



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

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

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Benchmark

Volume 35, Issue 2

February 2021

President's Message

Hope you enjoyed the January program as much as I did. Dr. Charles Frederick delivered another tremendous program to NTAS on mima (pimple) mounds covering the natural formation and context of archeological sites within these interesting features. It was fascinating to learn how gophers, earth worms, ants, and vegetation regimes all influence the formation of these mounds and the context of archeological deposits. We usually think of these organisms as our little excavation unit buddies (or foes). Reminds me of the physician/anthropologist character Dr. James Mortimer's dislike of rabbits while being questioned at his excavation site by Sherlock Holmes in the 1988 movie *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Yet another lesson from Dr. Frederick left me wondering if I knew anything at all about archeology.

The TxDOT excavations in Bolivar have involved NTAS volunteers for the last couple of months and are wrapping up now. Many thanks to our TxDOT partners and to the approximate 20 NTAS members who volunteered to get out there and safely have fun and work on great archeological sites.

Brief reminder that it is **time to renew your NTAS membership**, please renew registration online here <https://ntxas.org/join-and-renew> or use the form in the newsletter and mail with check or money order. Thank you for your continued support!



Great news! Texas Archeological Society has decided to move forward with the annual Field School that so many of us love and desperately look toward each year. The dates are June 12-19, 2021 with location in the Kerrville area. More details including registration info for the annual Field School should be provided via the TAS website and other outlets soon.

This month we have a very exciting program featuring NTAS's own Dr. Catrina Banks Whitley joined by fellow Guest Speaker Reign Clark as they present their investigations of the cemetery associated with Bullhead Convict Labor Camp located in Sugar Land, Fort Bend County, Texas. This project has received extensive media attention and is sure to be of great interest to NTAS members, see you there on the 11th!

Jimmy Barrera

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www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact president@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

February Speakers: Catrina Banks Whitley & Reign Clark

Back to Bondage: Forced Labor in Post Reconstruction Era Texas

A cultural resources investigation within the James Reese Career and Technical Center in Sugar Land, Fort Bend County, Texas, was conducted beginning in October 2017. The project area was once part of the larger Central State Prison Farm owned by the State of Texas since 1908. Excavation of the Bullhead Bayou cemetery resulted in the discovery of the largest unknown convict cemetery in the State of Texas.

Exhaustive laboratory analysis and archival research went into the compilation of a 500-page report of findings revealing the cemetery was connected to Bullhead Convict Labor Camp, a camp that operated there from circa 1875 to 1908. Reign Clark returned there to oversee the reinterment process of the “Sugar Land 95”, as they became locally known, in November 2019, where they now rest in their original graves.

This presentation will discuss the excavation of the remains, archaeothanatology, and bioarchaeological interpretations of the “Sugar Land 95”. Analysis revealed atypical mortuary practices, disease, malnutrition, and trauma endured, among other health insults, by the prisoners of the convict labor camp.

DNA and isotope analysis as well as genealogical research continues today in the quest for locating descendants and to actually put names on markers at the Bullhead Convict Labor Camp Cemetery.

(see speaker bios on page 3)

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

March 11th: Josh Haefner & Dr. Victor Galan (Toll 49—Tyler)

April 8th: Jack Johnson (Lower Pecos)

May 13th: Doug Boyd (Bolivar Project)

January & February Donors

Dominick J. Cirincione
Pat Mercado-Allinger
Mark G. Kalpakis
Charles Frederick

Welcome, New Members!

Jacob DeWell Kim Wright
Caroline Erwin Mark Henderson

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.



Catrina Banks Whitley earned her degrees in Archaeology from Southern Methodist University (Ph.D. 2009, M.A. 2006). She is Vice President of the North Texas Archeological Society and served for 3 years on the Texas Archeological Society board. She works in Texas and New Mexico as a contract bioarchaeologist, with her company Bioarchaeology Support, conducting osteological analysis and/or as the project director/principal investigator of cemetery excavations. She is currently working on several projects, some including large outreach components focusing on avocational archaeology participation and community involvement. She has taught courses at the University of Texas at Arlington as an Adjunct Professor and Visiting Assistant Professor, and at Southern Methodist University as an Adjunct Professor and Senior Teaching Fellow.

She has 18 years of experience as a principal investigator, 20+ years of experience in the osteological analysis of human remains and has received 18+ burial permits from New Mexico and 5 permits from the state of Texas. She has authored and co-authored over 25 professional reports in Texas and New Mexico,

numerous conference posters and presentations, several journal articles, and a book chapter. Her most recent publications include *Back to Bondage* (2020) as a second author, a chapter "Separating the Dead from the Living" in *Ancient Southwest Mortuary Practices* (2020), and "Assessing cancer risk factors faced by an Ancestral Puebloan population in the North American Southwest" in the *International Journal of Paleopathology* (2018) with Jeffrey L. Boyer. She also published an article in the *Historical Journal* titled "A new explanation for the reproductive woes and midlife decline of Henry VIII" as first author.

Dr. Whitley is currently the Principal Investigator for a DNA research project conducted by the Principal Research Group on the individuals excavated from the Bullhead Bayou Cemetery, Fort Bend County, Texas.

Reign Clark is the Cultural Resources Practice Manager for Environmental Science and Engineering (ESE) Partners, LLC. Mr. Clark has 23 years of cultural resources research experience working on projects for both public institutions and private consulting firms in Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Mexico. He has participated in hundreds of cultural resources surveys, 16 National Register of Historic Places testing projects, six data recovery projects (including historic and prehistoric sites), and two historic cemetery relocation projects. He has served as project director, historian, and primary and contributing author, and expert witness.

Mr. Clark received the 2012 Texas Historical Commission's Award of Merit for Report Production, served on the Texas Archeological Society Reports and Curation Committee for 3 terms, served as the first Vice President of the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA), co-authored the Texas State Standards for Cemetery Exploration, and served as chair of the CTA History Committee.



Archeology Events & Announcements

THC's YouTube Channel Features 19 Archeology Videos from around the State

Contributed by Paula Vastine (text taken from release announcement)

In anticipation of Texas Archeology Month 2020, the Texas Historical Commission organized the recording of 19 presentations by professional and avocational archeologists. Topics encompass the state, ranging from the Paleoindian to Spanish colonial periods. After slowly releasing presentations since November, we are pleased to announce that all of the videos have been uploaded to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAF3XhIGKUdZHAMIICCH7pQI> and are available for your viewing pleasure.

TAS Ceramics Academy: The Stories Found in Pottery

February 20-21, 2021

Contributed by Jimmy Barrera

An exciting academy to be held VIRTUALLY via Zoom, this academy will introduce the importance of archeological ceramics in terms of technology, chronology, dating, trade, subsistence, and cultural identity. Definitions and origins of ceramics, decoration and how pottery was embellished, sherd analysis and how pottery is classified and typed, and interpretations including what we can learn from pottery analysis. Each participant in the Ceramics Academy will receive an excellent class manual and they will receive a KIT with materials for hands-on exercises that will be virtually instructed such as making pottery and identifying vessel types, age, and firing.

Instructors: Marybeth Tomka, Dr. Chris Lintz, and Rebecca Shelton.

Registration deadline: February 6, 2021

For more details: <https://www.txarch.org/academy01>

(Waiting list only remaining)

TAS Archeology 101 Academy

March 13-14, 2021

Half day of excavation - March 20 or 21, 2021

Contributed by Jimmy Barrera

Another exciting 2021 TAS Academy is the Archeology 101 Academy. Class instruction for this academy will be held VIRTUAL via Zoom, with a hands-on, half-day field component scheduled to be held at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, located in the town of San Felipe, Texas. This academy provides background information on the archeology of the state and how to identify archeological sites, both pre-European and historic in nature. Instructions are provided for accurate site recording that allows archeologists to assess the importance and significance of a site or sites, and contribute to the synthesis of the state's cultural heritage.

Lead Instructor: Dr. Jon Lohse; Principal Investigator for field excavations: Dr. Sarah Chesney

Registration deadline is February 27, 2021.

For more details: <https://www.txarch.org/academy02>

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>

Kimbell Art Museum presents Queen Nefertari's Egypt through March 14, 2021

Contributed by Catrina Whitley

Finally – an archaeological exhibit to go see! Unfortunately, we cannot go as a group for a NTAS outing, but it will be a great excursion on your own. It is an amazing exhibit. My family checked out the exhibit ourselves to see about the COVID protocols and wait times.

Nefertari was the favorite wife of Ramesses II (reigned 1279-1213 BCE) and was one of the most celebrated queens of ancient Egypt. She was educated and could read and write hieroglyphs. All of the works in the exhibit are from the Museo Egizio in Turin, Italy.

As the Kimbell describes on their website, the exhibition celebrates Nefertari and many other powerful royal women from the New Kingdom period and brings them to life through some 230 exceptional treasures. The exhibit includes reconstructions of Nefertari's tomb, explores the life of the women in the royal household and the status and rights of women in Egypt, the artisan village of Dier el-Medina, the rituals of death, and much more.

The Kimbell Art Museum is located in Fort Worth and has very strict COVID protocols to keep everyone safe. They are limiting the number of people in the exhibit and the wait can be up to two hours, but the museum will not rush you while you are inside the exhibit so you will have plenty of time to explore, read everything, stand with your face practically pressed against the glass to see the tiny details, and have docents letting you know to squeeze around the back side of the case to see the hieroglyphs and painting on the back of the statues.

Tickets are available on their website at <https://www.kimbellart.org/exhibition/queen-nefertaris-egypt>

The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday. Half-price admission to special exhibitions on Tuesdays from 10 am–5 pm and Fridays from 5–8 pm; tickets have to be purchased at the museum. Tickets can be bought in advance on all other days.

TAS Academy Scholarships Available

The Texas Archeological Society is offering 3 academies this year. The Archeobotany and Ceramics academies will be virtual and the Archeology 101 Academy will have a virtual classroom portion with a hands-on day of excavation. See details about the academies on pages 4-5 of this newsletter.

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

In recent years, the NTAS scholarships have had very few applicants. This means that there is a fabulous opportunity for multiple, deserving people to get scholarships. If you are not qualified to apply for a scholarship, please pass the word along to someone who is.

NTAS Is on YouTube!

Check out the brand new NTAS YouTube channel where many of our past programs can now be viewed and where future presentations will be stored.

To access the NTAS You Tube channel, just click on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChDKM9I3UdiYizPyG3duohQ/featured>

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.

Volunteering at the Bolivar Project

Jimmy Barrera

The day before a snowstorm swept across part of Texas, I joined another NTAS volunteer, along with Doug Boyd and his archeological crew on the TxDOT excavations in Bolivar, Denton County. Perfect weather and top-notch archeology allowed Carolyn Coughlin (NTAS member) and I ample opportunity to joke while working at our screens. Doug Boyd explained the discovery of a limestone walled structure on site 41DN617, Tom Cook's Blacksmith Shop. The new structure might be cellar or store associated with this important historic community. Discovery of something like a new building or room that's part of a larger frontier community provides an idea on how daunting the excavation of a town or community can be, and how much hard work goes into this archeology.



A little light frost kicking off perfect day on site 41DN617, Tom Cook's Blacksmith Shop. Photo by J. Barrera.



Limestone walled structure at site 41DN617, Tom Cook's Blacksmith Shop.
Photo courtesy of Doug Boyd and Dr. Kevin Hanselka.

Sample of artifacts from NTAS screening at site 41DN593, Sartin Hotel. Photo by J. Barrera.



We Need *YOUR* Help!

Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project

If you have a project and would like to involve experienced, skilled, and knowledgeable NTAS members, please let Catrina Whitley, Vice President of Projects, know. These can be field projects that are complete with need for lab and/or reporting assistance; ongoing field/lab/report projects where NTAS could provide assistance; or upcoming field/lab/reporting efforts where NTAS could assist.

Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events

As we expand our social media presence and add to our website, we are looking for photos from fieldwork, public outreach events, group tours, monthly meetings, social gatherings such as the Christmas party, etc. Photos from the membership can be great tools to let others know what our society is all about—what we do, how we share our knowledge, and the social experiences that come with it all.

By providing these photos, please understand they can be used on the NTAS website and social media platforms such as Facebook.

Newsletter Content

Please share with your fellow members by contributing to the newsletter. Potential ideas include:

- Highlights from NTAS volunteer opportunities
 - Summaries of archeological research and field projects
 - Announcements and internet links to events, exhibits, media, and publications that would be of interest to the membership
 - Displays of archeology-related skills such as flintknapping, trowel making, basket making.
- If you would like to contribute to these efforts, please contact the publications editor by emailing us at publicationseditor@ntxas.org.

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

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

March Newsletter: February 18

April Newsletter: March 18

May Newsletter: April 22

July Newsletter: June 17

August Newsletter: July 22

September Newsletter: August 19

October Newsletter: September 23

November Newsletter: October 21

December Newsletter: November 19

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NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

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Two easy and quick ways to pay your 2021 NTAS dues!

By PayPal: Complete the Application Form and pay online with PayPal at the NTAS website, ntxas.org/membership

By mail: Complete the application below and mail it with your check to:
North Texas Arch Society, PO Box 24679, Fort Worth, TX 76124

February 2021 **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Preferred Phone _____

City\State\Zip _____ Email Address _____

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 _____ Alternate Contact Name _____

Relationship _____ Relationship _____

Phone Number _____ Phone Number _____

I want my newsletter delivered by _____ email (\$0) or _____ by USPS mail. (\$10) **Thank you** for choosing delivery by email.

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

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Contribution	<input type="checkbox"/> Please keep my contribution publicly anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Fund Contribution	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Student: \$10 (enrolled in grade school through college/university whose coursework is considered to be half time or more)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing \$30		

****Please make checks payable to NTAS****

Code of Ethics (signature required): I PLEDGE THAT I 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 UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY.

Signature _____

Date _____