



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

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

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Benchmark

Volume 36, Issue 1

January 2022

President's Message

Happy New Year NTAS! Diamond, Tuffy, and I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2022. Another interesting year was experienced as we look back in this month's newsletter. Please enjoy the 2021 NTAS Highlights, and I am grateful to everyone who made last year a great success. And thanks to the Treasurer Ms. Gwen Durrant for providing the annual business report in this month's newsletter, this will be discussed in more detail during the January meeting.

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.

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 Lewis Library Building, Room 110 (see page 3 for map). The in-person meetings will be a hybrid meeting and 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 for-



ward to seeing you in-person at the UNTHSC or on Zoom for the hybrid meeting. Our January guest speaker is Mr. Rob Denkhaus - Director of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNCR). Mr. Denkhaus will present an overview and history about the FWNCR. This will be an exciting opportunity to learn about an institution that has partnered with NTAS for approximately 50 years. Thank you and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on January 13th!

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

January Speaker: Rob Denkhous

The Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge: The Crossroads of Natural and Cultural History

Technically, the history of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNC&R) began with a 1964 Fort Worth City Council meeting but to fully understand and appreciate the past 58 years of FWNC&R history, you must understand and appreciate what the land has been witness to during the past. From acquiring land to ensure water quality and almost becoming a state park to the FWNC&R's role in the gangster heydays of Jacksboro Highway and the FWNC&R's current role as an icon for environmental education and natural resource management in north Texas, Rob Denkhous, FWNC&R Director, will take us on a journey of the FWNC&R's natural and cultural history.

Rob Denkhous holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology and Management from the University of Wisconsin. His career has involved wildlife research on common loons, greater prairie chickens, black bears, timber rattlesnakes, swamp rabbits, wild pigs, and American alligators, environmental education in zoos and nature centers, and has taken him back to Ohio where he grew up, on to Indiana and Tennessee with a short foray into Colorado before coming to Fort Worth in 1997. At the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, Rob has evolved from Teaching Naturalist to Education Program Supervisor to Natural Resource Manager to his current position of Nature Center Director. In addition to his nature center responsibilities, Rob is also an adjunct professor of environmental science at Texas Christian University, a research associate with the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT), and former Director of the Texas Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife and Chair of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Wildlife Diversity Advisory Committee. In addition, Rob holds certifications as a licensed pesticide applicator, a prescribed burn manager, and a nuisance alligator control operator.



Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

February 10th: Dr. Reid Ferring (Aubrey Clovis Site)

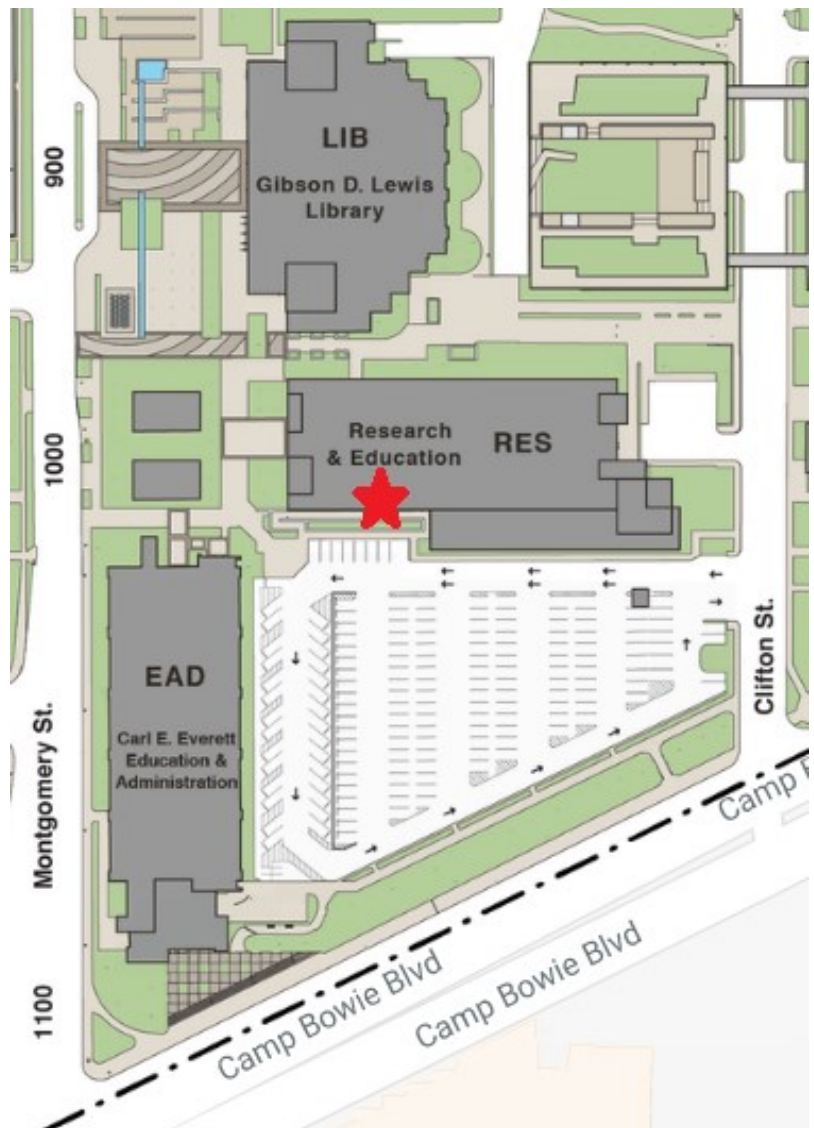
March 10th: Ms. Rhiana Ward (Alamo Excavations)

April 14th: 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 launch our 2022 selections, we feature the opening newsletter from 1976, the January edition of *Tarrant County Archeologist*. The newsletter presents four short articles about a variety of topics and sites including a reflection by Howard D. Land on the “Evidence of Paleo-Indian Occupation within Parker County” which discusses the lack of formal studies of the region at that time but provides interesting examples of materials found by locals that suggest a richer history. If you wish to read this newsletter, 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!*

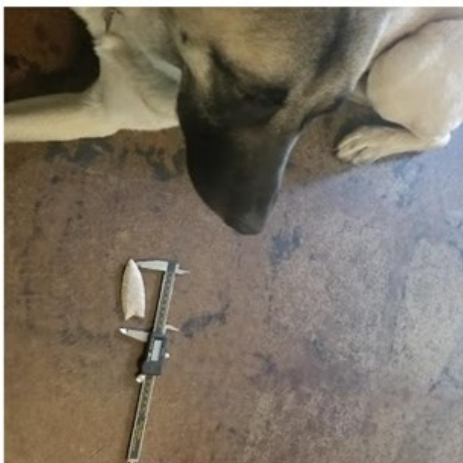


2021 NTAS Highlights

Jimmy Barrera

- In January and February, NTAS volunteers continued work on the Bolivar excavations at sites 41DN593 (Sartin Hotel) and 41DN617 (Tom Cook's blacksmith shop). NTAS ended up with 25 members participating in the Bolivar project with many volunteering multiple days. The Bolivar project team, including NTAS, was awarded the 2021 Council of Texas Archeologists - E. Mott Davis Award for Excellence in Public Outreach.
- On April 30th, NTAS volunteers recorded five archeological sites at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNCR).
- In June, over 50 NTAS members attended the Texas Archeological Society Field School in Kerrville. Also in June NTAS co-hosted the Kids Archeology Camp at the Doss Heritage Center in Weatherford.
- In August, NTAS recorded two more archeological sites at the FWNCR and recorded one early-historic site in Parker County.
- NTAS co-hosted a Texas Archeology Month event at the soon-to-open Palo Pinto Mountains State Park in Stephens and Palo Pinto counties. Over 20 folks joined the tour to experience and learn about really cool historic and prehistoric sites along Palo Pinto Creek.
- NTAS formed the Tarrant County Courthouse (1895 Room/museum) ad hoc committee to assist the Tarrant County Historical Commission with displaying significant history and prehistory to the public.
- In November, NTAS volunteers worked two days on an archeological lab project analyzing collections from New Mexico and Texas at the lab on the Richland Campus of Dallas College.
- NTAS was very fortunate to participate in the official NTAS excavation days in December on the Clovis Field site in Mills County, where a total of 13 members joined this excavation.
- Another significant NTAS accomplishment in 2021 was the decision by the Executive Committee to donate the NTAS archives to the Special Collections library at the University of Texas at Arlington.
- NTAS awarded eight scholarships to well deserving recipients in 2021!
- NTAS was awarded a grant from Humanities Texas to cover operational costs.

- NTAS continued to hold monthly meetings throughout 2021 via Zoom.
- And last but certainly not least, NTAS membership increased from around 150 to 230 members with over 80 brand new members in 2021!!!



Top row (left to right): 2021 TAS Field School survey crew, FWNCR - Camp Adams site 41TR330, turtle on Picnic site 41TR329
 Middle row (left to right): Rock oven site 41SE343 at PPMSP, Tom Cook site 41DN617 on Bolivar Project, Clovis Field site in Mills County
 Bottom row (left to right): Archeopooch - Tuffy the Diva measuring replica Clovis Point, learning that while calipers have teeth they are not much fun; Dallas College lab project; Joe Reed site 41PR223 in Parker County

Presentations and Publicity for NTAS

James Everett

As an Archeological Steward for the Texas Historical Commission, James Everett was asked to do two Zoom presentations on Native Americans in 2021. In March, he presented “Native American Cultures of North Texas” to the Community Builders group through the Cozby Library in Coppell, TX. In December, he did a similar program for the Dripping Springs (TX) Community Library on 10 major Native American “tribes” living in Texas during the Late Prehistoric and Historic periods. In both hour-long sessions, James publicized NTAS Zoom meetings as well as Texas Archeological Society activities, resulting in at least one new NTAS member. James has agreed to present “Native Americans of Texas” for the January 18 Zoom meeting of the Fort Worth Westerners.

Welcome, New Members!

Alfred Arias
 Maria Balduf
 Laurie Boyd
 Ella and Eva Frederick
 Bobby Mills
 Ozzie Parker
 James Pikulinski & Family
 Dave and Ann Wallace
 Matthew and Rhonda Weathers

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!

Archeological Items of Interest

Compiled by Molly Hall

NTAS Opportunities

Clovis Field Site Excavations

January 22-23, 2022

Excavation dates are January 22nd and 23rd at the Clovis Field Project in Mills County. No experience necessary! See page 8 for information on the project and, if interested, to sign-up, or for more information please contact Chris Meis at lptmeis@sbcglobal.net.

NTAS Executive Committee Nominations

Several Executive Committee member slots will be available for the 2023-2024 term. Please see page 9 for information about nominating members for positions.

Events

Caddo Mounds State Historic Site Kickoff Event

January 21-22, 2022

From Dr. Victor Galan:

We have a **Kickoff** to the grass house rebuild on Friday and Saturday 21 and 22 January!

Please follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/events/456086309237230?ref=newsfeed>

Our calendar is on our website at

<https://sites.google.com/view/friendsofcaddomoundsshs/>

January 21st, 6:00 - 8:30, Brundtett Conservation Building at SFA Piney Woods Native Plant Center: Speakers (TBA) and an introduction to the year of programs and events that will celebrate the rebuilding of the Caddo grass house at Caddo Mounds SHS.

January 22nd, 8:30 - 2:00, East Texas Plant Materials Center: Rise and Shine, it's grass cutting day!

January 22nd, 5:30 - 9:30, It's a star party. Come out and explore the night sky at Caddo Mounds SHS with Douglas (Doug) Parsons, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Tyler Junior College.

**Stay tuned. We will update this post as speakers and other presenters are confirmed.

If you plan to come out to a workday (and have time), please fill out a copy of the [volunteer worker agreement/waiver/release form](#). You can bring it with you when you come, or email a copy to Priscilla Coulter <pfcoulter@gmail.com> beforehand. (No worries if you don't have time, or if you forget...there will be copies on site when you arrive.)

Check the Friends Group calendar for future events and alternative workdays in case of rain.

Please spread the word. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

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>

Obituaries

The year has barely begun and the archeological community has already lost two significant contributors.

Thanks to Skipper Scott for sending along the following links for obituaries.

Richard Leaky: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/jan/02/fossil-hunter-richard-leakey-who-showed-humans-evolved-in-africa-dies-at-77>

Ed Jelks: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/pantagraph/name/ed-jelks-obituary?id=32134189>

NTAS Weekend at the Clovis Field Site

Chris Meis

NTAS recently did what they excel at – showing up with dedicated, experienced members willing to make things happen! Over the weekend of December 11-12, thirteen NTAS members worked helping ground-truth the GPS targets discovered in the Clovis Field site, which is located in Mills County Texas. Previous excavations of units down to the target depth produced some Archaic projectile points, small amounts of fire-cracked rock, rodent burrows and gravel/rock concentrations. One of the new units opened by the NTAS group uncovered a concentration of fire cracked rock, which looks like it might be an area of hearths or the edge of a burned rock midden. The rock extends into the units directly north and south of this unit so we will soon open additional units and discover more about this rock concentration. I am always impressed with the number of members we have that are experienced, helpful, and generous with their time and knowledge. Thanks to everyone who volunteered!

The next scheduled date for work at the site is January 22-23, 2022.



*Front Row (left to right): Gen Freix, Lori Connolley, Kathleen Hughes, Paula Vastine
Back Row (left to right): Phillip Darce, Chris Meis, Keith Elwell, Art Tawater, Stephen Lowe*



Left to Right: Mike Shannon, Kathleen Hughes, Paula Vastine, Lori Connolley, Art Tawater, Phillip Darce (not pictured: Diamond Barrera, Jimmy Barrera, Ray Wallace)

NTAS Nominating Committee

James Everett

At the end of this year (2022), the 2-year terms of all NTAS Executive Committee (EC) members will end. NTAS has begun to address the need to find nominees for several EC positions for next year by establishing a Nominating Committee. James Everett has volunteered to serve as Chair of the Committee, while Gen Freix and Ray Wallace will be Nominating Committee members. As NTAS President, Jimmy Barrera is an ex-officio member of the Committee.

The Nominating Committee has already received several names for consideration for various positions, but the Committee will **need additional nominations** from NTAS members. Please consider submitting the name of possible candidates to the Committee or even nominating yourself to become a candidate for an NTAS officer position for 2023-2024. Nominations can be submitted to James at immediatepastpresident@ntxas.org.

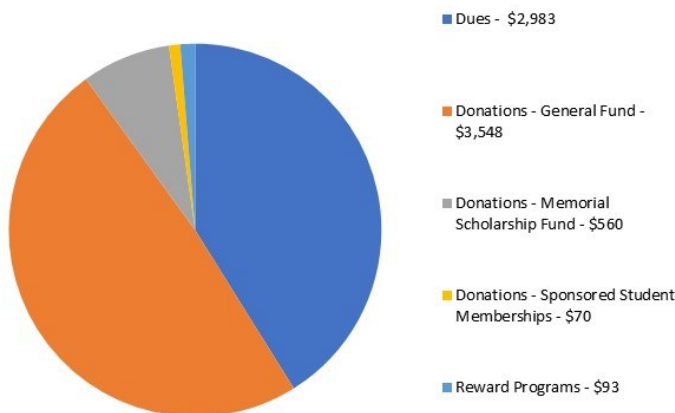
NTAS Income & Expense

January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

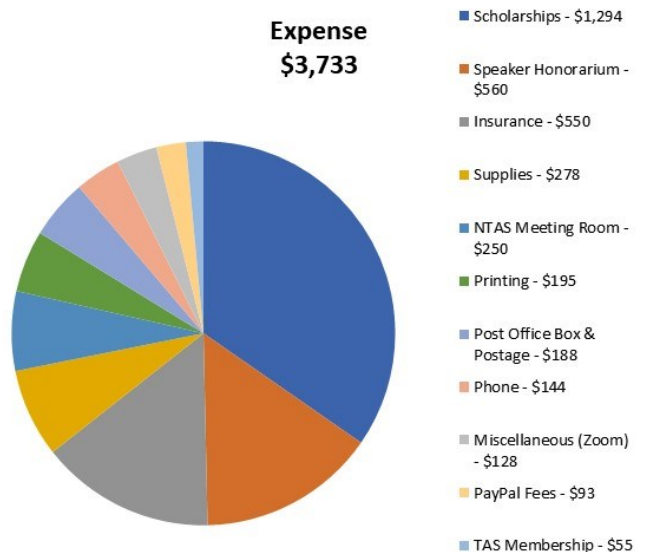
Total Assets: \$16,311.16

- Unrestricted Cash: \$14,471.83
- NTAS Memorial Scholarship Fund: \$1,789.33
- Sponsored Student Membership Fund: \$50.00

Income
\$7,253



Expense
\$3,733





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.

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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Humanities Texas



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HUMANITIES

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