

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

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

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# Benchmark

Volume 35, Issue 8

September 2021

## President's Message

On August 12<sup>th</sup> over 40 folks joined the monthly NTAS program to hear the fascinating topic of cadaver dogs in archeology from our guest speaker Dr. Michael "Ben" Alexander. Dr. Alexander provided a thorough discussion on what human remains detection dogs are smelling from the ground, how they are trained, and specific dog training for archeological contexts. Dr. Alexander provided some archeological site examples where his dog Rip alerted to burials in a variety of settings.

And he fielded a lot of questions and comments from the audience! The August 12<sup>th</sup> program was recorded and is available on the NTAS YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChDKM9I3UdiYizPyG3duohQ/> featured

On August 27<sup>th</sup> NTAS recorded two historic archeological sites (El Chingon site and Eagle Eye site) at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNCR). A total of 11 volunteers participated in the site recording. We look forward to future opportunities with the FWNCR and furthering this great relationship with NTAS.

And on August 28<sup>th</sup> NTAS recorded another historic archeological site (Joe Reed site) near Veal's Station in



Parker County. This historic site consists of a series of collapsed limestone structures and a well. It is possible based on proximity to the abandoned community of Veal's Station that the Joe Reed site is associated with this once thriving and now largely abandoned mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early-20<sup>th</sup> century community.

Since the last newsletter Bryan resigned as Vice President due to many commitments that require his attention. The Executive Committee nominated and voted for Ray Wallace to fill the vacancy and serve out the remainder of the Vice President term. Please join me in welcoming

(Continued on page 2)

## 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)

## President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

our new Vice President - Ray Wallace! Please see the Member Spotlight in the July 2021 newsletter to learn more about Ray.

And how about the submission from Allison Weathers (age 12) in this month's newsletter! This is a well-written article from an aspiring archeologist that shows hard work, great application of defining her investigation area, methods, and analysis, and she has a conclusion. Congratulations on the terrific publication Allison!

On October 2nd & 3rd NTAS and TPWD will host a tour of archeological sites at the Palo Pinto Mountains State Park for NTAS members. The tour is offered to 20 folks for October 2 with the same tour for an additional 20 folks on October 3. This is an official Texas Archeology Month event for NTAS members. Contact [president@ntas.org](mailto:president@ntas.org) to register. The October 2<sup>nd</sup> date is almost full so please consider joining the October 3<sup>rd</sup> tour!

Registration is open for the Texas Archeological Society's (TAS) 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting which will be virtual on October 22-23, 2021. And scholarship opportunities are available via TAS and NTAS. Please visit the TAS website for registration and other details (<https://www.txarch.org/>).

The NTAS Executive Committee decided to continue holding the monthly meetings via Zoom until the current COVID-19 rates have improved. We will notify the membership once we have decided to return to in-person meetings. Our September guest speaker Dr. Ashley Lemke of UT Arlington will present via Zoom on 9,000 year old archeology beneath Lake Huron in the Great Lakes. Dr. Lemke's program will also include updates on recent discoveries and methods from her research. Look forward to seeing you there on the 9<sup>th</sup>!

*Jimmy Barrera*

## Archeological Events & Announcements

*Compiled by Molly Hall*

### **TAS 92nd Annual Meeting**

Virtual

See page 6 and the TAS Website for details <https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting>

**October 22-23, 2021**

### **TAS Geoarch 201 Academy**

Victoria, TX

See page 7 and the TAS Website for details <https://www.txarch.org/Geoarcheology-Academy>

**March 4-5 or 6-7, 2022**

### **SAA 87th Annual Meeting**

Chicago, IL

**March 30-April 3, 2022**  
Submission Deadline: September 9, 2021 3pm EDT

### **TAS Lithics Academy**

Austin, TX

See page 8 and the TAS Website for details <https://www.txarch.org/page-18216>

**April 23-24, 2022**

## September Speaker: **Dr. Ashley Lemke**

### **Archaeology Below the Surface: Underwater Archaeology of a 9,000-year-old Landscape beneath Lake Huron**



Similar to today, the ancient Great Lakes were dynamic, unique, and significantly impacted regional climates and cultures. At the end of the last Ice Age, water levels were much lower and the Lake Stanley phase in Lake Huron provided a dry land corridor for people and animals to cross the basin. This landform is the Alpena-Amberley Ridge (AAR). Using a combination of high-resolution mapping, remote operated vehicle survey, and direct excavation and sampling via SCUBA, our interdisciplinary team has documented underwater archaeological sites and paleoenvironmental data on the AAR. Data collected to date includes 9,000 year old stone constructed features for caribou hunting, preserved trees, and organics, animals bones, and most recently, obsidian stone tool flakes. This talk will present finds from the AAR and overview new methods for conducting archaeology underwater.

**Dr. Ashley Lemke** is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas in Arlington and Chair of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology. She is a leading researcher on the archaeology of hunter-gatherers. She has worked extensively on both terrestrial and underwater archaeological projects from the Lower Paleolithic in Europe to 19th-century Nunamiut archaeological sites in the Arctic. She is an expert on submerged ancient sites in the Americas and has researched such sites in the Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, and Atlantic Ocean.

## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

**October 14th: Allen Rutherford (Bois d'Arc Lake Archeology)**  
**November 11th: Marybeth Tomka (Artifacts & Records in a Repository)**  
**December: Annual Christmas Party (TBD)**

## J.T.A.H. Volume 6 Publication

Thanks to Skipper Scott for making us aware of the publication of the 6th volume of the Journal of Texas Archeology and History! This volume has multiple articles of particular interest to North Texas including the report of an Andice Cache from Montague County.

You can download the entire volume (as well as past volumes) for **FREE**:

<https://jtah.org/2021/08/06/j-t-a-h-volume-6-publication-announcement/>

## Swami and the All-Seeing Eye Coin

### Allison Weathers

My name is Allison Weathers. I am 12 years old, and I live in Slidell, Tx. I like to play the piano, hang out with friends and family, and obviously dig for stuff. Some of the things I find are cool. Some of the other objects are “junk” as my mom and dad say. Even though it may not seem valuable to them, it is to me. Everything I find is a treasure. I’ve always loved to find the most random things, but when I heard about the Tom Cook site, I knew I just had to find something about it. We were driving home from my basketball game, and we passed by. We saw the workers were on their lunchbreak and I was with my sister and my Mimi. She asked if she wanted to turn around and ask for some insight on the project. I said sure and that’s where the fun began.

Me and my Mimi got out of the car and approached the workers. We asked what they were working on today and that’s when we met Mr. Doug Boyd. He gave us some information about the project, and thought it was cool. Mimi sent an email a few weeks prior asking if they let kids come out and dig. She asked the same question and he said yes. He paid for our memberships which was very kind and we got at it. It was a fun and a great learning experience.

Last week I found a coin in my yard. They are doing work on our new house, and they graded the yard just the other day. My parents were laying sod so I thought I would go out there and rake in the dirt to see what I could find. Of course, I found lots of things you would find in a yard. Old nails, a lot of glass and some old buttons. I was pushing the dirt back in place to level it out, when I saw something that appeared to be a half dollar coin. Being me, I couldn’t wait to see the detail. I came inside to my Mimi’s house and got some vinegar in a bowl. I let it sit about 40 minutes and took it out. I grabbed an old toothbrush and cleaned it off. The front of the coin said, “Good luck will accompany the bearer.” I immediately looked up the coin. The man on the front of the coin was a swami. He was looking into the crystal ball that had a swastika symbol on it. On the backside of the coin were more symbols. I did some further research and found the symbols were good luck of that time.

The coins were made in the early 1920s to 30s. They were used by traveling carnivals. The swami on the coin wore a turban and gazed into the crystal ball, as shown on the front of the coin. The back of the coin had an eye on it, along with the other symbols of good luck. On the backside of the coin, it said “The all-seeing eye will protect you from evil.” Now I needed a way to preserve it. I went on YouTube and found where you could use wax on bronze coins. The coin I found was bronze, so I gave it a generous amount. It was a very cool project to work on. Below is a link to the coin's information.

[https://www.brianrxm.com/comdir/cnsmain\\_swamicoin.htm](https://www.brianrxm.com/comdir/cnsmain_swamicoin.htm)

I love to find artifacts. Whether it’s something from a small button to a piece of history, it’s something I’ve always enjoyed doing. Some people might accidentally find something and not think much of it; I look at the things I find and think...that could have shaped our world into what it is today. That’s why I like to do research. It may not be someone’s way of “fun,” but for me it’s always a way to learn something new.



## **Family History: An Old Farmstead**

I found this coin where an old house sits. The old house was purchased in about 1894 by my great, great, great, grandmother, Media Pruett. It has been on the property for 141 years. My great, great Grandfather was Walter Clifford Pruett, Media's son. Walter Clifford Pruett married my great, great Grandmother Buelah Mae Slayton and they resided in the house on the property. Walter and Buelah had a son, Charles Elmer Pruett, and a daughter Ima Mae Pruett Rhine. They were both born in the old house. Charles Elmer Pruett married my great Grandmother Betty Opal Williams in the late 1930s. Elmer and Betty are my Mimi's parents. My sister and I are the 6<sup>th</sup> generation to reside in the house. (That's pretty amazing in this day and age). When I found the coin, Mimi said that it could have belonged to Walter Clifford. She said he always had a pocket full of coins. It got me thinking if at one point the carnival passed through the town and he attended the carnival. If he did, he most likely had a coin from the carnival. People always say, "if this place could talk it would tell lots of stories". Actually, every place has a story. Sometimes you need to explore and dig to find the stories.

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## ***The Adventures of Tuesday — The Arrowhead and Cadaver Hunting Dog***

### **Marvin Glasgow**

I have been hunting arrowheads for many years, and recording sites with the state. When hunting with others, someone will usually make a comment that it sure would be nice if you could teach a dog to do this since they are so close to the ground. We usually laugh at this statement, as most dogs are looking for something to eat when they have their nose close to the ground.

While working at Lockheed in Ft. Worth in charge of the Laptop Checkout Center, I fairly often found myself caught up with nothing pressing to do. One day I had a brainstorm. It occurred to me that I could make up a story about a dog that could find arrowheads, since they are so close to the ground. Thinking about this while sitting at my desk and caught up on all my work, I started typing on my computer. This is much easier than using pen or pencil.

I thought about my experience hunting arrowheads, so I recreated some of my experiences and put a dog in them with me, trying to create adventures that include a dog. It took me several weeks to get the story created, but by the time I had written one chapter, ideas started coming in and the story took off. I had *The Adventures of Tuesday: The Arrowhead and Cadaver Hunting Dog* published and printed in a 5 x 7 paperback that I sell for \$5 each. Please contact me if you would like to purchase a copy:

[mglasgow124@gmail.com](mailto:mglasgow124@gmail.com).

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## ***Kimbell Museum Archeology Film Series***

### **Contributed by James Everett**

*High Ground, Under Water: Ancient Sites in South and Central America*

Free, 2pm (see dates below) Kahn Auditorium

<https://kimbellart.org/event/hispanic-heritage-month-1>

September 19: *Breaking the Maya Code: Discovering Remnants of the Mayans* (2007, 116 min.)

September 26: *Lake Titicaca, The Sea of Tiwanaku* (2016, 26 min.)

*The Sacred Geography of the Inca* (2018, 26 min.)

October 3: *The Great Maya Aquifer* (2018, 58 min.)

October 10: *Maya Astrology: An Instrument of Political Power* (2016, 26 min.)

*Teotihuacan: The Birth of a Metropolis* (2018, 26 min.)

## **THE 92<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY IS A VIRTUAL GO IN October 2021!!!**

### **Linda Gorski and Bob Sewell**

The TAS Board of Directors and the Local Arrangements Committee for the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting of the Texas Archeological Society have confirmed that there **WILL** be a TAS annual meeting October 22 – 23 this year. This meeting will be held virtually Friday afternoon, October 22 and all day Saturday, October 23, via Zoom and Youtube Livestream.

On Friday night, October 22, at 6:30 p.m. Professional archeologist **Douglas K. Boyd, Senior Archeologist with Cox|McLain Environmental Consultants** will be the Public Forum Speaker for the 92<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting. His fabulous presentation will highlight a recent archeological project in downtown Houston entitled **BRICKS, BOTTLES, AND BONES AT FROST TOWN: Historic Archeology of a 140-year-old Working-Class Houston Neighborhood.**

Our featured Saturday evening, October 23, 6:30 p.m. speaker will be **Dr. Carolyn Boyd, Shumla Endowed Research Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Texas State University and founder of a nonprofit organization, Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center.** Dr. Boyd will present a program presenting the preliminary findings generated by her latest research project, **“Origins and Tenacity of Myth in Archaic Period Rock Art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands,”** funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

As most of you have noted during the past year when attending other virtual meetings, there are several benefits to registrants for an online event:

**Value!** Normal expenses for travel, accommodation and food are not necessary this year, opening the opportunity for attendance to virtually every interested TAS member. Your registration fee will give you full access to the entire meeting.

**Virtual!** Connect from anywhere! The technological advancement in the modern world has improved the internet connection such that users on the web can connect and interact from any part of the world. Finally, our out of state and even out of country members can enjoy our annual meeting with the rest of us!

**Variety!** You can pick and choose from a wide variety of online topics and sit in on those virtual meetings from the comfort of your own home.

**Voice!** You will have an opportunity for interaction and question and answer periods with speakers and other members of TAS.

**Environment!** Since virtual meeting systems work on green technology, organizations and businesses reduce the amount of carbon in the environment. This environment-friendly communication method reduces travel and paper printing!

**Viewing Parties!** Get together with friends from your neck of the woods to attend this meeting virtually – sort of like Tailgating for Archeology! These Watch Parties will be especially fun for the evening talks by Doug Boyd and Carolyn Boyd.

TAS members will be receiving frequent updates about presentations, topics and speakers. Registration forms for the 2021 TAS Annual meeting are now available on the TAS website. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this meeting, please contact LAC co-chairman Linda Gorski at [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org).

# Texas Archeological Society's Geoarcheology 201 Academy, Victoria

## March 4&5 and March 6&7, 2022

In partnership with the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team, the Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria College, and McNeill Family Ranch

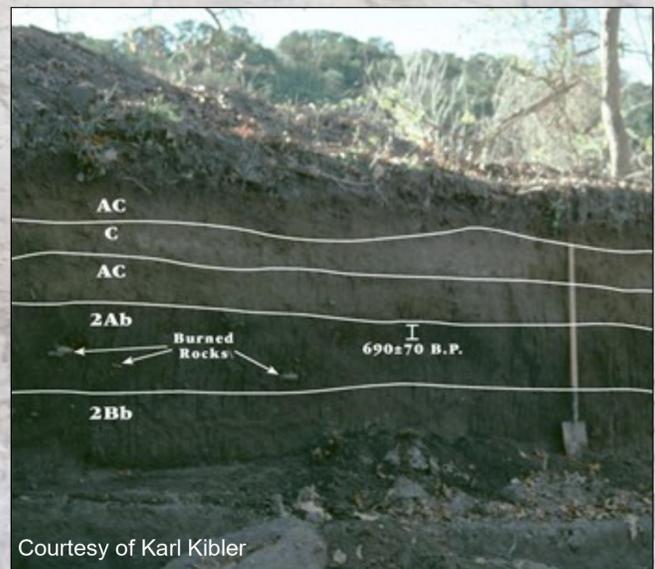
Advanced geoarcheology course is offered both March 4&5 or March 6&7 with a short classroom session followed by two days in the field with an experienced team of geoarcheologists. Participants will document, analyze, and interpret soil profiles in a variety of landscape settings and then compare with the descriptions and analysis from the instructors. Learn to interpret landscapes, utilize geoarcheological reports and experts for projects. The Academy will be held at Victoria College with the majority of time in the field on the McNeill Family Ranch.



Courtesy of Pam Wheat-Stranahan



Courtesy of Jimmy Barrera



Courtesy of Karl Kibler

To Register, visit: <https://www.txarch.org/Academies>

Scholarship Opportunities: <https://www.txarch.org/TAS-Scholarships-Overview>

Registration Fee: \$250 plus TAS membership. CPE credits available.

# Texas Archeological Society's Lithics Academy, Austin, Texas

April 23-24, 2022

Learn to identify stone artifacts, how they are produced, and interpreting stone artifacts and patterns in the archeological record. The course will include an overview of stone tools, raw materials, their importance, production and use, and contribution to the record. Lithics Academy will be held at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin.



To Register, visit: <https://www.txarch.org/Academies>

Scholarship Opportunities: <https://txarch.org/TAS-Scholarships-Overview>

Registration Fee: \$100 plus TAS membership. CPE credits available.

Photo sources: Texas Beyond History and Katrina Nuncio

## Upcoming NTAS Project

**Jimmy Barrera**

NTAS member Mr. Bill Perdue is the Chair of the Tarrant County Historical Commission and is soliciting input from NTAS to help develop displays on the prehistory and history of Tarrant County for the museum in the Tarrant County Courthouse. We are seeking interested folks to join an ad hoc committee that will work with Mr. Perdue to develop display content so the public can learn more about the prehistory and history of Tarrant County. If you have interest to participate on this ad hoc committee please contact [president@ntxas.org](mailto:president@ntxas.org).

### August Donors

Tim Sullivan

### Welcome, New Members!

Michael "Ben" Alexander  
Margaret Coon & Neil Beyer  
Zachary Overfield & Family

### 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.

### 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 Annaliese Sonntag ([internetchair@ntxas.org](mailto:internetchair@ntxas.org)). By providing these photos, please understand they can 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)).

**Nominate a member for our new member spotlight feature!**



## North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**City\State\Zip** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact(s):** Please provide the following information regarding the individual(s) from whom we can request or to whom we may provide information in the event of an emergency. Please consider listing at least one contact who does not live at your residence.

Primary Contact Name, Relationship, and Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact Name, Relationship, and Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_

**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*

**Newsletter Delivery:**  By Email (free)  By USPS mail (add \$10/yr)

**Support:** Contributing Donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  General Fund  Memorial Scholarship Fund

**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.

Online membership form and payment option available at [ntxas.org/join-and-renew](http://ntxas.org/join-and-renew)

**Application form is continued on the next page**

Mail your Membership Form with check or money order made payable to:  
 North Texas Archeological Society  
 P.O. Box 24679 Ft. Worth, TX 76124

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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!

## **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*

**Annaliese Sonntag**  
*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 three weeks prior to the monthly meetings, and upcoming deadlines are listed below for 2021.

October Newsletter: September 23

November Newsletter: October 21

December Newsletter: November 19

**All material published in the newsletter or in Special Publications of the North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS), or on the NTAS website becomes the copyrighted property of NTAS.**