

Benchmark

Volume 37, Issue 9

October 2023

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.

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President's Message

My fellow NTAS members, Texas Archeology Month is upon us! I don't know how we've already reached October, but we've got so many exciting things to do this month and it all kicked off with a wonderful TAS Annual Meeting. It was so good to see everyone in San Marcos. I'd also like to thank everyone who attended our September meeting to hear about LiDAR, the Maya, and some pretty intense archeological survey from my good friend Dr. Sherman Horn. I know he appreciated some Texas hospitality, and BBQ, after traveling in from Louisiana.

I want to give a big thanks to Molly Hall, Tim Sullivan, and Tommy and Cyn-di Standefer for helping coordinate and organize two pinch pot kit making sessions over the course of the end of August into mid-September. The gauntlet was thrown down by our Richland Campus volunteers who made 600 kits and our Fort Worth Nature and Refuge Center volunteers picked it up and ran with it to the tune of 700 kits made! I didn't become an archeologist to do math, but by my count that's 1300 kits made by NTAS this season in the lead up to TAM. Thank you to everyone who participated, and we all look forward to handing these kits out to eager future archeologists throughout the month of October. Speaking of TAM, we are still looking for volunteers for "Denton Dig It!" at the end of October (email lsullivanftwtx@gmail.com for more information). Specifically, we



would love to have some folks out who have experience and/or equipment for corn grinding and flintknapping.

During our October 3, 2023 meeting, the NTAS Executive Committee voted to approve a \$250 donation to Texas Beyond History as a sustaining partner for 2024. As with last year, we are asking our membership to match (or exceed!) that donation prior to it being sent in at the beginning of December. Texas Beyond History is an invaluable resource to the Texas Archeological community and we are thrilled to continue being one of their partners. Please consider donating (<https://ntxas.org/donate>).

The October 12th, 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

(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)

(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 October 12th guest speaker is Richard Brija whose presentation is entitled “Preserving America’s Battlefield Graffiti at *Carriere du Froidmont*”. We are excited to host Richard for this presentation of his dissertation data and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on October 12!

Allen Rutherford

October Speaker: Richard Brija

Orphaned Heritage: Preserving America’s Battlefield Graffiti at *Carriere du Froidmont*

American battlefield graffiti found in caves, quarries, cathedrals, and farmhouses from the First World War stand in stark contrast to the elaborate and impersonal public commemorative artifacts in the form of post-war memorials on the physical landscape along the Western Front. Taken together, they represent two co-existing understandings of the American war experience and how it was commemorated. The first and most popular is the highly visible one seen in the form of memorials, monuments, and military cemeteries constructed in and around the former battlefields in France and Belgium after the war. The second and lesser known are carvings and drawings known as battlefield graffiti; material culture left behind by the soldiers themselves, often hidden from view on walls in enclosed spaces underground. More than towering spires, lavish monuments, and immense cemeteries commissioned across the landscape, battlefield graffiti serves as a testament left by the men who served over a century ago.

During the war, soldiers and civilians from all combatant nations left behind copious amounts of graffiti across the Western Front. American soldiers in particular left behind a rich tapestry of battlefield graffiti in numerous locations spanning three hundred kilometers from the Somme to the Vosges. Inscribed by soldiers during the final year of the war, this graffiti is a personal reflection of the American war experience in France. It ranges from simple personal depictions like names, home addresses, and unit insignia to elaborate murals containing fraternal symbols, human faces, and personal memorials dedicated to fallen comrades. This collection reflects an intimate and personal form of memorialization not seen in the formally designed and professionally constructed memorials and monuments dedicated by the American government after the war.

Unlike monuments and memorials, sites containing American battlefield graffiti are part of the material culture of the First World War. These carvings and drawings represent an important part of not only the American experience in the war but the country’s national heritage. This heritage is largely overlooked in academia and government entities in France like the American Battle Monuments Commission, and the owners of the sites often lack interest or knowledge regarding their preservation and management. As a result, the heritage of sites containing American battlefield graffiti is orphaned, by both France and the United States, leaving these unique artifacts open to acts of vandalism, militaria, and erosion without adequate measures of preservation and management.

One location, *Carriere du Froidmont*, or Froidmont Quarry, provides a large percentage of American battlefield graffiti in France. Being one of the more important locations surveyed on the Western Front during several fieldwork expeditions, it is the site that is under the greatest threat of disappearing because of the above-mentioned factors. This presentation



serves to inform and educate about battlefield graffiti at Froidmont Quarry; What and where is Froidmont Quarry, what is battlefield graffiti, and why it is important.

Richard Brija is a retired United States Marine, former Firefighter/Paramedic, and final year Ph.D. student at the University of Glasgow's Centre for War Studies and Conflict Archaeology in Scotland. He holds a Master of Science (MSc) in History from the University of Glasgow and a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College in Missouri. His field of study is Conflict Archaeology, where he is examining Battlefield Graffiti from the First World War. His work was featured in *Faut Pas Rever*, A French television show on culture and people. He is heading back to France in November to complete the last of his fieldwork for his thesis.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

November 9th: Jimmy Arterberry (Comanche History)

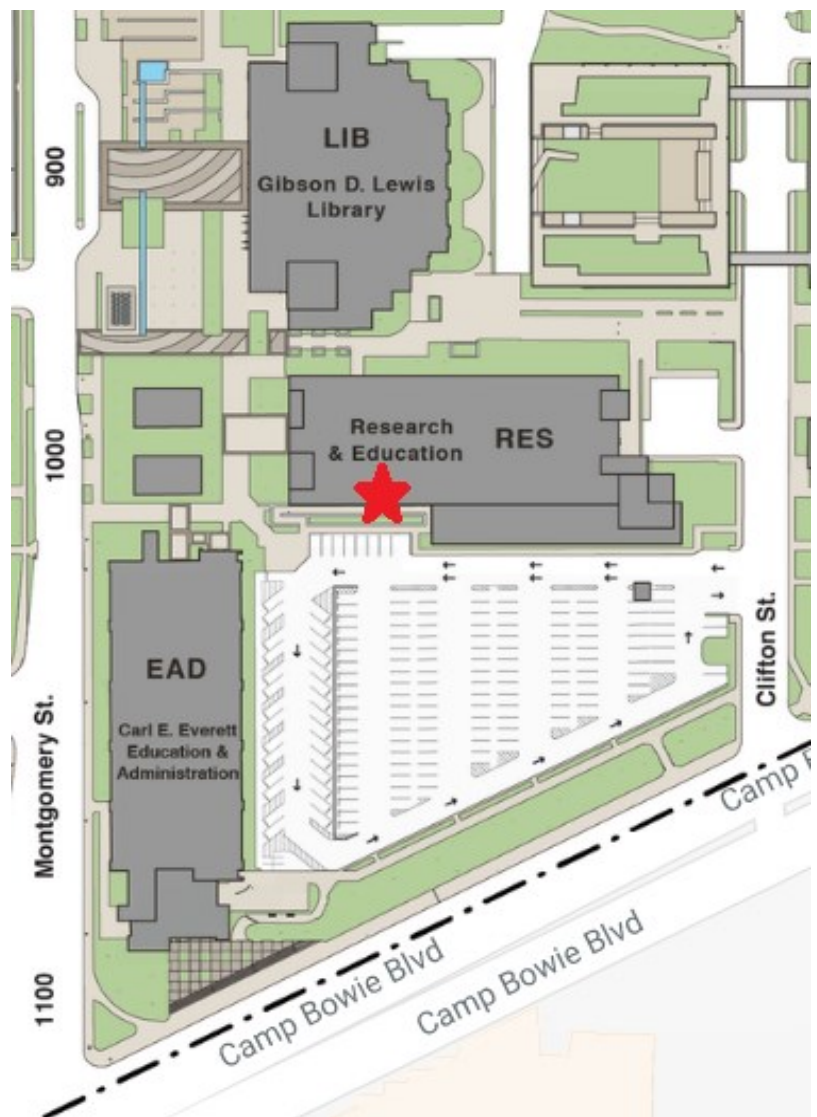
December: NTAS Holiday Party (Details TBD)

January 11th: Jessica Lee Hamlin (Shumla)

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.



Making Pinch Pot Kits — Session II Wrap-Up

Molly Hall

Thirteen NTAS members united on a humid September Saturday at the scenic Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Terry Baker, Lauren Shirar, Matthew Shirar, Paul Shirar, Katrina Tomkus, Steve Lowe, Royce Baker, Jimmy Barrera, Tommy Standefer, Sherman Horn, Molly Hall, Jacob Hall, and Allen Rutherford put together 700 kits for distribution to children at North Texas Archeological events this October.



Texas, Can You Dig It? at the Gainesville Travel Information Center

President Allen Rutherford and Vice-President Steve Lowe greeted travelers crossing the Red River at the Gainesville Travel Information Center on September 22. The NTAS table featured artifacts, pamphlets, and pinch pot kits.



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>.

Archeological Events & Opportunities

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!

Joe Reed Site Work Day

Parker County, TX

October 21, 2023

The historic Joe Reed Site (41PR223) in Springtown was recorded by NTAS members in August 2021. Dana Ritchie with Weatherford College, in conjunction with NTAS, has begun further research into this interesting site that might have been affiliated with historic Veal's Station—one of Parker County's earliest settlements in the mid-nineteenth century. NTAS is looking for volunteers to help excavate and screen on Saturday, October 21. If you are interested in participating, please contact Brian Luetchford (vpofprojects@ntxas.org).

Fall Fest
at
PIONEERS REST

SUNDAY **11 AM** **FREE**
OCT 15 **3 PM** **ADMISSION**



COWTOWN OPRY



LIVE MUSIC
BUTTERMILK JUNCTION



WORKHORSE RANCH

HISTORIC REENACTMENTS

MAJ. RIPLEY ARNOLD
GEN. EDWARD TARRANT
ETTA NEWBY
GEORGE ISBELL
JESSE ZANE-CETTI

FARMERS MARKET VENDORS

HEALTH & WELLNESS BOOTHS

SELF-GUIDED QR CODE TOUR

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

ANTIQUE CARS



DOG COSTUME CONTEST



PIONEERS REST CEMETERY



FARMERS MARKET VENDOR

620 SAMUELS AVE, FORT WORTH 76102

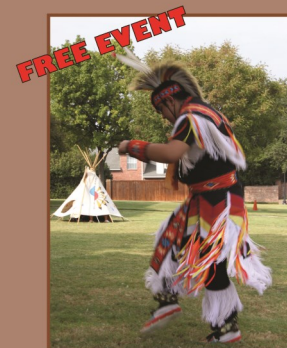
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 100294 - FT WORTH, TX 76185

WEBSITE: PIONEERSRESTCEMETERY.ORG CALL FOR INFO: 817-332-8515

Archeology Fair

21 October

9:00 am to 2:00 pm



Presented by

The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation, Inc.

Native American Drummers and Dancers
Flintknapping Demonstration
Archeology Land Activities
Stone Cleaning at Old City Cemetery

Boys & Girls Club 1111 H Avenue Plano, TX

Contact Information: Michelle Wurtz at 972-543-4248

October Hands on History

Bonham, TX

10am-3pm, October 21, 2023

Hands on History returns to the Sam Rayburn House October 21st as they celebrate Texas Archeology Month! Come explore the history and archeology of the Sam Rayburn House State Historic Site with a special archeology themed self-guided farm tour, then make your own pinch pot craft to take home! Farm tours will be available from 10 am to 3 pm; craft times are 10 to 11 am and 1 to 2 pm.

Denton Dig It!

Denton, TX

9am-1pm, October 28, 2023

We are looking for volunteers for Denton Dig It! Specifically, we are looking for folks who have experience and/or equipment for corn grinding or flintknapping. If you're interested, please contact Lynn Sullivan (lsullivanftwtx@gmail.com)

Fieldwork at Crying Woman Ranch

Kerrville, TX

October 25-29, 2023

The Hill Country Archeological Association is planning a "Mini Field School" for volunteer excavators and screeners to help them excavate the **Crying Woman Ranch** prehistoric site located a half hour west of Kerrville from October 25th (arrival day) through October 29th. Spaces are limited, so this is a first come, first served opportunity. For additional information, please contact Brian Luetchford (vpofprojects@ntxas.org).

What Can You Do with NTAS? What Can NTAS Do for You?**Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project**

Contact vpofprojects@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.

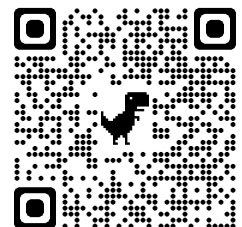
Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events

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!

Misty Alloy
 Bryanna Brown
 Sherman Horn
 Christa E. McDaniel
 Katie Phalen

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

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.

November Newsletter: October 26

December Newsletter: November 30

January Newsletter: December 28

February Newsletter: January 25

March Newsletter: February 29

April Newsletter: March 28

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



Humanities Texas



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 ENDOWMENT
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 HUMANITIES

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