

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

May 2022, Volume 30, Number 5



General Meeting, May 17, 2022. 7:00 p.m.

Fire Cracked Rocks

Speaker: Richard Stark, Ph.D.

Archeologist Richard Stark is a research professional with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) focused in Anthropology from The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Stark is an authority on the technologies of Native American cultures across the arid Southwest from Utah to northern Mexico.

Dr. Stark's interests include understanding changes to the human community since the last glacial maximum about 18,000 years ago, including changes to traditional cuisines. He has worked extensively on the nature of hearths for traditional earth ovens and the resulting archaeologically encountered, fire-cracked rock (FCR), beginning with experimental hearths in Michael Schiffer's class at the University



of Arizona in 1994. In 2004 he worked as an archaeologist for the Snoqualmie Nation and wrote, "Tribal Archaeology: Snoqualmie Material Culture" as a baseline document for the formation of the Snoqualmie Tribal Cultural Preservation Office. Richard's archaeological and ethno-archaeological research is located in Mexico, Samoa, and the United States, including projects in Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Hawai'i, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas, and Washington. He has authored over 60 technical publications and presentations at scientific meetings. Dr. Stark's research and education subsequently created opportunities for him to teach history, geography and anthropology and to serve as a school administrator.

On May 17, Dr. Stark will give a presentation about earth ovens. Used from the paleo Indian era until recently, earth ovens have been used throughout the southwest by every Native American culture. They range from very basic "hearths" to earth oven complexes. Made of various materials in varying degrees of sophistication, they were used to convert inedible items into digestible food stuffs. Dr Stark's studies are the very first to document earth ovens.

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

Archeology isn't just about looking for artifacts. Excavation pits are dug by digging in shallow layers and looking at the soil and rocks. In our excavations this year we are investigating what's called a vertical interface. It can occur when two different soil types of colors are side by side and create a line in the ground when viewed from above. This can happen when a hole is dug by someone in the past and then it is filled in. What was dug in the past to create the vertical interface we've found? We'll keep investigating to find out. We dig every Saturday morning and welcome all new volunteers - come join us!



Bruce Grethen is seen here cleaning up the bottom of level 8 which is 32 inches deep.



The archeology group has not been finding too many artifacts so this small piece of glass stood out. It appears to be from the bottom of a bottle and has a lot of patina.



Anyone is welcome to come out and help at the excavation site. Just a couple of extra hands helps us get a lot of work done quickly!



We opened a second excavation pit at the end of another pit. We are following an interesting soil feature that required opening a new pit to see how it continued.



Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2022

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

In attendance were 12 members and 12 guests.

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

Minutes from March 15, 2022 - No objections, minutes stand as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of March 8, 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.

Announcements:

- Spana announced the next meeting will be May 16.

Presentation:

Vice president Rich Murphy introduced speaker Dr. Gregg Dimmick. The title of the presentation was "The Mexican Army in Texas"

Meeting adjourned 7:54 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Kevon Hunter, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Beginning balance as of April 14, 2022	\$5,082.58
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1980	4/19/2022	Dr. Gregg Dimmick	speaker honorarium	-75.00
Deposit	4/21/2022	Mike Woods	membership dues	+20.00

Balance as of May 11, 2021	\$5,027.58
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Submitted by
Claire Rogers, Treasurer