

57th Annual Caddo Conference

Program and Abstracts

March 27-28, 2015

Henderson State University

Arkadelphia, Arkansas



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CONFERENCE
ORGANIZATION

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The Caddo Conference Organization thanks the Arkansas Humanities Council, Beta Analytic, Inc., the Archaeological Conservancy, the Arkadelphia Regional Economic Development Alliance, the Diamond Lakes Regional Visitor Center, the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, the Caddo Culture Club, the Metro Caddo Cultural Club, Teachers College at Henderson State University, the Captain Henderson House, the Arkansas Archeological Society, and our Ouachita Chapter and HSU student volunteers, for a successful conference in Arkadelphia.

Problems? Contact conference organizer Mary Beth Trubitt at 870-230-3456.

57th Annual Caddo Conference

PROGRAM

Friday, March 27th

Education Center, Rooms 106-107-108, Henderson State University
Room 107-108 – Conference
Room 106 – Book and Art Room

- 8:00 Registration
- 8:30 Welcome by HSU Provost Dr. Stephen Adkison, by CCO President Jeffrey Girard
- 8:40 Meeks Etchieson, “Limited Testing at 3SC0132: An Archaic Workshop in Southern Scott County, Arkansas”
- 9:00 Larry Porter, “Salvage Excavations at the Wild Violet Site, 3LO226: A Woodland Period Site in the Northern Ouachita Mountains”
- 9:20 Mary Beth Trubitt, “Long-term Habitation in the Ouachita Mountains: Excavations at 3MN298”
- 9:40 Katie Leslie, “Society Training Program Excavations at 3MN0298 Area VII”

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. - coffee break

- 10:30 Robert L. Brooks, “A Bifacial Cache from Lake Wright Patman, Northeast Texas”
- 10:50 Simone Rowe, “Patterns of Trauma at the Akers site (34LF32) of Southeastern Oklahoma”
- 11:10 Christian Allen, “An Archaeological Analysis of Wichita Burial Goods from 34JF1 Site Excavations”
- 11:30 John R. Samuelsen, Phil A. Slater, Matthew A. Fort, and Kristin M. Hedman, “Preliminary Research on Strontium Isotope Ratios: Comparisons to the Skull and Mandible Cemetery at the Crenshaw Site (3MI6)”

Noon – 1:30 p.m. - Lunch (on your own)

Poster: "Remote Sensing and Mapping at Spiro: Landscape Analyses at Multiple Scales" by Jami Lockhart, Scott Hammerstedt, Amanda Regnier, Patrick Livingood, George Sabo III, John Samuelson, and Tim Mulvihill, on display in Conference Room

- 1:30 Jeffrey S. Girard and Leslie G. Cecil, "Comparing Caddo and Coles Creek Pottery Using Petrographic Analysis"
- 1:50 Paul N. Eubanks, "Salt Production Trends in the Caddo Homeland and the Southeastern United States"
- 2:10 Ashley E. Jones and Mary E. Whisenhunt, "The Caddo Southwest Boundary: Climate, Risk and Agricultural Possibilities"

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. - coffee break

- 3:00 Ross C. Fields, "The Levi Ware Cemetery: An Example of Site Burial in the Upland Sand Sheet of Rusk County, Texas"
- 3:20 Katherine Wilson, "Examining the Ceramic Assemblage from Washington Mounds: An Early to Middle Caddo Site in Southwestern Arkansas"
- 3:40 Mary Beth Trubitt, "Documenting Caddo Vessels in the JEC's Hodges Collection"

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. - CCO board meeting, Room 107-108

Saturday, March 28th

Education Center, Rooms 106-107-108, Henderson State University
Room 107-108 – Conference
Room 106 – Book and Art Room

- 8:00 Registration
- 8:30 Jesse Nowak, "The Lemley Collection: Its Impact on Caddo Archaeology, and Future Research Potentials"
- 8:50 Diana Folsom, "Bringing Past to Present"
- 9:10 Discussion: Digitizing Caddo Ceramic Collections

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. - coffee break

Silent Auction bidding closes at 10 a.m.

- 10:00 Scott W. Hammerstedt, Patrick C. Livingood, and Amanda L. Regnier, "An Update on Recent Excavations on Spiro's Lower Terrace"
- 10:20 Shane M. Bess, "Pits, Pots, and Places: Bell-shaped Pits during the Fort Coffee Phase"
- 10:40 Jim Rees, "How the Ji'kmaq Came to Spiro: A Possible Addition to the Inventory of Sound-Making Instruments Depicted in the Spiro Shell Engravings"

11:00 a.m. – noon - CCO business meeting, news, and announcements

Noon – 1:30 p.m. - Lunch (on your own)

Saturday, March 28th - 1:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Education Center, Rooms 106-107-108, Henderson State University

Caddo Conference Special Public Session:

“Caddo Indian Cultural Traditions in the 21st Century”

1:30 Welcome by incoming CCO President Scott Hammerstedt

1:35 Guyneth Bedoka Cardwell (Kadohadacho Historical Society),
“Kee whut nah sundah People: A Caddo Journey”

2:00 Tracy Newkumet Burrows (Caddo Nation), “Language Learning
through Games, Stories, and Sounds: Caddo Class 2014-2015”

2:30 Jeri Redcorn (Metro Caddo Cultural Club) “Generation to
Generation: Our Time and Place”

3:00 – 3:30 - *coffee break*

*Visit with artists in the Book and Art Room (Room 106), and look at poster exhibit
“True to Tradition: Caddo History and Heritage” created by Elsbeth Dowd, Tracy
Newkumet Burrows, Kim Penrod, and Lea Vanderburg, in the Conference Room.*

3:30 George Sabo III (Arkansas Archeological Survey), “Caddo
Ceremonial Regalia Through Time”

4:00 Phil Cross (Caddo Culture Club), “Caddo Songs and Dances: The
Everlasting Foundation of an Enduring People”

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. - *Caddo dance performance, led by the Caddo Culture Club
(on the south lawn next to the Captain Henderson House – in case
of rain, in Rooms 107-108 of the Education Center)*

*This project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas
Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the
Humanities. Additional funding comes from the Caddo
Conference Organization, the Arkansas Archeological Survey,
and the Arkansas Archeological Society.*

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ABSTRACTS

Allen, Christian (University of Oklahoma/Oklahoma Archeological Survey)

“An Archaeological Analysis of Wichita Burial Goods from 34JF1 Site Excavations”

Excavation of Oklahoma archaeological site 34JF1, commonly known as the Longest Site, began in 1965 – 1966. The University of Oklahoma and The Museum of the Great Plains completed field excavations of site 34JF1 in a joint effort. The site is located along the Red River in Jefferson County, OK, in the southern-most part of the state. Archaeologists, in 1966, uncovered seven Wichita burials on the southern portion of the site. These burials are the first Wichita burials found during archaeological excavation in the Great Plains and thus they pose a significant importance to the field of study. Archaeologists also uncovered features such as houses, storage pits, suggestions of fortification, and many artifacts. With permission from the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey was allowed to complete analysis of the site, including burial analysis of seven Wichita Indian burials. During my research I have analyzed the burial goods, or the artifacts that are associated with the burials. My presentation will be purely descriptive of the materials found and their association with the grave and body. Some burial objects include stone pipes, lithic flakes and projectile points, stone mano, iron projectile points, shell and glass beads, pottery, and shaft abraders. The analysis of the burial goods is significant to the understanding of plains anthropology as some of the first Wichita burials recorded from the Great Plains.

Bess, Shane M. (Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History)

“Pits, Pots, and Places: Bell-shaped Pits during the Fort Coffee Phase”

Bell-shaped pits were relatively rare at Caddo sites in eastern Oklahoma prior to about 1400. During the Fort Coffee phase (ca. 1400–1600), these pits became more common and often occurred alongside cylindrical and basin-shaped pits. In the archaeological literature, pits of all shapes from this time period are often referred to as storage and/or refuse pits, implying that they were functionally the same. Quantitative analysis of the contents of excavated pits from two Fort Coffee phase sites in Haskell County, Oklahoma (Tyler and Tyler-Rose) indicates that, to the contrary, bell-shaped pits contain significantly more ceramic sherds than other pit types on average and may have served a specialized function. Additionally, a qualitative analysis of pit morphology suggests that bell-shaped pits may have symbolically referenced certain elements of Caddo cosmogony. In this light, I argue that the construction and use of bell-shaped pits by Caddo people during the Fort Coffee phase was a way of inscribing important narratives on the local landscape and transforming spaces of habitation into socially meaningful places.

Brooks, Robert L. (Oklahoma Archeological Survey)

“A Bifacial Cache from Lake Wright Patman, Northeast Texas”

Caches are a relatively frequent occurrence in the archaeological record. This paper presents preliminary information on a cache of 39 bifaces found at Lake Wright

Patman shortly before or during lake construction. Characteristics of the bifaces, including morphology, metric attributes, and material composition are discussed. Some thoughts are offered as to the nature of the cache. Concluding comments address the need for further information on the context of the cache and its cultural affiliation.

Cardwell, Guyneth Bedoka (Kadohadacho Historical Society)

“Kee whut nah sundah People: A Caddo Journey”

Oral history is the traditional form of Caddo history. The poems I have created from Caddo oral history preserve Caddo traditions for future generations. A history is essential to identity, which is essential for a future. The only people in the world who can adequately and appropriately represent the Caddo past are the Caddo people. As opposed to written history which is recorded, oral history is a history that is lived. An oral history will tell stories that the written record usually does not. It is dangerous and a sign of powerlessness to let an outsider tell you your history or culture. Oral history is as viable as any other history and it is more personal and meaningful to the Caddo. The poems I have created are from the voices of Caddo people. I am of the Fort Cobb Caddoes who lived by the fort or soldiers. My poems tell about the “Kee whut nah sundah people” and their life journey.

Etchieson, Meeks (Ouachita National Forest, retired)

“Limited Testing at 3SC0132: An Archaic Workshop in Southern Scott County, Arkansas”

Site 3SC0132 was formally documented by the Ouachita National Forest within the Poteau Ranger District in June 1990 as a large lithic site in the Fourche LaFave River drainage in southeastern Scott County, Arkansas. Several episodes of minor to moderate looting on the site encouraged the Forest Service to conduct limited shovel testing, vandalism documentation, and archeological testing to better determine extent and depth of the cultural deposits and to gain a better understanding of what was attracting the looters to the site. The formal testing in 1993 and 1994 revealed five features that included burned rock clusters, a preform concentration, and a small, shallow pit. Stone tools consisted of an occasional complete dartpoint, numerous square-stem dartpoint fragments, and expediency tools such as utilized flakes and spokeshaves. Generally in the Ouachita Mountains novaculite comes to mind as the tool stone of choice. However, at 3SC0132 this is not the case, nor is it the case for two other extensive Archaic sites (3SC1717, 34LF0595) tested by the Forest Service in the northwestern-western part of the Ouachita Mountains. The predominate lithic material in 3SC0132 consists of a variety of [Ozark?] chert derived from the John’s Valley Shale (ca. 47.5%) and silicified sandstone (ca. 40.5%), also derived locally. 3SC0132 is interpreted as a large workshop where broken or worn tools were re-sharpened or replaced with fresh material.

Eubanks, Paul N. (University of Alabama)

“Salt Production Trends in the Caddo Homeland and the Southeastern United States”

From the Late Woodland period until the end of the eighteenth century, the American Indians of the southeastern United States produced salt by evaporating liquid brine in ceramic containers. These vessels, often termed “salt pans,” exhibited a range of variability in size, form, and surface treatment. The data from the salt-making sites discussed in this paper indicate that in parts of the Caddo Homeland, thin-walled bowls and jars were preferred over thicker basin-shaped vessels, but this was not the case for all Caddo salt makers. While there is some evidence to suggest that salt production vessels were supported over a fire using clay pedestals and that salt was traded in small ceramic cups or “augets,” few of these ceramic forms have been documented. As augets and pedestals are subject to poor preservation and may not be recognized as such, it is not yet clear if these objects played a major role in the production and exchange of salt.

Fields, Ross C. (Prewitt and Associates, Inc.)

The Levi Ware Cemetery: An Example of Site Burial in the Upland Sand Sheet of Rusk County, Texas

Archeologists and geomorphologists have debated the issue of depositional processes in the east Texas upland sand sheet for many years. Some think that the uplands are essentially stable, with little or no sediment deposition that can bury archeological sites. Others think that the sand sheet is more dynamic, with erosion and redeposition providing opportunities for archeological remains to become buried. This paper describes how excavations at an 1858 Anglo-American cemetery in the uplands of northeast Texas support the latter conclusion in a dramatic fashion.

Folsom, Diana (Gilcrease Museum) and Jesse Nowak (Gilcrease Museum)

“Native Artists and Scholars Bring Past to Present: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives for Mississippian Culture Pottery”

The Thomas Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, also known as the Gilcrease Museum, in conjunction with the University of Tulsa has received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to create a large, multi-disciplinary, searchable online catalogue of Mississippian period (700 C.E. – 1650 C.E.) ceramic vessels. Our goal for this catalogue is to make it easy to navigate and comprehensively searchable using terminology appropriate to Native Americans, scholars, artists, and the general public. Within the broad archaeology collection of the Gilcrease Museum, the first priority is the digitization of approximately 3,500 Mississippian ceramic vessels, a large percentage of which are from the Museum’s Harry J. Lemley Collection. An upgraded database and new, searchable terms will be developed in collaboration with tribes who trace their ancestry to the sites and region from which these collections come, as well as archaeologists, ethnologists, and tribal artists who are continuing the ceramic traditions of their people. This

particular collection is a high priority in our digitization plan because of its relationship to the regional Tribal communities and its importance to the body of knowledge about the Mississippian culture.

Jesse Nowak, team leader for cataloguing and imaging for the project, will present “The Lemley Collection: Its Impact on Caddo Archaeology, and Future Research Potentials.” Since its creation, the Harry J. Lemley Collection has been pivotal in the development and refinement of Caddo and Lower Mississippi Valley archaeology. This presentation will recap the importance of the collection to the typology, chronology and archaeology of the Southeast, as well as discuss new research potentials made possible by the ongoing digitization project.

Diana Folsom, Project Director, will present “Bringing Past to Present.” She will describe the technology behind the project and discuss the approach to gathering search terms from Native artists, scholars and Tribal representatives that will make this material uniquely accessible by a broad range of people including the general public, when appropriate.

Girard, Jeffrey S. (Northwestern State University of Louisiana) and Leslie G. Cecil (Stephen F. Austin State University)

“Comparing Caddo and Coles Creek Pottery Using Petrographic Analysis”

Pottery classified as “Coles Creek Incised” is common both to the earliest Caddo sites along the Red River and to contemporary sites in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Although it often is suggested that Coles Creek pottery from the two regions can be distinguished by differences in paste, no detailed comparative studies have been carried out. An initial attempt to identify variation through the use of petrographic analysis was carried out by comparing 50 samples drawn from sites in northwest and central Louisiana. Although no sharp dichotomy was noted between the regions, the study identified distinctions that support the notion that most Coles Creek pottery was made locally and different technological traditions may be represented.

Hammerstedt, Scott W. (Oklahoma Archeological Survey), Patrick C. Livingood (University of Oklahoma), and Amanda L. Regnier (Oklahoma Archeological Survey)

“An Update on Recent Excavations on Spiro’s Lower Terrace”

Geophysical survey conducted at Spiro over the last four years hints that dozens of contemporaneous structures were located near Craig Mound. Four of these structures were excavated in 2013 and 2014. We present the results of these excavations and discuss the data in terms of Jim Brown’s recent interpretation of an “event” at Spiro in the early 1400s.

Jones, Ashley E. (University of Texas-San Antonio) and Mary E. Whisenhunt (University of Texas-San Antonio)

“The Caddo Southwest Boundary: Climate, Risk and Agricultural Possibilities”

Caddo settlement boundaries in the southwest extended to, and largely ended at,

the Neches River basin, with only a few sites found further west on the eastern floodplain of the Trinity River. That southwest border coincided with the end of the Pineywoods and the start of the Post Oak Savannah ecological regions. In this paper, we ask why few long-term Caddo settlements were established in the Trinity River basin and on the fertile Blackland Prairie west of the Trinity River, as both ecological environments support maize farming. We problematize this research question by examining several environmental factors that may have influenced this western limit, evaluating them against the archaeological record. We explore and compare several variables in multiple ecological regions, including annual rainfall, seasonal precipitation, rainfall variability, and the presence/absence of water tables. At a broader level, we seek to understand the role of ecological factors in how and why agriculture is adopted and how it expands regionally—a research question of great interest to the archaeological community for more than one hundred years. Analyzing the East Texas Caddo agricultural frontier at the Neches-Trinity River region, and the dynamics that shaped it, is directly relevant to that question.

Leslie, Katie (Arkansas Archeological Survey, HSU Research Station)
“Society Training Program Excavations at 3MN0298 Area VII”

Site 3MN0298 is located along the Ouachita River in the Ouachita National Forest. Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program excavations in 2014 uncovered 18 potential postmolds and 11 pit features within Area VII. The largest pit excavated in Area VII was Feature 97, now identified as one partially excavated in 1984. This feature is interpreted as a refuse pit with several rapid fill episodes. The preservation of flora and fauna in this pit is excellent compared to the rest of the site and to other sites in the Ouachita Mountains. The ceramic assemblage is 92% shell tempered with at least 16 different vessels represented. A new radiocarbon (AMS) date is reported. The presence of grass-impressed daub and cane – as well as several surrounding postmolds – indicates a nearby burned structure.

Porter, Larry (Arkansas Archeological Survey, WRI Research Station)
“Salvage Excavations at the Wild Violet Site, 3LO226: A Woodland Period Site in the Northern Ouachita Mountains”

3LO226 is a well preserved but highly endangered prehistoric Woodland Period site located in southern Logan County, Arkansas. Its location only a short distance upstream from a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control reservoir makes the site subject to frequent, and often severe, inundation which leads to continuing erosion and degradation of the site. Following several years of almost unprecedented flooding which caused severe erosion of the site and spurred an acceleration of site looting it was determined that a major salvage excavation was necessary in order to obtain as much data as possible before the site’s integrity was completely compromised. The excavation was conducted during October and early November of 2013. The excavations revealed intact deposits, diagnostic artifacts, features and burials primarily from the mid-late Woodland Period with a small

Mississippian Period occupation. A small Late Archaic component is present as well in the deposits which underlie the main Woodland midden. The excavations indicate that the Wild Violet Site has the potential to answer a number of questions about prehistoric culture history in the upper Petit Jean River valley and northern Ouachita Mountains region.

Rees, Jim (Arkansas Archeological Society)
“How the Ji’kmaq Came to Spiro: A Possible Addition to the Inventory of Sound-Making Instruments Depicted in the Spiro Shell Engravings”

While doing research on turtle shell rattles the author stumbled onto a photograph of a rare and unusual idiophone whose exact likeness appears twice in one of the engraved shell images from Spiro. This paper describes the instrument and the Spiro image and discusses how an instrument currently found only in the Maritime Provinces of Canada may have come to be portrayed on a marine shell cup found at Spiro.

Rowe, Simone (Oklahoma State University)
“Patterns of Trauma at the Akers site (34LF32) of Southeastern Oklahoma”

Previous work at Wister Valley Fourche Maline sites in southeastern Oklahoma has concluded that the area was a contested landscape with extensive feuding, resulting trophy-taking behavior, and mass burials. Preliminary paleopathological work at the Akers site (34Lf32) suggested that there may have been a high percentage of broken bones, however complete analyses had not been completed. New paleopathological work at the Akers site (34Lf32) indicates that 35% of the adults buried there had at least one fractured bone at time of death. Furthermore, adult females were more likely to have lower limb fractures and multiple fractures, suggesting different patterns of stress and/or violence for at least some of the adult female population.

Samuelson, John R. (Arkansas Archeological Survey/University of Arkansas), Phil A. Slater (Illinois State Archaeological Survey/Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Matthew A. Fort (Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute/University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Kristin M. Hedman (Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute/University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

“Preliminary Research on Strontium Isotope Ratios: Comparisons to the Skull and Mandible Cemetery at the Crenshaw Site (3MI6)”

Recent research on the skull and mandible cemetery at the Crenshaw site (3MI6) has disagreed about whether they represent a local burial practice or victims of warfare. Using the method of biologically available strontium, the strontium isotopic results previously gathered have suggested that they are consistent with the hypothesis that they are part of a local burial practice. This is based on the idea that the area around Crenshaw has variable strontium isotopic ratios, most likely due to the age and rock type of the Ouachita Mountains. A recent Prairie Research

Institute Grant obtained by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey funded a study of small animal strontium ratios from areas relevant to Cahokia. The Arkansas Archeological Survey cooperated with this project by supplying small animal teeth from southwest Arkansas, including some areas surrounding Crenshaw. Preliminary results may have implications for our interpretations about the skull and mandible cemetery at Crenshaw.

Trubitt, Mary Beth (Arkansas Archeological Survey, HSU Research Station)

“Long-term Habitation in the Ouachita Mountains: Excavations at 3MN298”

March is Arkansas Archeology Month, and this year’s poster illustrates last year’s Society Training Program at an upper Ouachita River site in the Ouachita National Forest. Questions about toolstone choice, plant domestication, social identity, and culture change guided excavations at 3MN298. Our research recovered pottery and stone tools, architectural evidence, and food remains used to interpret patterns or habits of daily life. We have been analyzing and interpreting project results. Here the focus is on the oldest communities at the site, active during the Archaic and Woodland periods.

“Documenting Caddo Vessels in the JEC’s Hodges Collection”

The Joint Educational Consortium’s Hodges Collection of Native American artifacts has drawn the attention of professional archeologists for decades. Current documentation and analysis of Caddo ceramic vessels in this collection focuses on reconstructing grave lots based on notes left by amateur archaeologist Vere Huddleston in the 1930s. Despite problems, there is useful information that can be gleaned from this old collection. This paper highlights recent research on the East site vessel assemblage as well as new work on effigy vessels.

Wilson, Katherine (Texas State University)

“Examining the Ceramic Assemblage from Washington Mounds: An Early to Middle Caddo Site in Southwestern Arkansas”

The Washington Mounds site is an Early to Middle Caddo period (A.D. 800-1300) mound site with 11 mounds, some of which contain burials; two village areas are associated with the site surrounding the mounds. It is located in southwest Arkansas between the Red River and Little Missouri River Basins. Some level of ritual activity occurred at the site, but what types or scale of ritual is unknown. Two excavations have been done at the site: one in the early 20th century by M. R. Harrington, and a second in 1981 by the Arkansas Archeological Society and the Arkansas Archeological Survey. Whole pots and potsherds from both documented excavations are considered in the analysis. This study is a thorough analysis of the ceramic assemblage through the theoretical perspective of ceramic ecology. As this is the first ceramic analysis done on artifacts from this site, the goals of the research include establishing information on life, status, and ritual activities of the people who occupied this site as well as contextualizing these findings within the broader geographical and cultural regions.

For further information:

<http://www.caddoconference.org>

<http://www.arkansasarcheology.org>

<http://www.hsu.edu>

<https://www.facebook.com/CaddoNationofOklahoma>