



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

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

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Benchmark

Volume 36, Issue 2

February 2022

President's Message

Thanks to everyone who assisted both behind the scenes and during the monthly meeting to make the first hybrid meeting for NTAS a success! On January 13th approximately 20 folks joined in person for the meeting and 30 folks joined via Zoom. Rob Denkhaus delivered a very interesting overview of the natural resources and the history of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. It was awesome to learn about the diverse history that this facility has seen prior to its inception and some very interesting uses that continue today. This program was recorded and is available on the NTAS YouTube channel:

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

Reminder to pay your membership dues, thank you! Please renew your membership online <https://ntxas.org/join-and-renew> or mail a check with the membership form in the newsletter.

On January 22nd NTAS had another lab day at the Richland Campus of Dallas College where Dr. Tim Sullivan continued to oversee the analysis of two archeological collections. The volunteers were able to



sort, record, and bag/box a collection from New Mexico and another collection from Texas. Thanks to everyone for their efforts! What fun and a great exercise of how important archeological collections are as part of our beloved field.

Speaking of collections: NTAS Historian Linda Lang has continued to work on the transfer of the NTAS archives to the UT Arlington Special Collections library. On January 29th Linda and Brett Lang along with Jimmy Barrera officially transferred the NTAS archives to the UTA Special Collections. Kudos to Linda for all her efforts on this important NTAS initiative!

(Continued on page 3)

Connect with NTAS:

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

www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

February Speaker: Reid Ferring

The Aubrey Clovis Site: Environment, Activities, and Significance for Clovis Studies

Discovered near Lake Ray Roberts in 1988, the Aubrey Clovis site preserves an exceptional record of Clovis occupation patterns and activities that bear on the structure of Clovis populations, their subsistence economy and mobility patterns. Dated to 13,500 years ago, the site is buried 7-9 meters below the Elm Fork Trinity River floodplain, with occupations exposed by excavation in two camps and at the edge of a spring-fed pond. Bison kills near the pond were processed in the camp near the pond, along with a wide range of other fauna. A possible mammoth kill is near a second camp located next to the river. Almost 10,000 lithic artifacts provide evidence of long-distance raw material acquisition and multiple lithic reduction strategies showing patterns of tool importation, repair, use and discard. Spatial patterning reveals distinct areas of tool use near multiple hearths, including tools that were not discarded in the excavated areas. Overall, the lithic assemblages show a high degree of stone curation associated with the highly mobile groups. Excavation of a well near the pond, similar to those at Blackwater Draw, suggest adaptation to seasonal or periodic drought. Rather than “big game hunters”, subsistence evidence indicates the Aubrey Clovis folk exploited a wide range of fauna, probably for immediate consumption as well as to provision travel.



Reid Ferring is Professor emeritus in the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of North Texas, where he has taught since 1978. He holds a PhD in Archaeology from Southern Methodist University and a PhD in Geology from the University of Texas at Dallas. He has conducted archaeological and geological investigations in the Southern Plains of the US, Israel, Portugal, the Ukraine and for the last 28 years in the Republic of Georgia. He discovered and excavated the oldest Clovis site in North America, and is a member of the team excavating the Dmanisi Site in Georgia, which has yielded the oldest human fossils outside of Africa, dated to 1.8 million years ago. His main research interests are in the long-term changes in human behavior and culture.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

March 10th: Rhiana Ward (Alamo Excavations)

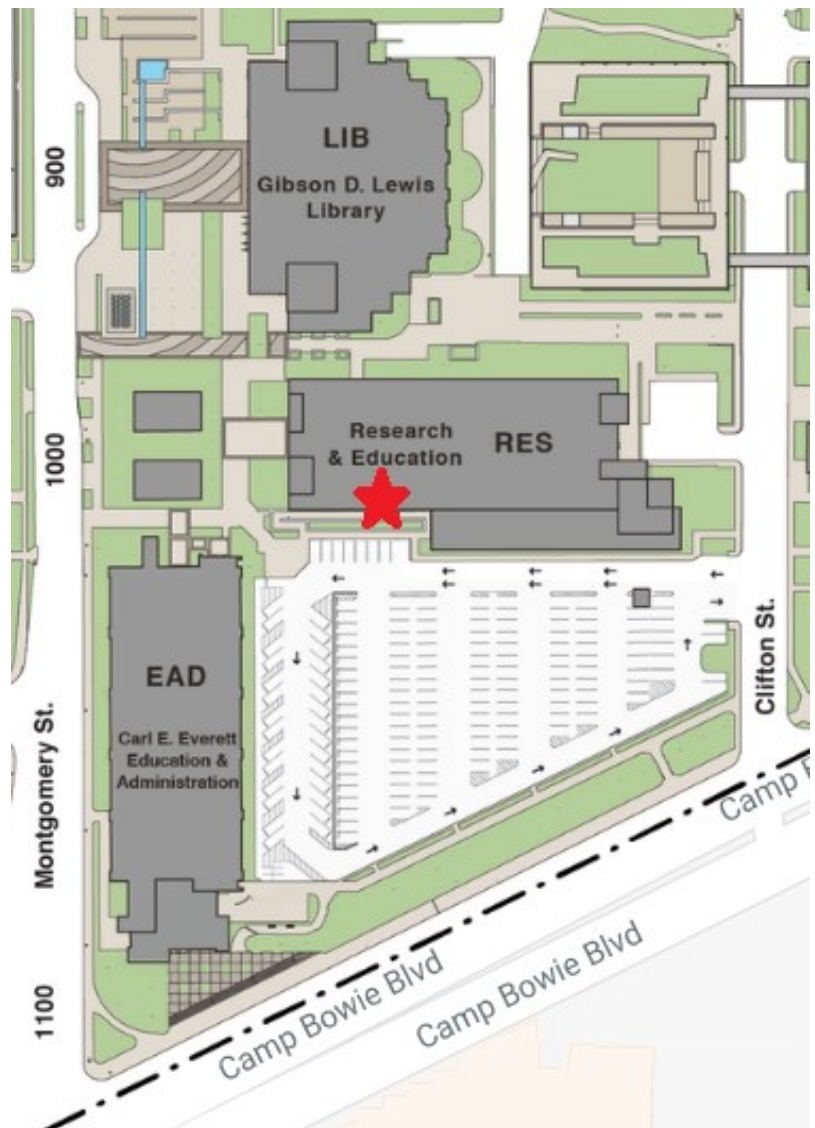
April 14th: Brad Jones (State Archeologist)

May 12th: Leslie Bush (Paleobotany)

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.**



President's Message, continued

The February 10, 2022 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 above for map). For those who attend in person wearing masks is strongly encouraged, and extra paper masks will 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 for the hybrid meeting. Our February guest speaker is Dr. Reid Ferring – Professor emeritus in the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of North Texas. Dr. Ferring will present on the famous Aubrey Clovis site that is located here in north Texas. This is a must-see program about a very important archeological site from a true legend in the fields of archeology, geology (and more). Thank you and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on February 10th!

Jimmy Barrera

New Digs for the Archives!!

Linda Lang

We are excited to report that NTAS successfully completed the transfer of its archives to the University of Texas at Arlington's Special Collections on Saturday, January 29, 2022. This is the culmination of efforts that began with James Everett's work to preserve the history of our society. While serving as TCAS Historian, James solicited members to donate materials such as newsletters, publications, photos, and other items of interest to expand our modest collection. He received numerous contributions resulting in a relatively comprehensive collection of society newsletters, including one from 1956. James worked diligently to create a digital copy of the newsletters and other publications to make our collection more accessible and shareable to society members. As the current NTAS Historian, Linda Lang has continued to maintain and further organize the NTAS archives.

In the last year under the leadership of President Jimmy Barrera, interest grew to find a permanent home for our collection that would preserve the legacy and open the collection for public access. Ultimately, the Special Collections at UTA expressed interest in being the repository for the materials. Additionally, the grant recently awarded to NTAS by Humanities Texas included funds dedicated to preserving and digitizing the archives. This will provide a special opportunity for the public to learn about archeology and the efforts of a long-standing and influential regional organization. Join us in celebrating this accomplishment!



Potential Marker Trees (and more)

Jimmy Barrera

Landowners Steve and Karen Adams contacted NTAS for expertise with the archeological site on their property. On January 8th Bret Williamson, James & Susan Everett, Ray Wallace, and Jimmy Barrera visited the site in Hood County. We met the landowners (very nice folks!), reconned the site, and reviewed the archeological assemblage. This site has pre-contact occupations representing thousands of years based on the assemblage, historic house and outbuildings, and two potential marker trees (Figure 1). NTAS is coordinating with a member of the Comanche Nation, an expert with Indian marker trees, to aid recording of the potential marker trees. The recon helped us decide that this is certainly an interesting site with a very long period of occupation (Figure 2). NTAS plans to record this archeological site on February 12th with a team of volunteers.



Figure 1. Bent tree is potential marker tree. Photo by J. Barrera.



Figure 2. Part of the assemblage from pre-contact occupation at site. Photo by J. Barrera.

NTAS Visit to Richland College to Work with Donated Materials

Tim Sullivan

On January 22, 2022, a group of NTAS Volunteers paid a second visit to Richland College to work on donated collections. The initial stage of sorting, recording and bagging/boxing the two collections was completed. We were delighted to have a brand-new NTAS member, Ronnie Colvin, join us for this activity.

The Nowell Family collection from a Mogollon site in New Mexico provided some surprises: a large sample of burnt sandy mix clay with impressions of the wood and some finger impressions, from the kiva; and more bags of ceramic sherds, likely holding single bowls in each.

The lithic collection, from Central Texas contained one bag of preforms and points, and several bags containing knives, bifaces, scrapers, etc. These will need to be further broken out for future sorting and arranging into Learning Activity Kits.

Finally, some items (not shown here) were identified and held out for possible presentation at the February 17 Anthropology Day events. This event will take place between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm inside in El Paso corridor on the Richland College campus.



Top left: Dylan Holubar works with ceramics and Lori Connolley works with lithics in the background.

Top Right: Murray Cohen illustrates two finger impressions in the hardened sandy clay/adobe mix used on the timbers for the kiva.

Bottom Left: New NTAS member, Ronnie Colvin, sorts ceramic sherds from the "Central Room" of site in New Mexico.



Richland College (Dallas College) Faculty member, Mary Peacock, works on a bag of ceramics, lithics and associated material from the Nowell Collection.

Lori Connolley holds a bag of ground and polished stone artifacts from the lithics collection.



Left: Ray Wallace sorts through a bag of sherds that probably represent a single bowl.

Right: Once sorted, this sample looks like it represents a single bowl, begging to be pieced back together! In fact, it looks like someone pasted some of the pieces together already.

Recent Graduate Direct Hire Opportunities

Archeologists positions open with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Nov/18/2002895584/-1/-1/0/RPEC%20DHA%20PSS%20-%20ENVIRONMENTAL%20MIEB%20-%20RPEC%20AND%20OPERATIONS.PDF>

Welcome, New Members!

Marion Coe
 Ronnie Colvin
 Valerie Contreras
 Annabelle Corboy
 Marcella Delgado & Family
 Rob Denkhaus
 Kate Fenton
 Jacob Flynn
 Jean Lansdale Fox
 Joshua Keene
 Ken Lawrence
 C.A. Maedgen III
 Corina Munsch
 Bo Nelson
 Mark Ratcliff
 Stephanie Vowell & Vedant Ganpule
 Lionel White

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.

December 2021 & January 2022 Donors

Royce Baker	Robert Lovett
Jimmy Barrera	Mark Kalpakis
Teresa Carrillo	Dana Ritchie
Phillip Darce	David Temple
Gwen Durrant	Lionel White
Cara Kraft	Kim Wright
Shirley Green	Anonymous

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!

Archeological Events

Executive Committee Nominations (NTAS)

Several Executive Committee member slots will be available for the 2023-2024 term. Please contact James Everett at immediatepastpresident@ntxas.org if you would like to volunteer or nominate someone for positions.

Clovis Field Site Excavations (NTAS)

February 19-20, 2022

Excavation dates are February 19th and 20th 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.

Free Virtual Lectures — The Archaeological Conservancy

2022

<https://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/virtual-lectures-2022/>

February 17 Dr. Paulette Steeves — Archaeology's Place in Healing and Reconciliation: Reclaiming the Indigenous Paleolithic of the Western Hemisphere

February 24 Dr. Ashley Lemke—Archaeology Underwater: How Submerged Landscapes Are Changing the Future of Archaeology

May 12 Color and Directional Symbolism at Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Canyon

Dallas College Anthropology Day (NTAS)

February 17, 2022, 11am-2pm

Richardson, TX

Contact Dr. Tim Sullivan at secretary@ntxas.org to volunteer

NTAS has now completed the first step in organizing and recording two donated collections at the Richland Campus of Dallas College. The two collections include ceramics, some flint tools, and burnt clay from a kiva at a site in Catron County, New Mexico; and a large unprovenanced collection of lithics from Central Texas. (see Page 6). Some of the items will be displayed in the upcoming Anthropology Day, February 17 at the college. If you have time and wish to assist in supporting that event, the time will be from 11 am to 2 pm at the Richland Campus. Some members may remember, or have participated in, that event a few years back. If you have a skill, or artifacts of interest in either archeology, or other areas of Anthropology (e.g. Cultural/Ethnology) and wish to participate, please contact Dr. Tim Sullivan at secretary@ntxas.org.

Human Remains Identification Class (NTAS)

February 25, 2022, 12-3pm

Venus, TX

Contact Catrina Banks Whitley at vpofprojects@ntxas.org to sign up

Join us for a basic introductory lab in human osteology and human remains identification. The ability to differentiate between human and faunal remains is essential during excavations. The presence of human remains in a field project triggers numerous laws and additional notifications to descendants. Becoming familiar with human skeletal remains morphology is an important skill as small fragments and faunal bones with similar morphology can be very difficult to identify. This hands-on lab will cover basic morphology of adult and infant remains. This lab is not designed to make you an expert in human remain identification, but to provide a greater level of confidence during excavations!

Lab space is limited to 10 participants and attendance is on a first come first serve basis.

Spirit Lodge: Mississippian Art from Spiro

March 13-August 7, 2022

Dallas Museum of Art

<https://dma.org/art/exhibitions/spirit-lodge-mississippian-art-spiro>

General admission to the DMA is free, but tickets are required.

SAA 87th Annual Meeting

March 30-April 3, 2022

Chicago, IL

See the SAA website for details <https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting>

Lithics Academy (TAS)

April 23-24, 2022

Austin, TX

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

First Call for Papers — TAS/ETAS 2022 Annual Meeting

Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for papers, symposia, and posters to be presented at the joint 93rd Annual Meeting of the **Texas Archeological Society** and the 28th **East Texas Archeological Conference** at the University of Texas at Tyler on October 21-23, 2022. This is anticipated as an in-person gathering. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, and professional members on any topic of archeological interest.

The program committee is planning a series of regional and topical symposia. Consequently, time slots for papers and symposia will fill early. Anyone interested in presenting at the meeting should contact the program chairs as early as possible to ensure that time and space will be available.

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. Due to scheduling concerns, symposium organizers must ensure that all abstracts for symposia and symposium papers meet an earlier deadline of August 15, 2022. For effective presentation of symposia, organizers may specify the order of papers and their length, as long as these points are stated in the symposium abstracts.

Papers will be limited to 15 minutes. The deadline for receipt of paper abstracts is September 1, 2022.

Posters are encouraged. Poster presentations effectively convey visual, graphic, and quantitative information and reach a larger audience than oral papers. Poster abstracts must be received by September 1, 2022 to appear in the program; late poster entries may be accommodated after consultation with the Program Chair.

Other presentation formats such as discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops may be held on approval of the Program Chair and Annual Meeting organizers.

Submit all abstracts as email attachments. Abstracts must include the following information: *Paper/Symposium/Poster* (indicate one); *Title*; *Author(s)* and *Affiliation(s)*; Abstract for each presentation (150 words maximum).

Meeting rooms will be equipped with data projectors and computers; additional audiovisual needs may be accommodated given prior notice. Contact the Program Chairs with questions about submission dates, formats, and/or equipment. We look forward to your contributions to this meeting.

Program Chairs: Thomas Guderjan (tguderjan@uttyler.edu; 817-831-9011) & Cory Sills (esills@uttyler.edu; 903-566-7442).

From the Archives

Linda Lang

For February, we have an educational resource. The featured document this month is “Archeologically Speaking for Texas: An Archeological Dictionary” compiled in 1993. It is an extensive list of terms, nearly 200. For those new to the society, this provides a useful tool. For more experienced members, the dictionary offers a vocabulary review and glimpse at the society’s interests in the early 1990s. If you wish to have a copy of this document, email Linda Lang at lottlang@gmail.com.

If you wish to access other newsletters or materials not currently featured, feel free to contact me for those requests as well!

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





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!

NTAS Executive Committee Voting Items

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 items passed via vote during the February 1, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting.

- Nomination of Ashley Green to the vacant position of Internet Chair for the remainder of 2022.
- Once the Humanities Texas funds are received, then NTAS will pay the University of Texas at Arlington Special Collections \$2,000 for the digitization of the NTAS archives

NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

Executive Committee

Jimmy Barrera
President

Ray Wallace
Vice President

Catrina Banks Whitley
Vice President of Projects

Gwen Durrant

Treasurer

Tim Sullivan
Secretary

James Everett
Immediate Past President

Linda Lang
Historian

Ashley Green
Internet Chair

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.

March Newsletter: February 24

April Newsletter: March 31

May Newsletter: April 28

July Newsletter: June 30

August Newsletter: July 28

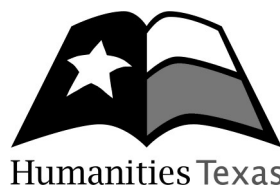
September Newsletter: August 25

October Newsletter: September 29

November Newsletter: October 27

December Newsletter: November 24

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Humanities Texas



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