

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 38, Issue 1

January 2024

President's Message

I hope everyone had a Happy New Year! The North Texas Archeological Society has an exciting 2024 planned and we're looking forward to seeing you all throughout the year. Thank you to Paula Vastine for hosting the annual NTAS Christmas Party on December 9. Good food, fun presents, and great conversation were shared among the attendees, and we all appreciate the hard work Paula put in to help make it happen. A special thank you to Chris Meis for playing Santa, and to all the secret Santas who participated in the gift exchange. It was a nice way to celebrate the end of our year.

With the start of a new year comes new opportunities to participate in archeological field and lab work. The TAS Zooarcheology and Osteology Academy (February 10-11) and Geoarchaeology Academy (March 8-10) are sold out, but you can join the waitlist if you are still interested in attending either academy. The **TAS Ceramics Academy** will be held in our backyard at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNCR) on April 27-28. There are still spots available for that academy, which will start with a tour of sites identified by NTAS within FWNCR on Friday afternoon and will also include many hands-on activities including sorting and analysis of Caddo ceramics collected from sites recently excavated in Northeast



Texas. **Scholarships** are available to anyone through NTAS to attend the Ceramics Academy.

As a general reminder, membership renewals for 2024 were due on January 1, 2024. The Society extends a small grace period for members who are renewing that extends to March 15, 2024. As always, we appreciate your membership in NTAS and look forward to your continued participation in the society.

In December our Executive Committee voted to form an ad hoc Projects Committee to help develop additional volunteer opportunities for the membership and continue existing opportunities (see page 11 for more information). There are two opportunities on the immediate horizon. The first is a January 20th workday at the

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www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

Joe Reed site (see page 11 for more details). Please contact [Dana Ritchie](#) if you are interested in participating. The second is a survey opportunity at Finca de Caza (see pages 6-7 for more information). Please keep an eye on your email for announcements and reminders about opportunities to participate in archeological fieldwork and lab opportunities as they arise.

The January 11th, 2024 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 page 3 for map). 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 January 11th guest speaker is Jessica Lee Hamlin, Shumla Executive Director, whose presentation is entitled "Preserving and Sharing an Ancient Texas Library." We are excited to host Ms. Hamlin for this presentation and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on January 11th!

Allen Rutherford

January Speaker: Jessica Lee Hamlin

Preserving and Sharing an Ancient Texas Library

An introduction to the rock art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, particularly the iconic Pecos River Style, which has been shown to be narrative in composition and closely aligned with Mesoamerican belief-systems and iconography. The speaker will also share Shumla's unique method of preserving this endangered "library" of graphic texts.

Jessica Lee Hamlin attended her first field school at the age of 16 and the hook was set. As a freshman in college at Texas A&M University, she met Carolyn Boyd, a PhD candidate writing her dissertation on the rock art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands of Texas. Seeing the magnificent ancient murals for the first time with Carolyn in 1997, changed the course of Jessica's life. Together they dreamed of an organization whose mission was to study, protect and share the murals. In 1998, Carolyn founded the 501(c)(3) that would become Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center and hired Jessica as the first employee.

Jessica's path after college graduation took her to the Smithsonian Institution and Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. She completed her M.A. in Human Geography at University of Texas in Austin then became a Communications Consultant with the international management firm, Towers Perrin. Through it all, her connection to Carolyn and to Shumla stayed strong and she joined Shumla's Board of Directors in 2012. Becoming Shumla Executive Director in March of 2015 was a homecoming and a perfect fit for the specific experience she had gained in both archaeology and business since her first field school.

In the nearly nine years since taking her position at the helm of Shumla, Jessica has ushered the organization through the achievement of a National Historic Landmark designation for the Lower Pecos Canyonlands Archaeological Region, raised the funds to endow a Research Professorship at Texas State University for Dr. Carolyn Boyd, funded and oversaw the four-year Alexandria Project that documented 235 rock art sites across the region, and opened a second Shumla office in San Marcos, TX. In the Lower Pecos, each discovery brings with it 100 more questions, which provides Jessica with constant wonder and job security. There's so much left to learn!



Editor's Note

Molly Hall

You will notice more red underlined text in this month's issue (and in future issues) and fewer, long, cumbersome web addresses and email addresses. The red underlined text are hyperlinks that know the web or email address for you! This includes the email addresses for all the Executive Committee members found on the last page. Just hover over any of the red underlined text and either click on it or right click and copy the imbedded address. We hope this change will make the newsletter a smoother read for you all. If you have any issues, please contact me.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

February 8th: Charles Frederick (Geoarcheology)

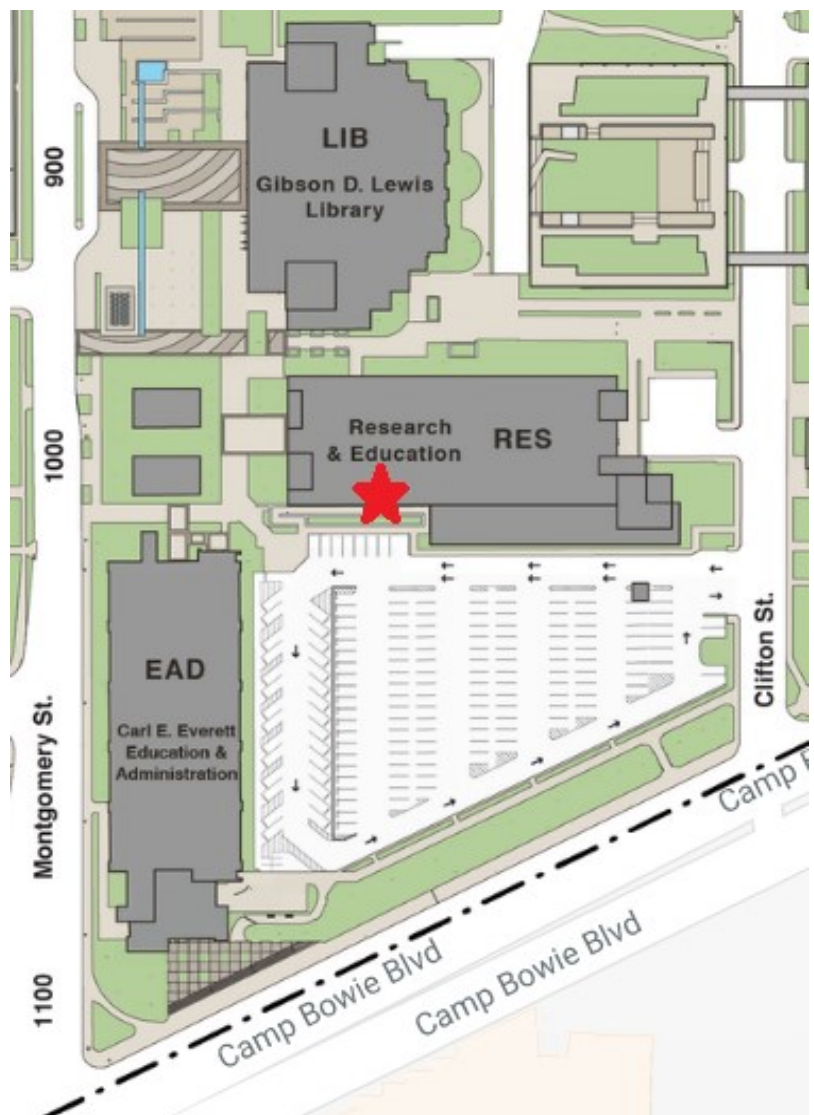
March 14th: Lance Tahmahkera (My Comanche Heritage)

April 11th: Mike McBride (Crying Woman Ranch)

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**.



2023 NTAS Highlights

Allen Rutherford

- In January, NTAS members organized and participated in a lab day at the Richland Campus of Dallas College where they prepared ten learning kits for Introduction to Archeology students.
- January through December NTAS member Chris Meis continued to diligently oversee investigations of the Clovis Field site in Mills County. Many NTAS members participated.
- NTAS acted as the local arrangements committee for the Archeology 101 Academy held at the Clovis Field Site the weekend of March 24-26. Several NTAS members participated in the Academy.
- March 18th NTAS recorded the Dancing Deer Site at Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNCR). The prehistoric site contained two surface features and several artifact concentrations.
- On May 11th, NTAS members attended the dedication of the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds as a thank you for our participation in the work conducted in the associated Johnson Plantation Cemetery project.
- On May 13th, NTAS hosted an archeology lab day at UT Arlington to wash and catalogue artifacts collected from the Clovis Field site during the Archeology 101 Academy.
- In June, 70 NTAS members attended the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Field School in Nacogdoches.
- NTAS members participated in the Doss Summer Kids Archeology Camp in Weatherford on June 21 and 22.
- NTAS was featured on Good Morning Texas on June 23rd and 30 members were able to attend a free screening of Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny as a result.
- In 2023, NTAS awarded two scholarships for a TAS Academy, seven scholarships for the TAS Field School, and two scholarships for the TAS Annual Meeting.
- NTAS donated funds, combined with matching funds from members, to support Texas Beyond History.
- NTAS compiled volume 2 of the Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society throughout 2023.
- In August and September, NTAS members participated in the making of more than 1,300 pinch pot kits that were distributed throughout DFW during Texas Archeology Month (TAM).
- In September, NTAS participated in the “Texas, Can You Dig It?” event at the Gainesville Travel Center.
- On September 23, NTAS members participated in the dedication of historic marker trees in Hood County.
- In October, NTAS participated in numerous TAM events including: the second annual “Denton Dig It” archeology fair and the “Pioneer Heritage Fest” at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center in Weatherford. Through these events NTAS engaged with thousands of people during the month of October!
- NTAS was well represented at the TAS Annual Meeting held in San Marcos in early October. Several members presented papers and posters during the meeting.
- Other significant NTAS accomplishments in 2023 include that NTAS was awarded two mini grants from Humanities Texas to cover operational costs for June 30 - December 31, 2023 and January 1 – June 30, 2024. NTAS held hybrid monthly meetings throughout 2023 which included a variety of speakers covering a wide range of archeology topics.



Top row from left: NTAS members at the Clovis Field Site; Surface artifact identified at FWNCR; NTAS survey crew at FWNCR

Middle row from left: NTAS members cataloguing artifacts from the Clovis Field Site; NTAS members at Doss Kids Archeology Camp

Bottom row from left: NTAS at TAS Field School; NTAS making pinch pot kits; NTAS at "Texas, Can You Dig It?"

Archeological Events & Opportunities

The Joe Reed Site NTAS Work Day

January 20, 2024

Parker County, TX

See Page 11 for details on this excavation opportunity.

The Billy W. Sills Lecture Series

10am, Various Saturdays 2024

Billy W. Sills Center for Archives, Fort Worth, TX

January 20 - History of Cowboy Poetry from the Cattle Drive Era 1866 to 1902

February 17 - The Lady Makes Boots: Enid Justin and the Nocona Boot Company

March 23 - Clota Terrell Boykin and the Early Suffrage Movement in Fort Worth

TAS Archeology Workshop for Educators

February 9 or 10, 2024

Nacogdoches, TX

Educators, you are invited to attend a one-day workshop about introducing archeology into your lessons. Background information will be presented, and hands-on lessons demonstrated. East Texas offers a stage upon which to show how archeology contributes to a better understanding of cultures using scientific methods to discover and relate the lifeways of people. It uses science, technology, history, literature, and the arts to answer those questions. Sample topics include observation & inference, context & timeline, research methods, and opportunities to work beside archeologists in the field in June 2024.

29th East Texas Archeological Conference

February 17, 2024

Tyler, TX

The East Texas Archeological Conference is hosted annually to bring together people interested in the archeology and cultural heritage of east Texas.

Location: Main Lobby and other rooms in the Soules College of Business at UT Tyler.

Hours: 9 AM until 4 PM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM.

Fee: \$20 which includes lunch.

Hotel: Homewood Suites, 3104 Golden Road, Tyler, TX. 903-593-7880 and mention East Texas Archeology for conference rates of \$116. Breakfast is included.

Finca de Caza Site NTAS Work Day

February 24, 2024

Jack County, TX

See Page 7 for details on this site survey opportunity.

SAA 89th Annual Meeting

April 17-21, 2024

New Orleans, LA

The program is composed of general sessions, symposia, forums, debates, lightning rounds, posters, and workshops. The SAA Annual Meeting offers unparalleled networking opportunities in its exhibit hall, excursions, and receptions and career-development opportunities.

TAS Ceramics Academy

April 27-28, 2024

Fort Worth, TX

This exciting academy will be held at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge in North Texas. The academy will introduce the importance of archeological ceramics in terms of technology, chronology, dating, trade, subsistence, and cultural identity. Definitions and origins of ceramics technologies, how pottery was decorated, analysis of individual sherds, how pottery is classified or “typed”, and how we interpret these data are aspects of pottery analysis. The Ceramics Academy is back in person and will provide numerous hands-on exercises, including making pots from modern clay, and identifying vessel types, decorative techniques, and firing.

Archeological Site Recon Report and Survey Opportunity

Tommy Standefer

In 2016, members Tommy and Cyndi Standefer purchased some property on the eastern side of Jack County, near Wizard Wells. Soon after they purchased the property, they discovered a stone lined cistern and began research into the history of the property.

Early in their research, they learned that the Butterfield Overland Stage traveled through this area after shifting its route to the south in 1860, in order to take advantage of the new bridge built near present day Bridgeport, over the West Fork of the Trinity River.

This began a search to determine whether or not this cistern might have been built to provide water for the teams of horses used by the Butterfield Stage if this had possibly been the stage stop for this area.

Though research has failed to prove whether or not this site may have been a stage stop, it has been established that one family moved here in 1859, lived here a short time, but left before gaining clear title to the land. And then in 1878, another family moved to this site and apparently lived here until 1945.

Our site survey at Finca de Caza will focus on establishing the location of this homesite, as well as identifying those artifacts visible on the surface. Though Tommy and Cyndi hope to find artifacts that might establish evidence of this site being used as a stage stop. In any case, it will be interesting to learn more about a family who was able to live on this property for more than 50 years, beginning at a time when the majority of settlement occurred in this area. Tommy and Jimmy Barrera performed a site recon on December 30, 2023, in preparation for an NTAS site recording. The location of the potential stage stop was walked, features observed (sandstone walls and cistern), reviewed artifacts and concentrations, and discussed future plans. We are seeking ten (10) NTAS members to participate in recording this archeological site on Saturday, February 24, 2024. No experience is required! If interested in participating in this archeological site recording, please contact [Jimmy Barrera](#).



Ona B. Reed — In Memoriam

Gen Freix

Ona B Rambo Reed, a longtime member of North Texas Archeological Society, passed shortly before her 99th birthday, which would have been this coming February 18.

She had many interests and passions in her life, besides her family.

She had a fascination with aviation that lasted a lifetime. She was a pilot when women weren't pilots. She is in the Guinness Book of World Records for a parachute jump at 80 years of age.

There was an artistic flair in Ona B. She was part of the local theater group and painted. A few of her paintings hung in her house.

History was another passion of Ona B's. She was a Cooke County Historical Commission member, a member of the Cooke County Courthouse Restoration Committee, a Gainesville Historical Society member, a North Texas Archeological Society member, a Texas Archeological Society member, and a THC Steward.

The top of her list of things to do, was travel. She cruised the Nile in Egypt, held hands with the Moai on Easter Island, walked Pompeii streets, and viewed Stonehenge. Together Ona B and I explored many archeological sites in Belize and Mexico. We braved the Metro in Mexico City, and we climbed the mountain to see the monarch butterflies in the winter.

I cannot forget to talk about her abundance of Hats! She must have owned over a hundred hats...no exaggeration. There were several TAS Annual Meeting weekend trips that required no fewer than 10 hats.

Ona B, you will be missed.



Left to right: Ona B Reed supervising a dig, at the 2022 NTAS holiday party, and on her birthday.



Left to right: Ona B. Reed participating in rabbit stick throwing, at Palo Duro, and at a field school.

Members Needed for 2025-2026 Executive Committee

Please consider how you can serve the NTAS community by volunteering to be on the Executive Committee for the 2025-2026 term. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [Allen Rutherford](#).

Archeology in the News — 2023

Many thanks to members Skipper Scott, Dan Potter, and Jimmy Barrera, who shared interesting archeological stories from across the world. Here are some headlines and items of interest from 2023.

[Wise County Heritage Museum Lost to Blaze](#)

[Obsidian Cliff: Humanity's Tool Shed for the Last 11,500 Years](#)

[Blind, Bucktoothed Mole-Rats Just Might Be Archaeologists' New Best Friends](#)

[Bronze-Age People Took Hallucinogenic Drugs in Menorca, Study Reveals](#)

[Mayan Ball Game Scoreboard Thought to be over 1,000 Years Old Found in Mexico](#)

[Deadly Sharp Points Found in Idaho Could Be First American-Made Tools](#)

[1,000-Year-Old Native American Canoe Retrieved from North Carolina Lake](#)

[Where Did the Metropolitan Museum of Art Get Its Native American Objects?](#)

[Some of the First Humans in the Americas Came from China, Study Finds](#)

[Claim of Ancient Burials Shakes Up Human Evolution Story, Sparks Debate](#)

[Despite the Dangers, Early Humans Risked Life-Threatening Flintknapping Injuries](#)

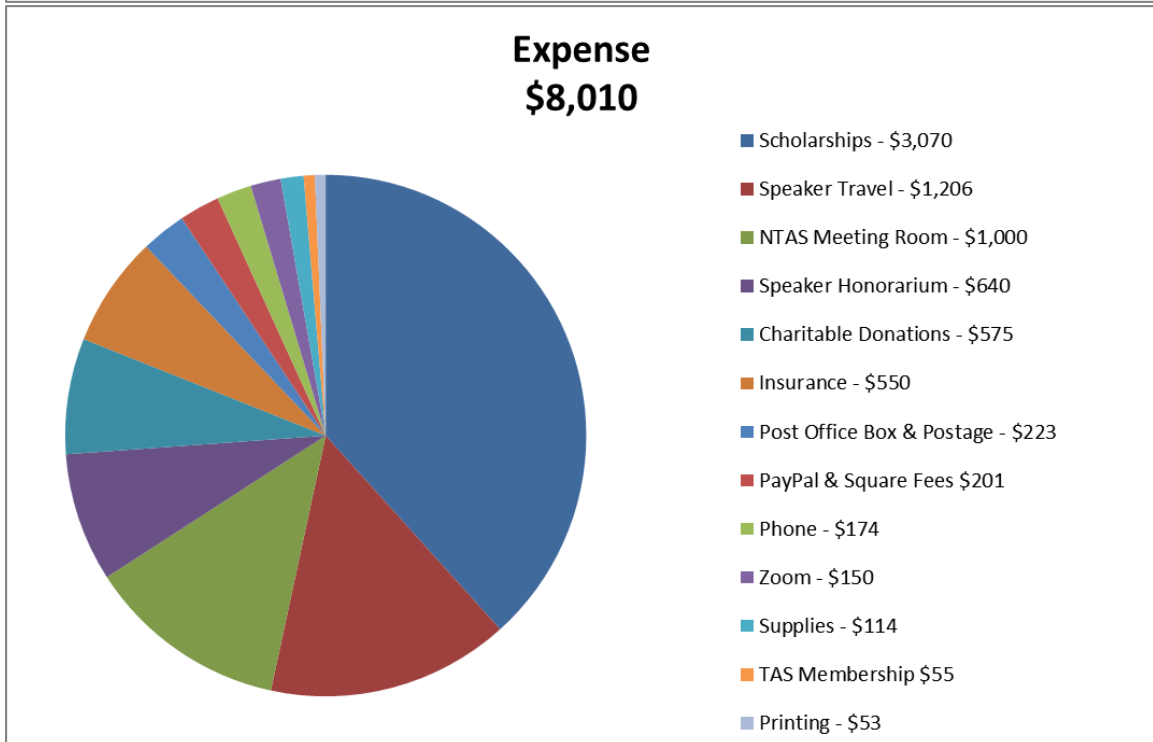
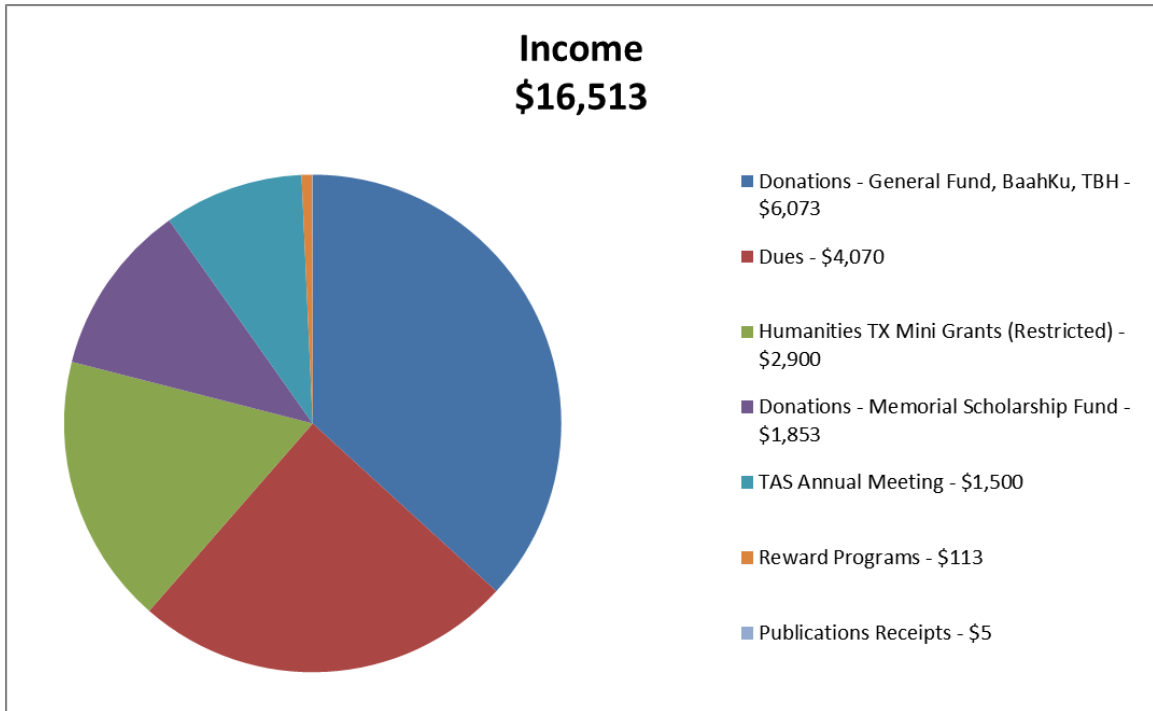
[Humans May Have Arrived in the Americas Earlier than Previously Thought](#)

[Kentucky Man Finds 'Hoard' of Civil War Gold Coins Worth Millions in Cornfield](#)

[This 'Crooked' Pub Was Older than the U.S. Why Would Someone Burn It Down?](#)

NTAS Income & Expense

January 1, 2023—December 31, 2023



- **Total Assets:** **\$43,309.99**
- Unrestricted Cash **\$38,823.30**
- NTAS Memorial Scholarship Fund **\$3,260.94**
- BaahKu Project **\$170.75**
- Sponsored Student Membership Fund **\$55.00**

Announcing: NTAS Projects Committee

Jimmy Barrera

On December 5, 2023, the NTAS Executive Committee established the new NTAS ad hoc Projects Committee. The goal for this committee is to assist and support for annual events (e.g. Doss and Denton events), ongoing projects (e.g. Joe Reed site, Clovis Field site, lab projects), and potential project opportunities. The committee will support those overseeing and volunteering for various NTAS projects by offering assistance with recruiting volunteers, developing announcements, project planning, and more. The NTAS Projects Committee consists of the following members: Jimmy Barrera (Chair), Gen Freix, Brian Luetchford, Katrina Nuncio, Allen Rutherford (ex-officio member), and Dr. Tim Sullivan. Participation with this committee is a great way to keep up with the various field, lab, writing, public outreach, archival, and other NTAS project opportunities. Please contact [Jimmy Barrera](#), if you are interested in participating on this committee.

The Joe Reed Site Volunteer Day

Dana Ritchie

The historic Joe Reed Site in Springtown was recorded by NTAS members in August 2021 and is currently being investigated by Weatherford College in conjunction with NTAS. This interesting site might have been affiliated with historic Veal's Station—one of Parker County's earliest settlements (mid-nineteenth century). NTAS is looking for volunteers to continue work excavating and screening on Saturday, January 20, with a backup day of Saturday, January 27. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Dana Ritchie](#). This workday will be limited to 10 participants, first come first served!

What Can You Do with NTAS? What Can NTAS Do for You?

Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project

Contact the [Vice President of Projects](#) if you know of a field, lab, data collection, or reporting project that could use the skilled labor of experienced and knowledgeable NTAS members.

Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events

Photos are a great way to showcase what NTAS is all about. We'd love to share your NTAS experiences with the world immediately following NTAS events! Please send your images and captions to the [Internet Chair](#). By providing these photos, they may be used on the NTAS website and social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

Newsletter and Journal Content

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 the [Publications Editor](#).

NTAS is now looking for articles to fill the 2024 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 2024 calendar year. For submissions and inquiries regarding the journal, please contact the [Publications Editor](#). Volume 2 of the Journal will be available soon. Volume 1 is now available for purchase on [Amazon](#).

NTAS scholarships are now available to -ANYONE- who applies for TAS Academies, the TAS Field School, and the annual TAS Meeting.

Please visit the NTAS scholarships webpage to submit your application. [Apply now!](#)



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!

Welcome, New Members!

Andy Burcham
Felicity Kiser
Tommy and Shanna Safford
Roxanne Walker

Donors

Anonymous

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

Thomas Standefer
Secretary

Hannah Rainey
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 25

March Newsletter: February 29

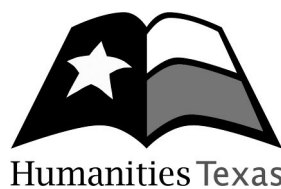
April Newsletter: March 28

May Newsletter: April 25

July Newsletter: June 27

August Newsletter: July 25

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