

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

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

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# Benchmark

Volume 40, Issue 1

January 2026

## President's Message

A very Happy New Year, Members! I regrettably could not attend the NTAS Christmas party last month due to responsibilities. Nonetheless, I heard wonderful things! Many thanks to the Standefers for hosting and continuing the tradition. I want to acknowledge everyone who participated in last year's events and contributed to the success of the various NTAS programs and outreach events. If you think 2025 was lively, the year 2026 will surpass prior accomplishments. Great things are in the planning process for our membership!

The Texas Archeological Society (TAS) Academy registrations are currently full for the year. Due to the high quality of instruction and growing popularity of TAS Academies, they fill up quickly. In addition, the academies offer Continuing Professional Education credit for teachers approved by the Texas State Board of Education Certification. Waiting lists are available for those who still want a chance to attend. [Zooarcheology & Osteology](#) will be held **February 28 to March 1** in Houston. [Rock Art](#) will be held **March 21 to 22** in El Paso. [Archeology 101](#) will be held **April 10 to 12** in San Angelo. NTAS offers [scholarships](#) that remain available to potential TAS Academy attendees. Registration for TAS Academies can be located [here](#).

From the Local Arrangements Committee, planning for the 97<sup>th</sup> TAS An-



nual Meeting is underway and progressing well. Expect to see a call for papers soon. Upcoming regional conferences worth mentioning are being held by our neighbors to the east and north.

The 31<sup>st</sup> East Texas Archaeological Conference on **February 28** (9 am to 4 pm) will be held at Tyler Soules College of Business at UT-Tyler. The 2026 conference will focus on both the Poverty Point World Heritage Site and the research of faculty at the UT-Tyler and Tyler Junior College. Papers should be submitted to [Dr. Guderjan](#) by January 28.

The 5<sup>th</sup> (biennial) Oklahoma Archaeology Conference (OAC) convenes **March 5 to 7** in the [Thurman J. White Forum Building](#) on the University of Oklahoma campus. The 2026 conference will include workshops,

## Connect with NTAS:

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

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

For general inquiries, please contact [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)

**North Texas Archeological Society**

vendors, and a Cultural Resources Management fair for students to meet the professional firms that operate in Oklahoma. Registration is pending, but a call for [papers](#) pertaining to Oklahoma archeology and heritage are due by January 19. Any inquiries to the OAC can be directed to [Tommas Pace](#).

Something else to look forward to in March is a tour of the Gault Site for NTAS members. Details are provided on page 4. We continue to participate in the monthly SMU Lab days in which NTAS has assisted in the rehabilitation of collections. Join us, usually on the last Saturday of the month (see Page 5 for details). Opportunities regarding lab work, fieldwork, and special tours will be announced in your email inbox as they are presented.

As a reminder, the 2025 Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society is available digitally on the [NTAS website](#) and paper copies via [Amazon](#). While you're there, head over to the [Join-and-Renew](#) page for the easiest way to renew your NTAS membership for the year of 2026. Your continued participation in and support of NTAS is deeply appreciated.

We are very pleased to host Dr. Kary Stackelbeck for our first meeting of the year. Dr. Stackelbeck is the Oklahoma State Archaeologist with a diverse background that includes experience with burials and cemeteries. She joins us Thursday, January 8 to present her talk entitled, "After the Fire: The Search for Victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre." The Thursday, January 8, 2026 monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) held in our usual meeting room on the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) campus in the Research & Education Building, Room 114 (see page 3 for map).

I look forward to seeing you all at the January 8 meeting!

## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

**February 12: TBD**

**March 12: Leslie Bush (Panhandle/Southern Plains Archaeobotany)**

**April 9: Kate Lesciotto (Biological Profiles of Skeletal Remains)**

## January Speaker: Kary Stackelbeck

### *After the Fire: The Search for Victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre*

On May 31, 1921, the community of Greenwood in Tulsa, Oklahoma was set ablaze by an angry white mob. An unknown number of African Americans were killed, though some estimates suggest around 300 individuals fell victim to one of the worst acts of racial violence in our nation's history. In the days that followed, the bodies of the deceased were removed. Some were buried in Oaklawn Cemetery. Many others were completely unaccounted for. Over 100 years after the Massacre, our interdisciplinary team is working to locate the graves of the victims, reclaim their identities, and restore them to their descendants.



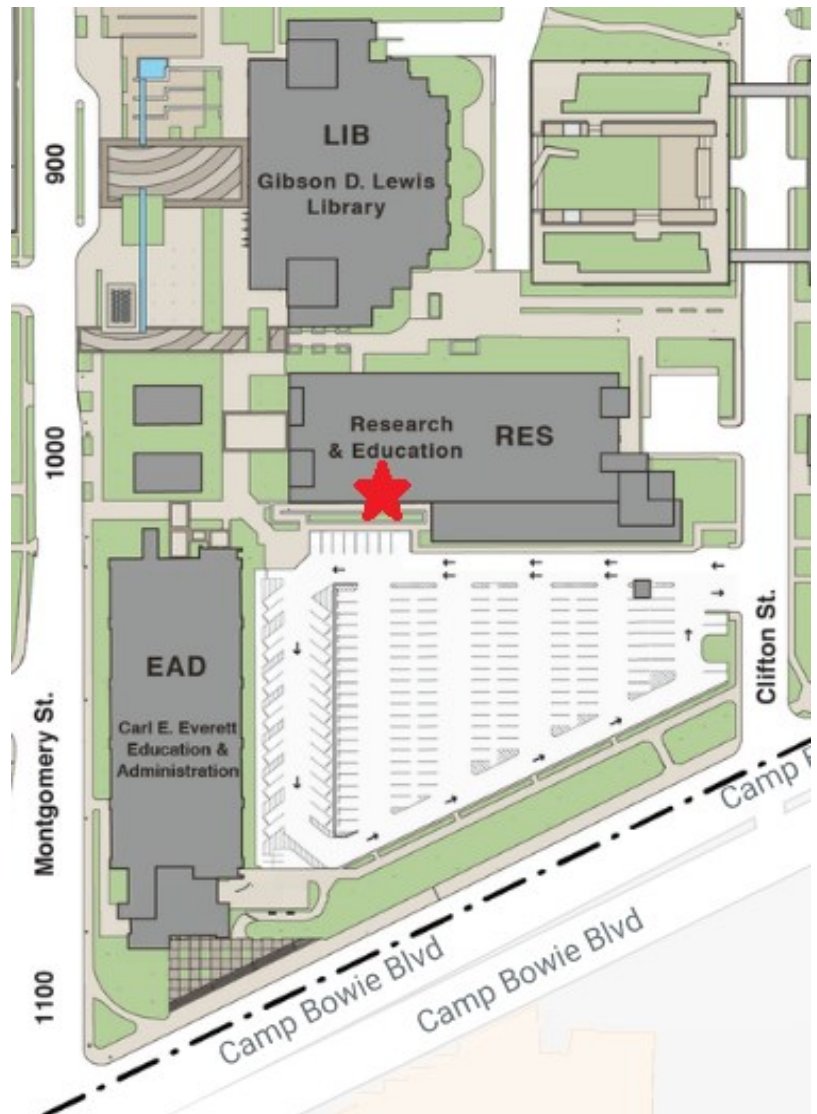


**Kary Stackelbeck** is the State Archaeologist of Oklahoma. She has over 30 years of experience in various archaeological arenas, including research, education and public outreach, site files management, museum collections, advocacy, cultural resource management, and regulatory. Her research experiences have included a wide variety of topics and time periods and taken her throughout Oklahoma and the Southeastern and Midwestern regions of U.S., as well as Peru and the Sultanate of Oman. Among other skills, she has substantial practical experience with burials and cemeteries of different time periods and regions—from excavation and documentation to preservation, management, policy, and descendant advocacy. Since 2019, she has acted as the lead archaeologist in the City's re-opened investigation to locate graves of victims from the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.

## NTAS Monthly Meeting Location & Directions

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 (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.



## Art in the NTAS Archives: Sketches by Lenny Wagner

### Charlene Erwin

Mr. Wagner, a sketch artist with a love of all things archeological, was a frequent contributor to [The Letter](#), one of the iterations of the Tarrant County Archeological Society newsletter. His cover art graced many of these publications. A favorite composite of mine, shown here, is featured on the March 1989 issue. This issue includes illustrated pages of items from his *My Trinity Finds* collection—inspired by lithics he discovered in or around the Trinity River. Mr. Wagner also wrote an article for that issue, *Piece of Our History in Tarrant County* wherein he discussed some of the area events of 1841-1843.



Another favorite cover showcasing Mr. Wagner's artistry is a rendering of a teepee, with mountains and an open prairie in the background. This is from the May 1989, issue of [The Letter](#). This issue also contains another of his illustrations depicting two maps of Texas, each highlighting different features.

Simply click on the hyperlinks to travel back to 1989 and enjoy a few quiet moments with the pen and ink creations of Mr. Lenny Wagner. Clicking one of these links will electronically transport you to a searchable database that offers free access and quick downloads of materials from the NTAS archives. Thanks to the University of Texas at Arlington for making this possible.

Available at [North Texas Archeological Society Records](#).

## Attention Members! NTAS Gault Tour

### Tommy Standefer

On **Saturday, March 14, 2026** NTAS is organizing a tour of the Gault Site in Central Texas for NTAS members. The [Gault Site](#) is located just west of Salado, approximately 150 miles south of Fort Worth, just off I-35. The cost for the tour is \$10/adult and \$5/child.

We will meet at the site at 10am. NTAS will **not** be organizing carpooling, but encourages you to check with fellow members who live near you and carpool.

**PLEASE RSVP TO TOMMY STANDEFER** if you plan to attend so that the site staff can plan tours appropriate to the size of our group.

Following the tour, you may want to join others for lunch on the way home. Salado is an interesting small town on I-35 at the exit to the Gault Site with a number of dining possibilities. However, NTAS is **not** making lunch or car pool arrangements so please make plans with other members if you are interested in either option.



NTAS members and guide, Tom Williams, pose in front of an outcrop at the Gault Site during a February 2020 tour. Photo courtesy of James Everett.

## Archeological Events & Opportunities

Please see the [calendar](#) on the NTAS website for the latest updates to archaeological events!

### **SMU Lab Days**

**9am-5pm, Jan 31, Feb 21, Mar 28, Apr 25, 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 NTAS presentation](#) on the good work being done at these lab days.

### **31st East Texas Archeological Conference**

**9am-4pm, February 28, 2026**

Tyler, TX

The ETAC is hosted annually to bring together people interested in the archaeology and cultural heritage of east Texas. Registration (\$20) begins at 8:30. **Hotel:** Homewood Suites, 3104 Golden Road, Tyler, TX. **Call for Papers:** Topics should be related to the prehistoric and historic archeology of east Texas. Presentations will be 20 minutes long and should present original research. Deadline for submission is January 28, 2026. Submit your title and 100 word abstract to [tguderjan@uttyler.edu](mailto:tguderjan@uttyler.edu). The keynote speaker will be Dr. Diana M. Greenlee, Poverty Point World Heritage Site.

### **Zooarcheology & Osteology TAS Academy**

**February 28-March 1, 2026**

Houston, TX

This TAS Academy offers classroom and hands-on laboratory sessions that introduce the identification, analysis, and interpretation of archeological animal and human skeletal remains. **Full - Wait List Only**

### **5th Oklahoma Archaeology Conference**

**March 5-7, 2026**

Norman, OK

This Conference **will met** in the [Thurman J. White Forum Building](#) on the University of Oklahoma campus. Registration is pending and [papers](#) are due by January 19. Inquiries to the OAC can be directed to [Tommas Pace](#).

### **NTAS Gault Site Tour**

**10 am, March 14, 2026**

Florence, TX

The North Texas Archeological Society will be touring the Gault Site on March 14, 2026 starting at 10am. The cost for admission is \$10 per adult, \$5 for kids under 13. If you're interested in joining the tour please contact [Tommy Standefer](#). See Page 4 for more information.

### **Rock Art Academy**

**March 21-22, 2026**

El Paso, TX

This Academy explores regional rock art archeological sites, Mogollon archeological sites, and how investigators use this information to interpret the human and natural histories of an area. **Full - Wait List Only**

### **Archeology 101 Academy**

**April 10-12, 2026**

San Angelo, TX

This three-day TAS Academy teaches participants about site identification, recording and proper excavation techniques in the field of archeology. Classroom lectures address the larger field of archeology to help orient new learners with respect to goals, methods, and concepts. Field sessions are also included.

**Full - Wait List Only**

## New Series: 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.

### **Archaeologists and What They Do** by Liesbet Slegers

Reading age: 3-9 years

#### **Professional Archeologist**

*This book has great pictures and realistically portrays the world of archeology in a child-friendly and accessible way. Some highlights are that it describes the use of heavy machinery and shovels in lieu of brushes to excavate, emphasizes the importance of mapping and documenting where you find what you find, and highlights the necessity of having lots of pockets in your clothing for all your tools!*



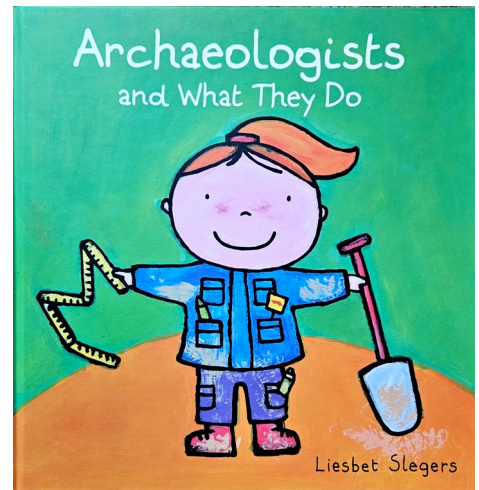
#### **8 year-old**

*I liked the pictures but knew **most** of the things, which is why I didn't give it more stars.*



#### **5 year-old**

*I liked the beginning and the middle but not the end [when they put the artifacts in the museum]. Good pictures.*



## 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](#).

NTAS is now looking for articles to fill future volumes of the Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society. Please consider submitting an article about your North Texas research, fieldwork, or other related topics. 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](#).

## 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 ([publicationseeditor@ntxas.org](mailto:publicationseeditor@ntxas.org)) or Secretary ([secretary@ntxas.org](mailto:secretary@ntxas.org)) for pricing.

**Donation:** Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Where should your donation go?  General Fund  Memorial Scholarship Fund  BaahKu Project

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!

## Welcome, New Members!

Bradley Bennett  
Graham Bennett  
Mollie Bennett  
Tracie Bennett  
Gavin Cater  
Scott Cater  
Terese Cater

Greer Grochowski  
Toni Grochowski  
Mary Harp  
Jana K. Houston  
Mason Nelson  
Bonita Riley

## Donors

David Temple - *Memorial Scholarship Fund*  
Beverly Manroe - *General Fund*  
AR Consultants, Inc. - *Memorial Scholarship Fund and General Fund*

## 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**  
**President**

**Gwen Durrant**  
**Treasurer**

**Charlene Erwin**  
**Historian**

**Stephen Lowe**  
**Vice President**

**Thomas Standefer**  
**Secretary**

**Elizabeth Bittner**  
**Internet Chair**

**Brian Luetchford**  
**Vice President of Projects**

**Allen Rutherford**  
**Immediate Past President**

**Molly Hall**  
**Publications Editor**

## Newsletter Submission Deadlines

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

February Newsletter: January 29  
March Newsletter: February 26  
April Newsletter: March 26

May Newsletter: April 30  
July Newsletter: June 25  
August Newsletter: July 30

**All material published in the newsletter or other publications of the North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS), or on the NTAS website becomes the copyrighted property of NTAS.**