



# Benchmark

Volume 33, Issue 6

July 2019

## The NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)

will welcome **Linda Lang** as the featured speaker for the **July 11th** meeting (see **Page 3** for details).

**NTAS** meetings are **free** and visitors are always welcome (see **Page 4** for our **NEW** location and directions).

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## President's Message

I hope everyone has enjoyed the weeks since our last NTAS meeting in May. I sometimes refer to this period as "time off" since we do not have a Board meeting, a newsletter, a speaker's dinner, or a monthly meeting in June, but a lot has actually happened since our last meeting. On May 18, fifteen NTAS members participated in a very informative and enjoyable tour of the "Being Human Hall" at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science (page 6). We were fortunate to have NTAS member Dr. Becca Peixotto as our guide for the visit, which took place for an hour before the museum opened to the public. Becca, the Director and Research Scientist at the Perot's Center for the Exploration of the Human Journey, was instrumental in the research on *Homo naledi* that comprises much of the exhibit. She is currently back at the Rising Star Cave System in South Africa doing additional field work. We wish Becca the best during her trip and we are all looking forward to her presentation to NTAS in November.

From June 8-15, thirty NTAS members participated in a productive TAS field school in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. That number included three students who received NTAS scholarships to help them attend field school. (page 5) In all, about 350 TAS



*James Everett, President*

members attended the school. As always, several of our members (including Tiffany Osburn, Glynn Osburn, and Chris Meis) played significant leadership roles in this activity. Although the next field school is almost a year away, it is already time to begin planning to attend the 2020 field school at Kerrville.

On June 29, NTAS participated in the Northeast Tarrant County AARP event called "Real Possibilities". Just as we did at a similar event last year, we discussed archeology, NTAS, and TAS with several hundred visitors at our display table. (page 5) Special thanks go to Gen Freix and Susan Everett, who helped staff the display table, and to Lloyd Erwin and Eddie Osburn, who supplied materials for our exhibit. We are already looking forward to participating in this annual event next year.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Connect with NTAS:

<http://www.facebook.com/tarrantarch.org/>

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

[info@tarrantarch.org](mailto:info@tarrantarch.org)

## President's Message

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Most NTAS members are familiar with Mike Shannon's many artistic, creative talents, such as crafting attractive centerpieces for several TAS Annual Meeting Banquets. At the bottom of this page is a photo of a beautiful, framed poster that Mike has created and donated to be raffled off, with the proceeds going to NTAS. You can see the actual poster and purchase raffle tickets at the July, August, and September NTAS meetings. The raffle drawing will be conducted at the September meeting, so take a look at this work of art and buy a raffle ticket or two to help NTAS.

Finally, although we are experiencing the heat of Summer, it is certainly time to begin planning to attend the TAS Annual Meeting in Amarillo. The Annual Meeting will take place "early" this year (October 11-13). All Annual Meetings are special due to the fantastic presentations and the many members of our TAS family with whom we get to interact at these gatherings. However, this year's meeting is even more significant. It is the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for TAS. This year's presentations will include a symposium put together by Paula Vastine, focusing on the history of TAS and our many activities, such as Field Schools, Annual Meetings, Academies, and the Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society, which will publish its 90<sup>th</sup> volume this year. If at all possible, make plans to be in Amarillo for this memorable event.

### **Stone Tool Art to Be Auctioned at the September NTAS Meeting**

***See this month's president's message (above) for information about how to obtain the lovely piece of art.***





## July Speaker: **Linda Ott Lang**

### **In the General's Garden Using Archeology & Historical Record to Capture a Moment in Time**

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association formed in the 1850s to purchase and preserve George Washington's Northern Virginia estate which had fallen into disrepair in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The non-profit association dedicated itself to the restoration of the buildings and grounds over the past 160 years. In the 1980s, the association established a permanent archeological program to use the estate's buried resources to create a more historically accurate visitor experience. Washington saw himself as a farmer and land developer, despite his monumental influence as commander of the Continental Army and first president of the United States. Thus, knowledge of the property and its development adds to the understanding of the man. In the 1990s, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association authorized an archeological study of the upper garden when the boxwoods dominating this feature experienced wide-spread decline. From 2005 to 2010, extensive excavations and historical research were undertaken to learn more about the evolution of the upper garden. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association planned to use any information uncovered to restore the garden to its design at the time of George Washington's death in 1799.

#### **Linda Lang**

Linda Ott Lang received her B.A. in history from the University of North Texas in 1993 and her M.Ed. from Lamar University in 2018. She is an eighteen-year veteran history teacher at Springtown High School. While attending UNT, she took elective courses in archeology and was introduced to the Texas Archeological Society. She attended her first field school in 1992 where she learned of local societies in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. In 1993, she joined the Tarrant County Archeological Society, where she has served as treasurer and is the current historian. For the state organization, she has been registrar for multiple academies and annual meetings. Linda currently serves as co-director for region 3 with her husband Brett. She also is an acting member of the Education Committee. In the spring of 2019, Linda attended the George Washington Teachers' Institute at Mount Vernon. While attending the institute, she developed an interest in the efforts made by the proprietors of Washington's home to integrate the archeological resources with the historical record for a more comprehensive understanding of the life and legacy of George Washington.

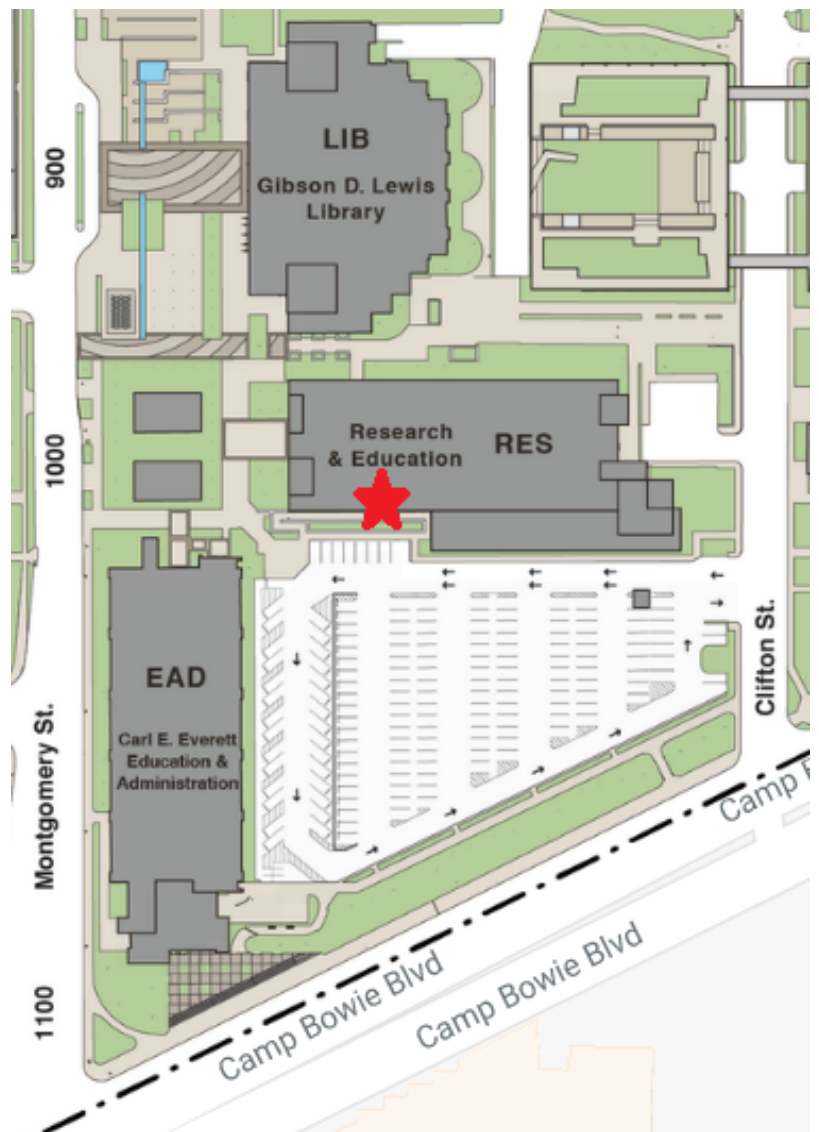


## ***WE HAVE A NEW MEETING LOCATION***

### **NTAS Monthly Meeting Location & Directions**

NTAS meets at 7:30 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**.



### **Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers**

**August 8th: Bill Perdue**  
**September 12th: Joshua Keene**  
**October 10th\*: Kevin Hanselka**

\*This date is subject to change

### **Welcome New NTAS Members:**

Autumn Mcgaha

Ewan Edwards

Austin Champine



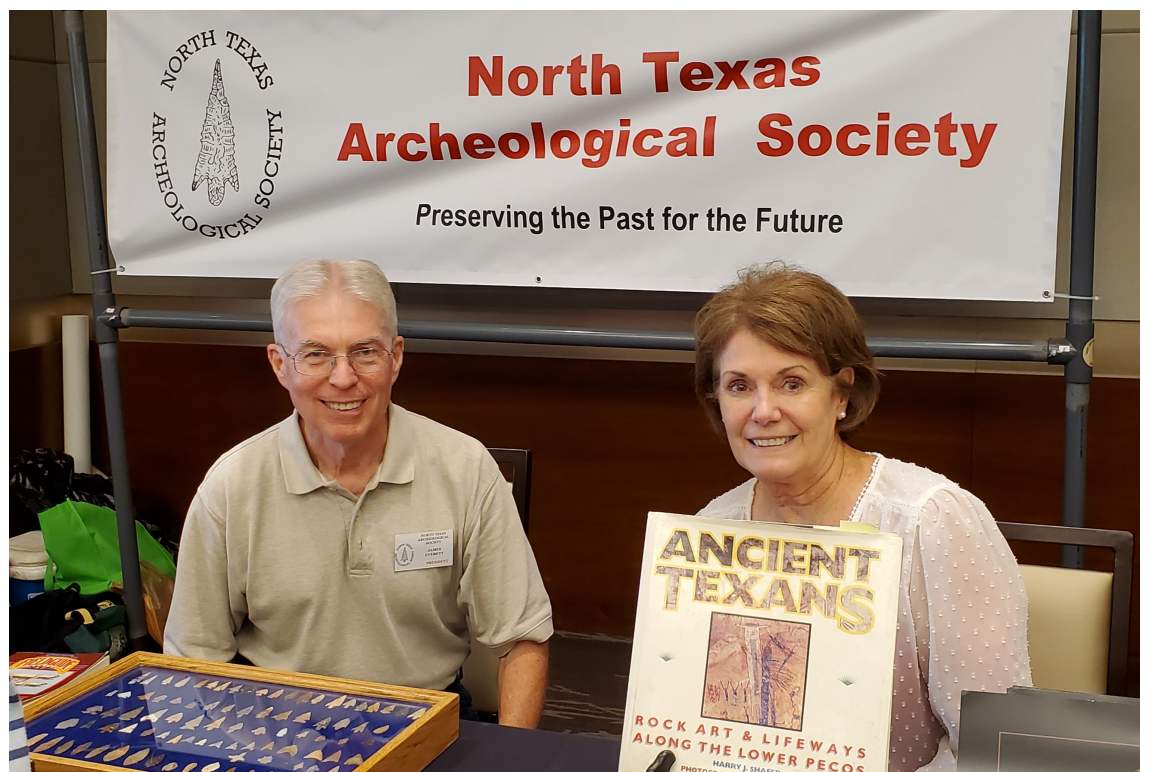
## 2019 NTAS Scholarship Recipients

Scholarships were awarded at the May NTAS Meeting to three excellent student candidates: Ashley Green, Kristin Kaosa, and Vincenzo Ramos. The scholarship allowed them to attend the TAS field school this summer and hone their archeological skills. We will be hearing about their experiences in a future issue of Benchmark.



*Kristin Kaosa, Ashely Green, Katrina Nuncio, and Vincenzo Ramos. Katrina was professor to each of these students at TCC.*

*James Everett and Gen Freixmanning the NTAS/TAS table at the annual Real Possibilities AARP Event in North Richland Hills.*





## Guided *Being Human* Tour at the Perot Museum



*NTAS member Dr. Becca Peixotto, Director and Research Scientist of the Perot Museum's Center for the Exploration of the Human Journey, discussing the "Being Human Hall" with the NTAS members who toured the exhibit on May 18.*





### TAS Field School Highlights

More to come in the August issue of Benchmark

Linda Lang & Paula Vastine.



Ona B Reed



### NTAS members enjoying the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

Deanna & Jerry Grubis



## Treasures of Field School

*By Chris Meis*

The interesting thing about archeology, and survey in particular, is that you just never know what you might discover on your walkabout. I certainly didn't expect to find a 70-year-old advertising coin, since our mission was to discover new archeological sites in Palo Duro Canyon. The extremely heavy vegetation from unusual rainfalls made that difficult, but things catch your eye besides lithics, fire-cracked rock, and unusual rock alignments.

In May 1949, trying to solicit Palo Duro Canyon Booster Club members and attract tourists to the region, a plane dropped 10,000 brass coins with a plating called goldline over the 16,000 acre canyon. One side of the coin read "Palo Duro Treasure Hunt 1949" and the other side had an image of the Lighthouse rock formation and a number. Any coin with a number ending in "seven" was a prize-winner as long as you redeemed it before Labor Day 1949. Prizes included eight-day vacations in Havana, Cuba, a \$250 diamond ring, two registered quarter horses, and season passes to the Amarillo Gold Sox home games.

Treasure hunters watched from the rim of the canyon, as the 10,000 goldline coins were dropped from an airplane. Then Governor Beauford H. Jester cut a ribbon at the entrance and treasure hunters paid an entry fee of 42 cents plus 24 cents for each additional adult in the car. Kids were only charged 12 cents!

It would be interesting to know how many of the coins were found on that first day and how many have been found by park visitors over the last 70 years. Another one of the coins was found by a TAS survey crew a couple of days prior to my find, but beyond the historical value and evidence of a fascinating stunt, the "gold" coin appears to have little monetary value. (I checked eBay!)



*A 1949 Palo Duro  
Treasure Hunt coin*



*Chris Meis and his treasure*



**NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future**

**NTAS Board**

**James Everett**  
*President*

**Dana Ritchie**  
*Treasurer*

**Linda Lang**  
*Historian*

**Bryan Jameson**  
*Vice President*

**Lloyd Erwin**  
*Secretary*

**Gen Freix**  
*Internet Chair*

**Catrina Banks Whitley**  
*Vice President—Projects*

**Chris Meis**  
*Immediate Past President*

**Molly Hall**  
*Newsletter Editor*

**Three easy and quick ways to pay your 2019 NTAS dues!**

**By PayPal:** Complete the Application Form and pay online with PayPal at the NTAS website, [www.tarrantarch.org](http://www.tarrantarch.org)

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

**In person:** Give your dues and completed application to James Everett at the monthly meeting.

February 2019 **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City\State\Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact(s):** Please provide the following information regarding the individual(s) from whom we can request or to whom we may provide information in the event of an emergency. Please consider listing at least one contact who does not live at your residence.

Primary Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ New      \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$20      \_\_\_\_\_ USPS Mail Delivery \$10
- \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal      \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25      \_\_\_\_\_ Optional Memorial Fund Contribution
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$10 (*enrolled in grade school through college/university whose coursework is considered to be half time or more*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contributing \$30

**\*\*Until further notice, please make checks payable to TCAS\*\***

**Code of Ethics (signature required):** I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ANTIQUITIES STATUTES CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES OR ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICES OF BUYING OR SELLING ARTIFACTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR ENGAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA OR DISREGARD PROPER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_