

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

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

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Benchmark

Volume 38, Issue 10

November 2024

President's Message

Hello fellow NTAS members and welcome to the November newsletter! Texas Archeology Month (TAM) was a whirlwind for NTAS with an event of some variety every weekend. I would like to thank all those NTAS members who participated in all our events, and I was also glad to see so many of you in Victoria for the TAS Annual Meeting. For those who did not attend the meeting, NTAS held a symposium honoring Dr. S. Alan Skinner in conjunction with our 2024 NTAS journal dedication. It was well attended and there were a lot of familiar faces in the room.

If you missed last month's meeting, it has been uploaded to [YouTube](#) and is also available on our [website](#). Alexandra Younger presented her recent work and ongoing analysis at Washington-on-the-Brazos. There is some exciting work going on at the "Birthplace of Texas" and I look forward to hearing further updates in the future. It was a perfect presentation to celebrate TAM.

TAM wasn't the only opportunity to get out and do some community outreach this fall. NTAS participated in the Plano Archeology Fair on Saturday, November 9. I would like to thank James and Susan Everett and Gwen Durrant for coming out and sharing their corn grinding and pinch pot making expertise. I would also like to thank Michelle Wurz and the Plano



Conservancy for inviting us. We look forward to participating in this event in future years!

A reminder that our November 14th meeting is the second opportunity to make a bid in a silent auction for Kenny Resser's "Lonestar Lithics" print donated by Skipper Scott. If you can't make the meeting, but would like to make a bid, please contact [Allen Ruth-erford](#). The winner will be announced at our annual Christmas party on **December 7th** and in an email to follow the party. Another reminder, 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

Connect with NTAS:

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For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society



NTAS members and participants in the symposium in honor of S. Alan Skinner at the TAS Annual Meeting. Left to right: Britt Bousman, Charlene Erwin, S. Alan Skinner, Rebecca Shelton, Allen Rutherford, Gus Costa, and Molly Hall. Photo Courtesy of James and Susan Everett.



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).

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 Arlo McKee, Skipper Scott, and Jay Newman at our November meeting. They will be leading a panel discussion about archeology and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). It is a rare opportunity to have an open discussion with USACE archeologists and we hope everyone can make it in person or via Zoom. The November 14th 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 November 14th!

Allen Rutherford

November Panel: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Archeologists

Current and former U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) archeologists will join the North Texas Archeological Society to discuss a wide range of topics including the role of USACE in archeological practice, process, and permitting.

Arlo McKee is the current archeologist for the Regulatory Program in the Fort Worth District. He has served in this role for the past 18 months. Previously, Arlo was an archeological reviewer for the North Texas region at the Texas Historical Commission and has worked in the private sector as a consulting geoarcheologist and archeological principal investigator. He is also currently quite surprised to look over his resume and learn that he's just passed 20 years as a professional archeologist.

Skipper Scott is a retired archeologist who began his career with TAS (now the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory) in 1973. He worked on sites throughout Texas, then several years in Wyoming during graduate school. His academic work involved physical anthropology and zooarcheology. He began his career with the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program in 1982 as the second archeologist ever hired in the program. Working there 34 years included 22 years of teaching the national training for the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C for Regulatory. Work for the Corps of Engineers often involved districts around the country with a wide variety of problematic historic property issues. Since retiring he has concentrated on taking lots of below average photographs of different birds.

Jay Newman is an archeologist with more than 40 years of experience. Jay is retired from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers after a more than 30 year career. In addition to his work with USACE, Jay was an archeological consultant for the U. S. Air Force and the U. S. Army and Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base. Jay received his PhD from Southern Methodist University in 1996. Jay's current interests include geology, antique militaria, and antique firearms.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

December 7th: Holiday Party in Keller (see Page 7)

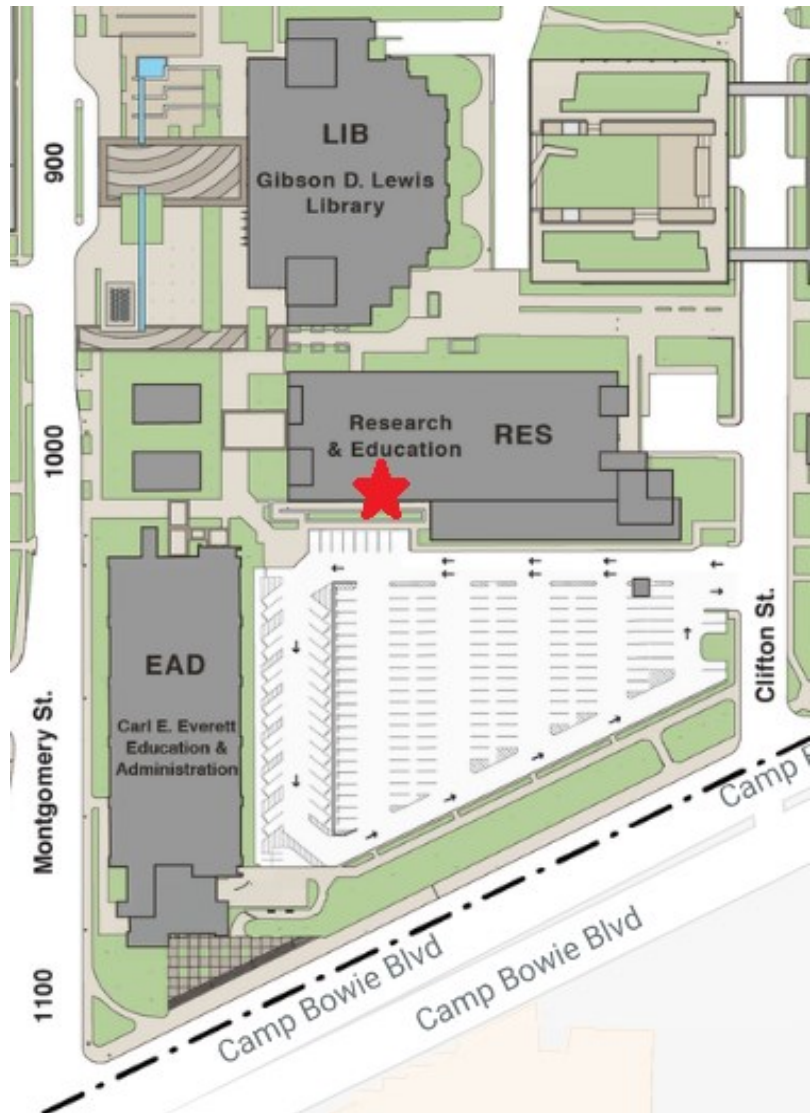
January 9th: TBD

February 13th: 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 T-shirts!!!

Show off your NTAS pride with one of these lovely shirts to wear at events or anytime!

We will have a limited number of shirts at the November 14th monthly meeting.

One can be yours by making a \$10 donation to NTAS (cash, check, and card will be accepted).



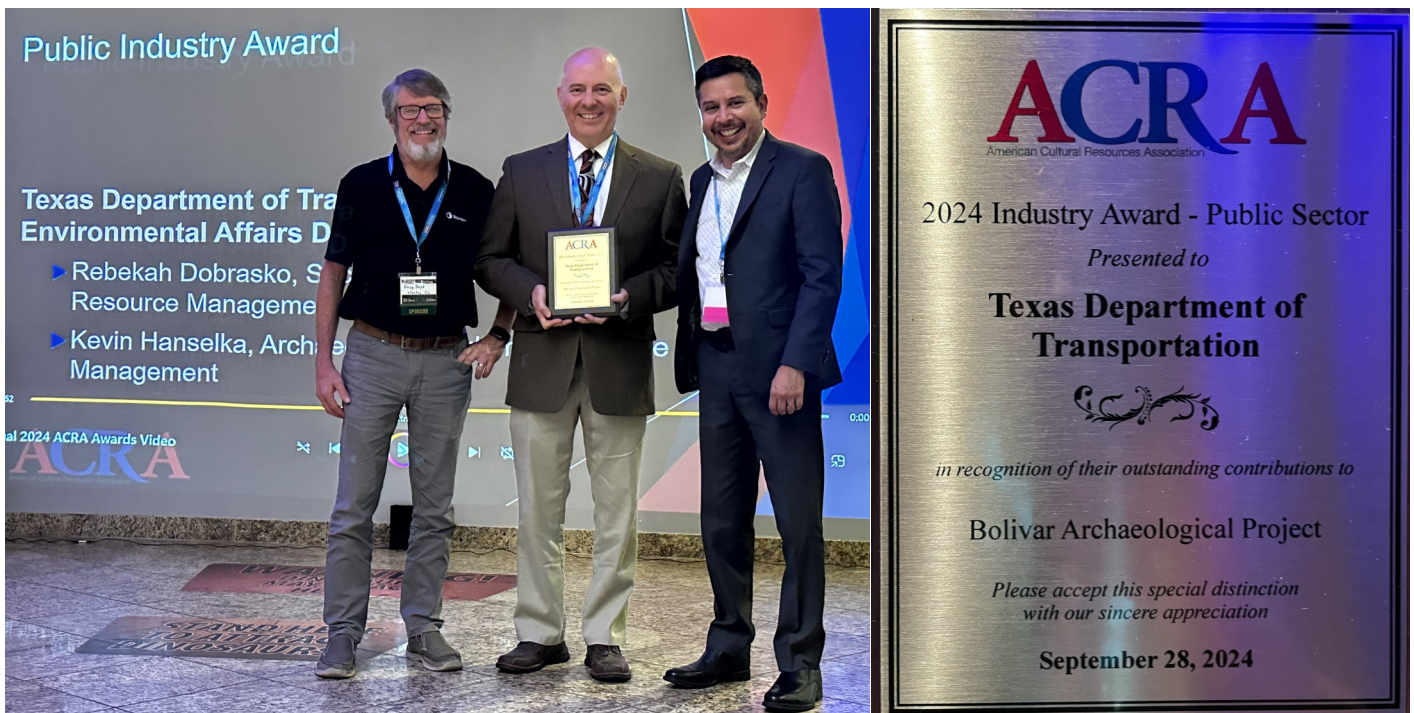
TxDOT's Bolivar Archeological Project (BAP) Received the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) Industry Award-Public Sector

Kevin Hanselka

I am pleased to share that TxDOT's Bolivar Archeological Project (BAP) received the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) Industry Award-Public Sector at their 30th annual conference in Albuquerque in late September. With North Texas Archeological Society support, the BAP recently investigated Tom Cook's blacksmith shop and the Sartin Hotel, two significant, late 19th century archeological sites in northern Denton County. ACRA is the national trade association for the cultural resource management industry; their Industry Award-Public Sector is conferred to individuals and agencies who have demonstrated accomplishments and commitments above and beyond those typically required to meet CRM laws and regulations.

This BAP was very much a team effort between TxDOT, Stantec, members of the African American descendant community in Denton County, NTAS, and many others. Mr. Cook was a freedman, blacksmith, and prominent figure in his small north Texas frontier community. The project team had the greatest pleasure working with his great-granddaughter Betty Kimble, great-great-grandson Howard Clark, and great-great-great granddaughter Halee Wright. We owe our thanks to everyone involved but want to call out Dr. Maria Franklin (UT Austin), the Denton County Office of History and Culture, and the Denton County Historical Commission.

Rebekah Dobrasko (TxDOT Cultural Resources Section Director), Michael Chavez (Deputy Director of Environmental Affairs), myself, and TxDOT thank Stantec archeologists Doug Boyd and Alex Menaker for the nomination. Importantly, Jimmy Barrera (representing the NTAS) also provided a letter of nomination to ACRA, and NTAS volunteers were critical to the success of the fieldwork. NTAS members were consistently on site, screening sediments and recovering artifacts. About 25 NTAS volunteers showed up for fieldwork, putting in about 63 person days of work between early November 2020 and February 3, 2021. On behalf of TxDOT and the entire BAP team, I want to thank NTAS and its members for all of the hard work and partnership.



Michael Chavez (right; TxDOT Deputy Director of Environmental Affairs) and Kevin Hanselka (center; TxDOT archeologist) attended the ACRA award ceremony at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, where Doug Boyd (left; Stantec archeologist) presented the award to the BAP.

Archeology at Lampasas ISD

Chris Meis

In celebration of Texas Archeology Month, on October 9th, NTAS members Becky Shelton (Texas Historical Commission Regional Archeologist) and Chris Meis (Archeology Steward) visited the Lampasas elementary schools of Hanna Springs and Kline Whitis to discuss Archeology. We got to interact with close to 200 fourth graders and their teachers. This is the third year we have spoken to the 4th grade kids who are studying Texas history and they were excited to hear that the First Texans were prehistoric people that hunted mammoths and other megafauna.

The students learned the difference between Archeology and Paleontology, how the early inhabitants changed their hunting strategies over the years, and why central Texas has such an abundance of archeological sites. A replica atlatl and bow and arrow were displayed that they could touch, along with various Texas cherts and samples of the lithic reduction sequence. Frames of projectile points and artifacts excavated from archeological sites were available for them to hold and ask questions. Besides the prehistoric artifacts, there were several trays of historic artifacts that they could rummage through.

After our presentations and a question-and-answer session, the kids were given pinch pot kits to take home and try their hand at pottery making. It is always an enjoyable day to see these young faces light up and eyes widen as you talk about what living on this landscape was like thousands of years ago.



Becky Shelton and Chris Meis talk to Lampasas ISD 4th graders about archeology.

Archeological Events & Opportunities

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

Oak Cliff Cemetery Clean-Up

9am, November 16, 2024

Dallas, TX

Please join [kinkofa](#), [Remembering Black Dallas](#), and the Tenth Street Residential Association for a cemetery clean-up in the African American section of Oak Cliff Cemetery.

The purpose of the clean-up is to clear the wooded parts of the cemetery for GPR survey and mapping. We recommend wearing long pants, long sleeves, appropriate footwear, and gloves. There is poison ivy present on the property. If you have them, please bring loppers, weed wackers, and/or wheel barrows. Please contact [Katie Cross](#) with questions.

If you'd like to participate, please fill out this [volunteer form](#).

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.

November 19 - *From the Reservation to Washington: The Rise of Charles Curtis* by author Deb Goodrich

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

SMU Lab Days

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 of last month's newsletter for a summary of the work completed thus far.

NTAS Holiday Party

5:30pm 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.

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 at Various Texas Archeology Month Events (and Beyond)



Doss Pioneer Heritage Fest.

Left to right: Dana Ritchie, James Everett, Chris Meis, Steve Lowe, Charlene Erwin, Katrina Nuncio, Gen Freix, Elizabeth Bittner, and Jimmy Barrera. Photo courtesy of James and Susan Everett.



Denton Dig It!

Left: Allen Rutherford preparing for corn grinding. Right: Laila Brown assisting with the mock dig. Photos courtesy of Charlene Erwin.



Grand Prairie Farmers Market

Gen Freix talking to the public about archeology.

Photo courtesy of Charlene Erwin.



Plano Archeology Fair

James Everett overseeing corn grinding.

Photo courtesy of Susan Everett.



Plano Archeology Fair

Gwen Durrant and Allen Rutherford at the Pinch Pot table. Photo courtesy of Susan Everett.

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 (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!

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!

Renee Erickson
Thomas George
Grace Mallory
Dawn Marshall

Bill Martin
Daria Moore
Faith Morrow
Diane Sloan

Donors

Texas Beyond History campaign

Jimmy Barrera (in honor of Dr. Tom Middlebrook)
Tamara Feazell
Katrina Nuncio
Dana Ritchie
Tommy & Cynthia Standefer

General Fund

Tamara Feazell
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 - 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.

December Newsletter: November 28

January Newsletter: December 26

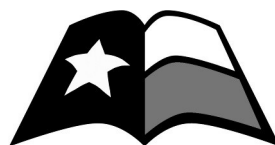
February Newsletter: January 30

March Newsletter: February 27

April Newsletter: March 27

May Newsletter: April 24

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