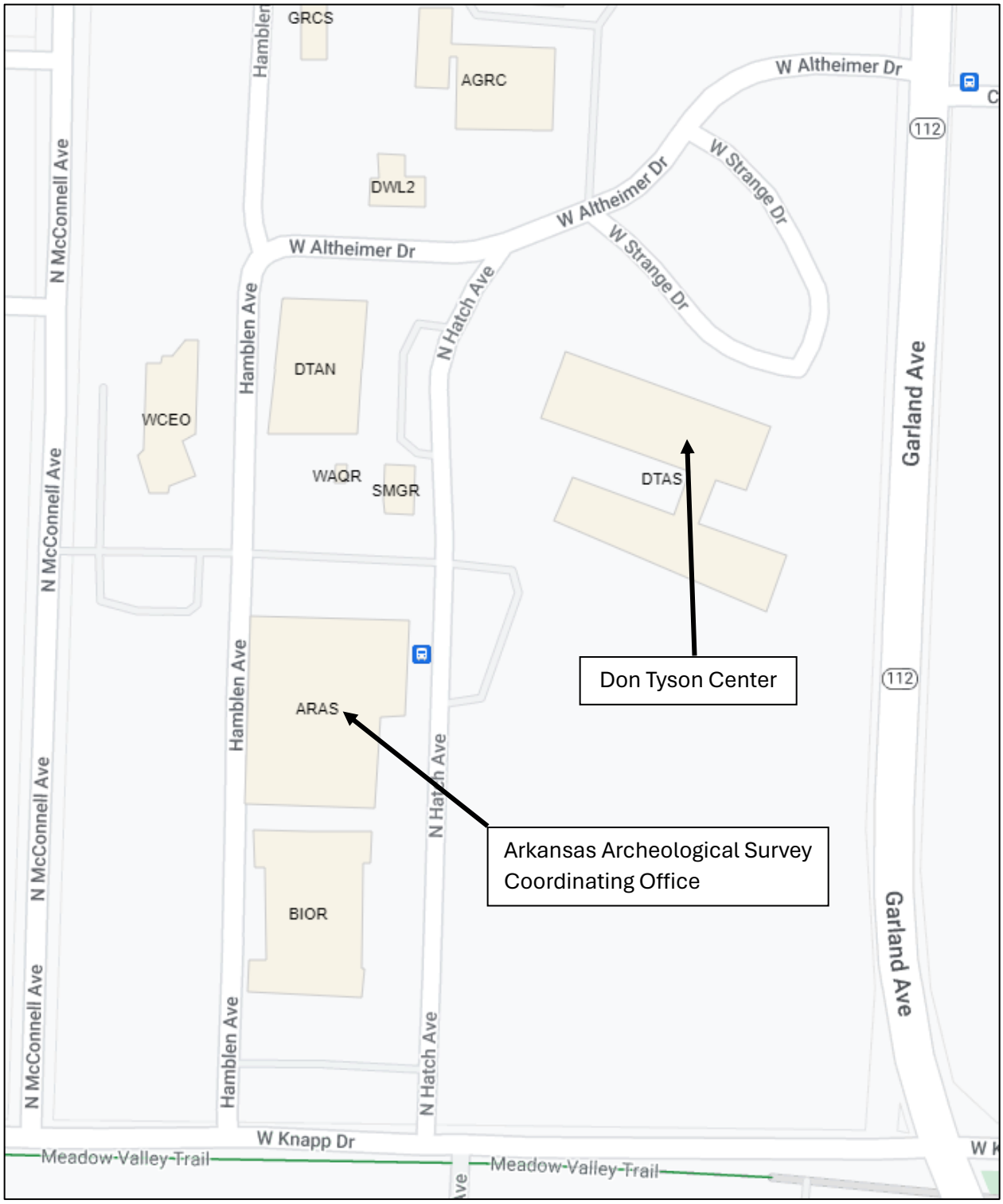
65th Caddo Conference

April 26-27, 2024

Fayetteville, AR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Meadow-Valley-Trail

THURSDAY

5:30 – 8:00 **Early Arrival Gathering:** Flyway Brewery, (1550 E. Zion Road)

FRIDAY

10:00 – 11:00 **Tour**: Crystal Bridges Art Museum (600 Museum Way, Bentonville)

11:00 – 01:10 **LUNCH:** On your own at one of NW Arkansas's many excellent restaurants

1:10 – 1:20 **Paige Ford (CCO President):** Opening Remarks and Welcome

1:20 – 1:40 **John Samuelsen, Adriana Potra, Barry Shaulis, and Erik Pollock:** A Comparative Analysis of Tooth Enamel Preservation for Heavy Isotopic Studies

1:40 – 2:00 **Carl G. Drexler:** Salt in Two Cultures: The 2023 Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program at Nakuukuwidish, Sevier County, Arkansas

2:00 – 2:20 **Jami J. Lockhart:** Caddo Way in Southwest Arkansas

2:20 – 2:40 **BREAK**

2:40 – 3:00 **Taylor A. Greene:** Never Too Late: The 1987 Arkansas Archeological Society-Survey Training Program at 3OU112.

3:00 – 3:20 **Ethan Mofidi:** Archaic Bifaces, Hoes, and Stone Pipes Oh My! A Breakage Analysis of the School Land I (34DL64) Lithic Assemblage, a Caddo Village in the Foothills of the Western Ozarks

3:20 – 3:40 **Jeffrey T. Lewis, Jr.:** Late Archaic and Woodland Regionalism in Eastern Oklahoma.

3:40 – 4:00 **Mary Beth Trubitt:** Continuity and Change in Contact Period Caddo Communities in the Ouachita Mountains

4:00 – 5:00 **Regional Research Reports and Business Meeting**

5:00 – 7:00 **Evening Reception:** Hosted by the Arkansas Archeological Survey, at our headquarters, 2475 N. Hatch Avenue, across the street from the Tyson Center

SATURDAY

8:30 – 9:00 **Poster Session: Gillian Steeno and Taylor Greene:** The Arkansas Archeological Society-Survey Training Program: Collaboration, Partnership, and Education

9:00 – 9:20 **Riley Muncher:** Preliminary Analysis of the 2023 Boxed Springs (41UR30) Ceramic Assemblage

9:20 – 9:40 **Arland Wallace and Crystal Dozier:** Experimental Recreation of a Pumpkin (Cucurbita spp.) Leather Mat

9:40 – 10:00 **Douglas Kressly and Crystal A. Dozier:** Management of 41UR30, the Boxed Springs Site.

10:00 - 10:20 **BREAK**

10:20 – 11:00 **Bobby Gonzalez, chairman of the Caddo Nation**

11:00 – 1:00 **LUNCH:** On your own at one of NW Arkansas's many excellent restaurants

1:00 – 5:00 **Caddo Dance**

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel blocks are available at the Sleep Inn and the Comfort Inn, in Fayetteville. Rooms at the Sleep Inn are $114/night for rooms with either a single queen or two standard beds. The Comfort Inn offers room with a single queen bed ($129/night), two queen beds ($129/night) or a king bed suite ($139/night). Please book before March 26!

Sleep Inn: https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/HH15S5
Comfort Inn: https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/HB46V7

PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

We, the Board of Officers of the Caddo Conference, request that photographs not be taken at the Caddo Conference, during any part of the paper sessions, without the explicit permission of the subject of the photograph. Photographs may be taken at the reception held at the Arkansas Archeological Survey's Coordinating Office, though we still encourage people to ask for permission to take and/or post such images. Acting on advice from the Caddo Culture Club, we strenuously discourage all participants from recording video of the Caddo dance and only taking photographs if they have explicit permission to do so from the people being photographed first.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Carl G. Drexler (Arkansas Archeological Survey)
"Salt in Two Cultures: The 2023 Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program at Nakuukuwidish, Sevier County, Arkansas"

The Arkansas Archeological Survey and Arkansas Archeological Society have an ongoing partnership to excavate at Nakuukuwidish (3SV29), the site formerly known only as Holman Springs. Excavations there began in 1984 and were revisited beginning in 2022. Last summer, the Survey oversaw the Society's annual Training Program on the site. This effort focused both on the Caddo and Settler components to the site. This paper will present the results of that dig and subsequent radiocarbon dating done with support from the Society. It will also present the plan for this coming summer's Training Program, which is slated to be the last at Nakuukuwidish for the foreseeable future.

Greene, Taylor (Arkansas Archeological Survey)
"Never Too Late: The 1987 Arkansas Archeological Society-Survey Training Program at 3OU112"

In the summer of 1987 Georgia Lake (3OU112)—an early Caddo village site in the Middle Ouachita region of Arkansas—was the subject of the annual Arkansas Archeological Society-Survey Training Program, which was successfully conducted, opening 28 test units and recovering a large amount of data. However, in spite of the wealth of information from the site, very little has been published about this excavation. This presentation will discuss the history of excavation at 3OU112, the major players involved in it, the Training Program at the site, and the current analyses underway that will work to gain a better understanding of Georgia Lake's place in the Middle Ouachita and in the Early Caddo period.

Kressly, Douglas J. and Crystal A. Dozier (Wichita State University)
"Management of 41UR30, the Boxed Springs Site"

The Boxed Springs site (41UR30) is a lesser-known Early Caddo mound site off the Sabine river in east Texas. The site has been subject to extensive looting and modern landscape modification, such that three of the four documented earthen mounds are no longer visually identifiable. The southern part of the Boxed Springs site has high probability for domestic features, but has recently been subjected to tree planting and is immediately off the current bank of the Sabine river. This project utilizes GIS technologies to assess the possible location of the mound bases to promote their identification and protection, the likelihood of flooding events that may impact site, and model the impact of tree root growth on cultural features. Through this work, we hope to provide better guidance for the protection of Ancestral Caddo landscapes and cultural resources.

Lewis, Jeffrey T., Jr.
"Late Archaic and Woodland Regionalism in Eastern Oklahoma"

In archaeological research, regionalism is understood as a process of becoming culturally distinct from other groups in a region. During the Late Archaic (5800 – 2300 cal. BP) and Woodland Periods (2300 – 1100 cal. BP) of eastern Oklahoma, there is evidence that this process was

occurring at a sub-regional level. Raw material variability at midden mound sites suggests limited mobility strategies and an emphasis on lithic acquisition routines that targeted local resources. These practices continued through technological changes, such as the adoption of ceramics and the bow and arrow. The reason for these traditions may be social relationships with the landscape.

Lockhart, Jami J. (Arkansas Archeological Survey)
"Caddo Way in Southwest Arkansas"

This research explores the Caddo cultural landscape using a geographic information system informed by archeological site data, old maps, environmental characteristics, and LiDAR.

Mofidi, Ethan (University of Oklahoma)
"Archaic Bifaces, Hoes, and Stone Pipes Oh My! A Breakage Analysis of the School Land I (34DL64) Lithic Assemblage, a Caddo Village in the Foothills of the Western Ozarks"

Collected by the Works Progress Association from 1939-1940, these lithic materials have since been lying un-analyzed in the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. With a faunal analysis done by Lathel Duffield in 1969 and the ceramic components being recently analyzed by John Hueffed in 2023, this lithic analysis seeks to add another piece to the puzzle of understanding the site. Understanding School Land I is important because it is identified as a Harlan-phase domestic village in the northern Caddo area. Research has historically been targeted at regional ceremonial centers like Spiro and Reed, but these residential spaces are essential for understanding what was going on in the region and the everyday lives of people. My primary method of analysis here is a biface breakage typology that allows me to distinguish between production, use, and thermal alteration breakages. I also recorded attributes like biface types and their materials. These methods equipped me to approach questions centered around changes in breakage patterns dependent on morphology, type, and material over time. What I have found is that this lithic assemblage is an analog for understanding substantial cultural and technological changes at this site from the Middle Archaic to the Spiro period which enhances researchers' understanding of these changes at a regional level.

Muncher, Riley (Wichita State University)
"Preliminary Analysis of the 2023 Boxed Springs (41UR30) Ceramic Assemblage"

The Boxed Springs site (41UR30) is an Early Caddo (900-1200 CE) mound center located within the Sabine River valley in East Texas. Since 2019, Wichita State University has conducted archaeological investigations at this site, contributing to the understanding of the layout and temporal associations at Boxed Springs. This study analyzes the ceramic assemblage (n=255) recovered during the 2023 field season, drawing upon methodology from previous analysis of Boxed Springs ceramics. Results indicate consistency with previous ceramic analysis and other archaeological investigations, placing the Boxed Springs site as Early Caddo. Of interest is the recovery of Leon Plain pottery, most heavily associated with the Toyah complex, which could indicate interaction between the Toyah and Caddo. This also strengthens the growing consideration of Boxed Springs as a multi-component site.

Samuelsen, John R., Adriana Potra, Barry Shaulis, and Erik Pollock (University of Arkansas)
“A Comparative Analysis of Tooth Enamel Preservation for Heavy Isotopic Studies”

Skulls and mandibles from the Crenshaw site were determined to be Caddo ancestors based on a recently published isotopic analysis of tooth enamel. A critical element of this research was ensuring that the tooth enamel was not contaminated. Only recently have robust methods been produced to provide a quality test to the degree of preservation of tooth enamel in archaeological samples. The use of lead isotopes requires special attention to the potential for contamination from modern lead pollution or from lead naturally occurring in soils. To ensure the isotopic results from Crenshaw were accurate, trace element analysis was performed on multiple samples to detect the possibility of contamination. The results showed that the first attempt reflected that the samples were partially contaminated by soil while the second attempt showed samples were mostly well-preserved. The patterned effects of this contamination on the isotopic results and implications for future research are discussed.

Steeno, Gillian and Taylor Greene (Arkansas Archeological Survey)
"The Arkansas Archeological Society-Survey Training Program: Collaboration, Partnership, and Education"

Since 1964, the Arkansas Archeological Society (AAS) and the Arkansas Archeological Survey (ARAS), have worked together to train volunteers in proper archeological methods and techniques through field and lab activities as well as through formal seminar instruction. This poster highlights how the Program is executed, how it has promoted active participation in Arkansas archeology, our recent summer trainings at Nakuukuwidish in consultation with Caddo Nation, and the resulting publications from ARAS archeologists who have led, or been involved in, the Training Program.

Trubitt, Mary Beth (Arkansas Archeological Survey)
“Continuity and Change in Contact Period Caddo Communities in the Ouachita Mountains”

For ancestral Caddos living in the Ouachita Mountains of west-central Arkansas, the two centuries between AD 1450 and 1650 saw both continuity and change. An extended period of drought in the 1450s and contact with outsiders beginning with the Spanish in 1541 would have stressed local farming communities. Responses may have included shifting interactions with neighboring communities across the region as well as seventeenth-century relocations. Excavations at a village site in the upper Ouachita River valley gave an opportunity to examine these options. In particular, two large refuse pits excavated in domestic areas of the site -- one dating to 1500 and the other to 1650 -- provide data on material culture, foodways, and chronology. These key contexts led to the definition of a new archaeological phase in the Ouachita Mountains and new interpretations about the history of ancestral Caddo communities there.

Wallace, Arland L. and Crystal A. Dozier (Wichita State University)
“Experimental Recreation of a Pumpkin (Cucurbita spp.) Leather Mat”

Experimental production of a pumpkin leather mat was recreated using the ethnohistoric data from the Great Plains. Caddo accounts, including the Pawnee, indicated that during the harvest season, pumpkins (Cucurbita spp.) were cut into 1-1 ½” strips, dried, and woven into mats and stored in pits. It was very likely this type of storage and food preparation occurred over large

geographical areas in the American Great Plains covering extended periods of time, however, the archaeological evidence is limited due to the organic nature of pumpkins. This experiment also produced and used bone and stone tools, roasting techniques, and drying methods indicated by ethnographic reports. Special attention was paid to identify possible residue created during this recreation.

Notes and Information

Thank you to our conference sponsors!

Tier 1

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Tier 3

Pete Gregory