

Benchmark

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December 2019

The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** will have their annual **Holiday Party on December 14th** (see **Page 2** for details).

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

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President's Message

In last month's newsletter, I briefly discussed the public education activities provided by NTAS members at the October 5 Pioneer Heritage Fest at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center. Just recently, the Doss released figures showing that 631 visitors attended that event. It is significant that NTAS was able to interact with so many North Texas residents at the Pioneer Heritage Fest, and we now look forward to our third involvement with that event next year.

On Nov 23, NTAS members again assisted with important events that contributed to public education, as shown in several photos in this newsletter. At the Perot Museum's "A Day in the Life: Archaeologist", 13 NTAS volunteers helped people who are considering a possible career in archeology to experience archeological activities and begin to develop needed skills. At Dinosaur Valley State Park, five NTAS volunteers interacted with 120 park visitors, showing them how to throw darts using atlatls, demonstrating how to flint knap, answering questions following an NTAS presentation on local Native American cultures, and identifying artifacts. We look forward to additional opportu-



James Everett, President

nities to work with the Perot Museum and with Dinosaur Valley in the future.

As 2019 winds to a close, NTAS continues to grow. We currently have 139 memberships representing at least 173 individuals. Congratulations to all of our members. In 2020, let's continue our growth in numbers while we increase our efforts to add to our own knowledge of and educate the public about archeology.

For now, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!!!



Connect with NTAS:

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

www.NTXAS.org

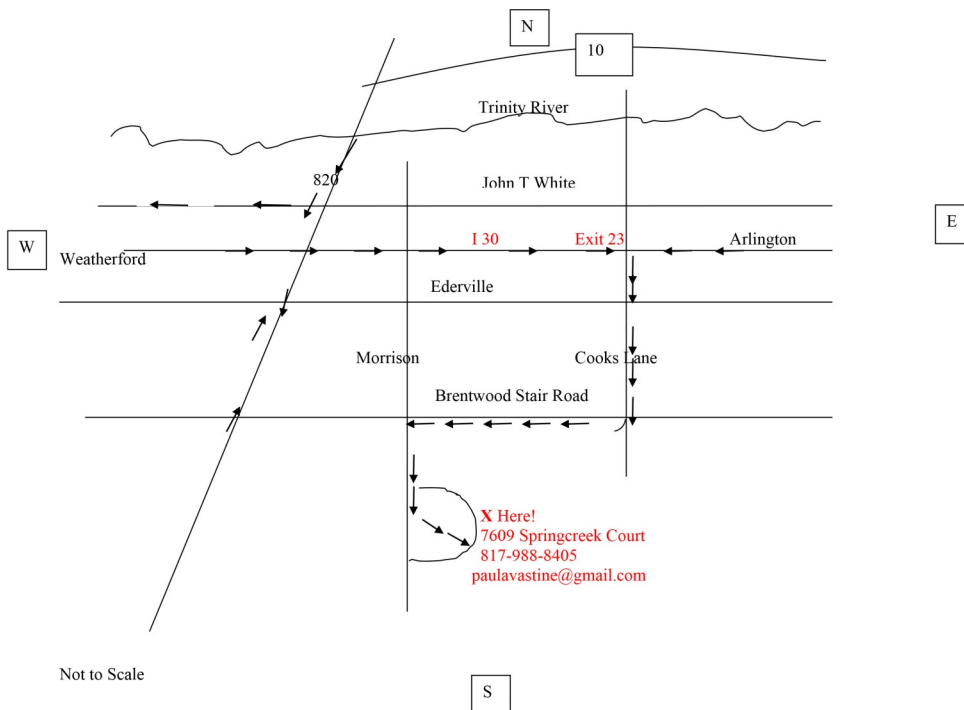
info@ntxas.org

NTAS December Holiday Party

When: December 14th, 6:30 pm
Where: Home of Paula Vastine
 7609 Springcreek Court, Fort Worth
 (If lost, call 817-988-8405)
 See map below: Exit 23, Cook's Lane, from I-30

Bring: A dish and/or drinks to share with the group
 An archeologically-related gift (e.g., trowels, books, line levels, alcohol) to exchange. \$20.00 limit suggested. Gifts should be suitable for either males or females. No gag gifts, please. Participation in the gift exchange is voluntary.

Canned goods to donate to the North Texas Food Bank



Update Your Calendar - 2020 NTAS Monthly Meeting Dates

January 9
February 13
March 12
April 9

May 14
June—no meeting
July 9
August 13

September 10
October 8
November 12
December 12—party

Welcome New NTAS Members:

Savanah Neal-McCraw Dave Gleason Emily Garza Christian Crowder
 Patrick Emmons Cameryn Shady Jordan Moody

Hunters, Gatherers, and Cooking History Event at Dinosaur Valley State Park

Photos courtesy of James and Susan Everett



**Ewan Edwards and Susan Everett
at the NTAS banner**



**Marvin Glasgow demonstrates
flint knapping**



**James Everett and Marvin Glasgow
instruct visitors in the use of atlatls**

Newberry Cabin Excavation Is Nearing Completion

by Katrina Nuncio

On Friday, November 15, a total of fourteen people met at the Newberry Cabin to work on the first excavation at this site since last spring. From NTAS there was Gen Freix, Lori Gouge, Chris Meis, Art Tawater, Mike Shannon, Vinnie Ramos, myself, and two new student members, Cameryn Shady and Jordan Moody. Five of the eight students enrolled in my Weatherford College Introduction to Archeology class were present for their very first experience excavating. The weather forecast had predicted a very cold start to the day but the temperature warmed up to a very comfortable short sleeve t-shirt kind of day.



We set up four 1x1 meter units in the area that would have been under and just outside the edge of the front porch. I had hoped this area would prove to be productive for the students and it was. Nothing is more boring than digging in a sterile environment and I was so hoping this wouldn't be the case for my students. As usual, everybody was finding lots of glass fragments and unidentifiable pieces of rusty metal. The unusual artifacts we found were some unique buttons along with, not one, but two Shield nickels. A hole had been drilled in one of them so it was probably worn as a pendant by one of the family members that previously lived there.

This type of nickel was the first five-cent piece to be made out of copper-nickel in the United States. This is the same alloy that American nickels are made from today. The Shield nickel was designed by James B. Longacre and was minted from 1866 until 1933. The coin's name comes from its motif and was the first five cent coin referred to as a "nickel." Silver pieces of this denomination had previously been referred to as half dimes. Our age estimate of the Newberry Cabin has been in the 1870s, so these two nickels fall right into this time frame. The dates on our two nickels are hard to read as they need to be cleaned up, but I did attach a picture of both the front and back of the cleanest coin. If you want to know more about Shield nickels there is a great deal of information on Google.

If the weather cooperates, I have another excavation day scheduled for Friday, December 6, from 10:00 am until around 2:00 pm. Of course, NTAS members may come and go as needed. If the weather doesn't cooperate, I will move the event to the Doss Heritage and Culture Museum, and we will analyze previously excavated artifacts. An all-member email will be sent out at the beginning of that week as a reminder, and directions can be requested at that time.

I may schedule one more excavation day for the Newberry Cabin, but that will be determined by how much we accomplish on December 6. At some point, the newer cabin that was attached to the Newberry Cabin will be torn down and I will schedule an excavation day once we can access the area underneath this cabin.

As always, many thanks to everyone who has assisted with this project.



A Day in the Life: Archaeologist—A Perot Museum Event

Explore different methods and tools of the trade with North Texas Archeological Society as you investigate, test, and study objects, artifacts, and materials that may be found at a dig site.

-From the Event Schedule

**Dana Ritchie and Richard Dennis
volunteering at the mock dig
(photo courtesy of Chris Meis)**



NTAS volunteers at the Perot's "A Day in the Life: Archaeologist" (photo courtesy of Bill Perdue)

TAS Calendars for Sale

Gen Freix will have 2020 TAS calendars for sale at the January NTAS meeting. They are \$10 and feature photos from the 2019 TAS field school taken by TAS members.

If you would like one sooner than that, you can contact Gen via email: gfreix3@gmail.com.

TAS Geoarcheology Academy

When: February 15-16, 2020

Where: Victoria College

Cost: \$100 (and TAS membership)

This two-day Texas Archeology Academy explores how geological and soil formation processes affect archeological sites, and how investigators use this information to reconstruct both the human and natural histories of an area. Learning to record and interpret soil profiles can illuminate both how a site was used by people and how people responded to changes in the natural environment. This Academy will include instruction, laboratory exercises, and field trips. Both presenters (Dr. Charles Frederick and Karl Kibler) are experienced geoarcheologists. The cost includes two days of instruction, refreshments, lunch, and a digital manual.

TAS Ceramics Academy

When: March 28-29, 2020

Where: Fort Concho National Historic Landmark

Cost: \$100 (and TAS membership)

This two-day Texas Archeology Academy provides a comprehensive background and understanding of prehistoric and historic ceramics from archeological sites. Expect a hands-on learning environment! In this workshop you will learn how pottery is made and used, how pottery reflects cultural traditions, and how archeologists use the ceramic data to understand the people and their past lifeways. Participants will learn to recognize and sort sherds to answer questions about ancient lifeways. Presenters include Dr. Chris Lintz, Marybeth Tomka, and Becky Shelton. The cost includes two days of instruction, refreshments, lunch, and a digital manual.

TAS Archeology 101 Academy

When: May 1-3, 2020

Where: San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

Cost: \$100 (and TAS membership)

This three-day Texas Archeology Academy introduces the field of archeology and provides each participant with the tools to identify, assess, and record an archeological site. Instruction will include identifying archeological sites, mapping visible remains, analyzing evidence, reporting finds, and protecting our heritage from destruction. This Academy will include instruction and laboratory exercises led by Dr. John Lohse and a day of field excavations at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. Dr. Sarah Chesney, archeologist at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site will be the Principal Investigator for Sunday's excavations. The cost includes two days of instruction, refreshments, lunch, and a digital manual.

See the TAS website for more details and to register: <https://www.txarch.org/tas-academies>

Scholarships are available from TAS and NTAS via their websites

Save the Date — More Info to Come

February 8, 2020 — Bell County Museum, Gault Site/Gault School
SAA Annual Meeting — April 22-26, 2020, Austin

NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

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Three easy and quick ways to pay your 2019 NTAS dues!

By PayPal: Complete the Application Form and pay online with PayPal at the NTAS website, ntxas.org/membership

By mail: Complete the application below and mail it with your check to:
North Texas Arch Society, PO Box 24679, Fort Worth, TX 76124

In person: Give your dues and completed application to James Everett at the monthly meeting.

December 2019 NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Preferred Phone _____

City\State\Zip _____ Email Address _____

Emergency Contact(s): Please provide the following information regarding the individual(s) from whom we can request or to whom we may provide information in the event of an emergency. Please consider listing at least one contact who does not live at your residence.

Primary Contact Name _____ Alternate Contact Name _____

Relationship _____ Relationship _____

Phone Number _____ Phone Number _____

I want my newsletter delivered by _____ email (\$0) or _____ by USPS mail. (\$10) **Thank you** for choosing delivery by email.

Membership Type & Fees (Membership Term: January to December)

New Individual \$20 USPS Mail Delivery \$10
 Renewal Family \$25 Optional Memorial Fund Contribution
 Student \$10 (*enrolled in grade school through college/university whose coursework is considered to be half time or more*)
 Contributing \$30

****Please make checks payable to NTAS****

Code of Ethics (signature required): I PLEDGE THAT I 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 UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY.

Signature _____ Date _____