

Benchmark

Volume 37, Issue 8

September 2023

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

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

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President's Message

Hello folks! I'd like to thank everyone who braved the record setting heat-wave to attend our August meeting in person and to those who chose air conditioning by attending via Zoom. Everyone who attended got to hear Dr. August "Gus" Costa give a presentation on a new bison jump site in Briscoe County, Texas. The data, so far, is very intriguing and Dr. Costa presented it in an entertaining way. I'm looking forward to the results of future work at the sites!

In addition to our monthly meeting, I was able to join several NTAS members at the Richland Campus of Dallas College for our first pinch pot kit making session of the year. A team of dedicated NTAS volunteers helped me unload and load enough materials to make 600 pinch pot kits on an incredibly hot day. I'd like to thank Tim Sullivan for helping coordinate with the Anthropology Department at the Richland Campus and Molly Hall for organizing getting the materials from the Texas Historical Commission to North Texas. If you'd like to beat our current world record of 600 kits made in an hour, please join us at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge on September 16th from 9am-noon for our final pinch pot making session before Texas Archeology Month. If you are interested in participating, please contact Molly Hall at publicationseditor@ntxas.org. Speaking of TAM, we are still looking for volunteers for the Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival in early October (email

cio@aol.com for more information) and "Denton Dig It!" at the end of October (email sullivanftwtx@gmail.com for more information). These are the only two events specific to TAM that NTAS is participating in this year, so please come join us!

The TAS Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching. This year's meeting will be held October 6-8 in San Marcos (<https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting>). This is a reminder that NTAS offers scholarships to folks who would like to attend (<https://ntxas.org/scholarships>). Several NTAS members will be presenting and even more will be there to enjoy our wonderful Texas archeology community.

The September 14th, 2023 monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) held in our usual meeting room on the University of

(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

(Continued from page 1)

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 September 14th guest speaker is Dr. Sherman Horn whose presentation is entitled “Promises Made, Promises Kept: Reflections on Lidar-guided Survey in the Maya Forest”. We are excited to host Dr. Horn for this presentation of new landscape data from Belize and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on September 14!

Allen Rutherford

September Speaker: Dr. Sherman W. Horn III**Promises Made, Promises Kept?
Reflections on Lidar-guided Survey in the Maya Forest**

The application of lidar to the Maya Lowlands produced a resurgence of settlement-pattern studies, as the new technology revealed the remains of Maya civilization in previously unfathomable detail over large areas. With the promise of lidar to revolutionize Maya settlement studies came challenges, as archaeologists grappled with how to maximize its potentials and recognize its limits. Few studies have tested these boundaries to the extent of the El Pilar Project, which has recently concluded a decade-long effort to survey 20 km² around an ancient Maya city center shrouded in dense tropical forest.

This presentation will reflect on lessons learned from lidar-guided field survey at El Pilar and discuss the impact of lidar on archaeological practice in the Maya Lowlands. Stunning visualizations and the allure of discovery continue to capture the public imagination, as archaeologists unveil the latest city center imaged by lidar. Researchers revise population estimates up to previously unthinkable levels based on counts of “houses” brought to light by the most recent lidar survey. While the power of lidar in archaeological prospection is undeniable, our on-the-ground experiences validating – or invalidating – remotely sensed settlement remains shows that lidar is but one tool in the archaeologist’s kit, and that a large part of its utility lies in revealing the landscape inhabited by the ancient Maya. Understanding the landscape of the Maya Forest is key to answering questions of population, land-use, and agricultural sustainability, yet this area of research remains underexplored, and much work remains for the promise of lidar to be kept.

Sherman W. Horn III is a Project Manager at RC Goodwin & Associates and Director of Archaeological Research at the Center for Human-Environmental Research in New Orleans, Louisiana. He also holds a research affiliate position at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is the Deputy Director of the El Pilar Project, where he oversees field operations and coordinates laboratory analyses. Sherman has examined the origins and



demise of ancient Maya civilization since completing a PhD at Tulane University in 2015. He uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software to integrate remote sensing and archaeological data to investigate ancient Maya settlement and environmental modification at different scales. Sherman also studies archaeological materials, using microscopic methods to examine exchange relationships and interaction networks at periods of social change. He is particularly interested in incorporating stratigraphic, spatial, and materials analyses in GIS databases to unravel ancient socioeconomic networks and understand their impacts on developing social complexity.

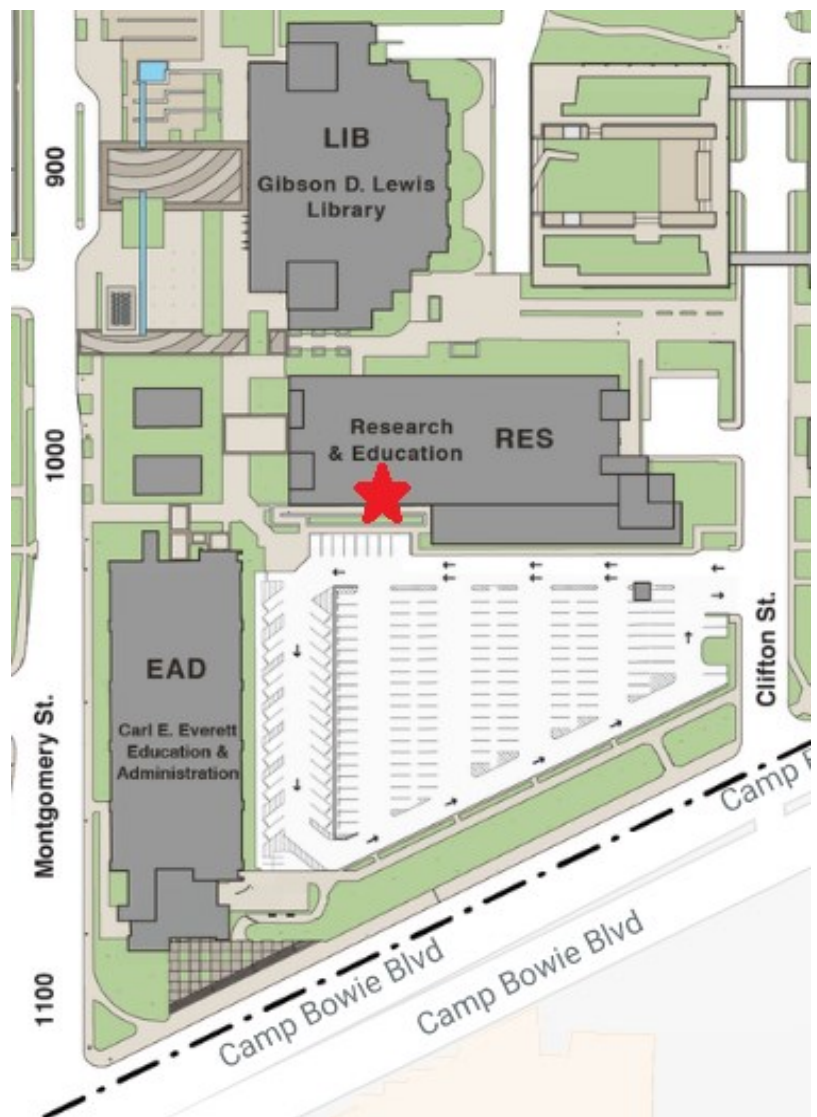
Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

October 12th: Richard Brija (Battlefield Archeology)
November 9th: Jimmy Arterberry (Comanche History)
December: NTAS Holiday Party (Details 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.



Jornada Research Institute 2024 Travel Programs

David Greenwald

The Jornada Research Institute offer overseas tours that are heavily focused on archaeology and history. These continuing education tours typically consist of comprehensive daily activities, designed for active people, and include professional guides with specific knowledge of each area.

For 2024, we have organized tours of the Yucatan Peninsula (February 5-15), the northern Highlands, Lewis Island, and Orkney Island, Scotland (July 29-August 9), and Greece, including a stop at Ephesus, Turkey (October 7 -18).

For more information see <https://jornadaresearchinstitute.com/2206-2/>

2023 TAS Annual Meeting

The 94th TAS Annual Meeting will be at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos October 6-8, 2023. **Note this is earlier in the month than the meeting has been traditionally held.**

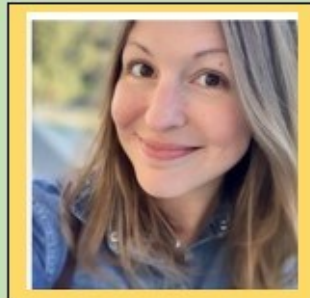
The Friday night Public Forum Speaker will be Doug Boyd. The keynote speaker for the Saturday night banquet is Dr. Ashley Lemke, Associate Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee.

Hotel Rates and Reservations

Breakfast is included. Additionally, room holders can enjoy a FREE happy hour Friday evening. Your parking is free. The biggest benefit is we'll all be together in one place!

**94th Annual Meeting of the
TEXAS
ARCHEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

**ELTON PREWITT – Where As's
and Be It Resolved**



Dr. Ashley Lemke – Banquet Speaker



Doug Boyd – Public Forum Speaker



**OCTOBER 6&7 Embassy Suites Hotel and
Conference Center SAN MARCOS**



Fieldwork Opportunities This Fall

Brian Luetchford

Members interested in volunteer fieldwork can take advantage of three upcoming opportunities:

Washington-On-The-Brazos is the place where the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed. The excavation at this historically significant site is expected to uncover multiple building foundations from the early nineteenth century and a large number of historical artifacts. Fieldwork is scheduled to begin on September 18th and continue for eight to ten weeks. Volunteers will primarily assist in the laboratory cleaning, sorting, and counting of artifacts under professional guidance. Work will typically be from Monday -Friday, however, the schedule may vary for volunteers depending on their availability. Interested volunteers should contact Brian Luetchford (vpofprojects@ntxas.org).

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).

The East Texas Archeological Association has invited NTAS members to help with a planned excavation on Saturday, September 30 from 9am-2pm. They may have found a Caddo site radiocarbon dated to the early 17th century. The **Iron Rock site** is located on the shores of Lake Nacogdoches. Members interested in volunteering should contact Brian Luetchford (vpofprojects@ntxas.org).

A Weekend in Goldthwaite — A Scholarship Awardee’s Experience

Aly Foreman

This year I joined the Texas Archeology Society after discovering the North Texas Archeological Society at a local event in the fall of 2022. I could not be more blessed with my timing since Archeology 101 became available in the spring of 2023. As my first official introduction in to archeology, the class exceeded my every expectation. I was amazed at both the experience and knowledge of the instructors and, the passion permeating throughout the room from all involved. I learned so much and felt so lucky to get to actually dig at the end of the weekend. I was, and am, incredibly pleased with the Archeological 101 Academy content presented and the quality of engagement provided. The atmosphere truly made me feel welcome and at home. I made a number of friends as well as connections. The host location in Goldthwaite was exceptional and the outdoor heritage center was both informational and beautiful. What an experience and true dream come true! I am so thankful for the opportunity provided by the North Texas Archeology Society and for fueling my archeology addiction.

Bolivar Publication in SAA’s Advances in Archaeological Practice

Kevin Hanselka

This emerged from a TxDOT project up in Denton County, in which widening of FM 455 encountered a historic hotel site (the Sartin Hotel) and a blacksmith shop site, both dating to the late 19th century. We excavated the sites with Doug Boyd and Alex Menaker from Stantec, with LOTS of help from volunteers from the North Texas Archaeological Society. The blacksmith shop is especially significant in that the blacksmith was a Freedman named Tom Cook. A big part of the project is collaboration with Tom Cook's direct descendants: his great-great-grandson, William Howard Clark, assisted in the excavations, and great-great-great-granddaughter, Halee, is a constant consultant. Both are coauthors on this article.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/advances-in-archaeological-practice/article/at-the-intersections-of-history/0E1F9057EBA549603B76973E49EEEFB3>

Making Pinch Pot Kits — Session I Wrap-Up

Tim Sullivan

We had 11 volunteers at our pinch pot kit making activity for Texas Archeology Month (12 if you count Rowan O'Brien): Tim Sullivan, Mary Peacock, Rachel Thatcher, Gen Freix, Charlene Irwin, Carolyn Coughlin, Allyson (Aly) Foreman, Bill Ross and Cheryl Lovett, Allen Rutherford, his wife Lauren and their son, Rowan. Many thanks to Professor Mary Peacock for hosting this event and making the Richland Anthropology Lab available for us!

NTAS will be repeating this event on September 16, 2023 at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (see page 7 for details). **Please join us!**

Charlene Erwin, Cheryl Lovett, Gen Freix, Allen Rutherford, Carolyn Coughlin, Bill Ross, and Rachel Thatcher sort through boxes.



Aly Foreman happily completes kit bags.



A Family Effort: Allen Rutherford, Rowan O'Brien, and Lauren O'Brien

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!

Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session II

Fort Worth, TX

9am-12pm, September 16, 2023

It's pinch-pot kit making season! NTAS will obtain materials from the Texas Historical Commission to make pinch-pot kits to hand out (typically to kids) during the numerous Texas Archeology Month (TAM) events in which NTAS is participating. NTAS will need to make 500 kits (if not more!) to be handed out by NTAS members this year. The September 16th session will take place at the **Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge**. ***RSVP is required for this event.*** Please let Molly Hall (publicationseditor@ntxas.org) know if you plan to attend, She will send out exact location details closer to the date of the event.

Texas! Can You Dig It?

Gainesville, TX

10am-1pm, September 22, 2023

NTAS will be participating in TxDOT's "Texas! Can You Dig It?" event at the Texas Travel Information Center in Gainesville on Friday, September 22 from 10am-1pm. We are looking for some volunteers to help staff the table and engage with the public about archeology and NTAS. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Allen Rutherford (president@ntxas.org).

Texas Historic Tree Coalition Dedication Ceremony at the Comanche Creek Site

Hood County, TX

10am, September 23, 2023

In 2022 numerous NTAS members participated in the site recording of the Comanche Creek archeological site (41HD111) located south of Granbury in Hood County. The landowners have diligently worked with the Texas Historic Tree Coalition (THTC) to preserve and document the marker trees located at this site. At 10am on September 23, 2023, there will be a THTC ceremony dedicating these trees as historic marker trees. If interested to participate in this dedication ceremony please contact Jimmy Barrera at james_e_barrera@yahoo.com.

Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting

San Marcos, TX

October 6-8, 2023

<https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting>

In addition to fabulous presentations by Texas archeologists, the Public Forum (Doug Boyd) and Banquet (Dr. Ashley Lemke) Speakers are both NTAS members! Join TAS for a weekend of learning, prizes, vendors, and all things Texas archeology.

Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival

Weatherford, TX

October 7, 2023

This year's Pioneer Heritage Festival overlaps with the TAS Annual Meeting in San Marcos, so we need some volunteers for this event who *do not* plan to attend the TAS Annual Meeting. This is one of our most successful events with respect to community engagement, not to mention our involvement with work on Newberry Cabin which is at Doss. More than 1,000 people attended last year. So, it is a very important relationship to NTAS and a wonderful opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Katrina Nuncio (ksnuncio@aol.com).

Denton Dig It!

Denton, TX

9am-1pm, October 28, 2023

Last year's event was very successful and it coincides with the Denton Community Market. It's a wonderful opportunity for NTAS to discuss the society and archeology with the Denton community and beyond. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Lynn Sullivan (lsullivanftwtx@gmail.com).

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.

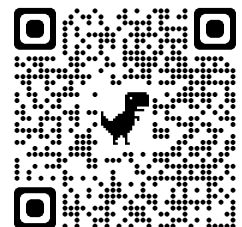
Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events

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!

Gus Costa
 Tamara Feazall
 Karla Gomez
 William Moore
 Katrina Tomkus
 Melody Vincent

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.

October Newsletter: September 28

November Newsletter: October 26

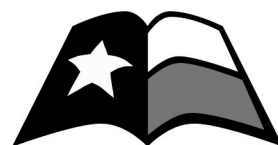
December Newsletter: November 30

January Newsletter: December 28

February Newsletter: January 25

March Newsletter: February 29

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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