

# KADOHADACHO

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

New Series, Volume 3, Issue 3

March, 2008

## March 11 Program: Duncan McKinnon, High Tech Archeology at Battle Mound

The program for the March meeting of the Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society will feature Duncan McKinnon, a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arkansas who also holds a Research Assistantship with the Arkansas Archeological Survey. McKinnon will talk to us about his recent work at Battle Mound, a Caddo mound site on Spirit Lake in Lafayette County.

Battle Mound is the largest surviving Caddo mound in the Caddo homeland—and one of the largest platform mounds in the southeastern United States. Our topographic work confirms that what Mike Hoffman called “a massive complexly-terraced tumulus” in the 1970s is, in fact, more than 30 feet (10.4 meters) tall. Tim Perttula has called Battle “the premier Late Caddoan period civic-ceremonial center in the entire Caddoan Area,” and it was here during the Belcher phase that Caddoan culture reached its precontact peak in population and sociopolitical complexity.

For such a major site, very little professional work has been done at Battle—C.B. Moore’s brief visit at the



## Spring 2008 Kadohadacho Speakers

- **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.



turn of the century, Alex Krieger’s unwritten work on top of the Battle Mound during the 1940s and a brief salvage episode by John Miller and David Jeane (of the AAS-SAU Research Station) in 1980 at the south slope of the mound are all we have to give us a glimpse of the structure of the archeological record of the site.

McKinnon along with AAS volunteers, University of Arkansas students and AAS-SAU staff members have been mapping and conducting a high-tech remote sensing survey of the area around Battle Mound. To date McKinnon has completed an impressive 200 20x20 meter square units at Battle Mound—that’s over 80,000 square meters or almost 20 acres. 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.

Come learn about our recent work at Battle Mound on **March the 11<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.”



*Duncan McKinnon with the Bartington 601 Fluxgate Magnetometer in front of Battle Mound (on the horizon) last fall. We have surveyed 200 20 x 20 meter grids of the site with geophysical equipment—that’s 80,000 square meters or almost 20 acres. Photo by Anthony Clay Newton.*

## This Month: Return to Royston House, March 15-21

We will be returning to Historic Washington State Park this month in order to 1) continue our excavations at the Royston House and 2) celebrate Archeology Month. Our "Spring Break" excavations will begin on Sat. **March 15**—during Washington's Jonquil Festival—and will continue until the following Friday (**March 21**). We will be returning to continue work along the back porch, to look for other backyard outbuildings, and to conduct further excavations on the refuse pit we discovered in the side yard of the house.

The Jonquil Festival is a three-day festival that heralds the coming of spring to southwest Arkansas. Thousands of yellow jonquils welcome craftspeople, entertainers, and visitors to historic Washington. Unique crafts and delicious foods are available each day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Festival is free, so if you are planning on coming to Jonquil Festival, come by and see us! If you would like to volunteer for a day or so during the "Spring Break" dig, do not hesitate to contact Dr. Jamie Brandon, at 870-235-4229 or [jbrando@uark.edu](mailto:jbrando@uark.edu).

## 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 page 1). Duncan will discuss the work at Battle Mound and 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 (see above). We will return to the backyard 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).

Another Arkansas Archeology Month program going on at Historic Washington State Park is the "**Unearthed Treasures of Washington**" Exhibit which will be on display from March 1 to June 30, 2008 at the Historic Washington State Park at the 1874 Courthouse. Take a look at some of the interesting archeological items that

have been discovered under the direction of the Arkansas Archeological Survey and Society at Washington over the



Spring Break excavations at the Royston House in Historic Washington State Park will run from March 15-21, 2008. Photo by Anthony Clay Newton.

past 30 years. See what we have learned from what our ancestors left behind. Admission to the exhibit is free. For more information you can contact 870-983-2684 or [HistoricWashington@arkansas.com](mailto:HistoricWashington@arkansas.com) for more details.

You can get your own Arkansas Archeology Month posters (see inset on this page) and pamphlets from Dr. Brandon, or you can download digital versions of the poster and look at the on-line Archeology Month schedule at the Arkansas Archeological Society's website:

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

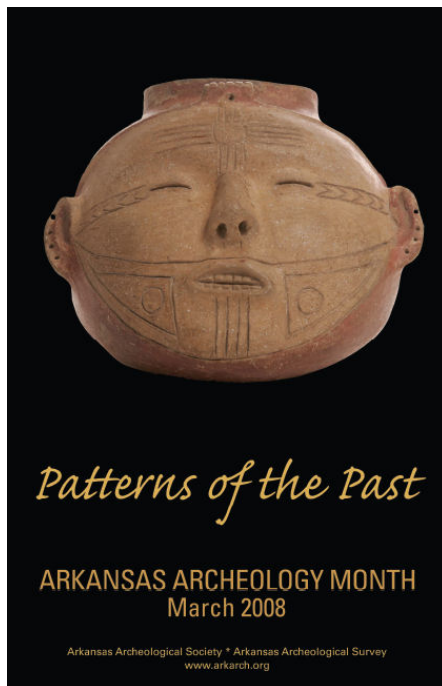
## 50<sup>th</sup> Caddo Conference to be held in March

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 was 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>

### Talk on Trammel's Trace: March 8, at SARA

On Saturday, **March 8**, 10:30 a.m. until noon, Gary Pinkerton will be presenting a program on Trammel's Trace at the [Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives](#) in Washington, Arkansas. The program is free and open to the public. This presentation will focus on Nicholas Trammell's time in Arkansas and the connection at Fulton, Arkansas, between the Southwest Trail across Arkansas and Trammel's Trace at the Great Bend of the Red River. For further information about the talk contact Peggy Lloyd at 870-983-2633. For information about Pinkerton's work and the Trammel's Trace Preservation Society see:

<http://www.trammelstrace.org>

### Brandon to Give Lecture Sponsored by the Wal-Mart Foundation

Coming up Monday, **March 3**, at the [Harvey & Bernice Jones Center for Families](#) in Springdale, Arkansas, will be the special community lecture on archeology, sponsored by the Ko-ko-ci Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society and made possible by a grant from the [Wal-Mart Foundation](#). The special guest speaker is our own Dr. Jamie Brandon whose topic will be *Why Do We Dig Up the Recent Past?: Historical Archeology in the Arkansas Ozarks*. The program will begin at 7:30p.m., and the Jones Center is located at 922 E. Emma Ave., on the east side of Springdale in Northwest Arkansas.

### A Recap of the February Meeting

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. Twenty-five (25) people were in attendance including folks from all corners of the AAS-SAU Station territory—El Dorado, Lewisville, Fouke and DeQueen. Jeff's talk was very well received and followed by a decent question-and-answer session and a lengthy show-and-tell.

### Join 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)

### Upcoming Conferences & Meetings

- **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)
- **June 13-29**—*Arkansas Archeological Society/Survey Training Program* (AKA "The Society Dig"), Malvern, AR.
- **October 3-5**—*South Central Historical Archaeology Conference*, Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Petit Jean Mtn., Morrilton. Contact: Skip Stewart-Abernathy, [stewartabernathy@uawri.org](mailto:stewartabernathy@uawri.org)

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