

The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** will welcome **Dr. Kevin Hanselka** as the featured speaker for the **October 3rd** meeting (see **Page 2** for details).

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

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# Benchmark

Volume 33, Issue 9

October 2019

## President's Message

Happy Texas Archeology Month (TAM). As we did last October, this year NTAS will commemorate TAM by participating in Pioneer Heritage Fest at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center in Weatherford. On October 5, we will staff several display tables at the Doss. We will also oversee an indoor sandpit dig site for children. Last year, about 500 people visited our display tables, and the children's dig was tremendously popular. We need volunteers to assist us again this year. Please sign up to help at the next NTAS meeting.

As we have been publicizing for the past few months, the next NTAS meeting will be held "early" this month – on **October 3** – to avoid a conflict with this year's Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Annual Meeting in Amarillo. In Amarillo, we will celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for TAS and we will preview the 90<sup>th</sup> Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society.

I would like to thank Mike Shannon for creating a beautiful framed poster and then, over the past three months, organizing the sale of raffle tickets for his work of art. Thanks, too, to the many NTAS members who purchased raffle tickets. Finally, we all owe a big "thank you" to Mike



*James Everett, President*

for donating the \$176 raised by the raffle to NTAS.

Our new NTAS members have really been active. Several have brought refreshments for NTAS meetings, and some have volunteered to participate in NTAS projects and to serve NTAS and TAS in various capacities, such as on Committees. At the September meeting, Lori Connolley was presented with an NTAS scholarship to attend the TAS Annual Meeting while Chris Romo won the drawing for the raffled poster. We very much appreciate new members joining NTAS and attending meetings. We appreciate even more their active approach to NTAS membership.

Many long-time members of NTAS were recently recognized for being outstanding Archeological Stewards

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## Connect with NTAS:

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

[www.NTXAS.org](http://www.NTXAS.org)

[info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)

**North Texas Archeological Society**

## President's Message

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for the Texas Historical Commission. The following Stewards received the Norman Flaigg Certificate of Outstanding Performance: Art Tawater, Ona B. Reed, Bryan Jameson, and Chris Meis. (The newest member of NTAS, Steve Davis, was also awarded the Norman Flaigg Certificate.) Receiving Honorable Mention awards were Bret Williamson, Sonny Wheeler III, and Kathleen Hughes. Congratulations to those recipients, and Happy TAM to everyone.

**See you on October 3.**

## October Speaker: Kevin Hanselka

### The Archaeological Record of Maize (and Lack Thereof) in Texas

Following its domestication in southwestern Mexico sometime after 9,000 years ago, maize (*Zea mays* ssp. *mays*) spread across the New World and eventually formed the foundation for countless prehistoric Native American food production systems. However, in most of Texas this significant Mesoamerican crop never gained a firm foothold as it did in regions to the south, west, and northeast. Regardless, the archaeological record demonstrates the prehistoric presence of maize in some parts of the state, and our understanding of prehistoric Texans' use of, knowledge of, and variable dependence on the cultigen is gradually evolving. In this presentation I address the patchy and undeniably sparse archaeological record of maize in Texas, and explore some potential explanations for the observable patterns in its distribution.

**Kevin Hanselka** is an archaeologist at the Texas Department of Transportation, a consulting archaeobotanist, and independent researcher. His research interests include plant-related subsistence and technology, intensification, agricultural origins, and mixed foraging-farming economies, specializing in northern Mexico and the Southwestern U.S. At the University of Texas at San Antonio (M.A., 2000) he studied plant use on Late Archaic farming villages in Chihuahua (northwest Mexico), and he began his continuing research into emergent agricultural economies in Tamaulipas (northeast Mexico) while at Washington University in Saint Louis (Ph.D., 2011). He is on the Archaeobotany Team for the Ancient Southwest Texas Project (Texas State University) in the Lower Pecos Canyonlands, and is the Principal Investigator on the 2019 Texas Archeological Society's Annual Field School, held this year in Palo Duro Canyon State Park. He presently lives in Allen, Texas, with his wife Heather, young daughter Sabrina, and black lab Ace.

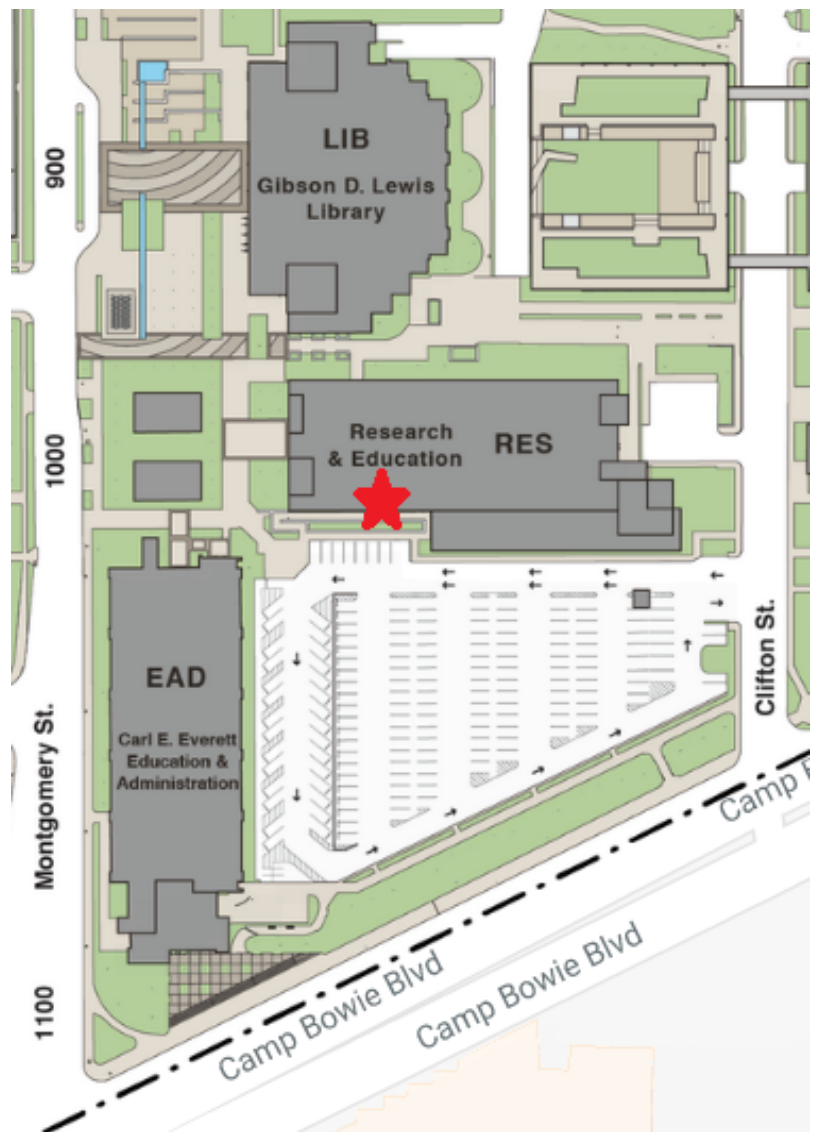


## ***WE HAVE A NEW MEETING LOCATION***

### **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**

**November 14th: Becca Peixotto**  
**December 14th: NTAS Annual Christmas Party**

### **Welcome New NTAS Member:**

Steve Davis

## NTAS at the Edible Plant Walk

By Gen Freix

On Sunday, August 25 several NTAS members attended the Edible Plant Walk/Talk at the Dinosaur Valley Park. We met Zachary, the park ranger, who assigned each of us a plant to find and inform the group of its positive and negative points. We found mustang grape vines, pale yucca, great mullein (below), wild lettuce, and several more edible plants. It was an interesting, fun hour.



## NTAS Scholarship Recipient

By Gen Freix

At last month's meeting, James Everett awarded Lori Connolley an NTAS Scholarship to the 90th TAS Annual Meeting in Amarillo, TX. Lori is an undergraduate student studying Anthropology and GIS and she is looking forward to the Annual Meeting.



## Texas Archeological Society 90th Annual Meeting

The Panhandle Archeological Society is honored to invite all of you to the upcoming 90<sup>th</sup> TAS Annual Meeting at the Embassy Suites in downtown Amarillo on October 11-13, 2019. This year's meeting is a conference not to be missed with field trips to archaeological localities situated in picturesque and dramatic settings, numerous special symposia, and engaging speakers for the public forum and banquet, in addition to all of the regularly scheduled meetings, workshops, and events.

## 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**

## Artifact Analysis Days

By *Catrina Whitley*

Two Artifact Analysis Days are in the bag! Fun has been had by all. We are learning to identify the different types of Southwest pottery, how to record and measure pottery rims, the identification of lithic/stone material, how to identify faunal remains, and much more. Additionally, everyone is learning how to catalogue artifacts on forms and bag them properly for collections.

When: 10:00am-2:30pm  
Sep 27, Oct 18, Nov 8

Where: Midlothian  
Email [catrina\\_whitley@prodigy.net](mailto:catrina_whitley@prodigy.net)  
for directions

Learn to analyze artifacts from Taos Valley, NM. The artifacts are from a site that dates AD 1050-1250. Donuts, coffee, tea, and iced tea will be served!



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## Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival

When: October 5

Where: Doss Heritage and Culture Center, Weatherford  
NTAS will have a display table and children's dig. We need volunteers to help set up from 7 to 9:30 am and to staff the tables and children's dig in two-hour shifts from 10 am to 5 pm. A sign-up sheet will be available at the October meeting.

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## 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

**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](http://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.

**October 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 \_\_\_\_\_