



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

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

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# Benchmark

Volume 38, Issue 7

August 2024

## President's Message

The dog days of August have arrived which means a lot of ice cream, splash pads, and movie nights in the air conditioning in the O'Brien-Rutherford household. I hope you all are staying cool out there in your own favorite ways. Speaking of cool (of a different variety), we really enjoyed having Dr. Robyn Dodge present her research to us last month. It was a wonderful reminder of the type of excellent research that arises from collaboration between archeologists. If you missed her presentation, it is available on our [YouTube channel](#). This month we are excited to welcome Amy Bluemel, a member of the Chickasaw Nation, whose presentation is entitled "From Moundbuilders to Chickasaws: History, Language, and Stories of the Southern Native Americans". Amy was recently awarded a [Bulbancha Residency](#) by A Studio in the Woods and in 2023 was awarded the Coleen Salley Storytelling Award by the University of Southern Mississippi. If you would like to learn more about Amy, please visit her [website](#).

NTAS has an exciting couple of months ahead with a variety of volunteer opportunities leading into a very busy Texas Archeology Month (TAM). Dana Ritchie will be hosting workdays at the Joe Reed site in August. If you are interested in participating, please contact [Dana](#). The next SMU lab day will be held on *Saturday, August 31*



from 9am-5pm. While the focus has been on curating materials from 1970s TAS Field Schools, you never know when a bison that needs washing will land on their doorstep! NTAS will once again participate in "Texas! Can You Dig It?" at the Gainesville Travel Information Center on *Friday, September 6 from 10am-1pm*. If you would like to volunteer, please contact [Allen Rutherford](#).

In preparation for TAM, NTAS is holding a Pinch Pot Kit making session on *Saturday, September 14 from 9-11am*. NTAS is assisting the Texas Historical Commission by being a North Texas distribution hub for Pinch Pot Kits, so this is a very important event to make sure our Pinch Pot Kit coffers are full. Please contact [Molly Hall](#) to RSVP. We are still looking for volunteers to participate in the

## Connect with NTAS:

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

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

For general inquiries, please contact [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)

**North Texas Archeological Society**

Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival which is held annually at the Doss Heritage and Cultural Center. This year's festival will be held *October 5 from 9am (setup) to 5pm*. Those who volunteer will have an opportunity to have a free lunch *and* meet and greet up to 3,000 people who I'm certain will be thrilled to hear about all the things the North Texas Archeological Society is up to. Please consider volunteering and if you'd like more information, contact [Katrina Nuncio](#).

We are also looking for volunteers to participate in Denton Dig It which will be held on *October 12* in Denton. As with the Doss, Denton Dig It will be an all-day event with lots and lots of opportunities to discuss archeology with the public. We will have a selection of hands-on activities and will share space with the Denton Farmer's Market which has wonderful food and other local goods. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [Gen Freix](#) for more information. This year, for the first time, NTAS will have a booth at the Grand Prairie Farmers Market on *Saturday, October 19*. Thanks so much to Charlene Erwin for identifying and organizing that event for NTAS. If you would like more information please contact [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org).

Here at NTAS we like to consider ourselves very fashionable. As such, we are offering our membership the opportunity to buy new t-shirts! A big thank you to Gwen Durrant for organizing this opportunity. We will be taking orders through *September 1, 2024*. Orders will be shipped directly to you around September 18, in time for Texas Archeology Month events! Shirts are \$9.42 each plus sales tax and \$9.95 s/h per order. The more you order, the better the value! Please follow this [link](#) for ordering details.

Registration is open for the [TAS Annual Meeting in Victoria](#). There has already been a call for papers, posters, and symposiums, the deadline for all of which is *September 15*. A general reminder that NTAS offers scholarships for the annual meeting and the applications are open to anyone who would like to [apply](#). So, if you, or someone you know, would like to attend the annual meeting and need some support to do so, please apply today. It's never too early to apply!

The August 8<sup>th</sup> 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 parking lot immediately adjacent to the meeting room was closed in July. We do not know if those conditions will be the same in August, but there are plenty of parking garages around the building that are open during our meeting time. 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 August 8<sup>th</sup>!

**Allen Rutherford**

## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

**September 12th: David Kilby (Bonfire Shelter)**  
**October 10th: Alex Younger (Washington on the Brazos)**  
**November 14th: USACE Archeologists Panel Discussion**

## An Evening with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Archeologists

**Allen Rutherford**

Current and former USACE archeologists are scheduled to participate in a panel discussion at the November 14, 2024 NTAS meeting. In advance of this program we want to ask the membership to consider and submit (to [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)) discussion topics on the [USACE](#), and especially the role USACE archeologists play in protecting and managing archeological resources. Having these discussion topics in advance of the November meeting will help guide the program, which will be a panel discussion with the NTAS membership as opposed to a set presentation. We look forward to receiving your discussion topics and questions and to hosting Arlo McKee, Skipper Scott, Jay Newman, and others on November 14!



## August Speaker: Amy Bluemel

### *From Moundbuilders to Chickasaws: History, Language, and Stories of the Southern Native Americans*

Amy will present in her regalia while sharing stories, language, history, and culture of the Chickasaw Nation.

As the great-granddaughter of Eastman Kaney (an original Dawes Commission enrollee), **Amy Bluemel** is a proud member of the Chickasaw Nation. She is an award-winning storyteller and educator, artist, and stomp dancer.

Her appreciation for cultural awareness came at an early age. She was raised in a military family; she lived in Germany, Okinawa, Turkey, and Scotland before returning to her Chickasaw roots in America.

Amy is the 2023 recipient of the Coleen Salley Storytelling Award, for her commitment to the art of storytelling, from The University of Southern Mississippi. She shares Chickasaw and Southeastern tribal customs with audiences of all ages through lively programs at schools, museums, libraries, and festivals across the country. She also performs with the dance troupe Chikashsha Hithla at events and festivals around the nation.

Amy is an accomplished artist. Her artwork is sold at several museums and stores, and she sells her creations at powwows and festivals throughout the United States. She was also one of 36 Native American artists chosen to show and sell her art at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, Native American Art Market in Washington DC in 2019.

Amy lives in Austin Texas with her husband Carl, and a houseful of pets. She has two daughters who have also taken to Chickasaw culture and stomp dance.



## Art & War in the Renaissance at the Kimbell

### **Charlene Erwin**

I took this photo at the Kimbell, where the [Art & War in the Renaissance](#) exhibit features The Battle of Pavia Tapestries. The battle was fought on February 24, 1525. The tapestries, constructed with gold, silver and silk threads, from 1528-1531, are truly a unique collection. The beautifully ornate Farnese Armory arms and armor provide a sense of the immense difficulties experienced by those on the battlefields. Seeing these pieces together strengthens the impact of the exhibit, which is only at the Kimbell until September 15th. Attending this exhibit deserves to be on every "to do" list.



## 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.



## NEW — NTAS T-shirts!!!

Order a new NTAS T-shirt!

We will be taking orders (via Custom Ink) through September 1.

Orders will be shipped directly to you around September 18, in time for Texas Archeology Month events!

Shirts are \$9.42 each, plus sales tax and \$9.95 s/h per order.

Place your order today:

<https://www.customink.com/go/jyg0-00cv-zk9a>



## Archeological Events & Opportunities

### **Fort Worth Westerners Zoom Programs**

**Third Tuesday of the Month**

Zoom

If you are not a FW Westerner member, click [here](#) to request access to the zoom meetings as a guest.

August 20 - *From the Reservation to Washington: The Rise of Charles Curtis*

by author Deb Goodrich, Director, Fort Wallace Museum, Wallace, KS

October 15 - *On a Mission: The Real Story of the California Missions*

by author Janet Dowling Sands

### **SMU Lab Days**

**9am-5pm, Last Saturday of Each Month**

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](#).

### **THC Webinar — Stopping Stones:**

**10-11am, August 21, 2024**

### **Honoring Enslaved Ancestors at Log Cabin Village in Fort Worth, Texas**

Online

In 2023, Log Cabin Village honored the lives of two individuals enslaved at the Port Sullivan Plantation Home that today serves as the Village's main entrance and museum store. During this webinar, Village staff Rena Lawrence and Shae Nawoj, will share the research that led to the installation of two memorial Stopping Stones and the ways such efforts can be used to tell the stories of our enslaved ancestors in a meaningful and relevant way.

### **Texas! Can You Dig It?**

**10am-1pm, September 6, 2024**

Gainesville, TX

NTAS will once again participate in TxDOT's "Texas! Can You Dig It?" event at the Texas Travel Information Center in Gainesville on Friday, September 6 from 10am-1pm. We are looking for some volunteers to help staff the table and engage with the public about archeology and NTAS. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact [Allen Rutherford](#).

### **Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session**

**9am-11am, September 14, 2024**

Richardson, TX

It's pinch-pot kit making season! NTAS has materials from the Texas Historical Commission to make 500 pinch-pot kits to hand out (typically to kids) during the numerous Texas Archeology Month (TAM) events in which NTAS is participating. The kits will be made at AR Consultants, Inc.'s office in Richardson. Please let Molly Hall ([publicationseditor@ntxas.org](mailto:publicationseditor@ntxas.org)) know if you plan to attend. She will send out exact location details closer to the date of the event.

### **Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival**

**9am-5pm, October 5, 2024**

Weatherford, TX

NTAS is looking for volunteers for this year's festival with set up starting at 9am and the event going until 5pm. Those who volunteer will have an opportunity to have a free lunch and meet and greet up to 3,000 people who will be thrilled to hear about all the things the North Texas Archeological Society is up to. Please consider volunteering and if you'd like more information, contact [Katrina Nuncio](#).



**Denton Dig It!****October 12, 2024**

Denton, TX

Denton Dig It! is an all-day event with lots and lots of opportunities to discuss archeology with the public. We will have a selection of hands-on activities and will share space with the Denton Farmer's Market which has wonderful food and other local goods. If you are interested in volunteering please contact [Gen Freix](#) for more information.

**Grand Prairie Farmers Market****October 19, 2024**

Denton, TX

This year, for the first time, NTAS will have a booth at the Grand Prairie Farmers Market. Thanks so much to Charlene Erwin for identifying and organizing this event for NTAS. If you would like more information please contact [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org).

**95th TAS Annual Meeting****October 25-27, 2024**

Victoria, TX

The Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB) at Victoria College and the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) are official hosts for the 95th TAS Annual Meeting. Guest speakers will be Texas' State Archeologist Dr. Brad Jones for the Friday Public Forum and Dr. Leland C. Bement, Senior Researcher at the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey at the University of Oklahoma, for the Saturday evening Banquet.

**NTAS scholarships are now available to -ANYONE- who applies for TAS Academies, the TAS Field School, or the annual TAS 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 (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

☐ 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](mailto:publicationseeditor@ntxas.org)) or Secretary ([secretary@ntxas.org](mailto: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!

Elizabeth Bittner  
Danielle Julien

## Donors

*Anonymous (Sponsored Student Membership Fund)*

## 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.

September Newsletter: August 29  
October Newsletter: September 26  
November Newsletter: October 31

December Newsletter: November 28  
January Newsletter: December 26  
February Newsletter: January 30

This program is supported in part by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
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HUMANITIES

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