

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

**New Location** Cheddar's • 10601 Westpark Drive  
(the southwest corner of Westpark and Beltway 8)  
Social 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25 Preregistered members; \$30 non-members & walk-ups

**Make your reservations now on-line through the HGS website at [www.hgs.org](http://www.hgs.org)**; or, by calling 713-463-9476 or by e-mail to [Joan@hgs.org](mailto:Joan@hgs.org) (include your name, meeting you are attending, phone number and membership ID#).

## Environmental and Engineering Group Dinner Meeting

by **James G. Foradas**,  
HRA Gray & Pape, LLC.

Environmental and Engineering Dinner Meeting

# Cultural Resource Management and the Earth Science Professional: A Houston Area Perspective

Professional geologists are often involved in the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) or other projects that involve a Cultural Resources Management (CRM) component. One common example is an archaeological survey of a project area (e.g. a well pad site) to partly satisfy requirements for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetland permit. Geologists and archaeologists typically work on different aspects of NEPA projects; therefore many geologists may not be aware of how the business of geology affects and is affected by the CRM process. However, an understanding of CRM is not just useful for the environmental geologist. CRM data can prove useful in understanding the local geology and the historical development of geology and related industries in a region. CRM can be a useful tool for teaching all levels of earth science, and can prove helpful in community service such as the work that HGS is doing with Houston's Project Respect to preserve and restore historic cemeteries across Texas.

This talk is aimed at introducing CRM to the professional geological community in Houston, including earth science teachers. It will begin with a brief introduction to CRM regulations, principles and processes, then use selected case studies from the greater Houston area to illustrate how geologic data have been used to facilitate CRM projects, how geologists and archaeologists can work together to streamline NEPA projects, and how the CRM process benefits the education community.

The focus of this presentation is to demonstrate how Houston's earth science community can benefit from CRM. It is hoped the lecture will provide impetus for developing a more comprehensive HGS Continuing Education Committee workshop on the subject. ■

### Biographical Sketch

Jim Foradas, a Senior Principal Investigator in geoarchaeology for the Houston office of HRA Gray & Pape, LLC, has over 20 years

of experience in archaeological geology, and is a recognized researcher in the fields of North American prehistory, geoarchaeology, and archaeometry. He holds a BS in Geology (1983) and a PhD in Anthropology (1994) with emphasis on archaeological geology from Ohio State University, and an AS in Ocean Technology from the College of Oceanengineering (1999). He is a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA) and a member of AIPG and an active member of HGS where he currently serves as temporary chair of the Continuing Education Committee. He also serves on the board of directors for San Antonio based Friends of the Rio Verde Basin and is an archaeological advisor to HGS and Houston's Project RESPECT.

*RM data can prove useful in understanding the local geology...and the industries dependent on it.*

Jim has worked in cultural resource management since 1994, and was also a university lecturer in anthropology and earth science (1994-2001). His major contribution to geoarchaeology is the development of a non-destructive method of characterizing prehistorically utilized chert sources based on normative mineral compositions. The geochemical approach is summarized in Foradas (2003).



The research presented for this talk is largely based on the result of CRM related projects he has been involved with since moving to the Houston area in 2004. However, the approaches recommended are based on over two decades of experience as a researcher and educator in the earth and anthropological sciences as well as a decade of CRM experience.

Foradas, James, 2003: Chemical sourcing of Hopewell bladelets, in P.N. Kardulias and R.W. Yerkes (eds.), *Written in Stone: The Multiple Dimensions of Lithic Analysis*, Lexington Books, Lanham, MD.