

The 2022 Training Program

Carl Drexler – Arkansas Archeological Survey, Magnolia



I miss you people. The past few years have been hard on everyone for a lot of reasons, obviously, but I have felt very keenly the loss of our annual June gathering. The collaboration, the fellowship, the enlightenment, and the pure joy of feeling dirt between my fingertips in company with so many different people is genuinely one of my favorite parts of my annual calendar. We (the Survey and the Society) have tried to make a go of a training program in 2020 and 2021, and both times it was the best choice to wait to come back together when it looked like we could do so without endangering our friends and the community that hosts us. So, with a deep intake of breath and a crossing of our collective fingers, we are trying again. Let's hope it sticks.

So, here's the plan... First, let's acknowledge that this is going to be a different experience than what we had the last time we were together. We've lost some friends, and there's been a lot of turnover in the Survey, so there are going to be some new faces, and there is going to be a need to get to know each other and catch up with friendly faces we haven't seen in a while. I'm trying to structure things so that there are few hiccups and misadventures, but patience will be required.

Second, this year is going to build on the 2019 Training Program and is going to be set up in similar

fashion. The laboratory portion is going to heavily emphasize processing existing collections while the field program will focus on Lockesburg Mounds. If you were with us last time in DeQueen, you know a bit about what to expect. Let's get a little deeper into the plans...

The Sites

Two of the sites we will busy ourselves with will be familiar, the third is less-so. Our old friends are the two sites we worked on in 2019: Holman Springs (2SV29) and Lockesburg Mounds (3SV48). Holman Springs is a large Caddo saltworks that was the subject of the 1985 and 1986 Training Programs. It lies west of DeQueen on the Rolling Fork River and, prior to the 1970s, had two mounds present. Unlike most Caddo mounds, these were composed almost entirely of broken pottery, the remains of saltmaking vessels. The Training Programs in the 1980s earned the site the tag line "more sherds than dirt," and resulted in a collection of over 400 boxes that, for various reasons, were never analyzed. You folks worked through most of that collection last time, and we plan to finish that

Above, Basic Excavation class at Lockesburg Mounds in 2019. Photo by Rachel Tebbetts.



process this year.

The field program will, once again, focus on Lockesburg Mounds. Unlike Holman Springs, which was a site focused on production, Lockesburg Mounds was a ceremonial center, and consisted of as many as 13 mounds arranged primarily in a horseshoe shape the bow of which faces Sycamore Creek, which was probably the main channel of the Cossatot River when the Caddos built the site. Despite the size of the site and the immediately apparent significance to the region, we know very little about it. It does not receive mention in the only partial synopsis of our archeological knowledge of the area. It is also notable for the stunning level of destruction done to the site in the 1980s by local relic hunters, who broke open every mound on the site with a backhoe.

The new addition to the program this time around is Bayou Sel (3CL27), which is not a site that the Society has had much to do with over the years. As the

The late Larry Porter (ARAS-WRI) and Carl Drexler discuss a site map at Mound A, Lockesburg Mounds. Photo by Rachel Tebbetts.

site number might clue you in, it isn't even in the De-Queen area. It's a Clark County site, so it's not even in my station territory. So, why are we including it? Well, Bayou Sel is, like Holman Springs, a Caddo saltworks. You all demonstrated in 2019 that, with the training in the Caddo Ceramics class, you could produce a body of data from a massive saltworks excavation, so I feel comfortable in placing a parallel collection in your literal hands. Bayou Sel has a long history within Arkansas archeology, and it is high time that the data we have on hand from the site be prepared. Cyrus Thomas visited the site in the late 1800s, and Philip Phillips dug there in the 1930s. It was one of Frank Schambach's first projects when he started with the Survey in the late 1960s.

What Are We Going to Do?

Once again, our program will be split into laboratory and field portions, with the former having a heavy emphasis on working with old collections. Dr. Mary Beth Trubitt will be our lab director and will also be teaching the Advanced Laboratory class again with a focus on Caddo Ceramics. This will be the vehicle by which we conclude the analysis of Holman Springs and start (and, hopefully, finish) Bayou Sel. Given the huge number of artifacts you all worked through last time, I believe we can wrap up the analysis of both of those collections during this year's program.

Out at Lockesburg Mounds, well, there will be a LOT going on. We are going to have three excavation areas, each supervised by a team of Survey and Society people. We will have people working on Mound A, the large platform mound where we were in 2019, but focused on a different portion of it. We were on the side of the mound last time, but this time we will be working on the middle of the mound, cutting profiles in the open relic hunter pits from the 1980s. This will augment our understanding of the construction history of the mound and the site more generally.

Our Basic Excavation class will be out at Mound E



Profile trench, dug along the edge of a 1980s backhoe trench, descending the front face of Mound A at Lockesburg Mounds. Photo by Rachel Tebbetts.

again. The 2019 Training Program found a portion of a structure, apparently the center. This time, we will be looking for its edges. Our new area of focus is a place called Mound I, which is a footprint of a mound identified in geophysical surveys back in 2018, but is not apparent on the landscape. I hope this work allows us to understand how the Caddos connected this mound to the others on the site, and perhaps lets us know when it was disturbed and knocked flat. Reconstructing the 20th century history of relic hunting on the site is one aspect of this research, and Mound I could shed some light.

We are offering the usual basic seminars, including Basic Lab and Basic Excavation during both weeks, so you can sign up however you want, if you're a first timer. Basic Excavation will be taught by Gary Knudsen and Katy Gregory. Basic Lab will be the bailiwick of... once again... Katy Gregory (thanks, Katy!) and Michelle

Rathgaber. As mentioned above, Dr. Trubitt will teach Advanced Lab/Caddo Ceramics, and we are happy to offer Site Survey with Dr. Robert Scott. Finally, I am thrilled to announce that we will have Dr. Julie Morrow teaching the Lithics class!

Logistics

Our home base will be, once again, the Adams Building at UA-Cossatot in DeQueen. The folks there are eager to see us back, and we are thrilled to have this place to work. There are hotels and restaurants in DeQueen for those who want to stay in town. Marilyn Knapp has been working very diligently to give you pointers on these places elsewhere in this issue.

Camping will be, once again, at DeQueen Lake. Marilyn already has these arranged, and they are a great place to be, so if you want the after-hours camaraderie, bring your tent!

But Carl, the Pandemic is Not Over

Yes, I know. As the parent of a not-yet-vaccinated child, oh boy, do I know. The plan as laid out above assumes that the situation that will confront us come June will be such that holding the training program is a wise decision and we can do so in a safe and healthy way. Sitting here months out from that point, we just cannot know how that will be, so I want you to understand that I, the Survey's leadership, and the Society's Executive Committee are keeping an eye on conditions and will be working together as we get closer to the event to make sure that holding the program remains a good decision. If we decide that it's not, we will decide that together and let you know as soon as we can. Masking policies, social distancing guidelines, and such will likely be in force in some fashion, and we will have that information to you before you come. Those guidelines will have to consider UA-Cossatot policies, University of Arkansas standards, etc., so we don't know right now what those will be in June.

The Archeological Impact

Despite these challenges, we are poised to make some great contributions to the archeological history of southwest Arkansas and the Caddos. Concluding

the analysis on Holman Springs and Bayou Sel will allow us to fill in some major gaps in our understanding of Caddo saltmaking in Arkansas. Beyond the importance of better understanding this practice, saltmaking is a window into foodways, economic activity, external relations with other peoples, and a host of larger topics.

Developing a fuller understanding of Lockesburg Mounds will help us fill in our picture of deep history in the Little River Region, which right now is a story that does not include this major ceremonial site in a meaningful way. That gap really changes how we think about Caddo culture and society, so furthering our project here is significant, and I'm really excited to be able to explore these questions further.

So, that's the plan. Until we get to June, please continue to look after your health and I look forward to seeing you all in the field once again. It has been too long.

Further Reading

Drexler, Carl

- 2019 2019 Training Program in Southwest Arkansas, Come Make an Impact this Summer! *Field Notes* 407:3–5.
- 2019 The June 2019 Training Program in Southwest Arkansas, a Summary. <https://archeology.uark.edu/2019trainingprogramsummary/>

Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program: Lockesburg Mounds

June 4–18, 2022 | De Queen, Arkansas

Where, When, What & Who

The 2022 Training Program is a collaborative project between the Arkansas Archeological Survey and the Arkansas Archeological Society. The Training Program, which will begin Saturday, June 4, and continue through Saturday, June 18, will be held in De Queen, Arkansas, in the southwestern part of the state. Our main base of operations will be at the University of Arkansas-Cossatot. Station Archeologist, Dr. Carl Drexler, Arkansas Archeological Survey – SAU, will be directing the Training Program..

Membership

Participants must be current (2022) members of the Arkansas Archeological Society. Please go to the Society's website to become a member or to renew your membership: arkarch.org.

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. Please give the age of each child under 18 on the Registration Form. Minimum age 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 6. After May 6, late registration will incur a \$15 extra late registration fee. **Registration closes May 20!** No exceptions. Registrants must sign and return the accompanying Project Participation Agreement, Release, and Waiver, and the Code of Conduct form with their registrations. 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.

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. Marilyn Knapp will contact you to request more information.

Directions

The Training Program Headquarters will be at the Adams Agricultural Building on the UA-Cossatot campus located off of US 70 West (W. Collin Raye Dr.), 183 College Dr., De Queen—about two hours and 34 minutes' drive (145 miles) southwest on US 70 West from Little Rock; about an hour drive (55 miles) north on US 71 North from Texarkana; two hours and 39 minutes' drive (138 miles) south from I-40 on US 71 South. See the map on page 8.

Facilities

The AAS Headquarters, field lab, and seminars will be located in the Adams Agricultural Building. Beginners' Orientation and the evening programs will be held in the Skilled Trades Building.

Check-In

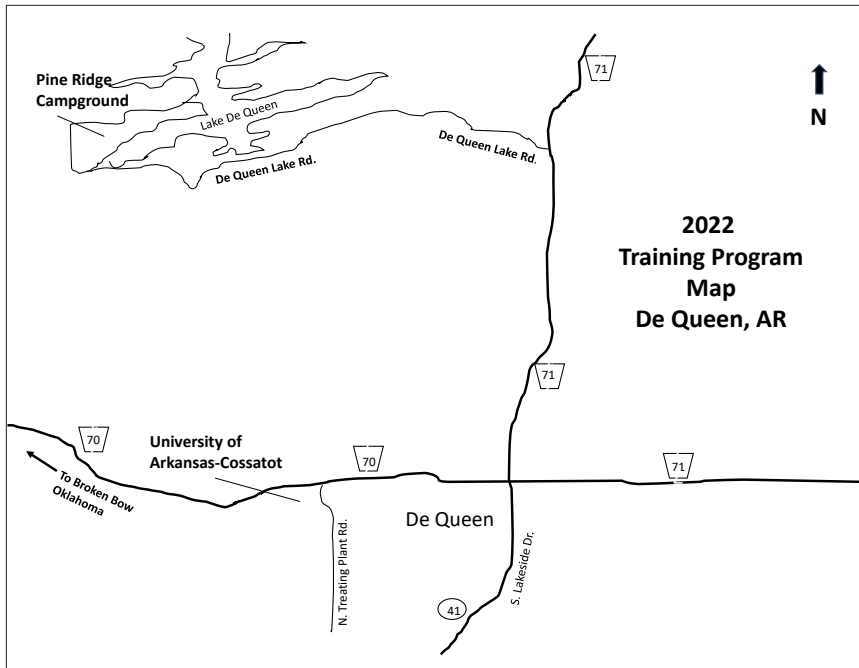
Our workday starts at 7:00 in the morning, so you should **arrive the day before** you intend to start your first day of work. When you first arrive, your first stop should be at Headquarters to check in and collect your 2nd Packet of information and name badge. Headquarters will be staffed each work day from **6:30 am until 5:00 pm**.

Accommodations

Motels and Lodges

Call or visit websites for rates, amenities, and availability. Mileage noted below indicates the distance to Headquarters at the UA-Cossatot campus.

- De Queen Courtyard Inn, 111 Hwy 71, De Queen, (870) 642-2034, dequeencourtyardinn.com (2.3 miles)



Map of the De Queen / UA-Cossatot / Pine Ridge Campground area.

- Palace Motel, 607 W. Collin Raye Dr., De Queen, (870) 642-9627, palacemotel.us (1.4 miles)
- Western Plaza Inn, 110 Hwy 71, De Queen, (870) 642-6990, westernplaza.com (2.2 miles)
- The Lodge at De Queen Country Club, Club House Dr., De Queen, (870) 642-8800 (5.3 miles)

**Society Campground
IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!**

The Society campground will be located at the US Army Corps of Engineers’ Pine Ridge, which is located on the shores of Lake De Queen. There are fire rings, picnic tables, electrical (30 and 50 amp) hook-ups, and water at the camp sites. There are two new shower buildings each with two showers for women and two for men. There is no designated swimming at the campground but campers can swim at their own risk.

Ten RV sites have been secured and prepaid by the Society to keep all camping participants together as much as possible. Just like last time, we will be sharing RV sites with tent campers; a maximum of two tents per site with 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 at Pine Ridge in the non-reservable sites or non-electrical sites or other accommodations. The campground attendant and Society Camp Boss will work with you to locate a spot.

Refunds for camping will only be made for those who arrive and are unable to secure their pre-paid Society camp spot, and need to camp in a non-Society spot at Pine Ridge. Non-Society camping spots are pricing around \$18 a night, depending on the spot.

The Society camping spots are reserved Wednesday, June 1 through Saturday, June 18. Check out for campers that are still there on Sunday, June 19, is 5 pm. Payment to the Society is as follows: tents - \$9 per night; pop-ups - \$12 per night; and, RVs - \$15 per night. If you come earlier 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 camp in a non-Society camping spot, although most non-Society camping spots are “walk-up” only.

The main road to Pine Ridge is De Queen Lake Rd., just off of Hwy. 71. If that road is flooded, use Bellah Mine Rd., approximately 5 miles north of De Queen Lake Rd. Follow the signs. Call the Army Corps of Engineers Office at 501-324-5655 to find

out the status of the road. When you arrive, find the Society Camp Boss who will help you find a camping spot and then check in with the campground attendant. Campground check in is 6:00 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.

Transportation

Transportation to and from the sites will be by vans. All participants who are camping will need to meet at the designated spot at camp to ride in the vans going to Headquarter, lab, and seminars, and from there, to the sites. There is limited parking available at camp. Those participants not staying in the camp (staying in hotels or commuting from home), can park at the UA-Cossatot, Adams Agricultural building parking area. The vans will stop there to pick up anyone needing to go the field.

Food and Ice

Each person is responsible for their own meals. There are several stores in De Queen 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. Vans will not be returning to camp for lunch.

Basic Schedule

You may come to the Training Program for as long or short a time as you like. Please note: **WE WORK EVERY DAY**, except Monday, June 13, our only day off. We will start the workday at 7:00 am when the vans will leave for the site from UA-Cossatot. For campers, the vans will leave the campground at 6:30 am, heading to UA-Cossatot. Lunch break will be from 10:30–11:30 am, and the work day ends at 3:30 pm, allowing attendees time to rest and relax before supper and attending any evening talk or other activity. A detailed schedule of all activities, seminars, evening programs, and special events will be in the 2nd 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. Some important dates are shown on the table.

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| June 3 | Friday | Set up camp, Headquarters, and Lab Staff and Supervisors Meeting at 4:00pm First Beginners' Orientation at 5:30pm |
| June 4 | Saturday | Lab, Field Activities begin at 7:00am (van pick-up from camp is at 6:30am) |
| June 6 | Monday | 1st Session Seminars start |
| June 10 | Friday | Last day of 1st Session Seminars |
| June 13 | Monday | Day off! No field or lab activities New Supervisors meeting at 5:00pm Last Beginners' Orientation at 5:30pm! |
| June 14 | Tuesday | 2nd Session Seminars start |
| June 18 | Saturday | Last day of 2nd Session Seminars |
| June 19 | Sunday | Close excavations (if needed) and pack up |

Orientations

All first-time attendees must attend the Beginners' Orientation prior to participating. Beginners' Orientations are scheduled this year as follows:

- Friday, June 3 (5:30 pm)
- Saturday, June 4 (7:00 am)
- Sunday, June 5 (7:00 am)
- Monday, June 6 (7:00 am)
- Friday, June 10 (7:00 am)
- Saturday, June 11 (7:00 am)
- Sunday, June 12 (7:00 am)
- Monday, June 13 (5:30 pm)

Please indicate which Orientation you will attend when registering. If none of the scheduled Orientations work for your plans, please contact Marilyn Knapp to discuss (mxj02@uark.edu or 479-575-3557). For "old-timers," short orientation will be conducted at the site, as needed, through June 15.

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 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 are no registrations for seminars "at the door." If you want to take a seminar, be sure to register early. Seminars fill up fast!

New participants are urged to sign up for one of the Basic Seminars: Basic Excavation, Basic Lab,

Field Notes

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 and Sunday, June 4–5 and June 11–12. Some seminars have a limit on the number of participants. Seminars may be subject to cancellation if fewer than 3 people register.

Seminars – Session 1

Monday, June 6 through Friday, June 10

- **Basic Excavation:** Gary Knudsen (Full-day seminar)
- **Basic Lab:** Katy Gregory (Half-day seminar)
- **Advanced Lab/Caddo Ceramics:** Mary Beth Trubitt (Full-day seminar); Prerequisite, Basic Lab
- **Lithics:** Julie Morrow (Half-day seminar); Prerequisites, Basic Excavation & Basic Lab

Seminars – Session 2

Tuesday, June 14 through Saturday, June 18

- **Basic Excavation:** Katy Gregory (Full-day seminar)
- **Basic Lab:** Michelle Rathgaber (Half-day seminar)
- **Site Survey:** Bob Scott (Half-day seminar)

Assignment of Activities

The assignment sheet will be posted as soon as possible each evening at Headquarters and at camp 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 (this year, Carl Drexler) for approval and then communicated to the Liaison (Marilyn Knapp) at Headquarters. The Training Program Director will make final assignments and participants must abide by the decision.

1st Packet of Information

Registrants will receive a detailed information packet and seminar assignment information shortly after May 16. Please indicate on the Registration Form if you would like to receive the information packet by email. A 2nd 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, Survey and Society 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 1st Packet of information 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!

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. We will have sunshades out there to provide protection from the sun and lots of water so be sure to bring a water bottle! 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. 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 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, science, 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!!!!

"We're Back!"

