

# TASNnews

## Texas Archeological Stewardship Network Newsletter

A Publication of the Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division

Spring 2022

### From the Desk...

#### From the Desk of the State Archeologist



Brad Jones

Welcome to the first volume of *The TASNnews*! We never would have imagined that a global pandemic would be the catalyst for reimagining our approach to publications, but after endless zoom meetings and a transition to an increasingly online digital space we decided to revive the spirit of the *Cache* and *The Steward* by embracing digital publication. In doing so, our mission is not to be a formal academic publication. Rather, this is an open forum for Stewards and Archeology Division (AD) staff to communicate with each other and provide an opportunity to share with the broader archeological and preservation communities the

enormous amount of work we do as an organization. Special thanks to Texas Historical Commission (THC) staff Rebecca Shelton and Roland Pantermuehl for the leadership in the production and the design, and Barbara Chadwick and Alice Stultz, our first TASN member editors. At the end of the day, what makes this publication special are examples of what you and the staff bring to preserving the cultural resources of the state.

When Pat Mercado-Allinger handed me the reins to AD in November 2019, none of us foresaw the challenges that we would face, and I certainly never imagined much of my first year as State Archeologist would play out from my dining room table. As things slowly return to normal, it left me reflecting on the fact that while I've worked with many of you, there are many more who I am still waiting to get to know. In this spirit, I want to take just a brief moment to introduce myself to those who don't know me and reintroduce myself to those who do.

I was born in Texas and spent my formative years between San Antonio, Houston, and Grapevine before studying Anthropology, Archeology, and Art History at University Texas-Austin. For years I ran away from Texas to the archeology of the Andes of Peru and Ecuador, but my foundational experiences at UT and Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) doing curation and fieldwork eventually led me back home after completing

*Continues next page*

#### IN THIS ISSUE

From the desk	1
Steamboat	3
Mary Conley	
Indianola Survey	6
Tribal	7
Stewardship	
Program	
New members of	9
TASN and History	
Pilot program	
Regional Updates	11
In Memoriam	17
Regional	18
Non-regulatory Map	
Curatorial Facilities	19
Certification	
Program (CFCP)	
Upcoming Events	19
and Publications	
Nomination Form	20
Call for Submissions	21

my thesis at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (my wife would take some credit too). After five years in the private sector working across the state, I took the role of collections manager for the THC in 2009. Thirteen years later I'm still the collections manager, but I've picked up a lot of other roles along the way. During my time at THC, I am honored to have had the opportunity to work on several projects across the state, most notably *La Belle*, Presidio La Bahia/Fort St. Louis, and the Coryell burial project. While my research interests lean to the late pre-colonial and historic periods, what I've found most rewarding is my ability to support others in their archeological research and career goals; be they stewards, avocational and professional archeologists, and the many student interns and volunteers we have the opportunity to serve.

I look forward to working with all of you and hope to see you at the upcoming TASN workshop in May. Please enjoy our new publication and be proud that the work you do fuels the passion for archeology and history in our state.

### From the Desk of the State Marine Archeologist



Amy Borgens

The Marine Archeology Program (MAP) is collaborating on several ongoing projects that include a World War I shipwreck survey of the Neches River at Beaumont (finalizing the draft report), an Indianola and Indian Point remote-sensing survey (see this issue), the Brazos Santiago Depot Artifact Reinventory Project, and the Louis Michel Aury Matagorda Investigation, the latter of which is in preliminary planning. The MAP is currently working with two property owners to investigate shipwrecks eroding out of river-banks including a historic ferry in the Sabine River near Longview and *Mary Conley* in the Trinity River (see this issue).

This year (2022) marks the 50th anniversary of the THC's investigations of the 1554 Spanish Plate fleet. In 1554, three Spanish vessels carrying large cargos (including silver) from Veracruz to Spain wrecked off the present-day coast of Padre Island, Texas in April 1554 during a storm. The shipwrecks were discovered by diver Vida Lee Connor in 1964 who observed the wrecks from an airplane while scouting for coral reefs. The salvage of *Espíritu Santo* by Platoro Ltd., Inc. in 1967 resulted in a decades long legal challenge and the creation of the Antiquities Code of Texas and the Texas Antiquities Committee (TAC). As the former TAC, the THC investigated *San Esteban* in 1972-1973 and conducted large-scale remote-sensing surveys and additional data recovery on this vessel and *Espíritu Santo* in 1974-1975. The third vessel *Santa María de Yciar* has not been rediscovered and was presumed destroyed by the creation of Mansfield Cut.

The MAP partnered with the National Parks Service (NPS) Submerged Resource Center on new investigations of the shipwrecks in 2020 and 2021, and is also producing new social media content, talks, and articles to recognize the anniversary of the THC excavations. A book chapter is pending publication, as well as an article for the journal *Sea History* this winter. The THC is also working with NPS to revise and develop new content for the NPS website and is collaborating with the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) to produce a summary of the shipwrecks for their online Spanish-language publication. These are the oldest shipwrecks in the United States and first state-sponsored underwater archeological investigations. This early THC project was the beginning of the MAP, also celebrating its semicentennial in 2022.

# Storied Steamboat *Mary Conley* Resurfaces

*Andy Hall and Amy Borgens*

In August 2021, Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) Marine Stewards Andy Hall and Gary McKee visited a site on the Trinity River above Liberty where remains of a vessel, believed to be the 1865 sidewheel steamboat *Mary Conley*, had been exposed by natural erosion of the riverbank. The visit was arranged with the assistance of the property owner, who accompanied Hall and McKee. The party was rounded out by volunteer Emily Hall, who served as principal photographer documenting the site.

The location of the *Mary Conley* wreck has been well-documented both historically and in more recent times. Representatives of the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) have visited that site on at least three previous occasions, in March and June 2002 (Figure 1), and May 2005. On those occasions it was not possible to confirm the presence of the shipwreck, although magnetometer survey strongly indicated that was the case.

## A Local Legend

*Mary Conley* was built at Mobile, Alabama in 1865. She measured 137.4 feet (41.9m) long, 27.8 feet (8.5m) in breadth (not including the overhanging guards and sidewheels), with a depth of hold of 5.3 feet (1.6m).

*Mary Conley* arrived on the Trinity in early 1870, in time to get a share of the 1869-70 cotton season's business (Figure 2). In March 1870 an area newspaper observed that the boat, under the command of Captain Cooper, made "a welcome accession to our fleet of river transports." *Mary Conley* had arrived at the crest of the postwar Trinity River cotton trade. Between the end of the Civil War and the expansion of railroads in the region in the early 1870s, small East Texas cotton packets like *Mary*



Figure 1. Texas Historical Commission staff members Bill Pierson (foreground) and Steve Hoyt lay out the perimeter of a magnetometer survey looking for the remains of the 1865 sidewheel steamboat *Mary Conley*, March 2002.

*Conley* flourished. But under the pressure of rapid railroad expansion in Texas, the Trinity steamboat trade collapsed even more quickly than it had grown, with direct shipments from the Trinity to Galveston by water plunging from almost 28,000 bales in 1870-71, to fewer than 2,000 bales in 1872-73.

*Mary Conley* ran into a snag in the river some distance above Liberty on the evening of January

### **Upper Trinity.**

**We have a special dispatch from Cincinnati, dated at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, advising us of the passage up of the steamer Black Cloud, and the passing down of the *Mary Conley* with 600 bales cotton. The river was half bank full.**

Figure 2. A small news item from the May 9, 1870 Galveston *Tri-Weekly News* notes the passage of *Mary Conley* and *Black Cloud* at Cincinnati in Walker County, on the Trinity River northeast of Huntsville. Both steamboats would later be wrecked in the river above Liberty.



Fig. 3. Cover of the Mary Conley logbook, now preserved at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center.

9, 1873. There were no reported casualties in the sinking. She was headed downstream with a large cargo at the time, 140 bales of which were successfully salvaged by the sidewheeler *Early Bird*. Locals additionally took part in salvaging the wreck, removing timbers and woodwork. The boat's logbook was saved as well, and survives today in the collection of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center outside Liberty (Figure 3).

### Site Visit—Fourth Time's the Charm

The TASN crew visited the property on Friday, August 20, 2021. At the site we were met by the owner, who gave us a briefing on the history of the site since our last visit in 2005, including sharing photographs taken at various times in the intervening years.

The briefing was followed by a visit to the site. The bank there is very steep, and it would have been both impractical and potentially dangerous to get down to the water to examine the remains directly. As a result, observations were limited to what the team could see from the edge of the bank, looking almost directly down at the feature. Direct access to this feature can probably only be accomplished by boat.

The principal feature of the wreck observed is a section of relatively intact hull, extending out from the bank for a distance of 20 feet or more (Figure 4). The outer end in the river stream is

broken, and the property owner informs us that there was further hull structure there that has either washed away or cannot be observed from the bank, due to the murkiness of the water. The property owner believes that the stern of the vessel is the part extending into the river now, and the forward part of the hull, more than half of the total, remains buried under the bank.

Observable elements of the principal hull section included framing, longitudinal stringers, and a large section of apparently intact deck planking. Scattered on the deck planking was a quantity of brick, although it could not be determined if this was firebrick from the boat's furnace, or possibly cargo lost with the boat in the sinking. Close by the observable hull section were broken sections of heavy metal pipe, perhaps 4 inches in diameter, that might be part of the piping used to carry live steam from the boilers to the boat's engines.

### Next Steps: Sonar Mapping and QR Codes

The THC and TASN will be working with the property owner to monitor the condition of the shipwreck and adjacent riverbank. As of late 2021, the level of the Trinity River is low and remains fairly stable, although the heavy rains and flooding that usually come in the spring may cause significant further erosion at the site, resulting in damage and scattering of



Figure 4. Remains of the 1865 sidewheeler *Mary Conley*, photographed by the property owner in December 2021 as part of ongoing documentation of the site.

the exposed remains of the boat. The agency is planning on a remote-sensing survey in 2022, to collect sonar imagery of the wreck site. This acoustic data produces photographic-like imagery that will show any portion of the vessel that is not buried by sediment. Sonar data is a highly effective means of visualizing underwater features, such as shipwrecks, in zero-visibility underwater environments like those in Texas. The quality of the data is heavily reliant on how much of the vessel is exposed above the riverbed. This work may help archeologists determine how much of *Mary Conley* is in the river or buried under the bank.

The THC also hopes to use *Mary Conley* as Texas' inaugural case study in the Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program (STAMP) being conducted in partnership with the Florida Public Archeology Network and the University of West Florida. Through this

program, specific timbers on the shipwreck will have special labels attached that each contain a QR code and unique identification number. Timbers that are dislodged from the shipwreck and travel downstream can be scanned using a cell phone if they are found later. This data will track the movement of this timber and help researchers better understand the movement of degrading hulls. This process will be employed by the THC to monitor specific case studies in Texas rivers and coastal areas. This project relies on volunteers, citizen scientists, and the general public to scan the loose timbers when they are rediscovered.

The wreck of *Mary Conley* has been of ongoing interest to the Texas Historical Commission for two decades. Now, with its reemergence, the THC looks forward to new opportunities to use the boat's story to share the remarkable history of the Trinity River and its role in the creation of modern Texas.

# Historic Indianola and Indian Point Remote-Sensing Survey 2021: Project Update

*Sam Cuellar*

Between November 19-22, 2021, Amy Borgens of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Sam Cuellar, a PhD student at Texas A&M University, continued remote sensing surveys in the area of the old port city of Indianola, Texas. Fieldwork was conducted using the THC's 25-ft. research vessel *Anomaly II* and an Edgetech 4125 side scan sonar. Building off of the Indianola Survey Project created in 2016 by Cuellar as part of his dissertation research, November's work focused largely on capturing updated side scan sonar data of a known shipwreck and another unidentified object in the area and beginning the collection of side scan data near Indian Point. The data gathered over the shipwreck, suspected to be the Charles Morgan steamship *Perseverance* (Figure 1), revealed that additional elements of the wreck structure have been uncovered since 2018 with the passage of several tropical systems through the area. During this year's survey work, we were joined by several dolphins who, while playful, proved to make collecting high quality sonar data a bit more challenging (Figure 2). Information gathered from the side scan data at Indian Point, located to the north of Indianola, will be combined with magnetometer data collected in 2016 to look

for remaining evidence of the early town and its port facilities.

Early development of the area that was to become Indianola began in 1844, as Karl, Prince of Solms Braunfels, commissioner general of the Adelsverein, chose a stretch of coastline near Indian Point as a landing spot for incoming German immigrants transported by the company into Texas. Shortly thereafter, in August of 1846, the town of Indian Point was founded, quickly growing as an important port in the Mexican American War and as a major sea-terminus for goods heading to the western frontier. After changing its name to Indianola in 1849, many residents moved three miles south down the beach to Powderhorn Bayou, following the construction of wharves to serve as the Matagorda Bay terminus for the Morgan Steamship Line. Flourishing as a Gulf port through the 1850s and 60s, Indianola grew to a peak in its prosperity in 1875. This peak proved to be short lived, however. On September 8th, 1875, a devastating hurricane swept through the town, killing hundreds and destroying nearly three-quarters of the standing structures of the town. After the storm, the town was rebuilt, but never to the previous

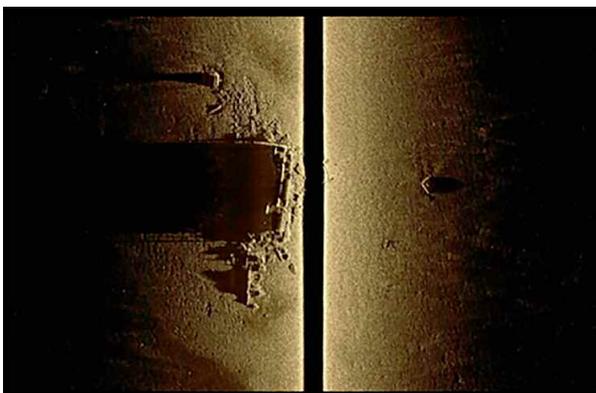


Figure 1. 2021 side scan imagery of suspected *Perseverance*.

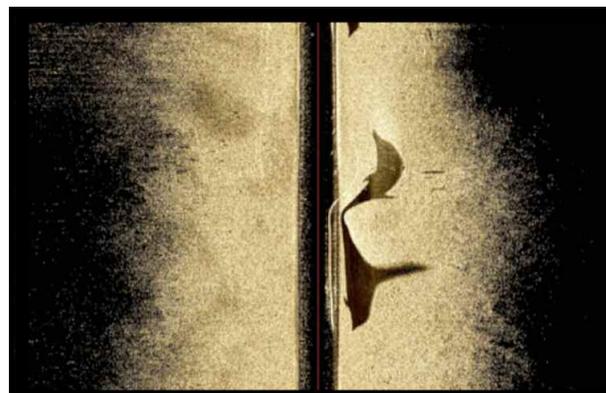


Figure 2. Appearance of dolphins during the 2021 survey.

*Photos courtesy of the THC*

wealth it had seen before. In August of 1886, an even larger storm struck Indianola, inundating the town with a 13-15 ft storm surge, leaving little remaining. The structures that did survive were quickly consumed by fire caused by the storm and collapse of the local signal tower. By 1888, the town site of Indianola was nearly completely abandoned.

The Indianola Survey Project has two main objectives: to characterize the extent of archae-

ological material on the bay floor adjacent to historic Indianola and Indian Point using geophysical data and to better understand the impact storms and other environmental factors have on that material and its preservation. Through the periodic collection of sonar and magnetometer data over known shipwrecks and other objects, baselines can be created and monitored for changes from legacy data or following significant weather events and other impacts.

---

## Tribal Stewards Program Introduction

*Marie Archambeault and Bryant Celestine*

We are pleased to introduce the newest stewards, and especially our first Tribal Steward, **Bryant Celestine**. Bryant is already known by many in our program, and we are excited to welcome him! Bryant is a citizen of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe (headquartered in Livingston) and serves as the Historic Preservation Officer and Tribal Archivist. As the Historic Preservation Officer, Bryant assumes the duties for historic preservation on tribal lands, conducts comprehensive surveys and maintains inventories of properties, consults with federal agencies across seven states with lands that have historic connections to the tribe, and works to protect the traditional culture of the Alabama-Coushatta. In the summer, Bryant runs a youth camp to teach Alabama and Coushatta language, stickball, and other traditional crafts to children in the community. Bryant and his team are also responsible for running several other cultural programs and community outreach activities.

We launched the **Tribal Stewardship Program** in the spring of 2021 with a single representative located in Texas. Our intention is to develop a more robust Tribal Stewardship Program in consultation and in collaboration with the Federally Recognized Tribal Nations with ties

to Texas. We hope to add representatives slowly while we continue to develop the program. Some ideas for the more robust program include providing training to the tribes, the tribes providing training to the other stewards, assisting tribes with making connections to private landowners, and providing a tribal contact to work with landowners regarding unmarked burials on private land, among many other ideas.

The goal of tribal participation is education, focusing on the limited perspectives available to stewards, the professional and educational communities, and private landowners. With three federally recognized tribes stretched across the boundaries of Texas, the misconception has been there are no longer any tribes in Texas. “We are still here” resonates through each of the three tribal communities in addition to the indigenous communities representing various Tribal Nations across the country within metropolitan and smaller cities within the state. In addition, there are a number of additional federally recognized tribes with ancestral ties to Texas. The focus on education allows the connection to the archaeological sites and resources to living and surviving federally recognized tribal communities.

This inaugural program must perpetuate this connection to proper methods of discovery. A circle portrays an important role in tribal communities, most of all, in representation of life. Any segment that is perceived to be missing exudes an incomplete circle. In an archaeological setting, the history connected to the sites can remain incomplete without proper training and techniques. Further, limiting the boundaries often impedes a further connection to other nearby sites or traditional cultural places that only the culturally affiliated group can identify, invoking an unseen and

unexpected relationship. Tribal sovereignty, as recognized by the US Department of Interior, allows for tribes to offer their perspectives while working with communities to fulfill the stories derived through the discovery of archaeological sites in Texas.

We want to support the program in any manner the Tribes request. Our hope is that the program will grow and potentially branch off to a tribal-led stewardship program, where THC provides minimal advisory support.

### **In the Next TASNnews...**

- Full story of the 2022 Texas Historical Commission Preservation Award recipient, **Chris Lintz**, for the Curtis R. Tunnell Lifetime Archeology Achievement Award.
- Highlights from the TASN Annual Workshop & Meeting at Washington on the Brazos, May 14th.
- Welcome to the new members for 2022! And MUCH more!

## New TASN 2021 Members in the Archeology and History Steward Pilot Program



*Ron Carpenter*

Last spring, we confirmed new members to the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network. Within the archeology program, **Ron Carpenter**, Jasper County, joined the stewards network to assist in landowner and outreach assistance in East Texas. Ron is a longtime resident of East Texas with family ties to Jasper and Sabine counties that date back to 1831. He is recently retired and spent much of his career as the project manager responsible for mapping and maintaining rural addressing over a twelve County region in East Texas region and interacted regularly with city and county governments. In addition to being a member of the Texas Archeological Society, the Deep East Texas Archeological Society, and the East Texas Archeological Society, Ron is active in the Jasper CHC as the Historical Marker Chairman. He serves on the board of the Jasper County Historical Museum and is very active in historical reenactment and participates in living history events. As a member of the Texas Army of 1836, he has participated in San Jacinto reenactments at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site and has participated in numerous demonstrations at regional events.

To assist THC staff in meeting the diverse inquiries and requests the THC receives, the Archeology Division has collaborated with the History Programs Division and AD staff to create a history steward pilot program. The history stewards program was initiated by Bob Brinkman (Marker Program), Jenny McWilliams (Cemetery Program), Dan K. Utley

(former Historian on the THC Antiquities Advisory Board (AAB), and Bob Ward (TASN member, Historian on the THC AAB, and Travis CHC chair). Together, they recruited four volunteers who are skilled in historic research, archives, and genealogy.



*Rich Denney*

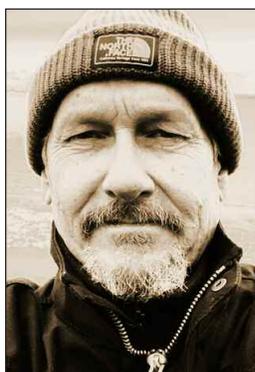
**Rich Denney**, resident of Travis County, spent 35 years in software development and process management, wrote two books, and holds one of the first software patents for the application of AI. Rich has been with Travis CHC for nearly five years and has worked with Travis County Archives and IT staff, Travis County Parks, Austin Parks & Recreation, Travis Audubon, TxDOT, TX Historic Tree Coalition, Comanche Nation Elder Council, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Trail Association, and has assisted private landowners with historic research and preservation. Currently, he manages the CHC blogspot and marker database and enjoys writing about area history. Recently, Rich helped research and prepare the Montopolis historic marker application, and this year received THC marker approval for Travis County's Comanche Peak.

**Mary Kahle**, Travis County, earned an AB in history from Stanford University and an MBA from UT Austin. She is currently a graduate student in the Texas State University History program, with interests in oral history, environmental history, and historic preservation. Mary



Mary Kahle (and Pepper)

became involved in historic preservation in Austin through projects on the Broken Spoke dance hall, the Rainey Street Historic District, and the Austin State Hospital. She serves on the board of the Texas Oral History Association, the City of Austin Ethics Review Commission, and participates in leadership of other community organizations. Currently, Mary is working on an oral history project on the founding and early development of the Save our Springs (SOS) movement and holds an internship with Preservation Austin as their Policy Intern. Mary has volunteered with the Austin History Center Associations oral history initiative, which has allowed her to participate on projects from business and politics to entertainment and graffiti art.



Lanny Ottosen

**Lanny Ottosen**, resident of Montgomery County, has worked in the petro-chemical engineering and construction industry for over 40 years. He has applied this experience along with organization and research into his life-long passions of history, geology, and naturalist studies. Lanny grew up in Brazoria County but spent much of his youth exploring the natural world and historical sites in the Frio Canyon. Out of these experiences and his work on his family's genealogical research, he honed his research and archival skills for other historic research projects in Texas. Currently he supports the Travis CHC and has participated in numerous research projects both privately

and with the Travis CHC including leading the Historical Marker designation for the original Montopolis Townsite.



Dan Utley

**Dan K. Utley**, Travis County, is a familiar figure in Texas history and public preservation efforts in Central Texas. He holds history degrees from UT and Sam Houston State. A former public schoolteacher, he joined the THC in 1979 and became the Director of Research. Dan later worked as staff historian at TARL, and as editor and oral historian with the Baylor University Institute for Oral History. Subsequently, he rejoined the THC as Chief Historian and worked on projects related to courthouse preservation, military sites, historical markers, and oral history. From 2007 until June 2020, he served as lecturer and Chief Historian at the Center for Texas Public History, Texas State University. He is the author, editor, and contributor of numerous books and articles on Texas history, including *History Ahead*, *Faded Glory*, and *Links to the Past*. He is a past president of the East Texas Historical Association and the Texas Oral History Association, a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association and the East Texas Historical Association, and recipient of the Thomas L. Charlton Award for Lifetime Achievement in Oral History and the Bryan Award for Leadership in Education Award (TSHA). After many years Dan stepped down as a Historian on the Antiquities Advisory Board and is currently a member of the TAS Oral History committee assisting with interviews of TAS Fellows.

## Regional Updates



*Marie Archambeault*

Marie Archambeault has served as the Regional Archeologists for Southeast Texas and the Tribal Liaison for the Archeology Division for almost two years. Marie is a return employee having worked for the Archeology Division for an additional five plus years under various job titles including Project Reviewer, Regional Archeologist, *Atlas* Editor, and Tribal Coordinator. Her cumulative years of THC employment and over 20 years CRM experience affords her the opportunity to have had interactions with many stewards from across the state and observe and participate in many steward projects. Previously, she has worked in most regions in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida (as well as various projects in Crete).

**What notable projects are taking place in your region?** As Tribal Liaison, my main research focus these days revolves around tribal sovereignty, consultation, and descendant engagement across the state. I have advocated for a Tribal Stewardship Network and to help facilitate its growth. I look forward to the training opportunities and other collaborative activities that will spring from that program. We are hoping for additional tribal stewards in the near future.

**What other organizations are you involved in?** I've been an active member of Council of Texas Archeologists since 2005, serving on numerous committees (member of Multicultural Committee, Nominating Committee) and elected positions (including serving as Secretary/Treasurer and Treasurer); and Texas

Archeological Society since 2007, serving in various roles, including previously serving as Chair of Native American Field School Scholarship Subcommittee.

**Why are Stewards an important part of the THC, Archeology Division?** While the pandemic has put a damper on current field projects for me, previous steward projects I'm proud to have led include the survey of Kutcher Ranch and testing at Salado College. I am so grateful to be working with the Stewards program again and for all their individual and collective contributions to archeology in Texas, from running local public outreach events, to meeting with private landowners and recording archeological sites. This network of stewards is an irreplaceable resource serving local communities in extraordinary ways. Additional stewards in Chambers and Brazos Counties would be particularly helpful, but additional stewards anywhere are always an added bonus!



*Amy Borgens*

Amy Borgens was hired as the State Marine Archeologist at the THC in 2010. Her regional expertise covers Texas waterways and the Gulf of Mexico, extending out to the state boundary of three leagues. Her specializations include maritime history and historical archeology of the early- to mid-nineteenth century, artifact illustration and photography, and regional flintlock material culture. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at Texas State University, Department of Geography with

a focus on the role of the environment towards the cause and preservation of Texas coastal shipwreck archeology.

**What inspired you to become an archeologist?**

As a youngster I was fascinated with history and often read books on unsolved historical mysteries such as the disappearance of Amelia Earhart and the loss of the not-yet-discovered Titanic. My favorite picture books were on Ancient Egypt, and I loved my Dover coloring books on historic topics, all of which I still own.

**What areas in your region need more coverage?**

The Marine Archeology Program (MAP) has a small steward group that predominantly aids in fieldwork; however, any THC stewards can aid the MAP either in research or also, and importantly, in looking for exposed shipwrecks along the coast or along riverbanks, in particularly in south Texas.

**What other organizations are you involved in?**

The Texas Archeological Society, Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA), Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA), Texas Navy Association, and the Society for American Archaeology. I serve on CTA's Standards and Guidelines Committee and am the chair of Reporting Standards Subcommittee. I am on the SHA History Committee and currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA). I am on five ACUA committees including survey guidance, student mentorship, and diversity.

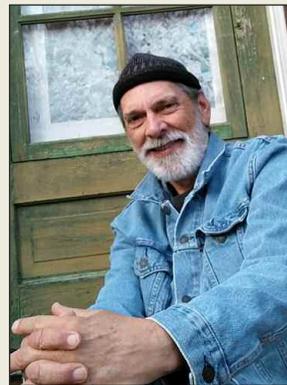
**What notable projects are taking place in your region?** Please see updates from the desk of the state marine archeologist, this issue.

**Why are Stewards an important part of the THC, Archeology Division?** The Stewards offer invaluable support for the agency and broaden our reach in multiple capacities including fieldwork, education, community outreach, and research. Our stewards' unique

expertise can be quite extraordinary and greatly expands our knowledge and promotion of state history.

**What steward(s) in your region has made and impact this last year?**

Andy Hall is a great local source in Galveston, Houston, and Bolivar-area history and has great expertise in steam navigation and Civil War maritime history (and has published on these topics). He has led coordination with the property owner on *Mary Conley*.



*Jeff Durst*

**Jeff Durst** has served as a Regional Archeologist for over 20 years and at one point covered a region that encompassed over 90 counties spanning from the Texas and Arkansas border down to the border with Mexico.

Today his region covers parts of South-Central Texas down to the Coastal Bend portion of the state. His experience covers all time periods of human occupation with a special interest in French and Spanish colonial occupation of the state.

**What inspired you to become an archeologist?**

While attending college I discovered anthropology and really enjoyed the study of early man which led me to take my first archeology course. I was totally fascinated with the archeology courses I took, but what really hooked me was the hands-on field work. I took to it like a duck to the water and knew instantly that archeology would be my future.

**What areas in your region need more coverage?**

The southern-most third of my region has only one steward, Jerry Bauman located in Nueces

County. Further into South Texas, Region 6, the same lack of representation is evident. It would certainly be nice if we could find some worthy candidates to assist in covering more of Coastal Texas, Region 5.

**Why are Stewards an important part of the THC, Archeology Division?** Texas is a huge state and the relatively small THC staff of archeologists who are tasked with the challenging job of reviewing all the state and federal projects that trigger code compliance just can't properly cover the private property issues and opportunities that arise around the state. Fortunately, we are blessed with the Stewardship Network which provides extremely competent assistance and allows for a much more comprehensive service to the private landowners of the state.

**Which stewards in your region have made an impact this last year?** There are without a doubt, several stewards in my region that are real dynamos and excel at getting things done and in a big way. But I must say that within this group there is a wide array of personalities that bring their own special talents to the table and contribute to the organization in a multitude of ways that often go un-noticed. I feel extremely grateful to be able to interact with the stewards in my region and offer my highest praise to each and every one.



*Emily Dylla*

**Emily Dylla** has served as the South Texas regional archeologist for over two years. Her experience ranges throughout multiple research areas, including historical archeology, Spanish colonialism, household archeology,

institutional archeology, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, and ceramic analysis.

**What inspired you to become an archeologist?** I spent a childhood tromping through National Parks, National Forests, and BLM lands all over the Southwest, marveling at the rock art, the ruins, the dried corncobs eroding from 1000-year-old packrat middens, painted and textured potsherds littering the ground, and projectile points in every color of the rainbow. That and I was inspired by a goofy mystery series written by an Egyptologist-turned-fiction writer, featuring a plucky bloomers aficionado and parasol-sword toting archaeologist named Amelia Peabody.

**What areas in your region need more coverage?** The South Texas region has a general dearth of Stewards, with a few amazing exceptions. So new Stewards anywhere in the region would be most welcome.

**What other organizations are you involved in?** The Texas Archeological Society, Council of Texas Archeologist, South Texas Archeological Association, Society of Historical Archeology (SHA), and the Society of American Archeology (SAA). Currently, I am serving on the Reporting Standards Subcommittee for the CTA Standards and Guidelines Committee and am Vice-Chair of their Monitoring Standards Subcommittee. I also serve on the SHA's Governmental Affairs Committee. I will serve as the Program Chair for the 2023 SAA meeting in Portland, OR.

**What notable projects are taking place in your region?** San Antonio continues full-speed ahead with multiple large-scale city-bond projects as well as general development projects stemming from the city's booming growth. Several years ago, we discovered the intact foundations belonging to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. This site, which comprises the second-oldest African American church in the city, will be preserved thanks to descendent communi-

ties, stakeholder groups, regulatory agencies, and a landowner who has prioritized historic preservation over development. Much of the work in deep South Texas relates to municipal improvements, especially water delivery systems. There is a spaceport that shall remain nameless in Cameron County that is driving a good bit of work these days as well. Last but not least, I am particularly excited about American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR) work south of San Antonio, the largest and most systematic effort to identify the Battle of Medina location(s). Several of the Stewards will likely be involved with this project in the near future.

**Why are Stewards an important part of the THC, Archeology Division?** The Stewards exponentially expand the outreach of this agency and therefore further its mission to preserve the tangible cultural heritage of Texas. They can go into spaces where the THC staff cannot and have conversations with landowners the THC staff cannot. They are, to put it simply, the best ambassadors for archeology and historic preservation in the State of Texas.

**What steward(s) in your region has made an impact this last year?** Donna Otto, Hidalgo County, recently rejoined the TASN after a several year hiatus. She is insightful, resourceful, funny, and an all-around Wonder Woman. I greatly appreciate her myriad contributions to South Texas archeology and history, and her willingness to lend her expertise to the Lost Cemeteries Internship. Thank you so much, Donna!



*Arlo McKee*

Arlo McKee has been a reviewer and regional archeologist for North Texas and the Panhandle Plains for four years. He has worked in North Texas, the Panhandle Plains, East Texas, and the Central Plains (outside of Texas). He notes that he has also conducted snippets of work in weird locations in other states such as North Dakota, Ohio, Nevada, Arizona, Arkansas and Maryland. A primary area of interest for Arlo is Geospatial Information Sciences and Geoarcheology.



*Maggie Moore*

Maggie Moore is the reviewer and regional archeologist for East Texas for four years and the coordinator for Texas Archeology Month (TAM). She has done fieldwork in Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana.

Her interests include bioarcheology, NAGPRA and tribal engagement, site distribution, artifact analysis as well as curation issues.

### **New TAM Poster for 2022!**

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Texas Historical Commission's 1972 archeological investigations of 1554 Spanish Plate Fleet ships *San Esteban* and *Espiritu Santo*. These excavations were one of the earliest (if not the first) scientific underwater excavations in the US, and the first state-funded underwater investigation. Available for free by September, just in time to distribute at TAM events! These can be ordered along with other public outreach materials via the Public Outreach Materials Order Form: <https://thc.texas.gov/public-outreach-materials>



*Tiffany Osburn*

of working with a great many of our stewards across the state.

**What inspired you to become an archeologist?** Growing up on our family farm in north Texas I was fascinated with finding out about the people who lived there before us. I particularly enjoyed hunting for “arrowheads” in the creek drainages and using our metal detector to investigate the burned ruins of an old homestead. One year we saw an ad in the local paper and learned that the Texas Archeological Society would be hosting a field school near our farm north of Paris. My dad (Glynn Osburn, TASN - Tarrant County) and I joined the TAS and attended our first field school together in 1991 and the rest is history.

**What areas in your region need more coverage?** Parts of South Texas have been newly assigned to my region and I’m learning that coverage is sparse down there.

**What other organizations are you involved in?** I currently serve as the chair of the Field School Committee for the Texas Archeological Society. I’m also a member of the Council of Texas Archeologists, a board member of Plains Archeological Research (PAR), an officer of the Texas Heritage Land Trust, and President of the Hill Country Land Trust.

**Tiffany Osburn** has served as the Regional Archeologist for the Hill Country and much of west Texas for 14 years. Because her region has shifted so much throughout the years (it even included the Texas Panhandle for a long while) she has had the pleasure

**What notable projects are taking place in your region?** At any given time, there are numerous notable projects happening in my region. Currently the one I’m most involved in are the investigations taking place at the Kemosabe site (owned by Kerr County Steward Marvin Gohlke) for the TAS Field School.

**Why are Stewards an important part of the THC, Archeology Division?** There are simply too few regional archeologists in Texas to cover the needs of the whole state. We rely on our trained archeological stewards for so many facets of historic preservation.

**What steward(s) in your region has made and impact this last year?** Big shout out to our archeological stewards with the Hill Country Archeological Association who have done so much for the 2021 and 2022 TAS Field School! Marvin Gohlke, Steve Stoutamire, Terry Farley, Kay Woodward, Craig Mangham, Françoise Wilson, Stephen Bishop, and John Benedict.



*Drew Sitters*

**Drew Sitters** joined the Texas Historical Commission in 2018 as the West Texas regional archeologist. Prior to joining the Archeology Division, he served as a field and lab technician for the Center for Archeological Studies at Texas State University, San Marcos and later as a project archeologist and principal investigator for AmaTerra Environmental, Inc. While working in cultural resource management, Drew gained invaluable archeological experience across the state, most notably in East Texas where he’s recorded over 175 archeological sites. In addition to Texas, he has worked in Louisiana,

Oklahoma, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Belize, Guatemala, and France. His interests range from lithic and ceramic technology to working with private landowners to document cultural resources on their property.



*Becky Shelton*

**Becky Shelton** is the regional archeologist for North Central Texas and as the TASN Coordinator for eight years. She's done field work in Belize and much of Texas, central and western Oklahoma, and western Arkansas.

Her areas of interest include pre-contact and European ceramics, public archeology, archeological tourism, and continuing education.

**What inspired you to become an archeologist?**

While working at an art conservation company in Dallas, our customers brought in a wide variety of artifacts, artwork, and collectibles. I wanted to learn the story behind the items, the context, essentially the culture that inspired the creations. Serendipitously, the Gault Project in Bell County had posted a call for volunteers in the local newspaper in 2002, and I began to volunteer at the site. After just a few days, I was hooked, and enrolled in graduate school the following year. I'm eternally grateful to Dr. Collins, all the students and staff, and other volunteers that made my first dig so amazing.

**What areas in your region need more coverage?**

Surprisingly, Dallas, McLennan, and Rockwall counties. These areas have high population density, and we receive a lot of requests from the private sector, but we only have a few stewards in these major areas of growth. We would

love to have more stewards to assist in providing landowner assistance and public outreach.

**What other organizations are you involved in?**

Over the last several years, I've served in different capacities with the Texas Archeological Society board. Currently I am assisting with the lab work and analysis of the Harrison-Greenbelt collection rehabilitation for curation. This is a legacy project from the 1996 TAS field school. In addition, I am participating in research and providing archival information for the Oral History Committee. This year, I joined the new ad-hoc committee, Future of the TAS, in the hopes to develop a mentoring program for archeologists. Additionally, I have memberships in several regional societies, and enjoy presenting for their monthly meetings when time allows. Johnney Pollen (Harris County steward) and I have participated in the development of two virtual workshops for the Partners for Archeological Site Stewardship, a national organization that supports site stewardship programs in all parts of the country. <http://www.sitestewardship.org/> We are planning workshops and meetings for program managers in the near future.

**What notable projects are taking place in your region?**

The field work for data recovery of several significant archeological sites just wrapped up for the 16,641-acre Bois D'Arc Lake project in Fannin County, and we are looking forward to hearing about the results through presentations and reports in the years to come. The proposed Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail, which is routed from Dallas to Houston, is still in the review process and has potential to identify some significant previously unrecorded cultural resources. In collaboration with Bill Atlee and David Lintz, formerly of the Central Texas Archeological Society, we have been coordinating with the city of Crawford to develop long-term preservation plans and educational material to aid the community in protection of Tonk Creek Petroglyphs, which is

a State Antiquities Landmark located within the city park.

**Why are Stewards an important part of the THC, Archeology Division?** The significance of steward contributions to our agency is hard to quantify. They assist us with numerous inquiries from the public and help educate their local communities through landowner assistance, public talks, and educational activities. Their impact can be seen in the various outreach activities during Texas Archeology Month, and the time and effort they volunteer to the program provides the equivalent of 10 full-time employees each year.

**What steward(s) in your region has made and impact this last year?** The last two years have been difficult for public outreach; however, many of the stewards in the program have found a way to work safely in small groups and still provide landowner assistance and conduct informative virtual talks. From the north Texas regions, Bryan Jameson (Bosque), Sonny Wheeler (Johnson County), Art Tawater (Parker), James Everett (Tarrant), and Bret Williamson (Tarrant) have coordinated extensively with landowners, participated in the 2021 field school, and have aided landowners when they are able. There are many more stewards that have been active despite the constraints the pandemic presented, and the AD staff is eternally grateful for their work.

## *In Memoriam*

***T****his issue is dedicated* to the Stewards who passed away in 2021. We were honored to have known them and to have worked with them so closely for many years. Their hard work and dedication to preservation of cultural resources and outreach to the residents of Texas will not be forgotten.

**Bryan Boyd**—Gregg County, 21 years

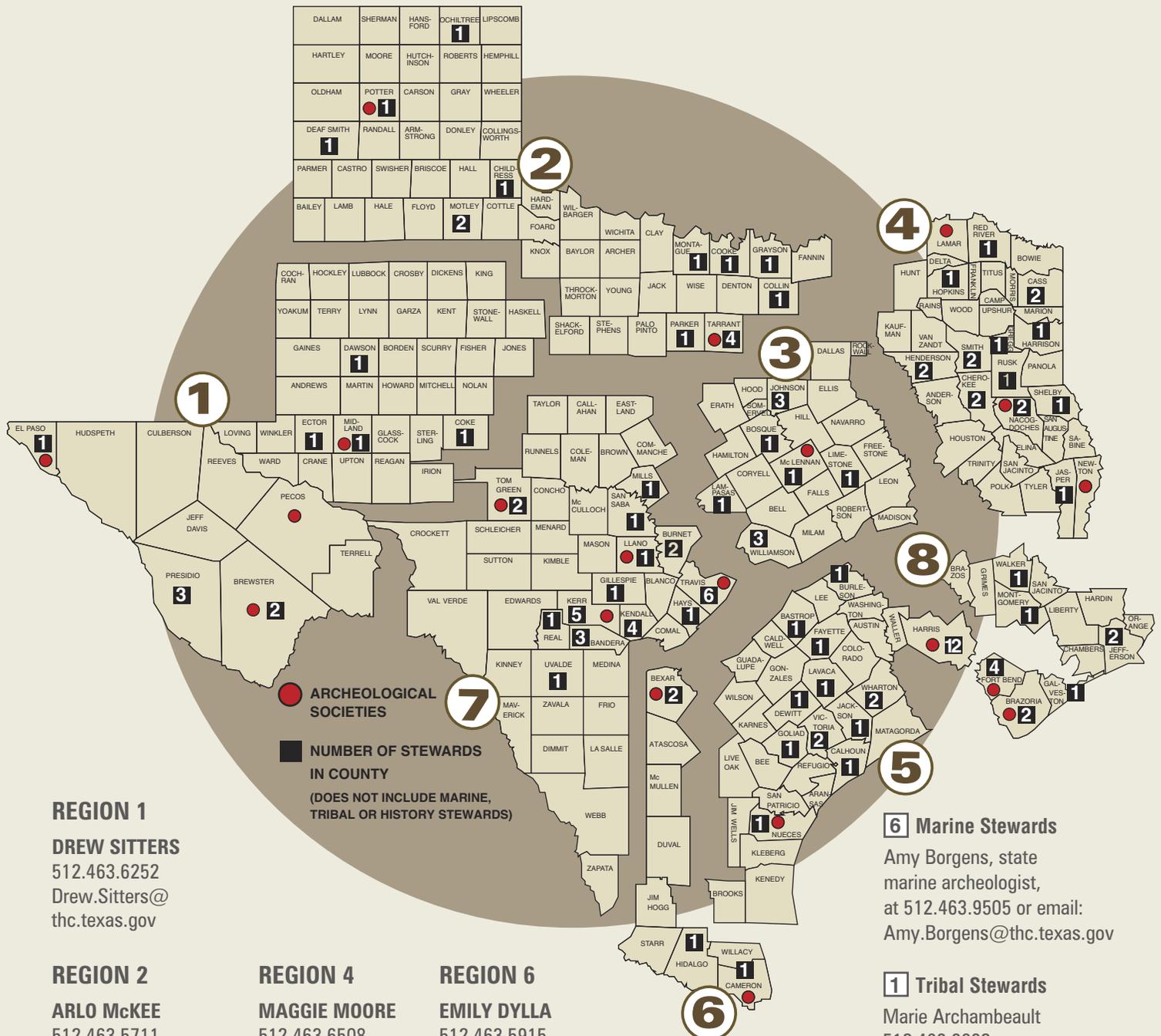
**Sheldon Kindall**—Harris County, 37 years

**Russell Potocki**—Harris County, Marine Steward, 20 years

**J. Travis Roberts, Jr.**—Brewster County, 7 years

**Rolla Shaller**—Randall County, 28 years

# Texas Historical Commission's Non-Regulatory Regions



**REGION 1**  
**DREW SITTERS**  
 512.463.6252  
 Drew.Sitters@  
 thc.texas.gov

**REGION 2**  
**ARLO McKEE**  
 512.463.5711  
 Arlo.Mckee@  
 thc.texas.gov

**REGION 3**  
**REBECCA SHELTON**  
 512.463.6043  
 Rebecca.Shelton@  
 thc.texas.gov

**REGION 4**  
**MAGGIE MOORE**  
 512.463.6508  
 Maggie.Moore@  
 thc.texas.gov

**REGION 5**  
**JEFF DURST**  
 512.463.8884  
 Jeff.Durst@  
 thc.texas.gov

**REGION 6**  
**EMILY DYLLA**  
 512.463.5915  
 Emily.Dylla@  
 thc.texas.gov

**REGION 7**  
**TIFFANY OSBURN**  
 512.463.8883  
 Tiffany.Osburn@  
 thc.texas.gov

**6** **Marine Stewards**  
 Amy Borgens, state  
 marine archeologist,  
 at 512.463.9505 or email:  
 Amy.Borgens@thc.texas.gov

**1** **Tribal Stewards**  
 Marie Archambeault  
 512.463.8882  
 Marie.Archambeault@  
 thc.texas.gov

**4** **History Stewards**  
 Jenny McWilliams at  
 512.475.4506 or email:  
 Jenny.McWilliams@  
 thc.texas.gov

## Curatorial Facilities Certification Program (CFCP)

The THC's CFCP ensures that state-associated archeological collections are properly curated. At the October 2021 THC quarterly meeting, the Witte Museum in San Antonio was certified as the 17th facility in the state. The Witte is also the first fully private museum to participate and become certified under the CFCP program.

In the fall, two interns worked with Brad Jones, Archeology Division Director and State Archeologist, on collections-based projects at the Archeology Division's (AD) Wheless Lane Archeology Lab in east Austin. Allison Hopson (Texas State University) and Faizan Khan (Austin Community College) completed a study of indigenous Tonalá pottery from Mexico and Spanish olive jar recovered by the THC from the Spanish Colonial deposits associated with the original Presidio La Bahia site (also Fort St. Louis). These studies enhance the analysis of the ceramics from the site for the final report, currently being edited by Jones, AD regional

archeologist Jeff Durst, and Commissioner Jim Bruseth, while providing indispensable training in artifact analysis and curation techniques for these students.

Currently, Chesley Hinds and Faizan Khan are assisting with curation tasks for the THC historic site of San Felipe de Austin as well as preparing materials from the Lake Gilmer Collection for transfer to CFCP-certified Stephen F. Austin Anthropology Laboratory starting in March.

Finally, Jessica Ulmer (University of Maryland) has been working with AD staff members Marie Archambeault and Maggie Moore on a review and reassessment of THC's NAGPRA collections held at the Historic Site Division's Center for Artifact Research in Austin. This project is being completed and AD staff will be arranging for visits by tribal representatives in the coming year.

## TASN Upcoming Events and Publications

### Upcoming Events

#### April

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) is holding the Lithics Academy April 23-24 at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory-UT Pickle Campus in Austin.

<https://www.txarch.org/Academies>

#### May

The Texas Historical Commission Archeology Division will host the 2022 TASN Annual Meeting and Workshop at Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site, Saturday May 14. We are excited to hold the event at this great location and look forward to touring the grounds and visiting the museum.

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/washington-brazos-state-historic-site>

### Publications & Resource Links

**Texas Historical Commission**

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/about/publications>

**Texas History at Home**

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/education/texas-history-home>

**THC YouTube channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TxHist>



# TASNnews Call for Submissions

Please use the following format to submit articles and other content to the TASN Newsletter. Please note that content may be edited by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) staff for length and clarity. The Archeology Division does not guarantee that articles submitted will be used in the publication. Authors will be contacted whether the article will or will not be used.

## Style and Length

1. First and Last name
2. Contact email and phone
3. Title for submission
4. Content Chicago Manual of Style
5. 250-750 words; longer articles may be accepted with previous coordination.

## Submission

Articles should be emailed to [Donna.McCarver@thc.texas.gov](mailto:Donna.McCarver@thc.texas.gov) or mailed to Donna McCarver, Archeology Division, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276.

- Include "TASN Newsletter" in subject line of email
- When you send your submission, please include all relevant attachments (photos, tables, etc.) in one email message or mailed submission. Content must be formatted in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or Notepad (.txt or .rtf)
- Submission should not have photos or other graphics embedded in the Word file (see Photographs below) but include notations in the text where graphics should appear (ie. Figure 1, Description). Photos and other graphics should be submitted in the same email message as the text.

## Acknowledgement of Submissions

The editors will confirm receipt of manuscripts within 2-4 weeks. Written reminders from the author after this period are welcome.

## Publication Date

On acceptance, an estimated date of publication may be provided to the author. Some submissions may be held for future publications.

## Editing

On accepted manuscripts, the editors reserve the right to make editorial revisions, deletions, or additions which, in their opinion, support the author's intent. When changes are substantial, every effort is made to work with the author.

## Photographs, Images and Maps

Digital photographs are preferred. Images should be submitted in TIFF or JPEG format with a minimum of 300 dpi. Captions and photo credits for use must be included. In addition, please include first and last name of each person appearing in photos.



## Texas Historical Commission

John L. Nau, III, *Chair*

John W. Crain, *Vice Chair*

Gilbert E. Peterson,  
*Secretary*

Donna Bahorich

Earl Broussard

Jim Bruseth

Monica Zárate Burdette

Garrett Donnelly

Renee Dutia

Lilia Garcia

David Gravelle

Laurie Limbacher

Catherine McKnight

Tom Perini

Daisy Sloan White

Mark Wolfe,  
*Executive Director*



### OUR MISSION

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations.

**TASNnews** is published by the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission. Address correspondence to:

Donna.McCarver@thc.texas.gov

Or mail to:

Donna McCarver, Archeology Division, Texas Historical Commission,  
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276.

Portions of the newsletter that are not copyrighted or reprinted from other sources may be reprinted with permission.

### TASNnews Staff

Brad Jones, *State Archeologist and Director, Archeology Division*

Amy Borgens, *State Marine Archeologist*

Roland Pantermuehl, *Graphics*

Donna McCarver, *Circulation Manager*

Barbara Chadwick, Alice Stultz, *TASN Editors*

Becky Shelton, *Contributing Editor*