# Benchmark

Volume 40, Issue 7 August 2026

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

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

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## President's Message



Greetings, NTAS!

August always feels like the calm before the storm. In just a few short weeks, Texas Archeology Month will be underway, initiated by the Texas Archeological Society's 97th Annual Meeting here in Denton. For NTAS, that means we're entering one of the busiest and most rewarding times of the year. It's an exciting season that showcases not only the archaeology of Texas, but also the incredible dedication of our members.

Preparations for this year's Annual Meeting continue at a rapid pace, and we're looking forward to welcoming archaeologists from across the state to North Texas this October. As the host society, NTAS has an important role in ensuring our guests have an outstanding conference experience, and we're still looking for volunteers to help make that happen. Opportunities are available throughout the meeting, including assisting with registration, monitoring technical sessions, helping in the silent auction and book room, staffing the NTAS information table, and supporting set-up and break-down efforts. Whether you can volunteer for a few hours or an entire day, your help will make a meaningful difference. If you're interested in serving in any capacity, please contact us at am-organizer@txarch.org.

For those planning to present, don't forget that the deadline for paper and poster abstracts is August 15. Whether you're an avocational archaeologist, student, or professional, we encourage you to share your research and experiences with the archaeological community. Abstracts should be submitted to am-programs@txarch.org.

Of course, the Annual Meeting isn't the only event on our horizon. Texas Archeology Month is also fast approaching, bringing with it dozens of public outreach opportunities across North Texas. One of our favorite educational activities is providing pinch-pot kits for children to create their own pottery while learning about Indigenous lifeways. To prepare, NTAS will hold a Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session on Saturday, **August 22, from 9:00 a.m. until noon** at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Our goal is to assemble at least 1,000 kits

**Connect with NTAS:**

**facebook.com/NTXAS.org** **www.NTXAS.org**

For general inquiries, please contact **info@ntxas.org**

for members to distribute during Texas Archeology Month events. It's always a fun morning with fellow members, and many hands make quick work. We hope you'll consider joining us.

This month, we're pleased to welcome Dr. Kara A. Fulton, who will present "Using Obsidian to Understand the Ancient Maya." Dr. Fulton will demonstrate how portable X-ray fluorescence (pXRF) allows archaeologists to determine the geological source of obsidian artifacts and reconstruct ancient trade and exchange networks. Our August monthly meeting will be held Thursday, **August 13, at 7:00 p.m.** and will once again be offered as a hybrid meeting. Members may attend in person or join us via Zoom. Please remember that our regular meeting room remains under renovation. We will continue meeting in the **EAD Building, Room 108** (access from the south), while parking remains the same. We look forward to another excellent evening of archaeology and fellowship.

Whether you're helping prepare for Texas Archeology Month, volunteering at the Annual Meeting, presenting your research, or simply joining us for another outstanding program, thank you for everything you do to make NTAS such a vibrant organization. I look forward to seeing you on August 13.

***Alexandra Younger***

## August Speaker: Kara A. Fulton

### *Using Obsidian to Understand the Ancient Maya*



Obsidian – a volcanic glass prized by the ancient Maya for tools, weapons, and ceremonial objects – offers archaeologists a unique opportunity to investigate ancient trade and exchange. Because each geological source of obsidian possesses a distinctive geochemical signature, archaeologists can identify where artifacts originated and trace the movement of materials across the landscape. In this presentation, Dr. Kara Fulton will discuss how portable X-ray fluorescence (pXRF) analysis provides a rapid, nondestructive method for sourcing obsidian artifacts and reconstructing ancient exchange networks. Using examples from the Maya region of Central America, Dr. Fulton will explain how archaeologists collect and interpret geochemical data and how these data contribute to broader questions about economy, politics, and social organization. The presentation will also highlight recent fieldwork at the Maya site of Actuncan, Belize, where nearly 1,500 obsidian artifacts were analyzed using pXRF during the 2026 field season.



**Dr. Kara A. Fulton** is a Clinical Professor at the University of North Texas. She is a geoarchaeologist with methodological expertise in the chemical analysis of soils, plaster surfaces, and obsidian. Her geographical focus is the Maya Lowlands of Belize, she has also worked in Mexico and Honduras. Her current research explores how community identities affected the resilience of Classic Maya populations when faced with environmental, political, and economic change.

# Second Call for Papers
# Texas Archeological Society 97th Annual Meeting

Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for papers, posters, symposia, workshops, and panel discussions to be presented at the Texas Archeological Society 97th Annual Meeting, October 2-4, 2026, at the University of North Texas in Denton. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, academic, and professional archeologists on any topic of archeological interest. All presenters must be TAS members and be registered for the annual meeting.

The deadline for receipt of general session paper and poster abstracts is **August 15, 2026**. General session paper presentations will be limited to 15 minutes, a limit that will be strictly enforced. Conference participants are encouraged to consider poster presentations as an alternative to papers. Poster presentations can effectively convey visual, graphic, and quantitative information, and generally reach a larger audience than oral paper presentations. Posters will be wall-mounted, so no easels or rigid backing materials are necessary. Appropriate mounting adhesives will be provided at the venue. General poster sessions will be allotted at least four hours per session.

Submit all abstracts as email attachments. Abstracts must include the following information: Paper/Symposium/Poster (indicate one); Title; Author(s) and Affiliation(s); and Abstract for each symposium and presentation (150 words maximum).

Meeting rooms will be equipped with projectors and laptop computers; additional audiovisual needs may be accommodated given prior notice. Contact the Program Co-Chairs with questions about submission dates, formats, and/or equipment. We look forward to your contributions to this meeting.

Christopher Goodmaster and Jimmy Barrera, TAS 97th Annual Meeting Program Co-Chairs

Email: am-programs@txarch.org

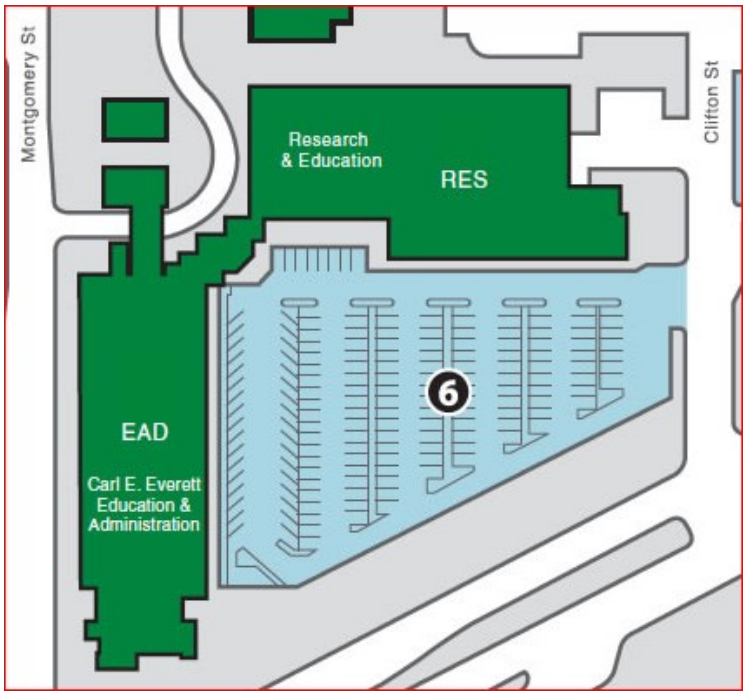
# NTAS Monthly Meeting Location & Directions

## ***NEW ROOM!*** *(SAME PARKING LOT)*

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, near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street.

***Our regular meeting room is under construction, so we will be meeting in the EAD Building, Room 108 (access from the south).***

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.**



# Children's Book Reviews

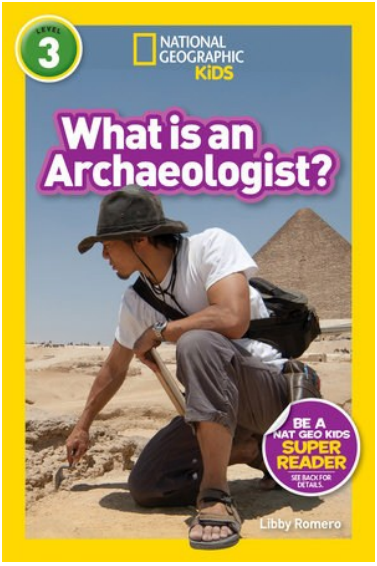
## *Molly Hall*

In each of the 2026 NTAS Newsletters I will highlight a children's book about archeology. As a professional archeologist, daughter of a passionate elementary science educator, and mother, I've long held an interest in reading and spreading the fascinating world of archeology to younger generations. Over time, I've found a few books that I love, and I hope to add to my collection this year while sharing these finds with you. If you have a children's book about archaeology that you love, please let me know and maybe I'll include it in a future issue.

## ***What is an Archaeologist?*** *by Libby Romero*

*(National Geographic Kids Readers, Level 3)*

*Reading age: 7-9 years*




***Professional Archeologist***

*This book successfully covered a wide variety of archaeological subjects while keeping things brief and entertaining. There are sections on types of archaeologists, tools they use, unexpected discoveries, unsolved mysteries, and even the future of archaeology. The final section with recommendations for how kids can be "archaeologists" balances advice that is ethical as well as enticing.*

★ ★ ★ ★

***13 year-old***

*In* What Is An Archaeologist? *I learned that archaeologists work with a group of experts. I know this because they showed people with their team/friends. I liked that you were able to easily retain the information. I also liked that it was easy to read and to follow along. It is not hard to get the information. I would also give it 4 out of 5 stars. This is because it included too many pictures and not enough information.*

★ ★ ★ ★

***9 year-old***

*I think it's pretty interesting I learned a lot of things like how archaeologists use LiDAR and magnetometers. I think that it's a little long, but it is still cool and full of fun facts.*

★ ★ ★ ★

# NTAS Shopping Reward Programs

Several major retailers include NTAS in their rewards programs.

**There is no cost to you**, but NTAS benefits from your shopping!

Simply let these retailers know (by following the instructions to the right) that you would like them to contribute a portion of the cost of your order to NTAS.

Help support NTAS by doing your regular shopping.

### Kroger Community Rewards

Register your Kroger Plus Card online by clicking on the link below. Then by searching for North Texas Archeological Society or entering our NPO number (**AA920**), you can link your Kroger Plus Card to NTAS. Every time you shop at Kroger and swipe your card, NTAS will receive a rebate based on your purchase.

https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards




### Tom Thumb Good Neighbor

Link your Tom Thumb Reward card to our Good Neighbor Number (14232) and each time you use your card NTAS will receive 1% of your eligible purchases. Visit the store courtesy booth to link your card.

# Scholarship Recipient Essay

***Citlali Concha***

I have earned the privilege of participating in Crow Canyon's CRM field school, which was an incredible experience that I will never forget. The lessons I learned in the classroom and field have prepared me to take on CRM with confidence and to continue learning throughout my career. The mentors, guest speakers, and our professors Dr. Hanson and Dr. Potter have been an incredible support for building up students' confidence and giving advice to prepare for CRM. Along with that, I have made wonderful friendships with students who come from all walks of life, and I'm delighted that we were able to work together then have a laugh after.

The skills I learned during the field school are of most value when working in CRM. This includes being informed in CRM laws, using iPads to fill out forms and map sites, and learning how to manage difficulties in the field. Our field instructors, Matt and Keagan, were extremely helpful in answering our questions and giving us guidance on how to conduct work in the field. Through their personalities they have shown me what it is to be passionate and excited about archaeology no matter what project so that I can give it my all.

The most memorable experience was getting to hear from Theresa Pasqual, Jon Ghahate, Fermin Lopez, and Ed Kabotie. They provided us with guidance on how to approach archaeology from a different perspective, to connect with the Indigenous community, and to not be afraid to ask questions. Similarly, my favorite day in the field was working together with my classmates for our final assignment. This consisted of each person tackling several tasks to complete, and this served as a sneak peek into what I would do for my career. Now that I have completed this field school I feel equipped with a solid foundation to get started on my career.

I want to give a huge thank you to NTAS not only for this scholarship but for all field school and volunteer opportunities offered to students to help set them up for success in their career.




*Christopher Goodmaster and Citlali Concha at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Field School.*

# Archeological Events & Opportunities

Please see the **calendar** on the NTAS website for the latest updates to archaeological events!

## *Fort Worth Westerners Zoom Programs* — *Third Tuesday of the Month*

*Zoom*

If you are not a FW Westerner member, click here to request guest access to the zoom meetings.
August 18 - *Apache Adaption to Hispanic Culture* - Matthew Babcock
September 15 - *Horsehead Crossing Celebration* - Tom Ashmore
October 20 - *Texas Ranger Burial Locations* - William E. Moore

## *Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session I* — *9am-12pm, August 22, 2026*

*Fort Worth, TX*

It's pinch-pot kit making season! NTAS received materials from the Texas Historical Commission to make pinch-pot kits to hand out (typically to kids) during the numerous Texas Archeology Month (TAM) events in which NTAS is participating. NTAS will need to make 1,000 kits (if not more!) to be handed out by NTAS members this year. The August 22nd session will take place at the **Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge**. ***RSVP is required for this event.*** Please let Molly Hall know if you plan to attend. She will send out location details to those who have RSVPed closer to the date of the event.

## *SMU Lab Days* — *9am-5pm, August 29, 2026*

*Dallas, TX*

Assist in organizing, cataloging, and re-bagging artifacts from the 1971/1972 TAS Field Schools. For more information or to sign up, contact Brian Luetchford. See page 5 of the March 2025 newsletter for some highlights from a recent SMU Lab Day and the NTAS YouTube channel for Dr. Boulanger's October 2025 NTAS presentation on the good work being done at these lab days.

## *Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session II* — *9am-12pm, September 12, 2026*

*Richardson, TX*

In addition to the Fort Worth session (see above), the September 12 session will be held at the AR Consultants, Inc. offices in Richardson. Please let Molly Hall know if you plan to attend. She will send out location details to those who have RSVPed closer to the date of the event.

## *TAS Annual Meeting* — *October 2-4, 2026*

*Denton, TX*

NTAS will be hosting the Texas Archeological Society's 97th Annual Meeting at the Gateway Center on the University of North Texas campus in Denton. Planning is well underway, and we look forward to welcoming archaeologists from across Texas for a weekend of research presentations and professional exchange. Featured speakers will include Dr. C. Reid Ferring and Myles Miller.

## *Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival* — *10am-4pm, October 3, 2026*

*Weatherford, TX*

NTAS will be at the Doss Pioneer Heritage Festival at the Doss Heritage & Culture Center in Weatherford from 10am-4pm on Saturday, October 3rd. Participants should bring their own camp chair and wear NTAS apparel. If you're interested in participating, please contact Katrina Nuncio.

## *Grand Prairie Farmers Market* — *8am-1pm, October 10, 2026*

*Grand Prairie, TX*

Join us at the Grand Prairie Farmers Market to help talk to members of the public about archeology. The connections we make at events like this help people learn about archeology and the individuals with whom we speak often end up joining a society. Please reach out to Charlene Erwin to assist.

***Denton Dig It!*** ***9am-1pm, October 17, 2026***

*Denton, TX*

Denton Dig It! is an event with lots of stimulating topics and demonstrations from various volunteer organizations and professional archeologists aimed at engaging the public. NTAS plays a central role with our members supervising young people learning to excavate and sharing NTAS programs with potential new members.

***FWNC&R Monster Bash*** ***10am-3pm, October 24, 2026***

*Fort Worth, TX*

This event celebrates the anniversary of the sighting of the Lake Worth Monster, also known as Goatman. This family-friendly event will include hayrides, paddling opportunities, games, a tire-tossing contest, and the chance to listen to renowned Cryptozoology speakers. NTAS will have a table at this event to share our love of archaeology. Don't miss out on this unique event; it only occurs every other year.

***Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting*** ***January 6-9, 2027***

*Austin, TX*

Held at the Austin Marriott Downtown, this year's theme is "Reflections on the Power of Place."

## What Can You Do with NTAS? What Can NTAS Do for You?

### *Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project*

Contact the Vice President of Projects if you know of a field, lab, data collection, or reporting project that could use the skilled labor of experienced and knowledgeable NTAS members.

### *Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events*

Photos are a great way to showcase what NTAS is all about. We'd love to share your NTAS experiences with the world immediately following NTAS events! Please send your images and captions to the Internet Chair. By providing these photos, they may be used on the NTAS website and social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

### *Newsletter and Journal Content*

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 the Publications Editor.

Please consider submitting an article about your North Texas research, fieldwork, or other related topics to the Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society. The lead author must be an NTAS member in good standing for the submission year. For submissions and inquiries regarding the journal, please contact the Publications Editor. The current volume (2025) as well as all past volumes are available digitally to members and the public here. Physical copies of all volumes are available for purchase on Amazon.

## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meetings

**September 10 - Lauren Bussiere**
**October 8 - Alan Skinner**
**November 12 - TBD**

# North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

*(renew online by clicking above)*

**Name(s)** _____

Address_____ Phone_____

City\State\Zip_____ Email_____

**Membership Type and Fees** (Membership Term: January to December*)

**Choose One:**

☐ Individual Membership - $20

☐ Family Membership - $25
Total Family Members_____

☐ Student Membership – $10 (18 or older student with minimum half-time course load. Those under 18 must contact NTAS in advance of applying.)

**Choose One:**

☐ New*

*New memberships paid for in Oct-Dec include membership for the following year.

☐ Renewal

**Communication Preferences:** I/WE want to be added to the following lists:

☐ General Announcements - *For Meetings, Events, Publications, Membership Dues and NTAS Updates*

☐ Personal Updates - *For personal updates on NTAS members such as illnesses, and obituaries*

**Digital copies of the newsletter are included with every membership.** If you are interested in receiving paper copies, please contact the Publications Editor (publicationseditor@ntxas.org) or Secretary (secretary@ntxas.org) for pricing.

**Donation:** Amount: $_____

Where should your donation go? ☐ General Fund ☐ Memorial Scholarship Fund ☐ Projects

Would you like to remain anonymous? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Media Release:** I/We DO -or- DO NOT [circle as appropriate] give permission to NTAS to use my/our image (photographs and/or video) in any NTAS publications, website, or social media.

**Code of Ethics (signature required):** I/WE PLEDGE THAT I/WE 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/WE UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY.

Signature(s)_____ Date_____

Mail your Membership Form with check or money order made payable to:
North Texas Archeological Society — P.O. Box 24679, 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!

## Welcome, New Members!

Andrew Brown
Corey Brown
Ivy Nicole Brown
Layla Brown
Peyton Gilliland
William Gilliland
James Hail
Erica Landeros
Maddox Landeros
Penelope Landeros
Sam Reddy
Anneka Thorson

## Donors

## NTAS Aims & Objectives

The purposes of the Society are

(1) 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 scholarships are available to *ANYONE* who applies for TAS Events, NTAS Events, or accredited field schools in the United States.**

Please visit the NTAS scholarships webpage to submit your application. Apply now!

## NTAS - *Preserving the Past for the Future*

## Executive Committee

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Alexandra Younger**<br>***President*** | **Gwen Durrant**<br>***Treasurer*** | **Charlene Erwin**<br>***Historian*** |
| **Stephen Lowe**<br>***Vice President*** | **Thomas Standefer**<br>***Secretary*** | **Elizabeth Bittner**<br>***Internet Chair*** |
| **Brian Luetchford**<br>***Vice President of Projects*** | **Allen Rutherford**<br>***Immediate Past President*** | **Molly Hall**<br>***Publications Editor*** |

## Newsletter Submission Deadlines

The newsletter submission deadlines are two weeks prior to the monthly meetings. Upcoming deadlines are listed below.

September Newsletter: August 27
October Newsletter: September 24
November Newsletter: October 29
December Newsletter: November 26
January Newsletter: December 31
February Newsletter: January 28

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