



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

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

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Jenny McWilliams and Historic Plants	2
Monthly Meeting Location & Info	2
NTAS at UT Arlington	3
From the Archives	3
Jim Blanton in Memoriam	4
SMU Lab Days	5
Membership & Publication Info	6-8
Scholarships	8

Benchmark

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President's Message

Greetings folks! March is most welcome following the whiplash from winter's throes. Some of you like me are already planning your spring gardens to symbolically reject the cold and usher in the new season. I want to thank all who joined our February meeting either in-person or on Zoom. Dr. Reid Ferring shared with us the coalescence of many years and multiple investigations by himself and numerous colleagues regarding Dmanisi Cave, the oldest known *Homo erectus* site in Eurasia. It was an outstanding discussion of environmental reconstruction and behavioral interpretations. Thank you, Reid, for giving us such a stimulating presentation. It certainly made me miss being a grad student.

Last month, member Elizabeth Bittner coordinated NTAS involvement in UTA's World Anthropology Day in conjunction with their Anthropology Club. A massive thanks to her and the volunteers (Katrina Nuncuio, Allen Rutherford, Charlene Erwin, and Jimmy Barrera) for participating in this public outreach event. Current students are an important demographic not just for the benefit of the discipline and industry but also to promote scientific curiosity and share opportunities with young people.

We have additional opportunity next month to participate in outreach via the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo where we interface with landowners alongside the Council of Texas Archeologists in Fort Worth. If you want more outreach opportunity, please get involved. We also have an SMU Lab



Day scheduled for this month. See the list of events on Page 6 for details.

One general reminder to the Society: membership renewals for 2025 were due on January 1. The society extends a small grace period for members who are renewing that extends to March 15. We appreciate your membership to NTAS and look forward to your continued participation.

The March 13, 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 below for map). The meeting will start at 7:00 pm. Our March 13 guest speaker is Jenny McWilliams who will join us via Zoom with her presentation entitled "Historic Plants as Artifacts." We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on March 13!

Alexandra Younger

Connect with NTAS:

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

www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

April 10: Kelsey Hanson
May 8: Yonavea Hawkins
June: No Meeting — TAS Field School

March Speaker: Jenny McWilliams

Historic Plants as Artifacts

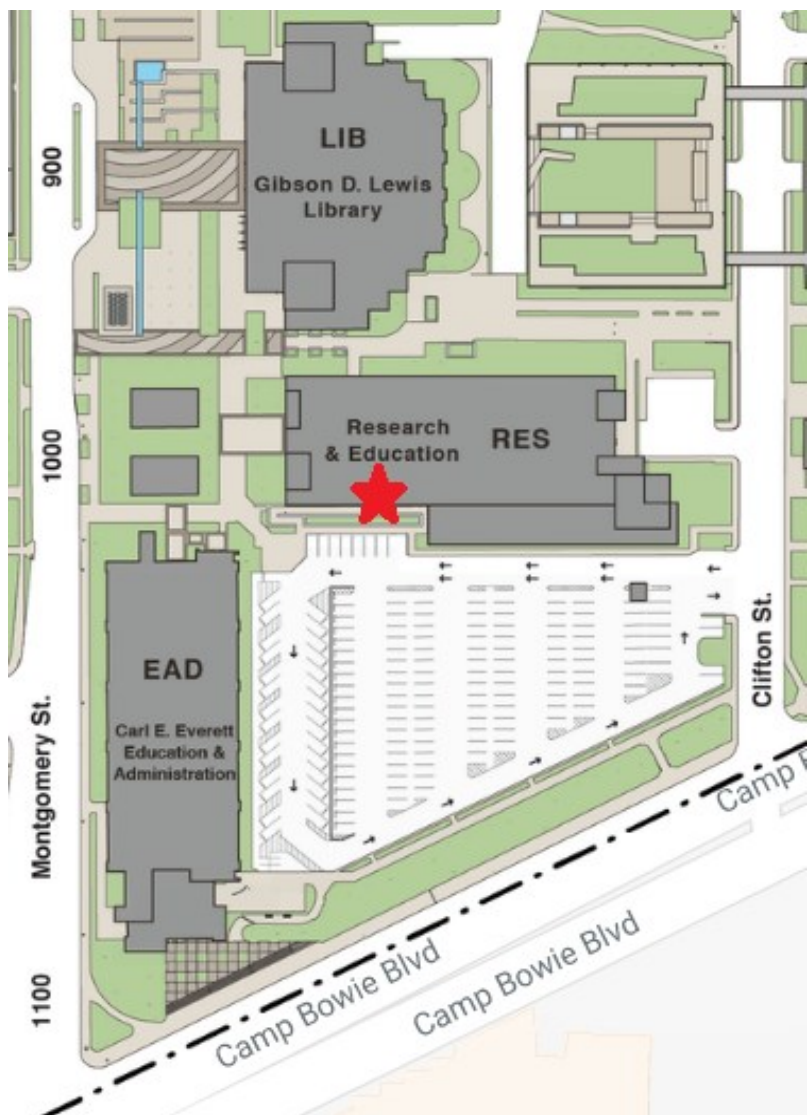
Archeologists often fail to identify living plants as part of the artifact assemblage. Like other historical artifact types, horticultural plants have a date of introduction and therefore can contribute to the larger artifact assemblage. Using examples from historic cemetery sites (which often provide date range of use) we can see trends in popular, hardy vegetation that were culturally significant and may be found in other types of historic sites.

Jenny McWilliams is the Cemetery Preservation Program Coordinator for the Texas Historical Commission. She is an archeologist and has practiced in Texas for over 25 years.

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 at UT Arlington

Jimmy Barrera

NTAS performs public outreach events throughout the year. One occurred on Thursday February 20 where NTAS had a booth at UT Arlington for World Anthropology Day. Students, professors, staff, and other folks participated and learned about our roles in archeology and anthropology. NTAS was



represented by Dr. Allen Rutherford, Katrina Nuncio (professor at UTA), Charlene Erwin, and Jimmy Barrera. Many conversations were had between NTAS and others including numerous students about participating in NTAS, TAS, CTA, and other archeology events. It was impressive watching the good Dr. Rutherford passing out NTAS scholarship applications like hot cakes. The UTA folks were wonderful hosts who provided an excellent lunch including a massive cake. Folks this cake measured ca. 80 x 50 x 20cm in size and was large enough for 200 people. If you are interested to participate in future NTAS public outreach events (and take the cake) please contact [NTAS](#).

Attempting to keep Dr. Rutherford from devouring the cake. Photo by Charlene Erwin.



From left: Jimmy Barrera, Dr. Allen Rutherford, and Katrina Nuncio at the UT Arlington World Anthropology Day. Photo by Charlene Erwin.

From the Archives

Charlene Erwin

As the new NTAS historian, my first task (that I assigned to myself), has been to find out: 1), where the collected historical records of NTAS and TCAS are stored; 2), what exactly is being stored; and 3), how are these precious bits of our history stored. I give myself a C grade—research is still needed to answer the how (hard-copy document storage versus digital only).

Determining what written pieces of TCAS and NTAS history are preserved has been greatly aided by online resources. Some of the historical records of the Tarrant County Archeological Society (TCAS) and the North Texas Archeological Society, identified as the *North Texas Archeological Society Records*, have been compiled in digital format and are available at the website of the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) Libraries, Special Collections. NTAS and UTA signed an agreement on January 29, 2022, whereby UTA, in part, will provide record retention as well as make certain records available in digital format. Although this is still a work in progress, kudos to UTA for all the docs that are currently available online.

Access link: https://mavmatrix.uta.edu/specialcollections_ntasrecords

So, what's being stored by UTA as part of the NTAS Records? Which documents are telling the TCAS and NTAS stories? Newsletters, correspondence (letters), financial reports, minutes of NTAS board meetings and special project updates are all part of the digital mix. It is a somewhat searchable database, with limitations. Still, much easier than plowing through boxes of yellowed papers.

One gem: *The Indians in the History of Tarrant County, Texas*, by James H. Baker and Raymond Cage, published in 1962 by TCAS, is available for your reading pleasure. My favorite quote:

This is the authors' first publication, and among the early publishing efforts of Tarrant County Archeological Society. Although we probably could have gotten it done without you, your assistance and encouragement smoothed the way for us.

As the Indians in Tarrant County, Texas, used to say, "Thanks, yawl."

https://mavmatrix.uta.edu/specialcollections_ntasrecords/100/



Jim Blanton in Memoriam

James Everett

Jim Blanton died at home on February 13 after a lengthy illness. In 1968, Jim joined the Tarrant County Archeological Society (TCAS – which became the North Texas Archeological Society) and he later became a life member of the organization. He served for 6 years as President of TCAS. At various times, he was also Vice-President, Vice-President for Projects, Historian (for 9 years), and an Editorial Committee member (for 12 years). Through the years, Jim participated in many TCAS archeological projects and enjoyed being Santa at several TCAS Christmas parties.



Jim Blanton as Santa at the TCAS Holiday Party in 2014.



Jim Blanton (right) passing the torch as TCAS Historian to James Everett (left) in 2016.

Besides his activities in TCAS/NTAS, Jim was President of the Dallas Archeological Society and a longtime member of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS). He served TAS as the Regional Director for the north Texas area for 4 years. He was also camp boss for several TAS field schools and received the Francis Stickney Field School Award in 2003.

Jim was an archeological steward for the Texas Historical Commission for almost 30 years. His willingness to work hard to support the organizations to which he belonged and his friendly, outgoing personality brought Jim into contact with innumerable professional and avocational archeologists throughout Texas. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.



Jim Blanton (standing) with Gen Freix (left) and Bryan Jameson (right) at the West Hearth of "The Mesa" site in New Mexico.

ARC the Lab is Singing!

Jimmy Barrera

Woof! There was a large group of NTAS volunteers in the SMU Archaeological Research Collections (ARC) lab on Saturday, February 22. With the overlapping Caddo Conference/East Texas Archeological Conference we thought the group would be small, but we were wrong! Thanks to the many folks who showed up on Saturday, first timers and ongoing volunteers. A lively crowd hummed, sang (maybe?), and processed artifacts from the Texas Archeological Society Field Schools held in 1971-1972 across various sites in Kerr County. Charlene Erwin even got to clean mud off a bison skull (lucky gal)! Consider joining upcoming opportunities to volunteer in the SMU lab on March 22 and April 19. Keep an eye on the NTAS newsletter as future dates are announced. To volunteer please contact NTAS Vice President of Projects [Brian Luetchford](#). Sincere thanks to our host Dr. Matt Boulanger and his wonderful assistant (his puppy), also for the top-shelf snacks and coffee, and the SMU Department of Anthropology for being wonderful partners with NTAS.

NTAS volunteers
in the SMU lab.
Photo by Jimmy Barrera.



Charlene performing expert
work on bison.
Photo by Jimmy Barrera.

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.

March 18 - *All the Sorrows of the World: Hannah Worcester Hicks & the Civil War in the Cherokee Nation*
with Michelle M. Martin

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

SMU Lab Days

March 29 and 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 this newsletter for some highlights from the most 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 [Eric Schroeder](#) with the CTA if you can help.

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](#).

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!

Ethan Adcock	Hayden Gannaway	Robert Hoilman
Jacob Bledsoe	Marisa Harris	Lori Maloy
Kailey Berube	Mike Hedges	Mike McBride
Morgan Duke	Alexa Helm	Jacob Mohan
Debra Eller	Jacqueline Hernandez	Chelsea Reedy

Donors

Memorial Scholarship Fund

Dr. Reid Ferring

Bryan Jameson & Carol Macaulay-Jameson

Arlo McKee

Jay Newman

Skipper Scott

Chris Meis

General Fund

Mike Shannon

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

Executive Committee

Alexandra Younger
President

Gwen Durrant
Treasurer

Charlene Erwin
Historian

Stephen Lowe
Vice President

Thomas Standefer
Secretary

Vacant
Internet Chair

Brian Luetchford
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, and upcoming deadlines are listed below.

April Newsletter: March 27

May Newsletter: April 24

July Newsletter: June 26

August Newsletter: July 31

September Newsletter: August 28

October Newsletter: September 25

This program is supported in part by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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