

# KADOHADACHO NEWS

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

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October 2008

## October 14 Program: Finding Sulphur Fork Factory: A Trading Post on the Red River

The program for the October meeting of the Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society will continue our focus on the archeology of the Red River region.

The meeting will feature our own David Jeane, the AAS-SAU Station Research Assistant, will tell us about the excavations at the Sulphur Fork Factory, an early nineteenth-century trading depot on the Red River.

In 1795 the United States government began operating a system of posts, called factories, for regulating trade with Native American groups. As whites began settling in Louisiana and developing commercial relations with Native Americans, a factory was established at Nachitoches to oversee trade and to administer Indian affairs in general. Problems over the location of the factory buildings as well as conflicts with the local merchants made it advisable to move the factory farther up the Red River.

The location recommended was on a high bluff on the west bank of the Red River near the mouth of the Sulphur Fork. Factor John Fowler chose this site because various Indian groups were already using the area to hunt and because unscrupulous private traders were operating nearby. The site also offered the opportunity to trade with Native groups who lived too far away to make the trip to Nachitoches--Fowler mentioned villages of Coushattas, Delawares, Caddos and Pascagoulas.



*The Sulphur Fork Factory as drawn by Claude McCrocklin in 1988 following the excavations at 3MI266.*

It was 1818 before construction was begun on the new site. Choosing a location about a kilometer below the mouth of the Sulphur Fork, Fowler left the highest part of the bluff for a military post and built the factory on an adjacent site. By May of 1819 the complex included a two-story combination store and dwelling, a smaller two-story skin and fur house, a cookhouse, and temporary buildings used as a guardhouse and for storage. A ferry was built later to allow the Indians to hunt on the east side of the river. Congress abolished the factory system in 1822 and substituted agents who would license private traders. George Gray took over the buildings and the Sulphur Fork Factory became the Red River Indian Agency. Gray stayed at the site until 1825 when he moved his agency down river to Caddo Prairie to be closer to the Indians.

In 1988 a team of volunteers from the Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society, led by Claude McCrocklin and with Dr. Frank Schambach as their professional advisor, organized to survey the Arkansas portion of the Sulphur River. Using written accounts, maps and slides of the terrain, McCrocklin and company located the site of the Sulphur Fork Factory (state site number 3MI266) on one of the series of high ridges that form the five mile long bluff on the west side of the Sulphur River near its junction with the Red River.

Tests made in the midden revealed 20 cm of human occupation yielding European ceramics, bottle glass, Native American ceramics, bone, charcoal and ash.



## Fall 2008 Kadohadacho Speakers

- **October 14**—David Jeane, AAS-SAU Station Assistant, will talk about the archeology at Sulphur Fork Factory, an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century trading post.
- **November 11**—Meeks Etchison, USDA Forest Service Archeologist, Ouachita National Forest.
- **December 9**—Dr. George Lankford, Professor emeritus, Lyon College, will talk about Native American folklore and archeology in the southeastern US.



Frank Schambach, David Jeane and members of the Arkansas Archeological Society conducted extensive test excavations in April of 1988—excavating 42 2m x 2m test units into the site's two distinct midden areas. Excavations encountered an irregular square-shaped trash pit measuring 110 cm x 1130 cm x 55 cm (Feature 1) and a rock and daub chimney fall. These features were interpreted as the location of the cook house (Area 1) and part of the soldier guardhouses or the fur storage building (Area 2).

Come learn about this remarkable find with David Jeane on **October the 14th at 7:00pm in Bruce Center room 104 on the campus of Southern Arkansas University.** Come early and bring your artifacts for “show and tell.”



*Caddo Archeological Journal Volume 18 is now available for purchase.*

## DeQueen Arkansas Archeology Class for the Public

We officially are on the books at Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas (CCCUA) to teach an “Arkansas Archeology” class through their Continuing Education program this month.

The class will be taught 6pm-9pm every Tuesday night in October (7, 14, 21, & 28) at the CCCUA campus in DeQueen. It's only \$25 dollars to register and the registration deadline is September the 30<sup>th</sup>! To register see the CCCUA Continuing Education catalog (at the link below) or contact **Rachel Parson**, Coordinator, Continuing Education at (870) 584-4471 or (800) 844-4471.

[http://cccua.edu/services/conted/schedule/sept\\_oct\\_2008.pdf](http://cccua.edu/services/conted/schedule/sept_oct_2008.pdf)



## Volume 18 of the Caddo Archeology Journal is Now Available

Volume 18 of the *Caddo Archeology Journal*, on CD, is now available for purchase. This is an extra volume that has been produced for 2008, and it is available only by direct purchase of the CD.

The volume (60 pp.) contains an assortment of articles on Caddo archeology. Among the articles are the following: one by Dr. Joe Tiller on “Was Timber Hill the Last Caddo Village in the Caddo Homeland;” “A Decade of Straight Talk and Trust” by Cecile Elkins Carter; an article by Dr. Harry J. Shafer and Lee Green on a cache of Woodland period bifaces from a site in Hopkins County, Texas; an extended review of David La Vere’s *Looting Spiro Mounds: An American King Tut’s Tomb*; and an index to the first 18 volumes of the *Caddo Archeology Journal* and its predecessors.

To purchase a copy of the CD, please contact Rodney Bo Nelson ([RBoNelson@aol.com](mailto:RBoNelson@aol.com), 344 CR 4154, Pittsburg, Texas, 75686) or send payment of \$12 (check or money order made out to the Friends of Northeast Texas Archaeology/CAJ).

## State-Wide Arkansas Archeological Society Meeting

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Archeological Society will be held **October 3-5, 2008**, in beautiful Hot Springs, Arkansas.

The official conference hotel will be the **Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa**, at 239 Central Ave., right in the heart of Hot Springs. Rooms are priced at \$85.00 for a single and \$95.00 for a double, plus 13% tax. Call **1-800-643-1502** toll-free to make reservations, or locally call 501-623-7771. Be sure to mention that you are attending the *Arkansas Archeological Society Meeting*, so the room rate is correct and we get credit for the rooms booked. Rooms will be held for the meeting at this rate only until **September 12**, and with all the other activities in town, rooms may be in short supply, so make your reservations soon. At least 48 hours advance notice is needed for cancellations.

The Friday evening reception will be held in Conference Center Section C from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Light snacks will be available, and beer and wine can be purchased at the hotel bar. Come visit with all your friends.

A variety of interesting papers will be presented on Saturday in Conference Center Section B. We have a full slate of 14 papers, on all sorts of topics.

The banquet will be held, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Center Section C. The organizers have selected a wonderful array of foods to please every palate. Main meats include roast beef, chicken forestiere, and baked salmon. Vegetarians (and everyone else too) can enjoy a veggie pasta salad, four-bean salad, potato salad, vegetables du jour, assorted cheeses and fruits, wild rice pilaf, and a variety of desserts. Reservations for the banquet must be received and prepaid by **September 15**. There will be no late walk-ins to the banquet.

For our keynote speaker this year we are pleased to have **Dr. Jenna Kuttruff**, professor in the School of Human Ecology at Louisiana State University in Baton

Rouge. Dr. Kuttruff will be discussing her work with ancient woven textiles, including materials from the Arkansas Ozarks.

For more information and registration materials go to the link below:

<http://www.arkarch.org/MeetingDesc2008ART.pdf>

## 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**

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

## New Look & Banner Image

We hope you like the new look of the Kadohadacho News. Each issue we will feature a different banner image (just to liven things up). This month's image is a picture of Battle Mound, 3LA1, a large, multi-tiered platform mound dating to the Belcher Phase (1500-1700 AD). Dr. Frank Schambach has argued that Belcher phase sites were occupied by Caddo Indians representing the Naguatex province visited by Hernando de Soto during the summer of 1542.



**Pic of the Month:** A paleoindian point recovered from the site of Sulphur Fork Factory (the subject for this month's chapter talk). A 12,000 year old point may be an unexpected find from a site dating from the early 1800s, but this point has odd wear and damage on it sides that indicate that it may have been reused during the historic period as a "strike-a-light" to start fires.

## Upcoming Conferences & Events

- **October 3-5**—*Arkansas Archeological Society State-Wide Meeting*, Hot Springs, AR. For more information <http://www.uark.edu/depts/4society/index.php?pages/annmeet>
- **November 12-16**—*Southeastern Archaeological Conference*, Charlotte, NC. For more info: <http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/>
- **January 7-11**—*Society for Historical Archaeology*, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. For more info: <http://www.sha.org/about/conferences/2009.htm>

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<http://www.saumag.edu/archeology>

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