 1301

April 2020



April 21 Meeting is canceled.

We were all looking forward to hearing Jason Barrett's presentation on the lithics collected near Smither's Lake in Fort Bend County and at Diamond Knoll. We will reschedule his talk for a later time.

Upcoming Meetings:

May 19: To Be Determined

June – NO FIELD SCHOOL

It is with great sadness that the Texas Archeological Society must announce the cancellation of the 2020 TAS Field School due to COVID-19 concerns. Our primary consideration is for the safety of our members. There is simply no way of knowing what the pandemic situation will be in early June and we feel it would be irresponsible to continue planning and implementation of a large gathering at this time.

Please note the new phone number above: 281-342-6478 ext. 1301

The Fort Bend Museum has moved its offices into the Tyree house during renovation of the museum and its exhibits. The new address is 600 Houston Street – and a new phone system has been installed – with a voicemail extension for FBAS!

STOP THE PRESSES!!! NEW DATE ANNOUNCED FOR:

2020 Texas Archeological Society ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 1, 2020

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 on the Houston Archeological Society 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-Chairs.

From the FBAS President:

Unprecedented times.

I'm always cautious to use those terms since almost every "unprecedented time" can draw some parallels from past events. That said, those of us who are living through this pandemic are experiencing things that we've never personally experienced before. Those of us who are attached to our routines are struggling as routines have been disrupted since mid-March and likely to continue into May. While not everyone is able to "socially distance", there is strong evidence that this measure is yielding results. Yet at the same time, it has disrupted the work of our society. A month goes by without active excavation or lab work. Two meetings must be cancelled with uncertainty still clouding over May's meeting. Field school and all of the activities of TAS are cancelled. The whole thing can be disconcerting to those of us who find immense value in taking part in these events.

Friends, I can only promise that this too shall pass.

The speakers and the work will reschedule. At some point, we'll be encouraged to leave our houses. Either a cure or a vaccine will exist, and perhaps smaller meetings such as ours will be deemed safe. This October, FBAS is a co-host to the TAS Annual Meeting. I'm willing to bet it'll be one of the most popular annual meetings in recent history.

In the meantime, there is a lot of well-produced, legitimate content on YouTube. Stay away from sensational videos or pot-hunters pretending to do archeology. A friend sent me a video about Cohokia Mounds. Here is another: <https://youtu.be/7Dp1CViqb5Y>. Museums (including the Fort Bend Museum) are producing quality content. While we can't meet together, perhaps you can keep at least one or two evenings aside to spend watching videos or lectures or reading an article... Perhaps we can reserve the day of our meeting to do self-study and share it with me at jay@allweneedfarm.com

As my wife says, "Get to the point!" Here is my point: First, even while we're mostly at home, we can read and watch quality content to help refine our interests. Second, when we re-start, there will be even a greater understanding of why we meet and work together. Until then, please be safe and take care of your families.

Thank you. – Jay Roussel



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