

The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** will welcome **Tiffany Osburn** as the featured speaker for the **March 12th** meeting (see **Page 2** for details).

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

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Benchmark

Volume 34, Issue 3

March 2020

President's Message

February 8 was a cloudy, cold, damp day. But, for two and a half hours, I forgot (or at least overlooked) the cold, spellbound by the remarks of Dr. Thomas Williams, Assistant Executive Director of the Gault School of Archaeological Research, as he led a stimulating, informative and enjoyable tour of the Gault Site. Thanks to Tom's lively and enthusiastic explanations of the many areas of the site, I was able to visualize the people and the numerous activities they performed along this section of Buttermilk Creek during the Middle and Late Archaic periods, the Clovis period, and the pre-Clovis period. Like the other 37 NTAS members on the tour, I came away with a much deeper appreciation for the Gault Site and for the peoples who lived there during at least 16,000 years of Texas history and pre-history.

On behalf of NTAS, I really want to thank Tom Williams for the outstanding tour, for freely sharing his expertise with us, for his in-depth explanations, and for his thorough answers to our many questions. Everyone on the tour agreed that the visit was time well spent.

Of course, this was not the first time that many of us had heard Tom Williams discuss the Gault Site and Texas' very early pre-history. He was the Public Forum speaker at the 2017 TAS Annual Meeting in Grapevine. For those of us who heard "The Deeper We Dig, the More Questions Arise", the number



James Everett, President, at the Gault Site

and significance of the insights we gained from Tom during our tour of the Gault Site were certainly no surprise.

The Gault Site tour would not have been possible without the planning and preparation done by Catrina Banks Whitley, the NTAS Vice President for Projects. Through the years, Catrina has done an outstanding job of arranging tours and educational experiences for NTAS members. I strongly encourage all NTAS members to take advantage of as many tours and NTAS projects as possible in the future.

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Connect with NTAS:

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www.NTXAS.org

info@ntxas.org

President's Message

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Two other opportunities for archeological growth and fun are on the horizon. The TAS Archeology 101 Academy, scheduled for May 1-3, will provide participants with a chance to learn archeological techniques from a team of proven professionals. Scholarships are available from TAS and NTAS for those interested in attending the Academy.

In June, the TAS field school will be held in Kerrville. Our speaker this month, Tiffany Osburn, will provide a thorough explanation of the field school objectives, camping arrangements, local accommodations, etc. As a personal aside, the first TAS field school I attended was held at Kerrville in 1971. That field school left a lasting impression on me and also led to my establishing relationships within the Texas archeological community that I continue to enjoy today. Please consider participating in the TAS field school this year.

In closing, I want to thank the NTAS members who purchased raffle tickets last month for a chance to win the print of the Homer Norris painting of Quanah Parker (see Page 6). Raffle tickets will be sold at the March and April meetings, and I encourage all of you to support this initiative, the proceeds of which will help fund an upcoming publication covering Homer's archeological work in the Parker County area.

March Speaker: Tiffany Osburn

An Introduction to the 2020 TAS Field School in Kerrville, Texas: Hill Country Archeology at Its Best

This year, the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) invites members to attend the annual summer Field School along the banks of the Guadalupe River in Kerr County. Kerrville offers much to visitors year-round and will be the ideal location for the upcoming field school. TAS is being welcomed with open arms by the Hill Country Archeological Association, the City of Kerrville as well as Kerr County. The subjects of archeological investigation are rich this year. This presentation will summarize the archeological sites where we will be working, previous work conducted on this terrace of the Guadalupe River, research goals for the field school, and all of the other activities that will be offered to participants. The dates for the 2020 Field School will be June 13-20.

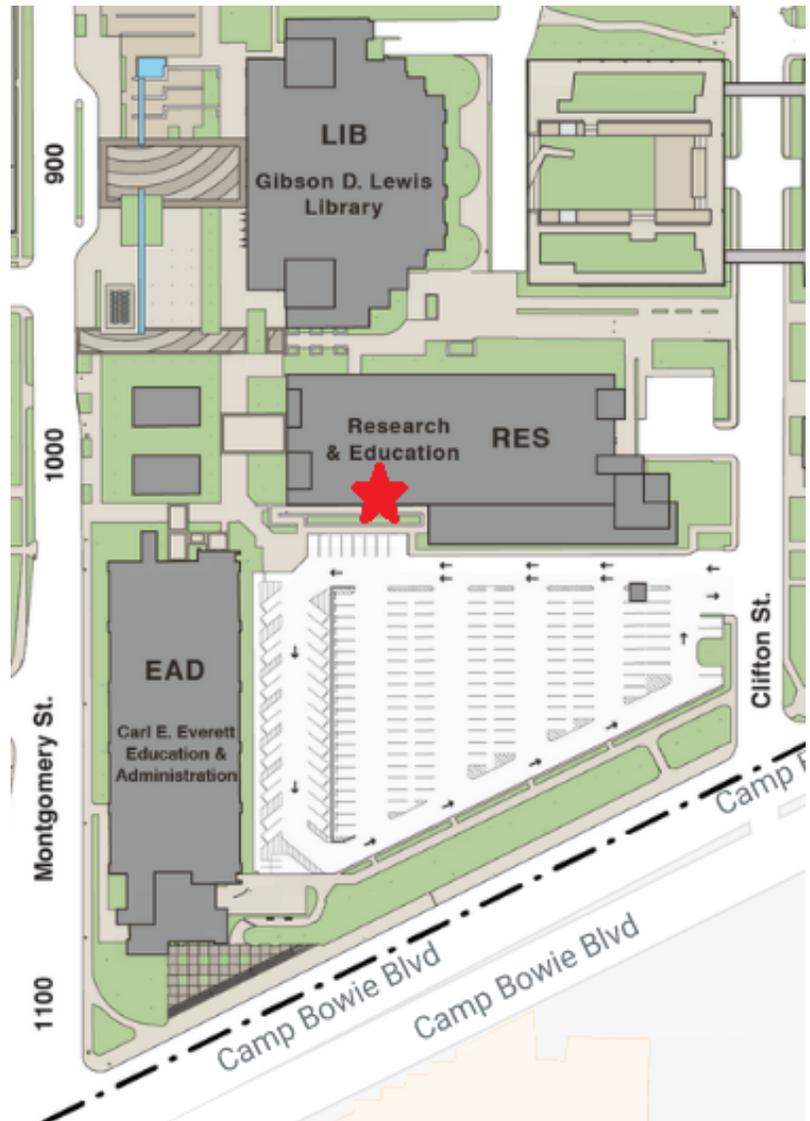
Tiffany Osburn serves as the Regional Archeologist for central and west Texas with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) where she is focused on the preservation of historic Texas landscapes. In her current role with the state she has the privilege of working with private landowners and communities to record and preserve important places in Texas for future generations. In addition, as a project reviewer for state and federal compliance under preservation law, she balances the development needs of Texas with our responsibility to retain the significant historic character of our state. Prior to joining the THC, Tiffany earned a Master's Degree from the University of Denver where she conducted archeological research with a specialization in near-surface geophysics and worked for 10 years in the private sectors of cultural resource management and environmental compliance. Tiffany focuses her career on responsible stewardship of archeological resources and land conservation as a means of preserving our heritage.



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

April 9th: Thomas Guderjan
May 14th: Marion Keene
June: No Meeting Due to TAS Field School

Welcome New NTAS Members:

Kevin Hanselka Christy Flores Nathan Palmer

Gault Archaeological Site Tour Recap



The entry gate (photo courtesy of James Everett).



NTAS members gather to hear about the mammoth found at the site (photo courtesy of Molly Hall).



NTAS members and guide, Tom Williams, pose in front of an outcrop at the Gault Site (photo courtesy of James Everett).



Artifacts litter the surface, captivating the members on the tour (photo courtesy of Lori Connolley).

Tom Williams demonstrating Paleoindian hunting techniques (photo courtesy of Lori Connolley).



Interpretive sign at Area 15, where nine years of excavation uncovered millions of artifacts (photo courtesy of James Everett).

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.

Termini Lecture

When: April 2, 2020 at 7pm (reception at 6pm)

Where: College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs Auditorium,
University of Texas at Arlington (601 West Nedderman Drive)

Dr. Rick Potts, Director of the Human Origins Program at the National Museum of Natural History, will speak on "Innovation and Environmental Disruption during the Origin of *Homo sapiens*."

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. Jon 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**

Homer Norris Art Raffle

Buy raffle tickets February-April



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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.

March 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 _____