



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

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

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1-2
Monthly Meeting Location & Info	3-5
From the Archives	5
TAM Event Reports	5-7
Clovis Field Site	8-10
Journal Announcement	11
Tribute to Nick Cirincione	12
Events & News	13
Membership & Publication Info	14-15

Benchmark

Volume 36, Issue 9

October 2022

President's Message

Dear NTAS: We made it to Texas Archeology Month (TAM)! And what an October it is for NTAS, all of Texas and beyond for archeology events. This month NTAS has already participated in at least two TAM events: NTAS had booths and archeology activities on October 1 at both the first annual "Denton Dig It" archeology festival (Figure 1); and the "Pioneer Heritage Fest" at the Doss in Weatherford (Figure 2). Huge thanks to the over two dozen NTAS members who volunteered at the October 1 TAM events!!

For the September 8 monthly meeting 48 folks joined in person, and 56 via Zoom. Dr. Heather Para discussed her ongoing investigations at Lindisfarne, England. Through the lens of archeology we learned about the transition from a religious center prior to the Vikings, and then life during the time of Vikings at Lindisfarne. The September 8 meeting was recorded and is available on the NTAS YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChDKM9I3UdiYizPyG3duohQ/featured>



Please consider signing up for TAM events, the TAS Annual Meeting in Tyler, and more (see this newsletter for details).

The October 13, 2022 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 4 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 October guest speaker is NTAS Vice President of Projects Dr. Catrina Banks Whitley – bioarchae-

(Continued on page 2)

Connect with NTAS:

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www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

(Continued from page 1)

ologist and owner of Bioarchaeology Support. Dr. Whitley will present on the BaahKu Archeology project in northern New Mexico that she has overseen for the past few years. Thank you and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on October 13.

Jimmy Barrera



Figure 1 (above). The “Denton Dig It” festival. Clockwise from top left: mock earth oven by Integrated Environmental Solutions (IES); TxDOT artifact display from Bolivar Archeology Project; NTAS member Doug Boyd discussing Bolivar Archeology Project; NTAS booth with various activities (rear); NTAS booth (front); William Howard Clark, great-great grandson of Tom Cook, working at the blacksmith booth, NTAS volunteers setting up.
Photos by J. Barrera.

Figure 2. Pioneer Heritage Fest banner at the Doss.
Photo by J. Barrera.



October Speaker: **Catrina Banks Whitley**

BaahKu Archaeological Site

The BaahKu Archaeological Site excavations started in the summer of 2010 and has been ongoing every summer since that date. BaahKu, translated as Place of Water, revolutionized the interpretations of lifeways, excavation methods, and survey practices in the Taos Valley and will have ramifications beyond affecting these subjects in the Taos Valley. The site is most unusual, with lifeway practices and artifacts unique not only to the Taos Valley in New Mexico but also to the Northern Rio Grande.

The Baahku Archaeological site dates between AD 1050 to AD 1220. The Taos Valley is a place of counterculture where the inhabitants are shedding their previous cultural norms rather than colonizing the area. However, the presence of artifacts and architectural features indicates at least the individuals that resided at BaahKu brought or ascribed to cultural traditions from Chaco Canyon or the Mogollon/Mimbres areas. There is potential the inhabitants at BaahKu may be part of a first generation of migrants into the Taos Valley.

This lecture will discuss the past 13 years of excavations at the BaahKu Archaeological Site. Examples of the unique features, artifacts, and architectural construction, and abandonment processes will be presented. The how and why of the uniqueness of BaahKu may situate it as the “center” for social organization for those residing in the immediate area surrounding the site. In addition, the lecture will present the difficulties in conducting excavations over such a long period. At Baahku, we have learned not to expect the typical found in the Taos Valley nor Northern Rio Grande. This site is situated to significantly change what could be when excavating, to continuously ask new questions and to always stay on your toes to expect the unexpected. BaahKu!

Our landowners have been the most outstanding archaeological stewards and the most patient of landowners allowing extensive, and much longer than expected, excavations on their property where surprises and a more extensive and most unique site in the Taos Valley.

Dr. Katrina Banks Whitley earned her degrees from Southern Methodist University. As a bioarchaeologist of her company, Bioarchaeology Support, her work includes leading historic and prehistoric archaeological project and cemetery excavations, osteological analysis of human skeletal remains and mortuary practices. She is also a Research Associate at the New Mexico Office of Archaeological Studies, a division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. She occasionally teaches courses in bioarchaeology, human evolution, and forensic anthropology at Southern Methodist University. She contracts with firms, such as the Texas Department of Transportation, British Petroleum, Water Districts, Dart, and AR Consultants, Inc., for bioarchaeological and archaeological services. Some of her more notable contracts include the Sugar Land 95 in Fort Bend County, which is the first convict labor cemetery to be excavated and whose conclusions from the project are now part of the African-American studies course in Texas high schools, and the Campbell's

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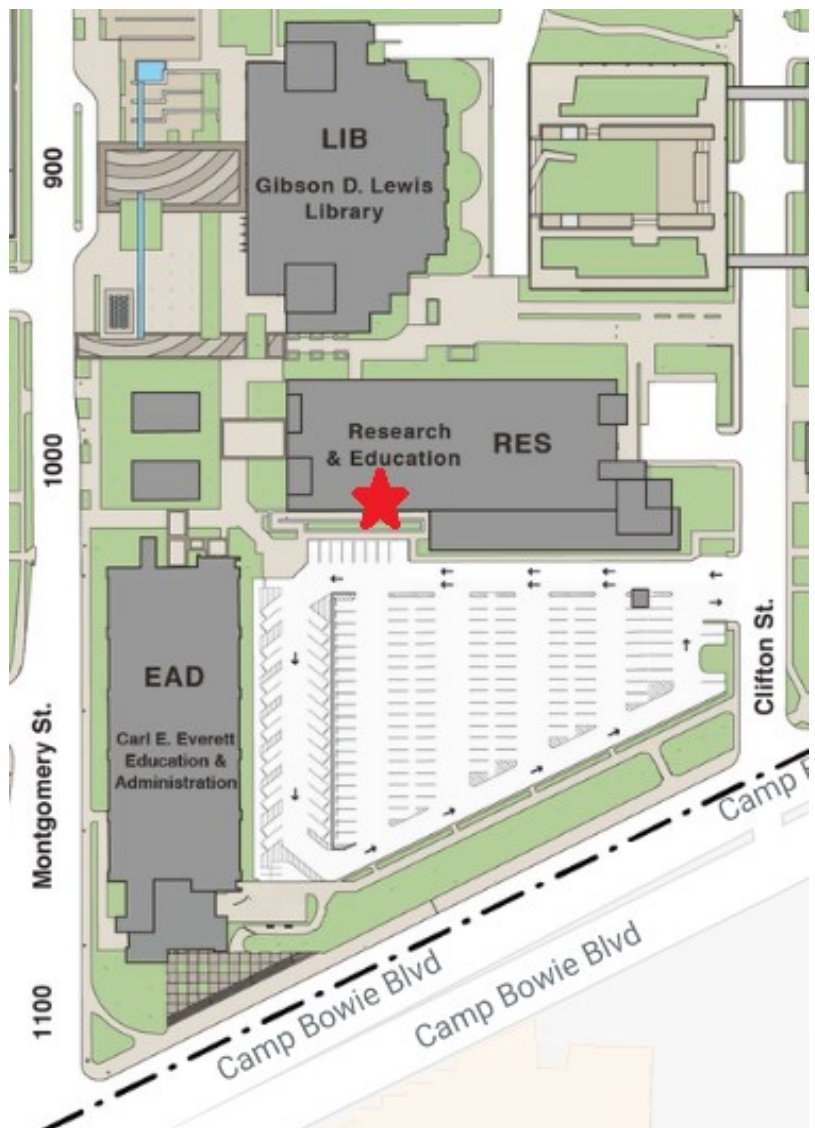
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Bayou Cemetery, Texas City, TX, which included burials of James Campbell, Jean Laffite's captain and privateer and his family. In addition to her Cultural Research Management work, she is the principal investigator of the Sugar Land 95 DNA project with Principal Research Associated, a project identifying those buried in the cemetery and their relatives, the BaahKu Archaeological Project that excavates a prehistoric (AD 1150-1250) Ancestral Puebloan site in Arroyo Seco, NM, and is a co-principal investigator on a project evaluating cancer risks from natural radiation exposure from earthen architecture in prehistoric and modern peoples of the Northern Rio Grande. She has authored and co-authored professional reports, journal articles, and book chapters, and has assisted the Texas Historic Commission with writing legislation on cemetery excavations. Outside the field of Anthropology, her co-authored paper, *A New Explanation for the Reproductive Woes and Midlife Decline of Henry VIII*, offered a new hypothesis arguing his health and lack of heirs were caused by McLeod syndrome and Kell positive blood type. The hypothesis made international news, was featured on the History Channel website, has been incorporated into non-fiction books on the Tudors, and was a premise relied upon in Philippa Gregory's book *The King's Curse*.

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

November 10th: Bonnie Etter (Unraveling the Toyah Paradox)
December 10th: Holiday Party
January 12th: Matt Boulanger (Obsidian Sourcing)

From the Archives

Linda Lang

We look back a decade to the November 2012 issue of the *TCAS Benchmark* for this month's selection. It provides something for all archeology and history enthusiasts including overseas, national, and Texas topics. One article features the discoveries of a team from Texas State University working on an early man site in South Africa. A second article offers a look at the skeletal remains of Kennewick Man. The last item of interest was a blurb about the Quanah Parker Trail. The newsletter includes a still active link to the trail information. If you want to explore the Quanah Parker Trail or some of the other featured items, please email Linda Lang at 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!*



Denton Dig It Archeology Fair

Lynn Sullivan

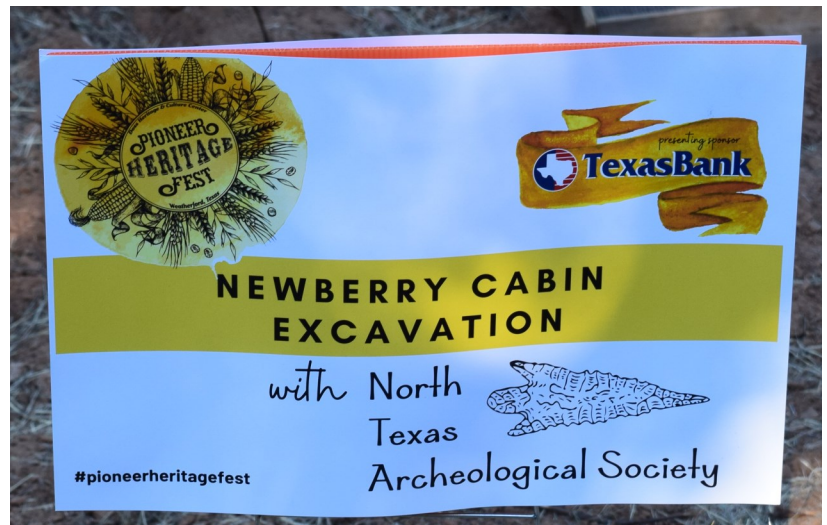
We had 13 volunteers who worked hard from 8:00 – 1:00 on Saturday October 1 at Denton Historical Park for their first Archeology event. Under the NTAS canopy, volunteers Patti Hamilton, Kristina Wolfe, Valerie Contreras, and Linda Lang interacted with over 100 children and adults with the TAS pinch pot baggies and a metate corn grinding activity, provided by Gen Freix. At the NTAS station, we ran out of brochures and posters. Dylan Holubar, stayed busy demonstrating flint knapping with Jimmy Barrera and Gen Freix answering questions about displayed materials. Over in the Scouts area, although expectations for the role of NTAS volunteers changed, our NTAS volunteers, Brett Lang, Kenneth Saintongek, Sydney Lowenthal, Ashley Green, and Edwing Castellon supported attending scouts and general public children through two activities: Clues in the Dirt (see photo) and Trash bag archeology. Lynn Sullivan and Linda Lang served both areas as runners.



Doss Heritage and Culture Center TAM Event

Susan Everett

As part of Texas Archeology Month, several NTAS members volunteered at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center's 5th Annual Pioneer Heritage Festival held on Saturday, October 1. The NTAS members were stationed in front of the Newberry Cabin and handed out archeology literature and membership pamphlets; provided visitors with an overview of the cabin's history and excavation; demonstrated archeological techniques using a mock dig; and gave out instructions and materials (assembled by Gen Freix) for making pinch pots. Becky Shelton, from THC and an NTAS member, also volunteered at the Festival and shared information on state-wide activities and outreach. Over 1,000 people attended this year's Pioneer Heritage Festival. It was a fun and educational day.



The NTAS group – Becky Shelton, Dana Ritchie, Katrina Nuncio, James Everett, Steve Lowe, Charlene Erwin, and Chris Meis



The NTAS and THC set-up at the Newberry cabin



Dana Ritchie and Chris Meis at the mock dig

Update from Clovis Field Site

Jimmy Barrera

Diamond, Tuffy (Archeopooch), and I returned to Mills County on Saturday September 17 to excavate at the Clovis Field site. This site encompasses three recorded archeological sites 41MI91, 41MI92, and 41MI93 on the Barnett Ranch owned by Del Barnett. Excavations were focused on a series of 1x1 meter and 1x2 meter units within an area of intriguing geophysical anomalies. Ongoing excavations in this area confirmed that these anomalies were (mostly) burned rock features, like hearths or sheet middens (Figure 1). Excavators recovered lithic debris along with burned sandstone, and one team found a chert knife in-situ near a burned rock feature (Figure 2).

Fun was had by all including NTAS members: Chris Meis, Gen Freix, Phillip Darce, Steve Lowe, Kathleen Hughes, and Barrera crew. There were also folks associated with the Gault School of Archeological Research (GSAR) who came from around the central Texas area including the Principal Investigator Dr. Steve Howard. Steve Lowe, Chris, and Jimmy reconned the Clovis Field site (reviewed grids, forms, features, etc) and the Legacy Center at Goldthwaite in preparation for the 2023 TAS Archeology 101 Academy (Figure 3). Landowner Del Barnett once again graciously hosted folks to his property and was right in the mix working excavations, paperwork, artifact collections, site grid, and various other matters alongside everyone.

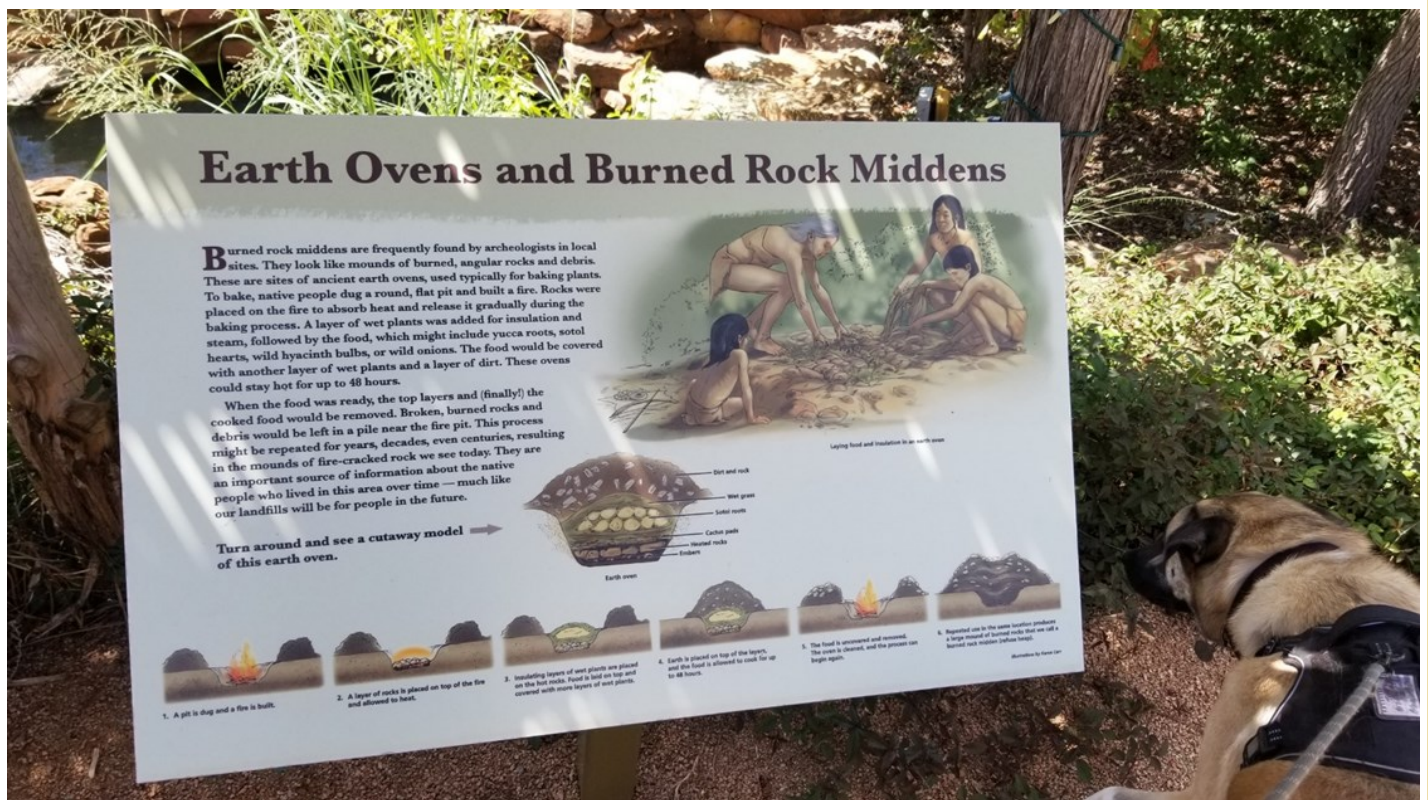


Figure 1. Excavations at the Clovis Field site. Photo by J. Barrera.

Figure 2. Archeopooch supervising her crew with frequent comments like “Haven’t seen sloping floors and walls like these since the neighbor dog’s summertime wallering holes”; “Chris, would you please provide anyone with expertise?”; and “What breaks! There are no quitters allowed in this unit”. Photo by J. Barrera.



Figure 3. Information kiosk at the Legacy Center. With Archeopooch mumbling “Maybe I can get whoever put this together on my crew and make some headway”. Phot by J. Barrera.



More from the Clovis Field Site

Gen Freix and Steve Lowe found a Pedernales point in their excavation unit at the Clovis Field site.



Announcing...

Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society

The inaugural volume contains the long-awaited report on the Pate Site (41PR22), which was excavated by NTAS (then TCAS).

A digital copy will be 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.

If you are a 2022 member in good standing and are interested in a free, paper copy, please contact the Publications Editor (publicationseditor@ntxas.org) by October 19th, 2022. To help NTAS avoid unnecessary postage costs, please plan on picking up your paper copy at an in-person monthly meeting in early 2023.

After October 19th, the volume will be available for purchase on Amazon.com.

Call for Papers

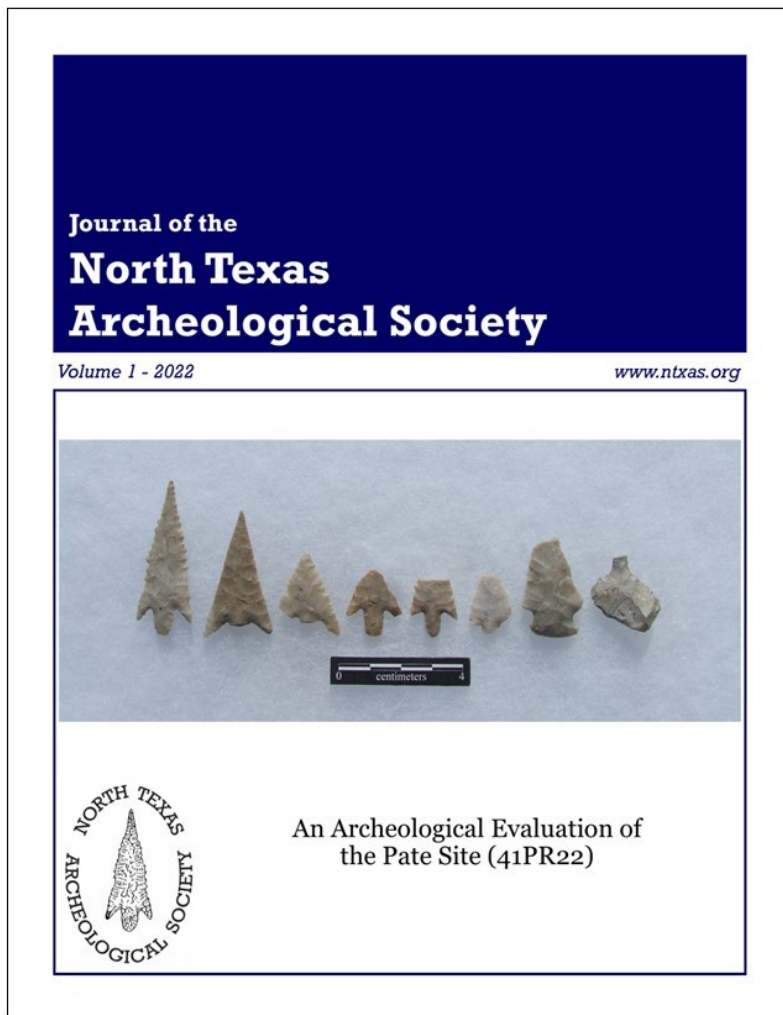
NTAS is now looking for articles to fill the 2023 Volume.

Please consider submitting an article about your North Texas research, fieldwork, or other related topics*.

Help spread the word about this new publication to those in the archaeological community who might want to obtain a copy or submit an article.

For submissions and inquiries regarding the journal, please contact Molly Hall (publicationseditor@ntxas.org).

*The lead author must be an NTAS member in good standing for the 2023 calendar year.



A Tribute to Nick Cirincione

James Everett

Many new members of the North Texas Archeological Society did not have a chance to get to know Nick Cirincione, a longtime member of NTAS and the Texas Archeological Society. Nick died on February 4, 2021 after being unable to attend NTAS meetings for several years due to injuries he suffered in a bad fall. Throughout his life, Nick was dedicated to learning, to travel, and to generously donating money, books, and archival materials to numerous museums and organizations.

One of Nick's favorite learning destinations was the Mammoth Site in Hot Springs, South Dakota. In his will, Nick bequeathed a very large monetary gift to the Mammoth Site. They used the money to add classrooms and equipment to their Learning Center.

On September 13, 2022, the Mammoth Site held a ceremony during which the Learning Center building was officially named "The Cirincione Learning Center" (see photos). Nick would be extremely pleased that his legacy of learning and sharing will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of those who use the Cirincione Learning Center as they study and conduct research there.



Nick at another of his favorite destinations, the Waco Mammoth National Monument, during a 2016 NTAS group visit.

Archeological Events & News

UT Arlington First Annual Indigenous People's Day

October 10, 2022

Arlington, TX

See website for details: www.arlington.org/event/first-annual-indigenous-peoples-day-celebration-at-uta/23995/

Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge Tour

October 15, 2022

Fort Worth, TX

Contact Jimmy Barrera at president@ntxas.org if you are interested in joining.

TAS Annual Meeting

October 21-23, 2022

Tyler, TX

See the TAS website for details <https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting>

Fort Worth History Center Grand Opening

10am-noon October 22, 2022

Fort Worth, TX

The Genealogy, Local History, and Archives unit is moving out of the Central Library and opening their new location. Join them for the grand opening.

TAM at TxDOT's Travel Center

October 26, 2022

Gainesville, TX

NTAS will have a presence at the TAM event held at TxDOT's Travel Center on I-35 in Gainesville. Please stop by, enjoy and support NTAS.

BaahKu Work Days

9am-2pm Oct 29, 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

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 for more details and directions.

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) 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. 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).



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 (publicationseeditor@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!

Tori Aldrich
Emma Bradley
Pravin Mohan
Brianna Noriega
Heather Para

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

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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

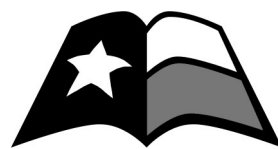
The newsletter submission deadlines are two weeks prior to the monthly meetings, and upcoming deadlines are listed below for 2022.

October Newsletter: September 29

December Newsletter: November 24

November Newsletter: October 27

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