Benchmark

Volume 40, Issue 6 July 2026

The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** meeting for **July** 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!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable June. After our annual summer break from monthly meetings, I am excited to welcome everyone back for another busy season of archaeology with NTAS. While we may have taken a month off from meetings, our members certainly haven't slowed down.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in this year's TAS Field School. Mother Nature certainly put everyone to the test with heavy rains, flooded campsites, and plenty of mud, but the crew persevered with great attitudes and was rewarded with some remarkable discoveries. Participants recovered an impressive collection of Spanish colonial artifacts and uncovered additional evidence of the historic presidio, making this one of the more exciting field seasons in recent memory. It's a wonderful reminder that some of archaeology's greatest rewards come after overcoming a few challenges.

Looking ahead, registration is now open for the 2026 Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting, which NTAS is proud to host this October in Denton. Whether you're a first-time attendee or a conference veteran, we hope you will join us for what promises to be an outstanding meeting. We're especially excited to welcome Reid Ferring for our Friday Night Public Forum. Dr. Ferring will revisit the story of the Aubrey site, one of North America's most significant Paleoindian localities, offering firsthand insight from the archaeologist who helped shape our understanding of its remarkable discoveries. The Friday Night Forum is free and open to the public, making it a perfect opportunity to introduce friends and family to Texas archaeology. Registration, hotel information, and conference details are available at https://www.txarch.org/Annual-Meeting.

Students and educators, please note that NTAS offers scholarships for attendance to the TAS meeting (and the required membership) which can be applied through https://ntxas.org/scholarships. The NTAS scholarship committee is eager to review your applications and help future archeologists find inspiration and make new

Connect with NTAS:

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

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

connections through our professional networks.

As conference preparations continue, you'll soon begin seeing volunteer opportunities for both the TAS Annual Meeting and other NTAS outreach events for TAM. Our organization has experienced tremendous member involvement over the past year, and we're excited to continue building that momentum. Whether you have a few hours to spare or want to play a larger role, there will be plenty of opportunities to help make this year's conference a success. Stay tuned in the coming months as we announce volunteer positions for a wide variety of roles. Some examples include registration desk assistance, set-up and breakdown, room monitoring, auction room assistance, and the NTAS vendor table.

Our partnership with the SMU Archaeology Research Collections also continues this summer. Join us for our next monthly lab day on July 25, and keep an eye on your email and social media for an upcoming opportunity to participate in excavations at the Joe Reed site in early August.

This month, we're pleased to welcome Brandon Tully, who will present "What's the Point? Updates and Insights from Schaeffer Shelter." Brandon will share recent discoveries and new perspectives from one of Randall County's important archaeological sites, making this a presentation you won't want to miss. Our July monthly meeting will be held Thursday, July 9 at 7pm and will again be offered as a hybrid meeting. Members may attend in person or join via Zoom.

Please note that our meeting location has changed for July while our usual classroom undergoes renovations. Although we'll be meeting in a different building this month, parking remains the same. Please see page X for detailed directions to our temporary meeting location.

We look forward to seeing everyone back after our summer break for an evening of archaeology, fellowship, and catching up with friends. Whether you are returning from the field, planning your trip to the TAS Annual Meeting, or simply eager to hear about the latest research from Schaeffer Shelter. See you all at the July 9 meeting!

Alexandra Younger

July Speaker: Brandon Tully

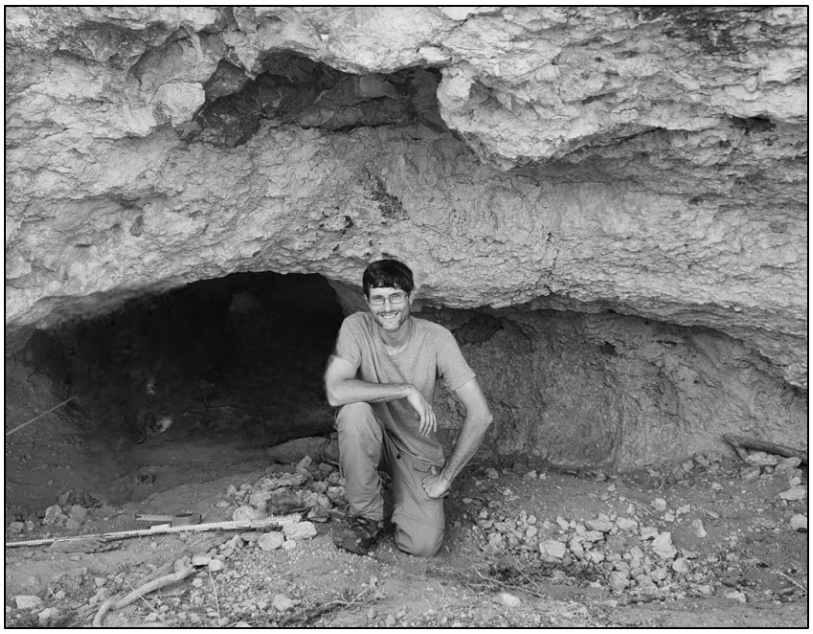
What's the Point? Updates and Insights from Schaeffer Shelter



This presentation reports findings from ongoing research into Schaeffer Shelter (PPHM-A5), a rock shelter near the head of South Cita Canyon in southeastern Randall County, TX, that contained cultural materials spanning the Early Archaic through Historic periods (and potentially the Paleoindian period). Generous donations from the landowner, Mr. Stanley Schaeffer, and his family to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society (PPHS) funded this research, which includes an analysis of all projectile points, ceramics, bone artifacts, shell artifacts, and exotic artifacts collected from the site, in addition to obsidian sourcing by Dr. Matthew Boulanger (Southern Methodist University), as well as initial results from the analysis of LiDAR scans that were acquired and processed by Mark Willis.

Brandon Tully is an archaeologist with over 12 years of experience in cultural resources management, academia, and independent research. He has worked on projects across 17 states, primarily in the Southeast and Southern Plains regions of North America. His master's thesis research on the Harrison-Greenbelt site (41DY17) at Texas Tech University (completed in May 2025) inspired him to continue researching Southern

Plains prehistory. He serves as the principal investigator for the Schaeffer Shelter Project, which is aimed at completing work begun by Jack Hughes in the 1950s and 1960s and conducting additional research in and around the head of South Cita Canyon (approximately 5 miles southwest of Palo Duro Canyon State Park) on land owned by the Schaeffer family. His research focuses on prehistoric sites in the Texas Panhandle and adjacent areas of the Southern Plains, with a particular interest in the cultural transition from the Woodland to Late Prehistoric periods.



Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meetings

August 13 - Kara Fulton
September 10 - Lauren Bussiere
October 8 - Alan Skinner

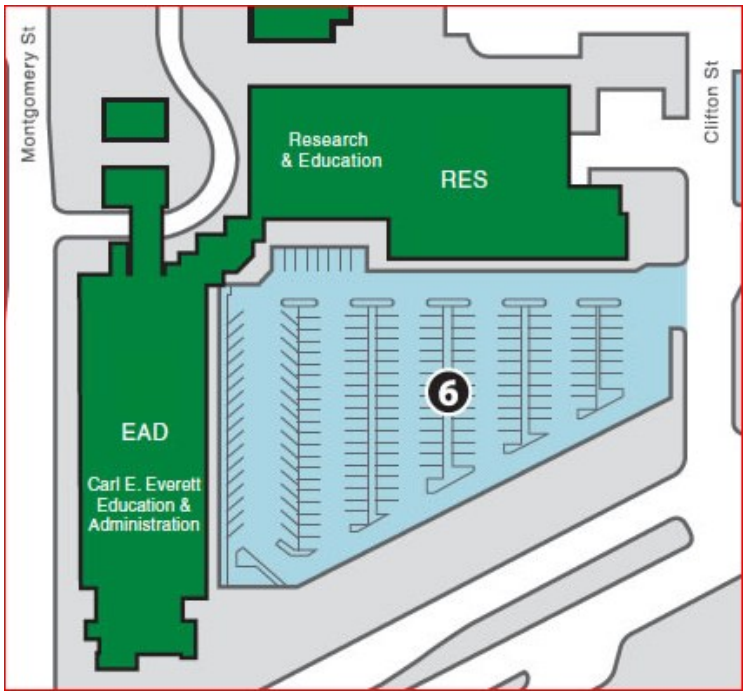
NTAS Monthly Meeting Location & Directions

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.**



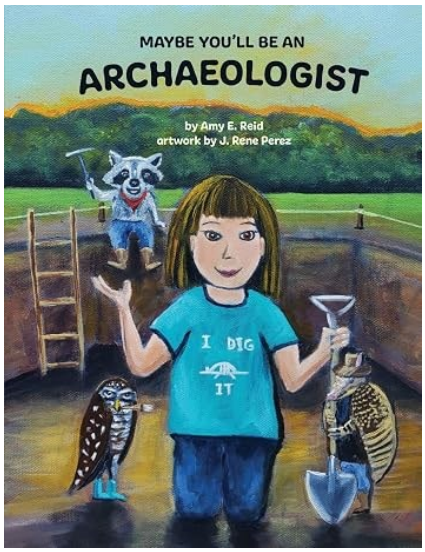
Children's Book Reviews

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.

Maybe You'll Be an Archaeologist *by Amy E. Reid*

Reading age: 5-12 years



Professional Archeologist

Any adult archeologist will see a bit of themself in the main character of this story. The book has a good balance of terminology definitions interwoven in with modern archeological concepts and a relatable story that comes satisfactorily full circle by the end.

★★★★

13 year-old

In "Maybe you'll be an Archaeologist" I learned that a Paleontologist is not the same thing as an Archaeologist. A Paleontologist is someone who studies dinosaur bones and dinosaurs. An Archaeologist is someone who would study something more like ancient humans.

I liked how it gave out its ideas in a clear way. I think this was because the text structure was perfect and the methodology was thorough. I also liked the story behind it.

I rate this 3.5 stars because it was clear and effective in its speaking and was good at getting the ideas across to me.

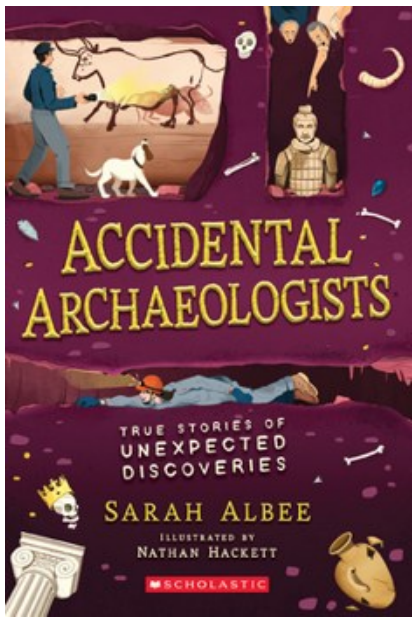
★★★½

Accidental Archaeologists *by Sarah Albee*

Reading age: 8-12 years

Professional Archeologist

Well written and interesting stories with a good mixture of the very well known (classic tales such as the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Terracotta Warriors) and lesser known finds. As the youth reviewer mentions below, it is quite long and cumbersome when read cover to cover, but would have been better appreciated if each chapter was read spaced out. Though there are 18 stories (each about 10 pages long), the pages of text are broken up by surprisingly nice black and white photos and callout boxes providing cultural and historical contexts. Overall, it was an enjoyable read and I learned details about some of the most famous archeological discoveries from across the world.



★★★★

11 year-old

In Accidental Archaeologists I learned that a lot of people did archaeology by accident, like when the clay army was found by a farmer. This example took place in Shaanxi Province, China. I liked that they had a good text structure in the book. This includes pictures of what the things found looked like. I would give it a 4 out of 5 stars. This is because it was a really long read.

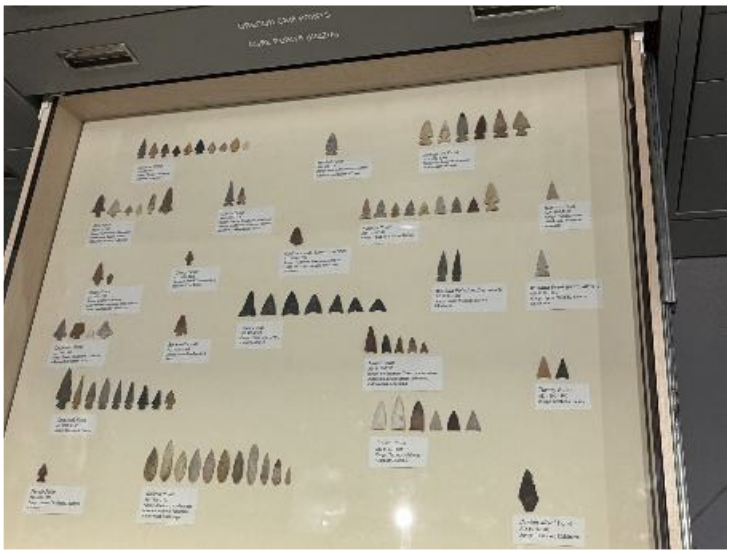
★★★★

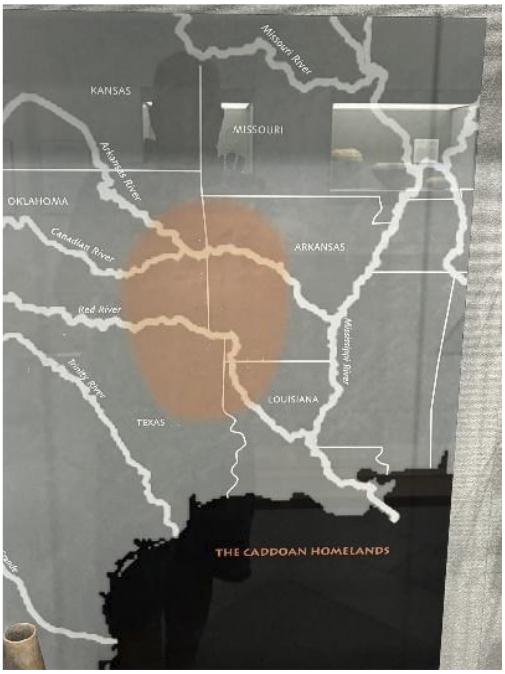
Museum Visit

Bret Williamson

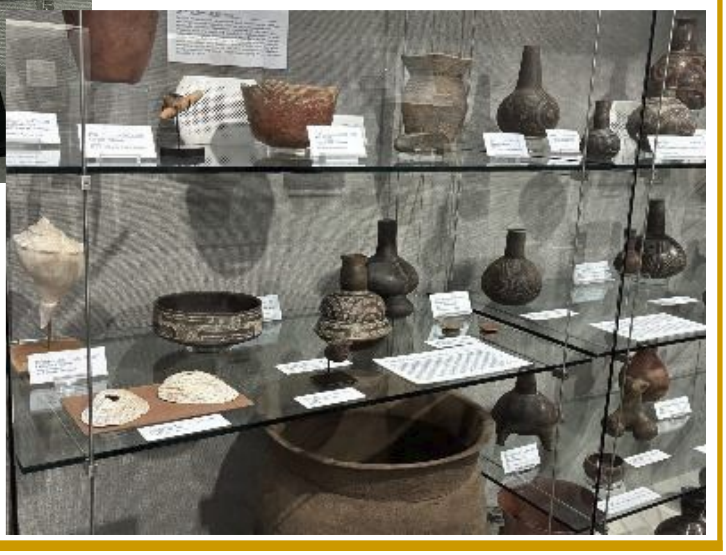
May 17th, 2026: I visited the Museum of the Red River in Idabel, Oklahoma, to get ideas for displaying artifacts at the Fort Worth Nature Center. I spoke with two employees, one of whom was a conservator. They told me that the cabinet with drawers was over 30 years old, and was built with very expensive German hardware. The drawers originally were covered in glass, but that was replaced by thick plexiglass after glass shattered when visitors slammed shut the drawers. They told me that the Museum of the Caddo in Paris, TX visited and decided to build their own display similar to the cabinet at the Red River Museum, and they hired a cabinet maker to construct their cabinet. Unfortunately, while I did pass through Paris on the way home, the museum is closed on Sundays. I drove 400 miles.











Archeological Events & Opportunities

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

SMU Lab Days — *9am-5pm, July 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.

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.
July 21 - *Women on the Santa Fe Trail* - Michelle M. Martin
August 18 - *Apache Adaption to Hispanic Culture* - Matthew Babcock
September 15 - *Horsehead Crossing Celebration* - Tom Ashmore

Library Summer Reading Program — *Summer 2026*

Garland, TX

NTAS is looking for a volunteer to present an archeological themed presentation for the South Garland Library during their Summer Reading Program. Date/time are TBD (will likely be around the May thru July timeframe). If interested, contact NTAS President Alexandra Younger.

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 exact location details closer to the date of the event.

Pinch-Pot Kit Making Session II — *TBD*

Dallas, TX

In addition to the Fort Worth session (see above), there will be a Dallas-area session. Details will be announced soon.

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 24, 2026*

Grand Prairie, TX

Join us on October 24 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! — *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.

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. Additional details, including lodging options, will be announced soon.

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." Click here for the online abstract submission system.

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.

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/account/CommunityRewards



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.

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 organizing committee is planning for a series of regional and topical symposia. Consequently, time slots for symposia will fill early. Symposia may pertain to any topic, region, major project, and/or period. Symposia may be organized as paper or poster presentations. For paper presentations, each symposium will be allotted two hours per five presenters, with a five-presenter minimum. Poster symposia will be allotted at least four hours per symposium with no minimum poster limit. Due to scheduling concerns, symposium organizers must ensure that all abstracts for symposia and symposium presentations (papers or posters) meet an earlier deadline of **August 1, 2026**. For effective presentation of symposia, organizers may specify the order of papers and their length.

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.

Other presentation formats such as panel discussions, demonstrations, and workshops may be proposed for approval of the Program Co-Chairs and Annual Meeting organizers. Proposals and abstracts for other presentation formats should be submitted for review by the **August 1, 2026** deadline.

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 audio-visual 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

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!

James Vann Cunningham
Peter Dunikoski
Kate Lesciotto
Deborah Girma
Joshua Girma
Cheri L. Goble
Hope Harris
Prabhashi Jayawardhana
Anastasia King
Anson King
Kevin King
Emily Jean Kozlowski
Estefana Aliviegh Martinez
Imogene Mitcham
Joseph Simon
Caleb Solomon
Lidya Solomon
Michelle Walker
Rahel Zirgaw

Donors

Cody Davis on Behalf of the Shovel and Trowel
Garden Club of Hunt County - *Projects Fund*
Kate Lesciotto - *Memorial Scholarship 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.

August Newsletter: July 30
September Newsletter: August 27
October Newsletter: September 24
November Newsletter: October 29
December Newsletter: November 26
January Newsletter: December 31

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