

# KADOHADACHO

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

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## April 8 Program: Clarke Werneke, The Gault Site and Early Man in Central Texas... the real 10,000 BC!

The program for the April meeting of the Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society will feature Dr. Clarke Werneke, the Project Director for the Gault Project at the Texas Archeological Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas. Dr. Werneke will be talking about current research at the nationally-known Gault site.

The Gault site, midway between Georgetown and Ft. Hood in central Texas, has a long history of archeological investigation as well as uncontrolled artifact digging. Located in a small wooded valley with a spring-fed creek and an unlimited supply of excellent flint, the site was occupied intensively during all major periods of the prehistoric era. James E. Pearce, an early archeologist working in Texas, learned of the Gault Farm site and excavated there in 1929-1930. Over the next 60 years, artifact collectors churned up the upper deposits over almost the entire site, but stopped digging when the dark rich midden soil played out. In 1990, an artifact collector dug deeper and found Clovis artifacts along with several unusual incised stones, something never before found with Clovis materials. Learning of the find, Drs. Thomas R. Hester and Michael B. Collins of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory carried out testing at Gault in 1991, just enough to confirm the collector's story.



Clovis points from the Gault site. From the left: an unfinished preform, nearly finished; two finished (and then broken); and two used (and repeatedly resharpened) specimens. The yellow staining is caused by iron-rich groundwater, while the white encrustation is calcium carbonate, which is also carried by groundwater. In some areas of the site, the lower Clovis deposits are beneath the water table and can only be reached during dry spells and with the aid of pumping.



Incised stones. These may be the earliest examples of representational art in North America. Several dozen have now been found including several that seem to depict animals. Drawn by Pam Headrick.

Fortunately for archeology, the property changed hands and the new owners recognized the scientific importance of the site. Since 1998 a major excavation project has been underway at Gault, led by Collins. The work has been carried out by a cast of hundreds of individuals representing dozens of organizations. A relatively small core of professional staff works with university field schools from Texas A&M, UT Austin, and Brigham Young University as well as volunteers from near and far including many members of the Texas

Archeological Society.

Dr. Wernecke brings a unique blend of scholarship and experience to the Gault Project with degrees in history, business and anthropology. He has considerable experience in business and has specialized in the management of large archeological projects. Dr. Wernecke has worked in the Middle East, Mesoamerica, the American Southeast and Southwest, and Texas. In addition to his work on Gault, he is currently working on archeological data from the Mexican War and early Texas architecture.

The Gault site 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. Come learn about the unfolding interpretations of what Clovis life was like 13,000 years ago at the Gault site and how these ideas are helping to mold a dramatically new view of the peopling of the Americas on **April the 8<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."

## A Recap of the March Meeting

The program for the March meeting of the Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society was given by Duncan McKinnon, a graduate student at the University of Arkansas working with the AAS-SAU on a remote sensing project at Battle Mound in Lafayette County. Duncan gave us some idea of the results of his large-scale survey and the kinds of features he might have found on the Battle Mound site. Thirty (30) people were in attendance including folks from Magnolia, Waldo, Fouke, Hope, Texarkana, Taylor, Buckner, Lewisville and Stamps. Several newcomers brought artifacts for identification and there was a lengthy discussion and visiting period after the meeting.

## “Spring Break Dig” 2008: The Royston House

What did we do with our spring break this year? Go to Daytona? South Padre? Cancun? Stay home and grade papers? Nope...This spring break we finished our excavations in the back yard of the Royston House at Historic Washington State Park in Hempstead County.

If you remember from the *Kadohadacho News* last fall, our mission at Royston House was to help find evidence that will aid Arkansas State Parks in the reconstruction of a back porch and to locate as many outbuildings as possible. The Royston house was the home of Grandison D. Royston (1809–1889), who was speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives (1837–1838), member of the Arkansas Senate (1856–1858), Arkansas representative in Confederate Congress (1861–1863), and president of the Arkansas Constitutional Convention of 1874.

After two weeks of excavations last November, Dr. Brandon, Anthony Clay Newton and volunteers from the Arkansas Archeological Society, students from Southern Arkansas University and staff members from HWSP returned to the park for another week of archeological excavations in March.

Despite starting on Monday instead of Saturday (as the Royston House yards were needed for Jonquil Festival parking) and losing a day to rain, it was a successful project. In total (during both the fall and spring seasons) we collected eight 20m grids (160 sq meters) of remote sensing data using ground penetrating radar and the Bartington magnetometer. We excavated ten (N=10) 2x2 meter test excavation units and many shovel tests. Aside from discovering a trash pit feature that might belong to a detached kitchen or slave quarters, we have relocated the back yard well of the Royston House and pinned down important information regarding the “shed rooms” that were once attached to the back of the structure.

Thanks to Bob Campbell and Ruth Ann Bickerstaff—the core of our volunteer crew at both fall and spring Royston House efforts—along with several SAU students (Annie Farmer, April Green, Tom Fenske, and

Brian Gwin), HWSP Staff (Brian McDade, Ernie Cox and Amy Williams) and other volunteers (Kyle Farmer, Ashley Farmer, Marissa Farmer, Michael Williams, and Douglas Williams).

Finally...thanks to Superintendent Joe Buckley and all the other folks at Historic Washington State Park for hosting our project.



SAU Social Work major Annie Farmer (right) and Blevins High School student Kyle Farmer (left) excavating at the Royston House at Historic Washington State Park this Spring Break.

## "Unearthed Treasures of Washington" Exhibit

The final Arkansas Archeology Month program can still be seen over the next few months. The "Unearthed Treasures of Washington" exhibit 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 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.



Just one of the many museum cases showcasing the artifacts excavated from Historic Washington State Park. The exhibit was put together by HWSP Curator Bryan McDade with the help of Ruth Ann Bickerstaff and Ernie Cox.

## 2008 University of Arkansas / Henderson State University Archeological Field School

The 2008 University of Arkansas/Henderson State University summer archeological field school is an intensive off-campus opportunity for students to learn archeology and work closely with a professor on a research project while earning university credit. Students receive training in all aspects of archeological field methods including mapping a site, techniques for archeological excavation and recording, soil description, and artifact identification. The field school is kept small in size to ensure individualized instruction and positive team work. No previous field experience is required, but students should apply to the instructor prior to registration.

The field school is open to current and visiting or guest students. Students can enroll through University of Arkansas (6 credit hours, Summer 5 term, Division of Continuing Education) in Anthropology 4256 (undergraduate, \$184 per credit hour) "Archeological Field Session" or Anthropology 561V (graduate, \$305 per credit hour), "Field Research in Archeology," or through Henderson State University (6 credit hours, Summer Session I) in Anthropology 3096 (undergraduate, \$154 per credit hour plus fees) "Archeological Field School." The summer field school will run from **June 2 to July 3, 2008**, with work at the site or field lab on Mondays through Fridays. Students will be able to arrange for housing on the HSU campus; daily transportation to and from the site will be provided.

Novaculite from the Ouachita Mountains was a key resource for making stone tools used locally and even outside the immediate region. This summer, our research project will investigate Archaic period sedentism, craft specialization, and novaculite tool production and exchange using excavations at a site near Hot Springs in southwest Arkansas. This archeological site on the Ouachita River has cultural material left behind by thousands of years of Indian habitation. Our work will expand investigation of a Middle Archaic period (circa 6000 years ago) deposit uncovered at 3HS28 in 2007 that had quantities of novaculite, magnetite, and igneous rock. We want to understand whether people living far from the Ouachita Mountains quarries obtained their toolstone directly or through trade with locals living at the Ouachita River.

Application deadline is **May 16, 2008**. For further information and application, please contact:

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For more information about the Jones Mill/novaculite project check out:

<http://www.hsu.edu/default.aspx?id=7270>

## Upcoming Conferences & Events

- **June 13-29**—Arkansas Archeological Society/Survey Summer Training Program (AKA "The Summer Dig"), Malvern, AR. For more details see: <http://www.arkarch.org/>
- **June 29-July 4**—World Archeology Conference 6, Dublin, Ireland. For more details see: <http://www.ucd.ie/wac-6/>
- **July 27**—Red River Heritage Symposium, Washington, AR. Contact Josh Williams, [josh.williams@arkansas.gov](mailto:josh.williams@arkansas.gov)
- **September 26-28**—South Central Historical Archaeology Conference, Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, Petit Jean Mtn., Morrilton. Contact: Skip Stewart-Abernathy, [sstewartabernathy@uawri.org](mailto:sstewartabernathy@uawri.org)
- **October 3-5**—Annual State-wide meeting of the Arkansas Archeological Society, Hot Springs. Contact: Barbara Scott, [bhscott@uark.edu](mailto:bhscott@uark.edu)
- **November 12-15**—Southeastern Archeological Conference, Charlotte, NC. Info: <http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org>

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