

Benchmark

Volume 34, Issue 1

January 2020

The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** will welcome **Drew Sitters** as the featured speaker for the **January 9th** meeting (see **Page 2** for details).

NTAS meetings are **free** and visitors are always welcome (see **Page 3** for the location and directions).

President's Message

The most significant NTAS event in December was our annual Christmas Party, and I will allow the pictures below and elsewhere in this newsletter to tell most of the story about this year's gathering. One photo I want to comment on shows the NTAS Board members who attended the party. I want to thank the Board members who are in the photograph plus Molly Hall, our newsletter editor and Lloyd Erwin, our Secretary, for providing the leadership to make 2019 such a successful year.

Another picture from the party is a photo of Paula Vastine, who has graciously opened her home to NTAS members for our Christmas Party year after year. On behalf of the 50 NTAS members who attended this



James Everett, President

year's party, I sincerely thank you, Paula, for your ongoing hospitality.

The smiles on the faces of the members pictured in the remaining photos clearly show how much they enjoyed the celebration. It was a great ending for 2019 and a wonderful beginning for 2020.

Happy 2020 everyone!

Inside this issue:

January Speaker Drew Sitters & Murrah Cave	2
Monthly Meetings Location & News	3
Holiday Party Highlights	4-6
Texas Archeology Events	7
2019 Financial Summary	8
Membership & Society Info	9



*Back Row: Bryan Jameson, Chris Meis, James Everett
Front Row: Gen Freix, Catrina Banks Whitley, Linda Lang and Dana Ritchie*

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www.NTXAS.org

info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

January Speaker: Drew Sitters

The Murrah Cave Collection: A Rockshelter in Val Verde County, Texas

In 1937, Dr. William Curry Holden, then professor at Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University), led an expedition south into Val Verde County, Texas, to excavate a pristine rockshelter known as Murrah Cave. Situated high above the Pecos River, Murrah Cave remained hidden from looters and the elements lending to its phenomenal preservation of perishable cultural remains. While Dr. Holden's field records have been lost, the artifact collection provides valuable insight into the lives of site occupants dating from the Early Archaic through the Late Prehistoric period. Clay figurines, cactus spine fishhooks, and a leather loin cloth are just a few of the items recovered during the 1937 excavations. This presentation provides a glimpse into the Murrah Cave collection and offers possible avenues of research that, despite a lack of provenance, can still contribute to our understanding of prehistoric life in the Lower Pecos.

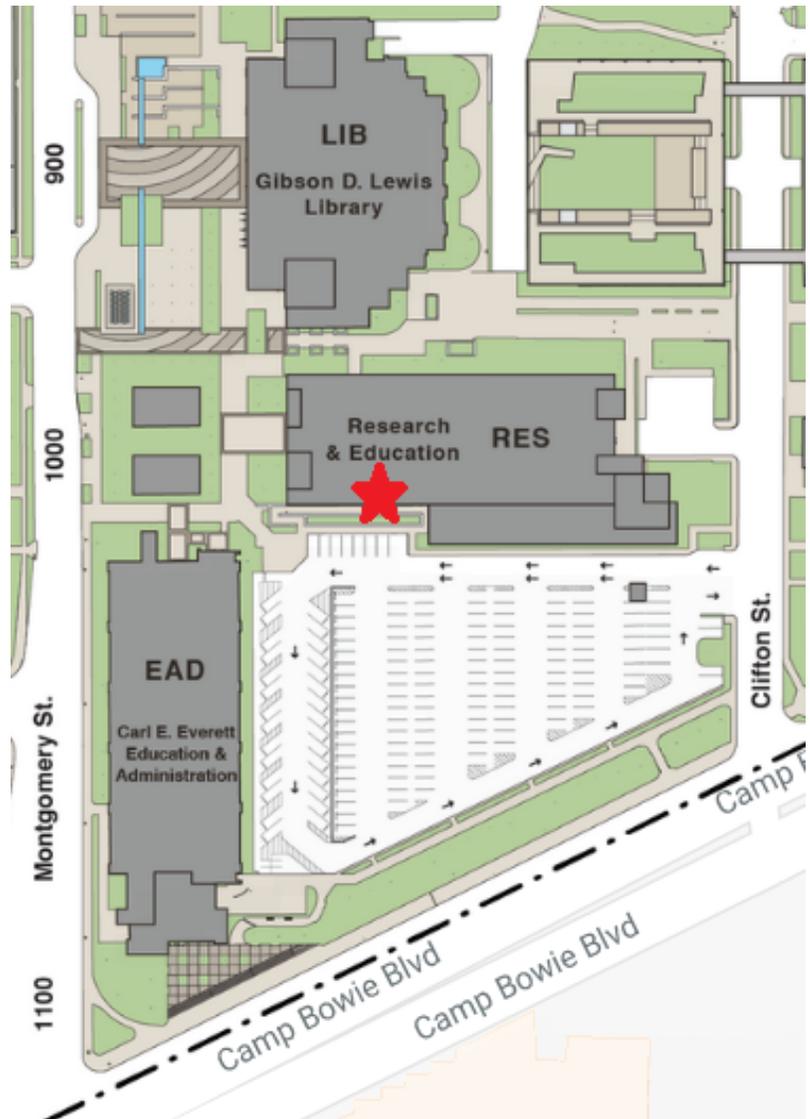


Julian (Drew) Sitters is the West Texas Regional Archaeologist and Reviewer at the Texas Historical Commission. After graduating with a M.A. from the University of Wyoming in 2012, Drew has carried out archaeological investigations from New Mexico to Louisiana and everywhere in between. He currently serves as the Treasurer for the Texas Archeological Society and is the Texas Representative for the Caddo Conference Organization.

NTAS Monthly Meeting Location & Directions

NTAS meets at 7:30 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.



Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

February 13th: Arlo McKee
March 12th: Ashley Lemke
April 9th: Thomas Guderjan

Welcome New NTAS Members:

Drew Sitters

Yolmar Gonzalez

Kristina Padron

Tony Sims

Highlights from the NTAS Holiday Party

Photos Courtesy of James and Susan Everett



Our hostess, Paula Vastine



Emily Garza, Carol Macaulay-Jameson, and Chris Romo



Joe and Katrina Nuncio



Johnny Byers and Larry Borne



**Linda Lang and Tony Sims
(NTAS's newest member!)**



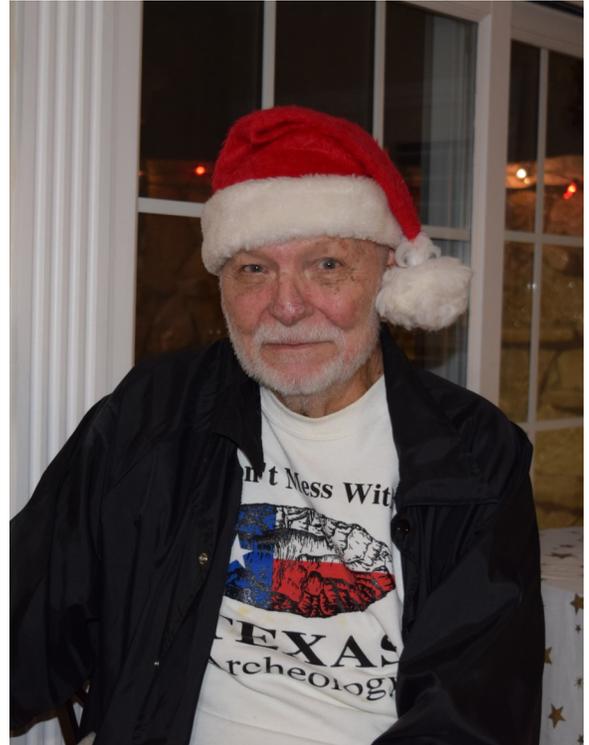
**Warm greetings from
Jimmy Barrera and
Carol Macaulay-Jameson**

More Highlights from the NTAS Holiday Party

Photos Courtesy of James and Susan Everett



Susan Everett



Jim Blanton

An Appreciative Note

Dear Archeological Society
 Thank you for all your
 Cards, kind words + visits
 during this time. Max loved
 going to the meetings +
 would come home so refreshed.
 I appreciate all you did
 for Max
 Gay Rectoral

TAS Field School & NTAS's Ona B. Featured in TPW Magazine

Katrina Nuncio brought it to our attention that the January/February edition of the Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine features an article on the 2019 TAS field school that took place in Palo Duro Canyon including an interview and picture of NTAS member Ona B. Reed and info on the 2020 field school in Kerrville.

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 three 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

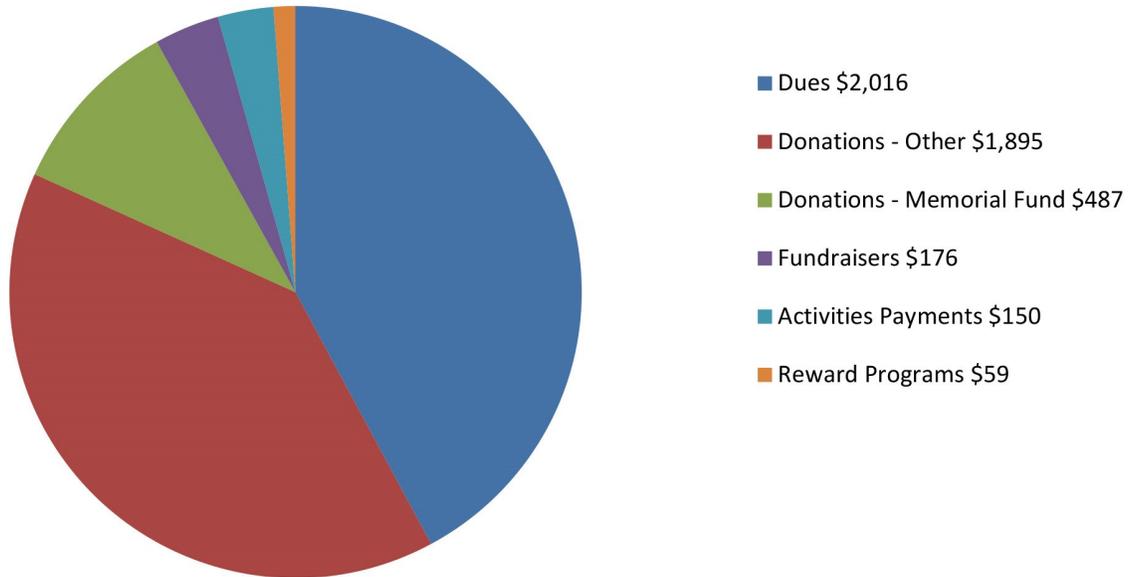
Save the Date — More Info to Come

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

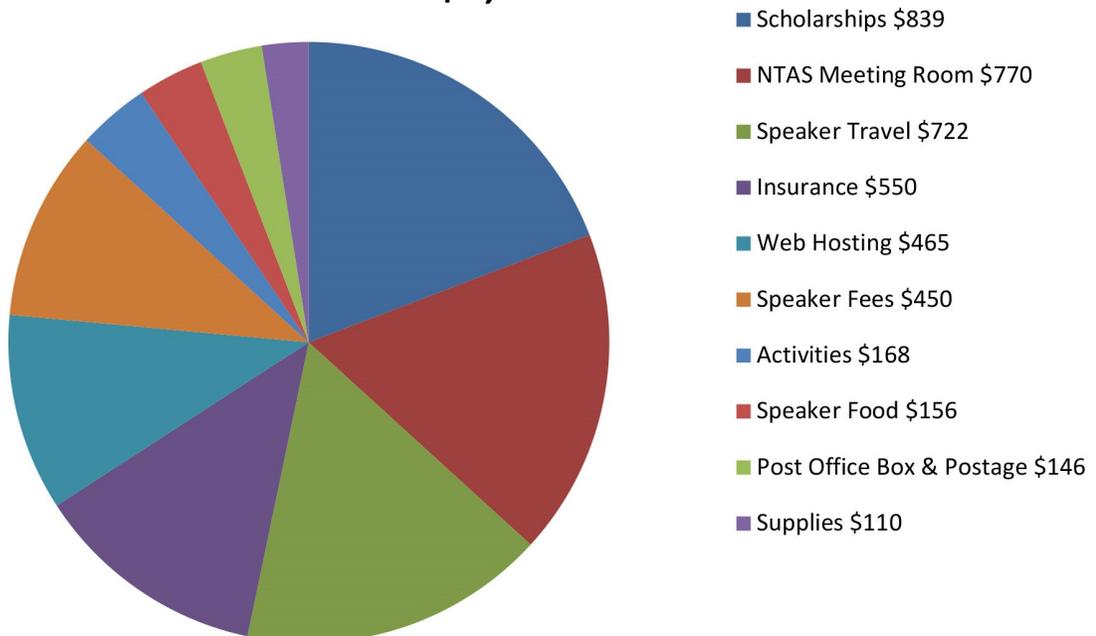
NTAS Income & Expense

January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Income \$4,783



Expense \$4,376



NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

NTAS Board

James Everett
President

Dana Ritchie
Treasurer

Linda Lang
Historian

Bryan Jameson
Vice President

Lloyd Erwin
Secretary

Gen Freix
Internet Chair

Catrina Banks Whitley
Vice President—Projects

Chris Meis
Immediate Past President

Molly Hall
Newsletter Editor

Three easy and quick ways to pay your 2020 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.

January 2020 **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 _____