

2025 CADDO & EAST TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST - 22ND
TEXARKANA TEXAS CONVENTION CENTER
2910 S COWHORN CREEK LOOP



On behalf of the City of Texarkana, Texas, we are thrilled to welcome both local archaeologists and the broader community to the 2025 Caddo & East Texas Archaeological Conference. This event provides a unique opportunity to explore the rich cultural and archaeological heritage of the Caddo Nation and the East Texas region through captivating presentations, cultural performances, and interactive activities.

We are especially honored to dedicate this year's conference to the late Dr. Tom A. Middlebrook, a distinguished psychiatrist and passionate avocational archaeologist, and Dr. Tim K. Perttula, a Texas Archaeological Society (TAS) Lifetime Achievement Award winner. Both individuals are renowned for their remarkable contributions to the field of East Texas archaeology.

On Friday, conference registrants will have the opportunity to attend lectures and panel discussions on a variety of archaeological topics. On Saturday, we invite the public to join us for a host of exciting activities, including panel presentations, cultural vendors, children's activities, and an unforgettable performance by the Caddo Culture Club, who will share traditional Caddo dances and songs.

We look forward to welcoming you to this special event as we celebrate the history and heritage of our community and region.

Registration information:

Friday: \$25 per person.

Saturday: Open to the public (no cost).

The Conference Registration Table, located at the Cowhorn Creek entrance of the Texarkana, Texas Convention Center, will open Friday and Saturday at 8:30 AM.

Friday, February 21, 2025

9:00 AM - Welcome by Dr. Thomas Guderjan, University of Texas at Tyler.

9:10 AM - Session #1: Becky Shelton, Texas Historical Commission

Title: *Middlebrook's Influence on the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network*

From the start, Tom Middlebrook made a lasting impact on the program, becoming an invaluable member of the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network (TASN). His natural leadership and communication skills helped guide the growth of the network throughout his tenure. After becoming a steward, he was appointed to the TASN Advisory Committee, where he provided recommendations on new steward nominations, program goals, and other archaeological matters. Tom's work, spanning over 34 years, embodied the principles of network and community. This session will share some of his key contributions to TASN and the Texas Historical Commission, exploring how his legacy shapes the future of community-based avocational archaeology in Texas.

9:35 AM - Session #2: Patricia A. Mercado-Allinger, Texas Historical Commission (Ret)

Title: *Decades of Positive Impact: Tom Middlebrook and the Texas Archeological Society*

For over forty years, Tom Middlebrook was a dedicated member of the Texas Archeological Society (TAS), where he participated in many activities and made significant contributions. Serving in various elected positions, he was awarded the title of TAS Fellow in 2005, the highest honor the Society can bestow. This presentation will highlight Tom's deep connection to the Society and the remarkable impact he had on its development.

10:00 AM - Break

10:20 AM - Session #3: Dr. Jim Bruseth, Texas Historical Commission (Ret), Mark Parsons, Texas Historical Commission, and Dr. Tom Middlebrook (1952-2024)

Title: *Excavations of the Ronald and Kay Morse Site (41SY27), Shelby County, Texas*

This presentation offers an overview of excavations conducted at the Ronald and Kay Morse site in Shelby County, Texas, in January 2000. When landowner Ronald Morse expressed interest in bulldozing a mound on his property, he consulted Texas Historical Commission (THC)

Archaeological Stewards, Joe Louis Jones and Dr. Tom Middlebrook. Despite initial objections, Morse agreed to have the mound excavated. The THC, with Bruseth leading the excavation and assistance from Middlebrook, volunteers, and stewards, documented the site. Unfortunately, Dr. Middlebrook was unable to complete the site's write-up before his passing. This presentation serves as a renewed effort to finish the work as a tribute to his commitment to preserving East Texas' archaeological heritage.

10:45 AM - Session #4: Jeffrey S. Girard, Northwest State University (Ret)

Title: *History and Archaeology of the Pierre Robleau Household and Bayou Pierre Community*

In honor of Tom Middlebrook and his passion for Colonial archaeology, this session explores the history and archaeology of the household of Pierre Robleau, a 19th-century member of the ethnically-mixed Bayou Pierre community. Discovered during timber cutting in 2001, the site reveals a wealth of material culture that offers insight into rural social and economic conditions during the final years of Caddo occupation in northwest Louisiana.

11:10 AM - Session #5: Velicia Bergstrom, United States Forest Service

Title: *Archaeological Opportunities in East Texas' Backyard*

This presentation reflects the personal journey of discovering archaeology as both a passion and profession. It emphasizes the concept of "backyard archaeology," which involves studying local history and collaborating with avocational archaeologists to uncover the rich heritage of the East Texas area.

11:35 AM - Session #6: Rachel Galan, Caddo Mounds State Historic Site

Title: *Caddo Cultural Revitalization at Caddo Mounds SHS*

Highlighting Caddo-led cultural revitalization efforts at Caddo Mounds SHS, this session features the PBS documentary *Caddo Voices: A Basketry Revival*, which chronicles a partnership between Chase Kahwinhut Earles and Caddo Mounds SHS with funding from TXDOT.

11:55 AM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Session #7: Dr. Tamra L. Walter, Texas Tech University

Title: *Urban Problems, Rural Possibilities: The Challenges and Potential of Mission Archaeology in Texas*

This presentation discusses the unique challenges presented by urban missions in Texas, such as those in San Antonio and Goliad, compared to rural sites like Espiritu Santo, Tonkawa Bank, and Mission San Lorenzo. Excavations at these rural missions reveal potential insights into Spanish colonial practices that urban sites do not.

1:35 PM - Session #8: Dr. Alan Skinner, AR Consultants, Inc.

Title: *Revisiting the Gilbert Site*

This session focuses on the Gilbert site in Rains County, Texas, an important preserved Kichai site from the mid-1700s. The site was first explored in the 1960s, and recent efforts have expanded the knowledge of this area. The session will explore the potential of re-sampling the site using modern techniques to ensure its protection and better understand its significance.

2:00 PM - Session #9: Gary Pinkerton, Independent Scholar, Author

Title: *Excavations at Monk's Cave*

In one of his final excavations, Tom Middlebrook worked alongside Gary Pinkerton at Monk's Cave (41RK84) in Rusk County, a site with petroglyphs and potential for further discoveries. This presentation will recount their visit and highlight Tom's pivotal role in the project.

2:25 PM - Break

2:50 PM - Session #10: Jeri Redcorn, Caddo Artist

Title: *Caddo Art and Heritage*

For over three decades, Jeri Redcorn has been instrumental in reviving the ancient art of Caddo pottery. She has earned recognition for her craftsmanship and cultural contributions, including one of her pieces being selected by First Lady Michelle Obama for the Oval Office. This session will explore Redcorn's journey and her deep connection to Caddo heritage.

3:15 PM - Comments by Mark Walters, Heritage Research Center, Stephen F. Austin State University and Bo Nelson, Stephen F. Austin State University.

3:45 PM - Comments by Dr. Sylvia Middlebrook, wife of the late Dr. Tom Middlebrook.

6:00 PM - Reception hosted by Texas A&M – Texarkana

This event is open to registered conference attendees, invited guests, and sponsors.

Location: The Tri-State Iron & Metal Atrium – 3rd floor of University Center Texas A&M University –

Texarkana, 7101 University Avenue, Texarkana, TX

Attire: Business Casual

Menu: Light refreshments

Saturday, February 22, 2025

9:00 AM - Welcome by Bob Bruggeman, Mayor of Texarkana, Texas.

9:05 AM - Panel #1: Dr. Paige Ford, Arkansas Archaeological Survey, Dr. Scott W. Hammerstedt, Oklahoma Archaeological Survey, John E. Hueffed, University of Oklahoma

Title: *Recent Advances in Caddo Archaeology: Insights from School Land I, Spiro Mounds, and Cahokia*

- **Title:** *Finding Evidence for Caddo Pottery Apprenticeships at Cahokia*
Authors: Dr. Paige Ford, Dr. Shawn Lambert, Dr. John Grant Stauffer, and Chase Kahwinhut Earles
Abstract: This paper explores archaeological evidence for pottery apprenticeship at Cahokia, informed by the expertise of present-day Caddo master potter Chase Kahwinhut Earles.
 - **Title:** *2024 Excavations at Spiro Mounds*
Authors: Scott W. Hammerstedt, Amanda L. Regnier, and Patrick C. Livingood
Abstract: This presentation covers the results of the 2024 field school excavations at Spiro Mounds, focusing on a non-mound structure and midden deposits. The findings suggest significant activity at the site during the Harlan Phase (A.D. 1100-1250).
 - **Title:** *A Synthesis of Archaeological Work at School Land I (34DL64), Delaware County, Oklahoma*
Authors: Dr. Ethan A. Mofidi, University of Oklahoma, and John E. Hueffed
Abstract: This paper presents an analysis of the School Land I site, a Caddo residential location dating to the Harlan Phase (A.D. 1100-1250). Recent analysis offers a new interpretation of the site's purpose, suggesting connections between the settlement's evolution and its ritual practices.
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10:00 AM – Break and Outdoor Interactive Display Open

10:10 AM - Panel #2 – Matt Solomon, Texarkana, Texas Historical Preservation Officer, Gary Pinkerton, Independent Scholar, Author, and Kay Stephens, Native American Chair, Lone Star DAR

Title: *Rediscovering Trammel's Trace*

This panel will discuss the historic Trammel's Trace, which played a key role in early Texas settlement and trade. Efforts to rediscover its significance and preserve its legacy will be explored, with emphasis on local families' ties to the trail.

11:00 AM – Break

11:10 AM - Panel #3 – Becky Shelton, Texas Historical Commission

Title: *Texas Archaeological Stewards*

This session focuses on the Texas Archaeological Stewardship Network (TASN), which recruits and trains volunteer avocational archaeologists to assist in protecting Texas' archaeological sites. Stewards help preserve sites through monitoring, excavation, and education.

11:50 AM – Lunch

1:10 PM - Panel #4: Dr. Carl Drexler, Arkansas Archaeological Survey, SAU Research Station

Title: *Crenshaw Site Visit*

This session will explore the Crenshaw Caddo site in southwestern Arkansas, highlighting its significance to Caddo culture, including its advanced pottery and agricultural practices.

1:35 PM - Panel #5 – Phil Cross, Caddo Artist

Title: *Caddo Culture, History, and Traditions*

Phil Cross, a respected member of the Caddo Nation, will share his insights into preserving and promoting Caddo heritage, including his work in revitalizing Caddo language, art, and traditions.

2:10 PM – Break

2:20 PM - Panel #6 –Dr. Timothy Perttula Memorial / Caddo Culture Panel

Dr. Perttula dedicated his career to the archaeology, history, and cultural heritage of the Caddo and other tribes in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Through his work, Dr. Perttula fostered greater collaboration between archaeologists and Native communities, advocating for the preservation of sacred sites and the protection of indigenous heritage.

Members of the Caddo Culture Club will offer insightful remarks on the rich history and cultural significance of Caddo dances and music. They will explore how these traditions have been passed down through generations.

An off-site ceremony honoring Dr. Timothy Perttula will be held immediately following the conclusion of the conference on Saturday, February 22nd. Please check with the registration desk for complete details.

3:00 PM - Caddo Dance and Song Performance

Members of the Caddo Culture Club will perform traditional tribal dances and music.

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LOCAL EATERIES

We have several restaurants within close proximity to our Texarkana Convention Center. Take your pick and enjoy!



MALL DRIVE: APPROX 2 MIN

- NEWKS
- TACOS 4 LIFE

COWHORN CREEK LOOP: APPROX 4 MIN

- MCALISTER'S
- TAZIKI'S
- RED LOBSTER
- CRACKER BARREL
- PANDA EXPRESS
- TAMOLLY'S

CENTRAL MALL FOOD COURT: APPROX 3 MIN

- CHICK FIL A
- LOS RUVALCABA
- HONG KONG EXPRESS
- POTATO PATCH

- CHILIS
- OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE
- OLIVE GARDEN

KENNEDY LANE & RICHMOND ROAD: APPROX 4 MIN

- FIREHOUSE SUBS
- ARBY'S
- GOLDEN CHICK
- GRANDY'S

- MCDONALDS
- SUBWAY