

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

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

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Benchmark

Volume 37, Issue 7

August 2023

President's Message

Hello folks and I hope everyone is staying cool out there! I'd like to thank everyone who attended our July meeting in person or via Zoom. Those who attended got to hear William Moore, from Brazos Valley Research Associates, give a presentation on Calabooses in north Texas. It was an interesting topic, and I personally had no idea how integral the calaboose was to the fabric of Texas history. I, for one, would not enjoy being held in one this time of year. Please check out the July 13th program on the NTAS YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/d-yXiR3qBE4?si=Abhr8CCFyO49PAuK>.

In addition to our monthly meeting, I had the pleasure of representing NTAS at the Boys and Girls Club of Sherman on Friday, July 21. I spoke to an enthusiastic group of third through fifth graders about the archeological profession, neat sites and finds near the Sherman area, and got to show off some artifacts from some recent work in Fannin County. They really perked up at the possibility of me getting bitten by snakes while doing my job! I'm certain it was a concerned excitement. If you're interested in regaling young folks about your own run-ins with wildlife, we have several additional outreach activities on the horizon including "Texas! Can you Dig it?" in September (email president@ntxas.org for more information), the Doss Pioneer Heritage



Festival in early October (email ksnuncio@aol.com for more information), and "Denton Dig It!" at the end of October (email lsullivanftwtx@gmail.com for more information). Related to those outreach events, NTAS will be making pinch-pot kits to hand out to eager future archeologists. If you are interested in hosting, or participating in a pinch-pot kit making session please contact Molly Hall at publicationseditor@ntxas.org.

As a reminder, the TAS Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching. This year's meeting will be held October 6-8 in San Marcos (<https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting>). If you're planning to attend, please go ahead and book your room at the Embassy Suites San Marcos! Additionally,

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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)

if you'd like to present at the meeting, the final deadline for submitting an abstract is August 18, 2023. This is a reminder that NTAS offers scholarships to folks who would like to attend (<https://ntxas.org/scholarships>).

The August 10th, 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 August 10th guest speaker is Dr. Gus Costa who will present on The Nighthawk Bison Jump (41BI564/41BI565): Initial Results from the 2022 Texas Tech Test Excavations at Caprock Canyon State Park. We are excited to host Dr. Costa for this presentation and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on August 10!

Allen Rutherford

August Speaker: Dr. August "Gus" Costa

The Nighthawk Bison Jump (41BI564/41BI565):

Initial results from the 2022 Texas Tech Test Excavations in Caprock Canyon State Park

In 2021, THC Steward Rick Day and Susan Day located bison bones eroding out of a slope below the Caprock escarpment on the western border of Caprock Canyon State Park in Briscoe County. TAS fellow Chris Lintz in coordination with Tony Lyle, (regional TPWD archaeologist) launched a follow up reconnaissance and documented extensive bison bones in two locations: one directly below the Caprock cliff face (41BI564) and another 125 meters east (41BI565). The surfaces around these sites yielded abundant lithic chipping debris, burned rock and a handful of notched and stemmed dart points and arrow-points. These sites were inferred to represent a Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric bison jump kill site and an adjacent processing site. Aside from Bonfire Shelter (41VV218, Val Verde county), this discovery represents the only bison jump in Texas and the broader southern plains. Realizing the significance of this find and potential loss due to ongoing erosion, TPWD collaborated with Drs. Brett Houk and Tamra Walter at Texas Tech University to organize a field school to test and salvage a sample from the sites in the Fall of 2022. This talk will review the initial results of those field investigations and ongoing conservation and analysis of the bison remains.

Dr. August "Gus" Costa is an independent consulting archaeologist that provides specialist support in geoarchaeology, artifact analysis, and faunal analysis. Gus earned a doctorate focusing on paleoanthropology at Indiana University, where he was a Fulbright and Leakey Foundation fellow conducting expeditions to India supported by the National Science Foundation. His academic work in India focused on the earliest human occupation of South Asia. Gus led a field program in Gujarat that identified the most productive Ice Age fossil locality in western India and discovered a new species of extinct antelope as well as numerous prehistoric cultural remains. Gus has more than 20 years' experience in archeology and has carried out field and lab-based work in Asia, Africa, and Europe, as well as numerous projects within the U.S.



Gus is an adjunct lecturer at Rice University where he has taught courses in geoarchaeology, paleontology, paleotechnology, and Asian Prehistory. Gus has contributed to numerous cultural resource surveys and acted as a consulting geoarchaeologist and analyst for survey, testing and large data recovery projects. In the last five years Gus served in various staff and management roles including Principal Investigator and Vice President at Moore Archaeological Consulting, Inc. in Houston, Texas. In 2020, Gus shifted to independent consulting primarily in Geoarchaeology working for a variety of CRM firms in Texas and across the south.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

September 14th: Sherman Horn (Archeological Investigations in Belize)

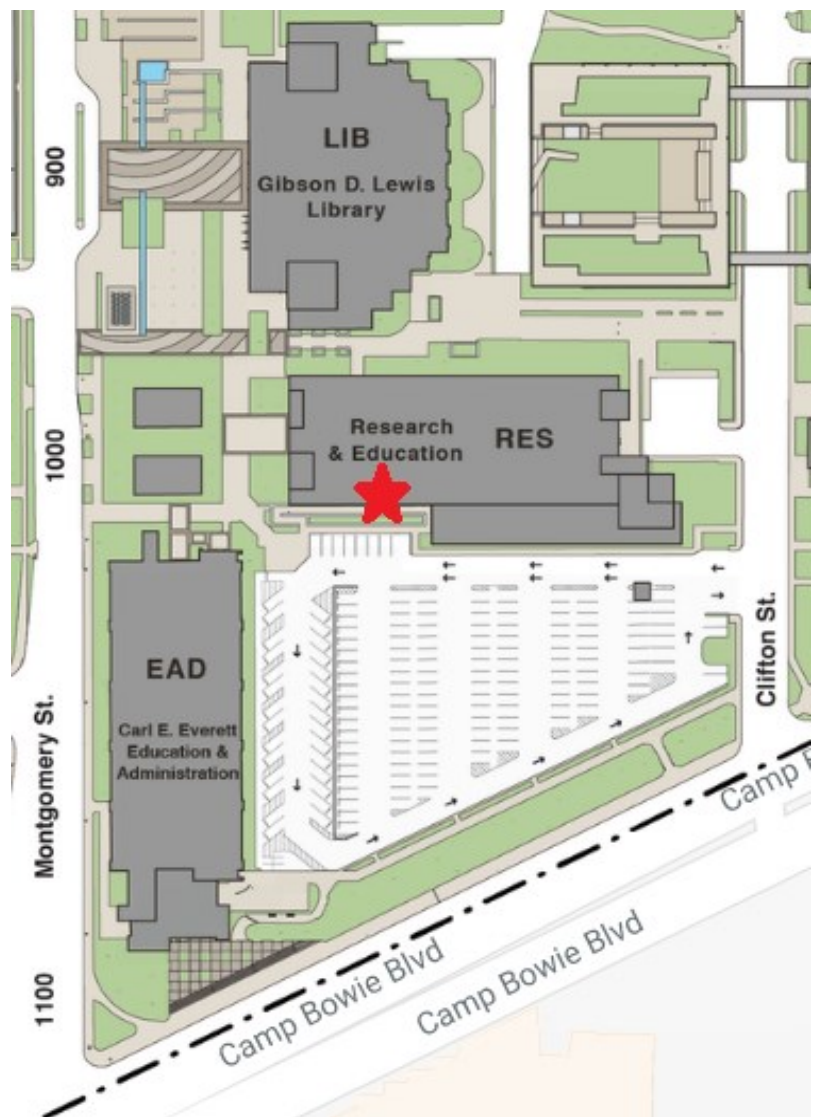
October 12th: Richard Brija (Battlefield Archeology)

November 9th: Jimmy Arterberry (Comanche History)

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.



Horse Nations Article and Special NTAS November Meeting

Jimmy Barrera

Jimmy Arterberry of the Comanche Nation is scheduled to be the November 9, 2023, NTAS guest speaker, and might be joined by one or more Comanche members. In advance of his program we want to ask the membership to consider and submit (to info@ntxas.org) discussion topics on Comanche history and archeology. Having these discussion topics in advance of November 9, 2023, will help guide the program which is intended to be a round table discussion with the NTAS membership on Comanche history and archeology as opposed to a set presentation.

Mr. Arterberry recently coauthored a research article in *Science* entitled “Early dispersal of domestic horses into the Great Plains and northern Rockies.” A summary of this article is available for free here: <https://www.science.org/content/article/horse-nations-animal-began-transforming-native-american-life-startlingly-early>.

2023 TAS Annual Meeting

The 94th TAS Annual Meeting will be at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos October 6-8, 2023. **Note this is earlier in the month than the meeting has been traditionally held.**

The Friday night Public Forum Speaker will be Doug Boyd. The keynote speaker for the Saturday night banquet is Dr. Ashley Lemke, Associate Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

Hotel Rates and Reservations

Meeting room rate is \$169/night until September 5th

Use the group code TAA when booking your room or click the link below. You can choose between a 2 room suite with 1 king size bed or 2 room suite with 2 queens size beds. Hotel's cutoff date is September 5th, so don't wait for the last minute!

Breakfast is included. Additionally, room holders can enjoy a FREE happy hour Friday evening. Your parking is free. The biggest benefit is we'll all be together in one place!

Call for Papers

Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for papers, symposia, and posters to be presented at the TAS Annual Meeting. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, and professional members on any topic of archeological interest. According to current TAS policy, all presenters must be TAS members and be registered for the meeting.

Papers will be allotted 15 minutes. The final deadline for receipt of paper abstracts is August 18, 2023. Symposia may be organized around any topic, area, major project, and/or time period. Each symposium will be allotted two hours per five presenters, with a five-presenter minimum. Abstracts for symposia and symposium papers must be received by August 4, 2023.

Poster presentations can effectively convey visual, graphic, and quantitative information, and posters can reach a larger audience than oral papers. Members are encouraged to consider poster presentations as an alternative to papers. In order to appear in the program, poster abstracts must be received by August 18, 2023. Other presentation formats such as discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops may be held on approval of the Program Co-Chairs and Annual Meeting organizers.

Submit all abstracts as Word files attached to an email (am-papers@txarch.org preferred), or by regular mail on CD or flash drive or in typed form. For email attachments or CD/flash drive submissions, include a text (.txt) file in addition to the word processor file; text files may be created by using the Save As command and selecting the text file type.

Watch for continuing Annual Meeting information in the TAS Newsletter and on the TAS website (<https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting>).

Archeological Events & Opportunities

Lives of the Gods: Divinity in Maya Art

Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX

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.

May 7– September 3, 2023

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

The World of the Maya Film Series

Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX

August 6 - Guatemala: On the Edge of Discovery

August 27 - Ancient Maya Metropolis

2pm, Various Sundays, Summer 2023

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

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!

Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session I

Dallas, TX

It's pinch-pot kit making season! NTAS will obtain materials from the Texas Historical Commission to make pinch-pot kits to hand out (typically to kids) during the numerous Texas Archeology Month (TAM) events in which NTAS is participating. NTAS will need to make 500 kits (if not more!) to be handed out by NTAS members this year. The August 26th session will take place at the **Dallas College Richland Campus**. Please let Molly Hall (publicationseditor@ntxas.org) know if you plan to attend. She will send out exact location details closer to the date of the event.

9am-12pm, August 26, 2023

Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session II

Fort Worth, TX

It's pinch-pot kit making season! NTAS will obtain materials from the Texas Historical Commission to make pinch-pot kits to hand out (typically to kids) during the numerous Texas Archeology Month (TAM) events in which NTAS is participating. NTAS will need to make 500 kits (if not more!) to be handed out by NTAS members this year. The September 16th session will take place at the **Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge**. **RSVP is required for this event.** Please let Molly Hall (publicationseditor@ntxas.org) know if you plan to attend, She will send out exact location details closer to the date of the event.

9am-12pm, September 16, 2023

Texas! Can You Dig It?

Gainesville, TX

NTAS will be participating in TxDOT's "Texas! Can You Dig It?" event at the Texas Travel Information Center in Gainesville on Friday, September 22 from 10am-1pm. We are looking for some volunteers to help staff the table and engage with the public about archeology and NTAS. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Allen Rutherford (president@ntxas.org).

10am-1pm, September 22, 2023

Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting

San Marcos, TX

In addition to fabulous presentations by Texas archeologists, the Public Forum (Doug Boyd) and Banquet (Dr. Ashley Lemke) Speakers are both NTAS members! Join TAS for a weekend of learning, prizes, vendors, and all things Texas archeology.

October 6-8, 2023

<https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting>

Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival**October 7, 2023**

Weatherford, TX

This year's Pioneer Heritage Festival overlaps with the TAS Annual Meeting in San Marcos, so we need some volunteers for this event who *do not* plan to attend the TAS Annual Meeting. This is one of our most successful events with respect to community engagement, not to mention our involvement with work on Newberry Cabin which is at Doss. More than 1,000 people attended last year. So, it is a very important relationship to NTAS and a wonderful opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Katrina Nuncio (ksnuncio@aol.com).

Denton Dig It!**9am-1pm, October 28, 2023**

Denton, TX

Last year's event was very successful and it coincides with the Denton Community Market. It's a wonderful opportunity for NTAS to discuss the society and archeology with the Denton community and beyond. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Lynn Sullivan (lsullivanftwtx@gmail.com).

What Can You Do with NTAS? What Can NTAS Do for You?**Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project**

Contact vpofprojects@ntxas.org if you know of a field, lab, data collection, or reporting project that could use the skilled labor of experienced and knowledgeable NTAS members.

Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events

Photos are a great way to showcase what NTAS is all about. We'd love to share your NTAS experiences with the world immediately following NTAS events! Please send your images and captions to internetchair@ntxas.org. By providing these photos, they may be used on the NTAS website and social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

Newsletter and Journal Content

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 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 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:



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!

<https://ntxas.org/scholarships>



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!

Deborah Larson and Laurie Hicks
 Mary Walker & Mark Interrante
 Sang Roberson
 Chelsea Tovar
 Star, Arn, Ace, Aviana, and Adelyn Uy

July Donors

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

Hannah Rainey
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.

September Newsletter: August 3

October Newsletter: September 28

November Newsletter: October 26

December Newsletter: November 23

January Newsletter: December 28

February Newsletter: January 18

This program is supported in part by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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