October 11th:
New Toltec Archeologist, Dr. Elizabeth Horton, Talks about Prehistoric Plants & Fabric

Our October program will be given by the new Toltec Mounds Research Station Archeologist—Dr. Elizabeth Horton. Dr. Horton officially took the helm of the station at Toltec Mounds Archeological State Park just southeast of Little Rock in July of this year, 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 Southeastern 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 canebreaks 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, October 11th, 7:00pm in the Magnolia Room on the second floor of the Reynolds Center on the campus of Southern Arkansas University.

Kadohadacho Speakers Fall 2011

- October 11—Dr. Elizabeth Horton, the new AAS Research Station Archeologist at Toltec Mounds will talk about prehistoric plant usage and what we can learn about the past from plants.
- November 8—Dr. Trey Berry, the new Dean of Liberal & Performing Arts at SAU will talk about his research on the Hunter & Dunbar Expedition that explored the Ouachita River in the early 19th century.
- December 13—Bob Scott, Ph.D. candidate at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and Station Assistant at AAS-ASU will talk about excavations at a historic Creek Indian site in Alabama.
Call for Presentations: A Divided Arkansas

The Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) invites presentation proposals for its 71st annual conference in Fayetteville, April 12-14, 2012. This conference continues the Arkansas Historical Association’s look at the Civil War in Arkansas. In these years, Arkansans aligned on both sides of a significant national conflict, and we welcome presentations on any aspect of the war that emphasize division within Arkansas. In order to expand our conference theme, and to compare how the state has confronted adversity at different points in its past, we also welcome comparisons on other conflicts, antebellum and postbellum, that generated or exacerbated divisions within the Natural State, whether along political, geographic, racial, gender, or issue-related lines.

Presentations are limited to 20 minutes and we strongly encourage the use of audio/visual elements. Please send proposals of approximately 200 words to:

Carl G. Carlson-Drexler, program chair
Arkansas Archeological Survey
SAU Research Station
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Proposals should be submitted by October 14, 2011 and include a mailing address, phone number, and email address, if available. Proposals may be submitted by email. Please contact the program chair with any questions.

Welcome to Dr. Trey Berry

Dr. Trey Berry has been named dean of the College of Liberal and Performing Arts at Southern Arkansas University.

Some of you will recognize Dr. Berry from talks that he has given to the 2007 Arkansas Archeological Society Dig at Jones Mill and the 2007 Red River Heritage Symposium at Historic Washington State Park. Dr. Berry is the co-editor of The Forgotten Expedition, 1804-1805 The Louisiana Purchase Journals of Dunbar and Hunter (LSU Press, 2006) and served as project director for the documentary film The Forgotten Expedition: The Journey of Dunbar and Hunter. With 20 years experience in higher education, Berry came to SAU from the Department of Arkansas Heritage where he served as deputy director for two years. He previously worked at Ouachita Baptist University from 1989 until 2007. While at OBU he was a professor of history, director of the Carl Goodson Honors Program and director of the Daniel R. Grant International Studies Program. He left Ouachita for the University of Arkansas at Monticello where he served as dean of social and behavioral sciences.

Berry earned his undergraduate degree from Ouachita Baptist University and his master’s and doctorate in history from the University of Mississippi. He and his wife, Katherine, have now made their home in Magnolia. She is employed by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and is able to work from home. The Berrys have two children: a son, Tanner, age 13, and a daughter, Berkley, age 3.

Dr. Berry will honor us with a talk on the Dunbar-Hunter expedition at our November meeting. See next issue of the Kadohadacho News for details.

Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Fieldwork:
Battle Mound & a Battlefield

There are a couple of interesting upcoming AAS-SAU field projects coming up—and you can help out!

First, University of Arkansas Ph.D. Candidate Duncan McKinnon will be returning to Battle Mound in October to conduct more high-tech remote sensing. Duncan plans on working October 14 and 15 at the site. Battle Mound is located in Lafayette County south of HWY 82 and is the largest surviving Caddo mound in the Caddo homeland—and one of the largest platform mounds in the southeastern United States. McKinnon along with AAS volunteers, University of Arkansas students and AAS-SAU staff members have been mapping and conducting a remote sensing survey of the area around Battle Mound since 2007. 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 returns to gather more data this month with the help of Dr. Ken Kvamme and his University of Arkansas “Archeological Prospecting” class. If you want to pitch in, and see how a lot of different remote sensing technologies work at the same time…this is the project for you. If you are interested in helping out contact Dr. Brandon (ibrando@uark.edu) or Duncan McKinnon (duncanm@uark.edu) as soon as possible.

The second October field project will be conducted during the last week of October. As a favor to our friends at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP), the AAS-SAU Research Station staff will be stepping outside of our research territory in southwest Arkansas to investigate a Civil War skirmish near Helena in the eastern portion of the state. Carl Carlson-Drexler, the new AAS-SAU Research Station Assistant, will lead a group of AAS staff and volunteers to help define the boundaries of an action known as Wallace’s Ferry or Big Creek.

The action at Wallace’s Ferry was fought July 26, 1864, as Union forces left Helena (Phillips County) on a reconnaissance mission to find Confederate cavalry raiders operating in Phillips County.

In late June and early July 1864, Brigadier General Joseph O. Shelby, the Confederate commander of northeast Arkansas, dispatched 1,000 cavalrymen under Colonel Archibald Dobbins and Colonel B. Frank Gordon to raid Phillips County plantations that were being operated under the auspices of the U.S. government. The Union commander in Helena, Brigadier General Napoleon B. Buford, sent out a reconnaissance in force on July 25 to locate and hinder the operations of the Rebel horsemen.

The Union forces under Colonel W. S. Brooks consisted of 280 men of the Fifty-sixth U.S. Colored Infantry, eighty from the Sixtieth U.S. Colored Infantry, and a two-gun section of Battery E, Second U.S. Colored Artillery. They were ordered to cross Big Creek at Wallace’s Ferry, southwest of Helena, and cooperate
with a second force of about 150 troops of the Fifteenth Illinois Cavalry under Major Eagleton Carmichael.

The Union infantry unit arrived at Big Creek early on July 26. After crossing the creek at daylight and being told that Dobbins’s men had left the area the day before, Brooks’s men backed across Big Creek and set out pickets. At about 6:00 a.m., Dobbins’s Arkansas and Missouri cavalrymen suddenly attacked without warning from three sides. The commander of the Union artillery, Captain Jonas Fred Lembke, was killed and Brooks mortally wounded early in the attack. Lieutenant Colonel Moses Reed assumed command, and the black infantrymen formed in lines and fought desperately for the next four hours.

Help arrived at about 10:00 a.m. as Carmichael’s Illinois cavalrymen raced in and sliced through a portion of Dobbins’s troops positioned behind Reed’s infantry. The combined force then began a fighting retreat northeast toward Helena under constant attack from all sides. About eleven miles from Helena, the U.S. soldiers broke through a final line of Confederate cavalrymen and encountered no further resistance.

If you are interested in helping us at the Wallace’s Ferry battlefield, please contact Carl Carlson-Drexler (cdrexler@uark.edu).

Upcoming Conferences & Events

- **November 2-5**—Southeastern Archeological Conference, Jacksonville, FL: [http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/](http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/)
- **January 4-8**—Society for Historic Archaeology, Baltimore, MD: [http://www.sha.org/](http://www.sha.org/)

Contact Us:

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Kadohadacho Chapter Board of Advisors:
Mia Brewer, Ashdown, AR (2012)
Peggy Lloyd, Washington, AR (2013)
Anthony Clay Newton, Magnolia, AR (2014)

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@yahoogroups.com

You may also join be e-mail list by contacting Jamie Brandon at jcbbranch@saumag.edu

Pic of the Month: Duncan McKinnon gathering data with the magnetometer at Battle Mound in February, 2008. Come help Duncan out this month when he gathers more data on this important site.

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