

# KADOHADACHO

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

New Series, Volume 2, Issue 8

November, 2007

## November 13 Program: John Miller Talks about Techniques Used in Making Ancient Caddo Pottery

This month's Kadohadacho Chapter meeting program will be given by John Miller, the senior staff archeologist with the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD). Miller will be talking about (and perhaps demonstrating) the methods and techniques used by prehistoric Caddo peoples to make their very remarkable ceramics vessels.

John Miller is a recognized authority on the replication of prehistoric pottery from Arkansas (as well as an excellent flint knapper and maker of guns, knives, furniture and all sorts of things historical). He is a University of Arkansas at Fayetteville alumni who began surface collecting at an early age under the guidance of Frank Chowning—a knowledgeable amateur archeologist who introduced him to the Arkansas Archeological Society. Miller joined the AAS in 1964 and, following formal training at the University of Arkansas and Toltec Mounds, he worked for the Arkansas Archeological Survey and various other archeological contract firms before taking a position with the AHTD.

Additionally, John Miller is no stranger to Magnolia and southwestern Arkansas—he served as the AAS-SAU

Research Station Assistant under Dr. Frank Schambach from 1980 until 1982. He has worked on some of the most important sites in the state—including many sites which will be familiar to Kadohadacho Chapter members such as Battle Mound, Washington, Crenshaw and Jones Mill. Miller went to work for the AHTD in 1984.



*Examples of prehistoric Caddo Indian pottery excavated from archeological sites in southwestern Arkansas. Photo by Steven Ochs's Spring 2007 Digital Photography class at SAU.*

John has held many pottery workshops throughout the state has also created commissioned work for the Museum of Science and Natural History in Little Rock and for the Arkansas Tech Museum in Russellville—producing museum quality replicas of Mississippian pottery for use as hands-on educational props.

Come learn about Caddo Indian ceramics with John Miller on **November the 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in Bruce Center room 104 on the campus of Southern Arkansas University.**



*John Miller of the AHTD will discuss Caddo Indian pottery on November 13, 2007 at 7 pm in 104 Bruce Center on the campus of Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia.*



## Upcoming Kadohadacho Speakers

- **November 13**—"Caddo Indian Pottery," by John Miller, archeologist with the Arkansas Department of Highway and Transportation Department.
- **December 11**—Christmas Potluck & "Archeology at Historic Washington State Park," by Dr. Leslie C. Stewart-Abernathy, AAS, Winthrop Rockefeller Institute Research Station.



## Battle Mound Remote Sensing

We will be continuing to work on our high-tech remote sensing survey of Battle Mound in Lafayette County during weekends throughout November. We hope that the remote sensing data will help give us a picture of settlement patterns and let us find other features without the large-scale excavations necessary in the past. Battle Mound is the largest mound in the Caddo Homeland. It has had little formal archeological work (aside from excavations by Alex Krieger and others in the 1940s), but Battle's large, multi-leveled mound makes it very memorable to everyone who sees it.

Volunteers are needed to help lay out the grids, map and even work some of the remote sensing equipment. If you are curious as to how all this high-tech stuff works, come on out and volunteer!

Weekend #1: October 26, 27 & 28

(Friday, Sat. & ½ day on Sun.)

Weekend #2: November 9, 10, & 11

(Friday, Sat. & ½ day on Sun.)

Weekend #3: November 16, 17 & 18

(Friday, Sat. & ½ day on Sun.)

If you want to volunteer for one (or more) of the weekends at Battle, contact Dr. Jamie Brandon at 870-235-4229 or [jbrando@uark.edu](mailto:jbrando@uark.edu)

## Excavations at Historic Washington State Park

We will also begin working in the backyard of the Royston House at Historic Washington State Park in Hempstead County this month. Our mission there will be to help find evidence that will aid Arkansas State Parks in the reconstruction of a back porch and to locate as many outbuildings as we can. 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.

The Royston House excavations will be beginning **November 12-16<sup>th</sup>**, but continuing until we've completed the excavations (but we will take off for the Thanksgiving holiday).

If you want to volunteer for the Royston House excavations, contact Dr. Jamie Brandon at 870-235-4229 or [jbrando@uark.edu](mailto:jbrando@uark.edu)

## Civil War Weekend at Historic Washington State Park November 3-4, 2007

Speaking of Historic Washington—cavalry, infantry and artillery will converge on the park when reenactors meet to relive the daily camp life, conflicts and challenges of the Civil War in Arkansas. Tickets include tours of the camps, historic buildings and the battle re-enactment at 2 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Contact the park for further details. Admission is. \$8 for adults and

\$4 for children ages 6-12. Contact (870) 983-2684 or [oldwashington@arkansas.com](mailto:oldwashington@arkansas.com) for more information.

## The October Kadohadacho Chapter Meeting

The October monthly meeting featured Dr. Tom Green (Director of the Arkansas Archeological Survey) and an in-depth look at the controversy surrounding early skeletons found in the Americas that display so-called "Caucasian" features. Dr. Green talked about famous cases such as Kennewick Man and the Buhl Woman (a case in which he was involved when he was the State



*We'll be excavating in the backyard of the Royston House at Historic Washington State Park this November in order to help reconstruct the back porch and to identify 19<sup>th</sup> century outbuildings.*

Archeologist in Idaho) as well as early sites such as Monte Verde.

Despite heavy competition from other events in Magnolia, the event was well attended—36 people were there in all. Attendees came from Magnolia, El Dorado, Mount Holly, Calion, and Waldo, Arkansas.

## Ivan Murphy: A Kadohadacho Chapter Member Gets "Certified"

Ivan Murphy will be awarded the title of "Provisional Crew Member" at the November meeting of the Kadohadacho Chapter. Ivan, a new member of the AAS, attended this summer's AAS Summer Training Program at Jones Mill and earned his Provisional Crew Member status there. This is Ivan's first award in the AAS Certification Program.

What is the Certification Program, you ask? Established in 1972 by the Arkansas Archeological Society and the Arkansas Archeological Survey, the Certification Program provides members a means of obtaining formal extended training in various aspects of archeology outside of an academic degree program. The program also provides recognition to those concerned and knowledgeable lay archeologists who perform a real service in helping to preserve the past for the future.

Society members may register in the Certification Program at any time. Each Field Training Program offers a combination of fieldwork and seminars on various subjects related to the Certification Program. There may

be times during the year when Survey Archeologists request help on excavations or in the lab. The experience and time spent on these projects and at the Training Program is recorded in the individual's Log Book and can be counted toward a particular certificate. The Log Book contains the requirements for each step of advancement toward a certificate. The Basic or first level is divided into three categories: Provisional Site Surveyor, Provisional Crew Member, and Provisional Lab Technician. Each category requires one seminar and some hands-on requirements. The individual learns basic techniques and is closely supervised. All three categories should be completed before moving to the next level of training.

The Certification Coordinator reviews the Log Book to insure that requirements have been met. Certificates are announced and awarded at the Society Annual Meeting each year. Ivan couldn't make it to this year's AAS Annual Meeting in Mountain View, so we will present his certificate to him on our own home turf.

### Archeology Around Arkansas

*Stigler Lecture Series in Archeology:* The University of Arkansas's Stigler Lecture Series in Archeology will kick-off **November 15** with a presentation on the archeology of Andean civilizations by Dr. Shelia G. Pozorski and Dr. Thomas G. Pozorski of the Psychology & Anthropology Department, University of Texas - Pan American, Edinburg, Texas. The Pozorskis have worked in the coastal valleys of Peru for over 15 years and are authors of *Early Settlement and Subsistence in the Casma Valley, Peru* (2006), among other works. Their presentation will be held at Giffels Auditorium in Old Main on the UA Campus in Fayetteville.

*Above and Beneath this World:* The great Arkansas rock art exhibit—"Above and Beneath this World"—at the Arkansas Tech University Museum of Prehistory and History will close **November 28**. If you wanted to see this, this is your last chance to get up to Russellville and do so. It's a pretty neat exhibit and AAS folks (especially Dr. George Sabo, Jerry Hilliard and Leslie Walker) hand a big hand in it. Also, the ATU Museum gift shop is selling off their left-over T-shirts, mugs, books, shadow-boxed gorgets, and other cool stuff at "significant discounts (near wholesale)." So take advantage of these good deals to stock away some Christmas presents or treat yourself. For information, call the store manager, Laurie Boyce, at 479-964-3222 or email her at [lboyce@atu.edu](mailto:lboyce@atu.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@yahoo.com](mailto:SWAR_ARCH-subscribe@yahoo.com)

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

### Society Web Site

Updated every month! See photos from the Society Annual Meeting in Mountain View. Check it out at <http://www.arkarch.org>

### Upcoming Conferences & Meetings

- **October 31-November 3**—*Southeastern Archaeological Conference*, Knoxville, TN. Info: <http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org>
- **November 16-18**, *South Central Historic Archaeology Conference*, Natchez, MS. Info: <http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/archinfo/schac.html>
- **January 9-12**—*Society for Historical Archaeology Conference*, Albuquerque, NM. Info: <http://www.sha.org/about/conferences/2008.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. Contact: Tim Nutt, [tjmn@uark.edu](mailto:tjmn@uark.edu)

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