



The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** will welcome **Dr. Joshua Keene** as the featured speaker for the **September 12th** meeting (see **Pages 2-3** for details).

NTAS meetings are **free** and visitors are always welcome (see **Page 5** for our **NEW** location and directions).

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Benchmark

Volume 33, Issue 8

September 2019

President's Message

Fall is just around the corner and our “Year of Change” continues. So far in 2019, we have changed the Society’s name as well as our long-time meeting room. Now, for October, we will change the date of our meeting to **October 3** instead of October 10. We will continue to remind members of this change, but we wanted to notify you now of the upcoming date change.

Of course, the reason we are changing the date of the NTAS meeting in October is the early date for the Texas Archeological Society’s Annual Meeting this year. An NTAS meeting on October 10 would have interfered with NTAS members’ ability to make the trip to Amarillo for the Annual Meeting. With an October 3 NTAS meeting, we expect a very large number of NTAS members to attend this 90th TAS Annual Meeting, October 11-13. This year’s symposium “Reflections on the First 90 Years of TAS” will give everyone a fantastic opportunity to learn about the history and the interesting people who have helped to make TAS the successful organization it has become since 1928.

Despite all of the preceding discussion about October, please remember: **the September NTAS**



James Everett, President

meeting will take place on our “normal” second Thursday – September 12. We will have an extremely interesting presentation on a newly publicized pre-Clovis site, so plan to attend and bring a guest.

So far this year, NTAS is growing at a very encouraging pace. Twenty-eight new members have joined us since April, bringing with them energy, enthusiasm, and new ideas. I sincerely hope that our experienced NTAS members will seek out those new faces among us, personally welcome them, and offer any assistance they need to fully enjoy their NTAS membership.

Sadly, one of our long-time members passed away last month. On August 12, Gene Rainwater died in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he had lived near relatives for the last 3 years.

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September Speaker: Joshua Keene

Who were the First Americans?

What We've Learned from the Debra L. Friedkin Site, Bell Co., TX

The field of Paleoindian archaeology focuses on the study of the earliest Native American ancestors to arrive to the New World. Questions concerning where these populations came from, when they arrived, and the basic tools they used to survive were once thought answered by the “Clovis First” hypothesis, which postulated that northeast Asians crossed the Bering Land bridge into what is now modern Alaska about 13,000 years ago, travelling through an “Ice-free corridor” and bringing with them a characteristic “Clovis” style spear-point used to hunt Pleistocene megafauna. However, within the last two decades, new data from archaeological excavations, advanced genetic research, paleoclimatic records, and more paint a very different picture of a “pre-Clovis” population that arrived in the Americas thousands of years before Clovis, with very different migration routes, subsistence strategies, and stone tools. Recent studies have postulated that the Western Stemmed projectile-point tradition, previously thought to post-date Clovis, may actually have arrived first, but the age and stratigraphic context of early stemmed-point sites and their relationship with lanceolate-style Clovis remained unclear. Excavations at the Debra L. Friedkin site, Texas, between 2006-2016 by Michael Waters, myself, and others have recently helped answer some of these important questions. Excavations revealed, in addition to extensive Holocene and Paleoindian occupations at the site, that below Folsom and Clovis horizons, an extensive assemblage of thousands of lithic debitage and hundreds of stone tools and stemmed projectile points dating from ~13,500 to ~15,500 years ago, with a triangular lanceolate point form appearing ~14,000 years ago. The size and diversity of the Friedkin assemblage has allowed us to not only begin to characterize the previously poorly understood nature of pre-Clovis stone tools, but the sequential relationship of stemmed projectile points followed by lanceolate forms at the site provides insights into the relationship between the two very different point-styles and their potential origins.



Dr. Joshua Keen

Dr. Joshua L. Keene is a full-time instructor of Anthropology and Archaeology at Baylor University, and part-time associate with the Center for the Study of the First Americans (CSFA) at Texas A&M University, where he received his Ph.D. in 2016. He is an anthropologically trained archaeologist with a research focus on geoarchaeology, lithic technology, human migration and the initial peopling of the Americas, and paleoenvironmental effects on human subsistence and organization. His published research specializes in the initial peopling of the Americas and the transition from the Paleoindian to Archaic periods in the Intermountain West and in central Texas, having

published articles in *Science Advances*, *Geoarchaeology*, and *Quaternary International*. In addition to continuing to analyze the diachronic change in lithic manufacture in early Paleoindian components at the Debra L. Friedkin site, his current research also focuses on geochronology, projectile point typology, Paleoecology, and lithic technological organization as part of a multi-disciplinary research project at the Halls Cave site in Kerr County, Texas.

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

Gene was 104 years of age and had been unable to meet with us recently, but those of us who were members of the Tarrant County Archeological Society years ago remember Gene's continual smile and pleasant laugh at so many TCAS meetings and projects. I was fortunate to have been able to spend many hours around campfires at "The Mesa" dig in New Mexico, listening to Gene identify stars and planets and discuss constellations. He had been a navigator in the Air Force and seemed to know everything there was to know about the objects in the night sky.

In July 2015, in honor of TCAS's 60th anniversary, I presented "Those Were the Days", a program focusing on TCAS members and activities in the 70s, 80s, and early 90s. We also celebrated Gene's 100th birthday at that meeting. True to form, Gene turned down my offer to provide transportation to and from the meeting. Instead, he insisted on driving himself and his beloved wife Georgia in his own car. Gene really liked the photo of him at The Mesa that I used in the presentation. For that reason, we have included that photo in his honor in this newsletter. Those of us who knew Gene will miss him tremendously.

In Memoriam: Gene Rainwater – July 18, 1915 – August 12, 2019



Sherds of San Felipe

A Project Using “Crowd Sourcing” to Solve an Artifact Identification Problem

By Steve Davis

Journal of Texas Archeology and History has organized a public outreach project supporting the new Visitor Center at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site. This project has been authorized by the THC Historic Sites Division with the mission to create a substantial display of authentic period ceramic objects representing daily life in the township of San Felipe de Austin from its founding in 1823 through the town’s burning in April 1836 by identifying patterns on sherds recovered from THC excavations there 2014-2017. Likely uses of the ceramics collection are as one of the rotating displays at the Visitor center or as a traveling display sent around Texas to publicize the park and new Visitor Center. What’s the plan? The first step is to photograph the decorated ceramic sherds stored in the THC Archeology Lab, which is currently underway, then post those photographs online at our “cloud” storage facility. We ask members of the public, our “public partners”, to identify the individual patterns and manufacturers that match up to the “Sherds of San Felipe” which are verified by our experts making sure the object was available to the residents of San Felipe during the occupation years. As we identify patterns, we then task our public partners to find authentic matching specimens at online auction sites like eBay or antique auction houses.

Using seed money from a generous donor, we will immediately purchase the object found for sale online. Once we have the object in hand, we will post photos and information about each object at our online webpage and seek bidders to donate to put that object into the permanent collection in their name. “Finders” will also receive recognition in the permanent display. All surplus funds raised by auctioning off the objects will be donated to the “Friends of the THC” and designated to defray construction costs of the permanent display. All donors will receive a contribution letter from our 501(c)(3) documenting their donation.

Anyone with a computer and internet connection can participate from the comfort of their home or office. Just follow the link to our cloud library to participate in the identification part of the project: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pEP9vz5fqiWffjloWQM_jatZ1VCtXOI-?usp=sharing

When you identify a pattern from our sherd photo library or locate a matching object at an auction site, send me an email at: sdavis9073@gmail.com. Visit the photo library often because we are adding new sherd photos each week. Sherd photos are property of the THC and used by permission.

Here are two examples of identified authentic period decorated ceramics specimens matched to sherds excavated at San Felipe de Austin.

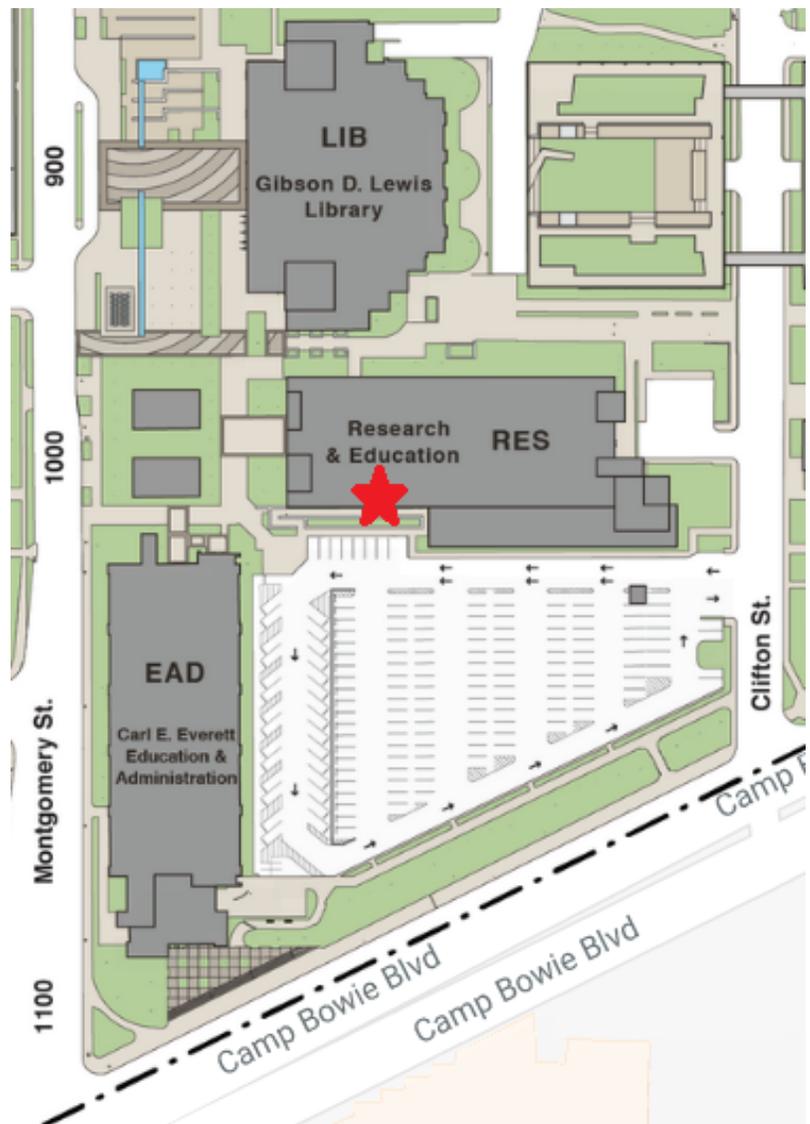


WE HAVE A NEW MEETING LOCATION

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

October 3rd*: Kevin Hanselka

*Note this is not our regular meeting date

November 14th: Becca Peixotto

December 14th: NTAS Annual Christmas Party

Welcome New NTAS Members:

Marcos Camargo

Lori Connolley

Karla Gomez

Joseph Wallace

Chris Romo

Collin County Archeological Society - Dissolved

The Collin County Archeological Society has had declining membership for some time and recently disbanded. They generously voted to send their remaining funds (\$462.39) to the North Texas Archeological Society. The NTAS board voted to put the money in the Memorial Fund. We greatly appreciate their generosity.

Texas Archeological Society 90th Annual Meeting

The Panhandle Archeological Society is honored to invite all of you to the upcoming 90th 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.

Participants planning to attend should also take advantage of the discounted rates for meeting registration available until September 20. Following this date registration rates will increase by over 20% for members and non-members and 33% for students. Additional deadlines of importance include submissions for completed symposium packages and general papers/posters that are due by September 1, 2019 (see <https://www.txarch.org/call-for-papers>). Symposium, paper, and poster abstracts may be submitted to: tasannualmeeting2019@gmail.com.

Gen Freix will have hard copies of the registration form at the next NTAS meeting.

Artifact Analysis Days

When: 10:00am-2:30pm Sep 13, Sep 27, Oct 18, Nov 8

Where: Midlothian — email 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!

Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival

When: October 5 Where: Doss Heritage and Cultural 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 man 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 September meeting.

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

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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, www.tarrantarch.org

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.

February 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 _____