



The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** meeting for **December** is a **Holiday Party**. See page 2 for details.

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

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Benchmark

Volume 39, Issue 11

December 2025

President's Message

Hello, NTAS! I hope your Thanksgiving was delightful. The final 2025 meeting took place on November 13th. Thanks to everyone who showed up in person and on Zoom to hear Laura Short. Her presentation pertaining to earth ovens in the Red River region was well attended. It was interesting to hear about how these cultural features have been unevenly documented over time and what the existing information implies about a commonly occurring cultural facet that may need a more critical approach. It certainly gave some of us something to reflect on in our own work. The meeting will be posted on our [YouTube channel](#) for those who missed it. We look forward to hearing Part 2 of Laura's research in the future.

I would like to extend a big thank-you to our executive committee for their leadership at NTAS. My first year as the society's president has been fulfilling and meaningful. The support and guidance I've received from this team is deeply appreciated and their hard work is noted. Moreover, I am inspired by membership participation and the great things that have transpired in just one year. From an excellent roll of speakers, to aspiring young archeologists, and our domination of TAM, we accomplished and took part in quite a lot. Go, us!



I once again make the call to anyone who wants to be a sounding board for one of the numerous robotics teams seeking avocational and professional feedback for their prototypes. They are close to competition time. You can reach out to info@ntxas.org for details. Alternatively, Archaeological Institute of America has stepped up and provided a sign-up program (<https://buff.ly/NzhpmfL>) to match archeologists with teams.

We are pleased to share that NTAS has donated \$465 to Texas Beyond History to remain a Sustaining Partner for 2025. Our membership contributed \$215 and NTAS contributed \$250! We feel that Texas Beyond History provides a service to facilitate educators and purveyors of public education in archeology that aligns with our society's principles. Thanks to all who sup-

Connect with NTAS:

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

www.NTXAS.org

For general inquiries, please contact info@ntxas.org

North Texas Archeological Society



Hatfield's Exchange



Interpreter behind the bar at Hatfield's



Houston's Cabin



Christopher Goodmaster with Derrick Birdsall (Sam Houston Memorial Museum Director) as Sam Houston

cabins constructed from hand-hewn oak wood, and a preference for native stone building materials coincided with Washington's early revolution days. Construction materials and styles quickly evolved with the introduction of sawmills, a shift from hard oak to cedar, and increasingly formal frame buildings. The transition to statehood from a republic was also marked by an enthusiastic use of handmade brick.

Washington changed dramatically over three decades due to a rapidly shifting political and technological landscape. For this and other reasons, an entire town or street was not completely reimagined in the way you experience Williamsburg. Nonetheless, the recently constructed buildings, like the previously built House of Independence, pertain to critical events and people that shaped Texas such as congressional meetings, political debates, Sam Houston, and Davy Crockett. For the viewer, a historical immersion experience is now consumable. The result of such an experience leads to a deeper understanding of historic events and ultimately, a more educated and enlightened public, a subject perceived as controversial in some circles.

Some would appreciate from an educational framework our excavation blocks left on display. Under the cover of a reconstructed Rucker Drug Store frame building are the remains of Heard's brick buildings foundations, floors, and collapsed walls. Not only will viewers experience history in augmented reality, but they can levitate as a human drone above an archeological dig. This gives the public a chance to appreciate

and acknowledge the utility of archeology in heritage preservation.

I cannot comment on the museum since I did not have the opportunity to visit it. A good reason to return. I recommend a visit to the new park and would suggest incorporating it into a trip to the living museum at San Felipe de Austin. Come spring, the pastures located between oak groves and Old Washington will bloom Texas wildflowers during the Independence anniversary in March, weather permitting.



Inside Heath's Carpentry Shop



Rucker Drug Store



Inside a family log cabin



Park Manager Jonathan Failor and Alexandra Younger

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](#).

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.

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 for submission is Queries can be emailed to tguderjan@uttyler.edu.

Zoarcheology & 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**

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.

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.

New Publication on the Projectile Points of New Mexico

For the first time, New Mexico has a volume dedicated to all projectile point types dating from the Paleoindian through Historic period. Filled with historical details, measurements, defining attributes, age estimates, interpretations, references, and images, *Projectile Points of New Mexico: 13,000 Years of Technological Innovation* edited by Dr. Bradley J. Vierra and with many contributing authors and supporters, is graciously offered here courtesy of the [New Mexico Bureau of Land Management](#), who provided the grant for production costs, [New Mexico State University](#), who was responsible for the contract, and [Statistical Research, Inc.](#), who produced the volume. There are two posters also available for download included in the volume that provide an overview of the different projectile point types and some well-known flaked stone raw material source locations. All files are available [online](#).

NTAS at the Plano Archaeology Fair

Photos Courtesy of James and Susan Everett



NTAS President, Alex Younger, and Vice President of Projects, Brian Luetchford.



James Everett Preparing for the corn grinding activity.



Susan Everett handing out pinch pot kits provided by the THC.



A pinch pot made from the THC pinch pot kits distributed at this and many other archeology events.

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 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!

Zane Johnsen
 Russ Davis
 Louis Whiting
 Amber Lewis
 Tyler Gremillion
 Prabhashi Jayawardhana

Donors

Gwen Durrant - *Texas Beyond History Campaign*
 Elizabeth Bittner - *Texas Beyond History Campaign*
 Stephen Lowe - *Texas Beyond History Campaign*
 James & Susan Everett - *Texas Beyond History Campaign*
 Katrina Nuncio - *Texas Beyond History Campaign*
 Anonymous - *Texas Beyond History Campaign*

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, and upcoming deadlines are listed below.

January Newsletter: December 25
 February Newsletter: January 29
 March Newsletter: February 26

April Newsletter: March 26
 May Newsletter: April 30
 July Newsletter: June 25

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