



In lieu of a **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** meeting for **December** there will be a **holiday party**. See page 2 for information.

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

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Benchmark

Volume 36, Issue 11

December 2022

President's Message

Happy holidays, NTAS! Please note that in December NTAS does not have a regular monthly meeting. Instead, NTAS traditionally has a Christmas party which will be hosted this year by Dr. Paula Vastine in Keller (see page 2). Please stop by and have fun with fellow NTAS members and families. Regular meetings for NTAS resume with the January 12 meeting.

Time to renew your membership! If you enjoy NTAS publications, monthly programs, field activities, lab activities, camaraderie, and much more – then please renew your membership. NTAS wants to retain your membership, and we certainly hope that you find value in the society. Renew on the NTAS website (<https://ntxas.org/join-and-renew>). Or mail in the membership form on page 12 in this newsletter with check or money order. Thank you!

For the November 10 monthly meeting 31 folks joined in person, and 48 via Zoom. Bonnie Reynolds presented her dissertation research about the Toyah cultural phase. It was very interesting to learn about the data collection and processing on Perdiz points from repositories and publications. The November 10 meeting was recorded and is available on the NTAS YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChDKM9I3UdiYizPyG3duohQ>.

On behalf of all the 2021-2022 NTAS officers I want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve the membership.



This was a wonderful term through dynamic times. And here we are the largest regional archeological society in Texas (>300 members), even larger than some of the surrounding state societies. Over the past two years the officers and assistants of the NTAS Executive Committee have worked together as a well-oiled team, accomplishing a lot of archeology. What a pleasure it has been serving with these great folks! The incoming officers for 2023-2024 are energetic and will do a tremendous job guiding this society for the next two years. Diamond, Tuffy (aka Archeopooch), I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to seeing you at the next NTAS event.

Jimmy Barrera

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

2022 Holiday Party!!!

Paula Vastine

The NTAS Christmas Party is back!

New place, same party.

Please join us for an evening of fun, food, and many laughs.

Date: December 10, 2022

Time: 5-11pm

Place: Stone Glen Villas
301 Tulip Way (clubhouse)
Keller, TX, 76248

Gate Code: 3020, or it may be open

Parking: You may park directly in front of anyone's house as long as you avoid the driveway and fire lanes. There are limited parking spots behind the clubhouse.

Food: We invite you to bring your favorite holiday treat or just make a swing through any of your favorite food havens for an entree, dessert, etc. Soft drinks, tea, lemonade, and coffee will be provided as well as cups, plates, utensils, and napkins. As usual it is BYOB. The clubhouse has ample seating, a fireplace, and room for all of us as well as outdoor seating, if the weather allows.

Entertainment: YOU are the entertainment. Catch up with friends you have missed and partici-

pate in our White Elephant Gift exchange. The rules for the gift exchange are as follows: Bring a wrapped gift, take a number from Santa, and when your number is called, pick out a gift from under the tree OR steal it from another. The THIRD time a gift is stolen it is FROZEN. We have had some very interesting, unusual, homemade, archeologically related gifts under our tree over the years. Be creative. The gifts related to archeology are cherished by many and brought back the next year by some!

Since we will be in a new place, please feel free to call Paula (817-988-8405) for any question you may have or if you need directions.

The location is in Keller, right off of FM 1709, also known as Keller Parkway, Golden Triangle Blvd, or Southlake Blvd.

Please send me a text, email, or call for directions if you need them.

RSVP: Paula Vastine (paulavastine@gmail.com) for a rough head count.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

January 12th: Matt Boulanger (Obsidian Sourcing)

February 9th: Brendon Asher (Blackwater Draw)

March 9th: Tom Ashmore and C.A. Maedgen

From the Archives

Linda Lang

To close out 2022, we look to Christmas past in the December 1999 issue of the TCAS Benchmark. This holiday issue includes an article from Tiffany Osburn about early-stage work done on the Fort St. Louis Project. Next, there is a short piece on archeological finds from the colonial settlement at Jamestown, Virginia. Finally, there is a project update from then VP of Projects, Marvin Glasgow, that provides a window into society activities at the time. If you are interested in this walk down memory lane, please email Linda Lang at lottlang@gmail.com. If you wish to access other newsletters or materials not currently featured, or have questions, feel free to contact me for those requests as well!

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



Clovis Field Site Excavation Days

Photos courtesy of Chris Meis

NTAS members (Royce Baker, Art Tawater, Kathleen Hughes, Chris Meis, and Phillip Darce) at the Clovis Field site.



Newly Elected NTAS Executive Committee Members (2023-2024)

Allen Rutherford — President

Raised in Southern Indiana, I have been a Texas resident since 2014 and an NTAS member since 2021. I received a BS in Anthropology from the College of Charleston in South Carolina and a MA in Anthropology from Northern Illinois University. I am currently in the process of finishing my dissertation, which is focused on research on the Peruvian Coast during the transition to Inka rulership. I have been a Principal Investigator at AR Consultants, Inc. in Richardson since 2015 and, as a result, have been involved in a number of projects throughout the state of Texas over the last eight years. Currently, I live in East Dallas with my wife Lauren, our son Rowan, and Frank, our extremely fluffy dog. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for electing me, and I look forward to helping the society continue to grow over the next two years.



Stephen Lowe — Vice President

As an Avocational Archeologist, I joined TAS in 2009 when I lived in Camp Wood. I joined NTAS (TCAS) in 2017 shortly after we moved to Tolar. I was raised in Mart and North Richland Hills. I graduated from West Texas State University (WTA&M) in 1977 with a BS in Geology, plus a 2nd Lieutenant's commission in the US Army, Corps of Engineers. I received a Masters of Public Administration (MPA) in 1994 from Troy State University, and I retired from the Army in 1997.

I worked for a Design/Build Firm in Dallas till 2001, when I began working as an overseas contractor for the Army, State Department, and USAID until 2017. I have lived and worked within many cultures in Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. My military career focused on Combat, Topographic, and Facility Engineering; while my civilian career was as a Program/Project Manager on US Government construction/facility management contracts and as an advisor to foreign senior military personnel.

I first became interested in Archeology when I was 5 and my Grandfather took me to Torrey's Trading Post near Mart (now closed to the public) and I found my first arrowheads. In visiting my relatives in West Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona I was exposed to more history and archeology, which I continued along my later travels. I was one of the founders, and first President of the Nueces Canyon Missions Restoration Organization; and an original member of the short-lived Uvalde County Archeological Society. I look forward to getting more involved with NTAS and serving as your Vice-President.



Gen Freix — Historian

Hello,

I am Gen Freix and I will be the North Texas Archeological Society Historian for the 2023 - 2024 term. My membership in NTAS and TAS covers over 25 years. In past years, I have assisted as the NTAS Internet Chair for 5 years, Local Arrangements Committee for TAS Annual Meeting several times, NTAS event coordinator, as well as, participating in many of our local outreach events. This year that included, the Doss Heritage summer children's archeology camp, the Denton Archeology Fair, TXDOT Archeology Day, and Dinosaur Valley 50th Anniversary.

I continue to learn from each new activity and the other NTAS members.



Dylan Holubar — Secretary

I was raised in Texas and have been living here most of my life. I graduated from Texas State University in 2019 under a triple minor program in which I studied Anthropology, Religion, and Exercise Science. I have been a member of NTAS for two years and have helped with numerous projects and events including flintknapping demonstrations where I show how stone tools were made in prehistoric times. I started working as a cultural resource technician earlier this year doing archaeological surveys and excavations and have worked all over Texas and the surrounding states. I am honored to be nominated as Secretary and look forward to working with NTAS and its members!



Brian Luetchford — Vice President of Projects

I have been keenly interested in archeology since I was a child student of history reading my father's old National Geographic magazines. I eventually became an Anthropology major at the State University of New York at Albany, but changed majors while promising myself I would return to Archeology later in life. Now semi-retired, I am thrilled to be a new member of NTAS. I have participated in the Palo Duro Field School and the recent Bolivar dig. I hope to see all of you on Zoom and at the Kerrville Field School this June! I currently live in Little Elm with my lovely wife near our son, his wife and two grandchildren.



NTAS Members Enjoying the TAS Annual Meeting

Photos courtesy of James & Susan Everett



Carol Macaulay Jameson, Bryan Jameson, and new TAS President Tamra Walter on Friday afternoon in the lobby of the Soules College of Business, UT Tyler.



Exhausted: Royce Baker, Gen Freix, Paula Vastine, and Sue Gross (from Houston) following the very successful silent auction.

Sonny A. Wheeler, III picking up his box lunch for the Saturday Business Meeting.



Chris Meis receiving the C.K. Chandler Award from Dr. Alan Skinner in recognition of the most sites recorded by an avocational archeologist in the past year.



Stephen Lowe and Royce Baker before the banquet.

Linda Lang, Gen Freix, and Susan Everett taking a break on Friday afternoon.



Glynn and Sandy Osburn between paper sessions on Saturday.



Jimmy Barrera introducing the speaker at the Friday night Public Forum.

Archeology in the News — 2022

Many thanks to members Skipper Scott, Bob Lovett, and Catrina Banks Whitley, who shared interesting archeological stories from across the world. Here are some headlines and items of interest from 2022.

Vandalism at Big Bend National Park a ‘Gut Punch’ for Texas Heritage

https://texashighways.com/travel-news/vandalism-at-big-bend-national-park-a-gut-punch-for-texas-heritage/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Web+Story

The Secrets of Bonfire Shelter

<https://www.texasmonthly.com/being-texan/secrets-bonfire-shelter/>

How Old Are White Sands NP's Fossil Footprints?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBnysjyDg4c>

Now Showing: Protecting Chaco's 10-Mile Zone

<https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/2022/05/02/now-showing-protecting-chacos-10-mile-zone/>

Largest Native American cave art revealed by 3D scans

<https://www.science.org/content/article/largest-native-american-cave-art-revealed-3d-scans>

What 4,500-Year-Old Poop Teaches Us About the People Who Built Stonehenge

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/what-4500-year-old-poop-teaches-us-about-the-people-who-built-stonehenge-180980125/>

Lost Cities of the Amazon Discovered From the Air

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/lost-cities-of-the-amazon-discovered-from-the-air-180980142/>

Nearly Perfectly Preserved 1,500-Year-Old Arrow Found in Melting Glacier

<https://www.deeranddeerhunting.com/content/articles/deer-news/nearly-perfectly-preserved-1500-year-old-arrow-found-in-melting-glacier>

Early human fossils found in cave are a million years older than expected

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/28/world/sterkfontein-cave-australopithecus-fossils-age-scni/index.html>

Stolen artifacts, some from 400s B.C., returned to Italy from New York

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/07/22/new-york-italy-looted-artifacts-returned/>

3,000 years ago, human activity destroyed vegetation and irreparably damaged the Timna Valley environment

<https://phys.org/news/2022-09-years-human-vegetation-irreparably-timna.amp>

Scientists find remains of Neanderthal family in Russian cave for first time

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/10/20/neanderthal-family-russia-cave-father-daughter/>

Before-and-after satellite imagery will track Ukraine cultural damage, UN says

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/27/before-and-after-satellite-imagery-will-track-ukraine-cultural-damage-un-says>

The Gault Site in Central Texas Reveals New Details About the Oldest North Americans

<https://texashighways.com/culture/history/the-gault-site-in-central-texas-reveals-new-details-about-the-oldest-north-americans/>

NTAS Talk at Midwestern State University

Jimmy Barrera

On November 17 NTAS - President Jimmy Barrera delivered a guest lecture at Midwestern State University (MSU) in Wichita Falls. NTAS is fortunate to receive many requests each year for programs on archeology, and MSU specifically requested a lecture on archeology for their fall semester. The talk was focused on the 2004 Maya Research Program mapping and excavations centered on the ballcourt area at the Mayan site of Gran Cacao in northwestern Belize. About 30 folks attended the in person program. With lively dialog throughout. As with any program on Maya archeology, there was discussion and imagery of jaguars, monkeys, jade, pottery, glyphs, and sweat soaked archeologists in the rain forest.



2023 TAS Academies

Jimmy Barrera

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) is offering two Academies next year. The first will be a return of the Rock Art Academy to El Paso on February 25-26, 2023. And then the Archeology 101 Academy will be held in Goldthwaite on March 24-26, 2023. Registration is open and these two academies are filling FAST! For details and to register please go to <https://www.txarch.org/Academies>. Also NTAS offers scholarships for TAS programs including Academies <https://ntxas.org/scholarships>.

Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, Update

Jimmy Barrera

The Fall edition of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN) newsletter is out and available to the public via the Texas Historical Commission (THC) website: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/TASNnewsFall22.pdf>.

The TASN is a wonderful program full of volunteers across Texas who share a love for archeology. Their newsletter is quite an accomplishment, highlighting the ongoing accomplishments to the already nationally recognized TASN. The program is overseen by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The newsletter and program owe much of their recent success to the TASN program coordinator Ms. Becky Shelton of the THC, an NTAS member. Congrats to Becky, and the other NTAS members who are part of the TASN, on the newsletter and overall successful program. If you are interested to learn more about the TASN please read the Fall newsletter (above link), or reference the THC's website here: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/texas-archeological-stewards>. And please consider submitting a nomination to join the TASN or recommending someone to join, if you have interest to volunteer in Texas archeology (and love to learn a lot!) The links above can guide you toward further involvement with the TASN.

TASN news
Texas Archeological Stewardship Network Newsletter
A Publication of the Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division FALL 2022

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Ron Ralph Work Group Records 230 Sites From the 1971-72 TAS Kerrville Field School
John H. Benedict

Fig. 1. Alan Skinner

If you were a student working on your dissertation project to obtain a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Anthropology, wouldn't it be wonderful to have 450 plus folks helping you collect and organize your data? Well, that is just what happened to Dr. Alan Skinner back in 1971 and 1972. At the time Alan was a graduate student at Southern Methodist University under Professor Joel Eisinger. But it was not all "noses and kippops." Alan had to take a leadership role in organizing the 1971 and 1972 field schools for TAS, no small task even with lots of support.

These field schools were held in Kerr County in the Turtle Creek Watershed. The field school participants camped along Turtle Creek on the Andy Yarrs Ranch (Figure 2). The purpose of this field school was to survey the Turtle Creek watershed for all prehistoric archeological sites. Alan wanted to use this site data to study prehistoric settlement patterns within a definable natural and cultural area—the Turtle Creek Watershed. Alan's dissertation was titled "Prehistoric Settlement of a "Natural Area."

Continues next page

Archeological Events

NTAS Holiday Party in Keller

5-11pm December 10, 2022

See page 2 for details. Contact Dr. Paula Vastine for info paulavastine@gmail.com.

Clovis Field Site Excavations (NTAS)

December 10-11, 2022

Excavation weekend at the Clovis Field Project in Mills County. No experience necessary! If interested, to sign-up, or for more information including lodging please contact Chris Meis at lptmeis@sbcglobal.net.

TAS Rock Art Academy

El Paso, TX

February 25-26, 2023

<https://www.txarch.org/Rock-Art>

TAS Archeology 101 Academy

Goldthwaite, TX

March 24-26, 2023

<https://www.txarch.org/Archeology-101/>

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 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, they may be used on the NTAS website and social media platforms such as Facebook.

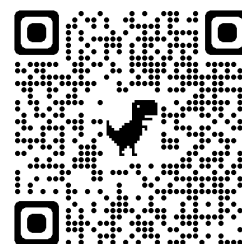
Newsletter and Journal Content

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).

Journal of the NTAS

Volume 1 of the Journal is now available for purchase on Amazon. Visit amazon.com/dp/B0BJYD52JP or scan the QC code:

As a reminder, a digital copy is available to all current NTAS members via a new members-only section of the NTAS website. Simply visit <https://ntxas.org/m/login?r=%2Fjournal-of-the-ntas-1> and set up an account **using the email that is on file with the society**. You will then have instant access to this volume.



Call for Papers

NTAS is now looking for articles to fill the 2023 Volume. 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).



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 (publicationseeditor@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!

Jenny Gray
Bonnie Reynolds
Will Yates

Ciara Mason
Heather O'Donnell

Donors

Gwen Durrant — *Texas Beyond History*
Charlene Erwin — *Texas Beyond History*
Charlene Erwin — *Memorial Scholarship Fund in Memory of Lloyd Erwin*
Dr. Tim Sullivan — *Texas Beyond History*
Dr. Catrina Banks Whitley — *General 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

Jimmy Barrera
President

Gwen Durrant
Treasurer

Linda Lang
Historian

Ray Wallace
Vice President

Tim Sullivan
Secretary

Ashley Green
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 two weeks prior to the monthly meetings, and upcoming deadlines are listed below.

January Newsletter: December 29

February Newsletter: January 26

March Newsletter: February 23

April Newsletter: March 30

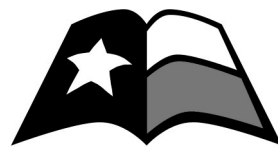
May Newsletter: April 27

July Newsletter: June 29

August Newsletter: July 27

September Newsletter: August 31

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