

# KADOHADACHO

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

New Series, Volume 3, Issue 2

February, 2008

## February 12 Program: Jeff Girard, Caddo Archeology at Mounds Plantation

The program for the February meeting of the Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society will feature Jeffery Girard, the Northwest Louisiana Regional Archeologist with the Louisiana Division of Archeology. Girard will talk to us about Mounds Plantation, a large Caddo ceremonial center on an old Red River channel just north of Shreveport.

Mounds Plantation has been called the most impressive mound and plaza site on the Red River in northwestern Louisiana—with its oval plaza more than 600 yards in length and 150 yards wide surrounded by seven mounds of varying sizes. Mound Plantation was first described by Clarence B. Moore in 1912, followed by surface collections and excavations by Ralph McKinney and Clarence H. Webb in the 1950s and 1960s.

At least four different culture periods are indicated by ceramics recovered from the site and radiocarbon dates place the occupation between 850-1400 AD. Excavations indicated that earlier Coles Creek people



## 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.

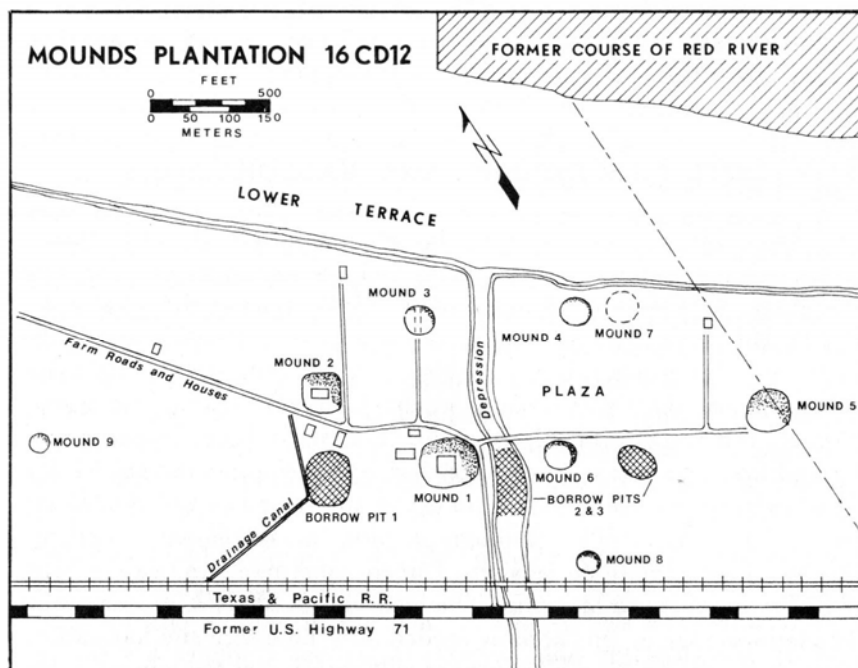


established and laid out the site, probably constructing at least four of the mounds around the plaza, but an impressive number of ceremonial objects (associated with the Caddo) have been recovered from graves excavated at Mounds Plantation—including large ceremonial knives, copper objects and rarely preserved wooden objects and split-cane basketry.

You might remember that last January Dr. Jami Lockhart and Mike Evans (assisted by the AAS-SAU Station) partnered with Girard to conduct a remote sensing survey of portions of the site (see *Kadohadacho News* Vol. 2 Issue 3).

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 (NWLAS).

Come learn about Caddo ceremonialism with Jeff Girard on **February the 12<sup>th</sup> 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."



Mounds Plantation site, showing mounds, plaza, borrow pits, farm roads and farm houses. (After Webb and McKinney 1975:41).

## Battle Mound Work Continues

We are following up on our series of “long weekend” remote sensing surveys at Battle Mound last fall. In late January Duncan McKinnon (along with Dr. Brandon and Anthony Clay Newton) endured a series of wet, drizzly, cold days and returned to the largest mound in the Caddo homeland in order to collect more data and to make a topographic map of the multi-tiered mound.

To date, the Battle Mound project has surveyed 200 20 meter grids gathering a total of 80,000 square meters (or almost 20 acres) of below-ground data. Come hear what this high-tech approach can tell us about the site when McKinnon presents his findings to the monthly chapter meeting in March.

Duncan and Dr. Brandon would like to thank Paul, Clarence, and Harvey Brent—the owners of the Battle Mound property—for allowing us to conduct the work and for being great and patient hosts.

## LAS Annual Meeting in February

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>

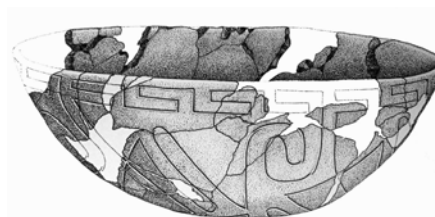
## East Texas Archeological Conference in February

The 2008 East Texas Archeological Conference will be held on Saturday, February 16 from 8:30am to 4:00pm at the Robert M. Muntz Library (Room 401) at the University of Texas at Tyler. This is the 15th meeting of this conference sponsored by the Texas Archeological Society—Region 4, the Friends of Northeast Texas Archeology, the Deep East Texas Archeological Society



*Remote sensing survey continued at Battle Mound this January. Come hear what we've found out about the site in March when Duncan McKinnon presents his findings to the Kadohadacho Chapter meeting*

and other regional organizations. The conference brings together avocational and professional archeologists as well as the general public to discuss recent archeological discoveries and research in East Texas. If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster, or for more information contact Tom Middlebrook, 936-556-0854 or [TMdlbrk@aol.com](mailto:TMdlbrk@aol.com).



## Picture the Past: Slavery's Buried Past

In honor of Black History Month, on the evening of February 21, Dr. Brandon will host a screening of *Slavery's Buried Past* as a part of the *Picture the Past* film lecture series organized by the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute Research Station of the AAS. *Slavery's Buried Past* originally aired on PBS affiliates nationwide in December of 1996 as a part of the *New Explorers* series hosted by Bill Kurtis. The film chronicles the discovery of an African burial ground in Manhattan which opens many social and political issues involving African-American archeology in America. The movie will be screened at WRI (high atop Petit Jean Mountain) at 7:00pm and, following the film, Dr. Brandon will lead a discussion. Contact Dr. Jamie Brandon at 870-235-4229 ([jbrando@uark.edu](mailto:jbrando@uark.edu)) or Dr. Skip Stewart-Abernathy at 501-727-6250 for more information.

## 50<sup>th</sup> Caddo Conference to be held in March

The 2008 Caddo Conference will be held March 7-9 at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

This year will mark the golden anniversary of the Caddo Conference. To commemorate this milestone, they are compiling a 50th anniversary program and are looking for digital copies of photographs from prior conferences. If you have some good ones, or if you have stories or memories of past conferences, participants, etc., that you would like to share, please send those along as well.

A first call for papers will be sent out in December and a final call was just sent out recently. The organizers encourage submissions that reflect upon the past 50 years of Caddo research, as well as new research directions. Of course, they also invite research papers that examine other aspects of Caddo archeology, ethnography, and history.

This year, as a public component of the conference, there will also sponsor a poster session. Posters should relate information on some aspect of Caddo culture in a manner that will be useful for presentation to the general public. The posters will be available after the conference for use by the Caddo and others involved in public education. For further information contact:

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<http://www.nsula.edu/regionalfolklife/2008CaddoConf/2008CaddoConf.html>

### 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)

### 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@vahoogroups.com](mailto:SWAR_ARCH-subscribe@vahoogroups.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

- **February 8-10, 2008**—*Louisiana Archaeological Society annual meeting*, Metairie, LA. Info: <http://www.laarchaeology.org/annual.htm>
- **February 16, 2008**—*East Texas Archeological Conference*, Tyler, TX.
- **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. Contact: Tim Nutt, [timn@uark.edu](mailto:timn@uark.edu)

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