General Meeting:
July 16, 2019. 7PM

Speakers: Neil Melancon and Emily Egan

Topic: A Deadly Encounter: The Living Sword Culture of Japan

Based on research conducted in both Japan and the United States, this presentation shows how this artifact from feudal Japan continues to shape modern culture across the world. Included in this presentation will be demonstrations of sword use from the Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu school of swordsmanship, still extant in Japan today.

Emily Egan and Neil Melancon have been practicing for over 19 years and both are currently ranked “kyoshi nanadan”, which means they are masters in their respective styles.

Emily Egan currently runs a dojo in Friendswood, Tx. In addition to her current Japanese cultural studies, Egan has pursued other historical studies such as early European textile production. Egan is a retired NASA contractor (USA & Boeing).

Neil Melancon is a lifelong student of Japanese culture, with a particular focus on Japanese military history. He is an agriculture journalist for the Louisiana Farm Bureau and a regular contributor to the award winning television show “This Week in Louisiana Agriculture” which can be seen nationally on RFD-TV. Neil currently runs a school in Baton Rouge and has spent time in Japan furthering his studies in martial arts.

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

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

**July 16:** FBAS General Meeting - Emily Egan and Neil Melancon: *A Deadly Encounter: The Living Sword Culture of Japan.*

*President’s Note:* I’ve known Neil for some time. He is not only deeply knowledgeable in Japanese Swords, he is a really gifted presenter. This is one you’ll want to invite children and grandchildren to attend.

**July 18:** HAS General Meeting – Report out on the 2019 Field School

**July 31:** FBAS GIS Workshop conducted by Bruce Grethen: See flyer in this newsletter

**August 20:** FBAS General Meeting – Ashley E. Jones, R.P.A.: *What can the contents of two recently excavated rooms tell us about the lives of the enslaved and tenant farmers at Levi Jordan Plantation?*

FIELD NOTES

**Current Field Site**

Currently excavating near the cistern to understand more about the location of the house relative to the cistern. Work was delayed due to members attending field school in Palo Duro Canyon, however, we are back in full swing.

If you are interested in helping with this project, you either need to contact Bob Crosser or come to our next meeting to learn how you can volunteer.

FBAS co-sponsoring ethnobotany lecture October 1

The Fort Bend Archeological Society, in collaboration with the Houston Archeological Society, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and The Nature Conservancy, will bring paleoethnobotanist, Dr. Leslie Bush, to Houston for a special lecture.

The lecture is entitled: *Sustaining Texas: 5 Crucial Native Plants from the Pleistocene to the Present Day* and will be held October 1 at 6:30PM at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. FBAS members will qualify for a discounted lecture ticket (or free if you’re willing to volunteer the day of the event). Everyone is asked to help publicize this lecture at other archeology or naturalists groups.
Minutes from May meeting were reported in the June newsletter.

**Treasurer’s Report**

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<th>Balance as of June 5, 2019</th>
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**Balance as of July 1, 2019**

$2,648.15

Submitted by
Claire Rogers, Treasurer