April 10th:

New Toltec Archeologist, Dr. Elizabeth Horton, Talks about Prehistoric Plants & Fabric

Our April program will be given by the new Toltec Mounds Research Station Archeologist—Dr. Elizabeth Horton. As you may recall, Dr. Horton was scheduled to give the Kadohadacho Chapter a talk last October, but sickness prevented it...so now, this April, we have rescheduled the program and we are all excited to have the newest AAS Research Station Archeologist coming to Magnolia. Dr. Horton officially took the helm of the station at Toltec Mounds Archeological State Park just southeast of Little Rock in July of 2011, but she has been working in this state sometime as a postdoctoral Research Associate with the Arkansas Archeological Survey in Fayetteville.

Dr. Horton completed her Ph.D. in archeology at Washington University in St. Louis in 2010 with an Arkansas-related dissertation topic—The Ties that Bind; Prehistoric Fabric Production and Fiber Use in the Ozark Plateau. Her M.A. (2003) in was also from Washington University and she received her B.A. in Cultural Anthropology in 1996 from Webster University. She has worked throughout the Southeast over the past 10 years including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Cahokia Mounds and the 16th century Spanish settlement of Fort San Juan (Xoara) in North Carolina.

She is a trained field archeologist, but she also brings with her a rare research specialty—paleoethnobotany. As a paleoethnobotanist, Dr. Horton’s research focuses on the prehistoric cultural uses of plants in the Southeast United States (paleo=old, ethno=cultural, botany=study of plants). The emphasis of her research is on plant use for technology, specifically fiber use in textiles and basketry, although she is also interested in questions concerning the management and maintenance of technologically useful plants in the Southeast, especially Arundinaria sp., river cane. Current research projects include the Craig Mound Perishables Project with Dr. George Sabo in collaboration with the Caddo Nation. This project seeks to fully document and analyze the perishable and associated non-perishable materials from the “Great Mortuary” at Spiro. In addition, she is continuing research into the use of cane and questions surrounding the maintenance of canebrakes by modern and Pre-Columbian Southeastern peoples.

Dr. Horton’s talk is entitled: Woven Worlds: the Social Role of Fabric in the Pre-Columbian Southeastern United States. This presentation provides a unique look into the rich but poorly understood perishable material culture of the Pre-Columbian peoples of the Southeastern United States. Drawing primarily on data from analysis of the perishable assemblage from the Great Mortuary at Craig Mound, and a new 3000 year chronology of fabric production in the Ozark Plateau, this paper explores the ways in which fabrics, from the mundane to the sacred, played critical roles in people’s lives. This presentation also discusses the diverse sources of fabric data available to archaeologists and some of the ways in which materials are analyzed and interpreted. Come hear about plants, fabric and the prehistoric women who made them on Tuesday, April 10th, 7:00pm in the Magnolia Room on the second floor of the Reynolds Center on the campus of Southern Arkansas University.

Kadohadacho Speakers, Spring 2012

• May 8—Dr. Jamie C. Brandon, AAS SAU Station Archeologist will give a talk about the upcoming dig at the 2012 AAS Summer Training excavation at Historic Washington State Park.
What Happened at the “Spring Break Dig” at Dooley’s Ferry?

As part of Arkansas Archeology Month, the Kadohadacho Chapter and the AAS-SAU Research Station of the AAS conducted a “Spring Break Dig” at Dooley’s Ferry. This ferry was an important crossing on the Red River from the 1820s through the 1930s and was an important feature of the militarized landscape of the Trans-Mississippi Theater of the Civil War.

Over the course of seven days, two dozen people came out and helped excavate portions of what appears to be a mid-to-late 19th to early-20th century house and store. In addition to a plethora of nails, glass, and plain ceramics, we recovered some nice hand-painted and transfer-printed whitewares, children’s toys, and a few coins. In addition to telling us about the age of the house and the preferences of its occupants, this dig sets the stage for further excavations this fall.

We extend our thanks to Anthony Clay Newton, Addison Ochs, Don Hall, Vernon Perry, Dylan Powell, Don Bragg and family, Jim Rees, Nakiia Nelson, Allen Plunk, Spencer Tharp, Dawn Novak, David Mark Alvirez, Karen Saunders, Kelly Schnell, Bob Campbell, Bob Haworth, Peggy Lloyd, Gary Walker, Ed Black, Stephanie Kilsgaard, Carol Kilsgaard, and Diana Moxley, all of whom helped with the dig.

You can take a look at pics from the “Spring Break Dig” at Dooley’s Ferry here: http://www.flickr.com/photos/jcbrandon/sets/72157629687548177/

2012 Summer Training Program at Historic Washington, Arkansas, June 8-24

Following a successful 2011 summer dig, the Arkansas Archeological Society Training Program will return to Historic Washington, AR this June! Led by our own Dr. Jamie C. Brandon (Research Station Archeologist at SAU), the 2012 Annual Training Program will be held at Historic Washington State Park from June 8 through 24. You must be a member of the Arkansas Archeological Society to attend the Program. Minimum age is eight years old. Kids eight to 16 must have a registered adult sponsor with them. Training program activities will focus on excavations taking place on site at Historic Washington State Park. Opportunities to participate in classes, work in the lab, and attend lectures will also be available.

The Arkansas Archeological Society Headquarters, classes and evening programs will operate out of the (air-conditioned) 1914 School House facility at Historic Washington State Park. The 1914 School also has an air-conditioned bunkhouse, or training program participants can use the park’s grounds for tent and pop-up tent camping.

You may come to the dig for as long or as short a time as you would like, but you must have an orientation prior to participating. For those who have never attended our program, beginners’ orientations will be scheduled each morning as needed from June 9–18 with the final beginners’ orientation at 5:30 pm on Monday evening, June 18, (our traditional day off for rest, recreation, laundry, etc.). For “old timers,” the orientation is shorter and will be conducted in the field. After orientation, you may go to the excavations or lab, or wherever your work schedule indicates.

In addition to excavating, training program participants will have an opportunity to register for a variety of seminars, instructed by professional archeologists with the Arkansas Archeological Survey.

Check the website below for more information:


For background information about Block 6, Historic Washington and the 2011 AAS Summer Dig check out the recent Field Notes article:
http://www.arkarch.org/2012_dig_info.pdf

| Seminars to Be Taught at the 2012 AAS Summer Training Program at Washington, AR |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| **SEMINAR SESSION 1**           | **SEMINAR SESSION 2**            |
| **Monday, June 11 through Friday, June 15** | **Tuesday, June 19 through Saturday, June 23** |
| --Basic Excavation (am Field/pm Lecture) – Dr. Elizabeth Horton | --Basic Excavation (am Field/pm Lecture) – Dr. Leslie “Skip” Stewart-Abernathy |
| --Basic Lab (am) – Michelle Rathgaber | --Site Survey (am) – Bob Scott |
| --Arkansas Indians (am) – Dr. George Sabo | --Mapping (am) – Tim Mulvihill |
| --Establishing Time (pm) – Dr. Jeff Mitchem | --Human Osteology (pm) – Melissa Zabecki Harvey |
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New Blog Post:
Making Historical Archeology Visible

This month Dr. Brandon authored a blog post—“Making Academics Visible: Community Outreach and Education.” The post can be read on both The Society for Historical Archaeology Blog (Current Topics section) and Dr. Brandon’s own blog, Farther Along:


The post, which appeared March 22, 2012, tackles public archeology, social media and current TV shows.

The Society for Historical Archaeology Blog is the hub for SHA Social, the organization’s social media outlet. At this site, both members and non-members are welcome to read, share, and discuss topics posted by the SHA leadership, committees, and membership. These posts will reflect a wide-range of topics, including updates about new journal issues, conference planning, new archaeological resources in public education and technology, and pieces by SHA members about their current research and interests.

Upcoming Conferences & Events

• April 12-14, 2012—Arkansas Historical Association, Fayetteville, AR: http://www.arkansashistoricalassociation.org

Contact Us:

Dr. Jamie C. Brandon
Research Station Archeologist
Southern Arkansas University Research Station
PO Box 9381 Magnolia, AR 71754
870-235-4229
c Brandon@saumag.edu

Carl G. Carlson-Drexler, MA, ABD
Research Assistant
Southern Arkansas University Research Station
PO Box 9381 Magnolia, AR 71754
870-235-4230
cdrexler@uark.edu

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