

TIME CAPSULE

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

June 2022, Volume 30, Number 6



Archeology along the Brazos

The high heat started early in Texas this summer. With the right precautions, we're still excavating at our current project site every Saturday. All of our hard work is beginning to pay off with some very interesting discoveries lately. As has been mentioned here several times, we are not always just looking for artifacts. As we dig in shallow layers scraping the earth just fractions of an inch at a time, we are also looking at the soil. By studying changes in texture, clay and sand content and color, clues to what may have happened long ago can appear. In our case, we've discovered a very interesting set of straight lines in the ground made by two different colored soils side by side. It can occur when someone in the past digs through a light colored soil down into a darker soil. Later, when the hole is backfilled, light colored soil fills in the hole dug into dark soil. When viewed from above, the straight wall of the filled hole creates a line. In the photo on the top right, Bruce Grethen is digging down into the pit to the 40" level.



In the photograph on the bottom right, you can see a vertical line on the south wall of the pit. The arrow indicates which way is north. A straight line in the soil usually indicates it was dug by a person and is not naturally occurring. When looking at the cross section of the line or vertical interface, you are actually looking at what was the wall of what was a hole that had been backfilled. Is it the foundation of a house, a hearth, a privy or maybe a root cellar? Studying the artifacts associated with the hole may provide additional clues.





Guest Presenters for July

Next month, Bob Moore and Nancy Engelhardt-Moore will present “Megalithic Structures in Neolithic Europe”. The Moore’s talk will focus on many of the oldest man-made Neolithic structures in the world dating between 9,000 to 3,000 years old including England’s famous Stonehenge. We hope you can join us for this talk!

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2022

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met at the Fort Bend Museum, Richmond, TX.

In attendance were 9 members and 3 guests.

President Paul Spana, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes from April 14, 2022 - No objections, minutes stand as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report: Balance as of April 14, 2022 is \$5,182.58 - No objections, Treasurer’s Report is accepted.

Old Business:

- Spana gave an update about the excavation taking place at the Lamar site. Still investigating a vertical interface which may be a root cellar. Showed slides of some artifacts found recently.

Announcements:

- Spana announced there will be no meeting in June due to the Field School. The next meeting will be July 19th.

Presentation:

- Vice president Rich Murphy introduced speaker Dr. John Stark who made a presentation about a book he is currently working on. The book is about earth ovens and burned rock middens.

Meeting adjourned 8:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kevon Hunter, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

Beginning balance as of May 11, 2022	\$5,027.58
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1981	5/16/2022	Richard Stark	speaker honorarium	-75.00
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Balance as of June 13, 2022	\$4,952.58
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Submitted by Claire Rogers, Treasurer