

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.

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1-2
Kelton Sheridan & Indigenous Ceramics in Spanish Missions	2-3
Monthly Meeting Location & Info	3
NTAS Recent Updates	4-5
Events & News	6-7
TAS Annual Meeting Call for Papers	8
Membership & Publication Info	7, 9-10

Benchmark

Volume 40, Issue 5

May 2026

President's Message

Greetings, NTAS!

Spring has been an exceptionally active season for NTAS, and it has been encouraging to see so many members participating in fieldwork, laboratory activities, public outreach, and training opportunities across North Texas. The continued enthusiasm and volunteer support from our members are helping expand the visibility of archeology in our region while strengthening connections between professional archeologists, avocational archeologists, students, and the public.

Field and training opportunities continue gaining momentum this spring. Excavations and ongoing work at the Joe Reed Site remain an excellent opportunity for members interested in gaining field experience while contributing to investigations at one of Parker County's earliest settlements. Likewise, the site recording tutorials at 4ITR130 and other locations continue providing valuable hands-on training in archeological documentation, mapping, and geoarcheological observation (see pages 4-5). These opportunities are some of the most practical and accessible ways for members to build field skills.

Laboratory and collections-based work also remain active. The monthly SMU Open Laboratory Days continue attracting strong volunteer participation and provide an important avenue for members to contribute to ongoing collections rehabilitation and research efforts. NTAS members have now contributed substantial volunteer hours toward preserving and processing archeological collections that otherwise might not receive this level of attention and care.



The Texas Archeological Society's annual training opportunities are also quickly approaching. Registration is now open for the **TAS Field School**, which will be held **June 13–20, 2026**. Field School remains one of the premier opportunities for hands-on archeological training in Texas, bringing together professional archeologists, avocational archeologists, students, and families for a full week of excavation, survey, laboratory work, and educational programming. NTAS scholarships remain available for TAS Field School, Academies, and the Annual Meeting, and I encourage anyone interested to consider applying.

Planning for the **Texas Archeological Society's 97th Annual Meeting** in Denton continues moving forward rapidly, and excitement is beginning to build as several major milestones approach. NTAS is honored to host the meeting **October 2–4, 2026**, at the Gateway Center on the University of North Texas campus. Regis-

Connect with NTAS:

facebook.com/NTXAS.org

www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

tration is anticipated to open in June, and [call for papers](#) is already **open** (see page 8).

This year's meeting is shaping up to be an outstanding event for both TAS and NTAS. Featured speakers will include Dr. Reid Ferring as the Friday Night Public Forum speaker and Myles Miller as the Saturday evening banquet speaker. Denton offers an ideal conference setting with its historic downtown square, local restaurants and music venues, and convenient access within the DFW metroplex. Most importantly, this meeting gives NTAS an opportunity to showcase the archeology of North Texas and demonstrate the strength and energy of our organization to attendees from across the state.

The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) is seeking volunteers to assist with the **Artifact Identification** during the Friday Night Public Forum at the Annual Meeting. This outreach event will accompany Dr. Reid Ferring's keynote presentation and will provide members of the public an opportunity to bring artifacts and archeological finds for informal identification and discussion with experienced avocational and professional archeologists. Volunteers will help engage with attendees, examine artifacts, discuss regional archeology, and promote stewardship and preservation. This is an excellent opportunity to interact directly with the public, share your knowledge, and help make the Friday Public Forum an engaging and welcoming event for the broader community. Anyone interested in volunteering should [contact the LAC](#).

As planning continues, there will be many opportunities for members to become involved through several avenues such as outreach, conference logistics, silent auction support, vendor coordination, and general conference assistance. We hope many of you will join us in helping make the 2026 TAS Annual Meeting one of the strongest in recent years.

Thank you to everyone who attended our April meeting, both in person and online. Dr. Kate Lesciotto's presentation, "*Improving Biological Profile Estimation in Forensic Anthropology*," offered a fascinating overview of current forensic anthropological methods as well as emerging applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning in biological profile estimation. Members attending in person also had the opportunity to examine instructional materials and bone casts used in forensic anthropology training, which added an especially engaging hands-on component to the evening.

Our monthly meeting will be held **Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.** and will again be offered as a hybrid meeting. Members may attend in person at Room 114 in the Research & Education Building on the UNTHSC campus or join via Zoom. We are excited to welcome Kelton Sheridan presenting "*Indigenous Ceramics in Spanish Missions*." The program will explore Indigenous ceramic traditions associated with Spanish mission contexts and promises to be another excellent addition to what has already been a strong year of NTAS programming. Heads-up; looking forward: Our typical program does not include a meeting the month of June, and afterwards, expect a room change from where we typically meet due to some updates in our building. We look forward to seeing many of you there as we move into an increasingly busy summer season of archeology in Texas.

Alexandra Younger

May Speaker: Kelton Sheridan

Indigenous Ceramics in Spanish Missions

Ceramics are one of the most ubiquitous and enduring materials in the archaeological record. Yet their interpretive potential is often constrained by typological ambiguity and lack of standardized analysis. This talk presents findings from field- and collections-based analyses of bone-tempered pottery from Mission Espada and Rancho de las Cabras, two 18th century Spanish colonial sites in Central Texas. Bone tempered pottery appears across both precolonial and colonial contexts in the region. Through close analysis of ceramic production and use, I argue that the continued production of bone-tempered pottery reflects ways Indigenous communities navigated colonial encounters through everyday practices. This presentation highlights the role of ceramics in sustaining Indigenous lifeways under colonial conditions and outlines new directions for analyzing these ceramics.

Kelton Sheridan is a postdoctoral research fellow at Southern Methodist University in the Archaeology Research Collections and Anthropology Department.



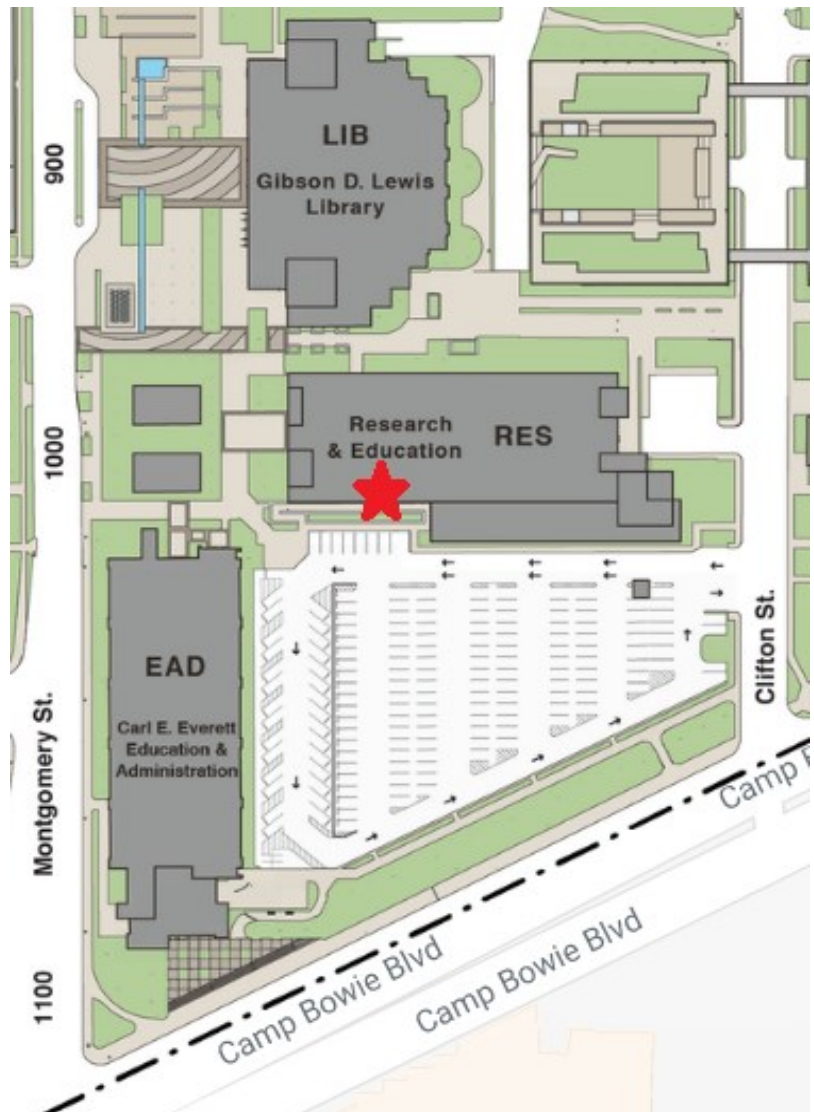


Sheridan completed her PhD in Anthropology and a portfolio in Native American and Indigenous Studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 2025. Her research centers on illuminating Indigenous histories in Texas using archaeological inquiry and community-based research and explores how ceramic analysis can trace long-term changes and continuities of Indigenous technological practices before and during colonialism. Sheridan is also a board member of Edwards Plateau Archaeological Research Group, a non-profit focused on education, preservation, and stewardship of Indigenous archaeological sites in Texas.

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.



Recent Updates

Jimmy Barrera

NTAS Tour of the Gault Site

A large crowd of NTAS members participated in the organized tour on March 14, 2026, at the Gault site located near Salado. Members were fortunate to have an excellent tour leader (Tim Brown) and enjoyed learning about this world-famous archeological site. The release of the documentary [The Stones are Speaking](#) has really brought public attention and interest to the Gault site as indicated by the over 125 people who were in other tour groups the same day.

Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNC&R)

The first NTAS site recording tutorial of 2026 was held March 21, 2026. Seven volunteers joined Brett Williamson, Tommy Standefer, and Jimmy Barrera to learn site recording at the FWNC&R. The team performed a site revisit to 41TR113 (Gravel Quarry site) to extend the boundary of this site and incorporate an area with an eroding precontact hearth feature and historic materials. Then the team recorded a newly discovered site, 41TR369 (Soil Map site), which is a late 19th to early 20th century farmstead. At 41TR369 the recorders were excited to discover precontact lithic tools, a chert core, burned rock, and mussel shell.

Then on March 28, 2026, NTAS had a booth at the annual Nature Con event. Five NTAS members volunteered for this booth: Jimmy Barrera, Steve Lowe, Tommy Standefer, Eric Weinberg, and Brett Williamson. Over 200 visitors stopped and engaged with NTAS about archeology. Many folks discussed archeology on their property and expressed interest in archeology programs. All around this was a tremendous engagement with the public for archeology. The FWNC&R staff expressed big thanks to NTAS for continuing to partner with the City of Fort Worth and help preserve and promote important resources.



Gault site interpretive panel.



NTAS volunteers on site 41TR369 (Soil Map site) at FWNC&R. Photo courtesy of Kayleana Ramirez Salazar and Lisa June Zealey.



Eric Weinberg volunteering at the Nature Con event.

41TRI30

April 25, 2026, another NTAS site recording tutorial was held at site 41TRI30 in Marion Sansom Park. Approximately 10 volunteers joined Ken Lawrence and Jimmy Barrera to learn site recording by updating the site record and boundary for site 41TRI30. The results from the radiocarbon samples came back from Northern Arizona University and unfortunately indicate that the two samples are contaminated (possibly modern petroleum contamination). Folks were able to enjoy learning site recording, radiocarbon dating, geoarcheology, and updating the archeological record for an important precontact site along the West Fork of the Trinity River.



Ken Lawrence leading tutorial on radiocarbon dating and geoarcheology at feature on 41TRI30 .



Trinity River waterfall at Marion Sansom Park near 41TRI30

SMU Lab Days

The lab days in March and April were well attended with folks working hands-on and helping preserve important collections housed in the SMU archeology lab. The TAS collections from the 1970s along with other SMU collections were the focus over the past couple of months. NTAS contributions help preserve these archeology collections, curate to long-lasting standards, and digitize data that researchers can now access.

Track upcoming SMU lab days via NTAS announcements, the NTAS newsletter, and by using the [NTAS calendar](#). The next SMU lab days are scheduled for May 30, June 27, and July 25.

Russell Farm Art Center

City of Burleson Parks and Recreation met NTAS during the Nature Con event and invited NTAS to visit one of their historic parks to discuss archeology. May 2, 2026, Jimmy Barrera, Scott Murphey (historic architect), Tommy Standefer, and Brett Williamson visited the Russell Farm Art Center. We were pleased to learn that the City of Burleson staff had also contacted the Gault School of Archaeological Research regarding a projectile point collection from around the historic property, the Russell Farm Art Center. This 1877 – 2012 historic park is open to the public and is an interesting property to learn about frontier life, historic architecture, and precontact archeology. Plans include a future NTAS site recording tutorial and archeology programs in partnership with the City of Burleson [Russell Farm Art Center](#).



Russell Farm Art Center

Archeological Events & Opportunities

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

SMU Lab Days

9am-5pm, May 30, June 27, July 25, 2026

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 the NTAS YouTube channel for Dr. Boulanger's [October NTAS presentation](#) on the good work being done at these lab days.

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 19 - *Historic Cattle Trails and America 250* by Ron Wilson

June 16 - *An Unexpected Triumph: Bernardo de Galvez in the American Revolution* by Richard McCaslin

July 21 - *Women on the Santa Fe Trail* - Michelle M. Martin

Library Summer Reading Program

Summer 2026

Garland, TX

NTAS is looking for a volunteer to present an archeological themed presentation for the South Garland Library during their Summer Reading Program. Date/time are TBD (will likely be around the May thru July timeframe). If interested, contact NTAS President [Alexandra Younger](#).

TAS Field School

June 7-13, 2026

Rockdale, TX

Registration is now open for the Texas Archeological Society Field School, one of the premier opportunities for hands-on archeological training in Texas. Participants gain experience in excavation, survey, lab work, and specialized training sessions.

TAS Annual Meeting

October 2-4, 2026

Denton, TX

NTAS will be hosting the Texas Archeological Society's 97th Annual Meeting at the Gateway Center on the University of North Texas campus in Denton. Planning is well underway, and we look forward to welcoming archaeologists from across Texas for a weekend of research presentations and professional exchange. Featured speakers will include Dr. C. Reid Ferring and Myles Miller. Additional details, including lodging options, will be announced soon.

Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology (Society for Historical Archaeology)

January 6-9, 2027

Austin, TX

Held at the Austin Marriott Downtown, this year's theme is "Reflections on the Power of Place." Click [here](#) for the online abstract submission system.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meetings

June - No Meeting (TAS Field School!)

July 9 - TBD

August 13 - Kara Fulton (Maya)

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 (2025) as well as all past volumes are available digitally to members and the public [here](#). Physical copies of all volumes are available for purchase on [Amazon](#).

Several major retailers include NTAS in their rewards programs.

There is no cost to you, but NTAS benefits from your shopping!

Simply let these retailers know (by following the instructions to the right) that you would like them to contribute a portion of the cost of your order to NTAS.

Help support NTAS by doing your regular shopping.

NTAS Shopping Reward Programs



Kroger Community Rewards

Register your Kroger Plus Card online by clicking on the link below. Then by searching for North Texas Archeological Society or entering our NPO number (AA920), you can link your Kroger Plus Card to NTAS. Every time you shop at Kroger and swipe your card, NTAS will receive a rebate based on your purchase.

<https://www.kroger.com/account/CommunityRewards>



Tom Thumb Good Neighbor

Link your Tom Thumb Reward card to our Good Neighbor Number (14232) and each time you use your card NTAS will receive 1% of your eligible purchases. Visit the store courtesy booth to link your card.



Amazon Smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to NTAS whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Just click on the link below and sign in with your regular Amazon account.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-2876464>

Early Call for Papers

Texas Archeological Society 97th Annual Meeting

Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for papers, symposia, workshops, panel discussions, and posters to be presented at the Texas Archeological Society 97th Annual Meeting, October 2-4, 2026, at the University of North Texas in Denton. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, academic, and professional archeologist members on any topic of archeological interest.

The organizing committee is planning for a series of regional and topical symposia. Consequently, time slots for papers and symposia will fill early. All presenters must be TAS members and be registered for the meeting. Papers will be limited to 15 minutes, a limit that will be strictly enforced. The deadline for receipt of paper abstracts is **August 3, 2026**.

Symposia may be organized around any topic, region, major project, and/or period. Each symposium will be allotted two hours per five presenters, with a five-presenter minimum. Due to scheduling concerns, symposium organizers must ensure that all abstracts for symposia and symposium papers meet an earlier deadline of July 15, 2026. For effective presentation of symposia, organizers may specify the order of papers and their length, if these points are stated in the symposium abstracts.

Members are encouraged to consider poster presentations as an alternative to papers. Poster presentations can effectively convey visual, graphic, and quantitative information, and generally reach a larger audience than oral papers. Posters will be wall-mounted, so no easels or rigid backing materials will be necessary. Appropriate mounting adhesives will be provided at the venue. Poster abstracts must be received by August 3, 2026, to appear in the program; late poster entries may be accommodated after consultation with the Program Co-Chairs.

Other presentation formats such as panel discussions, demonstrations, and workshops may be proposed for approval of the Program Co-Chairs and Annual Meeting organizers.

Submit all abstracts as files attached to email. Abstracts must include the following information: Paper/Symposium/Poster (indicate one); Title; Author(s) and Affiliation(s); and Abstract for each presentation (150 words maximum).

Meeting rooms will be equipped with projectors and laptop computers; additional audio-visual needs may be accommodated given prior notice. Contact the Program Co-Chairs with questions about submission dates, formats, and/or equipment. We look forward to your contributions to this meeting.

Christopher Goodmaster and Jimmy Barrera
TAS 97th Annual Meeting Program Co-Chairs
Email: am-programs@txarch.org

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!

Kevin Bonneau
 Melanie Bonneau
 Russ Gamber
 Kathy Jacobs
 Michael Lopez
 Bryan Powers
 Savanah Sundberg

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. Upcoming deadlines are listed below.

July Newsletter: June 25

August Newsletter: July 30

September Newsletter: August 27

October Newsletter: September 24

November Newsletter: October 29

December Newsletter: November 26

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.