

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 x 1301

January 2022, Volume 30, Number 1



General Meeting, January 18, 2022. 7:00 p.m.

Bowser Mound, Northwestern Fort Bend County, and the Nature of Long Distance Exchange Networks

Speaker: Dan Worrall

We have a very interesting speaker this month who will talk about the history of Fort Bend County going back over 3,300 years ago. Bowser Mound is a small hillock in northwestern Fort Bend County that contains multiple burials associated with the Late Archaic Lower Brazos Culture. This culture created a number of such burial sites along the lower Brazos and Colorado rivers.



Long Distance Exchange Items, Bowser Site

Regional-scale maps of burial and campsite artifacts associated with this culture, as well as those of coeval groups of Texas, the Midwest and northeastern North America, allow an interpretation of specific regional distribution routes of exotic artifacts that required very long distance exchange. These exotic items notably include marine shell ornaments, boatstones and gorgets, copper items, and corner-tang knives. Some appear to have been utilitarian items, such as corner tang knives linked to Texas bison cultures, but most appear to have had spiritual and/or ritual significance, reflecting cultural links with Late Archaic groups in the Eastern Woodlands. Recent research by ethnohistorians using both oral history accounts and earlier historic era written descriptions of Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands region suggest that such long distance exchange was less commercially driven than it was spiritual and cultural.

Location: Fort Bend Museum, 410 S. Fifth Street in Richmond, Texas. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome - the program is free and open to the public.

Field Notes – Archeology along the Brazos

Due to the rain of an incoming cold front, our first Saturday of 2022 had to be indoors. Normally, the society digs at the excavation site on Saturdays, but when its raining we work in the lab. The lab is located in one of the Fort Bend Museum's buildings known as the Tyree House. Archeological labwork for FBAS consists of cleaning and cataloging artifacts, completing paperwork, taking photos, etc. On January 8, FBAS members used the opportunity to get caught up with artifact cleaning. All artifacts recovered through excavations are cleaned with water. Toothbrushes are used to lightly clean all of the soil from each piece. Later, after the artifacts are dry, they will continue to be processed. The next step will be to group all of the similar materials such as glass, bick, bone, ceramic, etc. together.



The artifacts from each level of a pit are washed with water and then placed to dry on a cardboard tray. The trays are placed on a rack for the artifacts to dry.



In the lab, we can get a closer look at the artifacts. Above are two sherds of undecorated ceramic and a small piece that looks like it was part of a comb.



Pictured is a small piece of green glass. The artifacts from each level are placed in a sieve to soak making it easier to remove all of the dirt.



Here's another tray showing the neck of a glass bottle, glass, brick fragments and a small length of chain in the lower right corner.

Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2021

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

- In attendance were 8 members and no guests.
- Dinner started at 7:00 p.m. President Jay Roussel, called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m.
- Minutes from November 16, 2021 - No objections, minutes stand as submitted.
- Treasurer's Report: Balance as of December 20, 2021 is \$5,157.58 - No objections, Treasurer's Report stands accepted.

Old Business:

- Paul Spana gave an update about the current excavation work at the Lamar home site. Excavation of Pit L55 with the vertical soil interface was completed and it was filled in. Another study was done of the surrounding area of the pit with ground penetrating radar. No new information was discovered.

New Business:

- Roussel said the following individuals were nominated for officers in 2022. They are Paul Spana (president), Rich Murphy (vice-president), Kevon Hunter (secretary), Claire Rogers (treasurer) and Jay Roussel as Board Member through 2024. The Membership Officer position remains open. Roussel called for any other nominations; none were brought up and the nominations were accepted. Ed Thuesen motioned to vote as one by acclamation, Rich Murphy seconded the motion.
- Dottie Allen will continue as an FBAS board member through 2022. David Rose will also continue his role as board member through 2023.

Announcements:

- Roussel announced the January speaker will be historian and author Dan Worrall.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m. Minutes submitted by Paul Spana

Treasurer's Report 2021

Beginning balance January 1, 2021		\$4,843.16
Income		
Membership dues	100.00	
Anne Marie Weller - donation	10.00	
Marcel Frey – donation	50.00	
Chevron match – Jay Roussel	<u>920.00</u>	
Total income	\$1,080.00	
Expenses		
Memberships for Association	(100.00)	
Honorariums & books for speakers	(510.76)	
Postage	(86.80)	
Reimbursements (ham)	<u>(68.02)</u>	
Total expenses	(765.58)	
Net income for 2021		\$ 314.42
Ending balance December 31, 2022		\$5,157.58

