

Quick News from San Felipe de Austin

Greetings, Friends - At this year's annual meeting in September, President Carolyn Bilski encouraged the site staff to send a brief newsletter to members every other month or so. Enjoy this November issue.

Ceremonial Groundbreaking Event – Thursday, October 20th, 2016



Here are a couple of shots from the shovel-slinging – the first with event VIPs: THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe, THC Friends Chairwoman Lareatha Clay, District 13 State Rep Leighton Schubert, THC Commission Chairman John Nau, III, District 18 State Senator Lois Kolkhorst, longtime site champion and former Friends President Florence Sims, and current Friends President Carolyn Bilski. The second image is your Friends boardmembers in attendance. Approximately 225 stakeholders and supporters came out for the event. We also hosted 4th grade students from Stephen F. Austin Elementary in Richmond. The Descendants of Austin's Old 300 had a strong turnout with about 40 members in attendance.



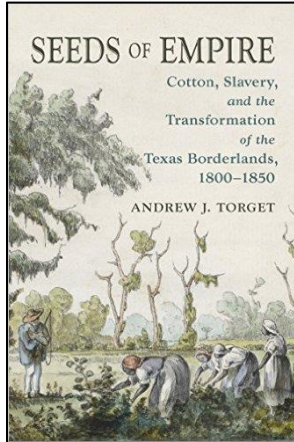
Students enjoyed an array of programs including a temporary exhibit of site artifacts (overseen by THC Chief Curator Laura DeNormandie), an active archeology dig (presentation by Coastal Environments partner Missi Green) and a session on the Travis letter by Presidio La Bahia director Scott McMahon.



A view of the crowd during Chairman Nau's remarks about the museum development project for San Felipe de Austin SHS.

Celebrate Stephen F. Austin and his Colony in November

The first three Saturdays of the month you can enjoy special programming at San Felipe de Austin. Check our website for scheduled activities (www.visitsanfelipedeastin.com). On November 12th a number of exciting things are happening: an author presentation by University of North Texas professor Dr. Andrew Torget (11:00 a.m.), the annual plate lunch fundraiser and a marker dedication (1:30) for the Methodist Church. Consider supporting the site by Christmas shopping in our museum store this season. We will have several copies of the Phil Collins coffee table book soon.



Dr. Andrew Torget is a great friend of the San Felipe de Austin SHS, and served on the Historian Roundtable in 2015 that analyzed recent site scholarship by Michael Moore. Dr. Torget will talk about his recent book and will sign copies for attendees. To ensure you get a copy, call the site to purchase in advance (979.885.2181). The program will begin at 11:00 on Saturday, November 12th.



Capital Campaign News

Donations accepted at the site in FY 2017 (Sept. 2016 to Aug. 2017) will go to support the capital campaign for the new facility. Please encourage your friends and family to make a donation if they visit.



Another great reason to make a visit this fall is to see the new cast iron printing press currently installed at the Josey Store. The press was made possible through a generous donation from Michael Moore that allowed the Friends to make the purchase. The 1839 Hoe & Company press will be a centerpiece of the new museum.

On behalf of the Texas Historical Commission, the site staffers at San Felipe de Austin are thrilled to have such dedicated and supportive Friends. As always, like us on FaceBook to keep up with happenings.

Bryan McAuley, Site Manager