

The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** will **not** have a **December** holiday party.

January 2022's meeting will be **in person and virtual**.

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

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Benchmark

Volume 35, Issue 11

December 2021

President's Message

Merry Christmas everyone, and hope that you had a great Thanksgiving. Please consider participating in the NTAS opportunities listed in the newsletter! Approximately 40 folks tuned in for the November 11th monthly NTAS meeting to enjoy Marybeth Tomka's program. Marybeth provided a great presentation on what happens after fieldwork with documents and artifacts in a repository. She showed great examples of collections that need work and collections that are in ideal condition for curation. The November 11th program was recorded and is available on the NTAS YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChDKM9I3UdiYizPyG3duohQ/> featured

On November 19th and 20th the NTAS Secretary Dr. Tim Sullivan lead a project at the Richland Campus of Dallas College to begin cataloging and analyzing archeological collections from New Mexico and Texas. Thanks to Dr. Sullivan, the Dallas College folks who hosted NTAS in their lab, and to everyone who volunteered. December 11 & 12 NTAS performed excavations at the Clovis Field site in Mills County (Figure 1), and many NTAS folks volunteered. Huge thanks to Chris Meis for his terrific coordination and hard work on this project, to the landowner Del Barnett for his



support and participation, to the Gault School of Archeological Research for their staff expertise, and to all the volunteers! See the November newsletter for more details and contact Chris Meis at lptmeis@sbcglobal.net if interested to sign-up.

A couple of exciting items over the past month: NTAS was awarded a grant from Humanities Texas in the amount of \$5,670. The Executive Committee applied for this grant in the Fall to help with general operational costs. And on November 12th I joined James and Susan Everett, Gen Freix, Katrina Nuncio, and Chris Meis in Tyler for a meeting with Dr. Tom Guderjan and other UT Tyler folks in preparation for the 2022 TAS Annual

(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

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

Meeting. NTAS and UT Tyler will cohost the 2022 TAS Annual Meeting which will be held on campus at UT Tyler October 21-22, 2022.

Early notice to pay your membership dues by the new year, thank you! We will send reminders during the first few months of 2022.

The NTAS Executive Committee decided to resume in-person meetings starting with the January 13, 2022 meeting 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 in-person meetings will be hybrid meetings and will be offered to all members via Zoom for those that are not able to attend in-person. Wearing masks is strongly encouraged and extra disposable masks should be available for those without. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and we look forward to seeing you in-person at the UNTHSC or on Zoom. Our January guest speaker will be Mr. Rob Denkhaus the Director of the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge (FWNCR). Mr. Denkhaus will present an overview including some history about the FWNCR. This will be an exciting opportunity to learn about an institution that has partnered with NTAS for approximately 50 years. Merry Christmas everyone and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on January 13th!

Jimmy Barrera



Figure 1. On December 11th, Diamond Barrera and Tuffy the Diva taking a break at the Clovis Field site after Tuffy finished excavating a level. Photo by J. Barrera.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

January 13th: Robert Denkhaus (Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge)

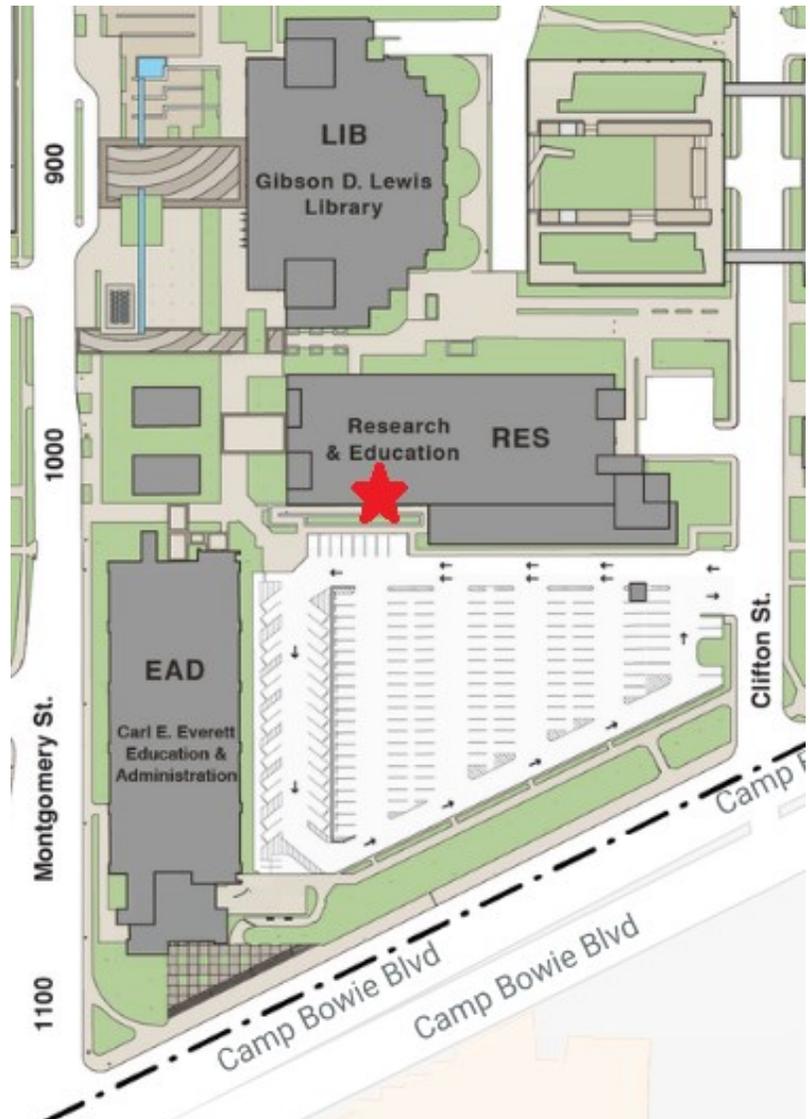
February 10th: Reid Ferring (Aubrey Clovis Site)

March 10th: TBA

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.**



From the Archives

Linda Lang

To close out 2021 and get in the holiday spirit, we share a pair of newsletters, the October and December 1988 editions of *The Letter*. They are packed with several interesting features, including book suggestions for a holiday gift list. Are these books already in your library? The October newsletter has a brain teasing exercise with “Can You Guess What These Indian Signs Mean?” You can check your symbol savvy with the key provided in the December newsletter. Additionally, the December edition has an interesting educational guide to typing projectile points along with a travel guide to mound sites for those travelling east on I-20. So much to check out! If you wish to access these resources, let me know! Email Linda Lang at lottlang@gmail.com.

Check back next month for the latest installment...*from the archives!*



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 below and 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>

November Donors

Teresa & Bobby Carrillo*

*In November's newsletter, the editor misspelled new members' Teresa and Bobby Carrillo's last name — many apologies!

Welcome, New Member!

Marybeth Tomka

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.

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 president@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 member spotlight feature!

NTAS Sponsored Student Membership Recipient

Carlie Ascani

I have only been a member of the North Texas Archeology Society for a few months, but I have greatly enjoyed my time so far. I have felt very welcomed by the other members. I feel as though I have learned a lot more than I would have by just taking classes. I really especially enjoyed the trip to the Palo Pinto Mountains State Park and I hope to continue to receive these opportunities to grow.

Archeological Items of Interest

Contributed by Molly Hall and Catrina Banks Whitley

NTAS Opportunities

NTAS Awards Ad Hoc Committee

We are seeking members to join the new NTAS Awards ad hoc committee. Please consider participating to help award the efforts of your fellow members. If interested to join this committee please contact president@ntxas.org.

NTAS Nominating Committee

Looking for folks with interest to join the Nominating Committee. This committee will select NTAS officer candidates for the Fall of 2022. If interested to join please contact president@ntxas.org

Events

SAA 87th Annual Meeting

Chicago, IL

March 30-April 3, 2022

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

TAS Lithics Academy

Austin, TX

April 23-24, 2022

See the TAS Website for details <https://www.txarch.org/page-18216>

Presentations and Projects

Archaeology, Social Relevance, and Community Engagement

"A webinar by Preservation Virginia and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources exploring archaeology and community engagement and how archaeology can be more relevant to present day issues and more accessible to wider audiences."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FI_Yluqscv8&t=200s

Montpelier Descendant Committee and Montpelier Archaeology Collaboration

Congratulations to the Montpelier Descendant Committee (<https://montpelierdescendants.org/>) and Montpelier Archaeology for their 20 years of collaboration. Their work includes a study entitled "Engaging Descendant Communities in the Interpretation of Slavery at Museums and Historic Sites: A Rubric of Best Practices Established by the National Summit on Teaching Slavery" (<https://montpelier-documents.s3.amazonaws.com/Interpreting%20Slavery%2010-30-18.pdf>).

NTAS Executive Committee Voting Item

The NTAS Executive Committee meetings (typically held two Tuesdays before the monthly meetings) are open to the membership, and minutes from the meetings can be obtained from the President or Secretary. The following item passed via vote during the December 7, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting.

-Approved up to \$200 to build field school dig kits for use by recipients of NTAS scholarships

Richland College Collection and Anthropology Day Volunteers

Tim Sullivan

In last month's newsletter, we shared information about working with two donated collections at Richland College. This is an opportunity to work with both lithics and ceramics. There are two donated collections that arrived just before the end of 2020 and right after. Both are lacking provenience but are interesting nonetheless.

The first consisted of several boxes of lithics donated by Brad Stroud, after his father, a long-time collector passed away, and these had sat in his garage. Mr. Stroud wished to donate these so that students would have an opportunity to handle and identify various types of stone debitage and possibly some tools. When asked about the location(s) where and when these were collected, he answered, "Central Texas over about twenty years." A cursory exam of the contents reveals that there are some bifaces, burins, and partial projectile points, as well as a large sample of cores, flakes, and some grinding/polished stones.

The second collection is from Caton County in New Mexico. The donor's family had visited a site over a span from about 1959 to the mid 1970s. The collection includes several boxes of sherds, some burnt clay, wood, and some lithics. The site is reportedly on private property, and the family kept the more complete vessels for their private collection. The couple, Marc Nowell and his wife, Elke Sheehan, wanted to donate the collection to a college so students may have a chance to see first-hand, and work with, Native American artifacts.

On November 19 and 20 some NTAS members visited the college and worked on the New Mexico material. This initial work consisted of listing, preliminary sorting and recording of all the pieces that were still in boxes. Once this work is completed, our goal will be to organize some of the material into sets for learning activities – identification, perhaps temporarily fitting some sherd pieces together, and prepare some for presentation in the Richland Anthropology Lab to attract attention and pique student interest in the classes offered. (See attached selection of photos).

A return trip is planned for January 21 & 22 (Friday and Saturday), 2022. Volunteers may work one or both days; no need to sign up for both. We had several members who worked both days this past November.



Murray Cohen sorts a box of sherds.



Gwen Durrant and Katrina Nuncio work on fitting a rim to a base. No sherds glue! But we did use some non-residue duct tape on a different pair of sherds to see what happens when we return and disassemble. Question: How might we have students fit sherds together without causing harm to the surface and/or decorative paint/slip?

An additional goal is to assist in preparing and to support an exhibit at the college February 17, 2022. For those not aware, this is officially declared *International Anthropology Day* (<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/world-anthropology-day-third-thursday-in-february/>).

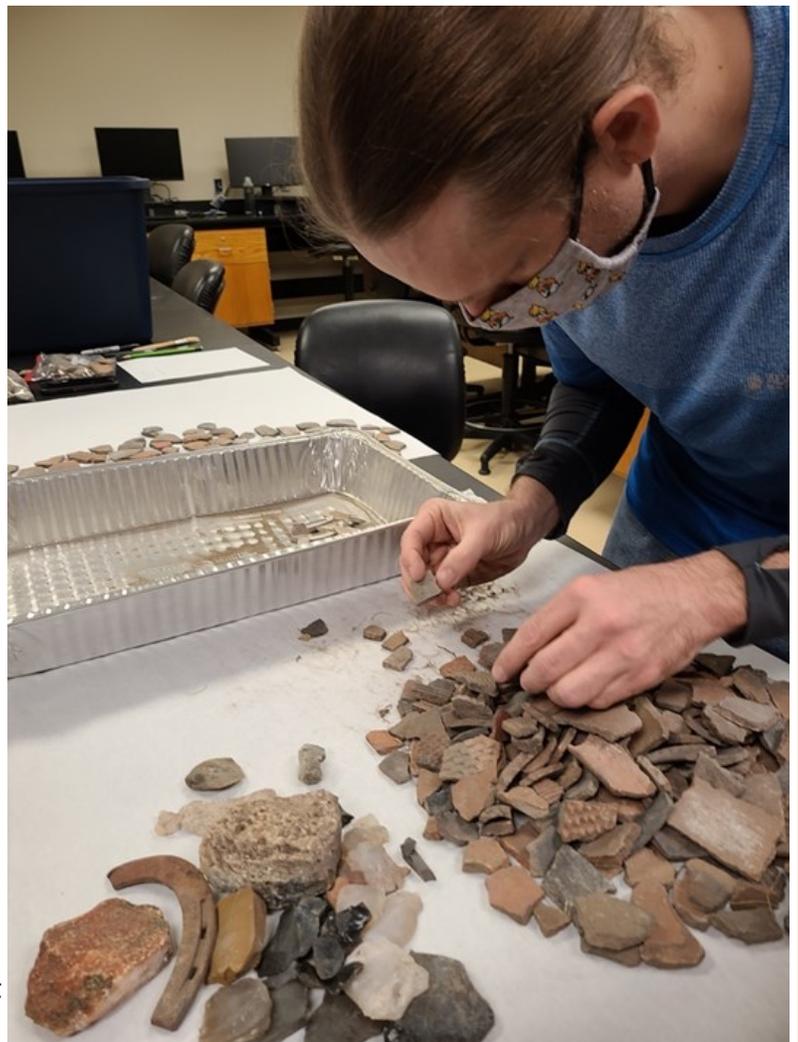
Some of you may recall a similar event at Richland some years ago, in which NTAS (then TCAS) members participated by setting up tables and presenting lecture-demonstrations. We hope to use some of the collections artifacts to showcase the Anthropology Program at Richland College as well as assisting with activities. This year we already have two members signed up to help. Ray Wallace will give a demonstration as to how his work with GIS connects with and supports archeology. Dylan Holubar has agreed to share his flint knapping skills to demonstrate how stone tools are made and used.

If you are interested in joining the work for the collections and/or the Anthropology Day activities, please contact Tim Sullivan at Secretary@ntxas.org as soon as possible. An email reminder with further instructions will be mailed out to those who have contacted with interest, as we get closer to the event.



Two burnt logs. Note the date on newspaper wrapping. The C-14 date that the Nowell family received from Midwestern may have come from a sample taken from these logs. Perhaps these are vigas or portions of pillars used for the houses. There are also some large samples of burnt adobe and daub in the collection.

Ray Wallace works on a bag of artifacts. Look at the mix of flint, metal (horseshoe) and pottery.





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*

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.

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

Ray Wallace
Vice President

Tim Sullivan
Secretary

Internet Chair (vacant)

Catrina Banks Whitley
Vice President of Projects

James Everett
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 for 2022.

January Newsletter: December 30

February Newsletter: January 27

March Newsletter: February 24

April Newsletter: March 31

May Newsletter: April 28

July Newsletter: June 30

August Newsletter: July 28

September Newsletter: August 25

October Newsletter: September 29

November Newsletter: October 27

December Newsletter: November 24

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