



Leslie L. Bush

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Presentation,

“How to Build a Grass House: The Archaeology of Traditional Caddo Building Materials and Landscapes in East Texas”

Grass houses were a common sight in the Pineywoods of East Texas for more than a millennium before the Caddo people were removed to Oklahoma in 1859. Preserved plant materials and artifacts, remote sensing, archaeological excavations, and the traditional knowledge of contemporary Caddo people reveal much about traditional grass houses and how they were constructed. These findings in turn suggest how people worked with the land to create the materials needed for construction while balancing other demands on those plants and habitats. Examining the layout of the physical environment within the household -- and within the farmstead, village, and region -- also offers insights into the organization of social space.

Bio

Leslie L. Bush is a paleoethnobotanist, an archaeologist who specializes in identifying bits of plants preserved on archaeological sites, usually in the form of charcoal and occasionally as waterlogged or desiccated plant parts. She received her Ph.D. from Indiana University in 2001. Through her consulting practice, Macrobotanical Analysis, she has worked on sites in nineteen states. Leslie is currently involved with investigations at sites in Iowa and Illinois and at Hueco Tanks and Mission Dolores in Texas.