



Benchmark

Volume 33, Issue 10

November 2019

The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** will welcome **Dr. Becca Peixotto** as the featured speaker for the **November 14th** 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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President's Message

November brings with it not only cooler weather but also a special season for giving thanks. I am speaking for myself here, but perhaps this thought applies to all of our members to some extent: with so much coming at us so quickly all of the time, and with so many things tending to constantly upset us and stress us out, it is extremely easy to forget to be thankful for so many things that we have. I, for one, am thankful to live in a State and in the North Texas area where groups like NTAS and TAS appreciate and support our rich archeological heritage.

For example, one of the things for which I am thankful is having dedicated NTAS members who volunteered to staff the display table and the children's dig during the Doss Pioneer Heritage Fest on October 5. As shown in the photos posted in this newsletter, for the second year in a row, NTAS discussed archeology with several hundred members of the public who visited the Doss Heritage and Culture Center.

Another example of why I am thankful for and proud of NTAS is the fact that 38 NTAS members attended the 90th Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society in Amarillo (October 11-13). NTAS members represented almost 20% of the total registrants for the Annual Meeting. And, our NTAS members were very active in planning and running the meeting. As the Chair of the Annual Meeting Com-



James Everett, President

mittee, Chris Meis made trips to Amarillo throughout 2019 to assist the Local Arrangements Committee. Gen Freix coordinated and served as the onsite director for the Silent Auction, which brought in \$2,500 for TAS. Paula Vastine organized a Symposium at which panelists explained the interesting and colorful history of TAS.

At the Annual Meeting, Bryan Jameson received the C. K. Chandler Award in recognition of his having recorded the most newly reported sites in Texas in the past year. Linda and Brett Lang are the Regional Directors for TAS's Region 3, and their participation in the Sunday morning Board meeting following the Annual Meeting was what allowed us to have a quorum and to conduct TAS business. Also, many NTAS members are serving on TAS Committees this year and into the future. During the Annual Meeting, I received many compliments on NTAS from peo-

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North Texas Archeological Society

President's Message

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ple from around the State, mostly centered on the fact that our organization is very active regionally and statewide, along with the fact that our membership numbers are rapidly increasing.

As shown in the pictures included in this newsletter, the Annual Meeting was not only educational and productive, but it was a lot of fun for our members who attended. I hope you are as proud of and as thankful for NTAS as I am.

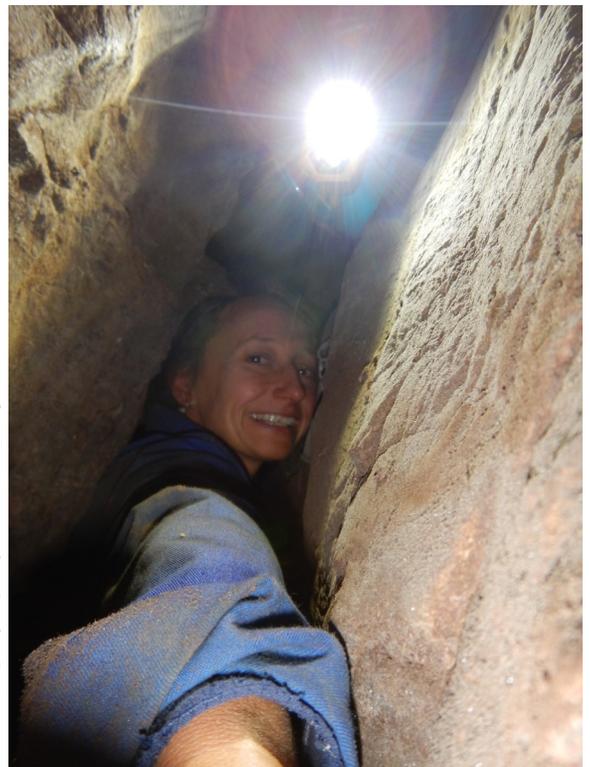
Happy Thanksgiving!!!

November Speaker: Dr. Becca Peixotto

***Homo naledi*: A View from the Rising Star Cave**

The 2013 discovery of hominin fossils 30m underground in a remote chamber of the Rising Star cave system in South Africa sent ripples through the field of paleoanthropology and our understanding of human origins. Join Dr. Becca Peixotto, one of the original excavators of *Homo naledi*, as she shares the adventure of working on the far side of an 18cm-wide gap, the implications of finding a 'new' 250,000 year old ancient human relative, the importance of sharing the research process, and what it's like to be an archaeologist working in paleoanthropology.

Thanks to a collaboration with the University of the Witwatersrand and National Geographic, fossils of *Homo naledi* and the 2 million year old *Australopithecus sediba* are showcased in the Origins: Fossils from the Cradle of Humankind exhibit at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas through March 22, 2020. It is the first time the authentic fossils have been on display outside South Africa and Dallas is their only stop. Don't miss this chance to come face to face with our ancient relatives and learn more about human origins and the scientists making amazing discoveries.



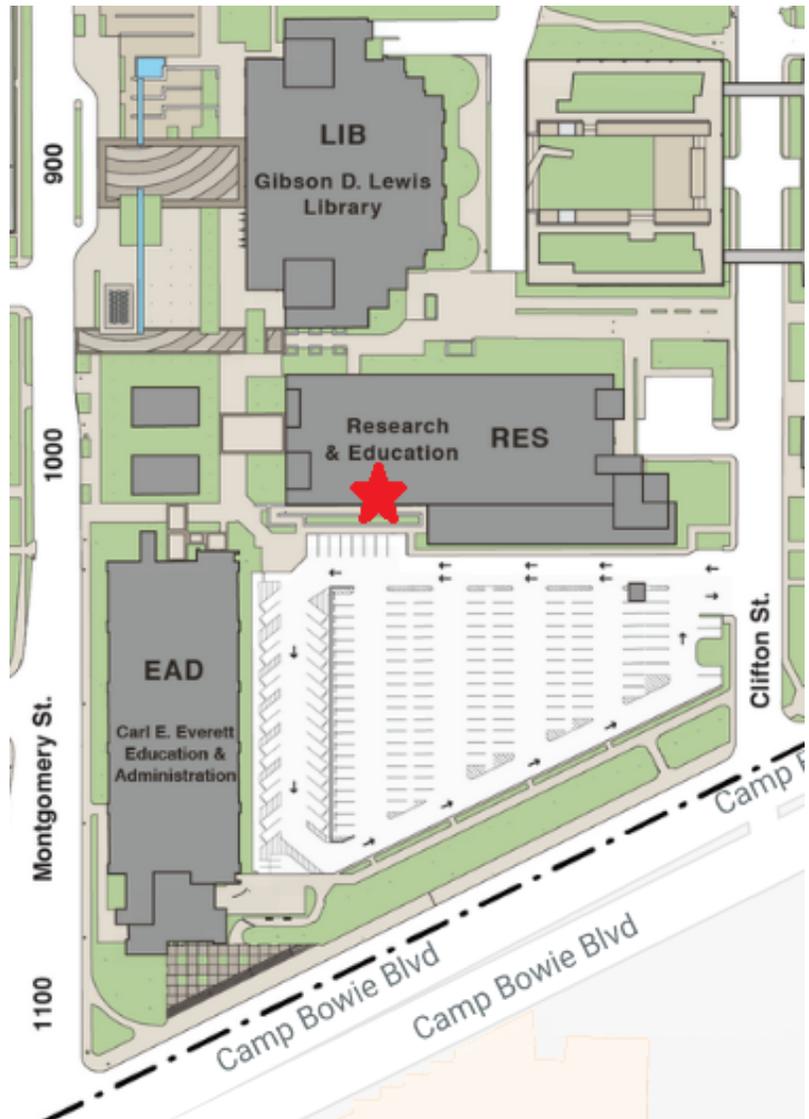
Dr. Peixotto in Rising Star Cave



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

December 14th: NTAS Annual Christmas Party
(further information will appear in the December newsletter)

Welcome New NTAS Members:

Jeffrey Campbell

Carolyn Gibson

Gabriel Griffin

Ashley Risinger

Pioneer Heritage Fest at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center

Photos courtesy of James & Susan Everett



James Everett and Steve Lowe assisting



The Newberry Cabin in its new home at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center



Gen Freix assisting



Marvin and Dina Glasgow at a display table

Linda Lang and Plains Indian researcher Curtis Carter in a tipi he constructed



NTAS at the TAS Annual Meeting

**Doug Boyd presents
Bryan Jameson the
C. K. Chandler Award
(photo by Susan Everett)**



Four TAS Presidents: Sarah Chesney, President-Elect; James Everett, President; Jason Barrett, Immediate-Past President; Paula Vastine, President 2018 (photo by Susan Everett)





A group of NTAS members: Brett Lang, Paula Vastine, James Everett, Chris Meis, and Art Tawater (photo by Susan Everett)

Wendy Lockwood and Teddy Lou Stickney at the banquet (photo by Gen Freix)



NTAS Scholarship Recipient Attends TAS Annual Meeting

By Lori Connolley

As a new student of Archaeology, I want to learn as much as I can, as quickly as I can from everyone around me. My journey began in March when I resigned from a 15+ year career in Sales Management. I decided I wanted to change careers so I returned to college to study my childhood passion; Archaeology. My two daughters call it a "mid-life crisis", I call it living my dream! In August, I attended my first NTAS meeting. I didn't know anyone there, but you would never know it! Everyone was so nice and welcoming, I knew immediately I wanted to be a part of this organization. From this moment on, things really began to fall into place.

As a part time student, I was looking for part time work, but was having trouble finding something remotely related to Archaeology. I was about to take a retail job when the most amazing opportunity opened up. I was at the NTAS meeting in September when Dr. Becca Peixotto from the Perot Museum of Nature and Science announced they would be hiring for the upcoming exhibit - Origins, From The Cradle of Humankind. For one time only, and only at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science; the skeletal remains of two ancestral Hominid species would be brought here from Africa! The fossils were from the very underground cave that Dr. Becca Peixotto and her colleagues unearthed them from! I almost jumped out of my chair! It was an immense opportunity, so I immediately applied. A few weeks later, I was hired as a Gallery Engagement Specialist for the Exhibit. If I would have not been at the NTAS meeting that day, I would have missed the opportunity of a lifetime!

Another opportunity I did not want to miss was the 90th Annual TAS meeting in October, I knew if I could attend I would be able to learn from and connect with others in my new field. It was imperative I go, but I had been out of work since February. And although I now was employed, the position didn't start until mid October. I had no idea how I was going to make it happen, but Paula Vastine did. She encouraged me to apply for a Scholarship, and I'm so glad I did! I was awarded a Scholarship to attend the TAS meeting. It was an amazing experience to say the least, I was able to explore archaeological sites at Palo Duro Canyon, and stand next to where a prehistoric village once stood at Alibates National Park! All of this was made possible because a few months ago I walked into a North Texas Archaeological Society meeting; and for that, and all the opportunities I've experienced so far, I am extremely grateful!

Standing: Lori Connolley,
Chris Meis, Kathleen Hughes,
Katrina Nuncio;
Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Dennis
(Photo courtesy of Gen Freix)



TAS Geoarcheology Academy

When: February 15-16, 2020

Where: Victoria College

Cost: \$100 (and TAS membership)

This two-day Texas Archeology Academy explores how geological and soil formation processes affect archeological sites, and how investigators use this information to reconstruct both the human and natural histories of an area. Learning to record and interpret soil profiles can illuminate both how a site was used by people and how people responded to changes in the natural environment. This Academy will include instruction, laboratory exercises, and field trips. Both presenters (Dr. Charles Frederick and Karl Kibler) are experienced geoarcheologists. The cost includes two days of instruction, refreshments, lunch, and a digital manual.

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.

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. John 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 two 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

Save the Date — More Info to Come

January 2020 — Perot Museum Activity

February 8, 2020 — Bell County Museum, Gault Site/Gault School

SAA Annual Meeting — April 22-26, 2020 — Austin

Artifact Analysis Days

By **Catrina Whitley**

Artifact analysis days are a great way to learn the skills of cataloging and analyzing artifacts. We are working on artifacts from an active site in New Mexico and preparing them for curation and further in depth analysis. Join us for our last artifact analysis day of the Fall season: Nov 8 10:00am-2:30pm. Please RSVP to Catrina Whitley: catrina_whitley@prodigy.net



Volunteer Opportunity - Hunters, Gatherers, and Cooking History

When: November 23 10AM-3PM

Where: Dinosaur Valley State Park

Needs:

- Volunteers to demonstrate and/or help explain the history of atlatls and atlatl throwing, and Native American archery
- Volunteers to demonstrate flint knapping
- Volunteers to help lead short discussions on the Native American history/prehistory of the area and/or early settler history. These “lectures” can be repeated several times throughout the day. The lecture/discussion will take place outdoors, with no place to use PowerPoint slides. It can even be presented as a “history hike” during which a group will walk a short distance, pause for some remarks from the volunteer, then walk further and pause again.
- Volunteers to demonstrate other Native American activities (e.g., corn grinding).

If you are available to assist with this event, please let James Everett know as soon as you can.

TAS Calendars for Sale

Gen Freix will have 2020 TAS calendars for sale. They are \$10 and feature photos from the 2019 TAS field school taken by TAS members.

NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

NTAS Board

James Everett
President

Dana Ritchie
Treasurer

Linda Lang
Historian

Bryan Jameson
Vice President

Lloyd Erwin
Secretary

Gen Freix
Internet Chair

Catrina Banks Whitley
Vice President—Projects

Chris Meis
Immediate Past President

Molly Hall
Newsletter Editor

Three easy and quick ways to pay your 2019 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.

November 2019 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 _____