

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

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

#### Inside this issue:

President's Message	1-2
Lance Tahmahkera & Stories on Cynthia Ann Parker	2
USACE Archeologists	2
2025-2026 EC Nominations Needed	3
Monthly Meeting Location & Info	3
Finca de Caza	4
SMU Lab Days	5
Events & News	6-7
Membership & Publication Info	7-9

# Benchmark

Volume 38, Issue 3

March 2024

## President's Message

Hello everyone, and I hope your March is off to a great start! We skipped ahead to summer for a little bit, so I've personally been preoccupied with mowing the lawn, weeding, and thinking about grilling out for every meal. I hope you all have been able to enjoy the weather as much as I have. I would like to thank everyone who attended our February meeting, either in person or via Zoom. Our guest speaker, Dr. Charles Frederick took us on a deep dive into variable preservation of prehistoric earth oven facilities, including discussion of some recent, cutting-edge research he's presently conducting. I would like to thank Dr. Frederick for joining us and taking us through his current research interests. It's always fun and interesting to feel included in someone's scientific process even if it's just a glimpse. If you missed his presentation, it is available on YouTube.

Big thanks to Tommy and Cyndi Standefer for opening their property to NTAS to help record the Finca de Caza site on February 24. Thanks also to Jimmy Barrera for helping organize the survey for NTAS. A total of 11 NTAS members participated in the fieldwork and I'm excited to see the results! The continuing open lab session at SMU was held on



February 24 and was a resounding success. Thanks again to Brian Lutchford and Dr. Matt Boulanger for organizing and I'd like to also thank Robyn Dodge and Katrina Nuncio for advertising the opportunity to their students. Twelve volunteers attended and we hope for more throughout the spring!

We also have another opportunity to work at the Joe Reed site. See the list of events on Page 6 for details.

As a general reminder to the society, 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 to NTAS and look forward to your continued participation in the

## 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**

society. With that in mind, if you all know anyone who has been considering joining, now is a great time to do so!

The March 14th, 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 March 14th guest speaker is Lance Tahmahkera whose presentation is entitled “Stories on Cynthia Ann Parker”. Lance is a great-great-grandson of Quanah Parker. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on March 14th!

*Allen Rutherford*

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## **March Speaker: Mr. Lance Tahmahkera**

### **Stories on Cynthia Ann Parker**

Mr. Tahmahkera will discuss the Parker family's coming to the Mexia/Groesbeck area, the raid on Fort Parker, Cynthia Ann Parker's capture by the Comanches and recapture at the Pease River by Sul Ross. He will then take things to her eventual death and relocation by Quanah back to Oklahoma.

Born and raised in Fort Worth, **Lance Tahmahkera** was with Texas Health Harris Methodist Fort Worth for the past 45 years and recently retired from the Imaging Department Texas Health Harris Methodist Neighborhood Care and Wellness – Burleson. He is a great-great-grandson of Comanche Chief, Quanah Parker. With his parents staying close to the Comanche traditions and culture, much of his youth was spent at pow-wows learning family stories about ancestors and the tribal ways. He's been asked to share those stories with various schools/universities, historical groups and organizations. The stories that will be shared will vary



from the origins of the tribe, life on the plains and reservation, Cynthia Ann and Quanah Parker to current day events. Also to be shared are children's stories that were passed down through the family.

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## **An Evening with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Archeologists**

*Allen Rutherford*

Current and former USACE archeologists are scheduled to participate in a panel discussion at the November 14, 2024 NTAS meeting. In advance of this program we want to ask the membership to consider and submit (to [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)) discussion topics on the **USACE**, and especially the role USACE archeologists play in protecting and managing archeological resources. Having these discussion topics in advance of the November meeting will help guide the program, which will be a panel discussion with the NTAS membership as opposed to a set presentation. We look forward to receiving your discussion topics and questions and to hosting Arlo McKee, Skipper Scott, Jay Newman, and others on November 14!

**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!](#)

## 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. Specifically we are still seeking a President and Historian. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [Allen Rutherford](#).

## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

**April 11th: Mike McBride (Crying Woman Ranch)**

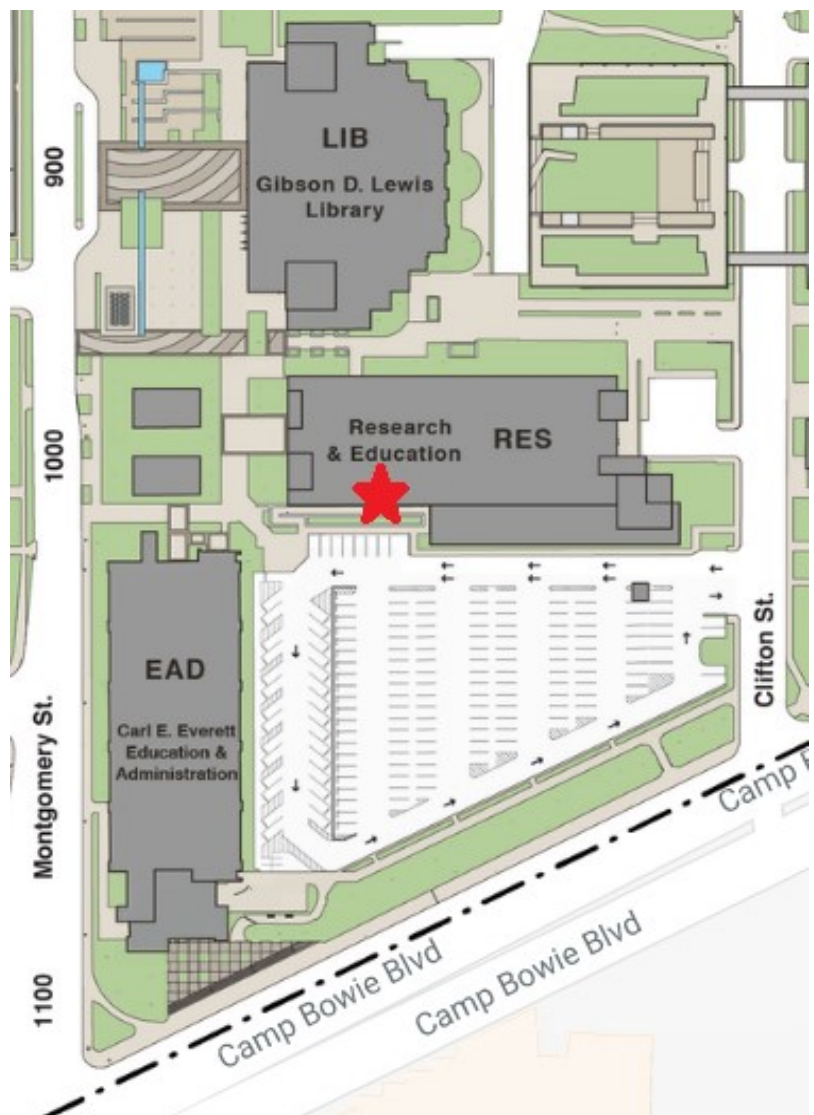
**May 9th: Vicky Roberts (Nasca, Peru Research)**

**June: No Meeting (TAS Field School)**

## 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.



## *Finca de Caza Site Recording a Success!*

### **Thomas Standefer**

Thanks primarily to the efforts and organization of Jimmy Barrera, NTAS members carpooled to Jack County on Saturday, February 24th, where together they documented a 19th-century home-site and a possible Butterfield Stagecoach Stop on the property owned by NTAS members Tommy and Cyndi Standefer. The site recording team included members Jimmy Barrera, Royce Baker, Glenn Butler, David Goss, Stephanie Hastings, Dixie Hoover, Rio McGowan, Jocelyne Swayze, Bret Williamson, and Tommy and Cyndi Standefer.

Tommy and Jimmy are working on a journal article they hope to have completed in time for publication in the 2024 NTAS Journal describing the site as well as the history of the homestead(s), the Butterfield Stage, and the general area during the mid-1800s.



## ***NTAS Open Lab Days at SMU***

### **Brian Luetchford**

NTAS volunteers are working with Southern Methodist University to ensure their artifact collection from the 1971 TAS Field School is sorted, counted, weighed, organized and preserved for future research. NTAS volunteers can join this interesting and fun opportunity.

Our host, Dr. Matt Boulander, will be at the upcoming Lab Days on Saturdays March 30, April 27, and May 25. Interested? Contact [Brian Luetchford](#) for registration information and mark your calendars to attend.



## Archeological Events & Opportunities

### **The Billy W. Sills Lecture Series**

**10am, Various Saturdays 2024**

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

March 23 - History of Cowboy Poetry from the Cattle Drive Era 1866 to 1902

### **Open Laboratory Days**

**March 30, April 27, 2024**

Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX

SMU will be hosting Open Laboratory Days from 9am-5pm the last Saturday of every month through May 2024. The current focus will be on artifacts collected from the 1971 and 1972 TAS Field Schools that were held in Kerr County. For more information, please contact [Brian Luetchford](#). See Page 5 for photos and a report on February's lab day.

### **Nighthawk Bison Jump Site Field Work**

**March 2024**

Caprock Canyons State Park, TX

Gus Costa is looking for experienced volunteers to assist in the next round of excavations at the Nighthawk Bison Jump Site in Caprock Canyon during the month of March. Volunteers will need to be able to hike 2.2 miles (round trip) and climb/descend a 45 ft. cliff. See pages 4-5 of the February newsletter for details. Please email [Gus Costa](#) for more information.

### **Shumla Lunch and Learn**

**Noon March 20, 2024**

Online

The Cultural and Environmental Context of Pecos River Style Art presented by Dr. Phil Dering.

### **The Joe Reed Site NTAS Work Day**

**March 23, 2024**

Parker County, TX

See pages 8-9 of February's newsletter for details on this ongoing project. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Dana Ritchie](#).

### **UTA Termini Lecture**

**March 28, 2024**

Arlington, TX

The speaker will be Dr. David Samson, author of a new book on tribalism (*Our Tribal Future*).

### **Pompeii: The Immortal City Exhibit**

**March 30-June 23, 2024**

Arlington Museum of Art, Arlington, TX

Through a world-class multi-media experience, journey back in time with the AMA to Rome just before, during, and after the fateful eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79. Hear and feel the roar of the volcano erupting while you take in the wonder of original artworks and newly-discovered artifacts.

### **HCAA Crying Woman Ranch Invitational**

**April 1-5, 2024**

Hunt, TX

NTAS volunteers are welcome to attend an excavation hosted by the Hill Country Archeological Association called the Crying Woman Ranch Invitational. Volunteers are expected to contribute a donation of \$50 to cover HCAA expenses. Volunteers need to pay for their own lodging/food, and bring excavation tools. If you are interested in attending, please contact [Brian Luetchford](#).

### **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.

### **65th Annual Caddo Conference**

**April 26-27, 2024**

Fayetteville, AR

The conference will be held at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Arkansas. Contributions about Caddo archeology, history, culture, and language are welcome.

### **Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies 58th Symposium**

**April 27, 2024**

San Angelo, TX

See Page 7 of the February newsletter for the call for papers.

### **Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting**

**May 3-5, 2024**

Las Vegas, NM

The 2024 ASNM Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Site Steward Foundation (SSF) in Las Vegas, NM at the Plaza Hotel on May 3-5, 2024. The 2024 ASNM annual volume honoree, John Roney, will be officially honored at the meeting. Presentations will focus on the archaeology of northeastern New Mexico and Plains-Pueblo interactions.

### **TAS 95th Annual Meeting**

**October 25-27, 2024**

Victoria, TX

The Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB) at Victoria College and the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT), are official hosts for 95th TAS Annual Meeting. Guest speakers will be Texas State Archaeologist Dr. Brad Jones for the Friday Public Forum and Dr. Leland C. Bement, Senior Researcher at the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey at University of Oklahoma, for the Saturday evening Banquet.

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## **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](#). The current volume (2023) is available to members by logging in [here](#). A digital copy of Volume I is available to the public [here](#), and physical copies are available for purchase on [Amazon](#).



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

Online membership form and payment option available at [ntxas.org/join-and-renew](http://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](mailto:publicationseditor@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!

Kelsey Collins  
 Joe Coomer and Isabelle Tokumaru  
 Phillip Ferguson  
 Anjali Himali  
 Yasmeen Khan  
 Lani Kockler  
 Loretta Paris  
 Rachel Zhang  
 Sylvia Zhang

## Donors

Bryan Jameson & Carol Macaulay-Jameson  
 Chris Meis  
 Jay Newman

## 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.

April Newsletter: March 28

May Newsletter: April 25

July Newsletter: June 27

August Newsletter: July 25

September Newsletter: August 29

October Newsletter: September 26

This program is supported in part by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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