INDEX OF TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY

Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State

Volume 2020

Article 8

2020

2019 Activities Report

Michael Meeks
Caddo Culture Club

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita>

Part of the [American Material Culture Commons](#), [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#), [Environmental Studies Commons](#), [Other American Studies Commons](#), [Other Arts and Humanities Commons](#), [Other History of Art, Architecture, and Archaeology Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Tell us how this article helped you.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Regional Heritage Research at SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Index of Texas Archaeology: Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State by an authorized editor of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

2019 Activities Report

Creative Commons License

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)

Caddo Culture Club

2019 Activities Report

Michael Meeks, President

2019 was an eventful year for our small organization, and for the Caddo Tribe as well. We enjoyed gathering for many events and functions throughout the previous twelve months, but none were more memorable than our trip to the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site near Alto, TX, as many might already know. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support of the Caddo Nation and its members, myself included. Your thoughts, prayers, and support have been heard and received by many and for that I am forever grateful. I offer a special thank you to my friends with the Caddo Conference Organization for extending the opportunity of submitting this report.

2019 Caddo Conference

This past March, we all gathered at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, AR for the 61st Annual Caddo Conference. This year's exhibits featured Caddo artists in various forms. From pottery and beadwork to contemporary sculptures and photography, many different points of view were highlighted, showing that Caddo art is still as relevant as ever. The Caddo Culture Club, in conjunction with the Metro Caddo Culture Club of Oklahoma City, concluded this year's conference with a showcase of traditional Caddo singing and dancing. We look forward to the upcoming Caddo Conference being held in Tyler, TX.

Caddo Culture Day at Caddo Mounds SHS

Every April, the Caddo Culture Club, along with members of the Caddo Nation travel to the annual Caddo Culture Day festival at the Caddo Mounds Historic Site near Alto, TX. For the first half of the festival, our day was dampened by inclement weather and rain, but we were fortunate enough to utilize the inside of the visitor's center for the continuation of our performances. During an exhibition of Caddo singing, we lost electricity in the building. Only moments later our location was struck by a verified F-3 tornado. The visitors center was almost completely leveled, and the traditional Caddo grass house was gone. This became a trying time for everyone involved and we continue to think of those who are still healing from this event, as well as their families. Many thanks to the Caddo and Delaware Nations of Oklahoma for their quick response in providing transportation and other resources for affected tribal members.

Caddo Festival at Sam Noble Museum

Our first gathering after the events at Caddo Mounds brought the first step in a long healing journey. Injuries and scars were still visible throughout the event. We took part in an exhibition of tribal singing and dancing and received a prayer and smudging from a tribal elder. We looked past the trauma that was sustained and used our songs and dances to help provide healing, as our ancestors might have once done, knowing that for many, this was only the first step in healing.

Caddo Culture Club Annual Dance and Murrow Family Annual Powwow

In June, we gathered at the Caddo Tribal dance grounds for our 27th Annual Dance and at the Murrow family dance grounds for their annual powwow. Our event featured the 2017-2019 Delaware Nation Princess, Ms. Angel Kionute, as an honored guest for her devotion to our organization's events. At the Murrow Family Powwow, we took part in three nights of singing and dancing that featured intertribal showcases and exhibitions from members of the Kiowa tribe's Oh-Ho-Mah Society. We are currently underway in the planning process of our 2020 annual dance. We welcome and invite everyone to this event!

Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays

During the Fall and Winter seasons, we organized a Fall Caddo Social Dance and Holiday toy drive for the community. While Thanksgiving generally carries negative connotations for many First Nations people, we do not let that stop us from having a great feast! At our November Social Dance, we provided a full holiday meal to everyone who was present and spent the greater part of the evening rejoicing in traditional Caddo singing and dancing. This event helped start our holiday toy drive. This year, we provided toys to the Wichita Community Church in Anadarko, OK for their efforts in providing gifts for underprivileged children in the local community.

Grand Reopening at Caddo Mounds

On January 11, 2020 many people returned to the Caddo Mounds Historic Site for their grand reopening. A temporary visitor's center has been reopened and the traditional Snake Woman's garden has been cultivated once again. In honor of their efforts, and as a sign of healing, a cedar tree that is a traditional sign to the Caddo people was planted in the garden. We look forward to returning to Caddo Mounds and one day seeing a new visitors center and Caddo grass house.

Many thanks, again, to the Caddo Conference Organization for their continued support of Caddo culture, heritage, and history.

The Caddo Culture Club is a non-profit organization located in Binger, Oklahoma that works to preserve and teach traditional Caddo singing and dancing. You can find us on Facebook (@CaddoCultureClub) to see our upcoming events and activities or for more information about us!