

# JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2014, ISSUE 5

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

October is Texas Archeology Month. The mini-museum has a great exhibit curated by Brenda Jackson of the work done by Paul Tanner, who passed away earlier this year, documenting the archeological finds down on McFaddin Beach. Paul's efforts to identify and map the pre-historical deposits along our coast will be invaluable research materials for Texas archeologists for years to come.

Thank you to our members for your time and service.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



JCHC members assist with a dig at the historic Spindletop site in March, 2011.  
Photo Credit: Theresa Goodness

### VOLUME 2014, ISSUE 5

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### SEPTEMBER, 2014

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Next Meeting.
- \* Volunteer Hours.
- \* Mini-museum
- \* CLG News

## TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

"The Texas Archeological Society promotes study, preservation and awareness of Texas archeology. The Society encourages scientific archeological exploration and

research, the preservation and conservation of archeological materials and sites, and the interpretation and publication of the data attendant thereto." Please visit their

website at [www.txarch.org](http://www.txarch.org) and consider joining this valuable organization. Thanks to JCHC member, Brenda Jackson, for sharing this information.

## TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH

The Texas Historical Commission has some great online resources for learning about archeology in Texas: [Texas Archeology Resource Publications](#)

Some [Fast Facts](#) from THC about archeology in the state:

### Regional Archeology

**1500 years ago**

Bow and arrow was introduced to Texas

**13,000 years**

Age of Oldest Known Archeological Sites in Texas

**2,166**

Archeological sites recorded in 2012

**75,835**

Archeological sites recorded in Texas, as of November 2013

**More than 90%**

of archeological sites in Texas are privately owned

### NEXT JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2014

September 25, 2014

Noon

Ben Rogers Regional Visitors Center  
5055 I-H 10 South, Beaumont, TX

December 11, 2014

Noon

To Be Announced

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

Any work in the preservation or promotion of Jefferson County History may be counted toward your volunteer hours. JCHC meetings and travel time to and from meetings also count as volunteer hours. Members are reminded that at least 50 hours of volunteer work per year is required of each member. (Emeritus members do not have to meet this requirement.)

Also with the number of hours, JCHC needs a general description of work performed, for example: 3 Hours – Marker Survey.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 409-835-8701 or contact Linda via email at [histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us](mailto:histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us)

### PRESERVATION PARTNERS

Beaumont Heritage Society  
Landmark Commission  
Texas Historical Foundation  
Friends of Sabine Pass Park  
Beaumont Main Street  
Museum of the Gulf Coast

# HISTORIC DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE

## HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Join us in Conroe for a roundtable on historic districts, how they're established, their impact on communities and how federal & tax credit programs can be utilized.

**September 19, 2014**

**9:00 am – 2:30 pm**

**City of Conroe City Hall  
300 W. Davis  
Conroe, TX 77301**



**Sponsored by the Texas Downtown Association**



**Register today!**

**\$35.00**

**Register online by  
September 12**

**\$40.00  
at the door**

[Click here to register  
online now](#)

### ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

**Registration**

**Introductions**

**How Historic Districts Contribute to Preservation Programs**

*Evan Thompson, Preservation Texas*

**Houston Historic Districts**

*Diana DuCroz, City of Houston*

**Lunch** - Included with registration

**Federal and State Tax Credit Programs**

*Ben Dupuy, Stonehenge Capital*

**Tour of Downtown Conroe**

**8:30 – 9:00 am**

**9:00 – 9:15 am**

**9:15 - 10:00 am**

**10:15 – 11:30 am**

**11:30 am – 12:30 pm**

**12:30 – 1:30 pm**

**1:30 – 2:30 pm**

## IN MEMORIAM: MILDRED WRIGHT

On July 29, 2014, we lost another stalwart emeritus member of JCHC. Mildred Wright, former coordinator of the commission, also known as the “Cemetery Lady”, left these parts glory-bound to seek answers to questions she could not locate in any archives or on headstones in the many cemeteries she documented throughout southeast Texas. An ardent genealogist, Mildred was a member of the Southeast Texas Genealogical Society.

Mildred and her husband, Zelma, made Beaumont their home in 1967, and she joined the commission in the early 1970’s. Her work included marker narratives for the sub-courthouse, the Rainbow Bridge, and the Prisoner of War camp in China, as well as maintaining the mini-museum in the Courthouse. Her most significant work was the publication of several cemetery volumes documenting the location, history, and burials in each. This work has been an invaluable tool to historic researchers, and will continue to be a definitive resource for many years to come.

Mildred was honored with an Award of Merit in Historic Preservation from the Texas Historical Commission for her efforts in uncovering and preserving historic cemeteries. Mildred’s funeral services were held at Broussard’s on McFaddin in Beaumont and burial followed at Magnolia Cemetery. Many members of the commission were on hand to honor her memory and celebrate her life. Her friends and colleagues will miss her quiet dignity and her passion for cemetery preservation.



Mildred Wright

Photo Credit: [Beaumont Enterprise](#)

## **PRESERVATION TEXAS 2014 HONOR AWARDS NOMINATION PROCESS BEGINS**

Preservation Texas invites nominations for its 2014 Honor Awards. The awards ceremony will be held in downtown Houston, Texas on Saturday, November 22, 2014. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, September 19, 2014, at midnight.

The Honor Awards program seeks to recognize exemplary projects, individuals, organizations and programs in historic preservation in Texas. Anyone may submit a nomination through Preservation Texas' online submission process.

Credit: [Preservation Texas website](#)

## **GALVESTON HISTORICAL FOUNDATION'S 1940 SEARS BUILDING TO HOST OPEN HOUSE AND NEON LIGHTING CELEBRATION**

Galveston Island, Texas, September 8, 2014 – What began as Galveston Island's Sears and Roebuck store is now home to one of GHF's more public endeavors. To celebrate the recent exterior restoration work as well as the recently installed neon sign, we're inviting the public for a day of vintage fun at our 1940 Sears's Building, located at 2228 Broadway, on Saturday, September 13th.

From noon until 4 p.m., the Sears Building will be transformed to a 1940's scene with a classic car show, costume contest, treats, beverages and more all afternoon. Admission is free to the public. Owners of 1930-1940's era cars that are interested in entering the contest are asked to contact Jami Durham at 409-750-9108 or [jami.durham@galvestonhistory.org](mailto:jami.durham@galvestonhistory.org). A full listing of event activities are available online at [www.galvestonhistory.org](http://www.galvestonhistory.org).

The neon sign, recently installed in the same location as the original Sears sign, will be turned on at 8:30 p.m. that evening. GHF purchased the building in late 2012, and set to work immediately with numerous updates and restoration projects. The latest round of rehabilitation work is restoring the exterior of the building back to its 1940's glamour. The location is home to numerous GHF programs including its Architectural Salvage Warehouse, Center for Coastal Heritage, Preservation and Conservation Services and also offers space to related small businesses and non-profits.

"GHF's presence on Broadway is a major step forward to improve the appearance of the street and increase our visibility," states GHF Executive Director Dwayne Jones. "We are very excited about the installation of a new neon sign much like the historic Sears sign from the 1940s. The brilliant neon, and restoration work of the building itself, will make a strong statement for GHF and improve Broadway as an entrance to the downtown."

For more information on the Sears Building Dedication, please contact Will Wright, Director of Communications and Special Events at 409-765-3404 or at [will.wright@galvestonhistory.org](mailto:will.wright@galvestonhistory.org).

Credit: Galveston Historical Foundation press release



**A LITTLE HUMOR  
FROM LESLIE MCMAHEN**



**REGIONAL COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING  
IN LIBERTY COUNTY**

The Liberty County Historical Commission invites you to attend a Regional Commission meeting in Liberty, Texas on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in our new commission office and meeting facility, 318 San Jacinto Street in the A.J. “Jack” Hartel County Community Center. Please plan on attending this event to share your commission plans, projects, tools and “how to-s!” This is an exciting and successful way to share and implement new ideas to energize and grow your CHC!

We would like to share ideas that have been successful in our commission and want you to share your success and ideas! A few topics of discussion:

Fundraising

Programs and the Public

County Marker Programs

Cemetery and Endangered Sites

How to Get Your “Fair Share” of the County Budget

We will have a “Meet and Greet” from 10:00-10:30 a.m. with meeting starting at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided, reservations required. Encourage all CHC appointees to attend. Please RSVP by September 24<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE JOIN US!

*Liberty County Historical Commission*

*Linda Jamison, Chair*

[linda4aud@imsday.com](mailto:linda4aud@imsday.com) or phone: 936-258-9141

## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

### Museum of the Gulf Coast

Storytelling Through the Mail: Tall Tale Postcards

August 23—November 16, 2014

Exhibit features more than 80 examples of tall-tale postcards from around the United States, which demonstrate a unique form of humor dating back to the early twentieth century. Exhibit is a production of the Michigan State University Museum.



Museum of the Gulf Coast

Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



Chambers House

Photo Credit: chambershouse.org

### Beaumont Heritage Society - Projects

In addition to our general museum services, we provide tours for 7th grade BISD students as a part of the Texas history curriculum, a Christmas Candlelight tour; summer camp; and other miscellaneous events and services.

We have also recently been involved in preserving two historical houses in the city of Beaumont that were slated for demolition. The Beaumont Heritage Society will continue to work to become a strong voice for preservation of the community.

### McFaddin Ward House

**Lecture: "Early Beaumont" September 18 @ 6:30 - 9:00 pm**

Join us September 18th, as Rob Blain joins us to talk about his new book Early Beaumont. A native son of Beaumont—educated at both Beaumont High and Lamar University—Blain's new book is the latest addition to Arcadia Publishing's popular "Images of America" series. In his talk at the McFaddin-Ward House, Blain will detail the story of those early days in Beaumont, from the settlers at Tevis Bluff, to that infamous oil gusher, on through the second Spindletop in 1925; As always, this lecture is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the talk begins at 6:30. A reception will follow, along with an opportunity to buy signed copies of Early Beaumont.



McFaddin Ward House

Photo Credit: mcfaddin-ward.org

**JEFFERSON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

1149 Pearl Street  
Third Floor  
Beaumont, TX 77701

Tel: 409-835-8701

E-mail:

histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us  
Linda McMahan, Coordinator



*To preserve and  
promote history within  
the County.*

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We're on the web!  
<http://co.jefferson.tx.us/>

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Spindletop Dig  
Finds  
Photo Credit:  
Theresa Goodness



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2013 - 2014

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Prosperie

Immediate Past Chairman, Ron Ellington

**PAUL TANNER'S PASSION FOR  
ARCHEOLOGY REMEMBERED  
JCHC MINI-MUSEUM  
SEPTEMBER, 2014**

Each year the Texas Historical Commission, along with the Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC), celebrate October as Texas Archeology Month. It is also appropriate that this is the month we are celebrating the life of former member Paul Tanner who passed away in January of this year. For many years, Paul served as the Archeology Chair for the JCHC.

Paul, an amateur scientist, helped preserve Texas Prehistory. His records and collection of artifacts from McFaddin Beach are permanently curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin. Some of his personal finds

were also donated to the Jefferson County Historical Commission archives.

Paul, a quiet gentle man, will be greatly missed.

Many thanks to JCHC member Brenda Jackson, Volunteer Archeological Steward, for her hard work in putting the mini-museum exhibit together which includes photos of Paul with his collections and documentation of his many archeology finds on McFaddin Beach.

The exhibit will be on display until the restoration of the first floor of the courthouse gets underway.