

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 2023, Volume 31, Number 5



General Meeting, May 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

New Lab Facility at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site Speaker: Bryan McAuley

San Felipe de Austin, founded on the banks of the Brazos River in the fall of 1823, lived a dynamic and engaged existence – hosting practically every prominent figure connected to the Mexican Texas era – before it was sacrificed during the Texas Revolution, burned to the ground as part of a military strategy after its residents were evacuated ahead of Santa Anna’s advancing army. Since 2008, the Texas Historical Commission has been committed to reviving the important stories and events of the town’s brief life. Site Manager Bryan McAuley will project what his team hopes their upcoming lab facility will allow them to do.

Bryan McAuley holds a BA in government/anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin and an MA in political science/sociology from Texas State University in San Marcos. He has worked in the museum field since 2000 with posts at the Texas Independence Trail



The Farmer’s Hotel at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

Region, the Fort Bend History Association and, since 2008, with the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Since the initial sites transfer to the THC, Bryan has been part of the project team planning for visitor experiences at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site – set within the footprint of the headquarters of Stephen F. Austin’s Colony in Mexican Texas.

For more information about the San Felipe State Historic Site see:
<https://www.thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/san-felipe-de-austin-state-historic-site>.

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



Bryan McAuley

Field Notes

Excavation Site - FBAS volunteers continue to investigate a historic homesite near Richmond.

Want a closer look? We dig every Saturday morning and welcome all new volunteers - come join us, or just come out to watch!



In late March, we found the fourth corner of the root cellar where we expected it to be based on the location of the other three. With the discovery of the fourth corner, we can confirm the size and shape of the root cellar. We now want to take a close look at the cellar along its east wall. We opened a new pit to investigate the wall. In the top left photo, Bruce Grethen can be seen laying out the new pit. Once down to the historic occupation level, we started finding some interesting artifacts. The top right photo shows both sides of a sherd of terracotta pottery with an interesting pattern on it. Terracotta is an unusual find for us on this site.



The ceramic sherd in the photo above is also very unusual. The photo shows both sides of the piece with its interesting patterns. Hopefully, we'll locate more pieces as our investigation continues. A couple of weeks ago, we unintentionally captured this shrew in one of our pits. This is only the second time we've ever seen one. It looks a lot like a mouse, but shrews are not rodents. In fact, shrews are a much closer relative of hedgehogs and moles. John Rich captured the shrew and released him nearby.

All photos by John Rich.

Texas Historical Commission

Archeological Stewards – Two FBAS members made the news recently in a program of the Texas Historical Commission. The Texas Archeological Stewardship Network is a group of trained and motivated avocational archeologists who work on a volunteer basis representing the state. Stewards help find, record and monitor archeological sites in Texas. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has the responsibility to preserve and interpret the vast archeological landscape of Texas. The staff is dedicated and capable, but with a small staff of archeologists, they need help in tackling this huge job. In 1984, the THC created the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN).



John Rich

Last month, FBAS member John Rich became a Texas Archeological Steward. John says he has been wanting to be a steward for a long time. After 20 years of volunteering and working in Texas archeology, THC has appointed him a Texas Archeological Steward. He thanks FBAS member Bob Crosser for nominating him and for helping through the application process.



Bruce Grethen

THC held its Annual Meeting and Workshop at Fort Concho National Historic Landmark in San Angelo, Texas. The meeting brings all stewards together from around the state every year. Not only does the meeting allow all the stewards to meet with each other face to face, it also allows them to meet with the state's professional archeologists who are assigned to cover the state. Stewards from every county give updates on the work they are currently doing. THC uses the meeting to discuss projects the state is working on and to share other updates and news in the fields of archeology.

At this year's meeting FBAS member Bruce Grethen received the Norman G. Flaigg Award for Outstanding Performance. Congratulations to Bruce for all he has done for Fort Bend County and the State of Texas!



Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2023

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met online via a Zoom meeting. In attendance were four members.

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

The minutes for the March meeting as well as the treasurer's report were presented by Spana. However, the meeting did not have a quorum present, therefore no action items were managed at the meeting.

Old Business:

- Excavation work continues at the Lamar site. FBAS members continue to investigate a possible root cellar at the Lamar home site.

New Business:

- No new business.

Announcements:

- The next meeting will take place in person with a guest presenter.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Paul Spana

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of March 15, 2023 **\$5,399.85**

No transactions in April

Updated deposits as recorded by Fort Bend History Association into FBAS account:

Deposit	12/30/2022	FBHA/Chevron	Jay Roussel ind. & Chevron match	160.00
Deposit	1/4/2023	Gary Hudson	membership dues	20.00
Deposit	5/5/2023	FBHA	12/20 Chevron match/Jay \$40	
			12/20 Jay Roussel ind. don. \$40	
			1/26-3/30 Chevron/Jay \$20+10+10+20	
			3/30 Chevron match/Bob Crosser \$500	630.00
Balance as of May 7, 2023				\$6,209.85

Submitted by
Claire Rogers, Treasurer