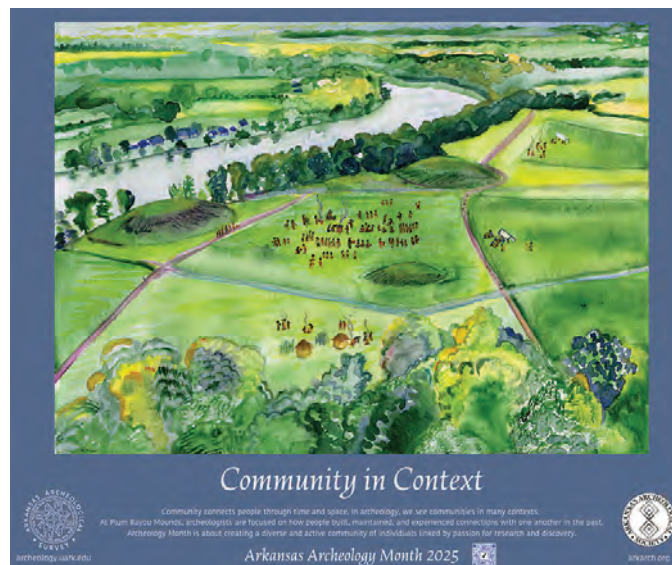


Field Notes

Newsletter of the Arkansas Archeological Society

No. 443 March/April 2025



Arkansas
Archeological
Society

from your editor

It is a further purpose of this Society to encourage the scientific investigation, study, and interpretation of our cultural heritage, and to publish and distribute the results of these investigations, particularly those relating to Arkansas.

— from the Constitution of the AAS, Article II, Section 2

On the cover: The 2025 Archeology Month poster designed by Rachel Tebbetts. You can download it here: <https://archeology.uark.edu/learn-discover/archeology-month/> or purchase a high quality, giclee print of the watercolor at <https://archpubs.com>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Arkansas Archeology Month

We are halfway through Arkansas Archeology Month! And the last few weeks are packed with event! Join ARAS archeologists and Loblolly Creamery at Pinnacle Mountain Visitor's Center on March 22, 11 am-2pm to try a special archeology-themed ice cream, "Stratigraphic Swirl." Also, the next Virtual Book Club meeting to discuss Michael D. Wise's book, *Native Foods* is March 27 at 7 pm on Zoom: bit.ly/4kwCGYa. You can still order the book from University of Arkansas Press with a 40% off group discount code: AASBOOKCLUB. For more info, contact: mmrathga@uark.edu. Don't miss the Celebrate Archeology Day at Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park on March 29 at 10 am. Learn about this year's Training Program and enjoy some of Quapaw Nation's traditional foods. For more details and more Archeology Month events, see the ARAS and AAS calendars: <https://archeology.uark.edu/learn-discover/eventscalendar/>.

The 2025 Training Program

Dust off your trowels—it's almost time for the Society dig! This year's Training Program will return to Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park after 15 years. Read about the upcoming June 2025 Training Program in the following pages and find the registration materials in the color insert. For first-timers, you should choose your Orientation session on the Registration form. **ALL** participants (meaning everyone who will be on site, including professional archeologists) are required to fill out the Participation Agreement. This is for everyone's protection and to ensure a safe environment. Information on seminars and basic schedule are in the article starting on page 8. Scholarship information for the Training Program is on page 13. Other information for participants will be in the packet you receive after registering, as usual.

Call for Camp Hosts

This year, we're looking to expand our Camp Host team during the Training Program to include four individuals over the two-week period. If you're interested in serving as a Camp Host, please check the box on the registration form, or if you'd like more information about what this entails, please contact Gillian at 479-575-3557.

Contact Your Newsletter Editor: Do you have something for the Newsletter? I welcome comments on anything previously published in *Field Notes*, or new contributions from members. General guidelines for submissions are on p. 15. Contact me at: Julia Fan, Arkansas Archeological Society, 2475 North Hatch Ave., Fayetteville, AR, 72704, or send me an email at juliaf@uark.edu. My phone number is 479-575-2161. Please note, I do not have the membership database and cannot check your membership status. Please contact Gillian Bjornen for that information at gillian@uark.edu.

The 2025 Training Program

Paige Ford - Arkansas Archeological Survey, Plum Bayou Mounds

This year, after more than a decade, the Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program will return to Toltec Mounds (3LN42) under its new moniker – Plum Bayou Mounds. Not just there, however, we will also be conducting excavations at a nearby village site, to start the work on better understanding the daily lives of the people who built that large ceremonial space. These are the first of many investigations aiming to learn about community relationships locally and regionally during this transformative time. The plan I outline here is the beginning of a career-long research program I’ve designed during my first few years with the Survey and I’m excited to have everyone involved at the beginning! This research has been developed alongside and with input from many different communities including the Society’s Executive Committee, Survey staff members, State Parks officials and interpreters, and finally Quapaw Nation representatives. I hope you can join us as we work to unearth more about Plum Bayou communities in central Arkansas.

The Site Formerly Known as Toltec Mounds (3LN42)

Some of you may have heard (though the news may have not reached as far as I had hoped), we recently renamed the site “Plum Bayou Mounds”. So, let’s talk briefly about that name change and why we did it. The name was changed to “Plum Bayou Mounds” in November 2022 because the name “Toltec Mounds” is a misnomer that suggests cultures in Mesoamerica are responsible for building these earthen monuments. Which we know – through well over a century of archeology being done – simply isn’t true. All involved in the name change – Tribal Na-



Drs. Emily Bartz and Paige Ford measuring electrical resistivity at Plum Bayou Mounds in October 2024 on Mound J. Photo by Taylor Greene.

tions, the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, State Parks Commissioners, as well as the Arkansas Archeological Survey – wanted to better reflect that Native Americans (whom archeologists nicknamed the Plum Bayou culture) built the earthen monuments at this site. This technically isn’t the first name change the site has seen, and archeological sites often see changes like this through time as the land changes owners, more information is collected, and new conclusions are reached about the communities who lived or used those places. At this site, when the Knapp family owned the site in the mid- to late-1800s, the site was known as “Knapp Mounds” and then eventually became referred to as “Toltec”, and now will be referred to as “Plum Bayou Mounds.”

Renaming the site in this way puts us (and park interpreters) in a way better position to educate the public about who built the mounds, who used the site, and what the site was for. Putting our best foot forward, so to speak, as well as doing our part to set the record straight and correct some of the persistent

myths surrounding moundbuilding in the southeastern United States, as well. If you've ever heard anyone say the mounds were built by giants, aliens, or (in our case) cultures from Mesoamerica, you know a bit about the "Myth of the Moundbuilders" that was ultimately dispelled by Smithsonian excavations in the 1890s. By changing the name from Toltec to Plum Bayou we are helping to stop the spread of some of those folktales that have been disproven by scientific excavation. For more information on this whole process, I wrote a more in-depth discussion on the name change that is available on the survey's website called "Toltec Mounds renamed Plum Bayou Mounds".

Plum Bayou Culture – What Else is there to Learn?

Simply put – a lot! For a bit of context, the Plum Bayou culture is made up of communities living in and around central Arkansas during the Terminal Late Woodland period (CE 650-1050). These communities and associated sites were widespread in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain and the southernmost parts of the Arkansas River Valley, with evidence that they also occupied areas along tributaries in adjacent uplands (Jeter et al 1989; Nassaney 1992; Rolingson 1998, 2000). Plum Bayou sites are mostly recognized based on the presence of certain decorated varieties of pottery including specific varieties of Coles Creek Incised, Officer Punctated, and Larto Red alongside other material culture including particular stone tool types.

This is an exciting time during the precontact period, as we start to see huge changes happen in settlement, subsistence, technology, and social organization. Perhaps most notably, there is an intensification of moundbuilding and ceremonial activity during this period, focused mostly on Plum Bayou Mounds (3LN42). Not that folks in Arkansas and the broader southeastern US weren't already building earthworks, we just see an increase in this activity during this period! With an increase in moundbuilding and ceremonial activity, this shows corresponding intensifications of political and religious centralization, the beginnings of a definite shift in social organization, as well as the ability to mobilize large amounts of labor. Alongside

all of this, Plum Bayou communities are doing more gardening and horticulture than we see in previous time periods. They are cultivating and selectively breeding certain types of plants that are native to the region (e.g., sumpweed, marshelder, rye, and more), which will ultimately give way to the domestication of plants like maize and large-scale agricultural practices in later time periods. Other material changes include the proliferation of small arrow point types, indicating a shift in emphasis on arrow point manufacture.

In this region, Plum Bayou communities were situated in a strategically advantageous spot to become a hub of prehistoric trade between regions. In other words, this culture and region is an amazing place to study the intensification of interaction between communities across various regions of Arkansas and beyond. At many Plum Bayou sites, we see evidence of communities bringing in nonlocal resources like quartz crystal, hematite, and galena, since these resources are scarce nearby in the Arkansas Lowland (Nassaney 1994; Rolingson 1982). Other imported items like copper and conch shells coming from regions like the Great Lakes and the Gulf (respectively) indicate the continuation and intensification of widespread trade networks seen at other earlier ceremonial complexes like Poverty Point that will follow into the later Mississippi period.

So, that is most of what we know about Plum Bayou communities without writing an entire book on it! For more specific information, look to the citations of this brief article. Given all that we do know, what more is there to learn? Well, quite a bit. Enough for numerous careers! Dr. Martha Rolingson, the first station archeologist at (then Toltec) the Plum Bayou Mounds Research Station, spent nearly her entire career intensively researching Plum Bayou Mounds, publishing many volumes, and still only scratched the surface of our understanding of this ceremonial center and the communities that built and used it. Other scholars, like Dr. Michael Nassaney who did the original Plum Bayou Survey in the 1980s and 1990s (Nassaney 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994), spent considerable time and effort documenting nearby Plum Bayou village sites and as a result we learned much about settlement strategies and political organization. But,



Drs. Emily Beahm, Bob Scott, and Carl Drexler, and Taylor Greene screening soil from the Winfrey site (3LN182) . Photo by Paige Ford.

as is the case with archeology, we still have so many unanswered questions relating to chronology, community relationships, social structures, and more. We don't have many domestic contexts represented at all, with maybe a handful of pit features and middens having been excavated. By last count, I believe about nine or ten Plum Bayou sites have had a little more intensive excavations (e.g., shovel tests pits and test units) completed. Would it surprise you to know we have no idea how Plum Bayou communities constructed their houses? Even what shape they are? We've only scratched the surface of what we can learn, especially about the daily lives of these communities away from the ceremonial spaces at Plum Bayou Mounds! Other questions include how Plum Bayou communities related to contemporaneous cultures to the east and west, how they relate to later Mississippian cultures, and broader regional questions as well.

To be clear, though, our work is not done at Plum Bayou Mounds. An entire portion of the site (the northern half) has had mostly had surface collection conducted, so we have no idea how those mounds contribute to the entire history of the site and Plum Bayou community's use of it overall. So, we have a lot of work to do! As I've mentioned above, this is an

important time period socially and culturally in the southeastern United States, and it is an understudied one. So, this training program takes aim at helping us gather data to learn more about these aspects of Plum Bayou lifeways.

With all that information out of the way, now to the fun stuff you really want to know. The specific excavations and research taking place during the Training Program will be focused on excavating multiple areas at two separate archeological sites: Plum Bayou Mounds (3LN42) as well as a nearby village site nicknamed the Winfrey Site (3LN182).

Two Sites? Are you crazy?

Short answer...yes, always. But I promise it will be worth it. See, these training program excavations are geared towards building upon our current understandings of how Plum Bayou communities lived their daily lives, how they built their own communities, and how they engaged with one another in ceremonial gathering places such as Plum Bayou Mounds. So, in examining these sites in tandem, we can learn about Plum Bayou communities from multiple angles: the everyday and the exceptional. What connects the two and how does this play into community-led experiences in this region? With this work we can shed new light on community experience and interactions in central Arkansas from multiple scales – locally at both sites and then also between the sites as well. There is a rhyme and a reason to the madness, I promise.

The excavations at Plum Bayou Mounds will primarily focus on the northern half of the site – where agriculture has leveled and nearly destroyed many of the site's 18 earthen mounds. This is the area in which Dr. Rolingson has only completed surface collections, so in investigating this area we have the potential to fill in some immense gaps in research on Plum Bayou

ceremonialism as well as assessing exactly how impacted these mounds have been by those damaging agricultural practices. We'll be focusing our efforts most intensively at Mounds O and J, within which geophysical investigations have shown intriguing signatures (including potential anomalies consistent with architectural features) that suggest intact deposits may be just beneath the surface. In other words, these mounds have not been entirely destroyed and thus may hold worthwhile data which will help us better understand the site as a whole. A second smaller area we may open could hold some important data concerning the use of plaza spaces by these communities, but we have just a little bit more work to do to solidify those plans.

At the Winfrey Site (3LN182), which is about 20 minutes away from Plum Bayou Mounds by car, we'll have a smallish crew focused most intensively on an area where we uncovered intact features in test excavations. Here we are hoping to find good context data (preferably in feature fill) that will give us a good understanding of the activities of the Plum Bayou communities living there and show us more about how the materials found (or not found) at these village sites compare to what we see at Plum Bayou Mounds. We've already found one confirmed post, a burned area, and we clipped the edge of a charcoal rich feature (a pit, perhaps) that dates to around 1120 BP or cal AD 889–989. We will expand that area to uncover more of that charcoal rich feature and hopefully find more evidence of architectural elements, as well as investigate other areas of interest as indicated by geophysical anomalies.

So, that is the gist of the excavations. You'll just have to come and dig with us to find out more!

Logistics

The logistics are mostly solidified but suffice to say that our base of operations will be at Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park (PBMASP), though there will be some important information incoming about rideshare, parking, and shuttles. The parking lot at PBMASP is quite small, so we'll need to coordinate to make sure we can all get to where we need to be for the summer and leave space for visitors to come learn

and see what we are doing! And speaking of the park, we have the support of the staff at PBMASP, who will be assisting us in crowd control and interpretation. Let's be sure to be respectful and kind to those partners in this work.

The campground will be a USACE facility by the name of Willow Beach, which is about halfway between PBMASP and Little Rock, which has plenty of places for groceries, restaurants, and more. There are also plenty of hotels and places to stay in Little Rock, so accommodations are plentiful.

For classes, we'll have Basic Excavation and Basic Lab as per usual taught both weeks. We will also be offering classes such as Ceramic Analysis, Archeo-chemistry, and Site Survey. And finally, we will have a few evening talks and gatherings which I encourage all to attend!

Meet me at the Mounds

And that's it! Come join us during what will hopefully prove to be a fulfilling summer. Most folks will be excavating at Plum Bayou Mounds, which means you all will likely be interacting with visitors frequently and asked many questions as you're learning and doing cool science. This is a more public excavation than many of us are used to, but that will add even more to the significance of this work because it makes it that much more important. Not only do we get to excavate and uncover new data, we also get to (in real time) educate the public on those finds and communicate the importance of archeology, cultural heritage, and science all in one go. This will be something unique and special, and I'm so stoked for all that is to come. See you this summer!

References and Furth Reading on Plum Bayou Mounds

- Jeter, M. D., J. C. Rose, G. I. Williams Jr., and A. M. Harmon
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- 1991 Spatial-Temporal Dimensions of Social Integration during the Coles Creek Period in Central Arkansas. In *Stability, Transformation, and Variation: the Late Woodland Southeast*, edited by M. S. Nassaney and C. R. Cobb, pp. 177-220. Plenum Press, New York
- 1992 *Experiments in Social Ranking in Prehistoric Central Arkansas*. Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. University Microfilms, Ann Arbor.
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- 1998 *Toltec Mounds and Plum Bayou Culture: Mound D. Excavations*. Research Series No. 54. Arkansas Archeological Survey, Fayetteville.
- 2000 *Plum Bayou Culture of the Arkansas-White River Basin*. In *The Woodland Southeast*, edited by David G. Anderson and Robert C. Mainfort, JR. University of Alabama Press.
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"We're Back!"



Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program: Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park

May 31–June 14, 2025 | Scott, Arkansas

Where, When, What & Who

The 2025 Training Program is a collaborative project between the Arkansas Archeological Survey (ARAS) and the Arkansas Archeological Society (AAS). The Training Program, which will begin Saturday, May 31, and continue through Saturday, June 14, will be held in Scott, Arkansas, in the central part of the state. Our main base of operations will be at Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park. Station Archeologist Dr. Paige Ford will be directing the Training Program with support from Station Assistant Katy Gregory, as well as ARAS staff and AAS supervisors and instructors.

Membership

Participants must be current (2025 calendar year) members of the Arkansas Archeological Society. Please go to the Society's website to become a member or to renew your membership: arkarch.org. Contact Gillian Bjornen if you have questions about membership (gillian@uark.edu).

Under Age 18 & Minimum Age

All participants under age 18 must have a parent, guardian, or adult sponsor with them. **The adult must also register and be with the child at all times.** Minimum age for participation is 8 years old. No children younger than 8 years old may participate in the Training Program and no unregistered children are permitted on site or in the seminars.

Registration, Cancellations & Refunds

The deadline for early registration is May 2. After May 2, late registration will incur a \$15 late registration fee. Registrants must sign and return the accompanying Project Participation Agreement, Release, and Waiver, and the Code of Conduct form with their registrations. This year, **we are NOT accepting registrations after Monday, May 12. There will be NO exceptions.** Please get your registration and accom-

modations figured out early. If you need to cancel your attendance at the Training Program, please be sure to contact Gillian Bjornen (gillian@uark.edu) and let her know. All cancellations made by **Monday, May 12** will receive a full refund. Cancellations after May 12 will not receive a refund.

Students

If you are a student who has made arrangements with their advisor to receive credit hours for attending the Training Program, please be sure to indicate this on the registration form. Gillian Bjornen will contact you to request more information.

Directions

The Training Program Headquarters will be at Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park, located off of US 165 South (turn on to CR 835 AKA Toltec Mounds Rd), 490 Toltec Mounds Rd, Scott, AR 72142, about 23 minutes' drive (20 miles) south-east on US 165 South from Little Rock, about 2 hours and 20 minutes' drive (156 miles) northeast on I-30 E from Texarkana, about 2 hours' drive (131 miles) west on I-40 W from Memphis.

Facilities

The AAS Headquarters, field lab and seminars will be located Plum Bayou Mounds Archeological State Park and the ARAS – Plum Bayou Research Station. Orientation will be held at the Education Building of Plantation Agriculture State Park, and the evening talk locations are TBD.

Check-In

Our workday starts at 7:00 in the morning, so you should **arrive the day before** you intend to start your first day of work. When you first arrive, the first stop should be at Headquarters to check in and collect your second packet of information and name badge. Headquarters will be staffed each work day from **6:30 am**

until 3:30 pm. If you are arriving to check in after 3:30 pm, please check-in at HQ the following morning before 6:45 am. Please note that parking is limited to visitors of the State Park and you will not be allowed to leave your car parked during the work day.

Accommodations

Hotels and Lodging

Call or visit websites (AAS website has links) for rates, amenities, and availability. Mileage and time noted below indicate the distance and approximate travel time to Headquarters at the Plum Bayou Mounds. There are many options for hotels and accommodations in Little Rock, so do some shopping around before booking a room.

- Holiday Inn Express Little Rock-Airport, 3121 Bankhead Dr, Little Rock (501) 490-4000, (13.7 mi; 16 mins)
- Holiday Inn LR-Airport-Conf Center, 3201 Bankhead Dr., Little Rock, (501) 490-1000, (13.8 mi; 16 mins)
- StayApt Suites North Little Rock, 3300 ABF Rd, North Little Rock, (501) 725-2299 (17.7 mi; 21 mins)
- Hampton Inn & Suites Lonoke, 240 Brownsville Loop, Lonoke, (501) 676-0602, (20.2 mi; 23 mins)

Society Campground IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!

The Society campground will be located at the US Army Corps of Engineers' Willow Beach campground, which is located on the shores of Willow Beach Lake and the Arkansas River. There are fire rings, picnic tables, electrical (30 and 50 amp) and water at the camp sites. There is one shower building with two showers for women and two for men. There is a boat launch and pavilions near the host hut where there are bathrooms without showers. There is no designated swimming at the campground (I definitely wouldn't if I were you).



Map of the Plum Bayou Mounds / Winfrey site / Willow Beach Campground area.

21 RV sites have been secured and prepaid by the Society to keep all camping participants together. We will be sharing RV sites with tent campers; a maximum of two tents per site with an RV. This will enable us to share electricity with tent campers. Generators are not allowed. You must pay for every day that your RV or tent is set up, even if you are not there.

ALL SOCIETY CAMP SITES WILL BE ASSIGNED ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

If you arrive and there isn't a spot in the Society campground, your payment for camping will be refunded to you and you will need to find a camp site in the non-electrical site area or will need to find other accommodations. The campground attendant and Society camp hosts will work with you to locate a spot.

Refunds for camping will only be made available for those who arrived and are unable to secure a Society camp spot upon their arrival. Non-Society camping spots are pricing around \$25 a night, depending on the spot.

The Society camping spots are reserved Wednesday, May 28 through Saturday, June 14. Check out for campers that are still there on Sunday, June 15, is 5pm. Payment to the Society is as follows: tents - \$12

per night; pop-ups - \$16 per night; and, RVs - \$22 per night. If you come earlier or stay longer, you will need to make your reservations through recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777. When you arrive, find the Society camp hosts who will help you find a camping spot. Campground check in is 6pm ending at 9pm. No set up after quiet hours start at 10:00 pm. Give yourself extra time to set up your tent or camper.

The main road to Willow Beach is Colonel Maynard Rd., just off of Hwy 165. Call the Army Corps of Engineers Office at 501-961-1332 to find out the status of the road if you suspect there is flooding. There is only one route in and out of the campground. Flood plans and other options will be communicated to us by USACE staff well in advance of possible severe weather.

Transportation- VERY IMPORTANT!

Transportation to and from the campground will be by your own personal vehicles or carpooling with others. Each morning, you will drive to Plantation Agriculture State Park (4815 AR-161, Scott, AR 72142) and will park your vehicle in the marked lot at the fork of AR-161 and US-165. There will be signs denoting Training Program parking. You will be transported either by bus to Plum Bayou Mounds/HQ or by ARAS vehicles to the village site. Those going to the village site will know who they are ahead of time. Those participants who are not camping (staying in hotels or commuting from home), can park at the designated parking area in front of Plantation Agriculture at the fork of 161 and 165. The bus and ARAS vehicles will stop there to pick up anyone needing to go to Plum Bayou Mounds or the village site.

Food and Ice

Each person is responsible for their own meals. There are several stores in and near Little Rock and Scott to shop for food, ice, and other items you might need. You should bring lunch with you each day, regardless of whether you will be working in the field, in the lab, or attending a seminar. Vehicles and/or buses **will not** be returning to camp or headquarters for lunch.

May 30	Friday	Set up camp, Headquarters, and Lab Staff and Supervisors Meeting at 3:00pm
May 31	Saturday	First Orientation, Lab, Field Activities begin at 7:00 am (Shuttle bus leaves Plantation Agriculture State Park at 6:45 am)
June 2	Monday	1st Session Seminars start
June 6	Friday	Last day of 1st Session Seminars
June 7	Saturday	Public Day!
June 8	Sunday	Site Stewardship Workshop
June 9	Monday	DAY OFF! No field or lab activities Last Orientation at 1:00pm!
June 10	Tuesday	2nd Session Seminars start
June 14	Saturday	Last day of 2nd Session Seminars
June 15	Sunday	Close excavations (if needed) and pack up

Basic Schedule

You may come to the Training Program for as long or short a time as you like. Please note: WE WORK EVERYDAY, except Monday, June 9, our only day off. We will start the workday at **7:00 am** when the bus arrives at Plum Bayou and folks make their way out to the excavation and lab areas. For campers, you will need to leave the campground by **6:30am** to get to Plantation Agriculture State Park before the shuttle bus leaves. **The shuttle bus will leave promptly at 6:45am from Plantation Agriculture, so do not be late.** Lunch break will be from **10:30 – 11:30 am**, and the workday ends at 3:30 pm, allowing attendees time to rest and relax before dinner and/or attending any evening talks or other activities. A detailed schedule of all activities, seminars, evening programs, and special events will be in the second packet of information that you will pick up at Headquarters when you arrive. Announcements and work schedules will be posted in camp and on the door at Headquarters.

Orientations

All first-time attendees must attend the Orientation prior to participating. Orientations will be scheduled as follows:

- Saturday, May 31 (7:00am)
- Sunday, June 1 (7:00 am)
- Monday, June 2 (7:00 am)
- Friday, June 6 (11:30am)
- Monday, June 9 (1:00 pm)

Please indicate which Orientation you will attend when registering. If none of the scheduled Orientations work for your plans, please contact Gillian Bjornen to discuss; gillian@uark.edu or (479) 575-3557. Anyone is welcome at Orientation, no matter if you're a new participant or a returning one who wants a refresher.

Seminars

In addition to excavating and working in the lab, Training Program participants have an opportunity to register for a variety of seminars instructed by professional archeologists with ARAS. You must register for seminars in advance on the Registration Form. If you want to take a seminar, be sure to register early. Seminars fill up fast!

New participants are strongly encouraged to sign up for one of the Basic Seminars: Basic Excavation, Basic Lab, or Site Survey. Basic Excavation is especially recommended and is a full-day seminar.

Participants may take one seminar each weekly session of the Training Program. Some seminars require completion of prerequisites, unless special permission is granted, as noted below. Most seminars are held for 4 hours each day and last for 5 days. Participants must attend all days of a seminar to complete it. Since most seminars take half of each day, participants are able to do fieldwork or work in the lab the other half of the day.

There are no seminars on Saturday, May 31 - Sunday, June 1 nor Sunday and Monday, June 8 - 9. However, the Site Stewardship Workshop will be held on Sunday, June 8. Seminars may be subject to cancellation if fewer than 3 people register.

Seminars – Session 1

Monday, June 2 through Friday, June 6

- **Basic Excavation:** Steve Jacober
(Full-day seminar)
This is one of three basic seminars that gives participants a guide to archeological excavation and the proper methodology used by archeologists in the field. This seminar combines both classroom and field instruction that covers topics ranging from tools of the trade to unit profile drawing to screening artifacts to ethical considerations.

- **Basic Lab:** Liley Bozard
(Half-day seminar, PM)
Another basic seminar, encouraged for first-timers, this half-day seminar focuses on proper lab documentation once artifacts come in from the field. This includes artifact washing, rough sorting, and proper bag labeling to ensure proper curation of artifacts post-Training Program.
- **Site Survey:** Dr. Bob Scott
(Full-day seminar)
Site Survey is the third basic seminar offered each Training Program that offers training in a broad survey context. Topics will include experience using compasses, pacing off shovel-test pits, screening for artifacts, documenting survey information, and filling out archeological site forms.
- **Ceramic Analysis:** Dr. Mary Beth Trubitt
(Half-day seminar, AM)
This seminar will cover how archeologists examine pottery to determine probable use, size, and other important features. We will be examining pottery from the field as well as from collections in the Plum Bayou Station lab.

Special Interest Workshop

Sunday, June 8

- **Site Stewardship Training:** Dr. Mel Zabecki and Gillian Bjornen (Full-day workshop)
Archeological sites are at risk of destruction due to environmental and human-made causes. Join your fellow Society members who are interested in learning what kinds of things can be done to help protect sites and maybe take it one step further and apply to become a Site Steward!

Seminars – Session 2

Tuesday, June 10 through Saturday, June 14

- **Basic Excavation:** Steve Jacober
(Full-day seminar)
- **Basic Lab:** Dr. Michelle Rathgaber
(Half-day seminar, PM)
- **Site Survey:** Dr. Bob Scott
(Full-day seminar)
- **Archeochemistry & Soils:** Dr. Glen Akridge
(Half-day seminar, PM)

This seminar will explore how various chemical techniques are utilized in the study of archeological materials. Topics covered will include elemental and isotopic analyses, radiocarbon dating, biomolecular (protein and genetic) studies, and soil chemistry.

Assignment of Activities

The assignment sheet will be posted as soon as possible each evening at Headquarters and all participants should be sure to **check the assignment sheet each morning before heading to seminars, field, or lab for possible changes. All participants are responsible for adhering to the assignments given to them.** The assignments given and any possible changes made reflect where workers are most needed in the lab and in the field in order to accomplish research goals. Any requests to be moved to another work area or to have time off must be done in advance and first brought to the Training Program Director for approval and then communicated to Gillian Bjornen at Headquarters. The Training Program Director this year, Dr. Paige Ford, will make final assignments and participants must abide by the decision.

First Packet of Information

Registrants will receive a detailed information packet and seminar assignment information shortly after May 12. Please indicate on the Registration Form if you would like to receive the information packet by email. A second packet with additional information will be distributed at the Training Program when you arrive and check in at Headquarters.

Tools of the Trade

You may want to build your own personal “excavation kit” and the Society will have for sale some of the small tools you will need. These include for example, a 3-meter metric measuring tape, a Marshalltown trowel, and a string line-level. Also for sale will be textbooks for seminars, t-shirts, ARAS and AAS publications, and memorabilia. You will need to bring items with you from home: a clipboard to hold all your paperwork, sturdy gloves, and pencils. A list of recommended supplies will be in the first packet of information that will be sent to registrants. We will have coffee

each morning, but we encourage you to bring your own reusable travel mug! We can take credit cards at Headquarters, but remember to bring your checkbook or cash as backup in case technology fails us!

Weather and Wildlife

You can generally count on the weather to be hot and very unpredictable in Arkansas in the summertime (and especially muggy in the central part of the state). Come prepared for any kind of weather. Be sure to bring plenty of insect repellent for ticks, chiggers, and mosquitoes. We will have sunshades out in the field to provide protection from the sun and lots of water, so be sure to bring a water bottle! Bring lots of sunscreen and reapply often. A good hat with a wide brim and wearing long sleeves will help you too. There may be wildlife in the campground and at the site. Make sure you secure your food and tents at the camping areas in the evening and before going out to the field. Please pick up the trash at the site before coming in from the field each day as well. There will likely be rain, even some strong thunderstorms, so be prepared with rain gear too. Sturdy boots are also a good idea.

The Bottom Line

We have a great opportunity here to learn a lot about Arkansas’s past! This is the most inexpensive archeological training experience available within the United States. What better way to learn about Arkansas archeology and do archeology in an ethical way? If you are reading this and considering registering for the Training Program, that means that you share the same interests as so many current AAS members and so many before you! The love of the outdoors, the love of people, history, science, anthropology, archeology, and learning, participating, and contributing to something that will benefit more than just you.

You are a volunteer! Without you, none of this would be possible! If you attend this dig, you will find more than just dirt, sweat, and bug bites. You will find old friends, new friends, and camaraderie unlike anywhere else. This program is an opportunity to create lifelong memories, so come join in on the fun!

***Please note that this information is subject to change, so please read all new information distributed ahead of the program.**

Hester Davis Arkansas Archeological Society Archeology Training Program Scholarship

Hester A. Davis (1930–2014) was an American archeologist, and as Arkansas's first State Archeologist, she was instrumental in creating national public policy and conservancy standards for cultural preservation, as well as developing professional and ethical standards for archeologists. She was the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including two distinguished service awards and induction into the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame. This scholarship is offered in her memory.

This scholarship applies to the joint Annual Arkansas Archeological Society (AAS) & Arkansas Archeological Survey (ARAS) Training Program only. We do not fund other field schools.

AAS members 18 and older, who are currently enrolled in college or graduate school and who are majoring, or planning to major, in archeology, anthropology, or a related field (e.g., cultural studies, museum studies, geography, etc.) are eligible to apply for scholarship support. Rising freshmen, or recent college graduates who will be enrolling in a graduate program in the next academic year, are also eligible. Please note that the number of scholarships awarded will be limited to the annual amount of interest from which the scholarship funds are drawn. To apply, please submit the following:

- A completed Training Program Registration Form listing your expenses (note: T-shirts are not included in this grant), along with the Project Participation Agreement, Release, and Waiver form. We pay registration, camping fee for one person, and electricity (if used). We will fund a \$100 stipend for food and gas for one-week applicants and \$150 stipend for two-week applicants. This scholarship will also include an AAS student membership for the current calendar year. This includes emailed or mailed print copies of our publications: the Arkansas Archeologist and Field Notes. Visit <https://www.arkarch.org/activities/the-training-program/> for a Training Program Registration form. You will need to print out your registration form – do not submit through the website. It must be printed and mailed or scanned and sent by e-mail.
- Statement of Interest (1-2 pages) describing your interest in archaeology, future education and career plans, and why the Training Program will benefit you as you work toward your goals. Applicants should indicate if they wish to attend one or two weeks of the training program. Please include discussion of any seminars you will attend and how these classes will help you attain your goals. Our Training Program is often applicable to college credit hours – check with your advisor.
- A list of college courses and other relevant training you have taken. Please indicate where and when.
- One letter of reference from a professor or instructor which may be mailed or emailed separately by your professor or instructor to the address below.

Applications are accepted until April 14th for the following June Training Program and must be post marked accordingly to be accepted. All items requested must either be on paper and mailed or scanned and sent electronically to the contact below.

E-mail: aasociety@arkarch.org
gillian@uark.edu (Gillian Bjornen)



Arkansas Archeological Society
ATTN: Training Program Scholarship
2475 N. Hatch Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72704

In Memoriam: Dan Franklin Morse (1935-2024)

John Hansard House and Juliet Morrow – Arkansas Archeological Survey, Jonesboro

Dan Franklin Morse died at his home in Jonesboro on September 29, 2024. He is survived by Phyllis Morse, his wife of 65 years and constant collaborator and partner in research in Arkansas and beyond. Other survivors include his sons, Daniel (wife Benita) Morse of Jonesboro, John Morse of Oxford, Mississippi, and Robert Morse of Sherwood, Arkansas; and grandsons, Luke, Benjamin, and Kyle Morse.

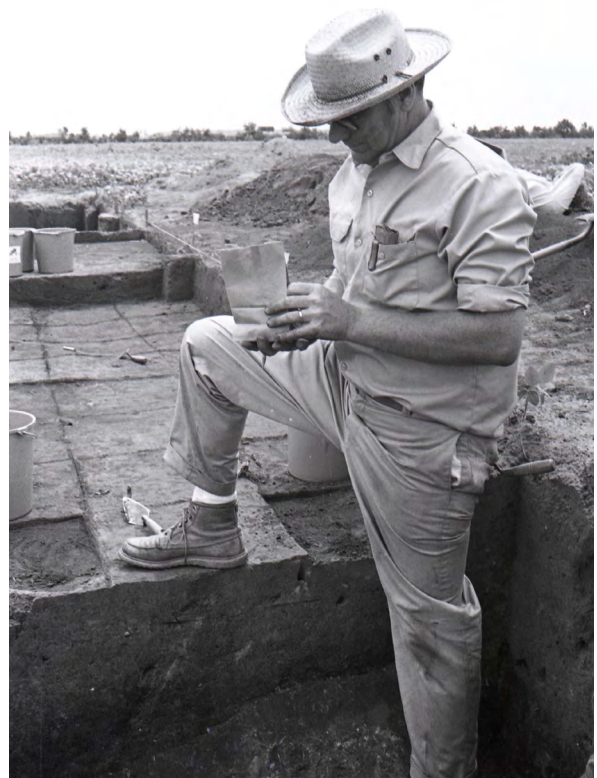
Dan received his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Michigan in 1967 with his dissertation on the Robinson site and the Shell Mound Archaic culture in the Midsouth. He was part of the first cohort of Arkansas Archeological Survey Station Archaeologists after the Survey was established in 1967, serving as Station Archeologist and Professor of Anthropology at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro from that time until his retirement in 1997. During his thirty year tenure with the Survey, Dan investigated and documented archaeological resources in northeast Arkansas and the Central Mississippi Valley, making significant Paleoindian and Dalton period finds at the Brand and Sloan sites. In the mid-1970s, Dan directed archaeological salvage excavations of the early Mississippian Zebree site.

In addition to his extensive fieldwork projects, Dan authored and co-authored 12 monographs, 184 papers and book chapters, 43 book reviews, and over 100 conference papers. Selected publications in this impressive record of scholarly research include *Archaeology of the Central Mississippi Valley* and *Sloan: A Paleoindian Dalton Cemetery in Arkansas*.

Dan was a mentor and friend to many younger archaeologists, both professional and avocational. Many of them will be contributing to remembrances and tributes to Dan in a future article in *Arkansas Archeologist*. You can read more on Dan F. Morse and his career at <https://archeology.uark.edu/dan-f-morse/>.



Above: Dan Morse in 2024. Photo courtesy of Chris Gilliam.



Right: Dan Morse taking notes at the Brand site, 3PO0139, 1970. Photo courtesy of ARAS.

Join or Renew Your Membership for 2025

All yearly Society memberships follow the calendar year beginning with January; members who renew from January through September will receive back issues of missed publications; if joining or renewing after October 1st, your membership (and publications) will begin the following January. (Life & Benefactor members do not need to renew but please notify us with any change of address.)

You can use the form below to join by mail OR join/renew online at <http://arkarch.org/register/>

For change of address, questions about membership or subscriptions: Please contact Gillian Steeno, Arkansas Archeological Society, 2475 North Hatch Ave., Fayetteville, AR, 72704, gillian@uark.edu.

Information for Contributors

Electronic submissions are preferred. Please send articles to *Field Notes* in Word. Minimal formatting should be applied to the text. Use of bold and *italic* is all right. Use a common, boring font like Times New Roman. Send any illustrations that will accompany the article as separate files, do NOT embed them in the Word document. Preferred graphic formats are tiff or jpg but pdf will also often be acceptable. All illustrations (photos, maps, line art, and any other type of graphic) should be produced at 300 dpi, and graphic files submitted for publication should be sized NO SMALLER than 300 dpi resolution with a physical size (that is, image dimensions in inches) at least 4x6 inches. If you know the image should be reproduced at full page in order to be readable, make sure it is sized NO SMALLER than 300 dpi resolution and 8x10 inches physical dimension. Tables can be sent as separate Excel files (preferred for large tables) or typed into the Word document. PLEASE DO NOT EMBED ILLUSTRATIONS INTO THE WORD DOCX OR ANY OTHER APPLICATION, AND DO NOT SEND YOUR ARTICLE AS A PDF. If for some reason you cannot meet these standards, PLEASE do not hesitate to contact me and I will help you find another way to submit your material. Thank you!

Julia Fan, Editor (juliaf@uark.edu)

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Yearly memberships run from January until December. Note that local chapter membership forms and dues are separate from the statewide organization.

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Arkansas Archeological Society Chapters

Three Rivers Chapter, Mountain Home meets monthly on the fourth Saturday at the Don Reynolds Library in Mountain Home. No meetings June, Jul, Nov, Dec. Contact: Mark Shockley 870-404-7239; shockark@gmail.com

Arkansas River Valley Chapter, Russellville meets monthly (except Aug.) on the first Tuesday evening at the Arkansas Tech University Museum, 1502 North El Paso Avenue, Russellville, AR 72801. Contact: Josh Lynch, jlynch8@atu.edu

Central Arkansas Chapter, Little Rock Contact: Rita Fisher, fisherrita92@gmail.com

Ouachita Chapter, Hot Springs meets monthly (except June) on the first Tuesday at 7 pm, ASMSA board room, 200 Whittington, Hot Springs. Contact: ouachitachapter@gmail.com or Mary Beth Trubitt 870-230-5510.

Ko-ko-çi Chapter, Fayetteville meets monthly (except Jan. & June–Aug.) on the second Wednesday evening at the ARAS Coordinating Office. Contact: Joe Rainey jrainey1947@gmail.com

Central Mississippi Valley Chapter, Jonesboro meets monthly (except June–Aug.) at the ASU Museum. For details contact: Julie Morrow 870-972-2071; jemorro@uark.edu

Red River Chapter, Magnolia meets monthly (except June–Aug.) on the second Tuesday evening at the Donald W. Reynolds Campus & Community Center, SAU. Contact: Carl Drexler 870-235-4230; cdrexler@uark.edu

Tunican Chapter, Monticello meetings can vary in frequency and location, typically on UAM campus. Contact: Brittney Bostian 870-370-510; brittney@gmail.com

Ark-Homa Chapter, Fort Smith meets monthly (except May–Aug.) on the third Thursday evening at Flanders Building Room 100, UAFS campus. Contact: Tim Mulvihill 479-788-7813; mulvihill@uark.edu