



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.

#### Inside this issue:

President's Message	1-2
Ryan Breslawski and Early Caddo Subsistence	2
NTAS Shirts	3
Monthly Meeting Location & Info	3
New EC Members	4
2024 Financial Report	5
Events & News	6
Scholarships	6
Membership & Publication Info	6-8

# Benchmark

Volume 39, Issue 1

January 2025

## President's Message

Happy New Year, Members! It was my personal delight to experience the warmhearted exchanges that took place at the annual NTAS holiday party last month. Big thanks to Paula Vastine for her generous contributions to its success. Thank you all for electing me as the NTAS President for the next two years. I not only have learned a great deal from the Executive Committee over the past year-plus, but I have also witnessed their commitment to this organization and received remarkable support from them. To those that previously served and currently serve, a robust thank you for your stewardship.

The Committee and I anticipate great things for the Society for the year 2025. The TAS Academy registrations are currently full for the year, which demonstrates both the outstanding achievement of its organizers and the level of enthusiasm generated from past academies. The academies consist of high-quality lessons and training in specialized archeology topics in a format constructive to college students, professional archeologists, and members of the public. In addition, both 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. The Archeobotany Academy (April 5-6) will take place in Kerrville under the instruction of Drs. Leslie Bush, Kevin Hanselka, and Phil Dering. The following weekend (April 12-13) Dr. Robert Lassen, Chris Ringstaff, and Dr. Sergio Ayala will lead the Lithics Academy in Austin. Importantly, NTAS offers scholarships that remain available to potential TAS Academy attendees. [Scholarships](#) for students and non-students cover membership costs and the registration fee.

We continue to participate in the monthly SMU Lab days in which NTAS has assisted in the rehabilitation of collections. Join in every last

## Connect with NTAS:

[facebook.com/NTXAS.org](https://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**

Saturday of the month. I would like to again remind members that the 2024 Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society is available digitally to current members on the [website](#) and paper copies can be purchased via [Amazon](#). In light of that, NTAS membership renewals were due on January 1, 2025. Your continued participation in and membership of NTAS is greatly appreciated.

Opportunities regarding lab work and/or fieldwork will be announced in your email inbox as they are presented. Our speaker for this month is Ryan Breslawski who is presenting findings from the recent excavations at Bois d'Arc Lake. His lecture, titled Late Woodland and Early Caddo Bunnies, Badgers, and Box Turtles: Early Caddo Diets along Bois D'Arc Creek, discusses the faunal assemblages from Caddo sites within the Bois d'Arc Creek watershed. We anticipate hearing the latest results about a project with which many of us are familiar.

I look forward to seeing you all at the January 9th meeting!

**Alexandra Younger**

## **January Speaker: Ryan Breslawski**

### ***Bunnies, Badgers, and Box Turtles: Early Caddo Diets along Bois D'Arc Creek***

In northeastern Texas, Caddo subsistence is synonymous with cultigens such as maize, but domesticated plants are only one aspect of pre-contact diets in the area. This region is rich in deer, migratory birds, and fish, and animal foods likely would have been diverse for much of the late Holocene. Between 2019 and 2021, AR Consultants, Inc. excavated six sites in the Bois d'Arc Creek watershed of northeastern Texas, providing a snapshot of Early Caddo (AD ~1000-1200) subsistence patterns. The animal bone recovered from these sites suggests that woodland environments provided people with a variety of mammals, birds, and reptiles. Despite the presence of some animals common in plains and prairie environments, bison are lacking. This talk will focus on what we have observed so far, what it suggests about the kinds of environments that people were living in, and the choices that those people made when it came to deciding what was on the menu.

**Ryan Breslawski** is an archaeologist who studies the roles of animals in human subsistence economies. His research focuses on Texas, the Great Plains, and the Intermountain West, from the Late Paleoindian period to early agricultural societies. Prior to joining the Bois d'Arc Lake project at AR Consultants, Ryan studied human responses to declining bison habitats during the Early Archaic period across the Great Plains, spanning central Alberta to West Texas. He received his PhD from Southern Methodist University, MS from Utah State University, and BS from the University of Utah, all three in anthropology.



## NTAS T-shirts!!!

Show off your NTAS pride with one of these lovely shirts to wear at events or anytime!

We will have a limited number of shirts at the January 9th monthly meeting.

One can be yours by making a \$10 donation to NTAS (cash, check, and card will be accepted).



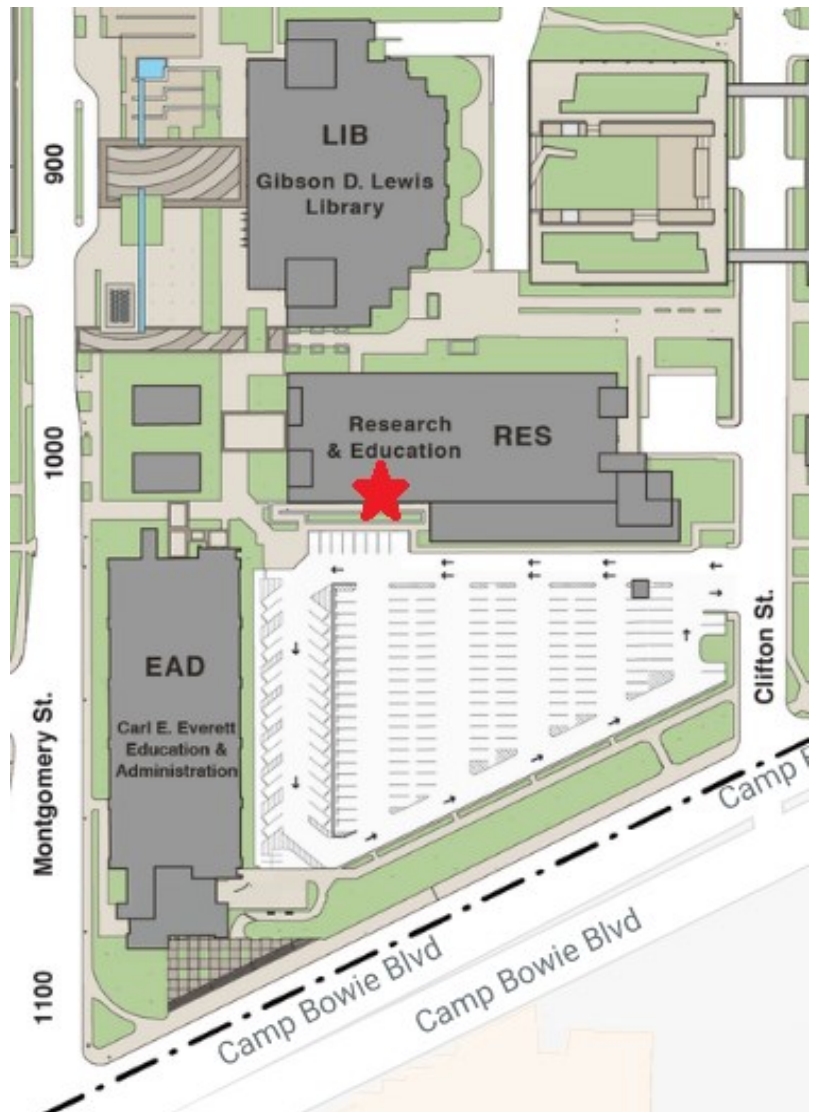
## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

**February 13<sup>th</sup>: Reid Ferring**  
**March 13<sup>th</sup>: Jenny McWilliams**  
**April 10<sup>th</sup>: TBD**

## 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.





## Newly Elected NTAS Executive Committee Members (2025-2026)

### **Alexandra Younger — President**

I began my career as a southeastern U.S. archeologist following graduation from Appalachian State University. I have been conducting work in Texas for ten years during which time I received my MS in Geography from the University of North Texas under the mentorship of Drs. Reid Ferring and Steve Wolverton. I am a Principal Investigator at Integrated Environmental Solutions, LLC., and my experience in this region includes Archaic, Prehistoric, and historic-age archeological sites. I live in Denton with my partner Christopher Goodmaster and our tuxedo cat, Wiyoh. With the County Historical Commission three years ago, I organized Denton's first Texas Archeology Month fair that has been an annual success in which NTAS has played an essential role. With gratitude, I look forward to serving this extraordinary organization.



### **Charlene Erwin — Historian**

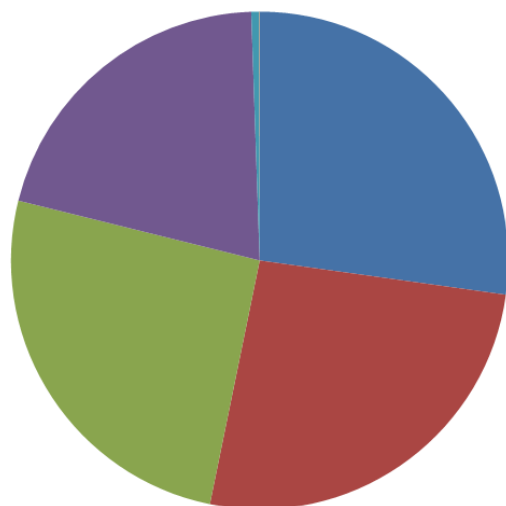
I am a native Texan, a UTA grad, and, although not an archeologist, have been fortunate for the past twenty-five years to be a member of TCAS, NTAS, and TAS. I also was blessed to be tutored by a very kind and knowledgeable avocational archeologist throughout most of those years. A huge bonus has been meeting so many of you, the multi-talented scholars and dedicated scientists whose research enhances our collective cultural understanding. I am looking forward to learning about the archival procedures that the previous NTAS historians developed. Thanks to the NTAS membership for this opportunity to serve as the Historian.



## NTAS Income & Expenses

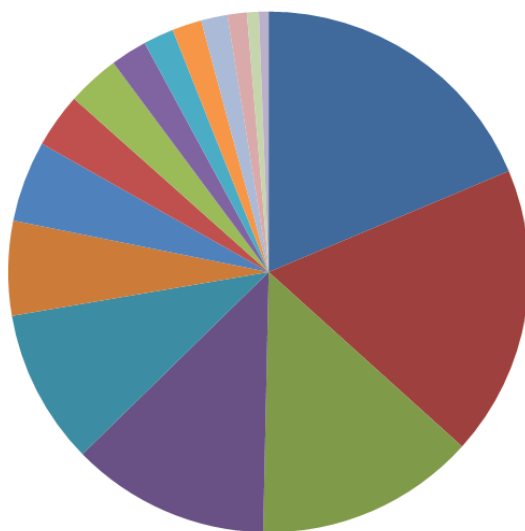
January 1, 2024—December 31, 2024

### Income \$14,153



- Humanities TX Mini Grants (Restricted) - \$3,850 - 27%
- Dues - \$3,681 - 26%
- Donations - General Fund, BaahKu, TBH - \$3,631 - 26%
- Donations - Memorial Scholarship Fund - \$2,915 - 21%
- Reward Programs - \$72 - 0.5%
- Publications Receipts - \$5 - 0.03%

### Expense \$9,156



- Speaker Travel - \$1,709 - 19%
- NTAS Meeting Room - \$1,650 - 18%
- Charitable Donations - \$1,250 - 14%
- Insurance - \$1,130 - 12%
- Printing - \$882 - 10%
- Website - \$537 - 6%
- Speaker Honorarium - \$460 - 5%
- Post Office Box & Postage - \$310 - 3%
- Scholarships - \$298 - 3%
- PayPal & Square Fees - \$207 - 2%
- Supplies - \$173 - 2%
- Phone - \$168 - 2%
- Zoom - \$150 - 2%
- Sponsored Student Memberships - \$110 - 1%
- Amazon Prime Membership - \$67 - 0.7%
- TAS Membership - \$55 - 0.6%

• <b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$47,695.85</b>
• Unrestricted Cash	\$41,558.15
• NTAS Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$5,876.95
• BaahKu Project	\$170.75
• Sponsored Student Membership Fund	\$90.00

## 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.

January 21 - *Frank Reaugh's Twenty-four Hours with the Herd* by Michael Grauer

February 18 - *11 Days on the Colorado: The Pivotal Battle Unfought* by James E. Brasher

### **Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS**

**January 10-16, 23-30, 2025**

Washington, TX

If you are interested in participating in the final excavations of this project, volunteers are welcome to join in on screening sediments for nineteenth century artifacts with Alexandra Younger's IES team. Email [Alex](#) for more info.

### **Joe Reed Work Day**

**January 11, 12, 18 or 19, 2025\***

Parker County, TX

See pages 8-9 of the February 2024 Newsletter for details on this excavation opportunity.

\*You **must** contact [Dana Ritchie](#) if you are interested in participating.. She will coordinate the final date with those wanting to participate.

### **Lovejoy ISD STEM Fest**

**January 25, 2025**

Lucas, TX

NTAS will be participating in the Lovejoy STEM Fest at Lovejoy High School in Lucas on January 25th from 10am-1pm. If you're interested in participating please contact [Allen Rutherford](#).

### **SMU Lab Days**

**January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, 2025**

Dallas, TX

Assist in organizing, cataloging, and re-bagging artifacts from the 1971 TAS Field School. For more information or to sign-up, contact [Brian Luetchford](#). See page 3 of the December 2024 and page 8 of the October 2024 newsletters for a summary of the work completed thus far.

## 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 (2024) is available digitally to members by logging in [here](#). Digital copies of Volume 1 and Volume 2 are available to the public [here](#), and 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!

Stephen and Linda Bell	Tina Nielsen
Susan Bin	Adyn Schachtel
Lonnie Blake	Stesha Tacker
Jensen Crutcher	Laura Wildman
Adrienne Draper & Family	Ethan Wood
Simon Jerden	

## Donors

None

## 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 now available to ANYONE who applies for TAS Academies, the TAS Field School, or the TAS Annual Meeting.**

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**

**Hannah Rainey**  
**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, and upcoming deadlines are listed below.

February Newsletter: January 30

March Newsletter: February 27

April Newsletter: March 27

May Newsletter: April 24

July Newsletter: June 26

August Newsletter: July 31

This program is supported in part by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Humanities Texas



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

**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.**