

In lieu of a **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** meeting for **December** NTAS held a holiday party on December 7th.

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

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Benchmark

Volume 38, Issue 11

December 2024

President's Message

Hello, fellow NTAS members! Even as the year winds down, NTAS remains busy and active. Before I get into the recent goings-on, if you missed last month's meeting, it has been uploaded to [YouTube](#) and is also available on our [website](#). Current and former US Army Corps of Engineers archeologists Arlo McKee, Skipper Scott, and Jay Newman joined us to discuss the myriad of roles that the USACE plays in archeological research, permitting, and environmental regulation. It was a wonderful opportunity for our members to hear directly from them, particularly in light of ever-changing laws and regulations that impact archeological preservation. Please take an opportunity to watch the panel discussion if you have some time.

For those not already aware, the 2024 Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society is available digitally to our membership on the [website](#). If you'd like a printed copy you have until December 16th to get in touch with our [Publications Editor](#) to reserve a copy. The journal is also available for [purchase](#) on Amazon. A lot of time, effort, and maybe a little sweat and tears, went into publishing the journal. The final product is a wonderful testament to all the hard work of those involved and is a fitting tribute to its honoree, S. Alan Skinner. If you have not downloaded your copy yet, do so today!

NTAS completed another successful pledge drive for Texas Beyond History on December 1st. Total contributions from our membership added up to \$600! As a result of the generosity of our members, the NTAS Executive Committee voted on December 3rd to increase our original donation from \$250 to \$400 which means NTAS will donate \$1,000 to Texas Beyond History



in 2024. We appreciate everyone who donated, helped match, and then helped exceed our original donation and we thank all our members for helping support such a vital resource to Texas archeology.

I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to thank the NTAS Executive Committee for their kind words at our November meeting in commemoration of my last meeting as NTAS President. I would also like to thank the membership for their support and patience over the last two years as I attempted, sometimes fitfully, to expand into the role. The Texas archeological community is an open, kind, and welcoming one, and our NTAS members are a shining example of that. Words are a poor expression of my gratitude. Merry Christmas, and happy holidays, from me, Lauren, Rowan, and Frankie!

Allen Rutherford

Connect with NTAS:

www.facebook.com/NTXAS.org

www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

Parker County Recon

Jimmy Barrera

On November 16th NTAS members Jimmy Barrera, Steve Lowe, Chris Meis, and Art Tawater performed an archeological reconnaissance on a 700-acre ranch south of Weatherford in Parker County. The very welcoming and kind landowners showed the NTAS crew interesting historic sites and during the recon we identified a pre-contact site. The historic sites represent Parker County homestead sites dating as early as the 1850s (according to the landowners), an 1890s cemetery, and a historic stone wall. The pre-contact site appears to be an open campsite located along a named creek. The NTAS crew stayed gleeful through excellent weather and look forward to a continued relationship with these wonderful ranch owners. Hope this update inspires other NTAS members to share field, lab, writing, outreach, and other archeology updates. Thank you!



Chris Meis pointing to a limestone wall at a historic cellar.



Chris Meis identifying pre-contact materials during the recon.



A historic headstone with DStretch applied (RGB) to enhance the inscription.

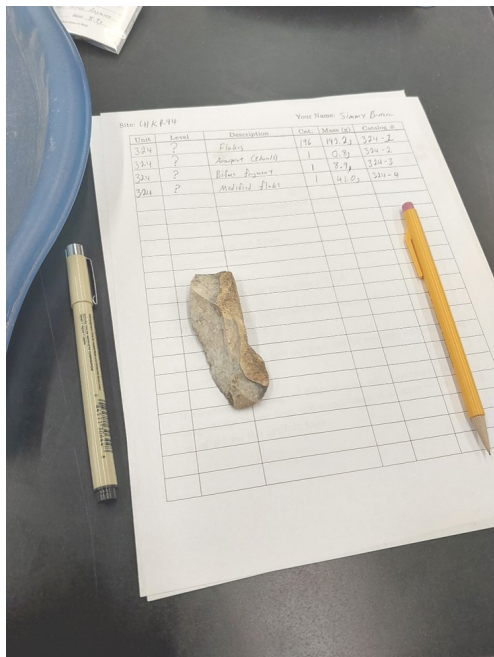


Historic stacked stone wall on the ranch.

NTAS at the SMU Lab

Jimmy Barrera

Once again SMU graciously hosted NTAS members for an excellent day of working at the Archaeology Research Collections lab. On November 23rd 11 NTAS members participated in rehabilitating collections housed in the lab from the 1971-1972 Texas Archeological Society field schools. Work focused on materials from site 41KR94. The lab crew continues to experience surprises like identifying arrowpoints mixed with debitage. SMU's lab director and our host, Dr. Matt Boulanger, is always so welcoming and provided snacks and coffee for everyone! The lab team enjoyed conversations on all sorts of archeology topics, and everyone enjoyed connecting and getting to know each other better.



Lab form and modified flake during cataloging.
Photo by Jimmy Barrera.



NTAS members having fun at SMU lab, from left: Carolyn Coughlin and Brian Luetchford.
Photo by Jimmy Barrera.



SMU Lab Day participants (left to right): Amanda Collins, Carolyn Coughlin, Dr. Matt Boulanger, Jimmy Barrera, Randie Debnar, Susan Bin, and Gen Friex. Photo by Brian Luetchford.



Charlene Erwin taking photos of projectile points.
Photo by Brian Luetchford.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

January 9th: Ryan Breslawski (TBD)

February 13th: TBD

March 13th: 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.

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

SMU Lab Days

Last Saturday of the Month 2025

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 3 of this issue and page 8 of October's newsletter for a summary of the work completed thus far.

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!](#)

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!

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!

Donna Otto

Donors

Texas Beyond History Campaign

Robert J. Lovett

Stephen Lowe

Charlene Erwin

James & Susan Everett

Anonymous

General Fund

Robert J. Lovett

Matthew Boulanger

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.

January Newsletter: December 26

February Newsletter: January 30

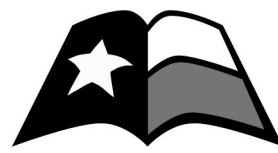
March Newsletter: February 27

April Newsletter: March 27

May Newsletter: April 24

July Newsletter: June 26

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Humanities Texas



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