

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

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

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Benchmark

Volume 39, Issue 9

October 2025

President's Message

Texas Archeology Month has officially begun! The North Texas Archeology Society will be a large presence at numerous **TAM** events across DFW in October and November. Members who want to volunteer or just come by to say "Hi" are encouraged to attend any of the upcoming events across the metroplex. These public affairs serve to highlight and honor Texas heritage and the important role archeology plays in the preservation of history through education and participation—a central mission of NTAS.

Don't worry if you missed last month's meeting. Ken Lawrence's presentation will soon be uploaded on our **YouTube channel**. Ken provided us with a neat discussion regarding chronometric gaps amongst a group of archeological sites within the Rio Grande Valley in southern Texas. Thank you to all of our members who joined us in person and on Zoom to hear Ken speak.

Thank you everyone who attended both Pinch Pot Kit assembly sessions led by our Publications Editor Molly Hall. She did a great job coordinating the effort this year as she has in years past and we are grateful. With that, we were ready for the first TAM event: Thank you to those who volunteered at the Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival on October 4. Katrina Nuncio organized another very successful



NTAS exhibit at the Doss Heritage & Culture Center. We look forward to hearing about all the connections that were made. If you could not attend Doss, NTAS has several more opportunities!

Charlene Erwin is the lead coordinator and ready to welcome any members who want to stop by, or bring a camp chair ready to engage folks at the **Grand Prairie Farmer's Market** on **October 18** (8am to 1pm). NTAS will be there to discuss archeology, hand out pinch pot kits, and make connections. We won't stop at October: **Denton Dig It!** and the **Plano Archeology Fair** are coming up **November 1** and **15**, respectively. Denton Dig It! has returned for a fourth year and has doubled in size! The blacksmith is returning, joined by more refined archeology topics and archaeol-

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www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

ogists, a flint-knapper, and a suite of heritage specialists from the Flower Mound Historical Commission. If you are available to participate (9am to 1pm) and want to see how it's grown, reach out to [Gen Freix](#). Plano's annual event has been a long standing tradition and always a unique experience. From excavation demonstrations to arts and crafts, and Native American guests, it is well received. Please reach out to [Allen Rutherford](#) to assist with the Plano Archeology Fair on **November 15** (9am to 3pm).

The NTAS Executive Committee just 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 upper limit if our membership wants to give more. If you would like to donate, please select "Texas Beyond History Campaign" on our donation form which can be found [here](#).

Just a reminder that our Wednesday October 8 meeting is being held on a different weekday than usual. Although we generally meet on second Thursdays, we wanted to ensure accommodation to the portion of our membership that are attending the 96th Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting that starts Friday, October 10. Texans are not strangers to lengthy cross-state drives, and we expect many folks will travel Thursday ahead of the conference. Your President will also be in attendance in McAllen, Texas to announce next year's location: Denton! NTAS will certainly be spearheading this auspicious occasion, and we welcome the challenge.

We are excited to host Dr. Matt Boulanger at our October meeting. We are pleased that he is our TAM presenter and offered to share with us an update on the SMU's Archaeology Research Collections rehabilitation project. As many of you know, NTAS has partnered with Dr. Boulanger to assist with outstanding curatorial updates to assemblages pertaining to the 1971 and 1972 TAS field schools. This partnership demonstrates the successful implementation of citizen science through a collaborative effort to bring archaeological collections up to standard and made available for research. Join us to hear him present his talk entitled, "Last Tango in Paris II: Citizen Science, the 1971–72 Texas Archaeological Society Field School Collections, and More." The Wednesday, October 8 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 3 for map). The meeting will start at 7pm and we look forward to seeing you in person at the UNTHSC or on Zoom for the hybrid meeting on October 8!

Alexandra Younger

October Speaker: Matthew T. Boulanger

Last Tango in Paris II: Citizen Science, the 1971–72 Texas Archaeological Society Field School Collections, and More

The 1971–1972 Texas Archaeological Society field schools, cohosted by Southern Methodist University, resulted in the identification of 230+ archaeological sites in Central Texas and partial excavation of several of these sites. Few of these sites were registered with the State of Texas. Poor curatorial practices—including lack of interest and support from sponsors—in intervening years have led to these collections being inaccessible for researchers and public alike. I discuss our effort to develop local partnerships aimed at creating hands-on collaborative relationships to increase public awareness of the curation crisis, and the, at times ugly, realities of archaeology. I argue that citizen-science programs are ideal ways to address strong public interest and curiosity about archaeology, while also addressing the mountainous backlog of projects and data on which institutions sit. Curatorial repositories must adopt direct public involvement as a primary objective if we wish (1) to address the backlog of basic work needed to bring our collections into use; and (2) to promote the relevancy of archaeology in the modern era.

I conclude with a brief summary of accomplishments and changes that have been underway at SMU's Archaeology Research Collections during the past two years, providing an update for NTAS members who

have not been able to attend, and to increase public awareness of the resources we would like to make available to the North Texas archaeological community.

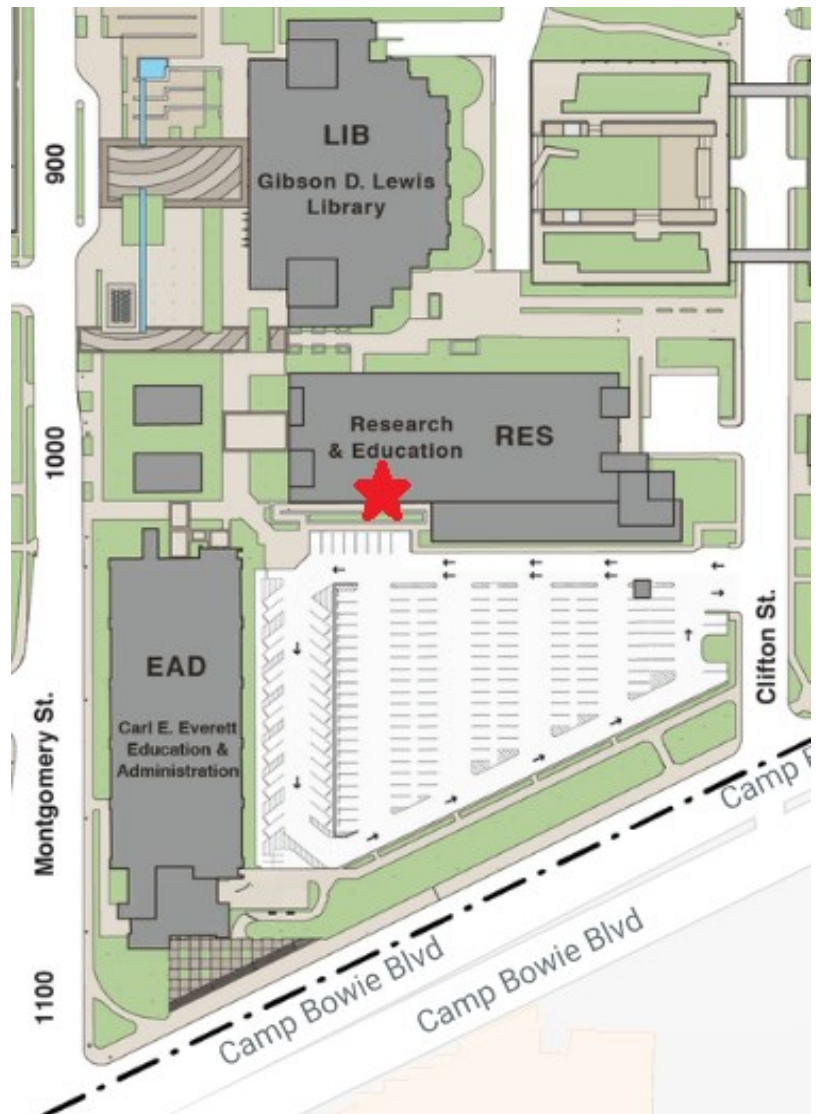
Matthew T. Boulanger is a Senior Lecturer and Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Southern Methodist University. He also serves as Director of the SMU Archaeology Research Collections. His research interests involve evolutionary theory, physical geography, landscape ecology, middle-range research, and geosciences, and big data in the study human behavior. He received BA from Luther College. He received both his MA and PhD, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Science, from the University of Missouri. Prior to joining SMU he was a Senior Research Specialist at the Missouri University Research Reactor. He has worked as a field and project archaeologist for CRM firms in the Midwest and in New England.



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.



On the Road: A Personal Contribution to the NTAS Archives

Charlene Erwin

Traveling to archeological sites is an activity that has engaged generations of Texas archeologists. Both the TAS Field Schools and the Annual Meetings have been held in locations near and far across Texas. This all-encompassing wanderlust may even be (pure speculation here) part of the DNA of this group. But these Texas-centric places aren't the only ones that attract and compel us to get on the road. Or to read about the exploits of those who are fortunate to experience first-hand ancient European and African sites.

For example, the January 1996 edition of the TCAS Benchmark, when Glynn Osburn served as the editor, is an excellent example of the depth of information provided to the membership. From the featured article, *Archeological Prospects in Somalia*, written by Arthur Michael Van Damme, to the announcement that Texas archeologist Larry Riemenschneider, whose topic is to be The Archeology of Northern Nuevo Leon, Mexico, will be the speaker at the February meeting, traveling, either in person or vicariously through the writings of others, is a tradition with us. This edition of *The Benchmark* is available online for download from the NTAS archives managed by University of Texas at Arlington.

In keeping with that tradition, and with a grateful heart, I offer the following personal photos of Pompeii. We all know the tragic history of the earthquake that erupted from the Vesuvius volcano in AD 79. Today, the sacred spaces that document the lives of the vibrant, sophisticated people who occupied Pompeii are still the site of archeological activity. To travel there was a goal—long-held but not achievable. Until this year, when members of my family agreed to accompany me.

Now you know a little of what caught the lens of my camera this year. **Please consider sharing a photo(s) from your own archeologically directed travel adventures with all of us. By doing that, you are continuing the traditions that unite the archeologically curious and helping to build our collected archival record.**



House of Octavius Quartio; Drainage Canal in Foreground



Exquisite Flooring Tiles



Soaring Columns

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.

October 21 - *Sand Creek Massacre* with Ray Sumner

November 18 - *Buffalo Bone Trade* with Keith Wondra

SMU Lab Days

9am-5pm, 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!

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. Connections made at these events promote archeology education and result in new memberships at NTAS! 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.

South-Central Conference on Mesoamerica

October 30-November 1, 2025

San Antonio, TX

The conference will include a keynote address and paper presentations.

Denton Dig It!

November 1, 2025

Denton, TX

Denton Dig It! is an event consisting 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.

Plano Archeology Fair

9am-3pm November 15, 2025

Plano, TX

NTAS will be at the Plano Archeology Fair at the Plano Conservancy from 9am-3pm on Saturday, November 15th. If you're interested in participating, please contact [Allen Rutherford](#).

31st East Texas Archeological Conference

February 28, 2026

Tyler, TX

The ETAC is hosted annually to bring together people interested in the archaeology and cultural heritage of east Texas.

Location: Main Lobby in the Soules College of Business at UT Tyler

Hours: 9am-4pm; registration begins at 8:30am

Fee: \$20 which includes lunch

Hotel: Homewood Suites, 3104 Golden Road, Tyler, TX. 903-593-7880 and mention East Texas Archeology for conference rates of \$116. Breakfast is included.

Call for Papers: We are now accepting submissions for research-based paper presentations for the 2026 ETAC. Topics should be related to the prehistoric and historic archeology of east Texas. Presentations will be 20 minutes long and should present original research. Deadline for submission is December 1, 2025. We ask for a title and a 100 word abstract. Abstracts and queries can be emailed to tguderjan@uttyler.edu or call 817-831-9011.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

November 13: Laura Short
December 13: Holiday Party
January 8: TBD

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!

Sarah Chester
 Tammy Derricks
 Anna E Gonzalez
 Sarah McCabe
 Emily Reed
 Eddie Weaver

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.

November Newsletter: October 30
 December Newsletter: November 28
 January Newsletter: December 25

February Newsletter: January 29
 March Newsletter: February 26
 April Newsletter: March 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.