September 11th:
The Reed Site, Ceremonialism in the Neosho River Valley of Northeastern Oklahoma

We hope everybody had a great summer (we did). The Kadohadacho News is happy to be back after our summer hiatus. Our first program for the fall 2012-season will be Dr. Scott Hammerstedt of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey will talk about his recent work with collections from the Reed site in northeastern Oklahoma.

Mound sites in eastern Oklahoma have been largely neglected in the archeological literature and Dr. Hammerstedt will discuss the Reed site, a multiple mound site located in the Neosho/Grand River valley which dates primarily to the 13th century. Reed was excavated in 1925 by the Oklahoma Historical Society and again by the WPA ahead of inundation created by the Grand River Dam in the 1940s but has not yet been fully analyzed.

The site is now submerged beneath Grand Lake but recent studies of the ceremonial objects found during these excavations—including sheet copper, copper-covered earspools, and ceramic vessels (both local and imported)—are providing exciting new information on late prehistoric behavior in the northern reaches of the Spiro area. In this talk, Dr. Hammerstedt describes the Reed site and will show examples of these previously undocumented objects.

Come learn about prehistoric Caddo ceremonialism in the Neosho River Valley of Northeastern Oklahoma—Tuesday, September 11, 7:00pm in the Magnolia Room on the second floor of the Reynolds Center on the campus of Southern Arkansas University.

Kadohadacho Speakers, Fall 2012

- September 11—Dr. Scott Hammerstedt of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey will talk about his recent work with collections from the Reed site in northeastern Oklahoma.
- October 9—Dr. Jamie C. Brandon, AAS SAU Station Archeologist will give a talk about the 2012 AAS Summer Training excavations at Historic Washington State Park.
- November 13—Gary Pinkerton will talk about Trammel’s Trace—the historic roadway through the region.
- December 11—Tim Mulvihill, AAS-UAFS Station Archeologist will talk about archeology at the Drennen-Scott House in Van Buren.

Volunteers Needed:
Fall Excavations at Dooley’s Ferry

This fall the Kadohadacho Chapter of the AAS will be returning to the site of Dooley’s Ferry (3HE14) on the Red River in southern Hempstead County to conduct excavations over three long weekends—September 13-15, October 11-13; and November 15-17, 2012. These excavations will follow up on our remote sensing and test excavation work last spring.

Dooley’s 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. Archeological excavations here offer a unique opportunity to study the flow of goods and people engaged in
local, regional, and global markets into and out of what was a remote corner of the South in a time of great disruption to the patterns of everyday antebellum life.

Carl Carlson-Drexler, will be leading excavations (along with Dr. Brandon). Carl has conducted fieldwork at the site on and off since 2008—including a couple weeks of work during the 2010 University of Arkansas Archeological Field School.

Volunteers are welcome, but contact Carl Carlson-Drexler in advance at 870-235-4230 or cdrexler@uark.edu and we’ll give you directions and times that we will be working.

2012 Summer Training Program at Historic Washington, Arkansas

We had a great time during our second field season with the Arkansas Archeological Society Summer Training Program at Historic Washington State Park. This was the second year of excavation at historic Washington on Block 6, the heart of the commercial district from the 1830s through the 1880s. When all was said and done, over the last two summers (2011 and 2012) our excavations on Block 6 discovered at least six different structures and 3-5 cellars dating from three major periods of activity—antebellum (1830-1850s), Civil War & postbellum (1860s-1880) and a flurry of activity in the 1920s filling in long-abandoned buildings following the 1870s and 1880s fires. As we have very little in the way of photographs, maps or archival material about Block 6, this archeological information is invaluable to reconstructing what kinds of buildings were on the block and what types of mercantile activity took place there. These excavations also recovered hundreds of thousands of artifacts which will help us understand what life was like on the Arkansas cotton frontier of the nineteenth century. These include more than twenty gunflints, several early faceted blue and glass black beads, and a surprising number of coins—both US (1827 and 1806 silver half-dollars as well as several early- to mid-nineteenth century silver coins of smaller denominations) and Spanish (at least 4 Spanish silver reales).

Although the AAS-SAU staff conducted promotional talks throughout the year, the public outreach element during the 2012 Arkansas Archeological Society Summer Training Program was also invaluable. The excavations were covered in several media outlets including Sunday Features in both the Arkansan Democrat-Gazette and the Texarkana Gazette, and interviews with KTXK 91.5 FM, a National Public Radio and American Public Media affiliate community-oriented, non-commercial radio station licensed to Texarkana College, and KTYC 88.5 FM, non-commercial radio station affiliated with the Cossatot Community College of the University of Arkansas. Additionally, the dig was covered by Rex Nelson in both is blog Southern Fried and his regular column in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

As we did last year, we had over 100 volunteers and staff members involved in the summer dig. Despite the hot weather, we had a good time and made some great discoveries. Thanks are due to the supervisors that made everything run smoothly in the field—Paul and Marilyn Knapp, Larry Porter, Jessica Howe, Dr. Elizabeth Horton, Gary Knudsen, Dr. May Beth Trubitt, Vanessa Hanvey and Carl Carlson-Drexler. Thanks also to all of those who taught classes and helped supervise in the field—Michelle Rathgaber, Dr. George Sabo, Dr. Jeff Mitchem, Bob Scott, Tim Mulvihill, and Dr. Melissa Zabecki-Harvey. Finally, thanks to Mary Ann Goodman and Mary Farmer for supervising efforts in the lab, and thanks to our “supernumerary” Dr. Leslie C. “Skip” Stewart-Abernathy who has been doing archeology in Washington since the late 1970s.

You can see hundreds of pictures from the 2012 AAS Summer Training Program in Historic Washington State Park at: http://www.flickr.com/photos/jcbrandon/sets/72157630003963231/

Arkansas Archeological Society
2012 Annual Meeting
September 21-23, Little Rock

Each year, on or near the last weekend of September, the Arkansas Archeological Society holds its Annual Meeting. The Arkansas Archeological Society head toward Little Rock September 21-23 for this year’s Annual Meeting. Besides all the usual fun at the meeting—interesting papers, keynote presentation, ARF auction—further described below, there are a number of attractions in Little Rock to interest all. The hotel is right next door to the Old State House Museum. Currently on display is an exhibit on “Growing Up in Arkansas.” Nearby is the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Clinton Presidential Library, and the River Market District with restaurants and nightspots.

We will be staying at the Doubletree Hotel, located at 424 W. Markham St., in Little Rock, right next door to the Old State House Museum. Rooms will be $92 per night, plus tax, single or double occupancy. There is an additional charge for 3 or more people. Call 1-501-372-4371, or 1-800-222-TREE. You must state that the reservation is for the “Arkansas Archeological Society 2012 Annual Meeting.” Rooms will be held for the meeting at this rate only until September 1. Cancellations must be made at least 24 hours in advance to avoid a charge. Please note that the meeting is a week earlier than usual, so deadlines for registration, banquet, hotel rooms, etc., are also earlier. Don’t tarry!
Events start on Friday evening with a membership reception. On Saturday, papers on current archeological topics are presented by professional and amateur archeologists from throughout Arkansas, in a 20-minute format, usually with slides. The annual Business Meeting is held Saturday and includes the presentation of certificates for the completion of the Certification Program and Certificates of Appreciation.

On Saturday evening, a banquet is held. After the dinner there will be a Keynote Speaker—Dr. George E. Lankford, Professor Emeritus of Folklore, Lyon College in Batesville, AR. Dr. Lankford’s program will be “Digging Religion and Art.” Dr. Lankford holds degrees in journalism, religion, and folklore. He is the author of numerous books and articles. Dr. Lankford’s presentation will be made immediately following dinner. Conference attendees who choose to dine elsewhere are welcome to rejoin the group for the presentation.

A highlight of the meeting is the ARF Silent Auction. Many wonderful items, including books, artwork, posters, jewelry, etc., are donated to raise money for the Research Fund. In addition to the Silent Auction, books and reproductions are usually available for purchase, as well.

More information about the meeting can be found at: http://arkarch.org/

We hope to see you there!!!

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Pic of the Month: Second session crew photo of the 2012 Arkansas Archeological Society Summer Training Program in Historic Washington. Taken in front of the Williams Tavern. Find yourself, if you were there!

http://www.saumag.edu/archeology