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Thomas H. Guderjan  
*University of Texas at Tyler*

E. Cory Sills  
*University of Texas at Tyler*

C. Colleen Hanratty  
*University of Texas at Tyler*

Keith Eppich  
*Tyler Junior College*

Amanda Regnier  
*Oklahoma Archeological Survey*

*See next page for additional authors*

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## Report: The 62nd Annual Caddo Conference and 27th Annual East Texas Archeological Conference, Tyler, Texas, February 28 and 29, 2020

### Authors

Thomas H. Guderjan, E. Cory Sills, C. Colleen Hanratty, Keith Eppich, Amanda Regnier, Christy Simmons, Anthony Souther, and Mark Walters

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## Report:

### The 62nd Annual Caddo Conference and 27th Annual East Texas Archeological Conference, Tyler, Texas, February 28 and 29, 2020

**Thomas H. Guderjan<sup>1</sup>, E. Cory Sills<sup>1</sup>, C. Colleen Hanratty<sup>1</sup>, Keith Eppich<sup>2</sup>, Amanda Regnier<sup>3</sup>, Christy Simmons<sup>1</sup>, Anthony Souther<sup>4</sup>, and Mark Walters<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>University of Texas at Tyler, <sup>2</sup>Tyler Junior College, <sup>3</sup>Oklahoma Archeological Survey,

<sup>4</sup>Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, <sup>5</sup>Texas Historical Commission Steward

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The 62nd Caddo Conference and 27th East Texas Archeological Conference was held at the University Center on the campus of the University of Texas at Tyler on February 28 and 29, 2020. The conference was dedicated to the rebuilding of public facilities at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site. These facilities had been destroyed by a tornado in 2019. The conference organizers were Thomas Guderjan, Colleen Hanratty, Cory Sills, Christy Simmons (University of Texas at Tyler), Keith Eppich (Tyler Junior College), Anthony Souther (Caddo Mounds State Historic Site), Amanda Regnier (Oklahoma Archeological Survey), Mark Walters (Texas Historical Commission Steward). Sponsors included The Center for Social Science Research and Department of Social Sciences, University of Texas at Tyler, Humanities Texas, Kevin Stingley, Arkansas Archeological Survey, Beta Analytic, Inc., Friends of Northeast Texas Archeology, East Texas Archeological Society, Maya Research Program, Tejas Archeology, Tyler Junior College, Gregg County Historical Museum, the American Indian Heritage Day of Texas organization, and the Caddo Nation. Before the formal program began, a preconference gathering was held at ETX Brewing Company at 221 S Broadway Avenue in Tyler on Thursday evening, February 27th. Approximately 250 people participated in the joint conferences.

Throughout both days, Caddo artists exhibited, sold and discussed their work with the participants. The artists included: Chase Kahwinhut Earles (Ceramics, Oral), Chad Earles (Ceramics, Oral), Wayne Earles (Ceramics, Oral), Jeri Redcorn (Ceramics, Oral), Alaina Tahlata (Oral), Michael Meeks (drummer),

Caddo Culture Club (Dance, Music), Metro Culture Club (Dance, Music). A portion of the Gregg County Historical Museum's Caddo archaeology exhibit was moved to the University Center and on exhibit throughout the conference (Figure 1).

Also concurrently exhibited was a collection of Caddo pottery at Tyler Junior College. The exhibit was curated by Dr. Keith Eppich.

The first session on Friday morning included a welcome by Tom Guderjan, followed by three presentations: (1) *Paying History Forward: Engaging the Public in the History of Place* by Gary Pinkerton; (2) *The Past, Present, and Future of Aerial Archaeology at Northwestern State University of Louisiana: Looking Back, Looking Ahead* by Tommy Ike Hailey and J.D. Cox; and (3) *Interpreting Caddo Effigy Vessels through Technology, Stories, and Dance* by Mary Beth Trubitt, George Sabo III, and Teka McGlothlin.

After a coffee break the presentations continued with four presentations: (1) *Biologically Available Pb: A Method for Ancient Human Sourcing Using Pb Isotopes from Prehistoric Animal Teeth* by John R. Samuelsen and Adriana Potra; (2) *Update on the Analysis of the A.S. Mann Site (41AN201), a Late Caddo Village in the Upper Neches River Valley, Anderson County, Texas* by Waldo Troell, David Kelley, Erin Phillips, August G. Costa, Leslie L. Bush, Melanie Nichols, and Timothy K. Perttula; (3) *The Anthropology/Archaeology Lab at Stephen F. Austin State University, 2019* by Jennifer Luce, Ezra Jennings, Brian Cox, Michael Andrews, and George Avery; and (4) *Archeology at Amos, 1976 and 2020* by Tommie Cotton and Mary Beth Trubitt.



Figure 1. Caddo mural at the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures by George C. Nelson.

Lunch was hosted in The Met, the University Center cafeteria. The proximity of lunch to the meeting locations meant that no one had to leave the building or be late for the afternoon sessions.

In the afternoon, four presentations were offered: (1) *A Multi-Sensor Geophysical Survey of the Brackett site (34CK43) in Eastern Oklahoma* by Alexandra Flores; (2) *Examining Neosho Peoples and their Regional Interactions through Ceramic Design* by Paige Ford; (3) *The Dauber Site (34LF1624): Emergency Data Recovery Excavations at a Fort Coffee Phase Site on the Arkansas River* by Scott Hammerstedt, Amanda Regnier, Kary Stackelbeck, and Debra Green; and (4) *Understanding the Organization of a Pilgrimage at Spiro* by Patrick C. Livingood, Scott W. Hammerstedt, Jami J. Lockhart, Tim Mulvihill, Amanda L. Regnier, George Sabo III, and John R. Samuelsen. This was followed by a meeting of the membership of the Caddo Conference Organization.

At 4PM, the invited keynote address was presented by Dr. George Sabo III, Director of the Arkansas Archeological Survey (Figure 2). The topic was *The Archaeology of Caddo Storytelling*. Storytelling is a powerful instrument for teaching, learning, and creating new knowledge and information among communities around the world, including Native Americans past and present. Storytelling is primarily a dramatic performance that does not often yield a diagnostic material signature; to what extent, then, might such performances be reflected in the

archeological record? This presentation explores links between Caddo narrative traditions and artistic representation, using examples from fifteenth-century storytelling performances at the Spiro Ceremonial Center and early seventeenth-century performances by a coalescent community resident in the Carden Bottoms locality of central Arkansas.



Figure 2. Dr. George Sabo III presenting the keynote address.



On Saturday, the first session in the morning included presentations: (1) *The Long Site (41CE330), An Ancestral Caddo Site on Box's Creek in the Neches River Basin, Cherokee County, Texas* by Kevin Stingley and Tim Perttula; (2) *Jowell Knives in East Texas Caddo Sites* by Drew Sitters; and (3) *The Savoy Site (41LB27): A Major Trade Entrepot for Southeast Texas* by Wilson W. Crook III.

Following a coffee break, three presentations were offered: (1) *Interpreting Troy Adams (34FL33): A Fourche Maline Mound in Eastern Oklahoma* by Candace Parker; (2) *Introducing the Center for Environment, Biodiversity and Conservation* by Josh Banta; and (3) *Caddo Language & Songs: Ha'ahut danayoh, Hasinay dohkana'ah (Sing well, talk Caddo)* by Alaina Tahlate and Chad Earles.

Lunch was again held in The Met inside the University Center.

After lunch, the conferences were given a status report on the restoration work at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site: *The Disaster at Caddo Mounds and Future Plans* by Jeff Williams and Anthony Souther. This was followed by a roundtable discussion by artists: Jeri Redcorn, Chase Earles, Wayne Earles, Chad Earles,

Yonavea Hawkins, Tracy Burrows, Jenifer Reader. The discussion was led by Merrie Wright, Chair, Department of Art and Art History, University of Texas at Tyler.

After the roundtable discussion, the Caddo Culture Club, the Metro Culture Club and friends of the tribe, led by drumming by Michael Meeks, performed traditional Caddo Dances, in the new Patriot Plaza in front of the University Center, enhanced by spectacular weather (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Members of the Caddo Culture Club and Metro Caddo Culture Club exhibited the Caddo Drum Dance at the conclusion of the 62nd annual Caddo Conference and 27th annual East Texas Archeological Conference in Tyler.