



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.

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Benchmark

Volume 40, Issue 4

April 2026

President's Message

Greetings, NTAS!

I want to begin by thanking everyone who came out to support NTAS at recent events and volunteer opportunities. Your time, energy, and willingness to engage with the public continue to make a real impact.

A special thank you goes out to those who participated in Nature Con at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Despite a cold, drizzly day, the public response was outstanding and kept our volunteers busy nearly nonstop. Attendance appeared to approach 1,000 visitors, and the NTAS booth saw steady engagement throughout the event. We had strong representation from students across the region, including Tarleton, UNT, Baylor, and UT Arlington, as well as visits from professional consultants and members of the public. Notably, representatives from Burleson parks stopped by to discuss a potential archaeological program or project, and we look forward to learning more as that develops. Thank you again to everyone who helped make this such a successful event.

Looking ahead, there are several excellent opportunities to stay involved this month, and I strongly encourage members to take advantage of them.

Excavations at the Joe Reed Site will continue on April 26, offering another chance to participate in work at one of Parker County's earliest settlements. If you have been thinking about getting involved in fieldwork, this is a great opportunity to do so in a supportive, hands-on environment. Please reach out to [Dana Ritchie](#) for details.



Site recording efforts will also continue this spring with 4ITR130. These sessions provide valuable, practical experience completing Texas archaeological site forms, recording geospatial data, and documenting site characteristics in the field. Whether you are looking to build skills or refresh your experience, this is one of the most useful training opportunities we offer. Interested volunteers should contact [Jimmy Barrera](#).

SMU's Open Laboratory Day will be held on April 18, offering continued access to lab-based work and collections. If you have not yet attended, this is one of the easiest ways to get involved and contribute to ongoing research efforts. For more information, contact [Brian Luetchford](#).

I also want to highlight an exciting milestone for our organization. NTAS will be hosting the Texas Archeological Society's 97th Annual Meeting, to be held October 2-4, 2026, at the Gateway Center on the

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For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

University of North Texas campus in Denton. Planning is well underway, and this meeting will bring together archaeologists from across the state for a weekend of research presentations, professional exchange, and community engagement.

For our NTAS members, this is more than just another TAS meeting. It is our opportunity to showcase North Texas archaeology and help shape the success of the conference. Denton offers a vibrant and accessible setting, with its historic square, local venues, and proximity to the DFW metroplex. We are also pleased to announce Dr. Reid Ferring as the Friday Night Public Forum speaker and Myles Miller as the Saturday evening banquet speaker. Lodging options and additional conference details will be announced soon.

As planning continues, there will be opportunities to get involved through volunteering, outreach, and conference support roles. I encourage you to consider participating—this is our chance to put NTAS front and center.

Thank you to everyone who attended our March meeting, both in person and online. We were pleased to host Leslie Bush, whose presentation on “Farming and Foraging, Architecture and Textiles on the Texas Southern Plains” offered valuable insights into regional lifeways and material culture.

Our April monthly meeting will feature Dr. Kate Lesciotto, who will present “Improving Biological Profile Estimation in Forensic Anthropology.” Her talk will explore how forensic anthropologists estimate age, sex, ancestry, and stature from skeletal remains, along with emerging approaches using artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve and standardize these methods. In-person attendees will also have the opportunity to examine teaching materials used in biological profile estimation. Our April monthly meeting will be held Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. and will be offered as a hybrid meeting. Meet in person at Room 114 in the Research & Education Building on the UNTHSC campus or join via Zoom.

Alexandra Younger

April Speaker: Kate Lesciotto

Improving Biological Profile Estimation in Forensic Anthropology

Forensic anthropologists are often asked to assist medicolegal death investigations with the identification of unknown skeletal remains. An initial step in this process is the creation of a ‘biological profile’, which consists of an estimation of the individual’s age-at-death, sex, population affinity (i.e., ancestry), and stature. Under current practices, each of these biological profile parameters is estimated separately, using a variety of methods that are typically limited by data type and skeletal element. However, the field lacks guidance on best practices for combining these results into a single estimate to aid law enforcement in identification efforts. This presentation will provide a broad overview of current methods and ongoing research using artificial intelligence and machine learning models to break down this compartmentalized approach and standardize biological profile estimation. In-person attendees will have the opportunity to examine standardized bone casts used for biological profile estimation.



Kate M. Lesciotto is an Assistant Professor of Anatomy at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. She is board-certified through the American Board of Forensic Anthropology and serves as the Consulting Forensic Anthropologist for the Montgomery County Medical Examiner’s Office. Her research interests focus on the intersection between forensic anthropology and the US legal system and improving methods for estimating a biological profile from unidentified skeletal remains. Her research is funded by the National Science Foundation and the Na-

tional Institute of Justice. Dr. Lesciotto received her BS from Colorado State University, JD from Washington University in St. Louis, MS from Mercyhurst University, and PhD from the Pennsylvania State University. Prior to joining UNT Health, she was the Assistant Director at the Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science Facility at Sam Houston State University.



Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

May 14: Kelton Sheridan (Indigenous Ceramics in Spanish Missions)

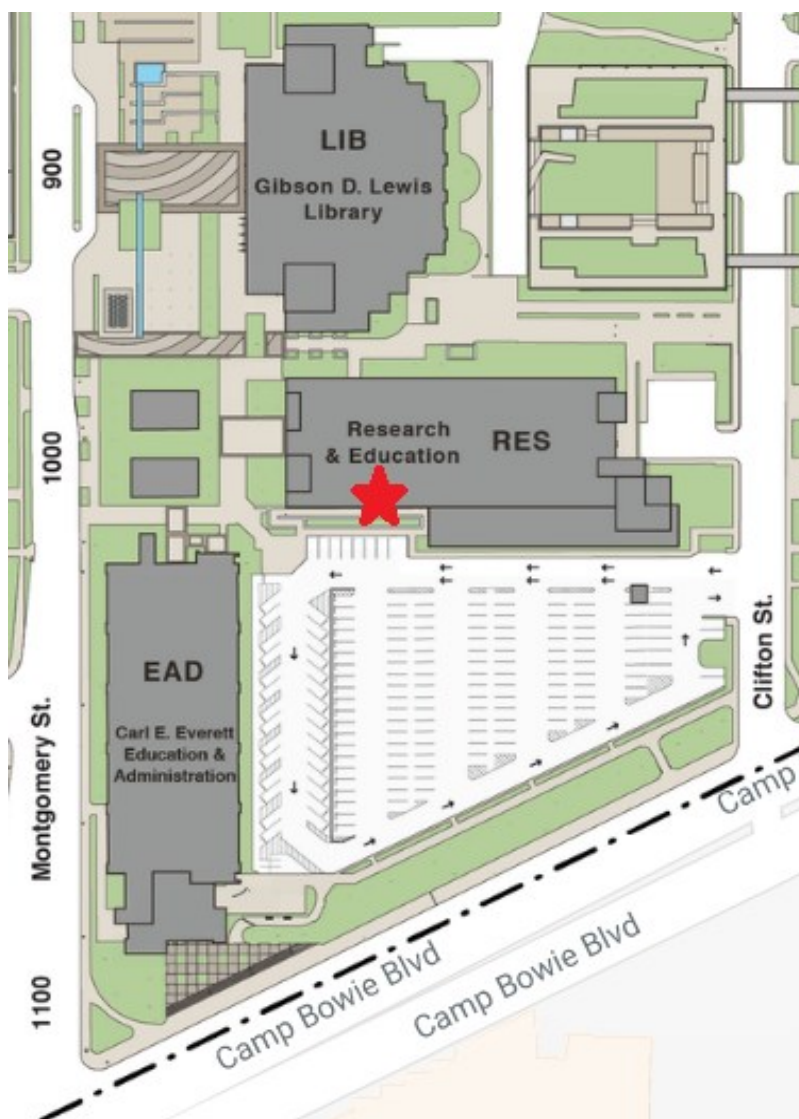
June: No Meeting (TAS Field School!)

July 9: 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.



2026 TAS Zooarcheology & Osteology Academy

Stephen Lowe

Several NTAS members were attendees at, or assisted with, the 2026 TAS Zooarcheology & Osteology Academy, held on February 28 and March 1. The Academy was held at Rice University in Houston, Texas, and was conducted in partnership with the Houston Archeological Society (HAS) and the Department of Anthropology of Rice University. This Academy introduced the participants to the identification, analysis and interpretation of archeological animal and human skeletal remains, and was designed to teach basic principles of taxonomy and vertebrate anatomy. The Academy focused on the practical identification of fragmentary bones from animals common to Texas. NTAS members in attendance were Laura Cohen, Brett Lang, Linda Lang, Amber Lewis, Ciara Mason, and Chelsea Reedy. Other NTAS members Deb Eller, Frank Kozar, Ken Lawrence, Steve Lowe, and Jamie Ross assisted HAS and Rice University with the logistics and administrative aspects of the Academy.



NTAS Members Brett & Linda Lang participating in Hands-On Activity with one of the Rice Teaching Assistants (photo courtesy of Deb Eller).



Several of the Academy Attendees enjoying the Hands-On Activities (photo courtesy of Deb Eller).



Instructor Dr. Manuel Domínguez-Rodrigo discussing artificial intelligence and analysis potential (photo courtesy of Ken Lawrence).

Scholarship Experience Essay – Crow Canyon CRM Field School

Marisa Harris

My participation in the CRM Field School at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center not only gave me hands-on experience in a field I wish to pursue, but it also changed my outlook on archaeology. When gearing up to depart for this field school I will disclose that I was quite worried about what would transpire throughout the two weeks in Cortez, Colorado. I spoke to several different North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) members about this endeavor, to which they were always extremely supportive in my success throughout field work. My only self-proclaimed option was to prove them right by attending and giving it my all.

The experience of this field school has changed me for the better. It allowed me to learn the technicalities of field survey, laws and regulations the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) field relies on, and a new way of looking at archaeological sites. We arrived in Cortez to the Crow Canyon campus and were immediately welcomed by Dr. Hanson and Dr. Potter. From there on out I met some amazing cohorts, fantastic instructors and field directors, and above all, a loving Crow Canyon crew. It did not take me long to realize everyone that provided me with such encouraging words about this excursion would be correct.

Without this experience I don't think my desire for my future career would have solidified at the perfect time. I am in my last semester at The University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), and I came into the university with a pursuit for a career in archaeology. But as a returning student, I never knew what that would look like. Just like any graduating senior I am worried about what my professional life may manifest as after leaving UTA. Getting to experience this field school brought a reassurance to my ability to live my dream of entering in the archaeological profession. This is without a doubt where I belong.

I have the North Texas Archeological Society to thank for the scholarship that was gifted to me to attend this field school. I found NTAS at the beginning of my time at UTA, and I am forever grateful to get to be a part of such a wonderful network of professional anthropologists and archaeologists. NTAS not only has given me a scholarship but an endless amount of knowledge and opportunities that an undergraduate, such as myself, genuinely needed.

Thank you.



Archeological Events & Opportunities

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

SMU Lab Days

9am-5pm, Apr 18, May 30, June 27, July 25, 2026

Dallas, TX

Assist in organizing, cataloging, and re-bagging artifacts from the 1971/1972 TAS Field Schools. 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 and the NTAS YouTube channel for Dr. Boulanger's [October NTAS presentation](#) on the good work being done at these lab days.

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 21 - *Petticoat Rangers and Women in Law Enforcement* by Jan Devereaux

May 19 - TBD

June 16 - *An Unexpected Triumph: Bernardo de Galvez in the American Revolution* by Richard McCaslin

59th SWFAS Symposium

8am-5pm, April 25, 2026

Amarillo, TX

The biannual Symposium of the Southwestern Federation of Archaeological Societies will include a program of 10 papers focusing on the cultural and natural history of SE NM, West TX, and the TX Panhandle. The Symposium is hosted by the Panhandle Archaeological Society of Texas (PAST). **Registration:** \$10 (\$5 for students). **Hotel:** Springhill Suites, 2301 Cinema Drive, Amarillo. **Social Activities:** dinners on Friday and Saturday nights and a field trip or fieldwork on Sunday morning. **Transactions:** Full papers or abstracts will be available on the Portal to Texas History within one year. For more information or a copy of the program, contact prkat44@gmail.com.

Site Recording Tutorial at Marion Sansom Park (41TR130)

April 25, 2026

Fort Worth, TX

A site recording tutorial is being offered at site 41TR130. Volunteers will learn how to complete a Texas archeological site form, map the site boundary, add geoarcheology observations, and log other archeological information. The tutorial will be held on April 25, 2026 in west Fort Worth at Marion Sansom Park. Volunteers should be prepared to traverse steep hills with loose gravel. This opportunity is open to the first ten (10) NTAS members who volunteer. Please contact [Jimmy Barrera](#) to participate.

Joe Reed Site Excavation Day

April 26, 2026

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.

Library Summer Reading Program

Summer 2026

Garland, TX

NTAS is looking for a volunteer to present an archeological themed presentation for the South Garland Library during their Summer Reading Program. Date/time are TBD (will likely be around the May thru July timeframe). If interested, contact NTAS President [Alexandra Younger](#).

TAS Field School

June 7-13, 2026

Rockdale, TX

Registration is now open for the Texas Archeological Society Field School, one of the premier opportunities for hands-on archeological training in Texas. Participants gain experience in excavation, survey, lab work, and specialized training sessions.

TAS Annual Meeting

October 2-4, 2026

Denton, TX

NTAS will be hosting the Texas Archeological Society's 97th Annual Meeting at the Gateway Center on the University of North Texas campus in Denton. Planning is well underway, and we look forward to welcoming archaeologists from across Texas for a weekend of research presentations and professional exchange. Featured speakers will include Dr. C. Reid Ferring and Myles Miller. Additional details, including lodging options, will be announced soon.

Sandy Camp Site Re-Recording

Bret Williamson

On March 24, James and Susan Everett, Lanie Garmon, and I re-recorded 41PR108, the Sandy Camp site, in Parker County. There was lots of new info to add to the original site form, which was recorded by the late Marvin Glasgow based on meticulous notes by the late Homer Norris.



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 (2025) as well as all past volumes are available digitally to members and the public [here](#). Physical copies of all volumes are available for purchase on [Amazon](#).

Early Call for Papers

Texas Archeological Society 97th Annual Meeting

Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for papers, symposia, workshops, panel discussions, and posters to be presented at the Texas Archeological Society 97th Annual Meeting, October 2-4, 2026, at the University of North Texas in Denton. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, academic, and professional archeologist members on any topic of archeological interest.

The organizing committee is planning for a series of regional and topical symposia. Consequently, time slots for papers and symposia will fill early. All presenters must be TAS members and be registered for the meeting. Papers will be limited to 15 minutes, a limit that will be strictly enforced. The deadline for receipt of paper abstracts is **August 3, 2026**.

Symposia may be organized around any topic, region, major project, and/or period. Each symposium will be allotted two hours per five presenters, with a five-presenter minimum. Due to scheduling concerns, symposium organizers must ensure that all abstracts for symposia and symposium papers meet an earlier deadline of July 15, 2026. For effective presentation of symposia, organizers may specify the order of papers and their length, if these points are stated in the symposium abstracts.

Members are encouraged to consider poster presentations as an alternative to papers. Poster presentations can effectively convey visual, graphic, and quantitative information, and generally reach a larger audience than oral papers. Posters will be wall-mounted, so no easels or rigid backing materials will be necessary. Appropriate mounting adhesives will be provided at the venue. Poster abstracts must be received by August 3, 2026, to appear in the program; late poster entries may be accommodated after consultation with the Program Co-Chairs.

Other presentation formats such as panel discussions, demonstrations, and workshops may be proposed for approval of the Program Co-Chairs and Annual Meeting organizers.

Submit all abstracts as files attached to email. Abstracts must include the following information: Paper/Symposium/Poster (indicate one); Title; Author(s) and Affiliation(s); and Abstract for each presentation (150 words maximum).

Meeting rooms will be equipped with projectors and laptop computers; additional audio-visual needs may be accommodated given prior notice. Contact the Program Co-Chairs with questions about submission dates, formats, and/or equipment. We look forward to your contributions to this meeting.

Christopher Goodmaster and Jimmy Barrera
TAS 97th Annual Meeting Program Co-Chairs
Email: am-programs@txarch.org

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!

Avon Burton
Victoria Cortez
Hayden Lee
Matthew Lee
Kayleana Ramirez
Madison Stallings

Donors

Bryan Jameson & Carol Macaulay-Jameson
Memorial Scholarship Fund

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 available to *ANYONE* who applies for TAS Events, NTAS Events, or accredited field schools in the United States.

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

NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

Executive Committee

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Gwen Durrant
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Vice President of Projects

Allen Rutherford
Immediate Past President

Molly Hall
Publications Editor

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

The newsletter submission deadlines are two weeks prior to the monthly meetings. Upcoming deadlines are listed below.

May Newsletter: April 30
July Newsletter: June 25
August Newsletter: July 30

September Newsletter: August 27
October Newsletter: September 24
November Newsletter: October 29

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