



Benchmark

Volume 35, Issue 4

April 2021

The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** meeting for **April** will be **on Zoom**.

NTAS meetings are **free** and visitors are always welcome.

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President's Message

On March 11th over 50 people joined the monthly NTAS program to learn about archeological investigations at the Honey Locust site (4ISM476) located near Lindale, Texas. Josh Haefner and Dr. Victor Galan provided eye-opening information about multiple prehistoric components buried in a setting that has been terraced for agriculture, all identified in advance of highway construction. It was fascinating to learn about the burial components, and older components with burned rock features found in the red argillic clays of northeastern Texas usually thought to predate human occupation. Josh and Dr. Galan let us know analysis is ongoing for this site, and it was a pleasure to be privy to the preliminary results. This program was recorded and is available on the NTAS YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChDKM9I3UdiYizPyG3duohQ/featured>.

The Archeology 101 Academy (March 13-14 and 20-21) was held since the last monthly meeting. Participant reviews were positive, and the Archeology 101 folks actually dug together in the field at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site! There is still a short time left to sign



up for the Archeobotany Academy (April 24-25), register here: <https://www.txarch.org/academy03>.

The Texas Archeological Society posted registration and details for the June 12-19, 2021 annual Field School. The 2021 TAS Field School will be held in picturesque Kerrville, Texas. Registration and TAS Field School details can be found on the TAS website at: <https://www.txarch.org/tas-field-school>. NTAS (<https://ntxas.org/scholarships>) and TAS (<https://www.txarch.org/scholarships>) offer scholarship opportunities.

NTAS continues to hold monthly meetings via Zoom until our normal meeting location is available and the

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Connect with NTAS:

facebook.com/NTXAS.org

www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

President's Message

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NTAS Executive Committee approves in person meetings. Our April guest speaker Jack Johnson will deliver a program about the stunning Lower Pecos Canyonlands area of Texas focused on the Amistad National Recreation Area near Del Rio. Jack has spent years exploring and recording archeology in this region and brings a vast amount of knowledge to NTAS about an area that many of us will not have the opportunity to see and experience in this detail. NTAS members will be introduced to some of the most well-preserved archeological sites and resources in North America, see you there on the 8th!

Jimmy Barrera

April Speaker: Jack Johnson

Fieldnotes from Amistad: Highlights of Working in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands



The rock shelters of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of Southwest Texas have long been known to Texas archeologists for their outstanding rock art and extraordinary perishable artifacts. That heritage received much wider recognition this year with designation of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands National Historic Landmark district. This presentation explores the unique character of Lower Pecos Canyonlands archeology through the lens of Resource Management work and play in and around Amistad National Recreation Area.

Jack Johnson works for the National Park Service as Park Archeologist at Amistad National Recreation Area, near Del Rio, Texas. He has worked in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands since 2005, including for TPWD at Seminole Canyon State Park and for the Shumla Archeological Research and Education Center. He enjoys creating and using functional replica artifacts to bring Texas archeology to life for park visitors while deepening his own understanding of ancient lifeways. Jack received his MA from TTU, and lives in Comstock, Texas with his wife Isabelle and their unruly chickens.

NTAS Shopping Reward Programs

Several major retailers have included NTAS in their rewards programs.

There is no cost to you, but NTAS benefits from your shopping!

Simply let these retailers know (by following the instructions to the right) that you would like them to contribute a portion of the cost of your order to NTAS.

Help support NTAS by doing your regular shopping.



Kroger Community Rewards

Register your Kroger Plus Card online by clicking on the link below. Then by searching for North Texas Archeological Society or entering our NPO number (AA920), you can link your Kroger Plus Card to NTAS. Every time you shop at Kroger and swipe your card, NTAS will receive a rebate based on your purchase.

<https://www.kroger.com/account/CommunityRewards>



Tom Thumb Good Neighbor

Link your Tom Thumb Reward card to our Good Neighbor Number (14232) and each time you use your card NTAS will receive 1% of your eligible purchases. Visit the store courtesy booth to link your card.



Amazon Smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to NTAS whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Just click on the link below and sign in with your regular Amazon account.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-2876464>

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

May 13th: Doug Boyd (Bolivar Project)
June 10th: No Meeting (TAS Field School)
July 8th: TBD

March Donors

Murray Cohen (Memorial Scholarship Fund)
 Dana Ritchie (Memorial Scholarship Fund)
 Tim Sullivan (Memorial Scholarship Fund)
 Catrina Whitley (General Fund)

Welcome, New Members!

Josh Haefner
 Garrett Powell
 Michelle & Vincent Villafranca

NTAS Aims & Objectives

The purposes of the Society are

- (1) the promotion of scientific archeological exploration and research,
- (2) the preservation and conservation of archeological materials and sites,
- (3) the interpretation and publication of data pertaining thereto, and
- (4) education of the public to the aims of archeology.

Archeology Events & Announcements

TxDOT Roadside Chat: Bolivar

April 8, 2021 12pm

Contributed by Katrina Nuncio & Molly Hall

NTAS volunteers helped screen for artifacts at site 41DN617, Tom Cook's blacksmith shop earlier this year. TxDOT will be having a Roadside Chat about the excavations and artifacts uncovered there.

You must register in advance

For more details: [Bolivar: The Once Wild West](#)

86th Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting (Online)

April 15-17, 2021

Contributed by Molly Hall

This year's SAA meeting will be fully online.

For more details: <https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting>

Archeobotany Academy: An Introduction to Archeobotany

April 24-25, 2021

Contributed by Jimmy Barrera

The 2021 TAS Archeobotany Academy will be offered VIRTUALLY via Zoom with an emphasis on Caddo ancestors and the plant species of east Texas. The academy will introduce participants to how archeologists understand the relationships between people and plants in the past. The recovery and analysis of macroremains (actual bits of plants), pollen, phytoliths, and chemical residues from archeological sites will be discussed in detail with examples from East Texas and the Ozarks. The wealth of information that can be gained from replication of ancient technologies will also be covered, as will the value of historical accounts, traditional stories, memories, and the ancestral knowledge held by modern Native people.

Lead Instructor: Dr. Leslie Bush (Macrobotanical Analysis)

Registration deadline is April 10, 2021.

For more details: <https://www.txarch.org/academy03>

NTAS Scholarships Available

NTAS offers scholarships that can be used for TAS educational events. For details, please visit: <https://ntxas.org/scholarships>.

You can apply for a scholarship to fund the final 2021 TAS Academy (Archeobotany, April 24-25) or the TAS Field School (June 12-19)."

NTAS typically receives few applicants for scholarships. Therefore, we have fabulous opportunity for multiple deserving people to be awarded scholarships. Please help spread the word!"

Member Spotlight: Jacob DeWell



My connection to the NTAS would include my current semester at TCC. I am taking introduction to archeology. My professor, Katrina Nuncio who told us (the class) about NTAS. My interest comes from my great grandfather Howard DeWell who was an archeologist through the navy. His most popular dig known in our family was in Japan in the chi-ba prefecture.

*Jacob at the Ft. Worth Botanic Garden.
Photo courtesy of J. DeWell*

We Need **YOUR** Help!

There are numerous ways we would love for our members to contribute to NTAS. Just a few are noted here:

Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project

Contact Catrina Whitley (vpofprojects@ntxas.org) if you would like to involve experienced, skilled, and knowledgeable NTAS members in your project.

Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events

Photos are a great way to showcase what NTAS is all about. Please send your images and captions to Annaliese Sonntag (internetchair@ntxas.org). By providing these photos, please understand they can be used on the NTAS website and social media platforms such as Facebook.

Newsletter Content

Please contribute highlights from NTAS volunteer opportunities, summaries of archeological research and field projects, announcements and links to events, exhibits, media, and publications, etc. by sending them to Molly Hall (publicationseditor@ntxas.org).

Nominate a member for our new member spotlight feature! (See above).

It is time to renew your NTAS membership

Please renew registration online here: <https://ntxas.org/join-and-renew> or use the form on pages 6-7 of this newsletter and mail with check or money order.

Thank you for your continued support!



North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____ **Phone** _____

City\State\Zip _____ **Email** _____

Emergency Contact(s): Please provide the following information regarding the individual(s) from whom we can request or to whom we may provide information in the event of an emergency. Please consider listing at least one contact who does not live at your residence.

Primary Contact Name, Relationship, and Phone Number

Alternate Contact Name, Relationship, and Phone Number

Membership Type and Fees (Membership Term: January to December)

- New Family Membership - \$25
 Renewal Total Family Members _____
 Individual Membership - \$20
 Student Membership – \$10 (18 or older student with minimum half-time course load. Those under 18 must contact NTAS in advance of applying.)

Communication Preferences: I/WE want to be added to the following lists:

- General Announcements - *For Meetings, Events, Publications, Membership Dues and NTAS Updates*
 Personal Updates - *For personal updates on NTAS members such as illnesses, and obituaries*

Newsletter Delivery: By Email (free) By USPS mail (add \$10/yr)

Support: Contributing Donation amount: \$ _____ General Fund Memorial Scholarship Fund

Media Release: I/WE DO -or- DO NOT (circle as appropriate) give permission to NTAS to use my/our image (photographs and/or video) in any NTAS publications, website, or social media.

Online membership form and payment option available at ntxas.org/join-and-renew

Application form is continued on the next page

Mail your Membership Form with check or money order made payable to:
 North Texas Archeological Society
 P.O. Box 24679 Ft. Worth, TX 76124

Code of Ethics (signature required): I/WE PLEDGE THAT I/WE WILL NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ANTIQUITIES STATUTES CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES OR ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICES OF BUYING OR SELLING ARTIFACTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR ENGAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA OR DISREGARD PROPER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I/WE UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY.

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

Thank you for renewing or joining the North Texas Archeological Society! We will send an email to confirm your membership once your payment has been processed. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

Executive Committee

Jimmy Barrera
President

Gwen Durrant
Treasurer

Linda Lang
Historian

Bryan Jameson
Vice President

Tim Sullivan
Secretary

Annaliese Sonntag
Internet Chair

Catrina Banks Whitley
Vice President of Projects

James Everett
Immediate Past President

Molly Hall
Publications Editor

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

The newsletter submission deadlines are three weeks prior to the monthly meetings, and upcoming deadlines are listed below for 2021.

May Newsletter: April 22

October Newsletter: September 23

July Newsletter: June 17

November Newsletter: October 21

August Newsletter: July 22

December Newsletter: November 19

September Newsletter: August 19

Please contact NTAS at president@ntxas.org if you wish to receive personal updates about fellow NTAS members. Those who contact NTAS with interest will be added to a list and kept informed regarding personal updates about fellow members including health matters. Everyone else is automatically opted out of these updates.

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