

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

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

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Benchmark

Volume 39, Issue 5

May 2025

President's Message

No rest for the society and its members this past month. Jam-packed with archeological events and activities, I hope that some of you were able to come up for air. Folks attended presentations, others conducted outreach, and some took part in strenuous organizing. The Society for American Archaeology conference was held in Denver, Colorado this month. Those of you who were able to attend or present hopefully had a meaningful time and enjoyed some culture and beautiful scenery.

The very popular Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Academies were held back-to-back this month on concurrent weekends. Hats-off to its organizers for pulling off both the Archeobotany and Lithics academies. A very big thank-you to NTAS Vice President Steve Lowe and member Christopher Goodmaster who assisted and helped organize both.

Several new members came to the SMU Laboratory this month to participate in artifact rehabilitation. We were delighted to see more curious folks engaging in the fantastic activities available. We welcome our newest members to join in upcoming events. See the list of events on pages 5-6 for details.

May will be our last meeting before the June break when more activities hit the calendar. If you have not identified what you plan to do the month of June, it is not too late. The TAS Field School



located in Milam and Robertson Counties will be held June 14 to 21. [Registration](#) remains open. NTAS offers scholarships for the field school and the applications are open to anyone who would like to [apply](#). NTAS will once again be participating at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center's kids' archeology camp from June 25 to 27. NTAS needs folks to help set up on June 24th, and volunteers for excavation supervision and various demonstrations (rabbit stick, atlatl throw, corn grinding) throughout. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact [Gen Freix](#).

April kicked off with an excellent presentation by Dr. Kelsey Hanson of UT Arlington. Her discussion about the archeological significance of blue-green pigments from Chaco Canyon was stimulating. She developed a thesis re-

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For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

garding not only the sourcing of these pigments but also the kinds of materials on which they were applied. The discussion challenged assumptions and exposed a previously misunderstood form of expression in the Desert Southwest.

This month we welcome award-winning Native American artist Yonavea Hawkins. She is an enrolled member of the Caddo Nation, the Delaware Nation, and Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma. She joins us this month to share with us her remarkable journey and development in traditional bead work. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm on May 8. Our monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting in person and on Zoom, located in 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 May 8th!

Alexandra Younger

May Speaker: Yonavea Hawkins

Caddo Beadwork, the Journey

Learning beadwork techniques, moccasin making, and sewing started as an adult when I wanted Caddo clothing (regalia) to wear at Caddo dances. Growing up my mother sewed my dresses, but paid others for the moccasins and accessories needed. My self-teaching journey started with books on beading, searching the internet, and looking at museum collection images and learning more with each pair of moccasins I made for myself and family.

As a beadwork artist **Yonavea Hawkins** learned by sewing and beading cultural items for herself and family. When asked to participate in her first art market she entered a pair of Delaware moccasins in the Beadwork category. She has since continued to win awards in other juried Native American art market competitions with her moccasins, beaded cultural items and loomed beaded belts in the Beadwork or Cultural/Diverse Arts categories. Whether doing loom work or two needle appliqué bead work, her beadwork designs are a combination of traditional and contemporary using cut beads. She has a Fine Arts degree from Oklahoma City University and has been drawing and painting since grade school.



From the Archives

Charlene Erwin

NTAS is currently refining the protocol to identify which documents will be archived now, and in the immediate future, with the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). The NTAS relationship with UTA began in 2022, with the delivery of eleven boxes of paper materials. Those pieces of paper have now been archived, preserved individually in digital format and made accessible online, or as paper copies retained in the hard-copy archival system.

As we all know, there are different standards today for preservation of our documents. The need to carefully choose what is saved is central to this discussion of record retention. The way we communicate has changed. Emails have replaced hand-written letters. The monthly reports submitted by the NTAS Executive Committee are presented in PDF format and shared online as email attachments. The Benchmark, the NTAS monthly newsletter, digitized and shared with the membership via email, presents a panoramic snapshot of the highlights of each month. These few documents consistently tell the story of NTAS.

Beginning with this calendar year, NTAS is choosing to preserve fewer documents. The NTAS newsletters, monthly EC reports, as well as an annual listing of membership (name only), and The Journal, are the documents that will be digitally archived by the UTA for NTAS. Of course, these documents prove that NTAS is meeting its objectives as a non-profit organization. And that we're environmentally friendly, too.



NTAS SMU Lab Days Featured at SAA Annual Meeting

Molly Hall

At this year's Society for American Archaeology's Annual Meeting, Dr. Matthew Boulanger presented on the success of the partnership between Southern Methodist University (SMU) and NTAS with the monthly lab days event. This project brings NTAS members, SMU staff and students, and members of the public together for the purpose of cataloging and rehabilitating collections housed at SMU.

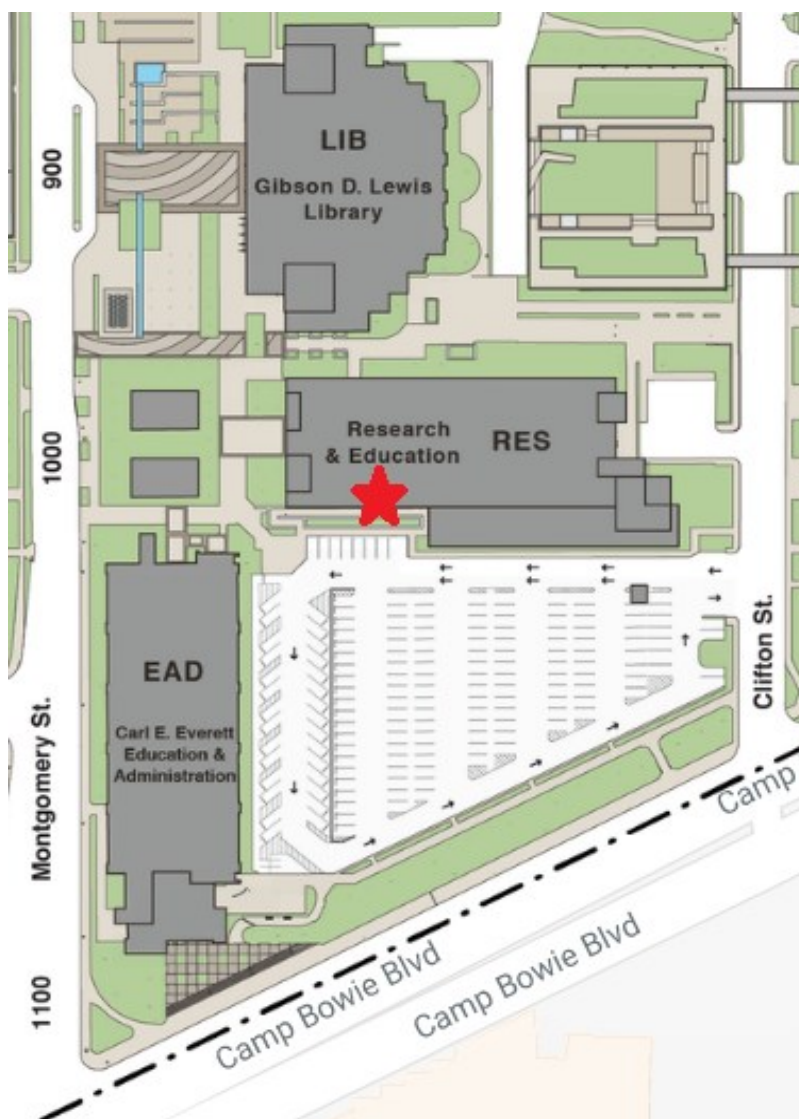
For more information on the success of this project, please see the [NTAS website](#) and be sure to join us and Dr. Boulanger on the last Saturday of the month!



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 the Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo

Alexandra Younger

In April NTAS attended the Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo held in Fort Worth. Our volunteers provided support for Texas Private Lands Heritage Preservation Partnership. The initiative is chaired by Dr. Eric Schroeder of the Council of Texas Archeologists. The purpose of the program is to connect Texas landowners with resources and preservation professionals to help manage and preserve heritage resources on private property. Over 90 percent of heritage resources in Texas are dependent on private landowners! NTAS members Gen Frix, Tommy Standefer, Glen Lee, Larry Borne, and Alexandra Younger joined forces with Kelton Sheridan from Austin, Texas at the convention center exhibitor's hall over the course of two days. Gen, Glen, and Tommy tenaciously led the team and forged countless meaningful connections with event participants. Everyone's effortless and welcoming manner of engaging people was inspiring. We hope to be of further assistance to any of the wonderful people we spoke to and look forward to seeing success stories from the [Texas Private Lands Heritage Preservation Partnership](#). Thank you to all the volunteers that came out and provided such influential support.



North Texas Archeological Society

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. The following items passed unanimously via vote during the April 29, 2025 EC Meeting.

- Scholarships can now be awarded for attending accredited field schools throughout the United States in addition to NTAS and TAS events. See Page 8 for how to apply!
- A scholarship in the amount of \$425 was awarded to Simon Jerden to attend the 2025 TAS Field School.
- The EC endorsed the awarding of a scholarship to Marisa Harris to support attendance at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center's Cultural Resource Management Field School in the amount of \$525. As this amount is above the threshold for the EC to spend without vote by the membership, **this item will be presented to the membership at the general NTAS meeting on May 8, 2025 for approval via vote.**
- The partnership with the University of Texas at Arlington to house the NTAS archives (which began in 2022) was approved to continue. The NTAS President and Vice-President were authorized to sign the Transfer of Title document and the NTAS President and Historian were authorized to execute/complete the annual Digital Materials Information Form.
- The following items were authorized to be included in the archival digitized materials maintained by UTA: NTAS newsletters, EC reports, annual list of membership (excluding personal information such as addresses, emails, and phone numbers), and the Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

June: No Meeting — TAS Field School

July 10: Kim Cox

August 14: TBD

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.

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

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

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

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

Joe Reed Site Excavation Day

May 10, 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, May 31, June 28, July 26, 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 this newsletter for how this activity made it all the way to the 2025 Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting in Denver!

Texas Archeological Society Field School**June 14-21, 2025***Milam and Robertson Counties, TX*

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

Doss Summer Camp - Digging Detectives**June 25-27, 2025***Weatherford, TX*

NTAS will once again be participating at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center's kids' archeology camp. NTAS needs volunteers to help set up the excavation units (June 24th), to supervise excavations, and to demonstrate corn grinding, rabbit stick throwing, pinch pot making, and atlatl throwing (June 25th-27th). If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact [Gen Freix](#).

Texas Archeological Society 96th Annual Meeting**October 10-12, 2025***McAllen, TX*

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

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.

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!

Kelsey Hanson
Leon Jackson
Paul Katz
Jazmine Reyna
Yesmina Sackey
Kelton Sheridan
Mallory Skains
Weinberg Family

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 now 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

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.

July Newsletter: June 26

August Newsletter: July 31

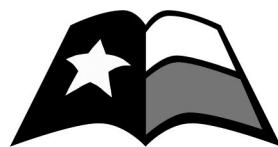
September Newsletter: August 28

October Newsletter: September 25

November Newsletter: October 30

December Newsletter: November 28

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



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