



# Benchmark

Volume 37, Issue 1

January 2023

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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## President's Message

**Happy New Year and Welcome to 2023!** I hope that everyone had a restful holiday season!

The end of 2022 heralded the much-anticipated return of the NTAS Christmas Party. I would like to thank our hostess, Paula Vastine, for organizing the party and hope that those in attendance had a wonderful time. I was sorry to miss it this year but look forward to seeing folks at our monthly meetings and volunteer opportunities throughout 2023. As we embark on a new year, I would like to thank the previous Executive Committee for their stewardship of the society over the last two years during which the society expanded its membership to record numbers. As a society we are very fortunate to have had their leadership during that time and, on behalf of the new members of the Executive Committee, we appreciate their efforts in helping us transition into our new roles. We look forward to serving the society, continuing to help our membership grow, and providing exciting opportunities to volunteer and participate in events, excavations, and archeological lab work while helping to preserve the archeological record in the state of Texas.

With that in mind, don't forget to register for one of the upcoming TAS Academies. The Rock Art Academy will be held February 25-26 at the El



Paso Museum of Archeology with a field session at Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site. Rock art and Mogollon culture specialists will instruct participants in recording and interpreting rock art. The 2023 Archeology 101 Academy will be held March 24-26 with classroom sessions held at the Legacy Plaza Pavilion in downtown Goldthwaite, Texas. A hands-on field component will be held Sunday March 26 at the Clovis Field site on the Barnett Ranch. Our own Chris Meis and Jimmy Barrera will be co-instructors and our new Vice President, Stephen Lowe, is a co-organizer. Each academy includes a digital manual, which is full of great information and references for each topic, and both academies offer a Continuing Professional Education

## Connect with NTAS:

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

[www.NTXAS.org](http://www.NTXAS.org)

For general inquiries, please contact [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)

**North Texas Archeological Society**

(CPE) credit for teachers as approved by the Texas State Board of Education Certification (SBEC). The TAS Academies remain a great bargain and are consistently taught by expert instructors and they do not require any prior archeological experience. Having attended one myself, I can also say that they are an invaluable experience for professional archeological development as well. If interested in having your TAS membership cost and academy registration fee covered please consider applying for an NTAS scholarship or TAS scholarship, these are for both students and non-students. Here is the NTAS link for scholarship applications: <https://ntxas.org/scholarships> and here is the TAS link for 2023 academy details including scholarships: <https://www.txarch.org/tas-academies>

As a general reminder to the society, membership renewals for 2023 were due on January 1, 2023.

The society extends a small grace period for members who are renewing that extends to March 15, 2023. As always, we appreciate your membership to NTAS and look forward to your continued participation in the society.

Please keep an eye on your email for announcements and reminders about opportunities to participate in archeological fieldwork and lab opportunities as they arise. Our monthly speaker, Dr. Matthew Boulanger from Southern Methodist University, will address our group at January's meeting. Dr. Boulanger's research focuses on obsidian and volcanic tools sourcing in the Taos Valley. It is exciting and current scientific research that we are thrilled for him to present to the society. I look forward to seeing everyone on January 12!

**Allen Rutherford**

## January Speaker: Matthew Boulanger

### *10,000 Years of Lithic Procurement in the Taos Valley*

Pedestrian survey of 100 km<sup>2</sup> (nearly 24,500 acres) of land near Taos, New Mexico has resulted in the identification of more than 450 archaeological sites dating from the Paleoindian period to the historic past. Over the past two years, I have been working to inventory and curate the collections of this survey. These efforts have included working with volunteer citizen scientists and students to digitize site information as well as a detailed study of the lithic artifacts collected during the survey. I will present the first results of this work, focusing on long-term patterns in lithic-procurement. Specifically, I will report on the results of using X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometry to characterize and determine the sources of all obsidian and fine-grained volcanic tools and debitage collected by the survey. This dataset, comprising 575 individual artifacts from nearly 150 sites and nearly 200 isolated finds, is ideal for documenting toolstone use throughout the Holocene. Results from this study suggest a remarkable persistence in the types of stone being selected for use in toolmaking, emphasizing deep-time connections between the region's Indigenous populations and their landscape.

**Matthew Boulanger** received his Ph.D. from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Missouri. He is interested in multidisciplinary approaches to anthropology and archaeology. His research combines aspects of evolutionary theory, physical geography, landscape ecology, middle-range research, and geoscience into studying human behavior.

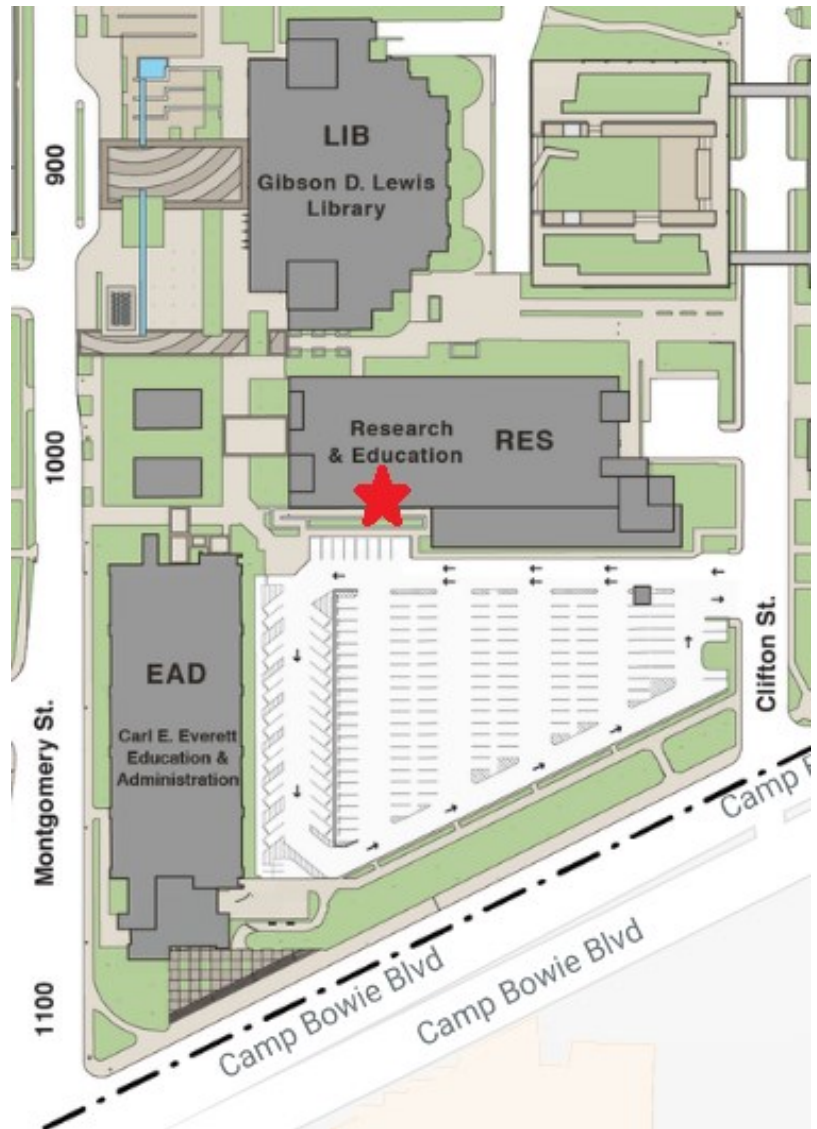




## NTAS Monthly Meeting Location & Directions

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.



## Ona B. Reed Award

### Gen Freix

On October 3 Ona B Reed, a longtime NTAS member, was invited to the Federal Aviation Administration award ceremony at Ayers Aviation Training Institute at the Gainesville Municipal Airport. She was honored with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for 50 years of commitment to aviation safety.

Ona B received her pilot's license July 1947, that is 75 years as a pilot.

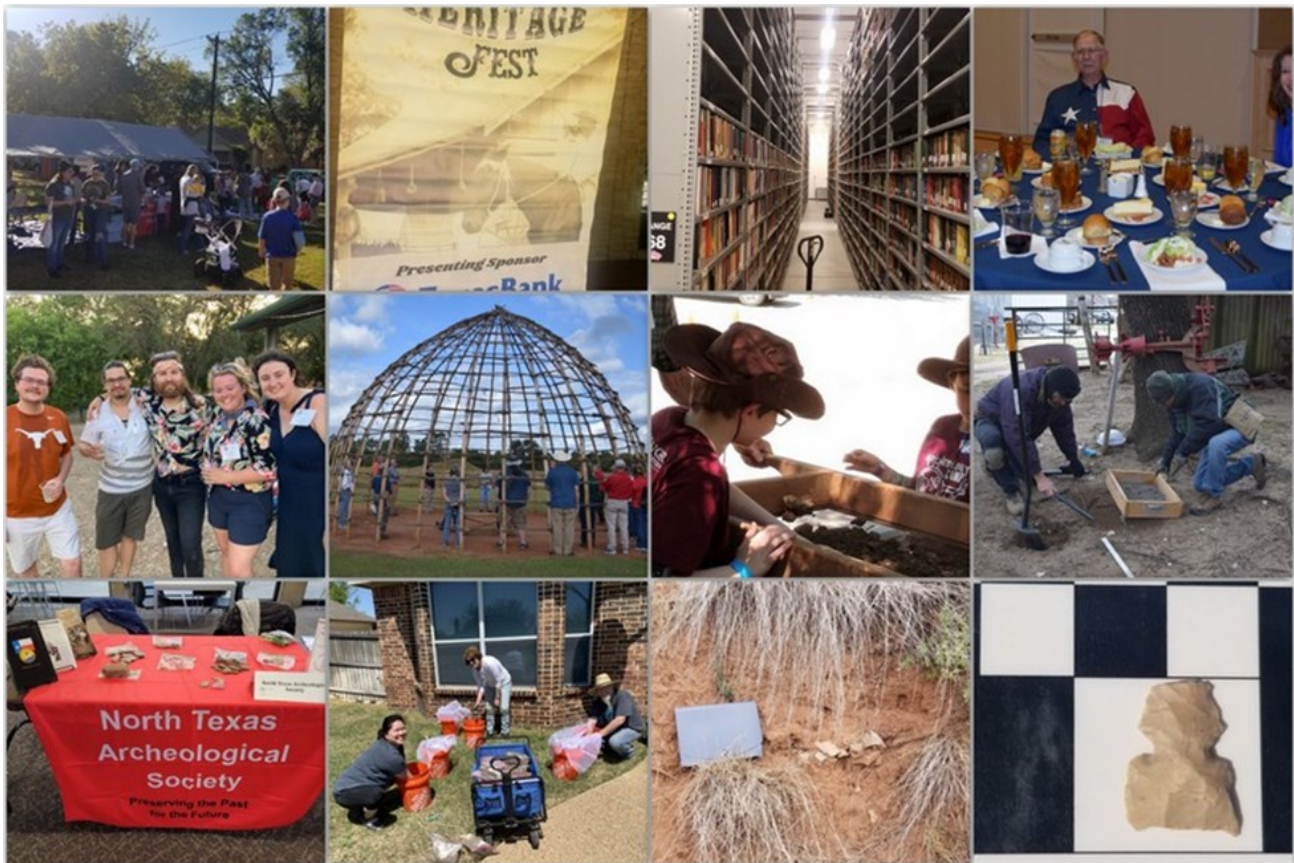


## 2022 NTAS Highlights

### Jimmy Barrera

- In January, the Historian transferred the NTAS archives from home storage to the excellent Special Collections facility at UT Arlington.
- January through December NTAS member Chris Meis continued to diligently oversee investigations of the Clovis Field site in Mills County. Many NTAS members participated, and these are continuing into 2023.
- In January, July, and November, members of NTAS supported the Grass House rebuild project at the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site near Alto, Texas.
- February 12<sup>th</sup> NTAS recorded one archeological site with historic structures and possible marker trees in Hood County.
- In February, Dr. Tim Sullivan coordinated Anthropology Day with NTAS members, faculty, and students at the Richland Campus of Dallas College.
- March 26<sup>th</sup> NTAS volunteers recorded three archeological sites at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNCR).
- During 2022, Dr. Catrina Banks Whitley hosted numerous lab opportunities including: Human Remains Identification Class, Flotation Class, and Artifact Identification Class.
- In June, 59 NTAS members attended the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Field School in Kerrville, and NTAS co-hosted the Kids Archeology Camp at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center in Weatherford.
- NTAS reconned a series of archeological sites along the Clear Fork of the Brazos through Jones County in July.
- In July, Dr. Whitley resumed excavations at the BaahKu archeological site in New Mexico and was joined by multiple members.
- In 2022, NTAS awarded three Sponsored Student Memberships, one scholarship for a TAS Academy, and five scholarships for the TAS Field School.
- NTAS raised donations through NTAS hats, photo scales, scoops, and archeology books. NTAS also donated funds, combined with matching funds from members, to support Texas Beyond History and the Grass House rebuild at the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site.
- NTAS issued the inaugural volume of the Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society in October.
- In October, NTAS hosted and participated in numerous Texas Archeology Month (TAM) events including: the first annual “Denton Dig It” archeology fair; the “Pioneer Heritage Fest” at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center in Weatherford; a TAM day at the Gainesville Travel Center; Dinosaur Valley State Park 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event; Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge site tour; along with building and distributing TAM kits for kids at various events. Through these various events NTAS engaged with thousands of people during the month of October!
- In October, NTAS co-hosted the TAS Annual Meeting in Tyler. Numerous members volunteered, donated, presented, and enjoyed this important gathering for Texas Archeology.
- Other significant NTAS accomplishments in 2022 include that NTAS was awarded an additional mini grant from Humanities Texas to cover operational costs for Jan 1-June 31, 2023. NTAS held hybrid monthly meetings throughout 2022. And last but certainly not least, NTAS membership increased from around 230 to 316 members in 2022!!!





Top row from left: “Denton Dig It” archeology fair; “Pioneer Heritage Fest” at the Doss; Special Collections at UTA; NTAS member Dr. Alan Skinner at the TAS Annual Meeting  
 Middle row from left: NTAS scholarship recipients at TAS Field School; Grass House rebuild; Kids Archeology Camp at the Doss; Hood County site recording  
 Bottom row from left: NTAS at Anthropology Day at Dallas College; Dr. Whitley’s lab class; hearth feature in Jones County; Washita arrowpoint from FWNCR site recording



## 2022 NTAS Holiday Party

The NTAS Holiday Party finally returned, the previous party having been held in 2019. Thanks to all who joined in the festivities.

Mike Shannon, Glynn Osburn, and Bret Williamson enjoying the 2022 NTAS Holiday Party.  
 Photo courtesy of Bret Williamson.

## TAS Annual Meeting Summary

### Chris Meis

The 93<sup>rd</sup> TAS Annual Meeting was held October 21-23, 2022 on the UT Tyler Campus in conjunction with the 27<sup>th</sup> East Texas Archeological Conference. Rather than the traditional hotel/conference room facilities, it was held on the UT Tyler campus with 306 registrants. The Local Arrangements Committee was comprised of both North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) members and UT Tyler staff. The host society was the North Texas Archeological Society while the Program Chairs for the meeting were Dr. Thomas Guderjan and Dr. Cory E. Sills of UT Tyler. Dr. Guderjan and Chris Meis were co-chairs for the Annual Meeting. NTAS members on the Local Arrangements Committee included Dana Parker (Treasurer), Linda Lang (Registrar), and Gen Freix (Silent Auction/Book Room Coordinator).

Friday started out with TAS Board, Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) and Texas Archeological Stewards Network meetings and the always popular Silent Auction and raffle drawings. Paper presentations were presented in the afternoon. The Public Forum speaker on Friday evening was Leslie Bush, Ph.D., R.P.A. Dr. Bush's presentation was titled "Caddo Archeology: The Land and The People". TAS professional and avocational archeologists were available to answer questions about artifacts brought by local area residents and the CTA Career Social was held.

Saturday morning started a full day of paper and poster presentations with a total of 65 papers and 15 posters having been presented at the Annual Meeting. The silent auction and raffle sales proved to be a very productive fund raiser this year, generating \$4,298 for TAS. Thanks to all the TAS members who contributed silent auction items and helped Friday and Saturday to make this so successful.

Our Saturday evening banquet had 179 registrants. After the three-course meal, the TAS and Presidential Awards were announced and given to deserving TAS members. This was the first Annual Meeting since 2019, so three past TAS presidents, James Everett, Sarah Chesney, and Elizabeth Coon-Nguyen had awards to present. (See related article in the TAS newsletter for these awards.) The banquet speaker was Dr. Rolfe D. Mandel, who is the Senior Scientist & Director, Odyssey Archaeological Research Program and University of Kansas Distinguished Professor. His presentation was titled "Searching for Evidence of the First People in the Americas: A Geoarchaeological Perspective" focused on the application of geoarchaeological methods in the search for evidence of the first people in the Americas, and highlighted ongoing studies in the Big Bend region.

The East Texas Archeological Conference and North Texas Archeological Society appreciate all the help in making this meeting a success. Thanks to the Maya Research Program and Humanities Texas for their sponsorships. The presenters, guest speakers, TAS attendees, UT Tyler student volunteers and the facilities and catering personnel all contributed to the success of this 93<sup>rd</sup> TAS Annual Meeting and we are grateful.

The income produced by the meeting was \$34,133 versus \$14,993 in expenses, resulting in a net surplus of \$19,140. Of this surplus, \$4,298 was from the Silent Auction, book sales and raffle proceeds. This income goes directly to TAS while the remaining surplus of \$14,842 is split evenly with \$7,421 going to both TAS and NTAS, the host society.

**Mark your calendars now** to attend the next Annual Meeting scheduled for **October 5-8<sup>th</sup>, 2023** at the Embassy Suites hotel in San Marcos, Texas. The Travis County Archeological will be hosting that event.

## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

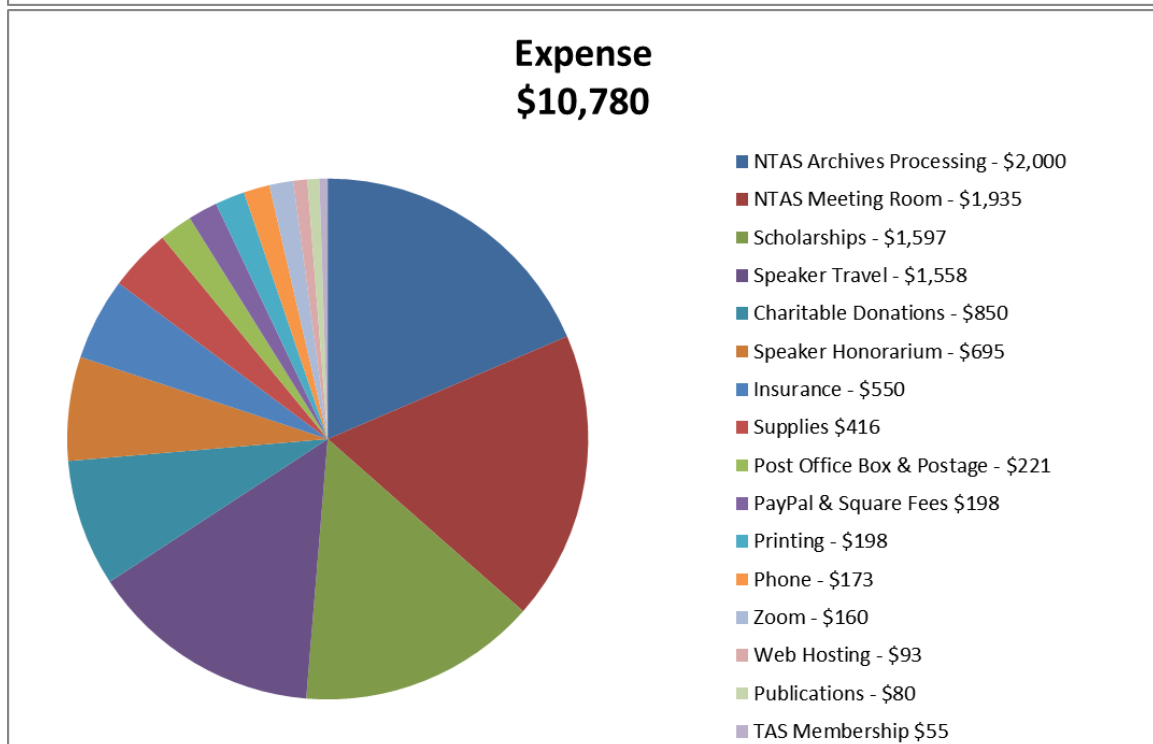
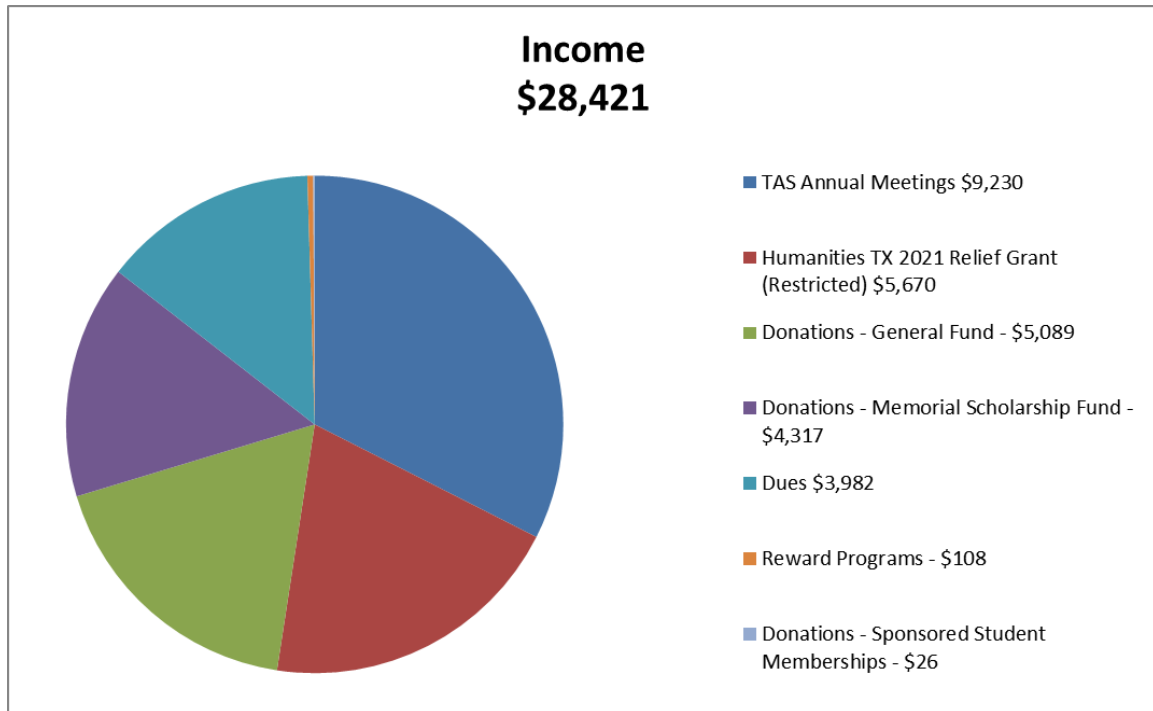
**February 9th: Brendon Asher (Blackwater Draw)**

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

**April 13th: Mike Adler**

# NTAS Income & Expense

January 1, 2022—December 31, 2022



**Total Assets: \$33,760.75**

- Unrestricted Cash: **\$29,227.68**
- NTAS Memorial Scholarship Fund: **\$4,468.07**
- Sponsored Student Membership Fund: **\$65.00**



## Archeological Events & News

### **Richland College Event (NTAS)**

**January 21, 2023**

#### **Volunteer to work on Richland College Collections.**

NTAS will return to Richland College on January 21, 2023 to prepare learning activity kits for Intro Archeology students and possibly to discuss arrangements to assist with the International Anthropology Day activities (February 16, 2023). NTAS volunteers worked on two donated collections in 2022: one consisting of ceramics, and other materials from New Mexico and the other a collection of lithics collected from Central Texas. We will be arranging these into kits for students in Anthropology 2301 (Intro to Archeology) and Anthropology 2401 (Intro to Physical Anthropology). This event is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, from 9:00 am to 2:00/3:00 pm. Participation may be for the full time or only part of it. If you are interested, please contact Tim Sullivan at [sullivant1109@gmail.com](mailto:sullivant1109@gmail.com).

### **Clovis Field Site Excavations (NTAS)**

**February 11-12, 2023**

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](mailto: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/>

### **SAA 88th Annual Meeting**

Portland, OR

**March 29-April 2, 2023**

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

## 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](mailto:vpofprojects@ntxas.org)) if you would like to involve experienced, skilled, and knowledgeable NTAS members in your project.

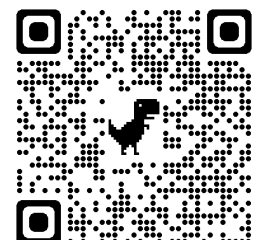
### **Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events**

Photos are a great way to showcase what NTAS is all about. Please send your images and captions to [president@ntxas.org](mailto: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](mailto:publicationseditor@ntxas.org)).

NTAS is now looking for articles to fill the 2023 Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society. 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](mailto:publicationseditor@ntxas.org)). Volume 1 of the Journal is now available for purchase on Amazon. Visit [amazon.com/dp/B0BJYD52JP](https://amazon.com/dp/B0BJYD52JP) or scan the QR code:







## North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

Online membership form and payment option available at [ntxas.org/join-and-renew](https://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](mailto:publicationseeditor@ntxas.org)) or Secretary ([secretary@ntxas.org](mailto: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!

Angela Irwin & Family  
Sherri McLaughlin & Family

### Donors

Missi Green — *General Fund*  
Mark Henderson — *BaahKu Project*  
Bob Lovett — *General Fund*  
Mike Moseley & Marie Medina — *Texas Beyond History Campaign in Memory of Laurie & Julia Moseley*  
Mike Shannon — *BaahKu Project*

## 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

**Allen Rutherford**  
*President*

**Gwen Durrant**  
*Treasurer*

**Genevieve Freix**  
*Historian*

**Stephen Lowe**  
*Vice President*

**Dylan Holubar**  
*Secretary*

**Ashley Green**  
*Internet Chair*

**Brian Luetchford**  
*Vice President of Projects*

**Jimmy Barrera**  
*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.

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

October Newsletter: September 28

Funding has been provided to NTAS from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. All opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the NEH.



Humanities Texas



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