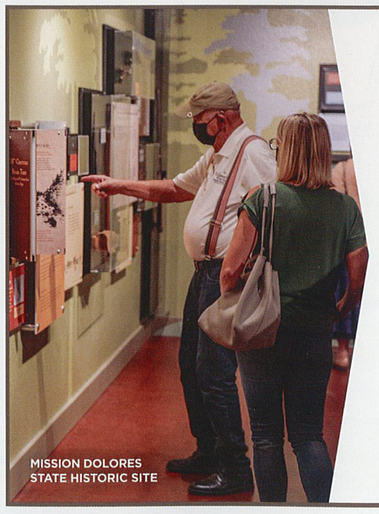
THE
MEDALLION
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SPRING 2022



DISCOVER THE 1554 SPANISH SHIPWRECKS
THC EXCAVATIONS CHARTED
NEW PRESERVATION LAWS





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TOP, FROM LEFT: Assistant Project Director J. Barto Arnold and Project Director Carl Clausen excavate the 1554 Spanish shipwrecks near Padre Island in the early 1970s (story on page 6). ON THE COVER: A detail from *Plate Ships in the Rising Wind* by Peter Rindlisbacher, 2022.

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SPRING 2022

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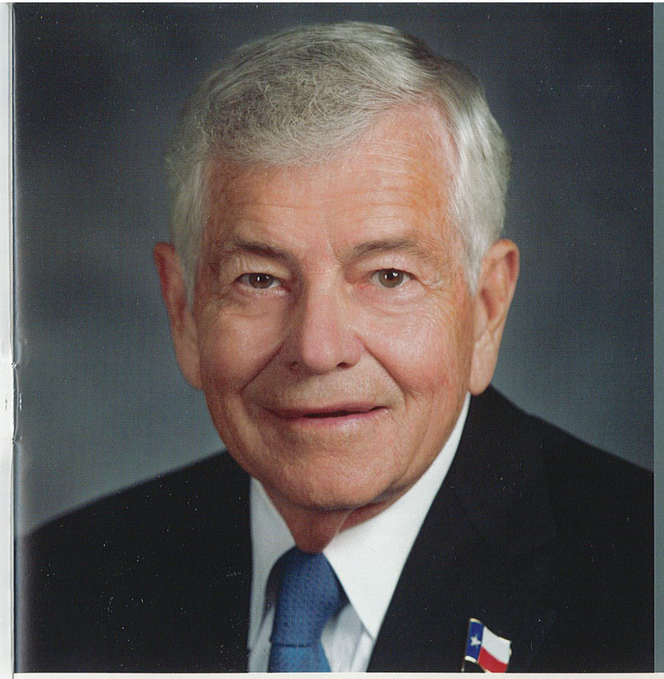
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Our Mission
To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

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TEXAS HOUSE MEMBER REP. TOM CRADDICK DISTRICT 82

LEADERSHIP LETTER

Lovers of Texas history know the story of Spanish treasure ships sunk in a storm off Padre Island in 1554. They may also recall the 1967 salvage firm looting of the wreck of the *Espiritu Santo*, one of the three ships.

What you may not know is that the salvage controversy led to legislative enactment of the initial Texas Antiquities Code. As a new member in 1969 who voted for that important law, I'm pleased to pen this letter for the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) *Medallion*.

On the following pages you'll find articles related to our antiquities statutes—the shipwrecks, THC archeology, and the preservation of artifacts held in trust for the people of Texas.

The THC manages cultural collections from the 1554 ships, from the 1686 wreck of the French ship *La Belle* in Matagorda Bay, and many thousands of relics associated with archeology or state historic sites.

As directed by the Legislature, the THC is also managing consultation amongst six state agencies regarding future storage, preservation, and protection of our invaluable cultural collections. Those agencies together will generate recommendations to the 88th Legislature in 2023.

We love Texas heritage and we learn from the real places and treasures that tell the real stories of our unique and diverse culture.

Sincerely,

Tom Craddick

Tom Craddick
Texas House of Representatives, District 82

LEVELING THE FIELD

FEMALE ARCHEOLOGISTS IDENTIFY PATHWAYS FOR MORE-INCLUSIVE FUTURE

By Emily Dylla, PhD
THC Terrestrial Archeologist



Newly graduated archeologists often find their first professional employment as field technicians, working in a wide range of settings and conditions. Friendships and professional relationships are formed on survey lines, in excavation units, or during hours of crunching data once fieldwork is complete.

Archeology is a physically demanding and mentally taxing job, and the creation of strong mentor-mentee relationships and peer networks can be key to whether a new field technician continues the discipline or turns to an alternative career path, often after suffering burnout.

But strong mentorship is even more vital for those who do not fit the traditional profiles that have historically dominated archeology in the United States, including women, who are historically underrepresented in the field.

To make effective change for women working in archeology, their historical contributions must be recognized and shared with the next generation. Understanding these histories can lead to constructive dialogue and meaningful changes within the industry.

Last fall, Rebecca Shelton and Emily Dylla of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeology Division organized and moderated a panel called "Women in Texas Archeology: Current Realities and Looking Ahead" for the Texas Archeology Society's (TAS) annual meeting. The panel built on two previous events: a 2019 TAS symposium on pioneering women in Texas archeology, and the THC's 2021 Undertold Archeology Series panel during Women's History Month, which honored female trailblazers in Texas archeology and success stories from industry leaders.

Building from these discussions, the next step was to focus on the present and future of Texas archeology. Panel organizers began by inviting a diverse group of archeologists early in their careers.

"Reflecting a broader trend across the country, Texas archeology is diversifying, particularly with an influx of women choosing to pursue the profession," Shelton said. "As archeology diversifies, the set of prevailing attitudes and behaviors in this field of work is changing too."

The panel comprised an effort to capture needs and concerns of the up-and-coming generation of women in Texas archeology. Panelists included Vicky Roberts, archeologist and outreach coordinator for Shumla; Victoria (Tori) Pagano, staff archeologist at Terracon; Lindsay Vermillion, project archeologist at Halff Associates, member of the Choctaw Nation, and graduate student at St. Cloud State University; and Nadya Prociuk, principal investigator at Baer Engineering and Environmental Consulting.

A series of preparatory discussions among moderators and panelists identified several key areas of concern:

- **Differential expectations.** This conversation addressed pressure on women archeologists to continually prove themselves while being afforded less room for failure, as well as the persistence of stereotypes about women within archeology.
- **Work/life balance.** This topic is especially important during pregnancy and in the early years of childcare. The discussion also addressed assumed roles frequently ascribed to women by virtue of their gender, and the often-unrecognized challenges faced by archeologists living with disabilities.
- **Toxic work environments.** This discussion ranged from binge-drinking culture in archeology, to harassment and the fallout from "whistleblower effect" on one's career, to the need for more diversity in leadership positions.
- **Discrimination.** The discussion included concerns over public, professional, and academic representations of history and focused on the power of language, which can reinforce or challenge these issues.





The panel conversation resonated with the audience, as many shared their personal experiences and perspectives throughout the 2.5-hour timeslot. A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the importance of quality mentorship to achieve success in the industry, both in the traditional sense and between peers.

THC staff chose TAS to host this panel as they have an exceptionally strong history of providing leadership opportunities to professional and avocational women archeologists. At the request of the TAS president, this panel has evolved into an ad-hoc TAS committee to continue these important discussions and to devise and implement programs that address the issues that were examined.

"We're looking forward to keeping this important conversation going and making real progress with the Future of Texas Archeology Committee," Shelton said, adding that the group is developing a mentorship program to facilitate archeology careers across the TAS membership. "Ultimately, the committee hopes to make Texas archeology a welcoming and supportive space for archeologists from all walks of life."

To learn more about the THC's Archeology Division and its programs, visit thc.texas.gov/archeology.

TOP, LEFT: Emily Dylla. MIDDLE: Rebecca Shelton. RIGHT: Future of Texas Archeology Committee. Top row, left to right: Mary Jo Galindo, Emily Dylla, and Maximilian Hall. Middle row, left to right: Rebecca Shelton, Nadya Prociuk, Victoria (Tori) Pagano, Vicky Roberts, and Emily McCuistion. Front row, left to right: Lindsay Vermillion, Virginia Moore, Maggie Moore, Marybeth Tomka, and Brittany Bailey.



Students from the 1973 field school recovering artifacts.

By Amy A. Borgens, THC State Marine Archeologist

DISCOVER THE 1554 SPANISH PLATE FLEETS

THC CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXCAVATING OLDEST U.S. SHIPWRECKS

Taking advantage of the nice weather and unusually high marine visibility, avocational explorer Vida Lee Connor embarked on an aerial reconnaissance survey in 1964 to search the seas for offshore reefs near Port Mansfield, Texas. From her vantage point in the aircraft, she observed a series of underwater shapes, 16 in all.

The sites were marked with buoys for her later diving expeditions, organized over the following years. What Connor unknowingly discovered that day was evidence of an unfortunate maritime tragedy 400 years past that would enrich our knowledge of Texas and Gulf of Mexico history. It initiated a series of events that would shape federal and state antiquities laws and lead to the creation of the Antiquities Code of Texas and the Texas Antiquities Committee (TAC), now merged with the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Those mysterious shapes that so intrigued Connor were two of three ships of the Spanish Plate Fleet that sank off Padre Island during a violent storm on April 29, 1554.

The vessels were part of an original fleet of 54 that departed Spain in July 1552 for Cartagena (in modern-day Colombia) and Veracruz (modern Mexico). These ships were part of a convoy system tasked with transporting colonial supplies and raw materials—such as silver, gold, and cochineal—between Spain and its territories.



Plate Ships Departing from Veracruz. **Peter Rindlisbacher (2022).**

The THC's eventual excavation of this marine archeology treasure became one of the most important projects in Texas archeological history.

"This is incredibly significant, since these are the oldest discovered shipwrecks in the United States," says Brad Jones, director of the THC's Archeology Division. "These wrecks inspired a generation of underwater archeologists, influenced creation of state and federal shipwreck policy, and even featured the first underwater archeological field school in the country."

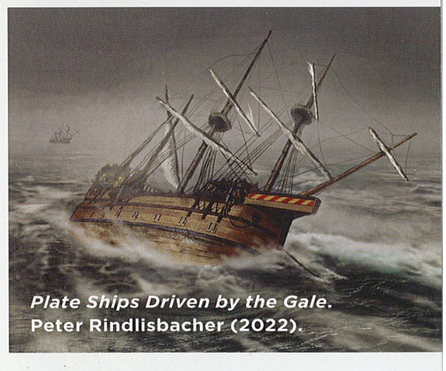


Plate Ships Driven by the Gale. **Peter Rindlisbacher (2022).**

MARITIME LEGACY

The fleet arrived off Veracruz in February and March of 1553 and, more



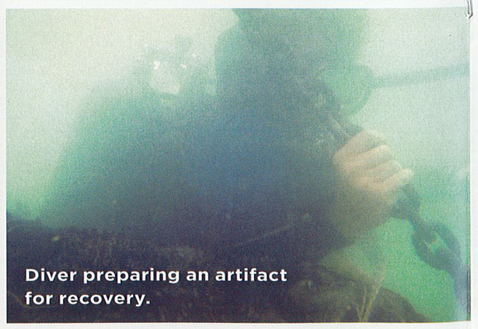
State Marine Archeologist Carl Clausen, left, directing dive operations.

than a year later on April 9, 1554, *Espíritu Santo, San Andrés, San Esteban,* and *Santa María de Yciar* set sail to rendezvous with another flotilla at Havana, Cuba. *San Andrés* arrived in too damaged a condition to continue onward; the others were lost on the present-day Texas coast.

More than 250 individuals perished in the wreck event and only a small number survived. An improvised watercraft transported a few survivors to Veracruz, and the approximately 30 individuals remaining set out on foot to Pánuco, Mexico. Believing it to be only a two or three day journey, it was in fact over 500 miles through sometimes hostile Native American homelands.

Though left for dead along the way, only Fray Marcos de Mena reached the destination. Eager to recoup its losses, Spain sent two expeditions to salvage the shipwrecks. A beach camp was established in June 1554 with divers recovering cargo from the three wrecks until November. Not all was recovered, however, presenting a huge financial loss for the Spanish Crown—this was the worst accident to befall a plate fleet since its unofficial inception in 1537.

Until Connor's 1964 discovery, the shipwrecks were largely an element of local folklore dating to the 19th century; however, the search for silver coins remained a popular beachcombing activity. On a return trip to the wrecks, she discovered ship salvors were dragline-excavating the *Espíritu Santo* site. The Indiana-based company, Platoro Ltd, Inc., did not have a permit to work in Texas waters, so in 1968 the state immediately filed a lawsuit and injunction against the company.

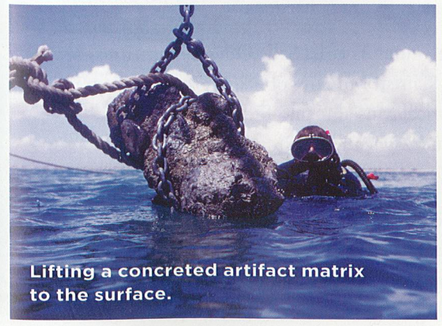


Diver preparing an artifact for recovery.

The need for improved protection of state antiquities and clarification on state jurisdictional authority and ownership of such sites resulted in the enactment of the Antiquities Code and creation of the TAC in 1969. A 17-year legal battle awarded the state ownership of the artifact assemblage in 1984.

AN EXTRAORDINARY FIND

With the treasure salvage abated, Texas archeologists planned for future work on the shipwrecks. In 1970, a remote-sensing survey organized by the TAC and conducted by the Institute for Underwater Research (IUR) of Southern Methodist University relocated the vessel later identified as *San Esteban* as it was exposed on the seafloor. IUR consulted with pioneering underwater archeologist George Bass and fellow world-renowned specialists Peter Throckmorton and Michael Katzev, who both visited the project.



Lifting a concreted artifact matrix to the surface.



This successful work led to the hiring of Carl Clausen to serve as the first state marine archeologist at the TAC in 1972. Clausen directed the 1972–75 field excavations of *San Esteban* and *Espiritu Santo* until his departure that year from the agency. The TAC conducted additional fieldwork on the shipwrecks in the 1970s and in partnership with National Park Service (NPS) in the 1980s.

J. Barto Arnold, the assistant director on the 1554 excavations and state marine archeologist from 1975–1997, led later field investigations and spearheaded the archeological publications. Several projects were also conducted between 1989–1998 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure the undiscovered *Santa María de Yciar* and other sites would not be impacted by modifications to the Port Mansfield Entrance Channel.

For years, this ship had been presumed destroyed by the creation of the Mansfield Cut. New remote-sensing surveys were undertaken by Submerged Resources Center of NPS in 2020–21, in partnership with the THC, to re-evaluate the excavated locations of *San Esteban* and *Espíritu Santo* and search for *Santa María de Yciar*.

"The 1554 Spanish Plate Fleet wrecks are one of the most extraordinary archeological finds of our times," says Jones. "We're glad to have an opportunity to recognize the 50th anniversary of such a significant discovery that offers a glimpse of historical events from 400 years ago."

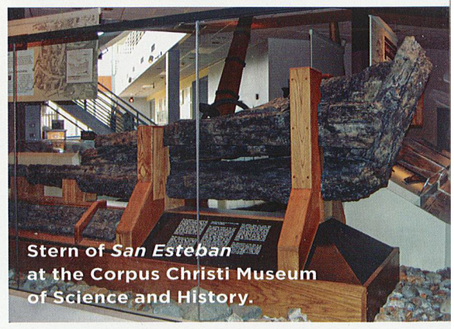
TOP: Gold-covered wooden cross from *San Esteban*.

To learn more about several topics in this article, delve into the following THC blog posts:

VIDA LEE CONNOR: thc.texas.gov/VidaLee

CARL CLAUSEN: thc.texas.gov/MarineArcheo50

BEACHCOMBING: thc.texas.gov/BeachArtifact



Stern of *San Esteban* at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History.





NEW RESEARCH, OLD ARTIFACTS

THC'S ARCHEOLOGY DIVISION 'RE-EXCAVATES' CURATED COLLECTIONS

By Brad Jones
THC Archeology Division Director

Across the state, artifacts and records in public and private collections provide a rich resource for historians and archeologists in their search to share the past. While fieldwork is the iconic moment in the archeological process, it's merely a transition to the final goal of preserving the material life of the past.

Several collections are being "re-excavated" by the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeology Division (AD) staff in partnership with other researchers. These efforts will bring objects from their cozy curated homes and back into the light of our collective history.

As highlighted on page 6, artifacts from two of the 1554 shipwrecks, the *San Esteban* and *Espiritu Santo*, are housed at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History. These ships are among the oldest Spanish wrecks excavated in the Americas, and many new questions and techniques have arisen in the 50 years since the investigations and publications.



AD staff has worked with the museum, students, and other professionals to revisit the collections. The most recent collaboration was with National Park Service (NPS) archeologists. It included examining ceramics and ballast from the ships and the potential location of a 1554 salvage site to verify their historic connections.

In addition, Dr. Eric Guiry at the University of Leicester in England is analyzing faunal remains from the sites to expand our knowledge of commerce, diet, and husbandry in this early period. These efforts could also shed light on early ranching or the movement of soldiers during the Mexican-American War and Civil War along Padre Island.

In 2021, Dr. Russell Skowronek at The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley requested assistance to conduct nondestructive analysis of the copper and brass vessels from *La Belle* as part of a long-term study of Spanish Colonial period cookware. But why choose French vessels for a study of Spanish Colonial history?

"The preservation and fine-grained dating of *La Belle*'s artifacts makes them an amazing reference collection to establish a comparative baseline between different manufacturing traditions," says State Marine Archeologist Amy Borgens. "Of course, our agency also continues to benefit from new data on one of the state's most significant collections."

Working together with curators at La Salle Odyssey museums—including the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, Lavaca County Historical Museum, and Bullock Texas State History Museum—and AD staff, Skowronek completed his important research.

A final collection-based study is underway on dugout canoes. Though a critical feature of Texas river and coastal life since time immemorial, wood is rarely preserved in the archeological record. By documenting, radiocarbon dating, and speciating





the wood of historic, locally recovered canoes to learn the age and region of manufacture, they hope to better understand these traditions across the state. Working with private and public collections, AD staff have documented 12 examples in Texas and conducted analysis on four.



The newest canoe sample, which hasn't been tested yet, was collected in February 2022 at the Museum of South Texas in Edinburg. It was from a canoe discovered decades ago in the Rio Grande and just recently donated to the museum.

"The results are surprising so far," Borgens said. "The canoes date to the 19th century and may reflect a range of boat-building traditions from around the gulf, telling us a different story than we thought."

She adds that artifact collections and records are the legacy archeologists leave for the future, but they are ineffective if boxed and forgotten.

"When properly managed, these artifacts are a priceless opportunity to continue learning about our history and make the past real in the present," she said.

Visit thc.texas.gov/archeology to learn more.

TOP, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History. Larry D. Moore, CC BY-SA 3.0, Wikimedia Commons, tinyurl.com/785kzdc6. AD Staff work with NPS representatives at the museum. This dugout canoe wreck was recently discovered off the South Texas coast. OPPOSITE AND ABOVE: Ceramic artifacts from 1554 wrecks and a brass cooking pot from *La Belle*.

‘THE PERSISTENCE OF PEOPLE’

ARCHEOLOGY REVEALS EVERYDAY LIVES AT THC’S FRENCH LEGATION

By Brad Jones
THC Archeology Division Director

The title of Marilyn Johnson’s study of archeologists, *Lives in Ruins: Archaeologists and the Seductive Lure of Human Rubble*, captures the profession’s popular conception: one who finds meaning in the shattered remnants of human lives in places populated by ruins. Yet as an archeologist, my eye sees archeology in the lived and built spaces of everyday lives outside of ruins.

One must look beyond ruins, shattered pot sherds, and archeology’s inevitable association with digging, to embrace its power as more of a way to see and know the past through engagement with material remains around us.

Though the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) state historic sites may not all need archeology, all historic spaces have archeological records, or at least artifacts that inspire archeologists to write stories that shed light on our shared past.

As the THC continues to add historic sites, the perspective of the archeological eye is increasingly helpful. Some sites require archeology—the Old Socorro Mission site near El Paso and San Felipe de Austin only reveal their historic character through excavation of the soil and archives. Others, such as the recently renovated and reopened French Legation, provide an ideal example of where archeology can enrich the understanding of a site that appears far from the status of a ruin.

The French Legation grounds in Austin are rightly centered on the house itself, but initial investigations by University of Texas archeologists shed light on the early occupation of the house. Although structures such as the kitchen had been lost (ruined if you will), archeological research defined the foundations of the structure.

This information contributed to the site’s reconstruction in a way that is not imaginary, but built on an authentic awareness of the use of space.

Structural foundations are one thing, but archeology also offers the unique opportunity to touch the past and get closer to those who came before. Medicine and soda bottles provide glimpses into the past daily ills and pleasures that mirror our own. Familiar glass marbles remind us that the site was filled with the laughter of children. Stone dart points and tools put us in touch with the deep history of the site of those whose names we will never know, but whose actions also shaped this place.

More than the site of the French ambassador’s residence and the Robertson family, the grounds of the French Legation are a monument to the persistence of people.

To learn more about the THC’s Archeology Division and its programs, visit thc.texas.gov/archeology.



RIGHT: Medicine bottle excavated from Robertson Hill near the French Legation. This bottle is stamped with the name Maxwell & Spalding, a pharmacy partnership which operated in Austin at the turn of the 20th century.

BELOW: Medallion from a Knights of Pythias sword belt found during the 2019-20 archeological excavations at the French Legation. Knights of Pythias is a fraternal order that was active in the Austin area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.







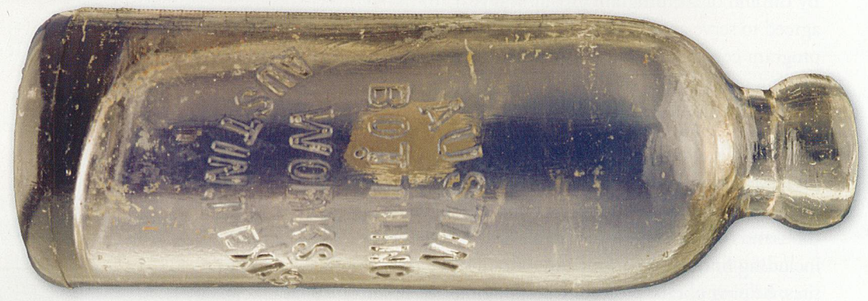


TOP: Native stone point fragments and preforms. Numerous specimens have been excavated from the area surrounding the French Legation and provide evidence for the long occupation of the land where the French Legation now stands.

MIDDLE: Glass beverage bottle embossed with Austin Bottling Works, Austin, Texas. The Austin Bottling Works plant was located at 607 Red River St. and distributed products throughout Austin and Central Texas in the 1920s and ’30s.

BOTTOM, FROM LEFT: Located during the excavations conducted by University of Texas during the 1960s, this glass bottle stopper was found near the area believed to be the historic kitchen. The stopper is marked Eyquem on one side and Brevet on the other. The design matches a stopper design patented in France in the early 19th century. Glass and glazed ceramic marbles have been found across the French Legation site, as well as coins. This 1887 coin was excavated during the archeological work conducted in advance of the house stabilization.

Photos: Jamie Ross and Texas A&M Conservation Research Laboratory







SUCCESSFUL STEWARDSHIP

VOLUNTEER NETWORK IS VITAL TO TEXAS' ARCHEOLOGICAL LEGACY

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor, *The Medallion*

Now in its 38th year as a valued statewide resource, the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) program wasn't always such a widespread institution.



In April 1984, then-State Archeologist Robert J. Mallouf invited a small group of avocational archeologists to Austin to discuss creating a network of volunteers. Only seven people heeded the call and agreed to participate in the TASN program.

By the end of the program's inaugural year, 10 individuals agreed to serve as volunteer archeological "stewards." The program continues to serve as inspiration for other states seeking to maximize their effectiveness through capable and motivated volunteers.

The TASN is considered one of the most innovative and successful programs of its kind and has served as a model for similar programs around the country. Stewards devote thousands of hours each year to a broad range of tasks, including finding, recording, and monitoring archeological sites; helping obtain protective designations for important sites and recording private artifact collections; giving talks to schools and preservation groups; conducting emergency or "salvage" archeology on threatened sites; and organizing events during Texas Archeology Month each October.

"The stewards are known for their landowner assistance and public outreach," says the THC's Rebecca Shelton, TASN program coordinator. "A lot of them are subject-matter experts who regularly provide our archeologists with insight into detailed research or identification of rare artifacts. Many are also ranchers, landowners, and master naturalists, so they have a keen understanding of the environment."

When asked to identify a steward who had made an exceptional impact, Shelton admitted it was extremely challenging to choose just one. However, she said that over the last year, Johnney Pollan, who served as a Harris County steward since 1990, was especially helpful with planning sessions and online workshops as part of the national Partners for Archaeological Site Stewardship. Sadly, Pollan passed away in April, leaving the Stewards community in mourning and reflecting on his many valuable contributions.

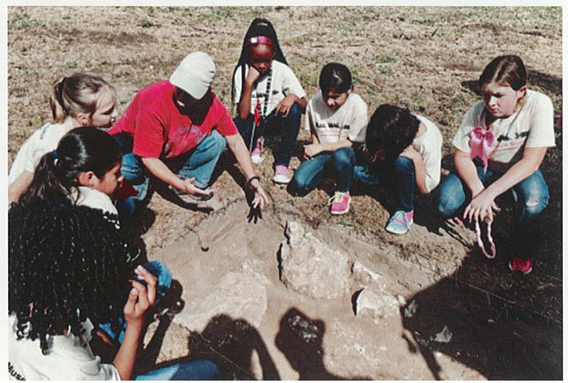
"Johnney was an amazing person, and we'll greatly miss his generous spirit and dedication," Shelton said. "His awareness of the importance of training, continuing education, public outreach, and collaborating with other organizations created a robust discussion across all the participating site steward organizations."

According to Shelton, the TASN program is a valuable resource for Texans because it allows the THC's Archeology Division staff to address the vast number of archeological inquiries it receives each year and meet the public's needs for guidance in preservation and education.

"The Stewards are invaluable because they provide landowner assistance throughout the state, participate in public outreach to communities and schoolchildren, and guide county historical commissioners in their mission to identify, preserve, and protect the cultural resources of Texas," she said. "I don't know what we'd do without them!"

To learn more about the Stewards program, visit thc.texas.gov/tasn.

ABOVE: The Stewards Network started in 1984 with a small group of volunteers led by State Archeologist Robert Mallouf (undated THC photo). BELOW: TASN avocational archeologists work with students and other volunteer groups throughout Texas.



NEWS BRIEFS

THC PRESENTS PRESERVATION AWARDS

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently honored worthy recipients for accomplishments and exemplary leadership in the preservation of Texas' heritage.

The Governor's Award for Historic Preservation was presented to Texas Dance Hall Preservation from Austin for its initiative and efforts to help historic dance halls stay open during the unprecedented events of 2020.



Attending the recent Governor's Award presentation are, from left: THC Chairman John L. Nau, III, THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe, the THC's Charles Sadnick, Texas Dancehall Preservation's Deborah Fleming, Gov. Greg Abbott, and Dancehall Preservation's Stephen Ray and Jake Dromgoole.

Christopher Lintz of Austin received the Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology for his longtime commitment to historic preservation, contributions to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and his extensive work on historical Plains archeology.

The Anice B. Read Award of Excellence in Community Heritage Development was presented to Beverly Abell for her work leading the Mesquite Main Street Program and positively impacting downtown revitalization in Texas.

The Award of Excellence in Preserving History was awarded to the Southlake Historical Society for its exhibit, "Bob and Almeady Chisum Jones: A True Story of Resilience, Courage and Success," which contributed to understanding the story of the Jones family, former slaves turned successful farm and ranch owners.

MRE Capital of Annapolis, Md. received the Award of Excellence in Historic Architecture for its commitment to restoring and rehabilitating significant historic properties through several financial incentive programs.

The Award of Excellence in Media Achievement went to "Texas Time Travel Stories," Radio Caravan with Shabnam Modgil of Dallas for providing a unique opportunity for smaller heritage travel destinations—including museums, communities, and state historic sites—to market their offerings to new audiences.

B.F. Hicks of Mount Vernon received the John Ben Shepperd County Historical Commission Leadership Award for his contributions to the Franklin County Historical Commission and his influence on many area preservation organizations that he supports through membership, board leadership, and professional in-kind services.

Graciela Gonzales of Alice received the George Christian Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award for her dedication and service to Duval County, including creating and maintaining partnerships with neighboring preservation organizations and securing funding for the Duval County Courthouse restoration.

The John L. Nau, III Award for Excellence in Museums was presented to the Bell County Museum for extensive research and innovative exhibit practices that created an intentionally relevant, holistic, and theme-based history exhibit that inspired broader understanding about societal and economic trends inside and outside Bell County.

The Ruth Lester Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Marshall J. Doke, Jr. of Dallas for his work as a longtime advocate, volunteer, and donor supporting historic preservation in Texas, including his work with the Texas Historical Foundation.

The 2021 Texas Land Title Association Award for Outstanding Courthouse Stewardship—designed to recognize counties that have established good stewardship practices to maintain courthouses in restored condition—was presented to Lamar County. The county courthouse has been conscientiously maintained since it was restored in 2002.

Most award recipients received their honors at the February Real Places 2022 conference in Austin (realplaces.us).

For more information about the agency's Preservation Awards, visit thc.texas.gov/awards. Awards guidelines for 2022 are now available; the application period is May 1–July 15.

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

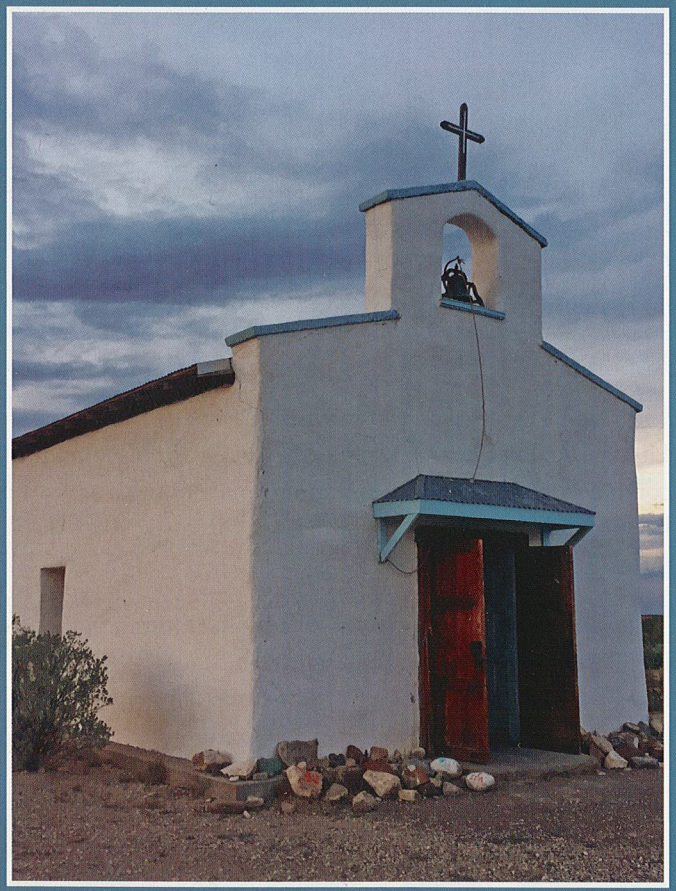
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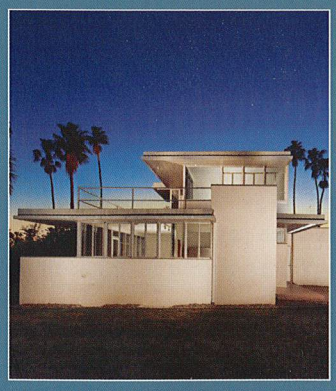
WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

KNOW YOUR TEXAS HISTORY? Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Send your answer to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 or email to medallion@thc.texas.gov. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

NEED A CLUE? This charming West Texas adobe church was built in 1925 and served area settlements for several decades. Its congregation was established in 1902, and the mission was named a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 2010.



ANSWER TO THE PHOTO FROM THE LAST ISSUE: The photo at left is the 1937 George Kraigher House in Brownsville. Designed by nationally renowned modernist architect Richard Neutra, the house was once on Preservation Texas' most endangered list but now provides space for community organizations.



Congratulations and eventual prizes go to the first readers who correctly identified the site: Jason Gray of Rowlett, Anne Bergstrom Hunt of Austin, and Tara Putegnat of Brownsville. Thanks to all who participated!