

# KADOHADACHO NEWS

A Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society Serving Southwestern Arkansas and the Ark-La-Tex

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September, 2009

## September 8th: Painting the Past at Parkin

Again we have had busy and fun summer hiatus from publishing the *Kadohadacho News*. Although we have been quiet, we have not been standing still. The AAS-SAU staff has been working hard on excavation and writing projects and lining up research for this fall. Now that fall has arrived, Kadohadacho meetings will resume this September and run through December. You will find a speaker schedule for both the Fall 2009 & Spring 2010 in this issue of *Kadohadacho News*.

The program for the September meeting of the Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society will be **Dr. Jeffrey M. Mitchem**, the Arkansas Archeological Survey's Research Station Archeologist at **Parkin Archeological State Park**. Dr. Mitchem will be talking about recent paintings and illustrations used in interpreting the Parkin site to the public and the process of going from archeological material to modern graphics.

Dr. Mitchem joined the Survey in 1990 to establish the Parkin research station, following appointments at Florida State University and Louisiana State University. His specializations include late prehistoric and early historic archeology of the Southeast and Mississippi Valley, early Spanish contact sites in the New World, ceramic technology, glass bead studies, Florida archeology, and the history of archeology in the Southeast.

Come hear about "painting the past" on Tuesday, **September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm in Bruce Center room 104 on the campus of Southern Arkansas University**. Come early and bring your artifacts for "show and tell."



*A painting depicting Casqui (leader of a chiefdom which might have been centered at Parkin Mounds) and his mother by Ted Morris. Come see how we go from archeology to illustration on Tuesday, September 8th, 7:00pm.*



### Kadohadacho Speakers Fall 2009

- **September 8**—Dr. Jeffrey M. Mitchem, AAS Parkin Station Archeologist will talk about "Painting the Past" at Parkin Archeological State Park.
- **October 13**—*TBA*, poss. John Miller, AHTD Archeologist, talks about excavations at the Cedar Grove in Lafayette County.
- **November 10**—James Rees, Arkansas Archeological Society member, will talk about sacred spaces—what church meeting camps can tell us about prehistoric mounds.
- **December 8**—*TBA*, poss. Pritam Chowdhury, University of Arkansas Ph.D. student, will give an overview of the 1971-1973 excavation at the Ferguson site in Hempstead County.





## Kadohadacho Speakers Spring 2010

- **February 9**—Dr. David Palmer, Louisiana Division of Archaeology, will talk about archeology at historic plantation sites in southeastern Louisiana.
- **March 9**— Dr. Diana Greenlee, Louisiana Division of Archaeology, will talk about the Poverty Point site.
- **April 13**—Dr. Jane Ann Blakney-Bailey, AAS Toltec Station Archeologist.
- **May 11**—*TBA*



## State-Wide Arkansas Archeological Society Meeting, September 25-27, Eureka Springs

The Society Annual Meeting will be held September 25-27 at the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks in beautiful Eureka Springs. Once you visit Eureka Springs you'll wonder why the Society hasn't met here before. Special activities the weekend of the meeting include an Artists Studio Tour on Friday through Sunday and a free dance beginning at 8:00 pm on Friday at Basin Spring Park.

The official conference hotel will be the Best Western Inn of the Ozarks, located at the intersection of Hwy 62 West and the west entrance to the Historic Loop. Standard rooms (either one king or two queen beds) are priced at \$89.00 plus tax). Call **1-800-552-3785** toll-free to make reservations, or call locally: **479-253-9768**. Be sure to mention you are attending the **Arkansas Archeological Society Meeting**, so the room rate is correct. Rooms will be held until September 10<sup>th</sup>. Eureka Springs has lots of fall visitation, and Bikes, Blues & BBQ will be going on in nearby Fayetteville, so book your room while you can!

There will be a Friday evening reception on the East Terrace of the Convention Center (down the hill from the hotel) from 6:30-8:30 pm. On Saturday a variety of interesting papers will be presented including papers about recent archeology at Historic Washington State Park (Dr. Jamie C. Brandon) and the Odd Fellows Lodge at the Shiloh Museum (Jerry Hilliard and Susan Young), information about the net sinkers recovered from our recent society digs at Jones Mill (Dr. Mary Beth Trubitt) and the results of our recent remote sensing work at Crenshaw Mounds (John Samuelsen).

The banquet will be held beginning at 7:00pm in the Woods Room of the Convention Center and our keynote speaker this year will be our own Dr. Martha Rolingson, coming out of

retirement to fill us in on her latest research and interpretation of the mound-and-plaza complex at Toltec Mounds.

Finally, on Sunday there will be a tour of historic downtown Eureka Springs for a small fee.

## 2009 Training Program Petit Jean Mountain, June 12-28

The AAS-SAU Research Station also spent two weeks in June working with the annual Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program (AKA "the summer dig") near Morrilton, Arkansas. This year's dig, conducted under the direction of Dr. Leslie "Skip" Stewart-Abernathy (AAS-WRI), excavated at a Carden Bottom site (3YE347) at the foot of Petit Jean Mountain. Our headquarters, the seminars, the field laboratory, our group camping area, and evening programs were at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on top of Petit Jean Mountain.

The excavations followed up work that Dr. Stewart-Abernathy conducted at the site in the 1990s. During those excavations he discovered what he thought was a large pit full of cultural artifacts and debris—including some artifacts that might have indicated early contact with Europeans (like, perhaps, the DeSoto expedition in the 1540s). The two weeks of excavation this summer revealed that our pit was not a pit but some kind of serious erosion gully on the backside of the natural levee which the Native American inhabitants had decided to fill it in with dirt and trash. Several AAS members from the Kadohadacho Chapter attended this year's dig—including **Bob Campbell, Canaan Gideon, and Don Hall**. Bob, Canaan and Don excavated in one of the more productive units on the site. They recovered a good number of sherds decorated with red-filming and incised triangles as well a large quantity of animal bone (including bison or elk). Dr. Brandon taught the "Basic Excavation" seminar during the first session of the dig and David Jeane, AAS-SAU Station Assistant, worked in the laboratory and provided a general helping-hand when needed. Other Kadohadacho-related folks were also on hand; such as Pritam Chowdhury who taught the "Site Survey" seminar the first session



*Kadohadacho Chapter Member Bob Campbell excavating at the Carden Bottom site this summer. Photograph by Steve Longacre.*

and Duncan McKinnon who coordinated the transfer of excavated soil matrix from the site to the top of the mountain where our waterscreening facility was located.

As far as the results of this year's dig goes, the fact that our pit was a natural erosional feature did not change the fact that it was full of artifacts. Society member Mildred Grissom even found some house daub and debris that had also been pushed into the gully. And as far as the evidence for European contact—at least one intact rolled "brass" bead and one crushed one was recovered from 53 cm below the surface in one of the units. In total, it looks like we had about 95 Society members

from 8 different states, and 22 counties in Arkansas, about 15 AmeriCorps volunteers from WRI, and 23 professionals representing 9 AAS Stations and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville's Department of Anthropology.

### **Joint Caddo/East Texas Conference: March 18-21, Tyler, Texas**

The first Caddo Conference was held in 1946 on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. Now more than 60 years later, the Caddo Conference is still going strong, and the 2010 Caddo Conference will be the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Caddo Conference is an informal organization of archeologists (both professional and avocational), Caddo Indian peoples, historians, ethnohistorians, and others, that come together once a year (and rotating the meeting year to year between Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas) to learn more about current research on the native history and culture of the Caddo.

From its modest beginnings in 1993, the East Texas Archaeological Conference (ETAC) has become an important, successful, and well-attended regional archeological conference. At each conference, the current results of archeological, ethnohistorical, and historical research projects conducted by professional and avocational archeologist in the general East Texas region are presented to an interested public. The 2010 ETAC is the 17<sup>th</sup> that has been held over the years. The 1999 ETAC was also held in conjunction with the Caddo Conference.

**Call For Papers:** Papers are invited on the archeology, history, and culture of the Caddo Indians. Please send paper titles and abstracts by **January 31, 2010** to: Dr. Timothy K. Perttula: [tkp4747@aol.com](mailto:tkp4747@aol.com)

For more information, and to download registration forms, go to the conference website:

<http://www.52ndcaddo-17thetac.com/>

### **Join the Southwest Arkansas Archeology E-Mail List**

You can keep track with the latest local archeology news by joining the Southwest Arkansas Archeology e-mail list.

The Southwest Arkansas Archeology List [SWAR\_ARCH] is meant to help spread information about archeological news and activities in southwestern Arkansas...and, of course, the list will remind members of the Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society about the monthly meetings.

To join simply send an e-mail message to:

[SWAR\\_ARCH-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SWAR_ARCH-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

You may also join be e-mail list by contacting Jamie Brandon at [jcbrandon@saumag.edu](mailto:jcbrandon@saumag.edu)

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### **Upcoming Conferences & Events**

- **September 25-27**—*Arkansas Archeological Society*, Eureka Springs, AR. Info: <http://www.arkarch.org>
- **October 14-17**—*Plains Anthropological Conference*, Norman, OK. Info: <http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/plainsanth/meeting/meeting.htm>
- **November 4-9**—*Southeastern Archaeological Conference*, Mobile, AL. Info: <http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org>
- **November 13-15**—*South Central Historical Archaeology Conference*, Lafayette, LA. Info: <http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/archinfo/schac.html>
- **March 18-21**—*Joint Caddo/East Texas Conference*, Tyler, TX. Info: <http://www.52ndcaddo-17thetac.com/>

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