



Benchmark

Volume 37, Issue 5

May 2023

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

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

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1-2
Becky Shelton & the TASN	2-3
Monthly Meeting Location & Info	3
Horse Nations & Future Speaker	4
Texas Folsom Fluted Point Survey	4
TASN News	5
Johnson Plantation Cemetery Rededication	5
Events & News	6-7
Membership & Publication Info	7-9

President's Message

April brought with it the return of an in-person speaker to our monthly meeting along with our highest in person attendance of 2023! I'd like to thank everyone who attended in person or via Zoom and to thank those who participated in a lively Q&A post-presentation. Those who attended got to hear Dr. Mike Adler give a presentation on recent work at and for Picuris Pueblo outside Peñasco, New Mexico. The intensity of their survey methods and the ultimate results are incredibly impressive, as is Dr. Adler's ability to reflect on his "unexpectations" as a result of their recent work. Please check out the April 13th program on the NTAS YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/ElcWEWCB4c0>.

The month of May brings some exciting opportunities to NTAS, both in the DFW area and beyond. If you have not already RSVP'd it is not too late to sign up for the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds Dedication at 11am on May 12, 2023. Many NTAS members were involved in this project and are invited to be present at the dedication. Information about RSVP'ing can be found on page 5. Registration for the TAS Field School in Nacogdoches from June 10-17 is open. Tom Middlebrook will be joining us at our May 11th meeting to discuss the upcoming field school. This is a reminder that NTAS provides scholarships to folks who would like to attend field school. Those applications can be found here (<https://ntxas.org/>



[scholarships](#)). Our Scholarship Committee is ready to review more applications, so please send them along!

In addition to those events, The Center for Big Bend Studies is seeking volunteers to work at a possible Clovis site at the Genevieve Lykes Duncan site at O2 Ranch in Brewster County. For more information follow the link. (<https://www.sulross.edu/news/cbbs-seeking-volunteers-at-possible-clovis-dig-site/>). Volunteers are needed for two 10-day sessions from May 15-24 and May 29-June 7. If you'd like to stay inside as the weather heats up, The Friends of the Texas Historical Commission has two upcoming virtual events: Flagship of Texas Citrus: The Grapefruit with David Laughlin on May 25th (<https://www.thcfriends.org/event/the-flagship-of-texas-citrus/>) and From Hope Chests to Museums: How Wom-

(Continued on page 2)

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

(Continued from page 1)

en Saved the West (<https://www.thcfriends.org/event/event-from-hope-chests-to-museums-how-women-saved-the-west/>) on June 29th. Register today! These are just a few events on the immediate horizon. Please see pages 6-7 for more upcoming events.

The May 11th, 2023 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 May 11th guest speaker is Rebecca Shelton of the Texas Historical Commission. She will present on How Local Volunteers Protect Community Heritage. We are excited to host Ms. Shelton for this presentation and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on May 11!

Allen Rutherford

May Speaker: Becky Shelton**How Local Volunteers Protect Community Heritage**

Although there are many professional organizations practicing cultural heritage preservation, there is a group of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to protect their cultural heritage in Texas. For over 38 years, the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network has assisted the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in bringing public archeology to life in their communities. The Archeology Division of THC is tasked with maintaining a public archeology program dedicated to preserving and interpreting the vast archeological landscape of Texas. With fewer than 15 archeologists at the THC, they rely on stewards spread throughout the state. These highly skilled volunteers bring a wide array of skill sets to the network. Archeology is multidisciplinary by nature, and appeals to history buffs, cemetery guardians, museum docents, high school educators, and master naturalists. Stewards, as trusted members of their communities, assist landowners with identifying archeological sites, abandoned towns, or lost cemeteries. Through collaboration with their county historical commissioners, they identify under-told stories and create roadside markers that keep places from becoming lost to history. Stewards spend an immense amount of time sharing their passion for archeology and history with school children. This multi-generational approach personalizes local history and helps students to identify with their past.



Becky Shelton received her Masters in Anthropology from the University of Texas, Arlington in 2008. While completing her degree, she began working as a Field Technician, then moved on to serve as a Project Archeologist then Principal Investigator at AR Consultants, Inc., in Dallas, Texas. There, she conducted desktop evaluations, survey and testing for projects in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Before developing a passion for Texas archeology, her background in fine art, art conservation and collections management fostered an interest in Maya ceramics. In addition to her work in the states, from 2009-2013 she participated as the Lab Director/Ceramicist for the Caves Branch Archaeological Project field school, Belize where she taught artifact identification and analysis.

Since 2014, she has served as the North Central Texas regional archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division. She works with review and compliance to provide technical reviews on state and federal undertakings related to the Antiquities Code of Texas and Section 106. Within the Archeology Division, she works with landowners and consultants to preserve significant archeological sites and assists with providing protective designation. In addition, she

handles public inquiries and requests concerning archeological issues, and coordinates with regional archeology societies. As part of public outreach, she delivers presentations, writes articles and web content, provides updates to electronic media, and conducts onsite training. She also participates in archeological investigations, conducts site evaluations and analysis, and prepares reports on the results of these investigations. Additionally, she serves as the Coordinator for the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN), who are a group of highly motivated avocational archeologists who assist the THC staff with the mission of the public archeology program: to preserve and interpret the vast archeological landscape of Texas. Within the TASN, she manages membership, annual training and workshops, and coordinates with landowners and communities regarding their requests for assistance.

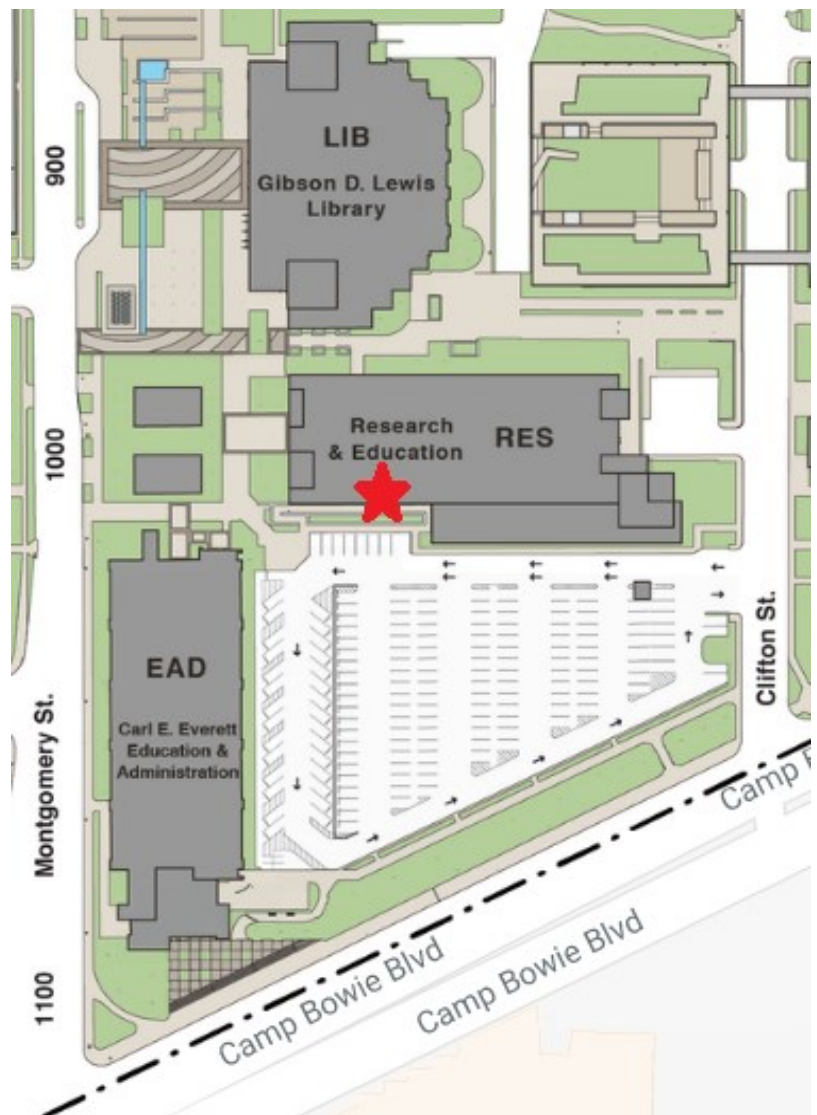
Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

June: No Meeting (TAS Field School)
July 13th: Bill Moore (North Texas Calabooses)
August 10th: Gus Costa (TBD)

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.



Horse Nations Article and Special NTAS November Meeting

Jimmy Barrera

Jimmy Arterberry of the Comanche Nation is scheduled to be the November 9, 2023, NTAS guest speaker, and might be joined by one or more Comanche members. In advance of his program we want to ask the membership to consider and submit (to info@ntxas.org) discussion topics on Comanche history and archeology. Having these discussion topics in advance of November 9, 2023, will help guide the program which is intended to be a round table discussion with the NTAS membership on Comanche history and archeology as opposed to a set presentation.

Mr. Arterberry recently coauthored a research article in *Science* entitled “Early dispersal of domestic horses into the Great Plains and northern Rockies.” A summary of this article is available for free here: <https://www.science.org/content/article/horse-nations-animal-began-transforming-native-american-life-startlingly-early>.

Call for Data — Texas Folsom Fluted Point Survey

The principal researcher of the TFFPS and colleagues at the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) request your assistance to collect and update artifact information to be included in the inaugural edition of the Texas Folsom Fluted Point Survey.

To date there has been no official Folsom point survey, or an extensive overview of Folsom point occurrences for Texas. There was however, an attempt to set up a similar Folsom database to that of Clovis in the early 1990s by Floyd Largent, but nothing has been published since. Before that, there were a few earlier accounts by Tom Hester for example, but these were much more localized and on a smaller scale. In the Largent survey there are 329 Folsom points documented from 86 localities in 57 of the 254 Texas counties, or 22.4 %. Moreover, 100 of these points came from one site, Chispa Creek in Culberson County.

The TFFPS will eventually come under the control and curation at TARL. Phase I of the survey is to carry out a comprehensive literature review and to reach out to colleagues, professional and avocational archaeologists, collectors, and the general public who may have information on Folsom fluted points from Texas and the counties bordering Texas. The first phase of the project is already in place, and it is hoped that this ‘call for data’ will complement our searches. It is anticipated that a comprehensive study and a resulting database of Texas Folsom points will greatly complement the Texas Clovis point database and would be a valuable resource for Texas paleoindian archaeology. A study of Folsom point occurrences regionally, and the concentrations of the points within those regions would make for an interesting comparative analysis with the Clovis survey.

If you have data to contribute, please contact Alan Slade at alan.slade@austin.utexas.edu.

The TFFPS survey is funded by the Summerlee Foundation and anonymous donors. Anyone wishing to financially support this project should contact Steve Davis at Gunflint.Lab@gmail.com. This is a project of the Independent Research Initiative managed and administered by the Journal of Texas Archaeology and History (JTAH) a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit Texas organization.



Spring 2023 Texas Archeological Stewardship Network Newsletter Published

Jimmy Barrera

The Spring 2023 TASN newsletter has been published! This resource includes numerous research articles, a great report on Texas Archeology Month, and very helpful info about upcoming events.

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/TASNnewsSpring23.pdf>

Steve Lowe New Member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network

Steve Lowe, NTAS member, was recently welcomed as one of the newest members of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network. See Page 4 of the December 2022 newsletter to learn more about Steve and his interest in archeology and NTAS: <https://ntxas.org/ntas-newsletters>

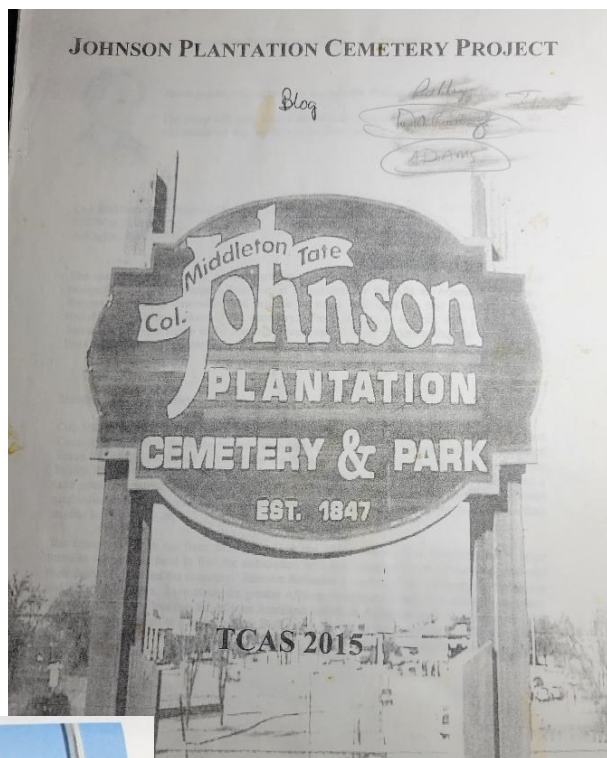
Cemetery Rededication

Bill Perdue

From when we first started working on this cemetery project in 2015 (led by Catrina Whitley) a lot has happened. Many of our members were involved in the initial discovery work on this cemetery.

Below is a photo of the group when we started the project and on the right is the cover sheet of the project outline.

See Page 6 for a link to the invitation to the upcoming rededication ceremony..



Last stop for the tour: TCAS members, family, and friends at the Colonel Middleton Tate Johnson Plantation Cemetery

Photo by Joe Nuncio

Archeological Events & News

Lives of the Gods: Divinity in Maya Art

Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX

May 7– September 3, 2023

<https://kimbellart.org/maya-gods>

In an exhibition of nearly 100 rarely seen masterpieces and recent discoveries, Lives of the Gods: Divinity in Maya Art will depict episodes in the life cycle of the gods, from the moment of their birth to resplendent transformations as blossoming flowers or fearsome creatures of the night. Created by masters of the Classic period (A.D. 250–900) in the spectacular royal cities in the tropical forests of what is now Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, these landmark works evoke a world in which the divine, human, and natural realms are interrelated and intertwined.

Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds Dedication

Arlington, TX

11am, May 12, 2023

shorturl.at/hostO

NTAS (formerly TCAS) was heavily involved in the Johnson Plantation Cemetery Project starting in 2015. The Memorial Grounds have been renovated and will be dedicated on May 12.

Prehispanic Jewelry from the Sea

Online

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EuXOYLnCRE2IOYDdYOqGaw#/registration

11am (AZ time), May 13, 2023

Elisa Villalpando will focus on the ornamental use of shell among the Early Agriculture Period communities of the Sonoran Desert (800 BC-50 AD). Free, but registration is required.

Genevieve Lykes Duncan Site Field Work

Brewster County, TX

May 15-24 or May 29-June 7, 2023

<https://www.sulross.edu/news/cbbs-seeking-volunteers-at-possible-clovis-dig-site/>

The Genevieve Lykes Duncan (GLD) site is between two significant drainages in an area with plant and animal resources and an abundance of nearby lithics suitable for manufacturing stone artifacts. The site contains multiple ancient human occupations. Previous investigations conducted by the Center for Big Bend Studies at the GLD site have firmly established the presence of deeply buried hot rock cooking ovens dating back to 10,800 years, some of the oldest in North America.

The World of the Maya Film Series

Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX

2pm, Various Sundays, Summer 2023

<https://kimbellart.org/calendar?event-type%5B0%5D=99>

May 21 - Breaking the Maya Code: Discovering Remnants of the Mayans

June 18 - Maya Astrology: An Instrument of Political Power / Daughters of Ixchel: Maya Thread of Change

July 23 - Popol Vuh: The Creation Myth of the Maya

August 6 - Guatemala: On the Edge of Discovery

August 27 - Ancient Maya Metropolis

Current Archeological Prospection Workshop

Arkansas City, KS

May 22-26, 2023

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/geophysics-workshop-2023.htm>

The workshop is organized to provide a practical introduction to ground-based geophysical and other remote sensing techniques that are commonly used for the purposes of identifying, evaluating, and preserving archeological resources. Among these ground-based methods are magnetometry, ground-penetrating radar, earth resistance, metal detecting, conductivity, and magnetic susceptibility. Lectures cover theory of operation, survey methods, data processing, and interpretation. Participants also have daily opportunities to gain introductory level, hands-on experience in the field.

TAS Field School

Nacogdoches, TX

June 10-17, 2023

<https://www.txarch.org/Field-School>

The TAS field school spans seven days and is led by professional archeologists and trained avocationalists. Participants may register for a minimum of three days or for the full week and choose excavation, survey,

or the laboratory. Volunteers may also participate in the afternoon and evening workshops, educational programs, and social activities that are spread throughout the week. No prior archeological experience is necessary. Activities and learning opportunities are offered for all ages, including excavation techniques, survey methods, and special training for newcomers and teachers. Several Field School Scholarships are also available.

An Evening with Dr. Zahi Hawass

Dallas, TX

6pm, June 24, 2023

<https://zahilectures.com/>

From Hope Chests to Museums: How Women Saved the West

6pm, June 29, 2023

<https://www.thcfriends.org/event/event-from-hope-chests-to-museums-how-women-saved-the-west/>

This unique presentation focuses on how women were Originators, Caretakers, and Stewards, whose efforts helped retain important parts of history. For example, Hattie M. Anderson and Jo Stewart Randel were the primary movers and driving forces behind the creation of historical societies which went on to establish prominent museums. Three generations of Trigg family women created, kept, and then donated letters, financial records, and ephemera from nearly a century of history on the Trigg Ranch. The myriad ways knowledge was transferred from generation to generation were all subject to the guiding hands of dedicated women.

The Beauty of Clay: Cultural Works of Mesoamerica - Fort Worth Museum

Fort Worth, TX

<https://www.fwmuseum.org/news/press-releases/beauty-of-clay/>

Showcasing ceramic and earthenware from the Huastec, Zapotec, and Colima. Examine the jaguars, birds, deer and even dogs depicted in these works as part of a style known as zoomorphism!

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

Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project

Contact ypofprojects@ntxas.org if you know of a field, lab, data collection, or reporting project that could use the skilled labor of experienced and knowledgeable NTAS members.

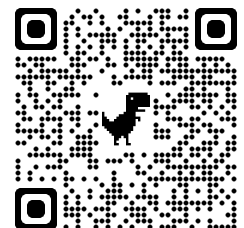
Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events

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 internetchair@ntxas.org. 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 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 publicationseditor@ntxas.org. Volume I of the Journal is now available for purchase on Amazon. Visit amazon.com/dp/B0BJYD52JP or scan the QR code:



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!

<https://ntxas.org/scholarships>



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!

Mark Davies & Family
 Tom Ashmore
 Hayley Herschap

Donors

Mark Kalpakis — *General Fund*

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.

July Newsletter: June 29

August Newsletter: July 27

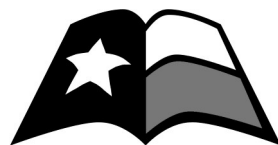
September Newsletter: August 31

October Newsletter: September 28

November Newsletter: October 26

December Newsletter: November 30

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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