

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

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

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# Benchmark

#### Volume 35, Issue 3

#### **President's Message**

The NTAS program on February 11<sup>th</sup> was just stunning with approximately 70 folks tuning in for the Zoom meeting to enjoy Dr. Catrina Banks Whitley and Reign Clark discuss their research on the cemetery associated with the Bullhead Convict Labor Camp in Sugar Land, Texas. Dr. Whitley and Reign detailed the discovery of the cemetery, intense archival research, collaboration with the local community, and revealing bioarcheological analysis for this significant project. Their experiences with local, state, and national media attention were interesting as most archeological projects do not gain nearly as much media attention. They also announced that the results from this project are being incorporated into local and even statewide school curriculum due to the significance, wow! This valuable program was recorded and is available on the NTAS YouTube channel until March 15th: https://youtu.be/7jDSevsk9fc.

The NTAS volunteer opportunity on the Bolivar project wrapped up with the conclusion of excavations in February. Over 25 NTAS members participated with several folks volunteering on the excavation multiple times. Doug Boyd delivered a wonderful thank you to NTAS and all the volunteers and provided a summary of investigations during our February meeting. Great work everyone! We are currently working to find other fieldwork and tour opportunities for NTAS.

The Texas Archeological Society posted registration and details for the June 12-19, 2021 annual Field School. The 2021 TAS Field School will be held in picturesque March 2021



Kerrville, Texas. Registration and TAS Field School details can be found on the TAS website at: <u>https://www.txarch.org/</u> <u>tas-field-school</u>. I know many folks are excited for this opportunity to get out and do some archeology! And please note that NTAS (<u>https://ntxas.org/scholarships</u>) and TAS (<u>https://www.txarch.org/</u> <u>scholarships</u>) offer scholarship opportunities for those interested to apply.

For March we have an interesting program by Guest Speaker Josh Haefner and colleague Dr. Victor Galan on their archeological excavations near Lindale, Texas. The program will discuss archeological investigations of the prehistoric occupations at the Honey Locust site (41SM476). This project will provide NTAS members great insight into some of our state's important archeological work that happens prior to construction of infrastructure, see you there on the 11th!

Jimmy Barrera

#### **Connect with NTAS:**

#### facebook.com/NTXAS.org

#### www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

# March Speakers: Josh Haefner & Dr. Victor Galan

#### Excavations and Features at the Honey Locust site (41SM476)

Throughout 2017, Hicks & Company Environmental Consultants conducted data recovery excavations at the Honey Locust site (41SM476) located near Lindale, Texas. Initial shovel testing, test unit excavation, and backhoe trenching revealed Honey Locust as a Middle Archaic to Caddo site while a magnetometer survey identified 13 anomalies but no discernible Caddoan structures. Block excavations over these anomalies revealed five burned rock features that differ in aspect than those typically described in the literature for East Texas. Large-scale stripping of the site to look for ceramics found few additional artifacts but did record more typical Caddoan features as well as 13 Caddoan burials. This paper presents results of these excavations with a focus on the burned rock features and burials.



Josh Haefner currently serves as a Principal Investigator for TRC. Throughout his career, Mr. Haefner has worked extensively throughout the states of Texas and Utah on a variety of projects. These projects have included work for pipelines, transmission lines, fiber optic lines, public and private development, and highways at all levels of archeological investigations. Additionally, Mr. Haefner has experience working in Alabama, Arizona, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Wyoming, and Belize, Central America, where he was fortunate enough to work at Cahal Pech as a Teaching Assistant for a Texas State Field School. His academic research focused on lithic technology and site use at the Tee-Box Site in San Marcos, Texas. Immediately following MA work at Texas State, Mr. Haefner spent his next five summer vacations volunteering his time on the Ancient Southwest Texas Project.

Dr. Victor Galan participated in the documentation, testing, and excavation in numerous archaeological sites within the Caddo region over the last 30 years. As an undergraduate, at Stephen F Austin State University (SFASU), he participated in several surveys and he was the student assistant on the Archaic/Caddo Mast (41NA157) site. During his Masters degree at the University of Arkansas, he documented and participated in testing of multiple Caddoan sites within the Ouachita Mountains. His work at Espey Houston & Associates included testing multiple sites in Northeast Texas and serving as Principal Investigator at the Caddo Ear Spool (41TT653) site. Upon returning to Nacogdoches, he directed two SFASU field schools at the Caddoan proto-historic Spradley Sign (41NA206) site, conducted surveys and testing efforts across the Caddo region, and served as Co-Principal investigator for excavations at the Honey Locust (41SM476) with his experience and PhD from Texas A&M University.



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#### NTAS Shopping Reward Programs

Several major retailers have included NTAS in their rewards programs.

There is no cost to you, but NTAS benefits from your shopping!

Simply let these retailers know (by following the instructions to the right) that you would like them to contribute a portion of the cost of your order to NTAS.

Help support NTAS by doing your regular shopping



#### Kroger Community Rewards

Register your Kroger Plus Card online by clicking on the link below. Then by searching for North Texas Archeological Society or entering our NPO number (AA920), you can link your Kroger Plus Card to NTAS. Every time you shop at Kroger and swipe your card, NTAS will receive a rebate based on your purchase.

https://www.kroger.com/account/CommunityRewards



#### Tom Thumb Good Neighbor

Link your Tom Thumb Reward card to our Good Neighbor Number (14232) and each time you use your card NTAS will receive 1% of your eligible purchases. Visit the store courtesy booth to link your card.



#### Amazon Smile

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to NTAS whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Just click on the link below and sign in with your regular Amazon account. http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-2876464

# **Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers**

## April 8th: Jack Johnson (Field Notes from Amistad) May 13th: Doug Boyd (Bolivar Project) June 10th: *No Meeting* (TAS Field School)

# **March Donors**

Bryan & Carol Jameson W. B. Stallings Tiffany Osburn Kim Wright

# Welcome, New Members!

Stephen Chapman James Michael Collett & Laci Cornett Gus Costa Leslie Crippen Charles Frederick Mark Kalpakis & Family Steve & Randy Thorne Irene Wilson & 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.

## **Archeology Events & Announcements**

#### Archeobotany Academy: An Introduction to Archeobotany

#### Contributed by Jimmy Barrera

The 2021 TAS Archeobotany Academy will be offered VIRTUALLY via Zoom with an emphasis on Caddo ancestors and the plant species of east Texas. The academy will introduce participants to how archeologists understand the relationships between people and plants in the past. The recovery and analysis of macroremains (actual bits of plants), pollen, phytoliths, and chemical residues from archeological sites will be discussed in detail with examples from East Texas and the Ozarks. The wealth of information that can be gained from replication of ancient technologies will also be covered, as will the value of historical accounts, traditional stories, memories, and the ancestral knowledge held by modern Native people.

Lead Instructor: Dr. Leslie Bush (Macrobotanical Analysis)

Registration deadline is April 10, 2021. For more details: <u>https://www.txarch.org/academy03</u>

## Kimbell Art Museum presents Queen Nefertari's Egypt through March 14, 2021

#### Contributed by Catrina Whitley

Finally – an archaeological exhibit to go see! Unfortunately, we cannot go as a group for a NTAS outing, but it will be a great excursion on your own. It is an amazing exhibit. My family checked out the exhibit ourselves to see about the COVID protocols and wait times.

Nefertari was the favorite wife of Ramesses II (reigned 1279-1213 BCE) and was one of the most celebrated queens of ancient Egypt. She was educated and could read and write hieroglyphs. All of the works in the exhibit are from the Museo Egizio in Turin, Italy.

As the Kimbell describes on their website, the exhibition celebrates Nefertari and many other powerful royal women from the New Kingdom period and brings them to life through some 230 exceptional treasures. The exhibit includes reconstructions of Nefertari's tomb, explores the life of the women in the royal household and the status and rights of women in Egypt, the artisan village of Dier el-Medina, the rituals of death, and much more.

The Kimbell Art Museum is located in Fort Worth and has very strict COVID protocols to keep everyone safe. They are limiting the number of people in the exhibit and the wait can be up to two hours, but the museum will not rush you while you are inside the exhibit so you will have plenty of time to explore, read everything, stand with your face practically pressed against the glass to see the tiny details, and have docents letting you know to squeeze around the back side of the case to see the hieroglyphs and painting on the back of the statues.

Tickets are available on their website at <u>https://www.kimbellart.org/exhibition/queen-nefertaris-egypt</u>. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday. Half-price admission to special exhibitions on Tuesdays from 10 am–5 pm and Fridays from 5–8 pm; tickets have to be purchased at the museum. Tickets can be bought in advance on all other days

# **TAS Academy Scholarships Available**

The Texas Archeological Society is offering three academies this year. The Archeobotany and Ceramics academies will be virtual and the Archeology 101 Academy will have a virtual classroom portion with a hands-on day of excavation. See details about the academies above.

#### Thought he other two are full, space is still available for the Archaeobotany Academy!

NTAS offers scholarships that can be used for these academies (or other TAS educational events). For details, please visit: <u>https://ntxas.org/scholarships</u>.

In recent years, the NTAS scholarships have had very few applicants. This means that there is a fabulous opportunity for multiple, deserving people to get scholarships. If you are not qualified to apply for a scholarship, please pass the word along to someone who is.

## April 24-25, 2021

# **Explore Archaeology across the World from Your Home**

## THC's YouTube Channel Features 19 Archeology Videos from around the State

Contributed by Paula Vastine (text taken from release announcement)

In anticipation of Texas Archeology Month 2020, the Texas Historical Commission organized the recording of 19 presentations by professional and avocational archeologists. Topics encompass the state, ranging from the Paleoindian to Spanish colonial periods. All of the videos have been uploaded to <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAF3XhIGKUdZHAMIICCH7pQI</u> and are available for your viewing pleasure.

## National Archaeological Museum of Greece

#### Contributed by Catrina Whitley

It is the oldest and largest museum in Greece. The website has 13 virtual tours of sites from across this country, including Athens, Mycenae, Delphi, Crete and more. When you get to the page, click on the three dots in the right upper corner and choose virtual tours. http://www.yougoculture.com/virtual-tour/athens/experience/national-archaeological-museum

## Heritage Daily

Contributed by Catrina Whitley Links to five major world attractions: Petra, Angkor, Giza Necropolis, Taj Mahal, and Venice <u>https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/03/5-virtual-tours-of-historical-sites/126924</u>

## National Museum of Ireland

Contributed by Catrina Whitley <a href="https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Archaeology/Visitor-Information/3D-Virtual-Visit">https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Archaeology/Visitor-Information/3D-Virtual-Visit</a>

## The Archaeological Conservancy's Spring 2021 Virtual Lecture Series

Contributed by Katrina Nuncio All lectures are free and posted to the Conservancy's YoutTube channel once completed. https://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/virtual-lectures-2021/

# **NTAS Is on YouTube!**

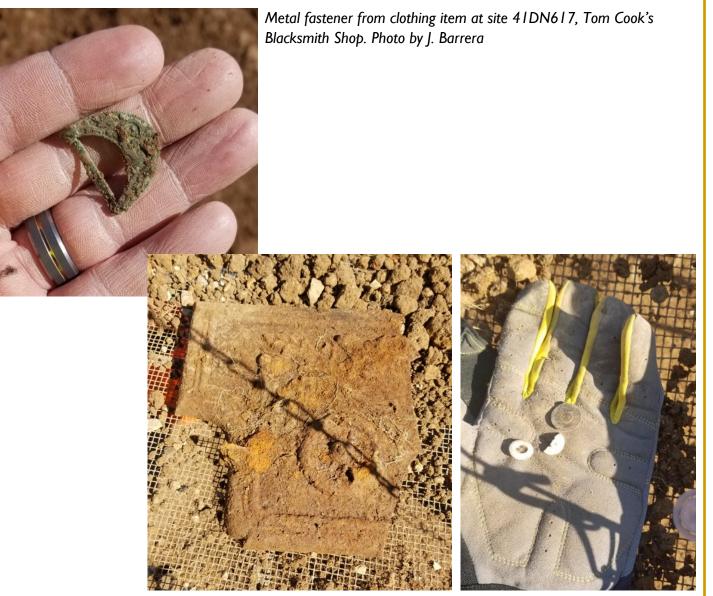
Check out the brand new NTAS YouTube channel where many of our past programs can now be viewed and where future presentations will be stored.

To access the NTAS You Tube channel, just click on the link below: <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChDKM9I3UdiYizPyG3duohQ/featured</u>

# It's a Wrap at Bolivar

## Jimmy Barrera

The beloved Bolivar project finally wrapped up during February, and we are still relishing in fresh memories of exciting archeology and fun field work that TxDOT along with Doug Boyd and team provided for NTAS. The peppy breeze and not infrequent iciness reminds the Bolivar visitor you are in the northern part of the great state. While Doug and his most excellent team were working hard to uncover the remains of the Blacksmith Shop and adjoining stacked limestone structure (storehouse?), NTAS volunteers and descendants of the Blacksmith, Tom Cook, were happily screening away at a fast clip. This last visit on January 31<sup>st</sup> I was most fortunate to be screening near NTAS member Brian Luetchford (who is featured in this month's member spotlight) and his son. Discoveries were flying off everyone's screen along with great discussion about the sites, artifacts, and archeology in general. TxDOT along with Doug and team provided a wonderful opportunity and we are very thankful to them for the generosity of allowing NTAS to get out and participate in top notch archeology while staying safe and having fun.



From site 41DN617: Cast iron stove fragment with oak leaf clusters and vent (left); glass and mother of pearl buttons (right). Photos by J. Barrera

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Siblings? Doug (left) and Jimmy (right) holding kaolin clay pipe fragment recovered from site 41DN617. Photos by D. Boyd and J. Barrera

# **Member Spotlight: Brian Luetchford**

I have been keenly interested in archeology since I was a child student of history reading my father's old National Geographic magazines. I eventually became an Anthropology major at the State University of New York at Albany, but changed majors while promising myself I would return to Archeology later in life. Now semi-retired, I am thrilled to be a new member of NTAS. I have participated in the Palo Duro Field School and the recent Bolivar dig. I hope to see all of you on Zoom and at the Kerrville Field School this June! I currently live in Little Elm with my lovely wife near our son, his wife and two grandchildren.



Brian at Ollantaytambo in Peru's Sacred Valley. Photo courtesy of B. Luetchford

# Tribute to Dominick (Nick) J. Cirincione (Aug 24, 1940 – Feb 04, 2021)

#### Phillip Williams

I met Nick in 1988 when I changed jobs at Bell Helicopter. A couple of years later, we were assigned to the same project. We developed quite a friendship and I realized that we shared interests in history, archeology, and paleontology. Nick was a long-time member of Fort Worth Westerners Corral, Texas Archeological Society, North Texas Archeological Society, Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, Texas Map Society, and Texas Old Missions and Forts Restoration Association (TOMFRA) among many others.

My first Nick outing was in 1993 to the Waco Mammoth Pit. Nick went down there periodically to photograph the progress of the excavation for the Strecker Museum at Baylor. Knowing Nick, I wasn't surprised when he didn't offer me a ride to Waco. He told me to meet him at the McDonalds in Waco on Saturday morning. So our daughter, Rebecca, and I met Nick and Ralph Vinson, volunteer excavator, and got a guided tour of the Mammoth Site dig. Over the years Nick and I definitely had some adventures that included trips to Colorado and Utah for Paleontology programs, to New Mexico twice for Paleoamerican programs, and trips in Texas to Houston for the exhibit of Lucy's hominid skeleton, to the McDonald Observatory on a Texas Map Society bus trip, and a November canoe trip down the Devils River north of Del Rio for Rock Art viewing where we capsized our canoe.

My wife, Vicki, and I included Nick on many of our Texas trips. Highlights of some trips include the 1997 tour the LaBelle shipwreck coffer dam excavation in Matagorda Bay, Red River War Symposium in Canyon, Shumla Rock Art Research Center program/camping trip in Comstock, and TOMFRA Spring trips to Abi-



lene, Brazoria, Fredericksburg, Goliad, Gonzales, Lubbock, and San Angelo.

Nick was a kind, good-hearted person. In 2011, when he was organizing his Sesquicentennial Wagon Train photos that he took in 1986 for the Acadia book, he asked if we saw the Wagon Train. I told him we had a photo of our daughters, Christina and Rebecca, riding in a covered wagon. Nick used our photos in his book.

We looked forward to receiving his custom photo Christmas cards that displayed his travels. For the last few years, we received the "Blast from the Past" cards that highlighted some of his previous trips since he wasn't able to travel. He was an excellent source of information on stock market investing, travel, and political opinion, whether we wanted it or not!! Between 2005 and 2017, Nick was a regular guest for supper with us at least once a month. We noticed as early as 2013 that he was having some physical issues. He later told us about his Parkinson's diagnosis.

Nick was not one to take unsolicited recommendations. I recall suggesting that he needed to have a garage door opener installed, a quicker driving route from his house to ours, the need for a cell phone for emergencies, and how easy it would be to set up a personal email account for him. He only followed through with the garage door opener!! However, when he solicited information regarding a good dentist, ophthalmologist, or lawyer to update his will, he readily accepted our recommendations.

After Nick broke his hip and moved to Meadowwood Assisted Living Facility, I tried to stay in contact by phone since he could no longer drive. I told him about my new hearing aids that connect directly to my cell phone, but he wasn't interested in the latest technology. Phone calls between two guys with hearing aids didn't work out well for either of us.

Dominick Jack Cirincione was born in Brooklyn, New York. He was an Aviation Electrician in the US Navy. He attended Teterboro School of Aeronautics where he obtained his FAA Airframe and Powerplant License. After moving to Texas, he obtained degrees from TCC and TCU.

Nick worked most of his career at Bell Helicopter. As a Bell Field Rep, he had many assignments that took him around the world. He had long-term work assignments in Vietnam, Iran, and Brazil.

Nick traveled to all 7 continents. Some of his tourist trips included visits to England, Spain, Galapagos Islands, Australia's Outback, African Safari, and 3 cruises on MS Explorer (240-foot ice breaker ship with a capacity of only 104 passengers) to Antarctica, 2,000-mile cruise up and down the Amazon River, and to the North Atlantic Ocean.

Nick was a prolific black and white photographer. He documented the following:

\* Waco Mammoth National Monument multi-year dig - Photos are currently available for research at the Mammoth Site and some of his photos can be viewed at the following website. https://www.nps.gov/waco/learn/ historyculture/index.htm

\* Sesquicentennial Wagon Train 1986 – Collection housed at the Briscoe Center for American History at UT Austin

\* Great American Cattle Drive Re-Enactment 1995 - Photos currently available for viewing at Tarrant County College

\* Lewis and Clark 200th Anniversary Festivities 2007 – Photos at multiple locations along the expedition route

Nick was the Acadia Book Co-author for "Texas Sesquicentennial Wagon Train". He supplied the photos from his visits to numerous locations over the 6 months that the wagon train traveled around Texas in 1986. Historian and coauthor, J'Nell Pate Barnes, researched news clippings and wrote the text. The book was published in 2011.

Nick was a long-time contributor to Tarrant County Archives. His collection reflected his interests in Aviation and Aviation History, Maps, Film and Theater, Photography, Northeast Tarrant County communities, the exploits of Bonnie and Clyde Barrow, and the John F. Kennedy assassination.

# **4H Club Monthly Meeting Presentation on Archeology**

## Gen Freix

The Tarrant County Council of 4H clubs requested me to speak as a North Texas Archeological Society member at their monthly meeting. The 4H club is much more than agriculture, now. As part of their ongoing youth development, they engage speakers from environmental sciences, aerospace engineering, nutrition, architecture, clothing design, and several areas of technology to name a few.

They asked for a twenty-minute overview of Archeology, then Q&A time. It was crazy trying to cover the many facets of archeology in that time frame. The most difficult part was deciding on what to leave out. I talked fast and clicked through the Power Point quickly. The 4H members made comments, asked questions, and seemed interested in the TAS field school. Maybe we will see 4H members at our next TAS Field School.

# 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 (<u>internetchair@ntxas.org</u>). 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 (<u>publicationseditor@ntxas.org</u>).

Nominate a member for our new member spotlight feature! (See page 7).

# It is time to renew your NTAS membership

Please renew registration online here: <u>https://ntxas.org/join-and-renew</u> or use the form on pages 11-12 of this newsletter and mail with check or money order.

Thank you for your continued support!

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North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

Name(s)				
Address	Phone			
City\State\Zip				
<b>Emergency Contact(s):</b> 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 T	erm: January to December)			
	Family Membership - \$25			
$\Box$ Renewal	Total Family Members			
🛛 Individual Membership - \$20				
$\Box$ 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	e 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			
<b>Media Release:</b> 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 opti	on available at <b>ntxas.org/join-and-renew</b>			
North Texas Arc	neck or money order made payable to: cheological Society Ft. Worth, TX 76124			

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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 ANTIOUITIES 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. Date Signature(s)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 Gwen Durrant** Linda Lang President Treasurer Historian Bryan Jameson Tim Sullivan **Annaliese Sonntag** Vice President Internet Chair Secretary Catrina Banks Whitley James Everett Molly Hall Immediate Past President Vice President of Projects **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.

April Newsletter: March 18September Newsletter: August 19May Newsletter: April 22October Newsletter: September 23July Newsletter: June 17November Newsletter: October 21August Newsletter: July 22December Newsletter: November 19

Please contact NTAS at <u>president@ntxas.org</u> if you wish to receive personal updates about fellow NTAS members. Those who contact NTAS with interest will be added to a list and kept informed regarding personal updates about fellow members including health matters. Everyone else is automatically opted out of these updates.

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