



**CADDO
CONFERENCE
ORGANIZATION**

The 64th Caddo Conference

**February 24 - 25, 2023
Beaver's Bend State Park Forest Heritage Center
Hochatown, Oklahoma**

Acknowledgements

This meeting was jointly planned by the Tribal Council of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma and Patrick Livingood, Amanda Regnier, and Scott Hammerstedt of the University of Oklahoma.

Special thanks go to:

Jonathan Rohrer, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma THPO for assistance with arrangements at Beavers Bend State Park

The Caddo Culture Club for traveling to southeast Oklahoma to host the dance

Henry Moy of the Museum of the Red River in Idabel for assistance with local arrangements



CADDO
CONFERENCE
ORGANIZATION

The 64th Caddo Conference

February 24 - 25, 2023

Beavers Bend State Park
Forest Heritage Center

Hochatown, Oklahoma

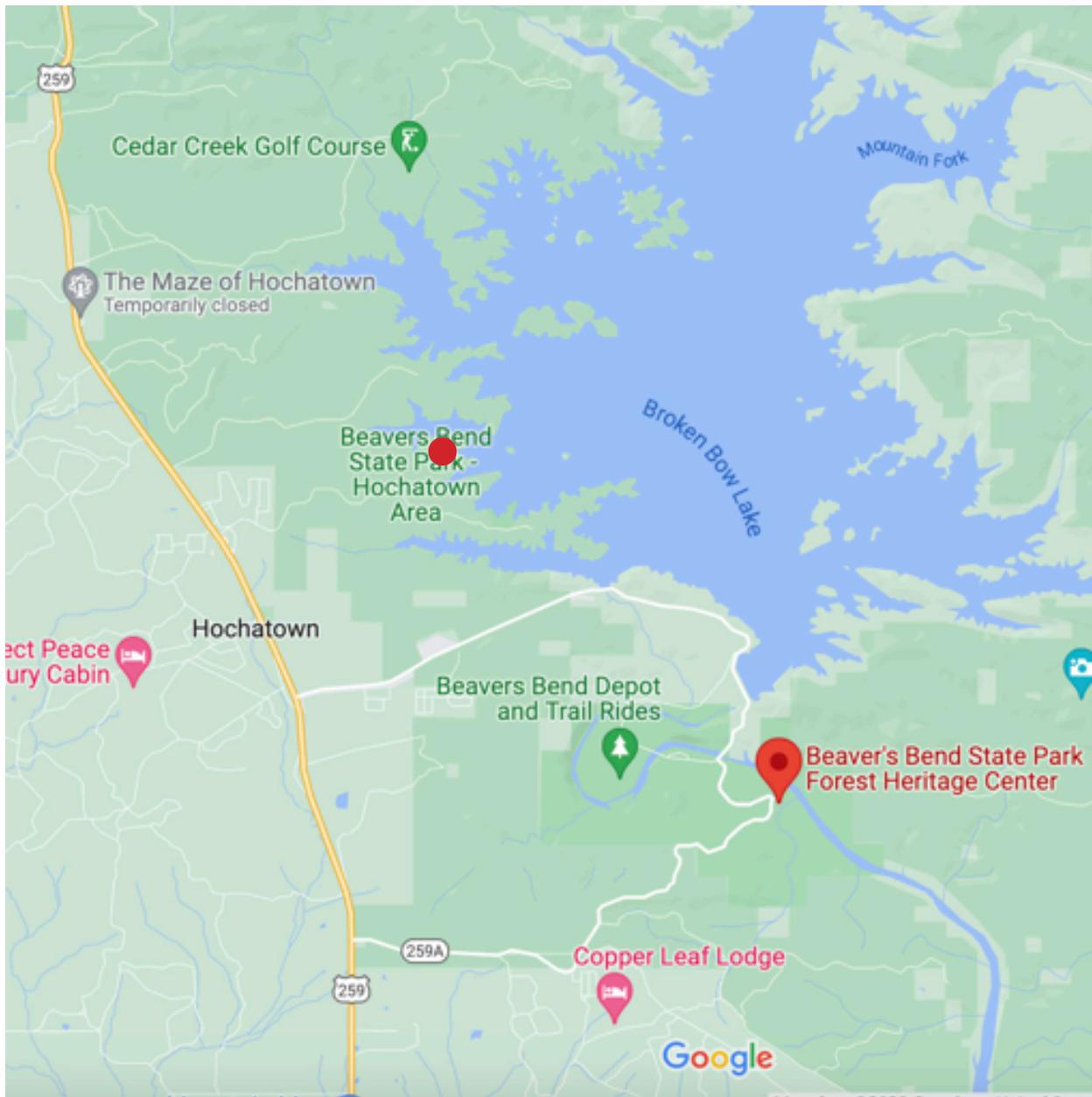
Sponsored by:



DODGE FAMILY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
ANTHROPOLOGY
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA
PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK





Papers will be presented at the Beavers Bend State Park Forest Heritage Center, located on Hwy 259A loop. If you are staying at the lodge, located at the red dot directly on the lake, it is approximately a 15 minute drive to the Forest Heritage Center.

**The 64th Caddo Conference
Hochatown, Oklahoma
February 24-25, 2023**

Conference Schedule

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Please join us at 6:30 PM for a pre-conference meet and greet at Mountain Fork Brewery (89 N Lukfata Trl Rd, Broken Bow, OK 74728). They have a full-service restaurant as well as a number of locally-made beers on tap.

Friday, February 24, 2023 - Beavers Bend State Park Forest Heritage Center

- 8:45 – 9:20 a Registration, coffee
- 9:20 – 9:25 Welcome, opening remarks, Paige Ford, CCO President
- 9:25 – 9:40 Opening remarks, Bobby Gonzalez, Chair, Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
- 9:40 – 10:00 **James Rees**, Turtles, Rattles, and Portals: Some interesting connections Implied by a Craig B shell engraving from Spiro
- 10:00 – 10:20 **J.T. Lewis, Lanah Hinsdale, and Regan Crider**, Information Held by WPA Backfill at the Troy Adams (34LF33) Site
- 10:20 – 10:40 Coffee break
- 10:40 – 11:00 **Scott Hammerstedt, Patrick Livingood, and Amanda Regnier**, Preliminary Results of 2022 Excavations at Spiro
- 11:00 – 11:20 **Shawn Lambert and Paige Ford**, Experts in their Craft: Investigating Evidence of Early Caddo Craft Specialists at Cahokia
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Bob Deere and Bonnie Pitblado**, “Voices of Oklahoma:” A Strategy for Improving the Representation of Historically Excluded Communities in Archaeology
- 11:40 – 1:35p **Lunch break** (on your own)
- 1:35 – 1:40 **Henry Moy**, Overview of the Museum of the Red River, Idabel, OK
- 1:40 – 2:00 **Crystal Dozier**, Overview of Archaeological Research at the Boxed Springs site (41UR30), an Early Caddo Mound Center in Northeast Texas

- 2:00 – 2:20 **Brogan Gillmore and Emily Kleiner**, Mound Confirmation at 41UR30:
Analysis of Elemental Profiles from Sediment Cores at the Boxed Springs Site
- 2:20 – 3:00 **Robbyn McKellop**, Preliminary Assessment of the Boxed Springs (41UR30)
Ceramic Assemblage
- 2:40 – 3:15 Afternoon break
- 3:15 – 3:35 **Douglas J. Kressly**, Analysis of Lithic Material from the Boxed Springs site
(41UR30)
- 3:35 – 3:55 **Kait M. Carter**, Flotation Assemblages from Boxed Springs Site (41UR30):
Preliminary Results
- 3:55 – 4:30 **CCO Board Meeting**

Saturday, February 25, 2023 - Beavers Bend State Park Forest Heritage Center

- 9:00 – 9:20 a Registration, coffee
- 9:20 – 9:40 **Taylor Greene and Mary Beth Trubitt**, Analyzing Holman Springs Ceramics
- 9:40 – 10:00 **Carl Drexler**, Archeological Insights on Caddo and Settler Saltmaking at the
Holman Springs Site, Sevier County, Arkansas
- 10:00 – 10:20 **John Samuelsen and Adriana Potra**, Constructing Multiregional Pb and Sr
Isotopic Backgrounds to Assess the Geographic Origins of Crenshaw Burials
- 10:20 – 10:40 Coffee Break
- 10:40 – 11:00 **Mary Beth Trubitt**, Dating Charred Residues on Potsherds from Two
Ouachita Mountains Sites in Arkansas
- 11:00 – 11:20 **Tom Middlebrook**, Gerhard Bouwer Site (41RK74): Investigations at the
Lower Nasoni Village
- 11:20 – 11:40 p **Bobby Gonzalez**, Setting the record straight regarding Spiro Mounds and the
Caddo Nation
- 11:40 – 2:00 Lunch break
- 2:00 – until **Caddo Culture Club**, Caddo dances held at The Choctaw Community Center,
1346 East MLK Drive, Broken Bow

ABSTRACTS

Organized Session

Recent Research on the Boxed Springs (41UR30) site

Overview of Archaeological Research at the Boxed Springs site (41UR30), an Early Caddo Mound Center in Northeast Texas

Crystal A. Dozier (Wichita State University)

Since 2019, Wichita State University has been engaged in archaeological investigations at the Boxed Springs site (41UR30) in Upshur County, Texas. With four recorded earthen mounds on the northern bank of the Sabine River, the site has been of archaeological interest since the 1950s and has been heavily looted throughout the 20th century. This talk highlights prior archaeological research and recent investigations on the eastern half of the site, which includes traditional excavation, remote sensing, geoarchaeological, and radiocarbon data. While further investigations are forthcoming, these investigations confirm an Early Caddo occupation with domestic features and also suggest a multi-component possibility for this important site.

Mound Confirmation at 41UR30: Analysis of Elemental Profiles from Sediment Cores at the Boxed Springs Site

Brogan Gillmore and Emily Kleiner (Wichita State University)

Boxed Springs (41UR30) is an Early Caddoan (ca. 1100 – 1300 CE) archaeological site in Upshur County, Texas. The Caddo people would build mound structures for culturally significant reasons. The initial investigation at Boxed Springs describe four mounds, which in the 20th century have undergone extensive looting and alteration. Research on the western half of the site in the early 2000s re-located one of the two mounds on that part of site; a research goal of current investigations of the eastern half is to locate and assess the two additional mounds indicated from the 1960s. Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) conducted at Boxed Springs in 2019 found an anomalous region. This research began to determine the presence of a mound in the anomalous region. As the first test of its kind in archaeology, this research involves the analysis of 15 sediment cores (n=15) taken from Boxed Springs Site by using X-ray Fluorescent (XRF) and Laser-induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) to find evidence of a mound. By conducting a quantitative analysis on aluminum, as a proxy for phosphorus to determine the presence of anthrosols, we found that at lower depths the data suggest the presence of a feature. This feature appears to be natural, such as a spring, rather than anthropogenic.

Preliminary Assessment of the Boxed Springs (41UR30) Ceramic Assemblage

Robbyn McKellop (Wichita State University)

Located in the east Texas Pineywoods, Boxed Springs (41UR30) is a lesser-known Early Caddoan mound center characterized by a diverse and distinctive archaeological assemblage. Recently, Wichita State University has been granted permission to access the eastern portion of the site which was previously restricted. Preliminary findings concerning Wichita State University's excavations during the 2021 and 2022 field seasons are thus far consistent with prior assessments of the ceramic assemblage. The intent of this research is to elucidate the technological choices of the Early Caddo who occupied this site. As such, the ceramic assemblage is assessed for attributes such as raw material use, temper, atmospheric firing, surface treatment, decoration, form, and ware type. These attributional features are then compared to previously known and established ceramic assemblages in the greater Caddo area. By identifying such features, we are able to further our understanding of the Early Caddo lifeways and technological adaptations.

Analysis of Lithic Material from the Boxed Springs site (41UR30)

Douglas J. Kressly (Wichita State University)

While the Boxed Springs site is primarily known for the elaborate Early Caddo ceramic assemblage from cemetery contexts, lithic material is also abundant at the site. This study describes the stone tool assemblage recovered from Wichita State University's investigations in 2021 and 2022. Given the limited time frames allotted for excavations at Boxed Springs, lithic material recovered at the site was abundant. This analysis was conducted in order to: Identify and document the raw material within the site, attempt a better understanding of the stages of production that may be present, and to identify and document any diagnostic artifacts recovered. The procurement of raw materials, especially when examined alongside stages of production present, at Boxed Springs has the potential to provide information concerning possible cultural spheres and areas of interaction for the people that once lived there. Further, the presence of diagnostic lithic artifacts may assist in providing clues as to Caddo lifeways, both at Boxed Springs and within the larger Caddoan sphere.

Flotation Assemblages from Boxed Springs Site (41UR30): Preliminary Results

Kait M. Carter (Wichita State University)

Boxed Springs (41UR30) is a multicomponent archaeological site, dominated by an Early Caddo expression (1100-1300 CE) of earthen mounds and associated cemetery and domestic areas. As part of magnetometry ground-truthing of potential domestic features, flotation samples were taken during excavation from two posthole features and surrounding matrix. An assemblage of artifacts and macrobotanical remains were recovered. Recovered artifacts include microdebitage and a ceramic sherd; macrobotanical remains include charcoal and charred seeds. This presentation relays preliminary results of those identifications, associated radiocarbon results, and interpretations.

General Session Abstracts

“Voices of Oklahoma:” A Strategy for Improving the Representation of Historically Excluded Communities in Archaeology

Bobi Deere and Bonnie Pitblado (University of Oklahoma)

Archaeology has a history of excluding many communities from its practice, something the Oklahoma Public Archaeology Network (OKPAN), based at the University of Oklahoma, seeks to remedy through a variety of programs. This paper discusses one of those programs: a paid, for-credit summer internship that introduces Oklahoma high school students from traditionally excluded communities to the field of archaeology. The internship, called “Voices of Oklahoma,” teaches participants about archaeology, ways that archaeology can be used to serve their own and other communities, and how to pursue additional training should they be interested in a career in this nearly billion-dollar industry. In our paper, we overview how we recruit students, what their training entails, and how we work to create support networks for students wishing to take next steps within archaeology or in related fields. We end with an appeal to audience members who may know a rising junior or senior high school student to nominate those students for the summer 2023 “Voices” program.

Archeological Insights on Caddo and Settler Saltmaking at the Holman Springs Site, Sevier County, Arkansas

Carl G. Drexler (Arkansas Archeological Survey)

Salt is a humble compound with great importance as a dietary staple and applications in the production of many kinds of material culture. Those with access to it leverage its value in relations with others who are not so gifted, and its trade is crucial in relationships between groups. The Holman Springs site, in western Arkansas, was a place that people made salt for centuries. How they did, how they used salt at home, and how it facilitated commerce, politics, and history changed with the site’s inhabitants. This paper explores the material signature of saltmaking along with its cultural dimensions. Some things persist while others change dramatically and have long-term effects.

Analyzing Holman Springs Ceramics

Taylor Greene and Mary Beth Trubitt (Arkansas Archeological Survey)

One of the major accomplishments of the 2019 and 2022 Society Training Programs has been the analysis of over 110,000 ceramic sherds from past excavations at Holman Springs (3SV29). Arkansas Archeological Society members taking the Caddo Ceramics seminars put their new knowledge to practical use by identifying the temper, decorative technique, and vessel portion of thousands of sherds excavated during 1985-1986 Training Programs. In this presentation, we outline the methodology and discuss preliminary analysis results, making comparisons between

the Holman Springs assemblage and those from these other Caddo salt-processing sites: Salt Well Slough in Texas, Drake's Salt Works in Louisiana, Bayou Sel (3CL27), and Hardman (3CL418).

Preliminary Results of 2022 Excavations at Spiro

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

This paper will provide an overview of the 2022 excavations at Spiro by the University of Oklahoma field school, which involved work at two areas of the site. The paper will discuss the geophysics results that lead to excavating these areas, the preliminary results from the 2022 excavations, our preliminary interpretations that the two areas represent special purpose buildings, and what is known generally about special purpose buildings at Spiro.

Experts in their Craft: Investigating Evidence of Early Caddo Craft Specialists at Cahokia

Shawn Lambert (Mississippi State University) and Paige Ford (Arkansas Archeological Survey)

This paper investigates early Caddo-Cahokia connections through the iconographic and stylistic analyses of Early Caddo (AD 900-1150) fineware pottery found in both Caddo and Cahokia contexts. We address questions concerning ceramic production and distribution to shed light on whether finewares were produced by Caddo potters who lived and worked at Cahokia, were produced by local Cahokia potters who copied Caddo motifs, or if the vessels were brought to Cahokia from the southern Caddo area. To do so, we employed a stylistic grammar analysis comparing the grammar of Early Caddo vessels from the Caddo area with Early Caddo vessels found in the Cahokian East St. Louis Precinct excavations. Preliminary results show a significant amount of stylistic grammar cohesion between the Caddo and Cahokia vessels, suggesting they were indeed manufactured by residential Caddo craft specialists at Cahokia. Mixed-media style vessels in these assemblages may be a product of these Caddo potters mixing their own internalized community of practice with local Cahokian styles, producing a social middle ground. These investigations help us better understand the nature of Caddo-like vessels at Cahokia and provide a means of identifying and interpreting new levels of social interactions between the Caddo world and Cahokia.

Information Held by WPA Backfill at the Troy Adams (34LF33) Site

J.T. Lewis, Lanah Hinsdale, and Regan Crider (University of Oklahoma)

Troy Adams (34LF33), a Fourche Maline archaeological culture site, was originally excavated by the WPA in 1939 and 1940. In the 1970s, Jerry Galm conducted further excavations at the site, and unintentionally recovered a large assemblage of objects by excavating WPA backfill. This paper details the information that can still be gathered from lithic debitage and stone tools even if they lack their original provenience. The analysis focuses on raw material identification, lithic production, and post-depositional thermal alteration. These results demonstrate the ability to recover key data about past people and archaeological cultures through examination of WPA and other older collections.

Gerhard Bouwer Site (41RK74): Investigations at the Lower Nasoni Village

Tom Middlebrook (Texas Archeological Stewardship Network)

Following its discovery in March 2022, several Texas Archeological Stewards and members of the East Texas Archeological Society investigated the Gerhard Bouwer site (41RK748) in southwestern Rusk County. This site appears to be part of the Lower Nasoni village that was visited by Henri Joutel in 1687 following the assassination of LaSalle near Navasota. The Spanish established Mission San Jose de los Nazonis in the same thriving community during 1716 just 0.8 miles south of the Bouwer site. Early research has identified the general outline of the site, located an intense midden area, and found a post hole likely associated with a Caddo house. Ceramic sherds, chipped stone tools artifacts, and bones dominate the recovered material culture. European items traded to the Nasoni included French Type C trade guns, lead balls, a Spanish hoe, a French hatchet, a crotal bell, and a number of trade beads. Future research will be discussed.

Turtles, Rattles, and Portals: Some interesting connections Implied by a Craig B shell engraving from Spiro

James A. Rees (Arkansas Archeological Society)

This paper is a reexamination of one of the more enigmatic Spiro shell engravings (plate 216 of Philips and Brown, 1984). This engraving, a combination of images featuring turtles, human faces, and a nested diamond motif is the beginning of a trail of connections that leads from turtles and rattles to ogees and spirit lodges. Ultimately the trail leads back to where it started with the same motifs in a similar relationship, but in a different context. Along the way some new relationships and entanglements are examined that may help in understanding the Spiro phenomenon.

Constructing Multiregional Pb and Sr Isotopic Backgrounds to Assess the Geographic Origins of Crenshaw Burials

John Samuelsen (Arkansas Archeological Survey) and Adriana Potra

Executed in collaboration with the Caddo Nation, this study tests if late-prehistoric Caddo communities in around the Crenshaw site were committing large-scale acts of violence against neighboring regions. Concurrent archaeological evidence of increased violence in the Southern Plains and the Eastern Woodlands may reflect increasing tensions between regions. Alternatively, unusual burial treatments often attributed to warfare might indicate alternative practices involving transport of partial skeletal remains for special burial at important regional centers. Previous research has suggested that deposits of skulls and mandibles at the Crenshaw site in southwest Arkansas were victims of warfare from other regions, but research based on Sr isotopes suggested they were local burials. This study recognizes the weakness of using Sr isotope data alone and uses Pb isotopes in combination to evaluate the geographic origin of the remains. In order for this to be accomplished, a clearly developed method for constructing

an isotopic background for Pb isotopes was needed. This study used ancient animal teeth to construct a background for southwest Arkansas and other regions in surrounding states to assess the humans' geographic origins.

Dating Charred Residues on Potsherds from Two Ouachita Mountains Sites in Arkansas

Mary Beth Trubitt (Arkansas Archeological Survey)

Abstract: Funded by a grant from the Arkansas Archeological Society, we recently obtained two AMS radiocarbon dates from soot or charred residues scraped from interiors of two pottery sherds. The sherds – a Military Road Incised sherd from Dragover (3MN298) site excavations and a Foster Trailed-Incised sherd from Adair (3GA1, University of Arkansas Museum collections) – were part of a sourcing study. This paper discusses the technique for dating charred residues, presents the results of the radiocarbon dating analysis, and integrates the results into our broader research on ancestral Caddo communities in the Ouachita Mountains region.