

Benchmark

Volume 38, Issue 6

July 2024

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

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

President's Message

Folks, welcome back to the newsletter and I hope everyone had a wonderful June and a safe and fun 4th of July! I am excited to finish the next six months of 2024 with all of you. I hope that those who attended the TAS Field School had a wonderful time. A total of 31 NTAS members registered and attended the field school, so we were well represented. I want to congratulate Laila Brown who received an NTAS scholarship to attend. Thank you for applying, Laila, and we hope you had a fantastic experience!

We have a wonderful slate of speakers on tap through the end of the year starting with our July presenter, Dr. Robyn Dodge who will present on her research at the site of Hun Tun in Belize. Dr. Dodge is an active NTAS member and just wrapped up a field school for UTA at the Joe Reed Site. Please come out next Thursday to support your fellow NTAS member and hear her present on her interesting and recent research.

We have a variety of volunteer events on the horizon, and it'll be Texas Archeology Month before you know it! The SMU lab days, which have been a huge success, will continue through the summer and fall semester the last Saturday of each month.

There are two extremely popular outreach events for which we need to start identifying volunteers. The first is the Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival which is held annually at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center. This year's festival will be held **October 5th 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](#).

Our second large event is 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.

Registration will soon be 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. As a general

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Connect with NTAS:

www.facebook.com/NTXAS.org

www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society

reminder, NTAS offers scholarships for the field school 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 July 11th, 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 3 for map). 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!

Allen Rutherford

July Speaker: **Dr. Robyn L. Dodge**

Ancient Maya Marketplace Investigations at Hun Tun

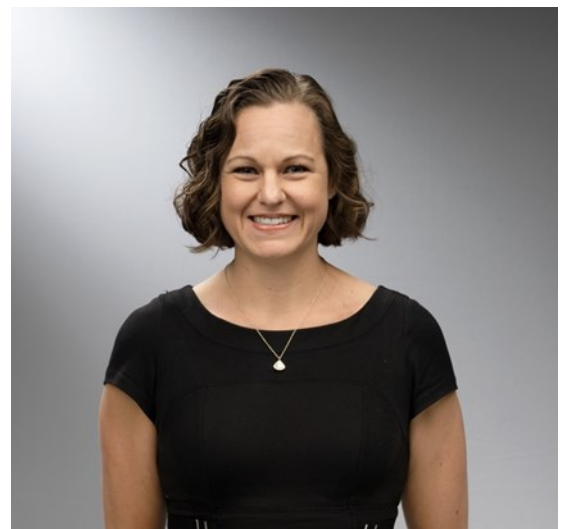
With funding from the National Science Foundation, the Hun Tun Archaeology Project participated in collaborative research to investigate the hypothesized existence of an integrated market system in the Three Rivers Region of northwestern Belize during the Late Classic period (CE 600-850). Marketplaces do not operate in isolation. Therefore, marketplace networks are best understood on a regional level. However, regional integration, movement of goods, and other aspects of trade and exchange are difficult to gauge without first identifying known marketplace locations. This aspect remains an important component for investigations of ancient marketplaces worldwide. The coordinated support and collaborative nature of the NSF marketplace study provided an opportunity to gain a regional perspective of Late Classic Maya economy within northwestern Belize.

Marketplace interactions between larger sites and the surrounding hinterland settlements provide data about the regional mobility of goods. Current marketplace research is the first of its kind at Hun Tun and a first of its kind in terms of scale and coordinated collaboration. The first objective of this project was to confirm the existence of suspected marketplaces in the region; the second objective was to examine the comparability of goods between confirmed marketplaces. The third objective was to investigate how marketplace activity contributed to long-term human environmental interactions related to climate change. Research methodology at Hun Tun was consistent with other research sites in the study. This involved the following: soil geochemical testing of marketplace plazas, trench excavations of plaza courtyards, investigations of associated features, and identification of modern tree species. Hun Tun Group A served as a control or confirmed "non-marketplace" while Group C at Hun Tun was the location for data collection within the proposed marketplace plaza.

Dr. Robyn L. Dodge is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at The University of Texas at Arlington and Director of the "Hun Tun Archaeology Project." Dr. Dodge earned her B.A. in archaeology from the Boston University and her M.A./Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. She also has experience working in the CRM industry and museum administration.

Dr. Dodge is an archaeologist specializing in ancient Maya social complexity with additional experience in Texas archaeology. She has taught archaeology courses on the topics of archaeological field research, theory and methods, ancient Maya civilization, archaeology in practice and Texas archaeology. Her current research interests include ancient Maya commoners, marketplace studies, and household archaeology.

The "Hun Tun Archaeology Project," draws participants from all over the world in collaboration with UT Austin as part of the Programme for Belize Archaeological Project (PfbAP). Dr. Dodge has been conducting research at Hun Tun since 2008 in a remote area of northwestern Belize. She named the site "Hun Tun," translated as "First Stone" in ancient Mayan languages. Hun Tun was chosen as a site name after a stone altar was discovered in one of the main courtyards during the first survey season. She enjoys taking students to the field with her for research and instructing field school. Dr. Dodge is also an accomplished marathon runner having finished the prestigious Boston Marathon twelve years in a row. She is also currently serving as Captain of the Austin Marathon Pace Team.



Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

August 8th: Amy Bluemel (Chickasaw Nation Storyteller)

September 12th: David Kilby (Bonfire Shelter)

October 10th: Alex Younger (Washington on the Brazos)

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

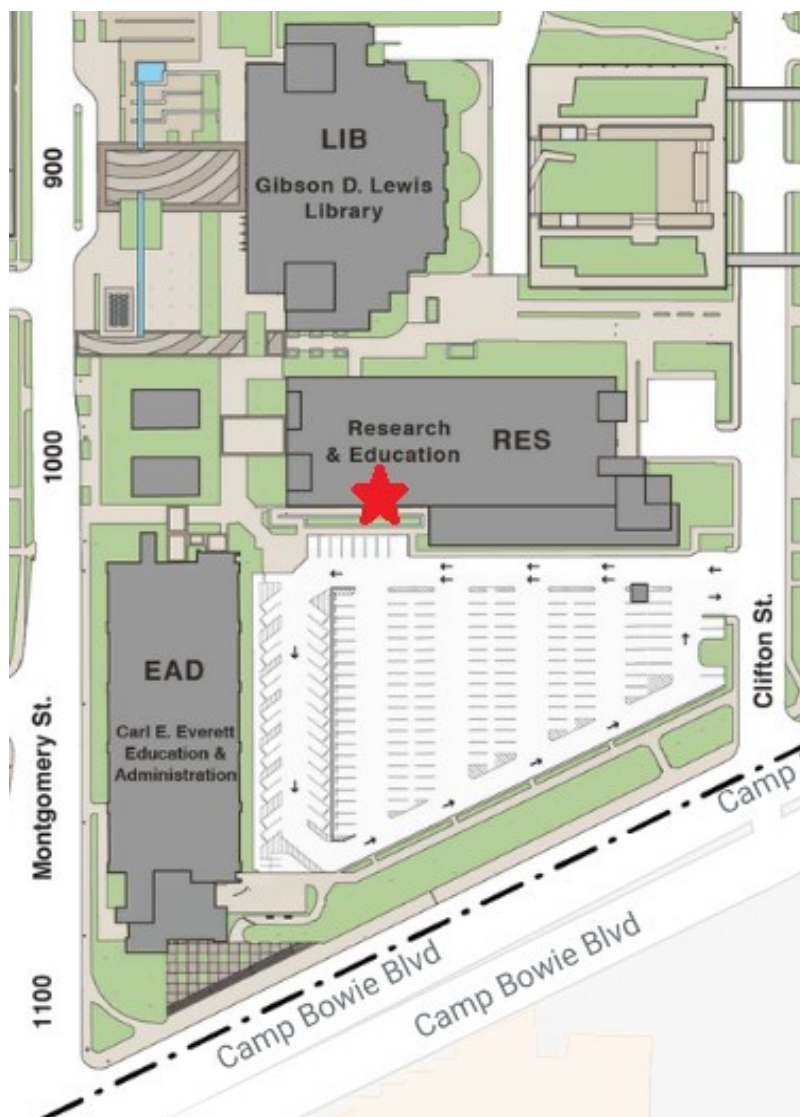
Allen Rutherford

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) 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!

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

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.

July 16 - *Southwest Train Robberies: Hijacking the Tracks Along the Southern Corridor* by author Doug Hocking, Cochise County Westerners

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.

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 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](#).

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.

TAS 95th 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 Archeological 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, and the annual TAS Meeting.

Please visit the NTAS scholarships webpage to submit your application. [Apply now!](#)

Archeology Presentation at Dancing River Assisted Living

James Everett

In early May, Tina Mandrell Brown, the Life Enrichment Director at Dancing River Assisted Living in Grapevine, left a voice mail message for NTAS, explaining that in June the residents at Dancing River were scheduled to study Greece and asking if NTAS could provide a speaker to explain what archeology is and what archeologists do. James Everett agreed to present “An Introduction to Archeology” and Gen Freix volunteered to bring artifacts to display and discuss with the audience.

The presentation occurred on June 18; twenty residents attended. James encouraged residents, their families and their friends to become members of NTAS and TAS, to attend NTAS Zoom meetings (e.g., as a



James and Gen with Connie Allen Bacon, a Dancing River resident with a longtime interest in archeology. Photo by Tina Mandrell Brown.

group activity at Dancing River), and to enjoy our digital publications. He also emphasized that residents' grandchildren might enjoy participating in TAS field schools.

Gen demonstrated how a “nutting stone” functions, showed how an atlatl works, and explained pottery sherds and a number of lithic artifacts. The residents then engaged James and Gen in an active question-and-answer session.

As a result of the program, NTAS may be asked to do additional presentations for Dancing River (e.g., for Native American Month), and for related facilities in the Metroplex.

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 the 2024 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 2024 calendar year. For submissions and inquiries regarding the journal, please contact the [Publications Editor](#). The current volume (2023) is available to members by logging in [here](#). A digital copy of Volume I is available to the public [here](#), and physical copies 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) 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!

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!

David Brockman & Family
 Laila Brown
 Rachel Duncan & Family
 Richard Hoban
 Chaedria LaBouvier
 Kylie Partridge & Charles Maese
 Faith Sabourin

Donors

None for June & July

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.

August Newsletter: July 25

September Newsletter: August 29

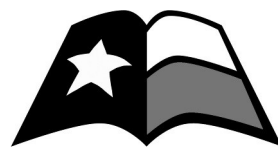
October Newsletter: September 26

November Newsletter: October 31

December Newsletter: November 28

January Newsletter: December 26

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