

Arkansas Archeological Society and Arkansas Archeological Survey
46th Annual Training Program

BOTTOMS UP!

“Back to Carden Bottom”

Winthrop Rockefeller Institute | June 13-28, 2009

Public Programs

River Rock Grill opens at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 | 7 P.M. | ROCK THEATER

“Back to Carden Bottom, but Why?” *Presented by Skip Stewart-Abernathy, AAS*

This is an introduction to the background leading up to this Society Dig, along with a summary of goals for this season’s fieldwork: exploring an enormous pit filled with Native American trash in addition to items obtained from 16th or early 17th century Europe.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 | 6:30 P.M. | ROCK THEATER

“Dr. T.W. Hardison’s Contribution to the Archeology and to Preservation on Petit Jean Mountain” *Presented by Don Higgins*

Dr. T.W. Hardison is a major figure in the 20th century history of Petit Jean Mountain. His interest in prehistoric rock art led him to record numerous bluff shelters and rock art motifs, as well as bringing world-renowned archeologists to Petit Jean to help with the research.

MONDAY, JUNE 15 | 6:30 P.M. | LEGACY THEATER

“*Náawih! Sidánta?*: Indian Greeting Ceremonies in the Mid-South”
Presented by George Sabo, AAS

The Feature 10 “Big Pit” that is the focus of this year’s Dig contains both Native American and European artifacts and is therefore a significant resource for studying the Contact Period in intercontinental relationships. Such relationships begin with direct meetings, and the form, contents and impacts of such meetings become crucial. Native American peoples had their own ways, often confusing to European explorers.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16 | 6:30 P.M. | LEGACY THEATER

“Trying To Save What’s Left, Test Excavations at 3LO226” *Presented by Larry Porter, AAS*

There are numerous Woodland Period (A.D. 1-900) sites along the streams of the Ouachita Mountains but few have been investigated. 3LO226, endangered by bank cutting from Sugar Creek, contains a rich midden with excellent preservation of animal food bones. The Creek is eroding the low bluff at the site, dumping a rich archeological record into the water. A two-week salvage effort in March 2009 recovered many artifacts at this endangered site: pottery sherds, stone tools – including arrow points – and thousands of animal bones.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 | 6:30 P.M. | LEGACY THEATER

“Re-examination of the Ferguson Site Excavations, Hempstead County, 1972-74”
Presented by Pritam Chowdhury, University of Arkansas Anthropology Department

The Ferguson Mounds Complex was excavated during a series of Society Digs in the early 1970s, providing much information about Caddo Indian culture in southwestern Arkansas. Forty years of further research on Caddoan culture indicates that restudy of the Ferguson data has much new promise.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18 | 6:30 P.M. | LEGACY THEATER

“Recent Excavations at the Royston House, or, Digging Up the Society 1981-84 Campground”
Presented by Jamie Brandon, AAS

The Arkansas Archeological Survey and Arkansas Archeological Society have been conducting fieldwork at Washington Historic State Park since 1979. Work is continuing, searching for the “detached” kitchen at the Royston House, indeed close to the location of the Society tent camp during Society Digs in the early 1980s.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 | 6:30 P.M. | LEGACY THEATER

Video: *Making Stone Tools*

Bruce Bradley demonstrates how to make a spear point, a knife and a scraper from a beautiful chunk of black obsidian.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Open House

Dig site at Carden Bottom not open to the public.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23 | 6:30 P.M. | LEGACY THEATER

“Back to Carden Bottom, So Far.” *Presented by Skip Stewart-Abernathy, AAS*

Summary of first week with review of background history and goals for the Dig.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 | 6:30 P.M. | ROCK THEATER

“The Legends of Petit Jean” *Presented by Don Higgins*

The origin of the name for Petit Jean Mountain and creek are obscure, but the legends associated with the name are many. These legends are fascinating – the history and themes of the stories since the early 1800s give us insight about the history of tourism and the perceptions of colonial history and Native Americans.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25 | 6:30 P.M. | LEGACY THEATER

“Geophysical Investigation of Battle Mound, a Major Caddo Site on Red River”

Presented by Duncan McKinnon

Although Battle Mound is one of the best examples extant of the astonishingly large mounds built by Caddoan peoples, it is little understood. The new tools of remote sensing that measure such site characteristics as electrical resistance, magnetic variance and susceptibility to radar beams have the promise of providing great insight to the settlement patterns of the Caddo in association with their biggest mounds at important sacred centers.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 | 6:30 P.M. | LEGACY THEATER

“Society Excavations at the Eaker Site, 3MS105” *Presented by Claudine Payne, AAS*

The Society was given an extraordinary opportunity to explore a Middle Mississippian village site on what had been Eaker Air Force, a site that had been impacted by major earthquakes in the New Madrid Fault Zone.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 | 6:30 P.M. | ROCK THEATER

“Back to Carden Bottom: Success?” *Presented by Skip Stewart-Abernathy, AAS*

Review of the Dig, with extremely preliminary results.