

# TIME CAPSULE

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

An affiliate of the Fort Bend History Association

500 Houston Street / Richmond, TX 77469

281-342-6478 / FAX 281-342-2439

October 2020



## October 20, 2020. 7PM

**Speakers:** Dr. Jason Barrett

**Topic:** Native American Trade Trails through Southeast Texas: A report out on the lithic artifacts found on and around Smithers Lake in Fort Bend County (near George Ranch)

“Trade goods,” or material culture from other regions, have been recorded in many archeological deposits across southeast Texas. New data suggests that these trade goods, or so-called exotic artifacts, are probably present in local southeast Texas archeological sites far more regularly than they are identified. For instance, stone tools from the archeological sites near George Ranch provide clear evidence of long-distance contact. Among the 1,330 projectile points recorded within the combined assemblages from Dimond Knoll (in Harris County) and Smithers Lake (in Fort Bend County) are many artifact types commonly associated with the Ohio and Mississippi River Valleys! Remarkably, both the Dimond Knoll and Smithers Lake sites show evidence of having been repeatedly revisited over a period of more than 11,000 years! For decades, archeologists have questioned the derivation and the greater meaning of exotic artifacts, such as copper pins and banner stones that have also been recovered at local sites, but crafted from material that is not found in the local area. Could the distribution of native overland trade corridors in prehistory shed new light on this phenomenon? In this presentation, Barrett will propose a reconstructed network of indigenous footpaths and trade trails, relying on data collected from journals, diaries, and other records of the 17th and 18th century Spanish entradas, as well as from 19th century maps. This new research indicates that native long-distance trade trails had extraordinary time depth, were integrated with riverine trade networks, and were spread across vast geographic areas.



Jason Barrett received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in 2004, joining the TxDOT Environmental Affairs Division's Archeological Studies Branch the following year. Dr. Barrett has authored numerous journal articles, book chapters, and technical research reports, and has taught courses in archeology and cultural anthropology at Texas A&M University, Baylor University, Rice University, and Blinn College. Jason has completed complex regulatory and research based archeological projects in Texas and Belize.

**Location:** Gus George Law Enforcement Academy - 1521 Eugene Heimann Circle, Richmond, Texas.

**Masks Are Required**

# Meeting Minutes from the September Meeting

## FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes from September 15, 2020

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met at the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, Richmond TX. In attendance were 7 members and no guests. The meeting was called to order by Jay Roussel, President, at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes from August 18, 2020 - No objections, minutes stand as approved.

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of August 14, 2020 is \$3,768.16 - No objections, Treasurer's Report stands accepted.

### Old Business:

- None

### New Business:

- The Fort Bend Museum is working to update their museum accreditation. The museum's curator asked for history on a loan FBAS has. The loan known as the Marvin Buller collection contains about 300 stone tools that were found by Mr. Buller around Smithers Lake. Jay Roussel described the collection and explained it is currently on loan to TXDOT archeologist Jason Barrett. He is researching the stone tools and will prepare a report about them.
- Bruce Grethen and Paul Spana discussed the current work at the Lamar site.
- Spana gave an update on the society's decision to do conservation work on metal artifacts found at the Sugar Land 95 Project (now Bullhead Creek Cemetery) before the cemetery was discovered. Archeologist Reign Clark will train FBAS members how to conserve and preserve the metal artifacts.

### Announcements:

- Roussel announced have speakers for the October and November meetings.

### Presentation:

There was no guest presenter this month.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Paul Spana

## Treasurer's Report

October 15, 2020

<b>Balance as of August 14, 2020</b>				<b>\$3,768.16</b>
Deposit	9/25/2020	Chevron match check	Jay Roussel	1,040.00
			membership dues	
Deposit	10/15/2020	James Legate	- from February	20.00
<b>Balance as of October 15, 2020</b>				<b>\$4,828.16</b>

Submitted by  
Claire Rogers, Treasurer