

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

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

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Benchmark

Volume 39, Issue 8

September 2025

President's Message

Welcome, from the September newsletter! We are up to our elbows in activities which we will detail below. Those of you who attended our August meeting, thank you for coming, and a big thanks to Chris Ringstaff for sharing his super cool discussion of lithic sources and sites around Gault. If you weren't present, the good news is that his presentation will be uploaded on [YouTube](#). For our September 11 meeting, we are looking forward to hosting Ken Lawrence who, like our previous speaker, has been involved in the TAS Academies this year. Ken will be presenting chronometric interpretations pertaining to a group of sites in the Rio Grande valley: "Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics along the Rio Grande in Southern Texas."

If you missed out on the first Pinch Pot Kit making session on September 6, you have another chance to join Session II that will be held concurrently with the SMU Lab session on September 27. Open Laboratory Day hosted by SMU is **9 am to 5 pm**. For more information, please contact [Brian Luetchford](#). The Pinch Pot Kit making Session II is **9 am to 12 pm**. Reach out to our publications Editor, [Molly Hall](#). NTAS is assisting the Texas Historical Commis-



sion as a North Texas distribution hub for the kits, so let's make sure we are ready to distribute many to our NTX communities.

As far as TAM events go, our membership has been blessed with options!

Participate in the [Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival](#), which is held annually at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center in Weatherford. This year's festival will be held **10 am-4 pm on Saturday, October 4**. Participants should bring their own camp chair and wear NTAS apparel. Expect to see up to 3,000 people and potential new North Texas Archeological Society members. Please consider volunteering and if you'd like more information, contact [Katri-](#)

Connect with NTAS:

[facebook.com/NTXAS.org](https://www.facebook.com/NTXAS.org)

www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

[na Nuncio](#). Maybe that's not the ideal side of the metroplex for you but you want to come out. NTAS will also be at the [Grand Prairie Farmer's Market](#) from **8 am-1 pm on Saturday, October 18**. Please reach out to [Charlene Erwin](#) to assist.

We are looking for volunteers and a coordinator for the Ick or Treat 2025 with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. Their career day sounds like a lot of fun (*Barbie: You Can Be Anything* and *DC Super Heroes* theme)! It will be over the weekend: **Saturday (10 am – 2 pm) and Sunday (12 – 4 pm), October 18-19**. Email [Alexandra Younger](#) if you want to be our coordinator or simply (*dress up*) show up and pass out flyers with spooky candy! It's a great opportunity to bring your Indiana Jones and Lara Croft costumes out of the closet. You know who you are!

Volunteers can participate in Denton Dig-It! once again, held on **Saturday, November 1, 9 am to 1 pm** at the Denton weekend [Community Market](#). I recommend once again to bring a chair and any NTAS apparel you own. Please contact [Gen Freix](#) for more information. Two weeks following in Plano, NTAS will be at the [Plano Archeology Fair](#) hosted by the Plano Conservancy from **9 am-3 pm on Saturday, November 15**. If you're interested in participating, please contact [Allen Rutherford](#).

As you can see, there is something, somewhere, for all y'all. I also encourage the many new student members to please come, regardless of your background, and get to know your fellow members and work on those networking chops. There's so much potential for unique connections. We'd love to get to know you and hear about your aspirations.

Regarding next year's TAS Annual Meeting (Denton, Texas), the Local Arrangements Committee is coming together – thanks to those who have enthusiastically stepped up. Remaining positions on the LAC: Treasurer, Silent Auction Coordinator, Book/Exhibit Room Monitors, Session Monitors, and general volunteers/helpers. Please reach out to [Alexandra Younger](#) if you are interested in serving in some capacity.

Our monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting in person and on Zoom, located at 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 September 11!

Alexandra Younger

September Speaker: Ken Lawrence

Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics along the Rio Grande in southern Texas

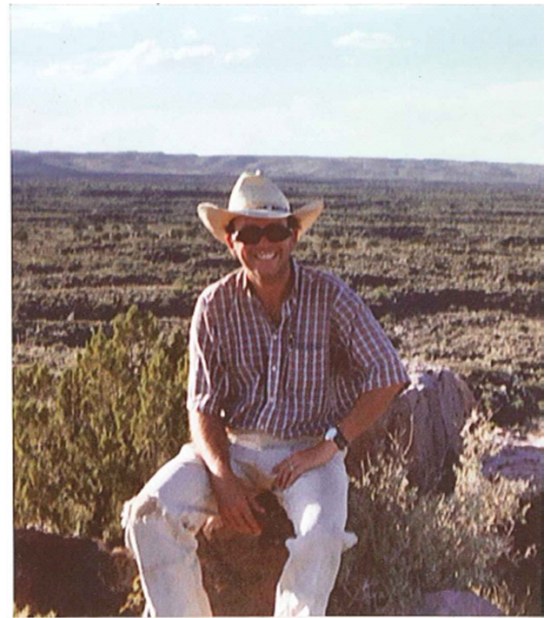
Recently data recovery excavations were conducted at 41SR462 (Merdivaya Site), a stratified site on the Arroyo Los Olmos drainage in Starr County, Texas for TxDOT. Among the discoveries at the site, some peculiar gaps in the chronological record were encountered. These temporal gaps, roughly between 2.5–1.5k BP, had also been observed at other Starr County archaeological sites (41SR242 and 41SR459) during previous data recovery excavations. These data in and of themselves could not realistically be considered in broader temporal patterns. However, this possible 'hiatus' did stimulate some thought as to how prevalent it may be and a review of previous investigations and collected radiocarbon assays in the region was performed.

This presentation will discuss the results of this heuristic effort and the attempt to contextualize the cultural chronometric data of 41SR462 and generally determine how prevalent recognized cultural activities were through time along the Rio Grande of southern Texas.

Ken Lawrence is Principal Investigator-Geoarchaeologist and Project Manager for the Cultural Resources Division in SWCA's Austin office, specializing in prehistoric archaeology and geoarchaeology. His experience includes over 30 years of cultural resources surveying, recording, monitoring, and excavation

throughout Texas and Oklahoma as well as Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Costa Rica. He also has experience in geoarchaeological research, chronometric modeling, and associated laboratory analyses. With extensive writing experience, he has authored and co-authored numerous archaeological reports, geomorphic assessments, and geoarchaeological reports.

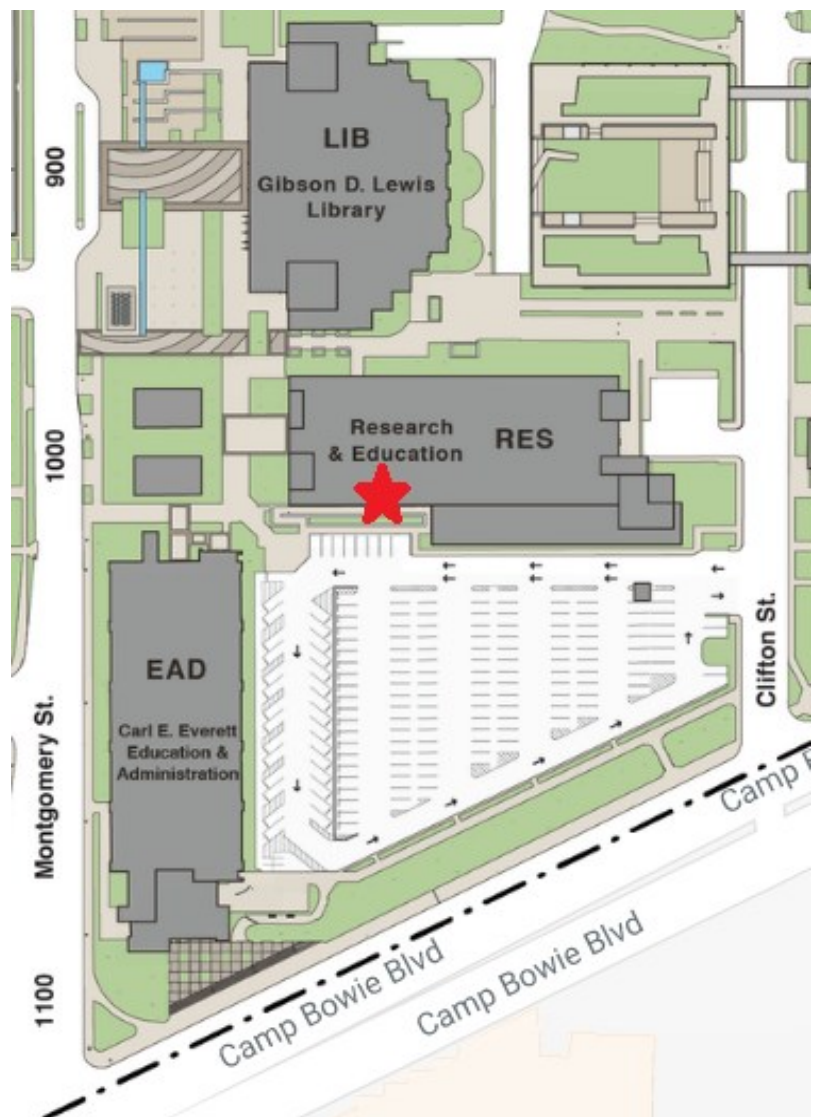
Ken is also a proud longtime member of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) and serves as the chairperson for the TAS Academy Committee. He also frequently collaborates with colleagues on research projects in the region in both professional and avocational efforts and thoroughly enjoys each new adventure and learning opportunity.



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.



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.

September 16 - *Fort Worth Mexican American History* with Peter Martinez

October 21 - *Sand Creek Massacre* with Ray Sumner

November 18 - *Buffalo Bone Trade* with Keith Wondra

SMU Lab Days

9am-5pm, Sept 27, 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!

Joe Reed Site Excavation Day

September 20, 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.

Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session II

9am-12pm, September 27, 2025

Dallas, TX

It's pinch-pot kit making season! NTAS received materials from the Texas Historical Commission to make pinch-pot kits to hand out (typically to kids) during the numerous Texas Archeology Month (TAM) events in which NTAS is participating. NTAS will need to make 1,400 kits (if not more!) to be handed out by NTAS members this year. The September 27th session will be in Dallas at **Southern Methodist University**. The event will correlate with an SMU lab day (see event above).

****The September 6 Pinch-Pot Kit making session in Fort Worth resulted in 695 kits — join us in Dallas and see if we can beat that record!!!****

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.

Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival

10am-4pm, October 4, 2025

Weatherford, TX

NTAS will be at the Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival at the Doss Heritage & Culture Center in Weatherford from 10am-4pm on Saturday, October 4th. Participants should bring their own camp chair and wear NTAS apparel. If you're interested in participating, please contact [Katrina Nuncio](#).

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. The connections we make at events like this help people learn about archeology and the individuals with whom we speak often end up joining a society. 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.

Denton Dig It!**November 1, 2025**

Denton, TX

Denton Dig It! is an event with lots 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](#).

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers**October 8 (note this is a Wednesday evening): Matt Boulanger****November 13: Laura Short****December 13: Holiday Party****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!

Paul Ayres
Atticus Broadbent
Mayra Diaz
Sean Estrada
Majay Jackson
Yasmin Jackson
Will Ryan
Elena Stephens
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.

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

January Newsletter: December 25
February Newsletter: January 29
March Newsletter: February 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.