

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

NTAS meetings are free and visitors are always welcome.

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Benchmark

Volume 36, Issue 5

May 2022

President's Message

For the April 14th monthly meeting 22 folks joined in person and 36 via Zoom. Mr. Brad Jones delivered an interesting program on stone tools in historic site contexts. This included discussion and possible interpretation of lithics recovered from the 1554 San Esteban shipwreck, the 1686 La Belle shipwreck, 1685-1689 Fort St. Louis and other sites. I enjoyed learning about x-ray analysis on the rusted artifacts from the 1554 shipwreck revealing artifact function and surprise lithic materials! The April 14th meeting was recorded and is available on the NTAS YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UChDKM9I3UdiYizPyG3duohQ/ featured

A huge thanks to Dr. Catrina Whitley for hosting multiple NTAS workshops in April of 2022!! On April 1st a Human Remains workshop was held. April 8th a flotation workshop was offered. And April 22nd the workshop was artifact analysis from the BaahKu site in New Mexico.

Chris Meis and the Clovis Field site team hosted another round of excavations in Mills County on April 9th and 10th, see pages 4-5 for details. Thank you, Chris and team for your continued efforts.

On April 22nd-24th I coordinated the TAS Lithics Academy in Austin. Fifty people participated including six NTAS members. The academy started with an extracurricular tour of archeological (including lithic quarry) and geological



sites at a park in south Austin on April 22nd. Class was held at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) at UT Austin April 23rd-24th. The instructors did a tremendous job providing an intro to lithics through examples of detailed analysis. Participants also enjoyed a special tour of TARL and saw the famous lithic artifacts recovered from the Mayan site Colha in Belize.

And this month's newsletter has more exciting NTAS volunteer opportunities including another round of fieldwork at the Clovis Field site May 14th-15th. Please contact Chris Meis to sign-up at lptmeis@sbcglobal.net. And a call for volunteers to assist the June 21st-23rd Archeology Kids Camp, and opportunity to join fieldwork (July 23rd-August 6th) on the BaahKu site in New Mexico.

(Continued on page 2)

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facebook.com/NTXAS.org

www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

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May Speaker: Leslie Bush

Caddo Houses in East Texas, AD 900-1834

Caddo ancestors in East Texas built in a variety of architectural styles, including the *koo hoot kiwat* (grass house). Archaeological evidence, historical accounts, and descendants' traditional knowledge reveal the construction materials and techniques employed. They also help us understand house construction as both an engineering and a social process and explore the distribution of Caddo structures over the landscape, variation over time and space, and house furnishings and activities.

Leslie L. Bush is a paleoethnobotanist, an archaeologist who specializes in identifying bits of plants preserved on archaeological sites, usually in the form of charcoal and occasionally as waterlogged or desiccated plant parts. Through her consulting practice, Macrobotanical Analysis, she has worked on sites in nineteen states including Maryland, Florida, Iowa, Montana, Indiana, and Texas. Leslie is currently involved with investigations associated with Bois d'Arc Lake in East Texas and road improvements in central



Oklahoma. She is also identifying and interpreting plant materials from previous excavations at the Plains Village site of Harrison Greenbelt and historic Mission Dolores.

President's Message, cont'd

TAS Field School is June 11th-18th. **Register now** (https://www.txarch.org/Field-School)! Last year 50 NTAS members participated in the TAS field school, so I guarantee plenty of your north Texas friends will be there to enjoy Kerrville with you this year. To date, NTAS has awarded four scholarships for the 2022 TAS Field School and we are ready to award more, apply now (https://ntxas.org/scholarships).

Please note that NTAS does **not** have a monthly meeting or newsletter in June. NTAS resumes monthly meetings and newsletters in July. And an exciting note that NTAS is now the largest regional archeological society in Texas with over 225 members! Congratulations and welcome the new NTAS members who have been steadily joining over the past few months.

The May 12, 2022 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. The May guest speaker is Dr. Leslie Bush – paleoethnobotanist and owner of Macrobotanical Analysis. Dr. Bush will present on Caddo grass houses in east Texas from 900 – 1834 AD. Thank you and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on May 12th.

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

June: No Meeting (TAS Field School)

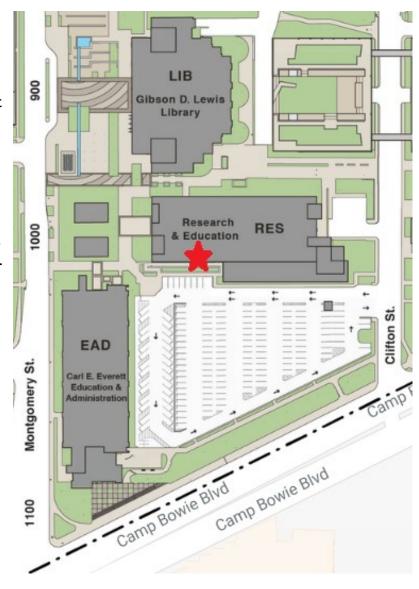
July 14th: Tim Roberts (Rock Art & Archeology of Hueco Tanks)

August 11th: Dr. Alan Slade (Texas Clovis Fluted Point Survey)

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.



NTAS Is Co-Hosting the 2022 TAS Meeting!

Mark your calendars for the TAS Annual Meeting:

October 21-23, 2022!

Not only will it be under two hours from the Metroplex in Tyler, Texas, but NTAS is co-hosting the meeting along with UT Tyler!

Join us for the presentations and comradery, as well as the opportunity to volunteer as part of the Local Arrangements Committee!

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NTAS Volunteers at Clovis Field Site

Chris Meis

We had a great turnout of volunteers last month for the April 9-10th weekend. A total of 19 people showed up to help and of those, 13 were NTAS members! I had a couple of individuals ask me how we got so many great members to consistently show up and my response was "we just publish the dates and they commit because that's the kind of helpful, dedicated and interested people they are." (I didn't mention the free beer.)

Progress at the site continues to expose these hearth-type features with fire-cracked rock spread across the surface. A couple of thermal features were discovered among the burned rock; these will be investigated further. We intend to expand the excavation area until we have a 10m x 10m grid exposed, hoping to discover other associated features. Three diagnostic projectile points have been discovered so far from these units: one Pedernales and two Ensor type dart points. These date the site to the Middle Archaic – Transitional Archaic time periods.

Additional NTAS members who participated but are not pictured were Phillip Darce and John Zumwalt. Our next scheduled dig date is **May 14-15, 2022**.

Hope to see you there!



Art Tawater and Kathleen Hughes

Volume 36, Issue 5 Page 5 General view of grids and units with burned-rock features. Carolyn Coughlin and Gen Freix Left to right: Paul Christmas, Jacob Flynn, Rachel Moores, and Declan Grey

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Building the Record at the FWNC&R

Jimmy Barrera

Three more archeological sites were recorded at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge (FWNC&R)! All while searching for a historic sawmill that remains elusive...

This NTAS project had 13 folks participate, including three students from Weatherford College courtesy of their instructor Dana Ritchie. Student members representing Baylor, UT Arlington, and UNT were also present. Two brand new members participated, including John Zumwalt who drove all the way from Oklahoma City.

The Post Oak Windmill site (41TR339), Bret's Bootprint site (41TR340), and the Happy March site (41TR341) were recorded on March 26. The Post Oak Windmill site is a historic farmstead site (likely early to mid-20th century) represented by a windmill with water tank, a foundation for an outbuilding, possible residential foundation, fencelines, and a historic artifact scatter. Everyone was pleasantly surprised to find and record Bret's Bootprint site (41TR340), which is a precontact open campsite with a historic artifact scatter. The precontact component at site 41TR340 consists of at least four mussel shell concentrations within one area of the site, a light scatter of interior chert flakes, and one chert Washita arrowpoint supporting a Late Prehistoric period occupation (Figure 1). The historic scatter at site 41TR340 consists of glass, ceramics, and metal artifacts representing late-19th- to mid-20th-century activities. The Happy March site Figure 1. Washita point from (41TR341) is a prehistoric open campsite and historic artifact scatter Bret's Bootprint site (41TR340). with fencelines along an abandoned quarry pit (Figure 2). The prehis- Photo by I. Barrera. toric component at site 41TR341 consists of one mussel shell concen-



tration, a few interior chert flakes, and one FCR. The historic component at 41TR341 consists of scattered glass, ceramics, metal, and fencelines that represent late-19th- to mid-20th-century activity. All three sites are situated on mapped alluvium along the West Fork of the Trinity River.

Dana Ritchie, Ray Wallace, and Bret Williamson each oversaw one site recording from start to finish. And Ray mapped all three sites with GPS, created GIS maps for the site records, and shapefiles. Thanks to everyone who volunteered!



Figure 2. Happy March site (41TR341) crew recording site on March 26. Photo by J. Barrera.

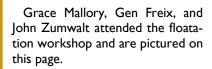
NTAS Archeology Workshops

Catrina Banks Whitley

Three workshops were held during the month of April. NTAS members had the opportunity to learn the basics of Human Osteology and how to identify adult and juvenile skeletal remains on April I. The second workshop, on April 8, focused on learning flotation techniques. The attendees learned to float sediment samples from the BaahKu Archaeological Project that will be sent for macrobotanical analysis. We followed the techniques taught by Leslie Bush, one of the foremost paleobotanists in Texas. Each participant worked through multiple samples from start to finish, including proper tagging of samples and how to pour the water to only catch the light-weight materials from the

samples. The crew surprisingly didn't get soaked or coated in mud during the class! The third workshop on April 22 focused on Artifact Analysis and Artifact Preparation for accession into a collection. Using artifacts

collection. Using artifacts from the BaahKu Archaeological Project, the participants learned to sort and identify different types of ceramics, lithics, bone, etc. The workshop also covered how to bag, record, tag, and sort artifacts so they are prepared for further analysis and accession. All workshops were well attended, and we plan to hold more workshops over the summer and continue with opportunities to participate in analysis of artifacts from the BaahKu Archaeological Project.





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Volunteer Opportunity: BaahKu Archaeological Project in Taos, New Mexico

Catrina Banks Whitley

Where: BaahKu Archaeological Site, Taos, NM

When: July 23 – August 6, 2022 (must at least commit to the first or second week)

How: By application, only a few spots are available

Requirements: This is an NTAS-affiliated dig and all volunteers must be members of NTAS. Prior excavation experience with preference to those with NM archaeology background. Must be able to lift heavy equipment; participate in excavation, screening, moving heavy buckets, and be steady on ladders/stepping into deep excavation units.

Cost: Volunteers cover all of their own costs including their own travel, housing, food, and personal excavation equipment, etc. (Please see below for descriptions on housing.)

Application: Available upon request at bioarchaldy@gmail.com **Project PI:** Catrina Banks Whitley, Co-Director Lia Tsesmeli

NTAS members have the opportunity to volunteer at the BaahKu Archaeological Project in Taos, New Mexico. Join us on our 13th year of excavations at the BaahKu Archaeological Site, far over the intended 4 years. The site dates between AD 1050-1210 and is comprised of two habitations, a south pithouse and a north pithouse with roomblocks, and a shrine. BaahKu is revealing previously undocumented information regarding construction techniques, abandonment processes, midden construction, site occupation dates on the north side of the valley, and distance distribution of pithouses/structures. Additionally, numerous artifacts new to the Taos Valley have been encountered revealing, at a minimum, long distance trade of items from Texas to Nevada to potentially definitive evidence of migrants into the Valley.

This project has made significant impacts on the archaeology in the Taos Valley and has a significant out-reach component with the locals from the Taos community to foster interest in archaeology in their area and collaboration with the Taos County Archaeological Society. Professional archaeologists who volunteer with us include specialists in geoarchaeology, GIS, remote sensing, and archaeomagnetic dating. We give site tours to the community and present virtual and in-person lectures to help grow public interest in archaeology. The ongoing work at BaahKu adds significant new insights into the lives of ancient people in the Taos Valley. All excavations are on private land, occur with all required NM permits, and in consultation with the related tribes and the CPRC of NM.

Please note this is NOT a field school and is a project that reuires some prior experience. We are on private land and the owners are hosting us on their property. Volunteering requires one or two weeks commitment. We are on site the first Sunday, July 24 to open the site from around 11 am to 5pm, and excavate Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 4:00 pm, with final excavations and closing of the site on Friday, August 5 and departing August 6. Weekends are on our own to explore the town and surrounding areas. Housing is coordinated at condos in the Taos Ski Valley, with volunteers sharing condos. Some individuals may have to share a room with another volunteer. Volunteering for one week is contingent upon condo space, so please contact me with questions. Also, please be aware housing and food is NOT included and each person will be responsible for their portion of the condo cost – approximately \$450-500 per person for two weeks. We do go out to eat as a group several times; however we also each buy groceries and cook at the condos. All participants at BaahKu must be members of NTAS.

Volunteer Opportunity: Archeology Camp at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center

Gen Freix

Again, this June, NTAS has been invited by the Doss Heritage and Culture Center in Weatherford, TX to join their Archeology Camp. Last year children ages 7-12 learned about many areas of archeology. The NTAS volunteers organized a mock dig, corn grinding, rabbit stick and atlatl throwing for the children. This year the Camp will be June 21 – 23 and volunteers will be needed.

If you wish to volunteer contact Gen Freix at gfreix3@gmail.com







Scholarship Recipient Report

Edwing Castellon

My name is Edwing, I am an undergrad Geography student at UNT. I have been an off again on again student for a while now and I am getting close to the home stretch of my undergraduate career. I have a big interest in social geography and how people have adapted or lived within certain landscapes.

The field school seems like an incredible opportunity to put some of my education into practice while also learning more about my state's history! The survey portion is something I have been interested in for a while now and would love to finally get some first hand experience under some guidance.

The scholarship would help me dip my toes in a field that I've wanted to do, physical science in the real world. While I would only be able to go for about 3-4 days it would still be a great opportunity.

Inaugural Newsletter for the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network

Rebecca Shelton

It is with great excitement that we have a web link to our updated and long-awaited TASN Newsletter! https://thc.texas.gov/public/upload/pdf/TASNnews_2022_01_spring.pdf

In the coming weeks, we should have a permanent landing page on the THC website for this issue and future newsletter links, but we did not want to wait another minute to share the 2022 Spring Issue with you all.

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NTAS Physical Library Disbanded

Many NTAS members might not be aware of the official NTAS library housed by Ms. Gen Freix. At the May 3, 2022 NTAS Executive Committee Meeting, the committee voted to disband the NTAS physical library. This was done after extensive discussion about how the library has been used (or rarely so) over the past several years.

We recognize that many of our members have donated their books to the library over the years, and if any of you would like to reclaim a book that you previously donated, please reach out to Gen Freix. Otherwise, the books will be available to the membership in exchange for monetary donations at in-person monthly meetings later this summer. We hope that these books will find loving homes among our members.

NTAS recognizes the importance of access to archeological literature. The NTAS website has links to online publication storehouses (https://ntxas.org/publication-indexes) and encourages the membership to explore these repositories, as many have the very same resources in a digital format that the NTAS physical library has in a physical format.

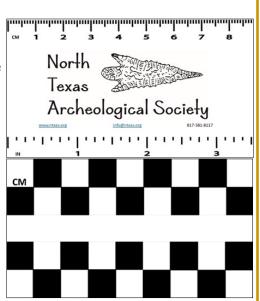
New NTAS Gear Available!



Bring your cash or checks to the May 12th meeting and score some brand new NTAS gear!

For a \$15 (or more) donation, you can have one of the first-ever NTAS hats!

For a \$1 donation, you can have a business card/ruler - plan to get several to share with any budding archeologists that you may know.



From the Archives

Linda Lang

For May, we have a special publication from the society titled *Information Bulletin of the Tarrant County Archeological Society: How to Recognize a Site*. This document was prepared by Cynthia Baxter and offers advice on how to identify and record a site. If you wish to learn more about this topic, email Linda Lang at lottlang@gmail.com. If you wish to access other newsletters or materials not currently featured, feel free to contact me for those requests as well!

**Special Request, I have not identified exactly when it was published. If anyone has knowledge of when this was published, I appreciate the information.



Check back next month for the latest installment...from the archives!

Archeological Events

Executive Committee Nominations (NTAS)

Several Executive Committee member slots will be available for the 2023-2024 term. Please contact James Everett at immediatepastpresident@ntxas.org if you would like to volunteer or nominate someone for positions.

Spirit Lodge: Mississippian Art from Spiro

through August 7, 2022

https://jornadaresearchinstitute.com

Dallas Museum of Art https://dma.org/art/exhibitions/spirit-lodge-mississippian-art-spiro General admission to the DMA is free, but tickets are required.

Workshop on Looting, Vandalism, and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act

May 11-12, 2022

The Jornada Research Institute will be offering a two-day training course on the looting and vandalism of archaeological sites, on May 11th and 12th, 2022. The course combines classroom presentations along with a field exercise. Participants can expect to learn to recognize profiles of looters, the signs of looting, the importance of databases that register vandalism, understanding looted site chronology, and how to conduct a field damage assessment. Moral and ethical considerations will also be discussed. Cost: 175.00 per attendee, and 150.00 for students. Location: US Bureau of Reclamation Area office, Albuquerque, NM.

Exploring Undertold Stories of Texas (THC Webinar)

May 12, 2022

Even with more than 16,000 Official Texas Historical Markers, many aspects of the state's history remain underrepresented. Since 2006, the Texas Historical Commission has promoted more than 200 of these stories through the agency's Undertold Markers program. The history of important individuals, events, communities, buildings, and structures is being told to new generations through this initiative designed to address historical gaps, promote diversity of topics, and proactively document significant underrepresented subjects or untold stories. Best of all, the selected topics receive a historical marker for free. Join THC staff for a presentation about Undertold Marker stories, what makes a successful submission, and how to apply for an Undertold Marker in your community.

Free Virtual Lectures — The Archaeological Conservancy

May 12, 2022

https://www.archaeologicalconservancy.org/virtual-lectures-2022/

Color and Directional Symbolism at Pueblo Bonito, Chaco Canyon Check the website for over two years worth of past lectures.

Clovis Field Site Excavations (NTAS)

May 14-15, 2022

Excavation weekend at the Clovis Field Project in Mills County. No experience necessary! If interested, to sign-up, or for more information including lodging please contact Chris Meis at lptmeis@sbcglobal.net.

TAS Field School June 11-18, 2022

Kerrville, TX See the TAS website for details https://txarch.org/2022-Field-School

Archeology Camp at Doss Heritage and Cultural Center (NTAS) June 21-23, 2022

Help children ages 7-12 learn about archeology through a mock dig, corn grinding, rabbit stick and atlatl throwing, etc. If interested in volunteering, please contact Gen Freix at gfreix3@gmail.com

Grass House Rebuilding at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site

July 5-17, 2022

Alto, TX Details: https://sites.google.com/view/friendsofcaddomoundsshs/volunteer/projects/grass-house

TAS Annual Meeting

October 21-23, 2022

Tyler, TX See the TAS website for details https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting

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TAS/ETAS 2022 Annual Meeting

The TAS Annual Meeting and the East Texas Archeological Conference will be a combined event this year. We will meet on the UT Tyler campus in the new Soules College of Business Building. The meeting dates are October 21 - 23, 2022

The co-hosts for this year's meeting are North Texas Archeological Society and the Department of Social Sciences at UT Tyler, TX. The Program Co-Chairs are Dr. Thomas Guderjan and Dr. E. Cory Sills of UT Tyler. Their "First Call for Papers" was distributed in an earlier email and is included in the TAS Newsletter.

The Friday night Public Forum Speaker will be Bobby Gonzalez, Chairman of the Caddo Nation. Our keynote speaker for the Saturday night banquet is Dr. Rolfe Mandel, Distinguished Professor, Director of Kansas Geological Survey, Senior Scientist, Geoarchaeology/Quaternary Geology.

Since we are not meeting in a hotel, those attending will be responsible for securing their own accommodations. The Local Arrangements Committee is working with several hotels in the area to secure favorable rates. The Hotel information will be published in the Summer TAS Newsletter.

Watch for continuing Annual Meeting information in the TAS Newsletter and on the TAS website.



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 (<u>vpofprojects@ntxas.org</u>) 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 president@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 member spotlight feature!



North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

Name(s)	
Address	Phone
City\State\Zip	
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 18 must contact NTAS in advance of app	dent with minimum half-time course load. Those dying.)
Communication Preferences: I/WE want to b	oe added to the following lists:
☐ General Announcements - For Meetings, Events	s, Publications, Membership Dues and NTAS Updates
☐ Personal Updates - For personal updates on NTA	S members such as illnesses, and obituaries
Digital copies of the newsletter are included wi receiving paper copies, please contact the Publica Secretary (secretary@ntxas.org) for pricing.	
Donation: Amount: \$ □ General Fund	d 🗆 Memorial Scholarship Fund 🗆 BaahKu Project
	cle as appropriate) give permission to NTAS to use any NTAS publications, website, or social media.
THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES OR ENGAGE	GE IN THE PRACTICES OF BUYING OR SELLING GAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION PER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I/WE
Signature(s)	Date
North Texas A	check or money order made payable to: ircheological Society 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!

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Welcome, New Members!

Ewing Castellon
Benjamin Lipke
Tom Middlebrook
David Shallenberger & Family
Kristina & Nathan Wolfe

NTAS Aims & Objectives

The purposes of the Society are

- (I) 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

Jimmy BarreraGwen DurrantLinda LangPresidentTreasurerHistorian

Ray Wallace Tim Sullivan Ashley Green Vice President Secretary Internet Chair

Catrina Banks Whitley James Everett Molly Hall

Vice President of Projects Immediate Past President Publications Editor

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Newsletter Submission Deadlines

The newsletter submission deadlines are two weeks prior to the monthly meetings, and upcoming deadlines are listed below for 2022.

July Newsletter: June 30 October Newsletter: September 29
August Newsletter: July 21 November Newsletter: October 27
September Newsletter: August 25 December Newsletter: November 24

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NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

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