

The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** meeting for **July** will be **on Zoom**.

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

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|------|
| President's Message | 1-2 |
| May Speaker: <i>Tamra Walter and Mission San Lorenzo</i> | 2 |
| Ft. Worth Nature Center & Refuge Survey | 3 |
| Member Spotlight | 4 |
| A Chance Encounter | 5 |
| Doss Archeology Kids Camp | 6-7 |
| From the Archives | 7 |
| Membership & Society Info | 8-10 |

Benchmark

Volume 35, Issue 6

July 2021

President's Message

From June 12-18 approximately 50 NTAS members (wow!) attended the Texas Archeological Society's (TAS) annual Field School in Kerrville. NTAS folks participated (many as supervisors) in excavations, survey, archeolympics, and other Field School activities. What a sight to see our TAS friends and colleagues after the past year. Combined with world class archeology and activities, the 2021 TAS Field School will be memorable. This annual program delivers a variety of things to do with the common thread of archeological passion joining all together. Field School allows folks to participate hands-on in the preservation of our heritage, practice scientific principles, see old friends and colleagues, meet lots of new ones, and sweat more than you thought humanly possible!

I hope you tuned in to the May 13th NTAS meeting to enjoy Doug Boyd's program on the Bolivar Archeological Project in Denton County. Doug was joined by colleagues Dr. Maria Franklin and Dr. Kevin Hanselka to present this tremendous program. The program provided an overview of the TxDOT project, detail on all the wonderful (and award winning!) public outreach including engagement with direct descendants of the freedman and blacksmith Tom Cook, and we thoroughly enjoyed the preliminary results of archeological excavations in which approximately 25 NTAS members participated. Some takeaways include Doug's comment that



in his experience the most successful archeological projects all had strong participation from the public. And that the success of this project is largely due to the diverse groups involved including state agencies, the University of Texas at Austin, Doug's top notch team, descendant communities, and other groups like NTAS! The May 13th program was recorded and is available on the NTAS YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChDKM9I3UdiYizPyG3duohQ/> featured.

Please join me in extending a huge thanks to Ms. Gen Freix and the NTAS volunteers who performed archeological demonstrations during the kids Ar-

Continued on Page 2

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

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

cheology Camp at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center June 23-25, 2021! See article in this newsletter for more detail.

Behind the scenes we continue to work on identifying future field work, lab work, and other volunteer opportunities. Please contact us if you have opportunities for NTAS volunteers.

TAS is now requesting presentation submittals for the TAS Annual Meeting which will be held virtually October 22-23, 2021. Please consider presenting at the Annual Meeting if you are working on any sort of archeological project, this is a friendly and fun presentation forum. Additional details including registration should be posted soon, continue to check the TAS website for updates: <https://www.txarch.org/>.

The NTAS Executive Committee voted a return to in-person meetings at the UNT Health Science Center campus starting with the September 9th meeting. We hope that our in-person meetings will also be available in real time via Zoom for those who are unable to join us in person. Stay tuned for additional details as we transition back to in-person meetings.

For July, our guest speaker Dr. Tamra Walter will present on Spanish Colonial archeology via Zoom. Her presentation will focus on Mission San Lorenzo where she oversaw the 2017 and 2018 TAS Field School as the Principal Investigator. Dr. Walter is a renowned authority in the archeology of Spanish Colonial Texas and a dynamic speaker, this will be a great program. Look forward to seeing you via Zoom on the 8th!

Jimmy Barrera

July Speaker: Tamra Walter

Mission San Lorenzo and the Lasting Impact of Mission San Saba: Lessons of Architecture and Archaeology

After the destruction of Mission San Saba in 1758 by Comanche groups and their allies, fear of future attacks resulted in enhanced defensive structures and the strengthening of existing defenses at Spanish sites across Colonial Texas. Mission San Lorenzo was one of the last missions founded in Texas. Established just 5 years after San Saba was destroyed, San Lorenzo was built with both presidio and mission features. Arguably, this "hybrid" form is the result of the events that played out at Mission San Saba. Archaeological excavations conducted by the TTU and TAS field schools in 2017 and 2018 yielded additional evidence that lends support to this theory. Further, the unique nature of San Lorenzo as an unauthorized mission without a presidio is also reflected in the archaeological record.

Tamra L. Walter

-BA from UT Austin 1991, MA from Univ. of Montana 1995, PhD from UT Austin 2000
 -Area of specialization : Spanish Colonial Texas, Missions, Presidios, colonial landscapes and material culture
 -2000 to Present- Assoc. Professor at Texas Tech



Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge Project

Jimmy Barrera

NTAS recorded five (5) archeological sites in the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNCR)! Bret Williamson, Dana Ritchie, and Jimmy Barrera led two crews recording archeological sites on Friday, April 30, 2021. With great weather keeping temps in the 60s- Larry Borne, Carolyn Coughlin, Jacob DeWell, Ewan Edwards, Glen Lee, Bill Perdue, Vinnie Ramos, Mike Shannon, and Ray Wallace all participated in the field project (Figure 1). The crews recorded two prehistoric sites (Quarry 2/41TR327; and Alice Ashley/41TR328), two historic sites (Picnic Site/41TR329; and Camp Adams/41TR330), and one site with both prehistoric and historic components (Goat Man/41TR331 – Figure 2). Bret, Dana, and Jimmy will continue working with FWNCR to record more archeological sites in the future. Stay tuned!



Figure 1. NTAS members recording the Camp Adams site (41TR330). Photo by J. Barrera.

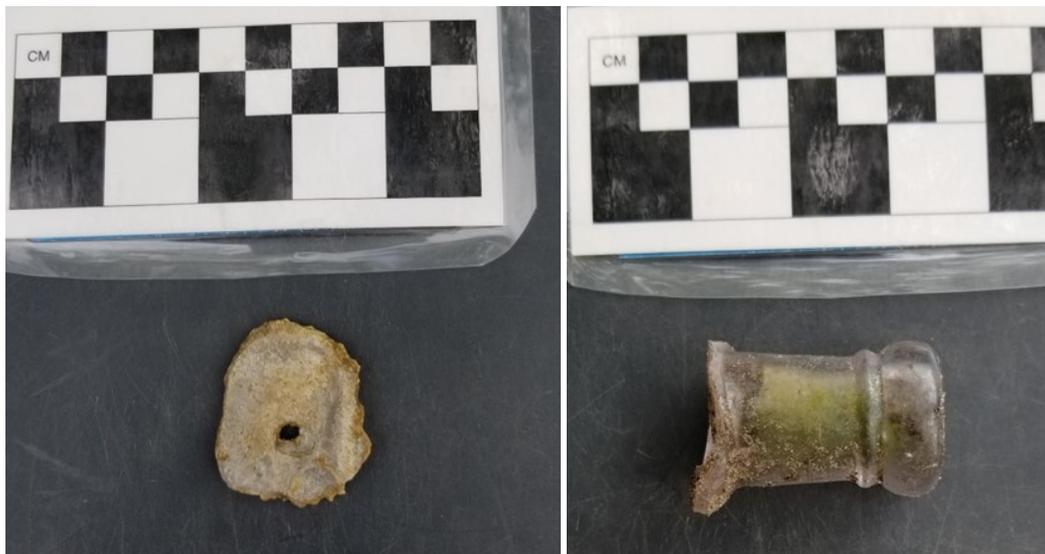


Figure 2. Left: Possible modified shell. Right: solarized bottle neck (or finish). Photos by J. Barrera

Member Spotlight: Ray Wallace

I first entered the world of anthropology at Texas Tech University in 2006 and fell in love with the subject right away. In 2008 I was lucky enough to attend Dr. Brett Houk's Field School in Maya Archeology at La Milpa, Belize and had my first real exposure to archeology. After graduating in 2010 I was employed in cultural resource management for about a year, working in south and east Texas, Houston, and western Louisiana. I then decided to move closer to family and ended up working for multiple small businesses in Terrell, Texas, where I currently reside.

After several years out of archeology, I discovered NTAS (then TCAS) and started attending meetings in 2016. NTAS has allowed me to reconnect with my passion for archeology largely through highly positive interactions with like-minded people. The presentations given, the speakers' willingness to take questions, and the encouragement of NTAS members have helped me not only to explore my interests in life, but also served as a catalyst for my professional interests and career pursuits.

In recent years I acquired a graduate certificate in GIS from UT Dallas and became a GIS Specialist with the City of Balch Springs where I am currently employed. At last, I have time to get seriously involved in NTAS and TAS and hope to use my technical skills to aid in recording and mapping of archaeological sites. Having just returned from an invigorating 2021 TAS field school in Kerrville, I am looking to apply to graduate archeology programs for fall 2022 admission. Having dreamed about returning to archeology as a professional for several years now, the field school experience confirmed that I am on the right path.

My current interests include archaeological methodology, geospatial data management for archaeological applications, human-environment interactions, and spatial traditions of both traditional and complex societies. My main geographical areas of interest include the American Southwest, Texas, and Mesoamerica.

As I navigate the waters of life and my archaeological interests, I am the recipient of unwavering support, love, and encouragement from my wife Joni as well as our three dogs, who would be always at my heels if possible.

I look forward to seeing you all in the field soon!



A Chance Encounter

James Everett

I recently saw former NTAS member **Dr. Becca Peixotto** at the NorthPark Center Mall in Dallas. Well...sort of.

On June 23, Susan and I took two out-of-town guests to NorthPark Mall so they could shop there. As we explored the lower level of the mall, we noticed that there was an exhibit of dozens of life-size orange statues of women in the grassy area in the center of the complex. Then, we saw a dozen of the orange statues standing single-file along the middle of a hall inside the mall. As we strolled by the line of statues and read the accompanying placards, we were surprised and excited to read the description of the statue labeled T.08: "Becca Peixotto, PhD. Dallas, TX - Archaeologist - Studies our shared human history from the bones of ancient human relatives in South African caves to resistance communities in a Virginia swamp." Her statue was holding a *Homo naledi* skull from the Rising Star cave system, just as she often did when she served as Director and Research Scientist at the Perot Museum's Center for the Exploration of the Human Journey.

Dr. Peixotto's statue is part of an exhibit called #IfThenSheCan. The accompanying posters explained that the exhibit is designed to advocate "for the better representation of diverse women in fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)." The theme is: "If she can see it, she can be it." The "more than 120" life-size orange acrylic gel statues are "the largest 3D-printed project of its kind." Each statue took at least 10 hours to print.

The very impressive exhibit opened on May 23 and runs through October 24. More information can be found at www.ifthenshecan.org, including an in-depth write-up on Dr. Peixotto and her work, plus a number of photos and videos of her.



Left: Dr. Peixotto addressing NTAS members during a special tour of the "Being Human Hall" at the Perot Museum on May 18, 2019. Photo by J. Everett.

Right: The 3D-printed statue of Dr. Peixotto on display at the #IfThenSheCan exhibit. Photo by J. Everett.

NTAS and the Doss Archeology Kids Camp!

Jimmy Barrera and Gen Freix

On June 23-25, NTAS volunteered at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center in Weatherford by performing demonstrations for the Archeology Kids Camp. Gen Freix coordinated the NTAS volunteer effort of fellow members: Art Tawater, Mike Shannon, Glynn Osburn, Linda Lang, Morgan Beck, Marvin and Dina Glasgow, Chris Meis, Ashley Green, and Jimmy Barrera. A total of 32 very eager kids attended the Archeology Camp. There was a slideshow presentation on “What is Archeology” by Gen Freix and a “Hunting and Gathering” slideshow and artifact presentation by Marvin Glasgow. NTAS volunteers worked with the cheerful staff of the Doss Heritage and Culture Center and the excited kids in a mock dig, corn grinding, rabbit stick throwing, and atlatl and dart demonstrations.

The volunteers were able to enjoy the terrific display inside and outside the Doss Heritage and Culture Center of the Newberry Cabin Project from all the hard work that Katrina Nuncio and many NTAS volunteers performed (recommend seeing if you haven't). Great work by NTAS setting the next generation into a buzz about archeology and continuing a great partnership between NTAS and the Doss Heritage and Culture Center!



Linda Lang assisting a student with corn grinding.
Photo by G. Freix



Mike Shannon working with students at the mock dig.
Photo by G. Freix



A thank you note from the young participants!

From the Archives

Linda Lang

For July, we have the earliest newsletter for the Tarrant County Archeological Society found thus far. In 1956, the society published *The Catalogue of the Tarrant County Archeological Society*. The document provides an interesting glimpse into our organization in the mid-twentieth century. *The Catalogue* served as more than a simple newsletter. According to the editors, *The Catalogue* might include results from archeological research, information about field and laboratory methods, a list of relevant publications, and reports on the latest societal news. Some items published in this 1956 document include the TCAS constitution, a sample site form, a membership list, and a report on a site in Arlington, Site T-5. President Jimmy Barrera noted that this site is now formally 41TR56 which is in the middle of Lake Arlington! If you are interested in checking out this recently uncovered document gem, let me know! Email Linda Lang at historian@ntxas.org.

Check back next month for what might come next...from the archives!



Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

August 12th: Dr. Benjamin Alexander (Cadaver Dogs in Archeology)
September 9th: Dr. Ashley Lemke (Great Lakes Underwater Archeology)
October 14th: TBD

June & July Donors

Jack Johnson (General Fund)
W.B. Stallings (Memorial Fund)
Doug Boyd (Memorial Fund)

Five anonymous donations were made to the General Fund via a Network for Good Fund-raiser organized anonymously.

Welcome, New Members!

Leandra Augustine
Casey Black
Angela Bont
Alexandra Cooke
Phillip & Sharee Darce
Keith Elwell
Dee Heacock
Alistair Henderson
Dylan Holubar
Steve Moiles & Family
Wolf Patrick
Nadya Prociuk
Josefine Puentes
Dustin Vernor & Family

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.

We Need *YOUR* Help!

There are numerous ways we would love for our members to contribute to NTAS. Just a few are noted here:

Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project

Contact Catrina Whitley (vpofprojects@ntxas.org) if you would like to involve experienced, skilled, and knowledgeable NTAS members in your project.

Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events

Photos are a great way to showcase what NTAS is all about. Please send your images and captions to Annaliese Sonntag (internetchair@ntxas.org). By providing these photos, please understand they can be used on the NTAS website and social media platforms such as Facebook.

Newsletter Content

Please 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 Molly Hall (publicationseditor@ntxas.org).

Nominate a member for our new member spotlight feature!



North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____ **Phone** _____

City\State\Zip _____ **Email** _____

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, Relationship, and Phone Number

Alternate Contact Name, Relationship, and Phone Number

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

New Family Membership - \$25
 Renewal Total Family Members _____

Individual Membership - \$20

Student Membership – \$10 (18 or older student with minimum half-time course load. Those under 18 must contact NTAS in advance of applying.)

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*

Newsletter Delivery: By Email (free) By USPS mail (add \$10/yr)

Support: Contributing Donation amount: \$ _____ General Fund Memorial Scholarship Fund

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.

Online membership form and payment option available at ntas.org/join-and-renew

Application form is continued on the next page

Mail your Membership Form with check or money order made payable to:

North Texas Archeological Society
P.O. Box 24679 Ft. Worth, TX 76124

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 _____

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!

NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

Executive Committee

Jimmy Barrera
President

Gwen Durrant
Treasurer

Linda Lang
Historian

Bryan Jameson
Vice President

Tim Sullivan
Secretary

Annaliese Sonntag
Internet Chair

Catrina Banks Whitley
Vice President of Projects

James Everett
Immediate Past President

Molly Hall
Publications Editor

Newsletter Submission Deadlines

The newsletter submission deadlines are three weeks prior to the monthly meetings, and upcoming deadlines are listed below for 2021.

August Newsletter: July 22

November Newsletter: October 21

September Newsletter: August 19

December Newsletter: November 19

October Newsletter: September 23

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