

# JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2018, ISSUE 5

## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

October is Texas Archeology Month. The Handbook of Texas mentions some of the archeological sites located within our county which include six burial mounds discovered at the site of the Grigsby plantation at Port Neches which may be attributed to the Atakapa Indians and pottery shards found on Sabine Lake. Paul Tanner, our own JCHC member, found and documented many artifacts on McFaddin Beach. Scientific archeological digs have been conducted at the French House site and the historic site of Gladys City near Spindletop. Recently local media inquired about a cache of old bottles found during road work near the Beaumont Yacht Club which may be the site of the City of Beaumont's old landfill. We never know what discoveries lay ahead!

Thank you to all of our members for your time and service in preserving our history. Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



Purex Bottle found during road work near Beaumont Yacht Club

Photo Credit:  
Theresa Goodness

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### SEPTEMBER, 2018

#### Special points of interest:

- \* Jefferson County Fast Facts
- \* Area Museum Upcoming Events

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FAST FACTS

**1856**

Date of first steam sawmill in Beaumont. Shingle manufacturing, lumber industry and shipbuilding grew out of the abundance of natural timber resources.

**17**

Number of tax supported schools in Jefferson County in 1882. The public school system was first established in 1881.

**250 acres**

Average farm size in Jefferson County in 1930's. During the Great Depression owner and tenant farmer numbers were almost equal in numbers. Rice, cotton, corn, other feed crops, figs, and truck crops were all grown.

## TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### TEXAS HISTORY CHALLENGE IS BACK FROM SUMMER VACATION

TSHA's popular online game is re-launching this month with new trivia contests and more chances to win awesome prizes! Open to students and adults, Texas History Challenge allows you to compete with your friends, family, and players across the country to see who knows Texas history the best.

New questions and prizes are released each month. To play, simply register for an account—or sign in if you already have one—and complete all three trivia rounds for the month of September. The student and adult with the highest scores in the final round will each win a prize, courtesy of TSHA!

Sign in and join the contest today!

Credit: [Texas State Historical Association website](http://www.tsha.org)

September 2018 Prize Giveaway

Photo Credit: [Texas State Historical Association website](http://www.tsha.org)



### UPCOMING JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2018

Meetings to be held at Jefferson County Courthouse, 1149 Pearl Street, 3rd Floor, Beaumont, TX 77701 in the JCHC Conference Room.

- 9/19/2018 at Noon
- 11/14/2018 at Noon

#### VOLUNTEER HOURS AND MEMBERSHIP

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.

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  
Beaumont Landmark Commission  
Port Arthur Landmark Commission  
Texas Historical Foundation  
Beaumont Main Street  
Museum of the Gulf Coast

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION NEWS

## TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH

The [2018 Texas Archeology Month Online Calendar of Events](#) is now posted! Go take a look and start planning your Texas Archeology Month!

Each October, [Texas Archeology Month](#) (TAM) celebrates this spirit of discovery. It's an opportunity for Texans to understand the:

- Depth and richness of our heritage, from the former dwelling sites of prehistoric hunters and gatherers to historic shipwrecks and military sites
- Historical significance of the state's archeological sites
- Importance of proper archeological practices

Contributions made by professional and avocational archeologists to our understanding of Texas' ancient and recent past.

Texas Archeology Month is a month-long celebration of Texas' archeological heritage observed each October.

Numerous organizations and institutions host public events to heighten awareness and appreciation of this heritage in communities across the state. Special TAM events may include:

- Demonstrations of native crafts and technologies
- Lectures on archeological topics
- Special education exhibits that focus on archeological sites or subjects
- Tours of archeological sites, laboratories, or exhibits
- Hands-on activities, such as mock digs and ceramic pot making

Credit: [Texas Historical Commission website](#)



Photo Credit: [Texas Historical Commission website](#)

## NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION NEWS

- In August the National Park Service celebrated 102 years in existence. Commemorate the connections between national parks and historic preservation with these [stories](#).
- National Treasures - with your support, we're identifying endangered [National Treasures](#) and taking action to save them.
- [Historic Sites](#) - Plan your visit to one of these unique places.
- [Historic Route 66](#) - Travel with us on an epic trip along the Mother Road, and help preserve an iconic piece of Americana.
- [Fix Our Parks](#) - We need a reliable, dedicated federal funding source to address the deferred maintenance backlog to our national parks.
- Discover [America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places for 2018](#).
- [ReUrbanism](#) - Adaptive Reuse should be the default, and demolition a last resort.

Credit: [National Trust for Historic Preservation website](#)

Photo Credit: [National Trust for Historic Preservation website](#)



“The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased; and not impaired in value.”

— President Theodore Roosevelt



## AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

### Museum of the Gulf Coast

Opening August 18, 2018

#### THE GREAT OUTDOORS WITH ED HOLDER -

Local photographer, outdoorsman, and conservationist Ed Holder enjoyed a long career with both the *Port Arthur News* and the *Beaumont Enterprise*.

Featured are a selection of his photos, vintage hunting and fishing items, and cameras.

Credit: [Museum of the Gulf Coast website](http://MuseumoftheGulfCoast.org)



Museum of the Gulf Coast

Photo Credit: [museumofthegulfcoast.org](http://museumofthegulfcoast.org)



Photo Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](http://BeaumontHeritageSociety.org)

### Beaumont Heritage Society

October 20, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Get ready for our annual Beaumont Heritage Society Pumpkin Walk and Haunted Halloween Tour taking place on the grounds of the historic John Jay French Museum! Use your creativity to decorate or carve a pumpkin and enter it in our contest. The "Best" pumpkin in several categories will be selected by ballot and prizes will be awarded, so gather your friends and family to come vote on your favorites! This event will also include a "haunted" tour of the 1845 French home with costumed actors portraying departed French family members, a haunted hay ride of the grounds, and a pumpkin craft for the kids (while they last).

Credit: [Beaumont Heritage Society website](http://BeaumontHeritageSociety.org)

### McFaddin-Ward House Museum

DNA: The New Way to Meet Your Relatives

September 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Join us this month as we welcome the founder of the world's first commercial DNA kit, Family Tree DNA. Bennett Greenspan will speak about the new popularity of DNA science and how it is helping people around the globe to discover their roots.

Come early. We expect a crowd and there is no saving of seats. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Lecture is FREE.

Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](http://McFaddin-WardHouseMuseum.org)



McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Photo Credit: [McFaddin-Ward House Museum website](http://McFaddin-WardHouseMuseum.org)

**JEFFERSON  
COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION**

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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/  
Historical\\_Commission/](http://co.jefferson.tx.us/Historical_Commission/)

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Bottle found during  
roadwork near Beaumont  
Yacht Club  
Credit: Theresa Goodness



Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2017 - 2018

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

1st Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

2nd Vice-Chairman, Paul Prosperie

Secretary/Treasurer, Linda McMahan

Brenda Jackson

**JCHC MINI-MUSEUM  
"TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH"**



Leslie "Paul" Tanner and his collection of Artifacts

Photo Credit: JCHC archives

The Texas Historical Commission shares: "If the history of human experience in Texas were a book, most of the pages would be blank. For all we know about human cultures, lives, and activities in Texas, many more stories of Texas' past remain unknown and await discovery. Each October, Texas Archeology Month celebrates this spirit of discovery."

Each year the Texas Historical Commission, along with the Jefferson County Historical Commission, celebrates Texas Archeology Month. An exhibit highlighting local projects and discoveries will be on display in the Jefferson County Mini-Museum October 1 – November 30, 2018.

Some of the information included will be from the collection of JCHC member Paul Tanner (deceased).

The museum is located on the first floor of the historic Courthouse.