

# KADOHADACHO

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

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## Fall Excavations at Historic Washington State Park: A Recap

If you have been keeping up with your *Kadohadacho Newsletters* (or the Southwest Arkansas Archeology e-mail list), then you know that this fall members of the Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society helped out the AAS-SAU with a couple of weeks of excavation at the Royston House in Historic Washington State Park. Excavations took place in November (on either side of the Thanksgiving holiday) and our remote sensing survey and test excavations yielded some interesting results. We discovered two sets of piers for two different back porches which we hope will help State Parks reconstruct the Royston back porch as it would have been in the 1840s. However, the highlight to the project is probably a large nineteenth-century trash pit discovered in the yard of the Royston House. We have only excavated a portion of this pit, but the fact that its contents include building materials, kitchen wares, dinner wares and a good quantity of animal bone may indicate that the pit *might* be related to the detached kitchen that was destroyed by a 1907 tornado.

Thanks go out to our volunteers on the Royston House project—Bob Campbell and Ruth Ann Bickerstaff. Also thanks to the Arkansas Archeological Survey crew—Dr. Jami Lockhart, John Samuelsson, Tim Mulvihill, Amanda Brock, David Jeane and Anthony Clay Newton—for making things go smoothly.

The artifacts are currently being processed at the AAS-

SAU laboratory in Magnolia. If you would like to help wash, sort, label or catalog these finds—or if you want to volunteer for the Royston House excavations in March (see the *Archaeology Month* article on page 2)—contact Dr. Jamie Brandon at 870-235-4229 or [jbrando@uark.edu](mailto:jbrando@uark.edu)



## Spring 2008 Kadohadacho Speakers

- **February 12**—Jeff Girard, Northwest Louisiana Regional Archeologist, will talk about Mounds Plantation in Bossier Parish.
- **March 11**—Duncan McKinnon, graduate student in the University of Arkansas's Anthropology Department, will talk about his recent remote sensing work at Battle Mound in Lafayette County, Arkansas.
- **April 8**—Clarke Werneke of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory will talk about the Gault site excavations in central Texas and early man in the New World.



## 2008 Spring Speaker Schedule for the Kadohadacho Meetings

We have finished the speaker schedule for the Spring 2008 Kadohadacho Chapter meetings and it looks to be a promising line-up. All meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every month in Bruce Center Room 104 (the old "Blue & Gold Room") at 7:00pm.

In February, come learn about Mounds Plantation—an early Caddo ceremonial center with at least seven mounds situated on an old Red River channel just north of Shreveport. Jeff Girard, the Northwest Louisiana Regional Archeologist, has been collaborating with the AAS to do some work at the site recently. Jeff will be talking about Mounds Plantation, but he'll also fill us in about the newly active chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society in Shreveport.

In March you can celebrate **Arkansas Archeology Month** by coming to hear about our recent remote sensing project at Battle Mound—the largest Native American earthwork in the Caddo homeland. University of Arkansas



Profile of Feature 3, a nineteenth-century trash pit excavated this November in the yard of the Royston House. The pit contained building debris and domestic refuse (including plate fragments and much animal bone) consistent with a detached kitchen.

graduate student Duncan McKinnon will talk about his work at Battle and what he has found through his high-tech approach.

In April we have a special treat. Clarke Werneke of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) will come all the way to Magnolia to discuss the Gault Project. The Gault site, midway between Georgetown and Ft. Hood in central Texas, is attracting national and international attention because of the wealth of new information on Clovis culture that is emerging from right in the heart of Texas—including a mammoth mandible and associated Clovis artifacts. You will not want to miss this one as it promises to be interesting.

### **AAS-SAU Laboratory Rehabilitation**

We have spent a great deal of time over the holidays stripping down the old SAU Bruce Center kitchen and transforming it into a AAS-SAU wet lab. We cleaned all the greasy surfaces, painted the entire thing with 10+ gallons of Kilz primer, trimmed the door frames in what has become the “official” AAS-SAU Station paint color—newsprint (a medium grey)—and gave the old doors new life with a coat of antique white. Anthony Clay Newton dismantled and moved a non-functioning icemaker and began demolished the remains of the old walk-in freezer platforms. We also cleaned out and painted a storage room to transform it into a workshop and organized a storage closet for all of our expendable supplies. I’m very impressed with the effort and the results. You can see pictures of the Rehab at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jcbrandon/sets/72157603503199741/>

### **Wednesdays are Volunteer Lab Days**

Currently we are continuing the long-held tradition of having a volunteer laboratory day on Wednesdays. If you are interested in getting some “hands on” experience with archeological materials in the lab, stop by and see us on any given Wednesday. If there is interest following the restart of regular meeting in February, we may begin a monthly laboratory night to accommodate those who can only volunteer after normal business hours.

### **The December Kadohadacho Chapter Meeting**

We held the December monthly meeting of the Kadohadacho Chapter of the AAS and revived the annual Christmas Potluck. Our guest speaker was Dr. Leslie “Skip” Stewart-Abernathy, the AAS Research Station Archeologist at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute Station on Petit Jeane Mountain. Skip gave his talk about “reconstructing” Old Washington (as we are currently working at the Royston House, we were taking good notes) . It was a good talk and was well received. Despite the fact that the meeting was held during SAU’s finals week, we had a pretty good turn out. Sixteen (16) folks were in attendance including people from Washington, Hope, Mt. Holly, El Dorado, and Magnolia. Good food was served and a good time had by all.



*Kadohadacho Chapter member and AAS-SAU employee Anthony Clay Newton working at the AAS-SAU wet laboratory rehabilitation this December.*

### **March is Arkansas Archeology Month**

Arkansas Archeology Month 2008 will be celebrated in March. The 2008 theme is *Patterns of the Past* and already there are going to be a couple Archeology Month-related programs held in southwestern Arkansas. First, of course, is Duncan McKinnon’s talk on our recent high-tech remote sensing at Battle Mound at our March meeting of the Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society (see above). Duncan will discuss the work at Battle Mound at the *patterns* that we can see using these new technologies.

The second regional program will be a “spring break” excavation at the Royston House in Historic Washington State Park. We will return to the back yard of the Royston House **March 15-21** in order to continue our work on the back porch, the trash pit and to continue testing our remote sensing data. If you would like to volunteer for the spring Royston House dig contact Dr. Jamie Brandon at 870-235-4229 or [jbrando@uark.edu](mailto:jbrando@uark.edu)

Now is the time to start thinking about programs for Archeology Month, as the deadline for submissions to the Events Brochure is quickly coming up. Ideas and assistance is needed to organize programs. Contact Dr. Jamie Brandon if you have questions about local programs in southwestern Arkansas.

## LAS Annual Meeting

The Louisiana Archaeological Society will hold its 2008 annual meeting over the weekend of February 8-10 in Metairie, just west of New Orleans. The meeting will take place the weekend immediately following Mardi Gras (February 5) and the first weekend after the Super Bowl (February 3). Easily reached from both I-10 and I-12, the location will be the Marriott Lakeway at the foot of the Causeway that crosses Lake Pontchartrian. The hotel is a high rise that overlooks the vast expanse of the lake to its north and provides a view of the New Orleans skyline to its east.

On Sunday the LAS hopes to offer an opportunity to visit parts of New Orleans that were impacted by the flooding that occurred following Katrina. The theme of the meeting will generally be related to the effect of floods on the archaeological record, but papers will not be limited to this subject.

For paper submissions or if you have any questions, please contact Chip McGimsey at [mcgimsey@louisiana.edu](mailto:mcgimsey@louisiana.edu) or see:

<http://www.laarchaeology.org/annual.htm>

## 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)

## Society Web Site

### Arkansas Archeology Web Sites

Check out the AAS-SAU website at:

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

You can keep track with the latest news and join the Southwest [Arkansas Archeology e-mail list](#)! Also check out the state-wide Arkansas Archeological Society website at: <http://www.arkarch.org>

Send news to Editor Glen Akridge at [dgakridge@hotmail.com](mailto:dgakridge@hotmail.com).

## Upcoming Conferences & Meetings

• **January 9-12**—*Society for Historical Archaeology Conference*, Albuquerque, NM. Info:

<http://www.sha.org/about/conferences/2008.htm>

• **February 8-10, 2008**—Louisiana Archaeological Society annual meeting, Metairie, LA. Info:

<http://www.laarchaeology.org/annual.htm>

• **March 7-9, 2008**—*50<sup>th</sup> Caddo Conference* Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA.

• **March 26-30, 2008**—*Society for American Archaeology*, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Info:

<http://www.saa.org>

• **March 27-29, 2008**—*Arkansas Historical Association*, Eureka Springs. Theme: "Land of Eccentricity," dealing with the unique, interesting, oddball & kooky aspects of Arkansas history.

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