

Archeology at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Plans for the 2018 Arkansas Archeological Society Summer Training Program

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Panorama of the Leetown locality.

This summer, the Arkansas Archeological Society Summer Training Program will be at Pea Ridge National Military Park and will support a multiyear research effort by the Arkansas Archeological Survey (ARAS) and the National Park Service (NPS). It will be a great opportunity for Society members to work at a National Park and help provide interpretive information that reaches thousands of people a year.

The park at Pea Ridge commemorates the site where, on March 7 and 8, 1862, some 16,000 Confederate soldiers from Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, and Louisiana fought 10,500 men from Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, and Indiana for control of northwest Arkansas. The battle earned the nickname “the Gettysburg of the West,” not only for the fierceness of the fighting (over 3000 men were killed or wounded), but also for the strategic implications of the battle—by losing at Pea Ridge the Confederates effectively ceded control of Missouri (and all-important St. Louis) for the duration of the war (Brown 1956; Shea and Hess 1992). Safeguarding St. Louis opened the door for U.S. campaigns down the Mississippi River that would split the Confederacy in two and establish the reputations

of Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman (Carlson-Drexler et al. 2008).

Recognizing this importance, the U.S. Congress created Pea Ridge National Military Park (PERI) as a unit of the NPS in 1956. Edwin Bearss, NPS historian, laid out its boundaries, which encompass 4300 acres in Benton County, 40 miles north-northwest of Fayetteville. Though the Civil War battle is the primary interpretive emphasis of the park, many other sites, prehistoric and historic, lie within the park boundaries (Carlson-Drexler et al. 2008:5). The site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1969.

Previous Archeology within Pea Ridge National Military Park

This year’s Training Program builds on decades of important work at Pea Ridge. That work focused on the fields of fighting at Foster’s and Oberson’s Fields in the west, and Clemens’ and Ruddick’s Fields in the east, around Elkhorn Tavern, as well as the site of the Leetown hamlet. We will be working on several of these places this summer, particularly Leetown.

Bennett and Haigh (1876), who fought for the 36th

Illinois Infantry at Pea Ridge, described Leetown as a “hamlet of a dozen houses crowning the ridge, near the western extremity of the corn fields.” They described the area as a small clearing with “yellow hospital flags, fluttering from the gables of every house.” Sometime after the battle—and again this is vague in historical sources—much of the village was abandoned and/or burned (Bearss 1965). The documentary record is not clear if this abandonment is a direct result of the battle, burning by bushwhackers in the years following the battle, or simply by attrition. In late October 1862, the U.S. Army of the Frontier camped on Leetown Battlefield but made no mention of the town or any nearby structures in their reports. At any rate, what the historical record does make clear is that most of Leetown was gone by the late nineteenth century. By then only two households remained and both of those belonged to the same family—the Mayfields. The desire to mark and interpret Leetown spurred the first formal archeology in the park.

Leetown, Rex Wilson & Jason Herrmann

In 1965 Rex Wilson, working with the NPS Southeastern Regional Office in Richmond, Virginia, conducted limited excavations at Leetown, Elkhorn Tavern, and the Tanyard, north of Elkhorn (Wilson 1965). His goal was to identify remnants of structures in the village to aid in park interpretation. His methods consisted of a series of tightly spaced linear trenches—2 feet wide by 100 feet long—dug to intersect foundations and identify the location and footprint of structures on the site (Wilson 1965:4). This is a method of trenching on historic sites pioneered at Colonial Williamsburg in the early days of investigations there (Noël Hume 2010). Unfortunately, Wilson was not successful in finding a single structure in the Leetown vicinity using this method.

A second attempt was made at Leetown using remote sensing technologies. In 2003 William Wolf (2004) conducted an electrical resistivity survey of portions of the Leetown locality. This was closely followed by Jason Herrmann’s multisensor remote sensing surveys of the area. This data was the basis of Herrmann’s master’s thesis (2004), which proposes a series of potential structures as seen through magnetometry, resistance, conductivity, magnetic suscep-

tibility, and microtopography. These interpretations were never ground-truthed, and awaited our current research project for further investigation.

The PERI Archeological Inventory

Meanwhile, as the remote sensing projects were happening at Leetown, the NPS was focusing on creating a comprehensive inventory of archeological resources within the park. This was a multiyear effort between 2000 and 2004 that led to extensive metal detector survey and visual inventories of all the areas of the park that were then accessible. This work was conducted by the NPS Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) under the direction of Doug Scott (Carlson-Drexler et al. 2008), while the University of Arkansas, under the direction of Marvin Kay, conducted a random shovel testing program to identify prehistoric sites within the park boundaries (Kay and Herrmann 2005). The result of these large-scale projects is that more archeological fieldwork has been done on PERI than nearly any other battlefield. Over 600 acres have been studied, and thousands of battle-related artifacts have been found (Drexler 2017). These include bullets, cannonball fragments, soldiers’ equipment, personal effects, and discarded gun parts.

The Current Research Project: CESU between NPS & ARAS

In 2015, the Arkansas Archeological Survey (ARAS) entered into a four-year cooperative agreement with the NPS in which we would “conduct an archeological inventory of key battlefield areas associated with the March 1862 Civil War battle at Pea Ridge, Arkansas” (Brandon and Lockhart 2016). The purpose of these investigations is to determine the extent of the battle, increase our understanding of, and facilitate interpretation of the events that occurred during the battle—especially in areas that have been cleared of trees since the initial MWAC survey work of the early 2000s. This project is funded as a part of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) program, a program that manages collaborations between academic programs and federal agencies to improve the knowledge base for managing natural and cultural resources.

On the ARAS side, the principals in this work are Drs. Brandon (ARAS-UAF), Lockhart (ARAS-CSP),

and Drexler (ARAS-SAU). Pea Ridge falls within Dr. Brandon's station research territory of northwest Arkansas and the northern tier of the Arkansas Ozarks. Dr. Lockhart's remote sensing and skills with GIS and historic maps are fundamental to the research goals. Dr. Drexler is not only a conflict archeology specialist but has conducted more archeology at this particular battlefield than any other single individual (see Drexler 2003; Carlson-Drexler et al. 2008; Drexler 2016). Additionally, Drs. Brandon, Lockhart, and Drexler are working closely with Steven De Vore (MWAC), and, of course, the good folks at Pea Ridge National Military Park.

Ruddick's Field: FY 2016

This first research foray under this new multiyear project took place on 27 acres of open ground called Ruddick's Field, a key location of fighting late on the first day of the battle. This work used a new hybridized methodology combining high-resolution magnetometry with traditional metal detector surveys and GPS mapping to locate, identify, recover, and interpret battle-related features, artifacts, and events (Brandon and Lockhart 2016, 2018). This work recovered almost 600 battle-related artifacts and approximately the same number of postbellum farm-related artifacts from Ruddick's Field.

Leetown: FY 2017

The second year of research at Pea Ridge shifted focus to Leetown. Following in the footsteps of Rex Wilson, William Volf, and Jason Herrmann (see above) we sought to locate as many Leetown structures as possible. We first conducted a comprehensive magnetometer survey of the Leetown open area, supplemented with selected multisensor data, histori-



Nineteenth century artifacts recovered at Leetown in June 2017

cal photographs, and other documents—all coordinated by Dr. Lockhart. We conducted a series of test excavations with the 2017 University of Arkansas Archeological Field School last June. The brief article by Victoria Jones in this issue gives further details of our discoveries, but suffice it to say that a total of thirteen 2m x 2m test units were excavated. Each set of these excavations concentrated on a different target identified by remote sensing, landscape reconstruction, or topography. These excavations have identified four structures and/or activity areas, three of which have definite nineteenth-century components.

Plans for the 2018 Field Season

The summer of 2018 will mark our third year of work at PERI. We plan on working in three distinct areas within the park: Leetown, Foster's Farm, and Clemens' Farm. At Leetown we will further investigate the landscape and find more structures, while Foster's and Clemens' Farms will be excavated for



the first time, looking for the footprints of the former structures. This research will refine our understanding of the battle and aid the NPS in presenting the battle landscape accurately.

In addition to open-block excavation, some of our work will focus on recovering battle-related artifacts around Foster's Farm. This area will be tested in company with students from the University of Arkansas (and elsewhere) who will be attending the 2018 University of Arkansas Archeological Field School at Pea Ridge, which runs May 29 to June 29.

This spring we will be laying the groundwork for these excavations with Dr. Lockhart performing magnetometer surveys at Foster's Field and Clemens' Field prior to our excavations. This will prepare us to focus on archeological deposits when the Training Program begins on June 9. Working at all three locations simultaneously will be a challenge, but it gives us the chance to help the NPS and to provide a range of experiences to Society volunteers.

Our research questions come from the two foci. The battlefield-oriented research will concentrate on refin-

A Union officer's vest or cuff button, recovered from Leetown in 2017. Proof that the hamlet was used as a field hospital during the battle.

ing our understanding of troop movements and locating the lines of battle. Our work on the farmsteads will bring understanding of the layout of these farms, the dates of their occupations, the functions of outbuildings, and how these civilian populations may have been impacted by the Civil War and the battle itself.

All of this will take place from the comfort of campsites at nearby Beaver Lake and laboratory and classroom facilities in Garfield. Hotels and restaurants are in easy reach, and the surrounding Ozarks offer a host of things to do while not in the field.

Further Reading on Pea Ridge

If you would like to prepare yourself further for our summer work at Pea Ridge National Military Park, we can recommend some further reading:

Shea, William L., and Earl J. Hess

1992 *Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

Carlson-Drexler, Carl G., Douglas D. Scott, and Harold Roeker

2008 "The Battle Raged...With Terrible Fury": Battlefield Archeology of Pea Ridge National Military Park. Technical Report No. 112. USDI/NPS/Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska. https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/peri/battle_raged.pdf

Drexler, Carl

2017 Pea Ridge & Civil War Archeology. Electronic document in the "50 Moments in Survey History" web series. <http://archeology.uark.edu/who-we-are/50moments/pearidgearcheology>

References Cited

Bearss, Edward C.

1965 Leetown, Elkhorn Tavern Grounds, Federal Earthworks, and Tanyard as of March, 1862. Report prepared for Pea Ridge National Military Park.

Bennett, Lyman G., and William M. Haigh

1876 *History of the Thirty-Sixth Regiment Illinois Volunteers during the War of the Rebellion*. Knickerbocker & Hodder, Aurora, Illinois.

Brandon, Jamie C., and Jami J. Lockhart

2016 December Progress Report: Geophysical and Archeo-

- logical Investigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park, Benton County, Arkansas. Report submitted to Pea Ridge National Military Park by the Arkansas Archeological Survey.
- 2018 January Progress Report: Geophysical and Archeological Investigations at Leetown, Pea Ridge National Military Park, Benton County, Arkansas. Report submitted to Pea Ridge National Military Park by the Arkansas Archeological Survey.
- Brown, Walter
- 1956 Pea Ridge: Gettysburg of the West. *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 15:15–16.
- Carlson-Drexler, Carl, Douglas D. Scott, and Harold Roeker
- 2008 “The Battle Raged...With Terrible Fury”: Battlefield Archeology of Pea Ridge National Military Park. National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center Technical Report No. 112.
- Herrmann, Jason
- 2004 Interpreting Leetown through the Integration of Aerial and Ground-based Remote Sensing Techniques. Unpublished M.A. thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.
- Kay, Marvin, and Jason Herrmann
- 2005 Archeological Predictive Modeling of Land Use at Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas and Wilson’s Creek Historic Battlefield, Missouri. Report submitted to the National Park Service by the Arkansas Archeological Survey.
- Noël Hume, Ivor
- 2010 *A Passion for the Past: The Odyssey of a Transatlantic Archaeologist*. University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville.
- Shea, William L., and Earl J. Hess
- 1992 *Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.
- Wilson, Rex L.
- 1965 Archeological Investigations in Pea Ridge National Military Park. Manuscript on file at Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service, Lincoln, NE.
- Volf, William
- 2004 Electrical Resistivity Survey of Elkhorn Tavern and Leetown, Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas. Manuscript on file at Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service, Lincoln, NE.

Leetown signage at Pea Ridge National Military Park.



How to Plan for the Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program at Pea Ridge Park, June 9–24, 2018 Garfield, Arkansas

Where and When

The 2018 Training Program will be held Saturday, June 9 through Sunday, June 24 at Pea Ridge National Military Park in northwest Arkansas not far from the Arkansas/Missouri state line. The Training Program is a collaborative project between the Arkansas Archeological Survey (ARAS) and the Arkansas Archeological Society (AAS). Our main base of operations will be the NEBCO Community Center in Garfield, Arkansas. That is where the field lab and Headquarters will be. We'll investigate three sites within the Pea Ridge National Military Park, with primary excavations occurring at Leetown. The Society campground will be the Army Corps of Engineers Lost Bridge North Recreation area. **SEE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMPGROUND BELOW!** Beginners' Orientation, most of the seminars and the evening programs will be held at the Pea Ridge National Military Park. Station Archeologists Dr. Jamie Brandon (ARAS-UAF) and Dr. Carl Drexler (ARAS-SAU) will direct the Training Program.

Directions

The Training Program Headquarters will be at the Northeast Benton County Community Center (adjacent to NEBCO Fire-EMS) located on Highway 62, 17823 Marshall St, Garfield, about an hour and 15 minute drive (80 miles) north and east from I-40; about an hour drive (63 miles) south and east of I-44 in Missouri; an hour and a half drive (90 miles) north and east from Fort Smith; and a 3 hour, 20 minute drive (226 miles) west and north from Little Rock.

Facilities

The AAS Headquarters, field lab, and the Basic Excavation and Basic Lab seminars will be located in the Community Center. The other seminars, Beginners' Orientation, and the evening programs will be held at the facilities at Pea Ridge National Military Park. Headquarters will be staffed each work day from 6:00 am until 5:00 pm. Everyone should come to Headquar-

ters as soon as you arrive in the area to check in, pick up your information packet and get a name badge.

Accommodations

Hotels/Motels/Lodges/Cabins

Call or visit websites for rates, amenities, and availability. Mileage noted below indicates the distance to the Community Center in Garfield.

South of Hwy 62 in the Bentonville/Rogers area, there are many hotels and motels available at a wide range of prices. A quick google search should turn up many other hotels from which to choose.

Garfield

Sugar Creek Retreat – 19149 Hwy 127 N, Garfield (479) 268-0461 thesugarcreekretreat.com (2.5 miles)

Whitney Mountain Lodge – 12483 Lodge Dr., Garfield (479) 359-3201 whitneymountainlodge.com (6 miles)

Inn at Lost Bridge – 21322 AR 127, Garfield (479) 359-0313 lostbridgemarina.com (6.5 miles)

Bentonville

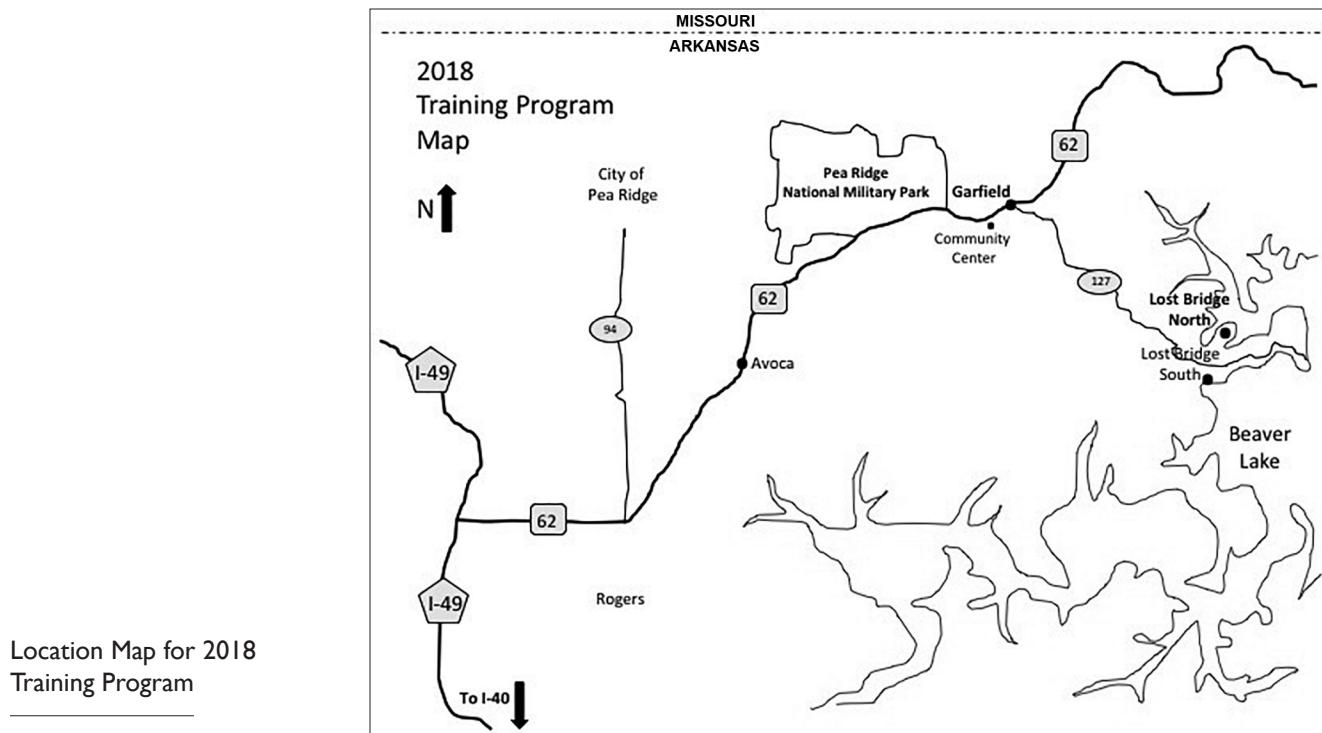
Woodsprings Suites – 1201 Phyllis St., Bentonville (479) 254-1002 woodspring.com (14.4 miles)

TownPlace Suites by Marriot – 3100 Southeast 14th St., Bentonville (479) 621-0202 marriot.com (13.9 miles)

Society Campground

IMPORTANT – Please read!!! The Society campground will be located at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lost Bridge North, which is on the shores of Beaver Lake in the Ozarks. The area is very scenic with hiking trails and swimming areas. There are fire rings, picnic tables, drinking water stations, two vault toilets and one water flush toilet. There is a shower building with two showers for women and two for men. Additional showers can be found at Lost Bridge South (not far from North).

The group camping area and 12 RV sites have been secured and prepaid by the Society to keep all camping participants together as much as possible. The group camping area will be for tent campers, especially those not needing electricity. It can accommodate



Location Map for 2018
Training Program

up to 40 tents and has a pavilion with picnic tables, a fire ring and a grill. Electricity for tent campers will be **very limited** this year. Generators are **not** allowed. The camp sites have electricity and will be reserved for RVs. One tent is allowed to camp with each RV spot. Wifi should be available. **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 within Lost Bridge North or Lost Bridge South. There is also an overflow camping area between North and South. The campground attendant and Society Camp Boss will work with you to locate a spot.

Refunds for camping will **only** be made for pre-paid Society Campground campers who arrive and are **unable** to secure a Society camp spot and need to camp in a non-Society spot at Lost Bridge. Non-Society camping spots are pricing around \$20 a night, depending on the spot.

The Society camping spots are reserved from Friday, June 8 through Saturday, June 23. Check-out for campers that are still there on Sunday, June 24, is 3 pm. Payment to the Society is as follows: tents – \$9

per night; pop-ups – \$12 per night; RVs – \$15 per night. If you come early or stay longer, you will need to make your reservations through recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777. **This is also true if you decide to reserve a non-Society camping spot.**

Food and Ice

Each person will be responsible for his/her own meals. The Lost Bridge Marina (Lost Bridge North) and the Shortstop Conoco gas station at Hwy 62 and Co. Rd. 127 have ice and some grocery and sundry items for sale. There is a Walmart and a Marvin's Food Store in the city of Pea Ridge. You should bring lunch with you each day, regardless of whether you will be working in the field, in the lab, or attending seminar. Vans will be shuttling people back and forth between the sites, the Park facilities, and the Community Center at lunchtime. Vans will not be going back to camp.

Check-In and Orientation

Our workday starts at 6:30 in the morning, so you should arrive the day before you intend to start your first day of work. When you arrive, your first stop should be at Headquarters to check in and collect your 2nd Packet. Headquarters will be open from 6:00 am

Field Notes

to 5:00 pm. If you are camping, check in with the Lost Bridge attendant and find the Camp Boss who will help you find a camping spot. Campground check-in is 3:00 pm ending at 9:00 pm. No set-up after 10:00 pm. That is when quiet hours begin. Give yourself extra time to set up your tent or camper. Announcements and work schedules will be posted in camp and on the door at Headquarters.

You may come to the Training Program for as long or short a time as you like, but all first-time attendees must attend the **Beginners' Orientation** prior to participating. Beginners' Orientation will be scheduled each morning, as needed, beginning June 9, with the final Beginners' Orientation at 5:30 pm on Monday evening, June 18th (our day off for rest, recreation, laundry, etc.). For "old timers," short orientation will be conducted at the site, as needed, through June 20.

Daily Schedule

We will start the workday at 6:30 am when the vans will leave for the site. 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 supper and any evening programs or other activities. A detailed schedule of all activities, seminars, evening programs, and special events will be in the 2nd Packet that you will pick up at Headquarters when you arrive. There are no seminars on Saturday and Sunday, June 9–10 and June 16–17. These are full days of work at the site and in the lab. There will be one day off on Monday, June 18, with no work at the site or in the lab. The second week of seminar classes runs from Tuesday, June 19 through Saturday, June 23.

Potluck and Special Meals

Sunday, June 17, we will have a potluck get-together at the Community Center and there will be two special dinners on the Wednesday evenings at camp. Everyone is invited to attend. More details to follow in the 1st Packet.

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 profes-

sional archeologists with the Arkansas Archeological Survey. They are open to all Training Program registrants if the seminar has not been filled. You must register for seminars in advance on the Registration Form. **There is no registration for seminars "at the door."**

New participants are urged to sign up for one of the Basic Seminars: Basic Excavation, Basic Lab, or Site Survey. Basic Excavation is especially recommended. Some of the Basic Seminars also serve to fulfill prerequisite requirements for the Advanced and Special Seminars offered. Seminars are typically scheduled for five days.

Basic Excavation and Battlefield Archeology are full day seminars with fieldwork in the morning and class work in the afternoon. The rest of the seminars meet for half days, either morning or afternoon. Those enrolled in half day seminars will be assigned to work in the lab or field during the other half day, depending upon where the most help is needed.

Assignment of Activities

The assignment sheet will be posted as soon as possible each evening 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 made in advance and first brought to the Training Program Directors (Drs. Brandon and Drexler) for approval and then communicated to the Liaison (Marilyn Knapp) at Headquarters.

Tools of the Trade

You will 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, Survey and Society publications, and memorabilia. **You will need to bring**

some items with you from home: a clipboard to hold all your paperwork, sturdy gloves, pencils, and a metal file to keep your trowel edges sharp. A list of recommended supplies will be in the 1st Packet that will be sent to registrants. We can take credit cards at Headquarters, but remember to bring your checkbook or cash as backup in case technology fails us!

Cancellations and Refunds

If you need to cancel your attendance at the Training Program, please be sure to contact Marilyn Knapp (mxj02@uark.edu or 479-575-3557) and let her know. All cancellations made by **May 16** will receive a full refund. Cancellations after May 16 will not receive a refund except refunds for camping fees to those campers who arrive and who are unable to secure a Society camp spot.

Weather and Wildlife

You can generally count on the weather to be hot and very unpredictable in Arkansas in the summer-time. Come prepared for any kind of weather. Be sure to bring plenty of insect repellent for ticks, chiggers, and mosquitoes. The sites are in an open field but we will have sunshades out there to provide protection from the sun and lots of water! Be sure to 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 and pick up the trash at the site before coming in from the field each day. There will likely be rain, even some strong thunderstorms, so be prepared with rain gear too and close up your tent before leaving for daily activities. Sturdy boots are also a good idea.

The Bottom Line

This is the most inexpensive archeological training experience available within the United States. What better way to learn about Arkansas archeology and do archeology the right way? If you are reading this and considering registering for the Training Program, that means that you share the same interests as so many Arkansas Archeological Society members before you and currently! The love of the outdoors, the love of people, history, prehistory, anthropology, archeology and learning, participating and contributing to something that will benefit more than just you. You are a volunteer! You matter. If you attend this dig you will find more than just dirt, sweat, and bug bites. You will find old friends, new friends, camaraderie, and just plain fun. Come join the fun!

