



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

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

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# Benchmark

Volume 36, Issue 10

November 2022

## President's Message

What a great time many of our members enjoyed this past month at all the terrific Texas Archeology Month (TAM) events. NTAS was well represented at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) and joint East Texas Archeological Conference in Tyler on Oct 21-22. Thanks to the NTAS members who volunteered and participated in TAM events, volunteered at the TAS meeting, presented at the TAS meeting, and for all the other great NTAS efforts this past month!

For the October 13 monthly meeting, 34 folks joined in person and 39 via Zoom. Dr. Catrina Banks Whitley discussed the NTAS investigations at the BaahKu archeological site near Taos, New Mexico. We learned about residential and ceremonial features, along with the very interesting story on when and how the BaahKu site was abandoned. Unfortunately, due to technical issues the October 13 meeting was not recorded.

See page 9 of this month's newsletter for more volunteer opportunities including excavation and lab work.

The November 10, 2022 monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) held in our usual meeting room on the Universi-



ty 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. The November guest speaker is Bonnie Reynolds – doctoral student in Anthropology/Archeology at SMU. Ms. Reynolds will present interesting research on the Toyah cultural phase in Texas. Thank you and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on November 10.

**Jimmy Barrera**

## 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**

## November Speaker: Bonnie Reynolds

### Re-examining the Toyah Paradox

As an archaeologist, I have the unique opportunity to tell the stories that have been left out of our history books but can still be inferred from objects people left behind. The modern Texan identity is undeniably shaped by Spanish colonial influences – from the food we eat to our most-visited landmark, the Alamo. But this narrative rarely acknowledges that when the first Spanish explorers arrived at the northern boundary of New Spain, they found the landscape already occupied by indigenous peoples who had complex social, political, and trade networks. The result that we lose all the complicated details that add up to make Texas so unique, and the descendants of the indigenous populations lose that connection to their heritage. My dissertation uses new photography and image processing technologies to identify the small changes in arrowhead shape that occur across Texas with the assumption that the more time craftsmen spend together, the more their art starts to look the same and vice versa. This allows me to reconstruct the social networks into which the Spanish were inserting themselves.

**Bonnie Reynolds** is a doctoral student in the SMU Department of Anthropology, where she has also been lead curator at the Archaeological Research Collections since 2018. Bonnie has a Bachelor's Degree in Archaeology from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's degree in Archaeology in Material Science from Cornell University, where she focused in historical preservation and museum studies. Her current dissertation focuses on the Spanish Colonial era in Texas, with emphasis on stone-tool production.



## 2022 Holiday Party!!!

### Paula Vastine

The NTAS Christmas Party is back!

New place, same party.

Please join us for an evening of fun, food, and many laughs.

**Date:** December 10, 2022

**Time:** 5-11pm

**Place:** Stone Glen Villas  
301 Tulip Way (clubhouse)  
Keller, TX, 76248

**Gate Code:** 3020, or it may be open

**Parking:** You may park directly in front of anyone's house as long as you avoid the driveway and fire lanes. There are limited parking spots behind the clubhouse.

**Food:** We invite you to bring your favorite holiday treat or just make a swing through any of your favorite food havens for an entree, dessert, etc. Soft drinks, tea, lemonade, and coffee will be provided as well as cups, plates, utensils, and napkins. As usual it is BYOB. The clubhouse has ample seating, a fire-

place, and room for all of us as well as outdoor seating, if the weather allows.

**Entertainment:** YOU are the entertainment. Catch up with friends you have missed and participate in our White Elephant Gift exchange. The rules for the gift exchange are as follows: Bring a wrapped gift, take a number from Santa, and when your number is called, pick out a gift from under the tree OR steal it from another. The THIRD time a gift is stolen it is FROZEN. We have had some very interesting, unusual, homemade, archeologically related gifts under our tree over the years. Be creative. The gifts related to archeology are cherished by many and brought back the next year by some!

Since we will be in a new place, please feel free to call Paula (817-988-8405) for any question you may have or if you need directions.

The location is in Keller, right off of FM 1709, also known as Keller Parkway, Golden Triangle Blvd, or Southlake Blvd.

## 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.



## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

**December 10th: Holiday Party**

**January 12th: Matt Boulanger (Obsidian Sourcing)**

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

## NTAS Supports Texas Beyond History

*Jimmy Barrera*

NTAS plans to donate \$250 to Texas Beyond History (TBH <https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/>) to become a partner in supporting the long-term success of this extremely valuable resource.

We are soliciting matching donations from NTAS members to add to this \$250 donation to TBH. All member donations received by November 30, 2022 will be added to the \$250 NTAS donation and then sent to TBH as part of the overall NTAS partnership donation. Please donate to the General Fund using the NTAS donation page here <https://ntxas.org/donate>. Or bring a check or cash to the November 10 NTAS meeting and donate to TBH by providing your donation in-person to the Treasurer Ms. Gwen Durrant.

## A Successful TAS Annual Meeting

Photos courtesy of James and Susan Everett



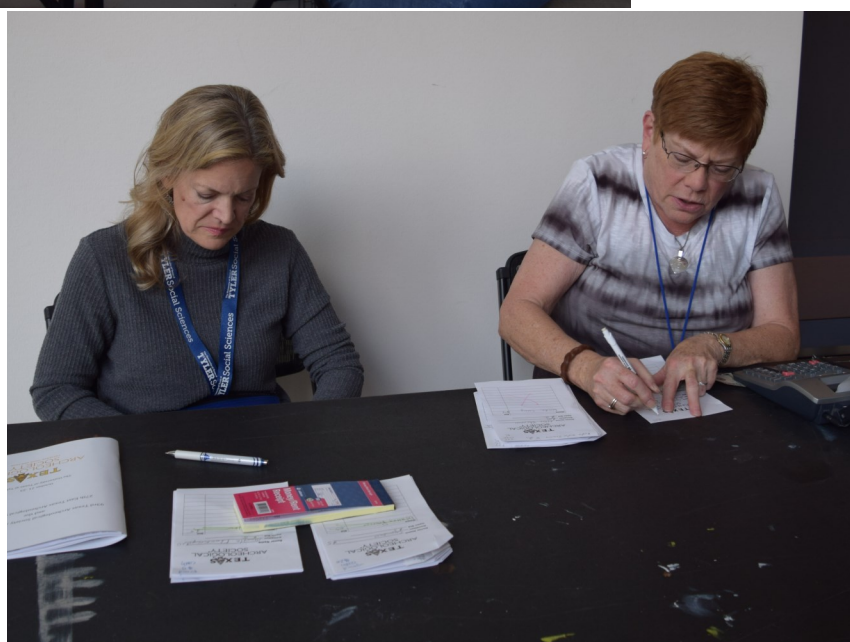
TAS members at a special lecture at the newly rebuilt inner structure of the grass house at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site. See page 9 for information about the upcoming thatching of the house.



Jimmy Barrera, Dr. Thomas Guderjan, and Chris Meis consult on Friday afternoon during the meeting.



*Gen Freix inviting members to participate in the Annual Meeting raffles.*



*Dana Ritchie, Annual Meeting Treasurer, and Katrina Nuncio tally the money received from the raffles and silent auction.*



*Brett Lang and Linda Lang, Annual Meeting Registrar, at the Annual Meeting Registration Desk.*



The crowd at the Careers in Archeology event sponsored by the Council of Texas Archeologists.

Paula Vastine,  
Dr. Alan Skinner, and  
Linda Lang at the banquet.



Dr. Thomas Guderjan, Chris Meis, Art Tawater, Dana Ritchie, Brian Jameson, Kathleen Hughes, and James Everett at the banquet.

## NTAS and the Master Naturalists

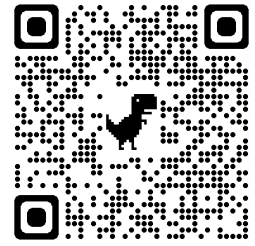
### Bret Williamson

On October 8th, Bret Williamson assisted Michelle Villafranca (Fort Worth Parks Operations and Natural Resource Manager) and Suzanne Tuttle (former director of the Fort Worth Nature Center, and native plant/prairie expert) on an multidisciplinary field trip for this year's Cross Timbers Master Naturalists, to visit examples of Fort Worth Prairie and an 1800s historic archeological site on property not open to the public, plus a fairly new Ft. Worth park. Bret was able to speak about archeology and Native Americans in our area during the all-day event, and distributed NTAS information. Approximately 30 people participated.



## Journal of the NTAS

Volume I of the Journal is now available for purchase on Amazon. Visit [amazon.com/dp/B0BJYD52JP](https://amazon.com/dp/B0BJYD52JP) or scan the QC code:



As a reminder, a digital copy is available to all current NTAS members via a new members-only section of the NTAS website. Simply visit <https://ntxas.org/m/login?r=%2Fjournal-of-the-ntas-1> and set up an account **using the email that is on file with the society**. You will then have instant access to this volume.

### Call for Papers

NTAS is now looking for articles to fill the 2023 Volume. 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)).

## From the Archives

### Linda Lang

As we near the end of 2022, we feature the November 1997 edition of the TCAS Benchmark that had a few interesting alternatives to the typical entries. The issue includes a short article about a mysterious Mayan city. If you like puzzles, there is an archeology crossword puzzle. You can find a recipe for Baked Ham & Bacon Stuffed Mushrooms as part of the “Cooking in the Field” series which periodically appeared in the newsletter in the 1990s. For language enthusiasts, Oxley and Morton’s Archeological Buzz-Word Generator encourages you to create your own word combinations. Special note on the Buzz-Word Generator, you can find an online version for the digital age with a simple name search. If you want to check out this intriguing issue, please email Linda Lang at [lottlang@gmail.com](mailto:lottlang@gmail.com). If you wish to access other newsletters or materials not currently featured, or have questions, feel free to contact me for those requests as well! Check back next month for the latest installment...*from the archives!*



## NTAS Member Presents in Decatur

### Dana Ritchie

Hannah Rainey was invited by a historical society in Decatur to give a presentation in July about TAS field school. It was a great experience!





## Archeological Events & News

### **BaahKu Work Days**

**9am-2pm Nov 5, Nov 19, Dec 3, 2022**

Midlothian, TX

Each day will have opportunities to help with artifact analysis, running float samples, and prepping samples to be sent to laboratories for analysis. Contact Dr. Whitley to volunteer [catrina\\_whitley@prodigy.net](mailto:catrina_whitley@prodigy.net)

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

**November 5-6, 2022**

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).

### **Richland College Collection Work Day**

**10am-1pm November 12, 2022**

Dallas, TX

Last year, NTAS members worked on two donated collections at Richland College. One is a large lithics collection, from Central Texas. The second is a collection of artifacts, mostly ceramic sherds, but some clay, lithic and wood items collected from a site on privately owned land in eastern New Mexico. NTAS volunteers, along with the Anthropology Professor, Mary Peacock, sorted and did some initial cataloging and recording of this collection. We now have the opportunity to return and assist in preparing some learning kits for Intro Archeology students to use in their classes. If you are interested in participating, please contact Tim Sullivan at [Secretary@ntxas.org](mailto:Secretary@ntxas.org) for more details and directions.

### **Grass House Rebuilding at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site**

**Nov 26-27, 2022**

Alto, TX

We are planning to start thatching the grass house on November 26 (Saturday after Thanksgiving). We are asking Caddo to join us on Saturday and Sunday. Chase Earls will have a pottery making demonstration Saturday morning and a cooking demonstration Saturday afternoon. The Friends Group will provide lunch and dinner Saturday and lunch on Sunday to members of the NTAS and HAS. Anyone participating after Sunday will have to bring their own lunch. We will work from 9 AM until 4 PM each day until the thatching is complete. Work conditions should be a little easier than July. To volunteer and for details please use the Friends of Caddo Mounds link: <https://sites.google.com/view/friendsofcaddomoundssh/volunteer/projects/grass-house>.

## We Need **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 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)).



## 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!

Aly Foreman  
Dan Rodriguez

## Donors

A special thanks to everyone who has purchased books, hats, photo scales, and scoops over the past few months!

## 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

**Jimmy Barrera**  
*President*

**Gwen Durrant**  
*Treasurer*

**Linda Lang**  
*Historian*

**Ray Wallace**  
*Vice President*

**Tim Sullivan**  
*Secretary*

**Ashley Green**  
*Internet Chair*

**Catrina Banks Whitley**  
*Vice President of Projects*

**James Everett**  
*Immediate Past President*

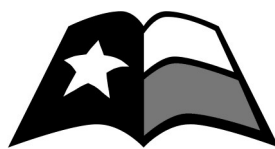
**Molly Hall**  
*Publications Editor*

## Newsletter Submission Deadlines

The newsletter submission deadlines are two weeks prior to the monthly meetings, and upcoming deadlines are listed below for 2022.

December Newsletter: November 24

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