



Benchmark

Volume 37, Issue 4

April 2023

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

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

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President's Message

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who attended our March meeting. It was the highest in-person attendance we've had so far this year and it was in the face of some very typical Northeast Texas inclement weather. So, thank you all, and I look forward to seeing more of you in the room as the year progresses. On March 9th, approximately 32 folks joined in-person for the meeting, and 31 folks joined via Zoom to hear Tom Ashmore and C.A. Maedgen give a presentation on the Camp Meyers Spring and Ring Bit Shelter pictographs. It was an interesting presentation combining rock art interpretation, ethnohistoric accounts, and historic artifact research to reach conclusions about the interactions between Spanish soldiers and the Jumano, among others, during the 16th century along the Pecos River. Tom and C.A. are actively working at Camp Meyers Spring and at least one other project in the San Angelo area. Their research and advocacy for the preservation of Texas cultural heritage and archeology is admirable and ongoing. The March 9th program was recorded and is avail-



able on the NTAS YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0MeELnVb0g>.

In March, the North Texas Archeological Society awarded three scholarships to folks wanting to attend the Archeology 101 Academy and TAS Field School. By all accounts the Academy was a success which Jimmy Barrera recaps on pages 6-7. This is a reminder that NTAS provides scholarships to folks who would like to attend the field school. Those applications can be found here (<https://ntxas.org/scholarships>). Our Scholarship Committee is ready to review more applications, so please send them along! This is also a reminder

(Continued on page 2)

Connect with NTAS:

[facebook.com/NTXAS.org](https://www.facebook.com/NTXAS.org)

www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

(Continued from page 1)

that registration for the TAS Field School in Nacogdoches from June 10-17 is open.

NTAS provided a volunteer opportunity to record a site at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge on March 18. A hale and hearty crew of NTAS members led by Bret Williamson and Jimmy Barrera helped record the Dancing Deer Site. Please see Jimmy Barrera's newsletter submission on pages 4-5 for additional information about the site and participants. We look forward to more opportunities to volunteer and participate in the recording of archeological sites in the DFW area and beyond. Thanks to Bret, Jimmy, and our NTAS volunteers!

The April 13th, 2023 monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) held

in our usual meeting room on the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) campus in the Research & Education Building, Room 114 (see page 3 for map). The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and we look forward to seeing you in person at the UNTHSC or on Zoom for the hybrid meeting. Our April 13th guest speaker is Dr. Mike Adler, the Chair of the Anthropology Department at SMU. He will present on *The Lessons of Picuris Pueblo: An Ancestral Cosmopolitan Center in the Northern Rio Grande*. We are excited to host Dr. Adler for this presentation and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on April 13!

Allen Rutherford

April Speaker: Dr. Mike Adler

The Lessons of Picuris Pueblo:

An Ancestral Cosmopolitan Center in the Northern Rio Grande

This talk conjoins legacy archaeological work conducted at Picuris Pueblo over sixty years ago with recent collaborative research from the past five years. I highlight our assumptions going into our most recent work, many of which we have shown to be incorrect, and discuss the major roles in exchange, food production and regional political power played by Picuris Pueblo over the past 1000 years of continuous occupation in the Northern Rio Grande.

Mike Adler, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Southern Methodist University and is the Department Chair in the Department of Anthropology. His academic training is in archaeology, and his primary research focus is the complex ancestries of Native American, particularly Puebloan, communities in the American Southwest. He has also worked overseas in Jordan on early village archaeological contexts. He has a strong interest in the current roles (and sometimes, failures) of archaeology in the creation of knowledge about the past. He collaborates with Native American communities to investigate concepts of ancestry, cultural identity, and how communities create and recreate that complicated concept called 'the past.' He also works with traditional acequia irrigation cooperatives in Northern New Mexico to document their ancestral land and water use systems. He works with his students and colleagues to bring archaeology and knowledge of the past to the public and considers experiential education as one of the most important legacies we can provide to future generations.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

May 11th: Rebecca Shelton (Texas Archeological Stewardship Network)

June: No Meeting (TAS Field School)

July: Bill Moore (North Texas Calabooses)

NTAS Executive Committee Voting Items

Two items were voted on in the April 4, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting. Both items passed.

1. NTAS scholarship requirements for all scholarships were loosened.
2. The 1895 Ad Hoc Committee was dissolved.
3. The committee voted to delete the NTAS Twitter account, as the platform does not have significant engagement with our membership.

The NTAS Executive Committee meetings are held two Tuesdays prior to the monthly meetings. Members are welcome to attend these meetings, which are held via Zoom. If interested, please contact the president at president@ntxas.org.

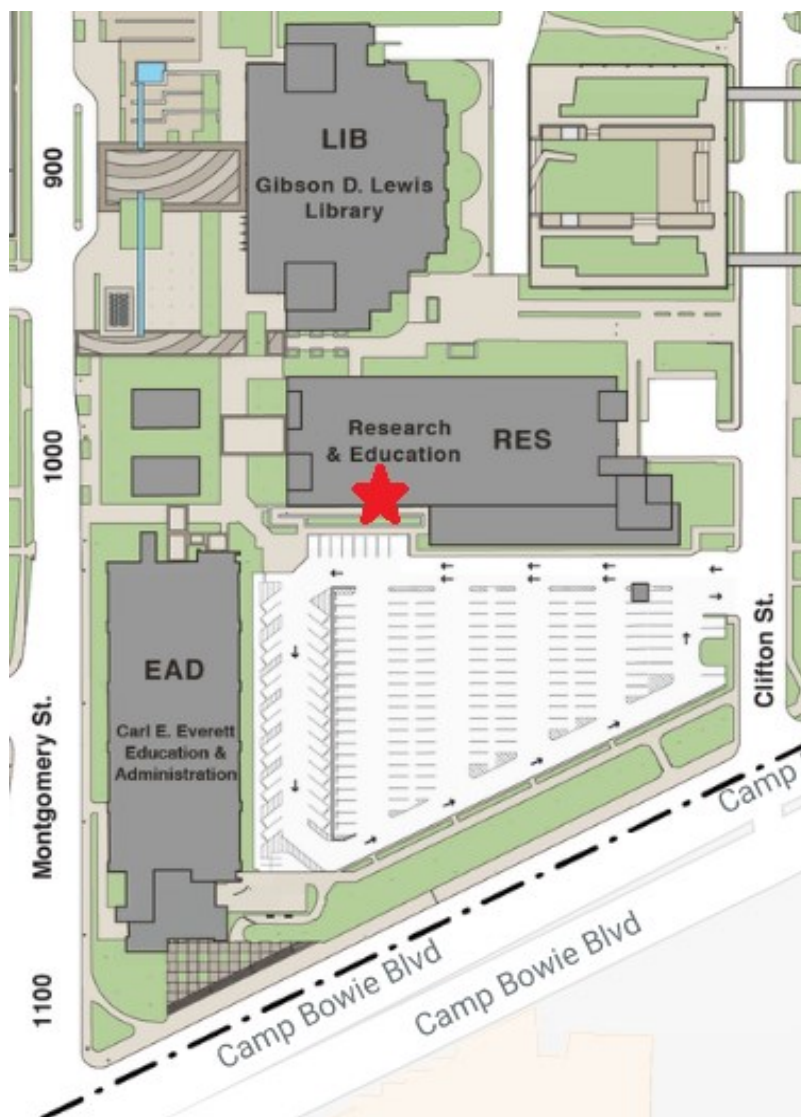
NTAS scholarships are now available to -ANYONE- who applies for TAS Academies, the TAS Field School, and the annual TAS Meeting.

Please visit the NTAS scholarships webpage to submit your application. Apply now!

NTAS Monthly Meeting Location & Directions

NTAS meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month (except June and December) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth (in the **Research and Education Building, Room 114**), near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street.

Traveling west on I-30 from downtown, take the Montgomery Street exit. Turn right on Montgomery and continue to the five-way intersection at Camp Bowie. Turn right onto Camp Bowie, followed by an immediate left onto Clifton Street. **Turn into the first parking lot on the left (Administrator and Visitor Parking).** You will drive past an information booth as you enter the parking lot. Park on the far (north/west) end of the parking lot and enter the Research and Education building. Once you enter the building, turn right and proceed down the hallway to Room 114.



Dancing Deer Site

Jimmy Barrera

On March 18th, 11 members of NTAS recorded an archeological site at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNC&R). Named the Dancing Deer site (trinominal 41TR349), the site is situated along a ridge overlooking a marsh associated with the West Fork of the Trinity River and tributaries. The team started by walking the site area and identifying a boundary based on surface finds. This site recording was strictly based on surface finds, no excavations were performed. Then everyone worked together on documenting the site using a State of Texas - Archeological Data Site Form. Folks mapped the site using a pace and compass method, while others documented the artifacts, features, and overviews via photography.

We recorded what is a potentially significant site, based on the known sites inside and near the FWNC&R. The Dancing Deer site is a prehistoric open campsite, with at least one artifact representing occupation during the Late Prehistoric time period (ca. 1,300 – 300 years before present). NTAS identified two hearth features on the surface with an associated lithic debris (chert) concentration. This area of the site appears to have some integrity based on the tight clustering of limestone (fossiliferous) burned rock, and 10-meter distance between these two features. Three more artifact concentrations were identified including one with three fragments of ground stone (sandstone metate fragments) and one blade core rejuvenation flake; another concentration with a ground stone mano (sandstone), a modified flake (heat-treated chert), and one mussel shell; and a third with approximately 25 burned rocks scattered on the surface along a roadcut, exposed from a subsurface context, along with one decorated ceramic sherd. The likelihood is high that the Dancing Deer site extends below the surface based on the roadcut observations and observations like intact hearth features eroding from buried contexts. Deposits across this site are sandy-loam, estimated up to at least three meters deep based on the road cut.

Bret Williamson and Jimmy Barrera led the site recording and fun was had by all volunteers. We enjoyed great weather, camaraderie, and great archeology. Thanks to everyone who participated!



Figure 2. Group discussing ceramic sherd on Dancing Deer site (41TR349). Photo by Bret Williamson.



Figure 1. Metate fragments on surface. Photos by Thomas Standefer.



Figure 3. Decorated ceramic sherd from surface. Photo by Thomas Standefer.



Figure 4. Thomas Standefer recording the site. Photo by Dana Austin.



Figure 5. NTAS members from left: Brian Luetchford, Jose Garcia, Jimmy Barrera, Bret Williamson, Dee Heacock, Lucy Berry, Paul Christmas, Glen Butler, and Cameron Ditore. Not pictured: Dana Austin and Thomas Standefer. Photo by Dana Austin.

2023 Archeology 101 Academy

Jimmy Barrera

NTAS was boots on the ground once again, this time at the Friday-Sunday, March 24-26, 2023, Texas Archeological Society (TAS) – Archeology 101 Academy. Class for this academy was held Friday and Saturday at the Legacy Plaza in Goldthwaite while field excavations were Sunday on the Clovis Field site west of town. Over 40 folks registered for this academy with positive reviews delivered. Participants were introduced to archeology with emphasis on fieldwork (including site recording), lab work, and reporting. Hands-on lessons included sorting artifacts, pace and compass mapping, and laying out a 1-x-1 meter unit. Then Sunday everyone had the opportunity to excavate at the Clovis Field site (41MI92) on the Del Barnett Ranch, and wrapped up with BBQ lunch served on the archeological site!

NTAS members were instrumental to the success of this TAS academy and represented: two of the three instructors, the two Coordinators, four of the five Academy Committee members present, eight of the nine Crew Chiefs overseeing excavations, numerous NTAS members attended (and new members were recruited), and NTAS awarded two scholarships for this academy. Be proud, folks, because NTAS represented the society well. And as someone who has been to a few academies, this is recognized as one of the best academies held in many years. Great work NTAS and to everyone who participated!



Figure 1. Discussing toolkit portion of the Archeology 101 Academy. Photo by Jimmy Barrera.



Figure 2. Dr. Jon Lohse instructing the academy. Photo by Jimmy Barrera.



Figure 3. Sunday excavations at the Clovis Field site (41MI92); note burned rock recovered to right of unit. Photo by Jimmy Barrera.



Figure 4. Burned rock feature exposed during excavations at Clovis Field site (41MI92). Photo by Jimmy Barrera.

Archeological Events & News

Interpretations of Feline Figures with Speech-Breath

12pm, April 19, 2023

Online

<https://shumla.org/education/lunchandlearn/>

Shumla Lunch and Learn lecture. Dr. Diana Radillo Rolón will describe a comparative analysis between Lower Pecos and Teotihuacan felines with speech-breath attributes to discuss their possible interpretations. *Free, but registration is required.*

Big Bend Archaeological Studies

6pm, April 20, 2023

Online

<https://fthc.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/fthc/eventRegistration.jsp?event=6033>

Join the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission for this fascinating talk detailing the highlights of the latest archeological findings from Center for Big Bend Studies (CBBS) projects and our current understanding of deep human history in the Big Bend region. *Free, but registration is required.*

Lives of the Gods: Divinity in Maya Art

May 7– September 3, 2023

Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, T

<https://kimbellart.org/maya-gods>

In an exhibition of nearly 100 rarely seen masterpieces and recent discoveries, Lives of the Gods: Divinity in Maya Art will depict episodes in the life cycle of the gods, from the moment of their birth to resplendent transformations as blossoming flowers or fearsome creatures of the night. Created by masters of the Classic period (A.D. 250–900) in the spectacular royal cities in the tropical forests of what is now Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, these landmark works evoke a world in which the divine, human, and natural realms are interrelated and intertwined. Lenders include major museum collections in Europe, the United States, and Latin America, with many works on view for the first time in the U.S., including new discoveries from Palenque (Mexico) and El Zotz (Guatemala).

Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds Dedication

11am, May 12, 2023

Arlington, TX

shorturl.at/hostO

NTAS (formerly TCAS) was heavily involved in the Johnson Plantation Cemetery Project starting in 2015. The Memorial Grounds have been renovated and will be dedicated in May.

The World of the Maya Film Series

2pm, Various Sundays, Summer 2023

Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX

<https://kimbellart.org/calendar?event-type%5B0%5D=99>

May 21 - Breaking the Maya Code: Discovering Remnants of the Mayans

June 18 - Maya Astrology: An Instrument of Political Power / Daughters of Ixchel: Maya Thread of Change

July 23 - Popol Vuh: The Creation Myth of the Maya

August 6 - Guatemala: On the Edge of Discovery

August 27 - Ancient Maya Metropolis

TAS Field School

June 10-17, 2023

Nacogdoches, TX

<https://www.txarch.org/Field-School>

An Evening with Dr. Zahi Hawass

6pm, June 24, 2023

Dallas, TX

<https://zahilectures.com/>

The Beauty of Clay: Cultural Works of Mesoamerica - Fort Worth Museum

Fort Worth, TX

<https://www.fwmuseum.org/news/press-releases/beauty-of-clay/>

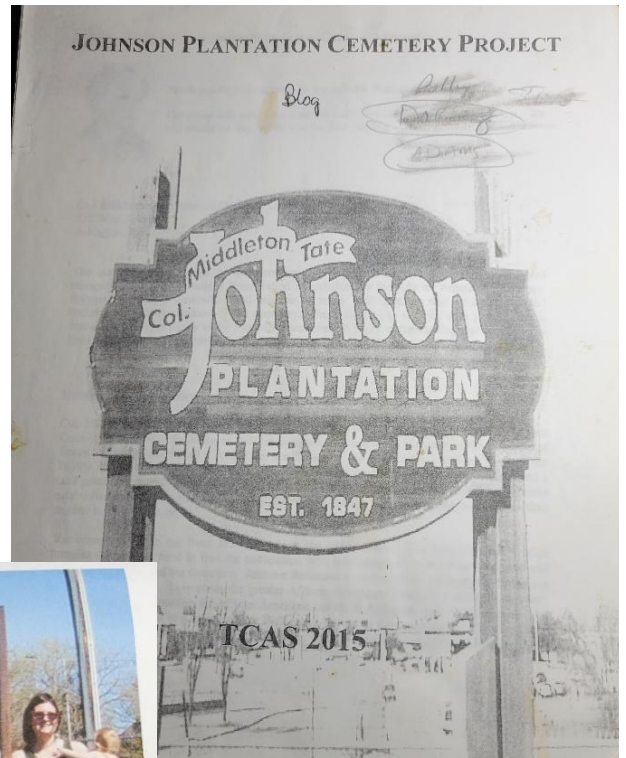
Showcasing ceramic and earthenware from the Huastec, Zapotec, and Colima. Examine the jaguars, birds, deer and even dogs depicted in these works as part of a style known as zoomorphism!

Cemetery Rededication

Bill Perdue

From when we first started working on this cemetery project in 2015- (led by Catrina Whitley) - a lot has happened. Many of our members were involved in the initial discovery work on this cemetery.

Below is a photo of the group when we started the project and on the right is the cover sheet of the project outline. See Page 8 for a link to the invitation.



Last stop for the tour: TCAS members, family, and friends at the Colonel Middleton Tate Johnson Plantation Cemetery

Photo by Joe Nuncio

NTAS Needs *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 Brian Luetchford (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 president@ntxas.org. By providing these photos, they may be used on the NTAS website and social media platforms such as Facebook.

Newsletter and Journal 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).

NTAS is now looking for articles to fill the 2023 Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society. Please consider submitting an article about your North Texas research, fieldwork, or other related topics. The lead author must be an NTAS member in good standing for the 2023 calendar year. For submissions and inquiries regarding the journal, please contact Molly Hall (publicationseditor@ntxas.org). Volume I of the Journal is now available for purchase on Amazon. Visit amazon.com/dp/B0BJYD52JP or scan the QR code:





North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

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

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City\State\Zip _____ Email _____

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*

Digital copies of the newsletter are included with every membership. If you are interested in receiving paper copies, please contact the Publications Editor (publicationseditor@ntxas.org) or Secretary (secretary@ntxas.org) for pricing.

Donation: Amount: \$ _____ General Fund Memorial Scholarship Fund BaahKu Project

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.

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 _____

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

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!

Welcome, New Members!

Brendon Asher
 Callan Clark
 Monette Crain
 Jacob Dewell
 Dixie Hoover
 Allen Kent

Jaclynn Knight
 John Martin
 Kate Pelusio
 David Powell
 David W. Ricker
 John South

Donors

Archeopooch (aka Tuffy the Diva), in memory of Lloyd Erwin — *NTAS Memorial Scholarship Fund*

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.

NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

Executive Committee

Allen Rutherford
President

Gwen Durrant
Treasurer

Genevieve Freix
Historian

Stephen Lowe
Vice President

Dylan Holubar
Secretary

Ashley Green
Internet Chair

Brian Luetchford
Vice President of Projects

Jimmy Barrera
Immediate Past President

Molly Hall
Publications Editor

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

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

May Newsletter: April 27

July Newsletter: June 29

August Newsletter: July 27

September Newsletter: August 31

October Newsletter: September 28

November Newsletter: October 26

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Humanities Texas



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