



Armand Bayou Nature Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Digging up the Past

Pasadena, TX –2/13/2010—Ever wonder what happened eons ago before European settlers arrived on the shores of Galveston Bay? Find out in March as Armand Bayou Nature Center's **Second Saturday** explores the archaeology and history of the area. March 13 promises to be a day of discovery as speakers and exhibitors bring the past to life. The nature center, located at 8500 Bay Area Boulevard in Pasadena hosts its monthly event to help local residents connect with nature close to home.

Alecya Gallaway, award-winning, environmental historian with the University of Houston Clear Lake, talks about ethnobotany of the Armand Bayou watershed. More simply, how people of an earlier culture used plants found in this area. Gallaway further explains, "For nearly a century archeologists have been locating Native American campsites by the vegetation on them. This change is generally attributed to the change in soil, but after traveling throughout the Galveston Bay Region I recognized that these plants were more than soil indicators; they are a living record of plants used by the tribes living there." Plants were not only used for food, but also for medicine, shelter, clothing and even ceremonies. Gallaway has spent years studying and writing about the histories of local communities around Galveston Bay and always delights audiences with her presentations.

Tom Nuckols, a member and past president of the Houston Archaeological Society, talks about Upper Texas Coast archaeology with a little archaeology 101 thrown in for those just developing

an interest in this fascinating subject. Having worked on both historic and prehistoric sites in Texas and more specifically on sites at ABNC, Tom brings a wealth of exciting information to the program.

For those wanting to really get the feel of previous cultures, Elizabeth Aucoin, a local anthropologist brings a hands-on exhibit of pottery sherds, bones and projectile points. Aucoin, a member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network has participated in several major excavation sites in Texas and shares her knowledge of a Coastal Shell Midden Site.

Bring the kids for even more fun as they participate in an *archaeological dig* of their own.

Admission to **Second Saturdays** is free to members, \$3 for non-member adults and \$1 for children 4-12 and seniors 60 and older. For more information, phone 281-474-2551.

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