



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

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

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Benchmark

Volume 39, Issue 7

August 2025

President's Message

Howdy NTAS!

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful summer between vacations and field schools. Thankfully the field component is over before the summer heat ramps up for August. We generally use this time to turn our sights towards fall activities during which [Texas Archeology Month](#) (TAM) promises a full calendar of outreach and educational events for our members. It's become so popular over the years that TAM events now overflow into adjoining months. We encourage members to sign up for these chances to make connections and learn new things together.

We had a great turnout at the SMU Laboratory last month. The schedule for that has been posted and there are many more sessions to look forward to for our members to join. For those who couldn't get enough of field school (I know I always can't), Dana Ritchie will lead excavations at the Joe Reed site once again this month. See the list of events on Page 8 for details.

In advance of TAM, we like to schedule a couple of sessions of our annual assembly-line for the pinch pot kits, a common educational tool for youth. The first session is coming up soon, September 6 at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Contact [Molly Hall](#) to join.

Looking way, way far ahead into the distant future (except it's not): As the



newly appointed chair for the Local Arrangements Committee for the TAS Annual Meeting 2026 (Denton, Texas), I am assembling the committee to fill key positions (Treasurer, Registrar, Silent Auction Coordinator, and Publicity Coordinator). Some of those positions will require a small squad of assistants. Please [reach out to me](#) if you are interested in serving or know of a great banquet speaker.

Registration is open for the 2025 [TAS Annual Meeting](#) in McAllen. A call for papers, posters, and symposiums has been announced. NTAS offers scholarships for the meeting, and the applications are open to anyone who would like to [apply](#). It's never too early to apply! In light of that, *please prepare for our October meeting to shift one day to **October 8th***, which is the

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www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

Wednesday before the TAS meeting. Our memberships overlap and folks may need reasonable time to travel between both meetings.

Last month we had the pleasure of hosting Kim Cox who shared remarkable insights into current rock art research in Texas and drawing connections between sites across the state. We thank you Kim for coming to speak with us and bringing your passion for rock art investigating. Other notable research to highlight is a recent publication by S. Alan Skinner, Cody S. Davis, and Kathryn Crater Gershtein entitled “Unexpected Bois d’Arc at the Redwine House Site.” Published in the *Journal of Texas Archeology and History*, [this article](#) synthesizes archeological investigations and archival research about this unique property’s history in Collin County. And if you haven’t grabbed a copy of William Moore’s latest volume, *Arrow Points of Texas and its Borderlands*, it is available at [Texas A&M University Press](#). He will discuss the book during the August 19 Westerners Zoom (see page 8).

This month we welcome our friend Chris Ringstaff as our guest speaker for the August 14, 2025 meeting. Some of you may remember him from this year’s TAS Lithics Academy. His talk pertains to the geographic analysis of lithic procurement sites located in the Upper Buttermilk Creek Valley. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm on August 14th. Our monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting in person and on 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). We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on August 14th!

Alexandra Younger

August Speaker: Christopher W. Ringstaff

A GIS-based Examination of Prehistoric Land-Use in the Upper Buttermilk Creek Lithic Resource Area, Bell and Williamson Counties, Texas

The Buttermilk Creek Ranch is located within the Upper Buttermilk Creek Valley in Bell and Williamson Counties, Texas and near the well-known Gault and Debrah L Friedkin Sites. An archeological and geologic survey of the ranch was conducted from March 2022 to May 2025. Over 1,300 Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) positions were collected and imported into a Geographic Information System (GIS) to record and delineate these resources. Three archeological sites were recorded including two upland lithic procurement sites (41BL1432 and 41WMI498) and an open campsite (41BI434) located in the alluvial valley upstream of the Gault Site. An overlay of the geologic GNSS data on a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) provided a preliminary lithostratigraphic model of chert outcrops across the valley. The data reveal high-quality cherts in the upper elevations of the Edwards Formation across the ranch which contain the greatest density of chipped-stone debris palimpsests and workshop features. Given the proximity to Gault and Debra L. Friedkin, the defined high-grade chert exposures represent a primary source for high-quality stone based on recovered artifacts with Paleoindian attributes. As investigations continue, this research hopes to provide a better understanding of targeted land-use, Paleoindian technological organization, mobility, and adaptation in the region.

Christopher W. Ringstaff earned his BA in Anthropology and MA in Geography from Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University). His thesis work focused on landform evolution and archeological preservation at San Marcos Springs. Over the past 36 years, Mr. Ringstaff has worked for numerous Universities,



CRM firms, and State agencies including TPWD and TxDOT. He has worked on projects in the Southern and Northern High Plains, the American Southwest, and across Texas. Mr. Ringstaff's primary interest is in stone tool technology and analysis stemming from his work on lithic sourcing and technology in the Knife River Quarries of North Dakota, Edwards outcrops of Central Texas, and the gravel strewn Rio Grande Plains of South Texas. His passion and research interest in Paleoindian archeology led him to work at notable Paleoindian sites including Lubbock Lake, Ryan Site, Wilson Leonard, Spring Lake, Gault, Bobtail Wolf, Jim Pitts, Eagle Cave, Bonfire Shelter, and Mockingbird Gap. Having retired in May 2025, Mr. Ringstaff will begin the PhD Program at Texas State University in Fall 2025 focusing on his research at Buttermilk Creek in Bell County, Texas.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

September 11: Ken Lawrence (Rio Grande Radio Carbon Dating)

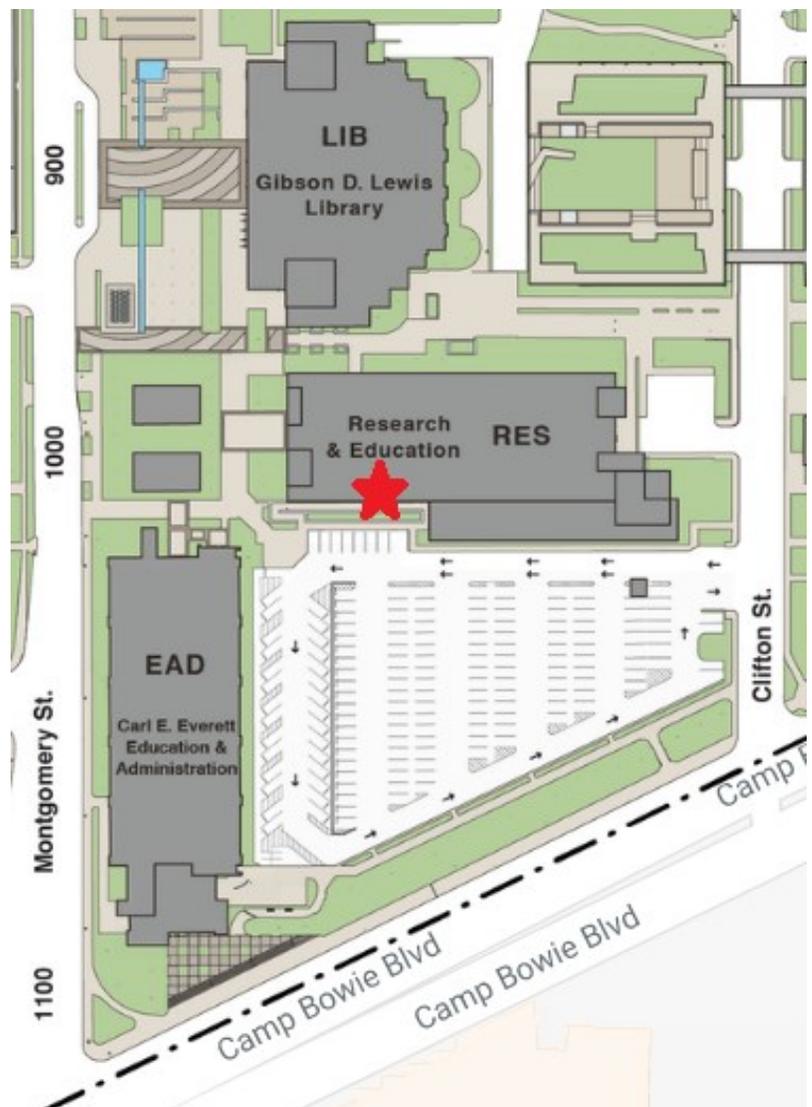
October 8 (note this is a *Wednesday* evening): TBD

November 13: 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.



NTAS at Crow Canyon CRM Field School – Cortez, Colorado

Alexandra Younger

I had the pleasure of tagging along with some of our members to the Crow Canyon CRM field school last month. NTAS member and Professor at UT-Arlington, Dr. Kelsey Hanson and colleague Dr. James Potter co-led a two-week intensive field school meant to prepare students for a career in cultural resources management (CRM). In response to the Altschul and Klein (2022) article forecasting the CRM job market for the next ten years, Drs. Potter and Hanson saw a need for a specialized field school curriculum that seeks to address one of the many challenges facing the industry and its dwindling workforce. This year, they invited NTAS member Christopher Goodmaster to provide instruction in geophysical techniques in archeology. Students were introduced to fundamentals in the classroom which was followed by a work plan design and deployment of instruments at a Pueblo site. Per usual, his demonstrations and informative lectures were well received by field school attendees. Among them were NTAS members and students at UT-Arlington Alex Helm and Marisa Harris (recipient of an NTAS field school scholarship!). They delighted in the activities and exercises inherent in a field school — enthusiastically identifying typologies encountered during survey, problem solving fieldwork challenges, and learning ancient techniques. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the instructors and students thrive together in a productive and inspirational environment. 10 out of 10; would recommend.



NTAS members at Canyon of the Ancients Alexandra Younger, Marisa Harris, Christopher Goodmaster, Kelsey Hanson, and Alex Helm.



Goodmaster and Hanson conduct lesson plans ahead of instruction at Hawkins Preserve.



Goodmaster explains the operation and deployment of a magnetometer to students.



NTAS members Alex Helm and Marisa Harris smashing some rocks.

Goodmaster and Crow Canyon students prepare to deploy equipment.



Marisa and classmates throw atlatl.



Crow Canyon students surveying a multicomponent site with Jim Potter.

From the Archives

Charlene Erwin

Since Tarrant County Archeological Society (TCAS) was founded in 1955, the perseverance and dedication of the membership has ensured the continuation of the society. When the TCAS newsletter began in 1959, the society's mission expanded as the newsletter served to communicate with the membership, document its activities, and announce upcoming events. This straightforward approach, which is still the guide for the NTAS newsletters of today, often presented challenges far beyond the writing of an article or of submitting a report. By accepting the office of President of TCAS in the 1970's, James Everett also became the editor of the newsletter, which presented its own set of obstacles, including a mimeograph machine and purple ink! Fortunately for us, James, who has held several offices in both our local society and the Texas Archeological Society, kept his sense of humor and mastered those tasks. Thanks to James for taking time to share some of his memories of those earlier TCAS days.

James Everett

As an avocational archeologist, I am, of course, interested in history and prehistory. However, like most people, I stay so busy with day-to-day activities and deadlines that I do not look back on my own "history" very often. Recently I was asked by several NTAS members to write a newsletter article describing a few ways in which things were "different" when I served as President of the Tarrant County Archeological Society (TCAS) in the mid-1970s.

Like today's NTAS, TCAS held monthly meetings featuring very good speakers, produced a newsletter, conducted archeological projects, and provided outreach to the public. However, TCAS was much smaller than NTAS, with several dozen members rather than the 300-plus members that NTAS has recently had. In the mid-1970s, people did not routinely have personal computers, so we often communicated using messages written on typewriters and sent by "snail mail." There was no PowerPoint, so speakers had to use actual slides – "transparencies" which resembled negatives mounted in small cardboard frames, sequenced in a bulky, round carousel attached to the projector. Since scams involving the use of personal information had not become routine and protecting private information was not a concern, TCAS published and distributed annual membership lists containing the name, address, and telephone number for all members.

As President, I also served as the Editor of the TCAS newsletter, "The Tarrant County Archeologist." We used a mimeograph machine that someone had provided to us to print many of our initial newsletters. For those who never had the pleasure of working with a mimeograph machine, there are a number of good descriptions of the device online. Suffice it to say that the master copy for each month's newsletter was typed onto a waxed paper stencil. There was no word processing capability, and we could not move or insert words or paragraphs. Corrections to individual words or letters had to be made by looking at the back of the master sheet, finding the error, using a razor blade to scratch out the waxy surface that contained the impression of the error, and then re-typing the word or letter in question. Illustrations had to be hand-drawn or traced onto the master sheet.

At newsletter publication time, my garage was filled with the overpowering smell of mimeograph printing solution or spirit duplicator, which was poured into the hollow printing press drum



James Everett presented "A Little Parker County Prehistory" to an audience of 100 attendees during the Parker County Historical Commission's tribute to former TCAS member Homer Norris on July 26, 2025. Photo courtesy of Susan Everett.

to which the master sheet was attached. We had to print the desired number of copies of page 1, then remove the master sheet for page 1 and replace it with the master sheet for page 2 and so forth. The resulting copies were in purple ink! The stacks of printed pages had to be assembled in the proper order and stapled together before being distributed to members.

When I first joined TCAS in 1970, we met in a comfortable classroom on the lower floor of the Children's Museum (now the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History). Each month when we held our TCAS meeting, we were able to enjoy a "Night at the Museum" experience since, along with the cleaning crew, we were the only after-hours occupants of the museum. After a few years, we lost access to the museum and met in various locations such as community rooms in banks. Then, because several TCAS members were also members of the Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club, we began to meet at a building known as "The Rock Club." (TCAS also met at the Rock Club at times in the mid-to-late-1980s.)

The Rock Club was a re-purposed church building that had seen better days. It had limited heating and cooling, the floors were bare concrete, and there were many holes in the floor, surrounded by piles of dirt and gravel. During the meetings, we sat on folding metal chairs in an otherwise unfurnished auditorium that echoed loudly as we spoke.

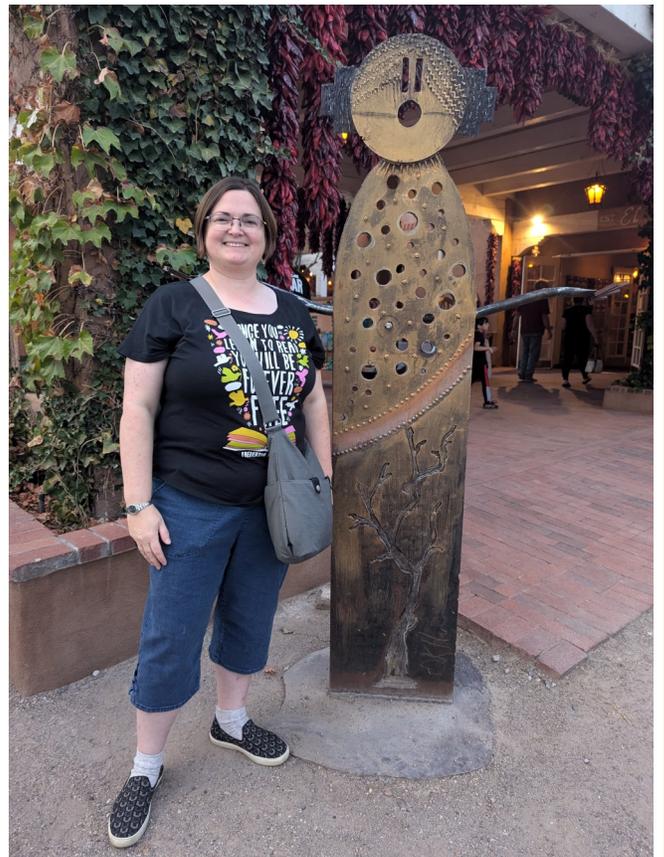
The primitive condition of the Rock Club provided a much more casual and informal atmosphere for our meetings than we have at the University of North Texas Health Science Center today. As TCAS President, I appreciated the informality since I often had to baby sit my infant son during TCAS meetings, many times holding his hand or balancing him on my hip while I presided at the meetings. In addition, he thoroughly enjoyed playing in the dirt piles surrounding the auditorium during the monthly speeches.

Refreshments at our TCAS meetings in the 1970s and early 1980s always included extremely strong coffee made by a former TCAS President whose recipe was to pack the filter basket of the 50-cup coffee maker as full of coffee grounds as possible and then start it "perking." Maybe it was the caffeine levels of each cup of coffee, or maybe it was because of the hard metal folding chairs on the cold, bare concrete floor of the Rock Club, but nobody dozed off during our monthly meetings.

Newly Elected NTAS Internet Chair

Elizabeth Bittner

I received my bachelor's in anthropology and Asian studies from the University of Texas at Austin. My area of study was Japan, and I spent a semester abroad at J.F. Oberlin University just outside of Tokyo. After graduation I went straight into grad school, also at UT Austin, and received my MSIS in library studies with a certificate in conservation of library and archival materials. 2008 wasn't a great time to graduate with a highly specialized degree, and I couldn't find a job in the field I had studied. I eventually joined Americorps and worked at Topsail Hill Preserve State Park in Florida where I gave educational programs, conducted bird counts, monitored sea turtle nests, and removed invasive plants. Thanks to that experience, I later worked for Arkansas State Parks and the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge where I designed and presented educational and interpretive programs. In 2018, I returned to libraries and worked for several years in public libraries before starting my present position at the University of Texas at Arlington where I am a liaison librarian for several programs including archaeology and anthropology. I look forward to becoming more involved with NTAS as the Internet Chair.



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.

August 19 - *Arrow Points of Texas and Its Borderlands* with William E. Moore

September 16 - *Fort Worth Mexican American History* with Peter Martinez

October 21 - *Sand Creek Massacre* with Ray Sumner

November 18 - *Buffalo Bone Trade* with Keith Wondra

Joe Reed Site Excavation Day

August 23, 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

9am-5pm, Aug 30, Sept 27, Oct 25, Nov 29, 2025

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 Page 3 of the May 2025 newsletter for how this activity made it all the way to the 2025 Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting in Denver!

Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session I

9am-12pm, September 6, 2025

Fort Worth, TX

It's pinch-pot kit making season! NTAS received materials from the Texas Historical Commission to make pinch-pot kits to hand out (typically to kids) during the numerous Texas Archeology Month (TAM) events in which NTAS is participating. NTAS will need to make 1,400 kits (if not more!) to be handed out by NTAS members this year. The September 6th session will take place at the **Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge**. **RSVP is required for this event.** Please let [Molly Hall](#) know if you plan to attend. She will send out exact location details closer to the date of the event.

Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session II

9am-12pm, September 27, 2025

Dallas, TX

In addition to the Fort Worth session (see above), there will be a Dallas session at **Southern Methodist University**. The event will correlate with an SMU lab day (see event above).

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.

Grand Prairie Farmers Market

8am-1pm, October 18, 2025

Grand Prairie, TX

Join us on October 18 at the Grand Prairie Farmers Market to help talk to members of the public about archeology. The connections we make at events like this help people learn about archeology and the individuals with whom we speak often end up joining a society. Please reach out to [Charlene Erwin](#) to assist.

National Cattle Trails Conference**October 24-25, 2025**

Cleburne, TX

Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the 2025 National Cattle Trails Conference hosted by the Outdoor Chisholm Trail Museum! Join the Fort Worth Westerners as they celebrate the rich history of cattle trails featuring organizations like the International Chisholm Trail Association, Western Cattle Trail Association, Great Western Cattle Trail, Shawnee Cattle Trail, and the Goodnight-Loving Trail.

Denton Dig It!**November 1, 2025**

Denton, TX

Denton Dig It! is an event with lots of stimulating topics and demonstrations from various volunteer organizations and professional archeologists aimed at engaging the public. NTAS plays a central role with our members supervising young people learning to excavate and sharing NTAS programs with potential new members. Please contact [Gen Freix](#) for more information.

News from the NTAS Executive Committee

The NTAS Executive Committee (EC) meetings (typically held two Tuesdays before the monthly meetings) are open to the membership, and minutes from the meetings can be obtained from the President or Secretary.

During the July 1, 2025 EC meeting, the following item passed unanimously:

Supplies will be purchased to create an NTAS teaching kit during an upcoming SMU lab day. Supplies needed include one solid plastic tub, foam that can be cut to hold artifacts (real and/or replicas), and a magnifying glass to use at public outreach events. The estimated cost is less than \$150.00.

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 (publicationseditor@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!

William Dunsmore
Ace Eddy
Chris Hummel
Shane Ickes

Donors

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

Alexandra Younger
President

Gwen Durrant
Treasurer

Charlene Erwin
Historian

Stephen Lowe
Vice President

Thomas Standefer
Secretary

Elizabeth Bittner
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.

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

December Newsletter: November 28
January Newsletter: December 25
February Newsletter: January 29

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