

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

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

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Kelsey Hanson & Chaco Canyon Pigment	2
Monthly Meeting Location & Info	3
Gault Site Documentary	3
Paint Rock Pictograph Site	4-5
Events & News	5-6
Membership &	6-8
Scholarships	8

Benchmark

Volume 39, Issue 4

April 2025

President's Message

Greetings and Happy Equinox! Thanks to all who joined our March meeting either in-person or on Zoom. Jenny McWilliams's presentation about plants as artifacts within cemeteries was fascinating. Was anyone else vigorously taking notes for the next time you're surveying a historic homestead? Thank you, Jenny, for educating us on such a critical and often overlooked component of historic sites. Visit our [YouTube](#) page for the recording of that presentation.

Last month, several members assisted efforts at the Paint Rock site. Volunteers, educators, and participants from various colleges, the Concho Valley Archeological Society, NTAS, and a number of native tribal members came together for an extraordinary week of education. Read about it on Page 4.

A reminder of this month's outreach opportunity via the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo where we interface with landowners alongside the Council of Texas Archeologists in Fort Worth. This is a unique chance to forge relationships, inform and empower those who may have cultural resources on their property. Unfortunately, the Joe Reed site had some bad-luck weather; however, we also have fieldwork scheduled for this month as well as SMU Lab Days. See the list of events on pages 5-6 for details. Folks are always asking about volunteer opportunities and they are definitely available.



Thank you to everyone who renewed their yearly NTAS memberships. We look forward to your continued participation.

The April 10, 2025, monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting in person and via Zoom, located at our usual meeting room on the University of North Texas Health Science Center campus in the Research & Education Building, Room 114 (see Page 3 for map). The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. Our guest speaker is Dr. Kelsey Hanson, professor at UT Arlington, who will present "Technologies of Chromatic Prayer: Creating Blue-Green in Chaco Canyon." We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on April 10th!

Alexandra Younger

Connect with NTAS:

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For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

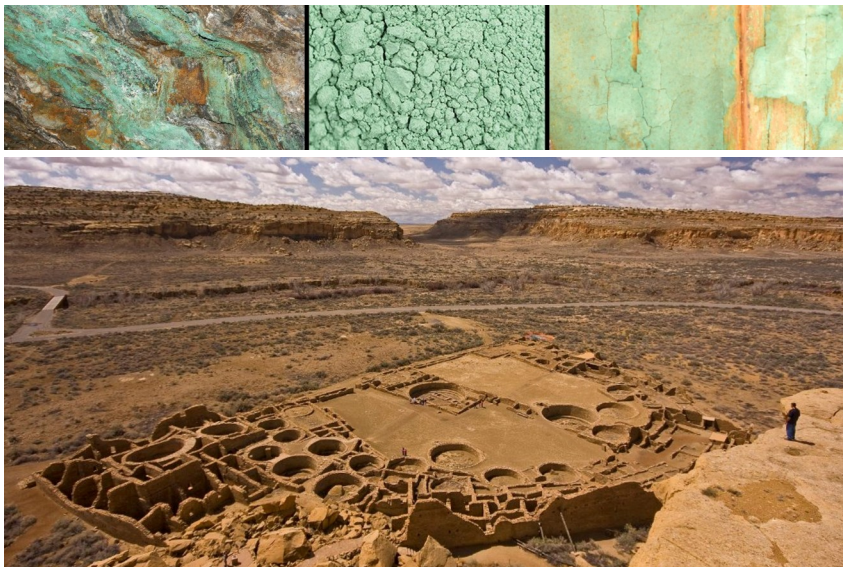
North Texas Archeological Society

April Speaker: Kelsey E. Hanson

Technologies of Chromatic Prayer: Creating Blue-Green in Chaco Canyon

In the Pueblo World of the U.S. Southwest, color is integral to a complex system of relationships connecting cardinal directions, animals, plants, sociopolitical structures, and sacred geographies. The preparation of paint is often viewed as an act of chromatic prayer that reinforces these relationships. This talk explores the social and technological dimensions of chromatic prayer through the production of blue-green paint—a color tied to all-important rain and vegetation—using a case study from Chaco Canyon (A.D. 850–1150). Using innovative micro-sampling techniques and non-destructive methods, I describe a unique recipe for blue-green identified in Chacoan painted performance media, highlighting its widespread use among Chaco great houses. I suggest that the act of creating blue-green served as both a powerful expression of identity and a means of participation in Chaco society, offering a unique window into broader social and cultural dynamics.

Kelsey E. Hanson is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Arlington, specializing in interdisciplinary and collaborative archaeological research in the Greater Southwest. Her work focuses on Indigenous technological innovation, land use, and sociopolitical change, with publications in *American Antiquity*, *Journal of Field Archaeology*, *Ethnoarchaeology*, and more.



Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

May 8: Yonavea Hawkins

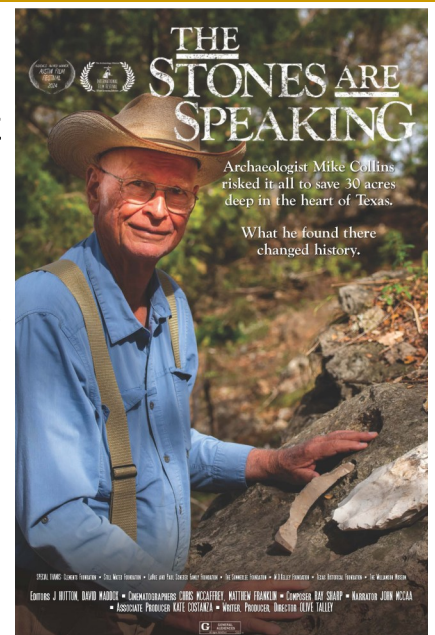
June: No Meeting — TAS Field School

July 10: Kim Cox

Gault Site Documentary Release

The Stones Are Speaking tells the inspiring story of how archaeologist Mike Collins, at great risk and personal sacrifice, saved 30 acres of looted land deep in the heart of Texas and revealed it as one of the most significant sites in the Americas. Collins and his team changed history when they found evidence of people living in Central Texas 20,000 years ago. The film is more than a simple tale of discoveries at the Gault Archaeological Site. It illustrates the power of an individual to make a difference and what people can accomplish when they come together for the greater good.

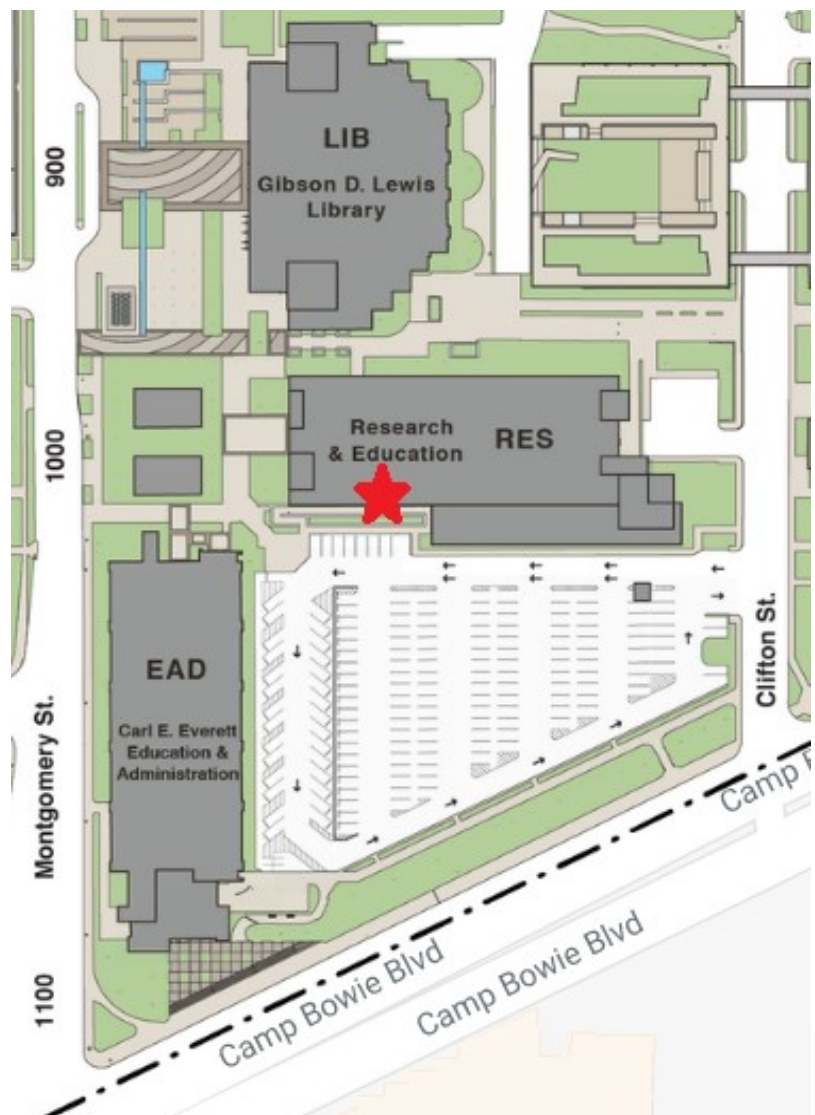
The hour-long version of the film is out and available for viewing on the [PBS](#). The longer, 85-minute Director's Cut should be on three streaming platforms in May. Check thestonesarespeaking.com for updates.



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.**



Paint Rock Pictograph Site

Alexandra Younger

NTAS members participated in investigations last month at the Paint Rock Pictograph site in Concho County, Texas. Under the leadership of Drs. Eric Schroeder and Jeremy Elliott, this collective effort involved a variety of participants including college student interns, vocational and professional archeology volunteers, and several members of tribal nations such as the Comanche, Lipan Apache, and Coahuiltecans. Activities spanned rock art documentation, archeological survey and manual excavation, laboratory techniques, and geophysical investigation. Participants came to learn from each other several topics including archeological methods, cultural history, and traditional knowledge and practices. Collaboration and coordination between participants coalesced through conversations, sharing roles and tasks, and instructional forums. NTAS members Carol Macaulay and Brian Jameson dedicated their time to manual excavation in-



struction. Christopher Goodmaster conducted geophysical survey with participants, which also included some prickly vegetation removal and classroom time. Chris Meis led survey instruction. Alexandra Younger, Gen Frix, and Charlene Erwin also participated in various roles. This project represents a new standard for archaeological investigations in close collaboration with landowners, professionals, members of the public, and tribes. Everyone had a fantastic and meaningful experience.



Archeological Events & Opportunities

Please see the [calendar](#) on the NTAS website for the latest updates to archaeological events!

Fort Worth Westerners Zoom Programs

Third Tuesday of the Month

Zoom

If you are not a FW Westerner member, click [here](#) to request guest access to the zoom meetings.

April 15 - *Frank Reaugh's "Twenty-four Hours with the Herd"* with Michael Grauer

May 20 - *Texan in Blue: Capt. Francis A. Vaughan of the First Texas Cavalry, USA* with Dr. Richard McCaslin

June 17 - *Bridles and Biscuits: Contraband Culture in Spanish East Texas* with Gary Pinkerton

July 15 - *Exploits of the High Five Gang* with Doug Hocking

August 19 - *The Texas Calaboose and Other Forgotten Jails* with William E. Moore

Joe Reed Site Excavation Day

April 12, 2025

Parker County, TX

See pages 8-9 of the February 2024 Newsletter for details on this excavation opportunity. Contact [Dana Ritchie](#) if you are interested in participating.

SMU Lab Days

April 19, 2025

Dallas, TX

Assist in organizing, cataloging, and re-bagging artifacts from the 1971 TAS Field School. For more information or to sign-up, contact [Brian Luetchford](#). See page 5 of the March 2025 newsletter for some highlights from a recent SMU Lab Day.

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo April 11-12, 2025

Fort Worth, TX

The Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) is looking for NTAS members to volunteer to assist with landowner engagement at this year's convention in Fort Worth. They will have a booth in the exhibit hall where we will meet landowners and talk to them about preserving archeological sites on their land. The CTA will provide posters and brochures to hand out. Contact [Kelton Sheridan](#) with the CTA if you can help.

Texas Archeological Society Field School

June 14-21, 2025

Milam and Robertson Counties, TX

The 2025 Field School will focus primarily on the survey of Red Mountain (also known as Sugarloaf Mountain) and the surrounding areas. Red Mountain is a significant place for the Tonkawa Tribe, who recently reclaimed this ancestral land and will maintain it with the help of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association. Additional field survey and testing will be conducted on the El Camino Real de los Tejas at Rancheria Grande.

Doss Summer Camp - Digging Detectives

June 25-27, 2025

Weatherford, TX

NTAS will once again be participating at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center's kids' archeology camp. NTAS needs volunteers to help set up the excavation units, to supervise excavations, and to demonstrate corn grinding, rabbit stick throwing, pinch pot making, and atlatl throwing. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact [Gen Freix](#).

Texas Archeological Society 96th Annual Meeting

October 10-12, 2025

McAllen, TX

In 2025, the TAS Annual Meeting will be held in McAllen and hosted by the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites by Hilton McAllen Convention Center.

What Can You Do with NTAS? What Can NTAS Do for You?

Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project

Contact the [Vice President of Projects](#) 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 the [Internet Chair](#). 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 the [Publications Editor](#).

NTAS is now looking for articles to fill future volumes of the 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 submission year. For submissions and inquiries regarding the journal, please contact the [Publications Editor](#). The current volume (2024) is available digitally to members by logging in [here](#). Digital copies of Volume 1 and Volume 2 are available to the public [here](#), and physical copies of all volumes are available for purchase on [Amazon](#).

North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

(renew online by clicking above)

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City\State\Zip _____ Email _____

Membership Type and Fees (Membership Term: January to December*)

Choose One:

- ☐ Individual Membership - \$20
- ☐ Family Membership - \$25
Total Family Members _____
- ☐ Student Membership – \$10 (18 or older student with minimum half-time course load. Those under 18 must contact NTAS in advance of applying.)

Choose One:

☐ New*

*New memberships paid for in Oct-Dec include membership for the following year.

☐ Renewal

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: \$ _____

Where should your donation go? ☐ General Fund ☐ Memorial Scholarship Fund ☐ BaahKu Project

Would you like to remain anonymous? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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!

Welcome, New Members!

Alex Colunga

Donors

Memorial Scholarship Fund
Jenny McWilliams
Christopher Lintz

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 scholarships are now available to ANYONE who applies for TAS Academies, the TAS Field School, or the TAS Annual Meeting.

Please visit the NTAS scholarships webpage to submit your application. [Apply now!](#)

NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

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Gwen Durrant
Treasurer

Charlene Erwin
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Vice President

Thomas Standefer
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Internet Chair

Brian Luetchford
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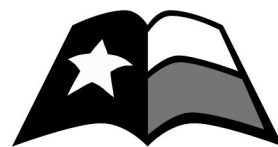
Newsletter Submission Deadlines

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

May Newsletter: April 24
July Newsletter: June 26
August Newsletter: July 31

September Newsletter: August 28
October Newsletter: September 25
November Newsletter: October 30

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