

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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# Benchmark

Volume 38, Issue 9

October 2024

## President's Message

Texas Archeology Month (TAM) is upon us and the North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) will be well represented throughout the Metroplex, and beyond, in October. We encourage all our members to attend the events that are detailed below even if you're just stopping by to say, "Hello." TAM provides the opportunity to celebrate our statewide cultural heritage and archeology. NTAS is proud to have so many opportunities to celebrate at events in North Texas and we hope to see you all out there this month.

If you missed last month's meeting, it has been uploaded to [YouTube](#) and is also available on our [website](#). Dr. David Kilby updated us on his work at Bonfire Shelter including some new conclusions based on recent excavations and analyses. More than 70 members joined us in person or via Zoom and we were so glad to host Dr. Kilby. If you'd like to learn more about what Dr. Kilby is up to, please visit the Ancient Southwest Texas Project [webpage](#). In addition to Dr. Kilby's presentation, NTAS announced at the meeting that the 2024 Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society will be dedicated to Dr. S. Alan Skinner. Dr. Skinner has been an active member of the North Texas archeological community for more than 50 years, both professionally and as a participant in regional and statewide societies. We are very much looking forward to publication of the journal. There will also be a symposium in his honor at the 95<sup>th</sup> TAS Annual Meeting later this month.

I would like to thank the folks who volunteered at the Doss Pioneer Heritage



Festival on October 5<sup>th</sup>. A special thank you to Katrina Nuncio for organizing our volunteers and coordinating with the Doss Heritage & Culture Center. The event was well attended by the public and I look forward to hearing more about it in a future newsletter. If you couldn't make it out to the Doss, NTAS has two more upcoming events! We will be at the [Denton Community Market](#) on **Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm** to participate in the Denton Dig It! Archeology Fair. The fair will include mock excavations, blacksmithing, an earth oven demonstration, and lots more! The following **Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 8am-1pm** NTAS will be at the [Grand Prairie Farmer's Market](#) talking archeology, handing out pinch pot kits, and (maybe) enjoying some fall weather. Come out and see us and take in the market while you're there.

TAM isn't the only opportunity to get out and do some community outreach

## Connect with NTAS:

[www.facebook.com/NTXAS.org](https://www.facebook.com/NTXAS.org)

[www.NTXAS.org](https://www.NTXAS.org)

For general inquiries, please contact [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)

**North Texas Archeological Society**

this fall. A reminder that NTAS will be participating in the Plano Archeology Fair on **Saturday, November 9**. This is a new event for NTAS, but one we are very much looking forward to. It is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. If you would like to volunteer, please contact [Allen Rutherford](#).

Our **October 10<sup>th</sup>** monthly meeting will be a busy one. There are a few pieces of business to be aware of for that meeting. The first is we will be announcing our slate of candidates for the 2025-2026 officer cycle. If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving on the Executive Committee in the 2025-2026 officer cycle it's not too late to be nominated! We will request nominations from the floor during the meeting. This meeting will also be the first opportunity to make a bid in a silent auction for Kenny Resser's "Lonestar Lithics" print donated by Skipper Scott. If you can't attend the October meeting, we will also be accepting bids during the November meeting. If you can't make either meeting, but would like to make a bid, please contact [Allen Rutherford](#). The winner will be announced at our annual Christmas party on **December 7<sup>th</sup>** and in an email to follow the party. Finally, the NTAS Executive Committee has approved a donation to Texas Beyond History to remain a Sustaining Partner. We are soliciting matching donations from our membership. NTAS will match up to \$250, but that is not the limit if our membership ends up donating more. If you'd like to donate, please select "Texas Beyond History Campaign" on our donation form which can be found [here](#).

We are excited to host Alexandra Younger at our October meeting. She will be presenting on recent excavations at Washington-on-the-Brazos. Come join us to hear about her exciting research at "The Birthplace of Texas". The October 10<sup>th</sup> 2024 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 (UNTHSC) campus in the Research & Education Building, Room 114 (see page 4 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 on October 10<sup>th</sup>!

**Allen Rutherford**



The Kenny Resser "Lonestar Lithics" print donated by Skipper Scott that will be up for auction at the October and November meetings. (Adorable cats not included).



## October Speaker: Alexandra Younger

### ***Excavations at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site (2023-2024)***

Alexandra is the Principal Investigator for the recent data recovery excavations at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Park, also known as the “Birthplace of Texas.” The Texas Historical Commission plans to reconstruct early-to-mid-nineteenth century buildings related to the events and major players of Texas Independence. Alexandra and her team led the investigations beginning in 2023 to locate and identify domestic and architectural remains of these loci including a tavern where David Crockett once stayed, Sam Houston’s Office, and Hatfield’s Exchange where the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Texas Congress assembled. A total of 34 features were recorded and tens of thousands of artifacts have been collected, and are currently being analyzed for the purpose of informing the reconstruction that will turn the park into a living history museum. While synthesis of these findings is ongoing, a significant portion of preliminary results from this presentation will be incorporated into the upcoming park and museum improvements.

**Alexandra Younger** is a Principal Investigator for a cultural resources firm, Integrated Environmental Solutions, LLC, in Denton, Texas. She began her career as an archeologist in Williamsburg, Virginia following graduation from Appalachian State University. She moved to Texas ten years ago and has since earned her Master of Science degree in Geography from the University of North Texas under the mentorship of Drs. Reid Ferring and Steve Wolverton. Her professional experience here spans northern, eastern, and central Texas that includes Archaic, Prehistoric, and historic-age archeological sites. Stone tool analysis, geoarcheology, remote sensing, databasing, historic ecology, and cultural resource management are among her repertoire of applications in archeology. Much of her personal time is dedicated to outreach and public archeology.



## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

**November 14<sup>th</sup>: USACE Archeologists Panel Discussion**

**December 7<sup>th</sup>: Holiday Party in Keller (see Page 8)**

**January 9<sup>th</sup>: TBD**

## An Evening with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Archeologists

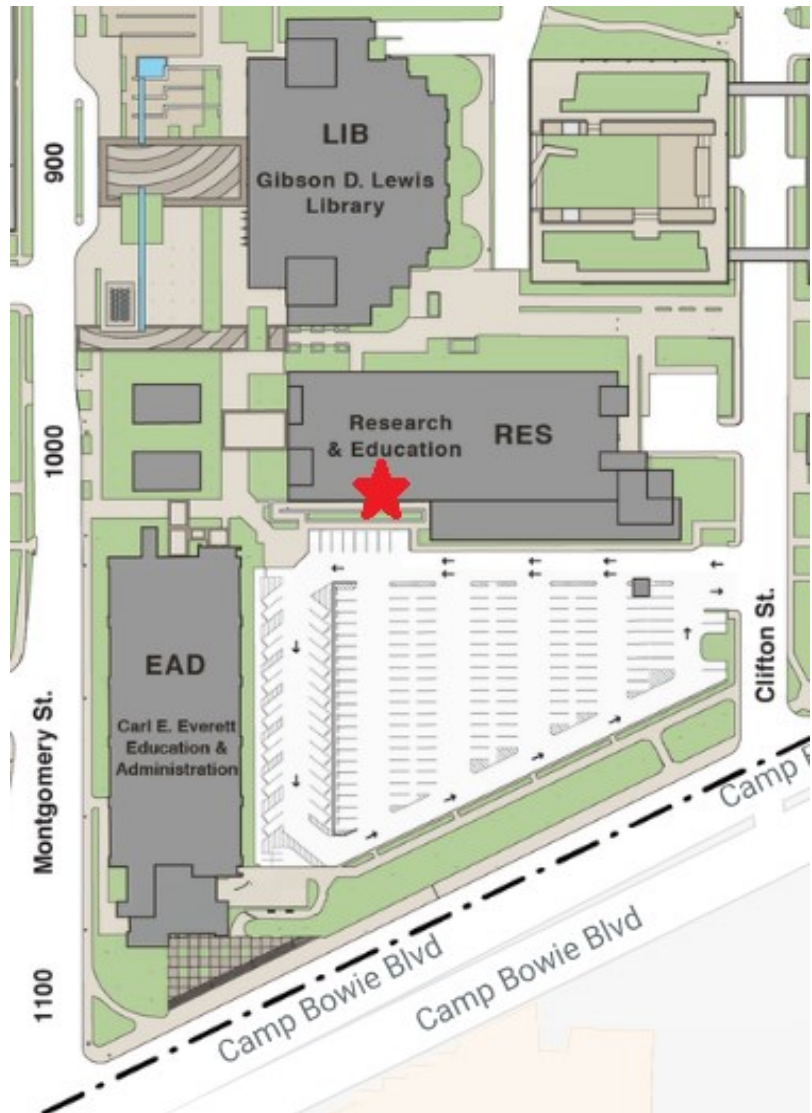
### ***Allen Rutherford***

Current and former USACE archeologists are scheduled to participate in a panel discussion at the November 14, 2024 NTAS meeting. In advance of this program we want to ask the membership to consider and submit (to [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)) discussion topics on the [USACE](https://www.usace.army.mil/), and especially the role USACE archeologists play in protecting and managing archeological resources. Having these discussion topics in advance of the November meeting will help guide the program, which will be a panel discussion with the NTAS membership as opposed to a set presentation. We look forward to receiving your discussion topics and questions and to hosting Arlo McKee, Skipper Scott, Jay Newman, and others on November 14!

## 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.



## NTAS T-shirts!!!

Show off your NTAS pride with one of these lovely shirts during Texas Archeology Month!

We will have a limited number of shirts at the October 10th monthly meeting.

One can be yours by making a \$10 donation to NTAS (CASH ONLY).

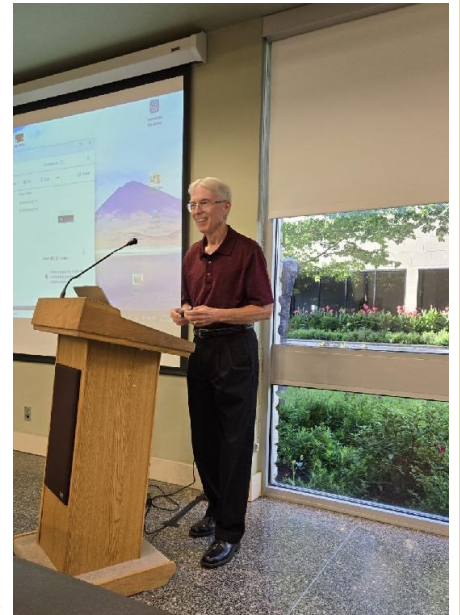




## Archeology Presentation for Master Naturalists

### James Everett

On September 10, NTAS member James Everett taught a 90-minute archeology segment for the Fall 2024 Class of the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists in Fort Worth. His program, attended by 35 Master Naturalists including the 28 students taking this year's classes, consisted of two parts: "An Introduction to Archeology" followed by "The Native American Cultures of Tarrant and Parker Counties". James encouraged the students to contact NTAS, the Texas Archeological Society, or Texas Historical Commission Archeology Stewards if they encounter potential archeological sites or artifacts during their field activities. He also invited Master Naturalists to attend NTAS meetings and to become members if they are interested.



*James prepares to begin his presentation in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Rose Room.*

## In Memory of Dr. Tom Middlebrook (1952-2024)

### Jimmy Barrera

Texas archeology lost a legendary figure with the passing of Dr. Tom Middlebrook on September 17, 2024. Dr. Middlebrook was a retired doctor of Psychiatry and Child/Adolescent Psychiatry, and an extremely capable and accomplished avocational archeologist. His remarkable knowledge and efforts toward Texas archeology left a legacy. Our paths initially crossed working on historic, Caddo, Woodland, and Archaic archeological sites in various parts of east Texas. His desire to discover and preserve information led to our working together on the infamous Keystone XL Pipeline where he represented landowners and the public while working with our professional archeological teams to help identify and protect important resources. A remarkable example of bridging public interest and infrastructure where Dr. Middlebrook clearly knew the importance of helping professional archeologists in front of development.

Over the years getting to know him more I found out that he was a two-time past President of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS), awarded the Crabtree Award from the Society for American Archaeology as the most outstanding avocational archeologist, founder of various archeological organizations, researcher, and patron of the discipline. He supported projects and programs to help further interest and research in archeology. Watching Dr. Middlebrook present at the East Texas Archeological Conference (which he co-founded), at TAS, and other organizations was always a treat since he was well versed in the literature and research issues particularly for east Texas. My condolences for Dr. Middlebrook's family and friends, and Texas archeology will certainly miss Tom, but his legacy lives on through many contributions and for that I am grateful. The full obituary for Dr. Tom Middlebrook can be found [here](#).



*Tom Middlebrook at the 2022 TAS Annual Meeting banquet.  
Photo courtesy of James Everett.*

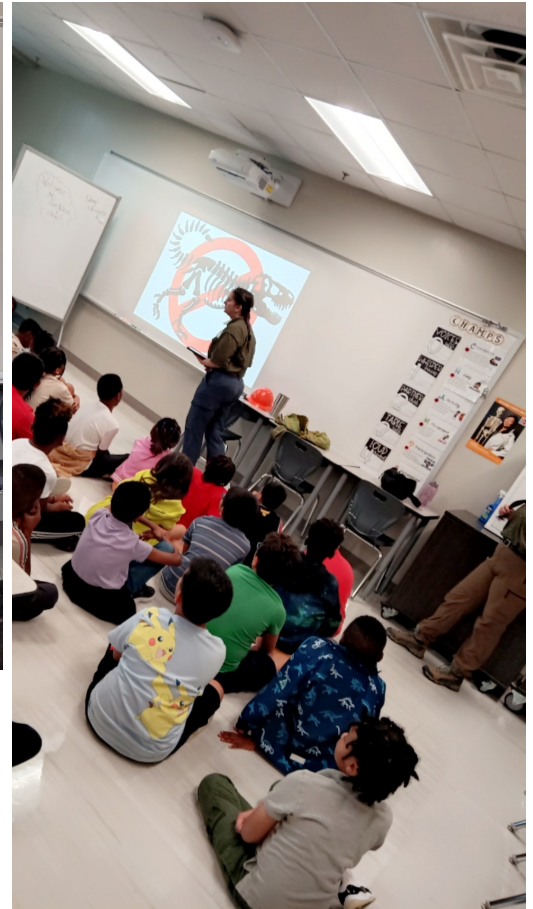
## NTAS at Arbor Creek Elementary in Euless

### Katy Crater Gershtein

NTAS teamed up with AR Consultants, Inc. to present to the 4th Grade Science & Social Studies classes at Arbor Creek Elementary in Euless. Members Katy Crater Gershtein, Misty Alloy, and Stëssha Tacker gave a short presentation to the students explaining what archaeology is all about (not dinosaurs!) then split students up into workstations to look at different artifact types and interpret their own "site in a bucket." The Arbor Creek Elementary students were engaged as they explored archaeology with hands-on learning.



Katy Crater Gershtein discussing the use of faunal comparative collections in archeological analyses with students at Arbor Elementary in Euless.



Misty Alloy teaching the basics of archeology to the students.



Katy Crater Gershtein, Misty Alloy, and Stëssha Tacking presenting to elementary student in Euless.

**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!](#)

## 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.

October 15 - *On a Mission: The Real Story of the California Missions* by author Janet Dowling Sands

December 17 - *1841 Texan Santa Fe Expedition: Prelude to the Mexican American War of 1846* by Bob Saul

### **SMU Lab Days**

9am-5pm October 26, 9am-5pm November 23, 2024

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 8 for a summary of the work completed thus far.

### **Denton Dig It!**

**9am-1pm, October 12, 2024**

Denton, TX

Denton Dig It! is an event with lots and lots of opportunities to discuss archeology with the public. We will have a selection of hands-on activities and will share space with the Denton Farmer's Market which has wonderful food and other local goods. If you are interested in volunteering please contact [Gen Freix](#) for more information.

### **Pioneer Rest Cemetery Fall Fest**

**11am-4pm, October 13, 2024**

Fort Worth, TX

Historical reenactments, live music, kids activities, food trucks, vintage goods, free parking and shuttle service from TCC Trinity River East Parking Lot.

### **Grand Prairie Farmers Market**

**8am-1pm, October 19, 2024**

Grand Prairie, TX

This year, for the first time, NTAS will have a booth at the Grand Prairie Farmers Market. Thanks so much to Charlene Erwin for identifying and organizing this event for NTAS. If you would like more information please contact [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org).

### **95th TAS Annual Meeting**

**October 25-27, 2024**

Victoria, TX

The Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB) at Victoria College and the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) are official hosts for the 95th TAS Annual Meeting. Guest speakers will be Texas' State Archeologist Dr. Brad Jones for the Friday Public Forum and Dr. Leland C. Bement, Senior Researcher at the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey at the University of Oklahoma, for the Saturday evening Banquet.

### **Plano Archeology Fair**

**9am-3pm, November 9, 2024**

Plano, TX

This is a new event for NTAS, but one we are very much looking forward to. It is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. If you would like to volunteer, please contact [Allen Rutherford](#).

### **The Joe Reed Site NTAS Work Day**

**November 2, 2024**

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.



## NTAS Holiday Party December 7, 2024

Keller, TX

The NTAS Holiday Party will be held at the Stone Glen Club House (301 Tulip Way, Keller, TX 76248; Gate Code: 3020). Parking is available near the Club House (please avoid fire lanes and private driveways). If you would like to assist with the setup, arrive at 4pm.

Appetizers will start at 5pm and dinner will be served at 5:30pm. Following dinner, Santa will gather all for gift distribution. We ask that the gift exchange be archeology related. Tools, trowels, books, fossils, even antique jewelry have appeared under our tree! So please remember to bring a covered dish, a wrapped gift for the tree, and be ready to enjoy some face-to-face time with your friends who love and enjoy archeology as much as you.

If you would like to assist in the planning of this fun event please call or text Paula Vastine at 817-988-8405. Your help is appreciated.

## SMU Archaeology Research Collections

### By the Numbers

Rehabilitating the 1971/72 TAS Field School Collections  
The Paris Site (41KR94)

28203	Pieces of debitage counted
199	Projectile points and fragments
127	Pounds of debitage
118	Nondiagnostic and early bifaces
70	Scrapers, graters, and other tools
56	Different volunteers
54	gigabytes of scanned photos
13	Pounds of snail shell (WHY?!)
9	Weekend open-labs since we started
5	Boxes left to process from 41KR94
3	gigabytes of scanned documents
22	Boxes remaining to process from the other 234 sites studied by the field schools



## 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 (2023) is available digitally to members by logging in [here](#). A digital copy of Volume I is available to the public [here](#), and physical copies of both 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](mailto:publicationseeditor@ntxas.org)) or Secretary ([secretary@ntxas.org](mailto: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!

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!

Christine Mains

## Donors

None

## 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**

**Thomas Standefer**  
**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 31

December Newsletter: November 28

January Newsletter: December 26

February Newsletter: January 30

March Newsletter: February 27

April Newsletter: March 27

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Humanities Texas



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HUMANITIES

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