

JACKSON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

June 2012

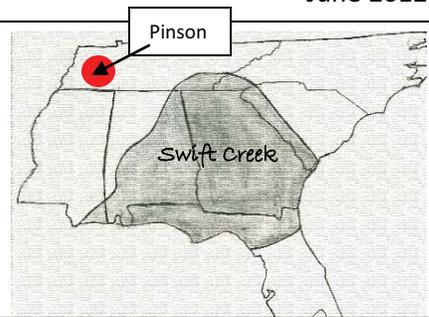
The Jackson Archaeological Society will meet **Monday, June 18th at 6:00 pm** at **White Hall, Room 101, Union University**, Jackson, Tennessee. The purpose of this Society is to learn more about past Native American cultures and the early historic period of Tennessee. Our meetings are **Free** and open to the public.

Mark Norton
who will present

Swift Creek Influences at Pinson Mounds

The Swift Creek Culture was centered on what we now call Georgia, extending into Alabama, and portions of Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Tennessee. This culture represents the Middle Woodland period (200 BC-500AD) for this broad geographic area and is distinguished from other Native American groups by very intricate, curvilinear pottery designs. Archaeologists have labeled the elaborate designs associated with this culture - Swift Creek Complicated Stamped.

A number of Swift Creek Complicated Stamped sherds have been recovered at the Pinson Mounds site located approximately ten miles south of Jackson, Tennessee. The presence of these sherds indicates contact with the core Swift Creek area, initially through the extensive trade networks that have been documented throughout the eastern woodlands during this time frame. Interestingly, a majority of the designs recovered at Pinson have concentric circles, which within the core Swift Creek area have been interpreted as symbols of the Sun. I think these pottery vessels, decorated with sun symbols were utilized during the Equinox sunrise rituals taking place at the site (March 21 and September 21), when the sun can be seen rising over Mound 29. This presentation will highlight some of the amazing Swift Creek designs from the core cultural area in Georgia, and the designs from Pinson Mounds. I encourage all to bring decorated pottery sherds to the June meeting. See you Monday, Mark



Swift Creek Culture Boundaries
(Adapted from Mark Williams and Daniel Elliott 1998)



Swift Creek Design from Kolomoki
Southwest Georgia



Swift Creek Design from Pinson Mounds
Artist – Susan Kwas

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Tennessee Archaeology Network

<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kesmith/TNARCH/>

Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/PinsonMounds/>

Union University Campus Map

<http://www.uu.edu/jackson/map.cfm>

Middle Woodland Period – National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/seac/outline/04-woodland/index-2.htm>

Swift Creek - Leake Site and Mann Site

<http://www.bartowdig.com/Mannsite.html>

Swift Creek in Florida – Judith Bense

<http://uwf.edu/anthropology/research/prehistoric/berneath/berneath2.cfm>

Swift Creek –West Georgia/East Alabama

http://shapiro.anthro.uga.edu/Lamar/images/PDFs/publication_119.pdf

Complicated Stamped Pottery in Georgia

http://peachstatearchaeologicalsociety.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=169%3AComplicated-Stamped-Pottery-Types&catid=&Itemid=58

Ancient World News – National Geographic

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/archives/ancient-world/>



Equinox Sunrise over Mound 29 – Pinson Mounds