



The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** meeting for **November 12th** will be **held via Zoom** (see **Page 3** for instructions).

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

**NOVEMBER
NTAS
MEETING WILL
BE VIRTUAL**

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Benchmark

Volume 34, Issue 10

November 2020

President's Message

It is November – a month intended to remind us to “be thankful” – and despite the fact that 2020 has been a most unusual year, there is still much for which we should be thankful. For example, as far as we know, none of our NTAS members has tested positive for coronavirus. And, despite our inability to meet in person and to engage in most of our normal field activities or special projects, NTAS has continued to add new members and to grow throughout the year – partly as a result of using Zoom.

In October, we had our third outstanding Zoom meeting, at which time Marion Coe discussed perishable artifacts and hunter/gatherer communities. At least 39 devices (representing 45 people) connected to the meeting. Since August, Zoom has allowed us to expand our membership base far beyond the Metroplex, resulting in several new NTAS memberships this Fall for individuals with a Fort Worth/Dallas background currently residing in areas such as Portland, Oregon and the Brownsville area. They now attend our Zoom meetings. Zoom also permits long-time NTAS members who live in locations such as Mississippi, Beaumont, and Austin to participate in our monthly meetings without leaving home. And, several local members who do not usually get to attend due to transportation problems or Metroplex traffic have taken advantage of the easy access provided by Zoom. I am very thankful that Zoom has allowed us to turn the negatives of coronavirus and “quasi-quarantines” into a net positive for the organization.



James Everett, President

Those who attended last month's Zoom meeting were able to take part in the election of our officers for 2021-2022. I would like to congratulate the following newly-elected NTAS Board of Directors and wish them the best as they prepare to begin their new terms in office in January:

- President: Jimmy Barrera*
- Vice-President: Bryan Jameson*
- Vice-President of Projects: Catrina Banks Whitley*
- Secretary: Tim Sullivan*
- Treasurer: Gwen Durrant*
- Historian: Linda Lang*
- Internet Chair: Annaliese Sonntag*
- Publications (Newsletter) Editor: Molly Hall*

I would also like to thank the NTAS Nominating Committee (Katrina Nuncio, Chair; Paula Vastine; Chris Meis) for providing us with such an outstanding slate of candidates for the election. Something else for which to be thankful this month.

Happy Thanksgiving, NTAS!

Connect with NTAS:

[facebook.com/NTXAS.org](https://www.facebook.com/NTXAS.org)

www.NTXAS.org

info@ntxas.org

November Speaker: Tom Guderjan

The Impact of Remote Sensing on Maya Archaeology: Using LiDAR to shed light on the Little Kingdoms among the Great Kingdoms. Understanding the Maya Archaeology of Northwestern Belize.

Much of the recent public discussion about the ancient Maya has focused on the history of the great dynasties, such as the Kaan dynasty. This discussion will focus on the small kingdoms of northwestern Belize whose scale, population size and economic importance to the rest of the Maya world has yet to be fully understood. Since remote sensing has changed our view after 27 years of field research, this discussion will focus on the scale, complexity and economic underpinnings of the kingdoms of the region.

Tom Guderjan is an archaeologist with research interests in agricultural production, trade and urban organization of the ancient Maya. He directs a field project in Central America that trains more than 100 students annually and has for 28 years. Dr. Guderjan chairs the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Texas at Tyler. Dr. Guderjan received his PhD from Southern Methodist University and has authored or co-authored more than 100 articles and 5 books, mostly on Maya archaeology.



Welcome New NTAS Member:

Paul O'Dell

Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

December: Annual Christmas Party (TBD)

January 14th: Charles Frederick

February 11th: Catrina Banks Whitley

Preparing to Zoom

If you do not already have Zoom, it will save time if – before you actually want to use it - you download the Zoom software or app by going to Zoom.us and, at the bottom of the Home Page, clicking on “Download”. This will allow you to download and install the software free, without actually having to set up a Zoom account (with email address and password). If you prefer to have a free Zoom account, click on the “Sign up, It’s free” button, provide your email address and a password, and you will have a free Zoom account (which allows you to host your own Zoom meetings if you want to).

Prior to each monthly meeting, you will receive a “Zoom invite” with the necessary link and other information regarding the meeting. **Keep the “invite”** to make it easier to join the meeting. (You will need the “invite” the night of the meeting.)

Each Zoom “invite” will also include such things as tips about what to expect as you join the meeting, “Zoom etiquette”, and other pertinent information.

The Zoom “invites” will list the names and phone numbers of several NTAS members who have agreed to be Zoom assistants, available to help anyone who encounters a problem joining the meeting or using any of the Zoom features (e.g., raising your hand to ask a question, using the “chat” feature).

At least for the first few meetings, please limit access for each household to one device per meeting. (After the first few meetings, hopefully we will have a better idea of how close we are to exceeding our 100-device limit.)

Using Zoom for our monthly meetings will be a learning experience for all of us. Please be patient and understanding.

Virtual Archaeology Tours

Since we are currently unable to enjoy archaeologically themed outings, Vice President of Special Projects, Catrina Banks Whitley, has rounded up a few virtual tours that might interest the group. There will be more to come in next month’s newsletter!

<https://historyview.org/>

Well over 200 virtual tours are accessible through this website including archaeological marvels such as the Lion Panel in Chauvet Cave, Easter Island, and Chaco Cultural National Historical Park, and natural wonders like Victoria Falls, Big Island Lava Tube, and the Amazon Rainforest.

<https://www.boem.gov/environment/virtual-archaeology-museum>

Tour 3D models of shipwrecks discovered in the course of oil and gas exploration overseen by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

<https://historicjamestowne.org/archaeology/>

This website presents summaries of ongoing research and excavations at the first permanent English settlement in America. You can explore open excavation blocks, interactive maps, artifacts, publications, and a virtual fort.

NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

NTAS Board

James Everett
President

Dana Ritchie
Treasurer

Linda Lang
Historian

Bryan Jameson
Vice President

secretary@ntxas.org
Secretary

Gen Freix
Internet Chair

Catrina Banks Whitley
Vice President—Projects

Chris Meis
Immediate Past President

Molly Hall
Newsletter Editor

Two 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

PLEASE NOTE: The browser Chrome does not interface with PayPal through our website. Please use a different browser.

By mail: Complete the application below and mail it with your check to:
North Texas Arch Society, PO Box 24679, Fort Worth, TX 76124

November 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 _____