

# *in* SITU



The Newsletter of The Dallas Archeological Society

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www.dallasarcheology.org

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**Thursday**

**May 21, 2009**

**8:00 PM**

**Room 153, Heroy  
Building, SMU**

Map and directions  
on page 7

## Guest Speaker: Jay Blaine

### ONE MAN'S JUNK IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE: REVEALING THE TREASURE OF LA BELLE AND FORT ST. LOUIS

#### Abstract:

Jay Blaine will share his views regarding the process of recovering historical information from the corroded artifacts found within the hull of La Belle and at Fort St. Louis. Jay will discuss the process of recovering intricate details from globs of corroded metal and will provide his interpretation of the finds related to the French entrada along the Gulf Coast.



#### Bio:

In 2007, Jay Blaine received the SAA's Crabtree Award, which recognizes an individual who has little formal archeological training, but has made significant and outstanding contributions to archeology. Jay has been a leading researcher, conservator, and expert related to historic period artifacts found in Texas and surrounding states.

Professional archeologists have sought his expertise for over 40 years. For example, Jay has examined materials from historic period Caddo and Wichita sites, provided expertise in relation to the artifacts recovered from La Belle and Fort St. Louis, directed the conservation of the funerary hardware from Freedman's Cemetery, and evaluated numerous artifacts potentially related to the Coronado and De Soto expeditions.

Jay has always stirred debate with probing questions and a frankness that demanded honesty concerning the facts. Jay has always been a professional in his quest for knowledge.



**Please join us and  
bring a friend!**

**Please join us for dinner at Peggy Sue's Barbecue at 6:30 pm before each regular monthly meeting. Everyone is welcome.**



# What's Happening

## TAS Field School

June 13–June 20, 2009

Near Perryton

PI—Scott Brosowske

Camp Boss—Dempsey Malaney

Campground at Wolf Creek Park and Lake Fryer in Cochiltee Co. 15 miles from Perryton

Catered dinners on: Sat., June 13 and Fri., June 19

More information and registration forms can be found at:

[www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org)

## Pecos Experience:

### The Art and Archeology of the Lower Pecos

#### Shumla

October 11-16, 2009

This week long program offers the opportunity to visit sites that are usually unavailable to the public. You will be part of a limited group seeing these images while hearing and taking part in discussions with Dr. Jean Clottes, Dr. Carolyn Boyd and Mr. Elton R. Prewitt.

To visit sites during this program, participants must be able to hike in rugged, steep terrain, often in high temperatures.



#### Participants will:

- ◆ Experience unequalled access to 4,000 year old pictograph sites.
- ◆ Hear evening lectures and discussions between Dr. Clottes and Dr. Boyd as they compare and contrast the function and meaning of Lower Pecos rock art with imagery from around the world.
- ◆ Help fire an earth oven with archeobotanist Dr. Phil Dering while learning how these ovens were constructed and used to bake the desert plants required by prehistoric peoples of the area.
- ◆ Learn about primitive technologies including weaving and cordage production, paint making, fire starting, and atlatl spear-throwing with Neal Stilley, Steve and Brenda Norman and Angel and Jack Johnson
- ◆ Study hunter-gatherer lifestyles and come to understand how people survived in the Lower Pecos Region 4,000 years ago.
- ◆

For more information e-mail [programs@shumla.org](mailto:programs@shumla.org)

Phone 432-292-4848

[www.shumla.org](http://www.shumla.org)

#### Native American Quote

*"Don't walk  
behind me, I may  
not lead. Don't  
walk in front of  
me; I may not  
follow. Walk  
beside me that  
we may be as  
one.."*

*(Ute)*

# ARCHEOLOGY IN THE NEWS

## Mounds Yield Anomaly

The 5,000-year-old LSU Mounds recently shared one of its a deeply buried secrets. A fall semester geo-archaeology class led by professor Brooks Ellwood was studying the LSU Mounds when an “anomaly” was discovered deep inside the mounds. In early April 2009, a team of Louisiana's top archaeologists took core samples of the mound. These core samples were taken from a depth of more than 5 meters into the mounds. This was the first deep sampling since the mounds were first dated in 1982.

“This was a big surprise, this huge anomaly,” Ellwood said after preliminarily analyzing a “charcoal horizon” detected in the core samples that might have caused the anomaly. Ellwood said “It’s a localized burn, so it could be a pit barbecue or it could be — although it’s never been seen — they cremated someone here.”

By studying the core samples archeologist hope to learn more about the LSU Mounds. The samples may provide insight into the exact age of the mounds, how they were built and how long it took and why. Pollen taken from the core samples will also be studied to learn clues about the climate when the mounds were being built and used.

Rebecca Saunders, archaeology professor and associate curator of the LSU Museum of Natural Science said that “the mounds, commonly called the Indian Mounds, are believed to have been used for ceremonial and marking point purposes.” Less than 30 years ago the common belief was that Native Americans could not have built the mounds 5,000 years ago. It was believed that Native Americans were generally nomadic hunters and gatherers and that agriculture and tribal chiefs were needed before such structures would be built. Saunders said “The Lower Mississippi delta region was much of the continent’s foundation for early life.”

Very little is known about the mounds, the people who made them, how they were used and why they built two mounds. Ellwood said “so little is known about these mounds that anything, learned is great news.” Sampling the mounds showed that the northern LSU mound is made partly of more porous dirt and more saturated with water. The southern mound is made of a harder clay dirt. Despite the differing materials, Ellwood said, data indicates that they were built simultaneously and they have similar markers from when extended breaks were taken during construction. The ancient people would build portions, travel for months and then return.

Louisiana is home to hundreds of prehistoric American Indian mounds that are among the oldest on the continent. The two LSU Mounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The states oldest mounds the Monte Sano mounds (dated to 7,000 years ago) north of the state capitol have been destroyed. The Frenchman’s Bend and Watson Brake mounds near Monroe are believed to be about 5,500 years old are the state’s oldest surviving mounds.

Source: Advocate Capitol News Bureau  
April 16, 2009





# Experiences, Memories or Thoughts

## Where It All Started

By Dub Crook

My earliest memories of doing archeology involved field excursions with members of the Dallas Archeological Society. At age 3, my father, Wilson W. Crook, Jr. and King Harris used to take me to the Gilbert site where they would place me around old ant mounds to look for glass trade beads while they explored other portions of the site. It was visits to places like the Wheeler site (41DL30), Lewisville (41DN6) and Upper Rockwall (41RW2) that I learned the difference between the Paleo-Indian, Archaic and Late Prehistoric cultures of north-central Texas. It was from early DAS pioneers like J.B. Sollberger, Lester Wilson, King and my father that I learned how to excavate unit squares, identify the various dart and arrow point types and how to clean and preserve pottery sherds. And more importantly, it was from these mentors that I learned the most valuable lesson of archeological research which is no matter how much you may know, nothing becomes true "knowledge" until it is published. There is no way I can ever repay the members of DAS who over the years contributed to my "archeological education." I only hope that the research I have done in conjunction with my long time friends and field partner, Mark Hughston, has in some small way continued the tradition established by these truly greats of Texas Archeology.

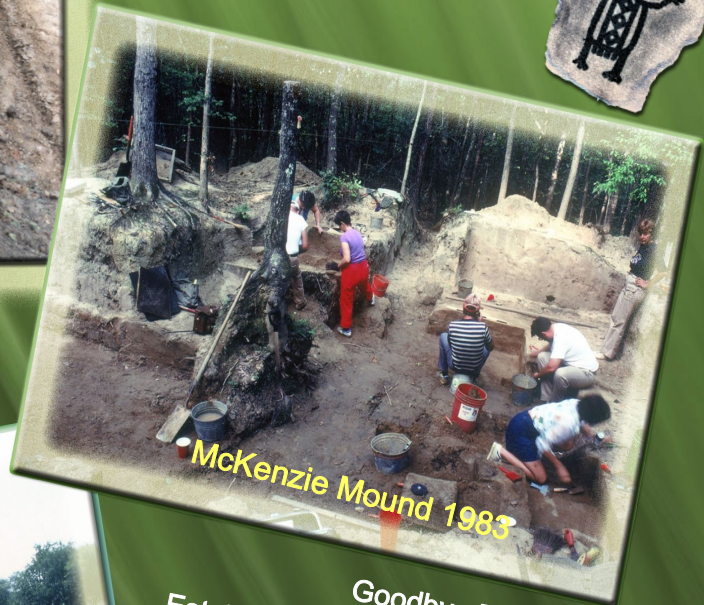
Years ago as a 19 year old college student, I published my first professional article on a site in Hunt County (the "Jordan Mounds") in an issue of The Record. At the time, the editor was Alan Skinner who recognized the need to encourage rather than discourage a young would-be archeologist. As a result, Alan worked to steer me and my co-author Mark Hughston, toward a much more professional paper which was ultimately published in The Record in the fall of 1972. During the course of the editing process, I began to learn what it took to write a concise scientific article. I now have over 100 professional papers to my name in a number of different fields, 38 of which are on various subjects of archeology. But I will always fondly remember my first article in The Record which inspired me to both continue my research and to publish my findings as well.

# DAS Digging Here and There



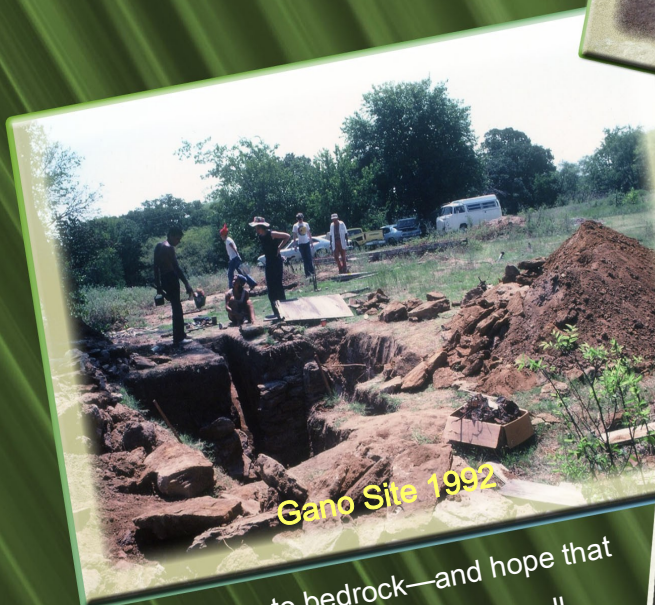
Walters Site 1982

Basin Hearth



McKenzie Mound 1983

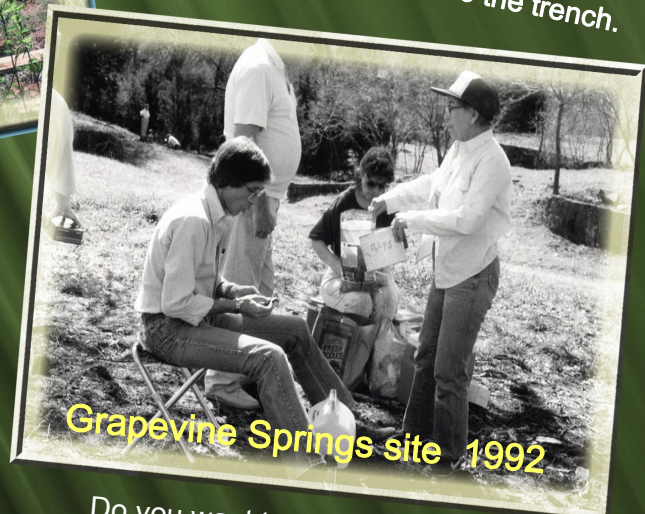
Goodbye Datum  
Established a datum off the site at top of a  
topless tree stump. Opened more site area  
and datum stump toppled into the trench.



Gano Site 1992

Take it down to bedrock—and hope that  
you don't end up in a cellar or well.

Photos by:  
Paul Lorrain



Grapevine Springs site 1992

Do you want to sit or stand?



## Looking Back

By Duane Peter

My memories of the DAS go back to the mid-1970s. We had moved to Dallas in August of 1974. It was likely in the Spring or Fall of 1975 that my then young family accompanied me to the Gano site to participate in a DAS dig. Paul Lorraine, Doyle Granbury, and Ruth Ann Ericson were prominent participants at that time. My association with the DAS has waxed and waned since then, depending upon field work and my career. However, as a student at SMU, I will always remember the DAS meetings of the 70s and 80s. Speakers were often prominent archaeologists or avocationalists working in Texas or elsewhere; there was often standing room only in Room 153 of the Heroy Building and SMU professors were frequently present.

My association with DAS has included serving as an advisor, an officer, and serving as the Program Chairman for the last TAS meeting sponsored by the DAS in Dallas. The DAS sponsored a very successful meeting that year, likely in the late 1980s, but I do not recall the exact year.

The DAS has supported a number of projects that I have been involved in over the years. The Public Dig at the Penn Farmstead at Joe Pool Lake and the Archaeology Fair sponsored by Geo-Marine, Inc. and The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation are two primary examples. J. B. Solberger generously contributed his talents to a lithic reduction replication study that Dan McGregor and I conducted in the late 1980s.

My memories of the DAS really are most vivid in relation to the characters that have been involved over the years. I interacted with the likes of King Harris, J.B. Sollberger, Jay Blaine, Bill Young, and Paul Lorraine, all avocationalists, but truly professionals in their pursuit of knowledge. More importantly, they shared that knowledge with anyone who was willing to listen. Bonnie and I have also enjoyed the camaraderie of the many events and the friendships that have developed over the years. We thank everyone involved over the years for a truly memorable experience. It is with some sadness that we are closing a chapter in the history of archeology in north-central Texas.

## Farewell DAS

By Bonnie Peter

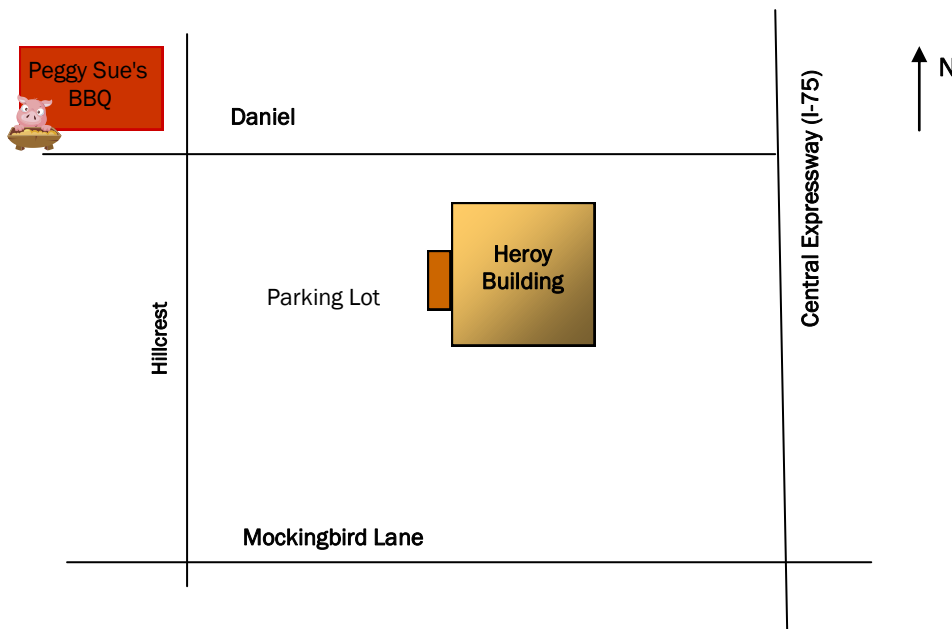
It is with regret and sadness that we bid farewell to the Dallas Archeological Society. In its 73 years it has brought many avocationalists and professional archaeologists together to share their knowledge and skills. The DAS has helped to spark interest in archaeology and has advanced careers of some the members. We encourage you to join other archaeological groups in the area and to continue pursuing your interest in archaeology.

May 21, 2009 will be the last meeting of the DAS and this will be the last issue of the *in SITU*. Thank you to all of you who have been committed to the DAS and worked hard to keep the society going.



## Directions to Meeting Place

The monthly meeting is in the Heroy Building at SMU. Take Central Expressway to Mockingbird and go west. Turn right on Hillcrest. Take Hillcrest to Daniel and turn east. Go about a block and turn south into the parking lot. The gate barrier will be up, allowing us in. (There's a small planetarium in the lot.) The entrance to the building faces the lot.



## in Situ

*in Situ* is the official newsletter of the Dallas Archeological Society (DAS). The DAS is a nonprofit membership organization serving the needs of professionals and interested avocationalists in the field of archeology.

Opinions expressed in newsletter articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the DAS. *in Situ* is published monthly, September through May. If you would like to share information about one of your projects or other interesting information, please submit a short article to Bonnie Peter at [DASinsitu@verizon.net](mailto:DASinsitu@verizon.net). In the subject line please note that this is an article for DAS newsletter.

*We are on the web*  
***dallasarcheology.org***

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