



Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society

August 2011

The Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society will meet **Thursday, August 11th at 6:00 pm** at the Old Stone Fort Museum in Manchester, Tennessee. The purpose of this Society is to learn more about prehistoric Native American cultures and the early historic period of Tennessee. Our meetings are **Free** and open to the public. Our program this month:

Mr. John Dowd

who will present

The Anderson Site (40WM9):

A Middle Archaic Site on the Harpeth River

John Dowd recorded the Anderson site in 1972 (40WM9), which is located on the Harpeth River in Williamson County, Tennessee. The site was determined to be a Middle Archaic site (ca. 5,000 BC) due to the presence of Morrow Mountain style projectile points. Several years later John received a phone call from a neighbor of the Anderson's stating that an unusual find had been made at the site and they needed his expertise in identifying the artifacts. John recognized the importance of the find and convinced Mr. Anderson that archaeological investigations were needed to better understand and document this significant Native American site.

Archaeological investigations were conducted at the site from 1980-82. The excavations revealed a single component midden dating to the middle archaic period, ca. 5,000 – 4,000 BC. Mussel and gastropod shells within the midden neutralized the normally acidic soil and allowed excellent preservation of bones at the site. Over 35,000 pieces of bone were recovered, which have provided a wealth of information on subsistence data for this time frame. Bone artifacts were also recovered including fish hooks, awls, needles, atlatl hooks, antler atlatl weights, and antler knapping tools.

Over 1,300 marine shell artifacts, probably from the Gulf of Mexico, were also recovered including two whelk shell cups, beads, and a composite atlatl weight. The presence of marine shell at the Anderson site is one of the earliest known, long-distance trade items documented in Middle Tennessee.

John's Powerpoint presentation will describe the investigations at the Anderson Site, which has provided amazing insights into Native American life during the Middle Archaic period in the Middle Tennessee region.

See you Thursday, Mark

Information: Mark Norton – 615-741-1588, ext.113 mark.norton@tn

Old Stone Fort State Park 931-723-5073

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

Tennessee Archaeology Network

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

The Archaic Period – National Park Service

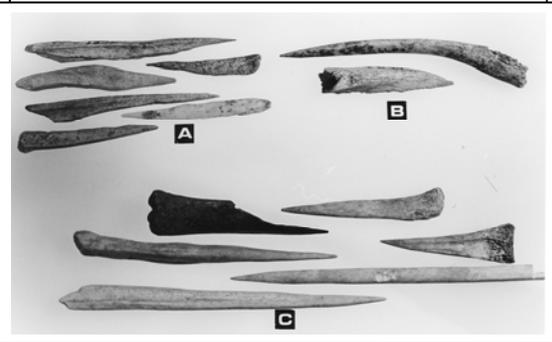
<http://www.nps.gov/history/seac/outline/03-archaic/index.htm>

National Register of Historic Places

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/>



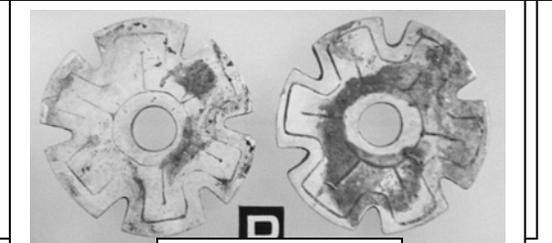
Projectile Points recovered from the Anderson Site



Bone Artifacts recovered from the Anderson Site



Marine Shell Cup recovered from the Anderson Site (on display in the Pinson Museum)



Marine shell discs