



INDEX OF TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY

Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State

Volume 2019

Article 9

2019

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Current Research: Archiving our History, Publishing Results: Current Research at the Arkansas Archeological Survey's Henderson State University Research Station

Mary Beth Trubitt

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At the Arkansas Archeological Survey's Henderson State University (HSU) Research Station, we continue to inventory curated artifact collections. The research station has been on the HSU campus in Arkadelphia since 1967, and our collections include artifacts, photographs, maps, and field and lab records from projects as well as artifact donations from local residents. Field notes and lab forms have been scanned and archived on the server, and we are in the process of scanning the station's collection of 14,000 color slides. Assisted by volunteers, we have been inventorying artifacts, updating station databases, and submitting site revisit forms to the Registrar's Office. This inventory project has spurred new research and efforts to disseminate results of older field investigations.

Chelsea Cinotto presented a talk to the 2018 Caddo Conference on results of one of these projects. Her analysis of pottery sherds and other

artifacts established a Late Caddo period age (A.D. 1400s-1500s) for a pit feature excavated at the Caddo Hills site (3MN22) in 1973. She wrote a summary article and submitted it to *The Arkansas Archeologist* for publication. Her next project will be an analysis of two Survey testing projects at nineteenth-century houses in Arkadelphia, one at Magnolia Manor (3CL768) in 2002 and the other at the James E. M. Barkman House (3CL450) in 1990 and 1993. Mary Beth Trubitt and Chelsea Cinotto presented a preliminary paper on this work at the South Central Historical Archaeology Conference in October 2018.

As collections from Survey research stations are inventoried, information is added to the "Arkansas Novaculite: A Virtual Comparative Collection" website database. Using an online form, professional and avocational archeologists across the Caddo Area can add data to the map (Figure 1) showing the distribution

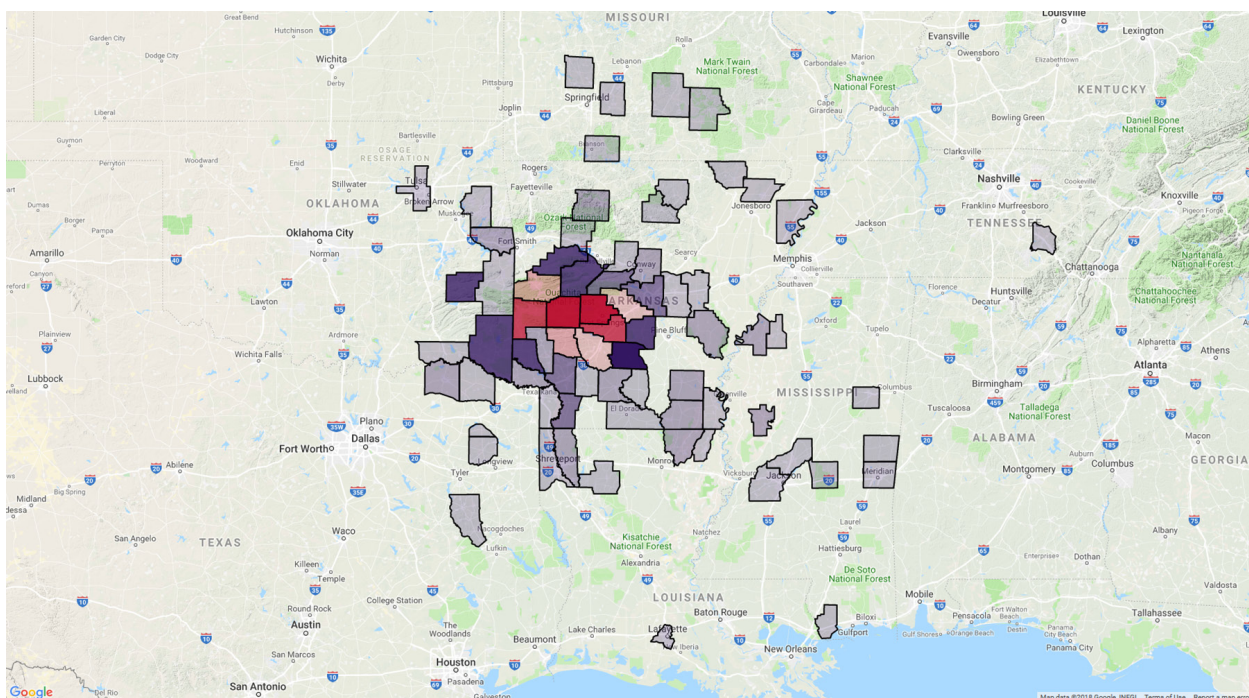


Figure 1. Map from the "Arkansas Novaculite: A Virtual Comparative Collection" website showing source counties in red and counties where novaculite artifacts have been found in purple (map created using Google Maps by John Samuelsen).



Figure 2. Projectile points from the Jones Mill site.

of novaculite artifacts beyond the Ouachita Mountains source area (<http://archeology.uark.edu/novaculite/index.html?pageName=Sourcing%20Novaculite>). Mary Beth Trubitt and John Samuelsen presented a poster at the 2018 Southeastern Archaeological Conference that shows temporal changes in the extent and direction of novaculite artifact distribution, based on data on typed projectile points.

In January 2018, we completed a multi-year project to document and photograph pottery vessels in the Joint Educational Consortium's (JEC) Hodges Collection. Resulting from work by local avocational archeologists Thomas and Charlotte Hodges and Vere Huddleston in the 1930s and 1940s, this major collection is curated at HSU. Chelsea Cinotto completed data entry on 1,352 vessels, and Mary Beth Trubitt wrote and submitted an article on artifacts from eight ancestral

Caddo sites near Arkadelphia to *Caddo Archeology Journal* (see this issue). Plans are now underway to move the JEC Hodges Collection to the renovated Caddo Center on the HSU campus for curation and display.

Analysis, interpretation, and writing continues on the Jones Mill (3HS28) excavations in 2007-2008 and the Dragover (3MN298) excavations from 2013-2014. Public talks on both projects served as inspiration for a short book manuscript on "Ouachita Mountains Archeology" that Mary Beth Trubitt wrote and submitted to the Survey's Popular Series. He presented a poster (Figure 2) on the spatial and temporal distribution of dart and arrow points at Jones Mill to the Arkansas Archeological Society's 2018 annual meeting. While a mixture of point types were found in upper strata, only Archaic period forms were in lower levels at the site.

The Arkansas Archeological Society awarded Trubitt an Archeological Research Fund grant in September 2018 to obtain a radiocarbon date on charred nutshell from a Dragover site feature that also contained sherds of Cooper Boneware. The AMS date result of 1050-895 cal B.C. supports this Fourche Maline type as the earliest pottery in the Trans-Mississippi South (details to be published in the Society's *Field Notes* newsletter).

Archeological sites in Clark, Garland, Polk, and Pike counties were added to the Arkansas site files database (AMASDA) by station staff in 2018. Chelsea Cinotto assisted the Natural Resources Conservation Service with site investigations in Saline County, worked with Meeks Etchieson to survey sites in Clark County, assisted the Survey's Southern Arkansas University (Magnolia) at Prairie D'Ane battlefield in Nevada County, and assisted with the annual Society Training Program excavations at Pea Ridge in Benton County. Working with the local cemetery committee, Cinotto and Trubitt completed mapping at the Mount Tabor Cemetery in Dallas County

Mary Beth Trubitt serves as editor for *Southeastern Archaeology*, the journal of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. The April 2018 issue featured "Ear Spools, Ceramics, and Burial Mounds from Southwest Missouri: Caddoan and Spiro Connections on the Northern Frontier" by Jack H. Ray. The editor welcomes submissions on current research on the archaeology and history of the Caddo Area (see <https://tandfonline.com/toc/ysea20/current>).