



# Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society

December 2007

The Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society will meet **Thursday, December 13th 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 program this month:

**Bruce Burton**

*who will present*

## **Solar Alignments at the Old Stone Fort**

Past archaeological research at the Old Stone Fort in Manchester, Tennessee has documented a carefully designed entryway to this Middle Woodland period hilltop enclosure. The entryway was constructed to not only control access to the enclosure but also was aligned with the Solar rise and setting points on the Summer Solstice (June 21). Archaeologists have documented many such markers on prehistoric Native American sites, especially during the timeframe this enclosure was built.

Archaeologist Bruce Burton has been making measurements and photographs of sunrises and sunsets within the entrance complex at the Old Stone Fort. Bruce has confirmed the solar alignment observations made by earlier researchers and has documented other key solar positions such as the spring and fall equinox, and points in between may also be marked within this entryway. Bruce will share his research on these alignments and provide insights into ritual ceremonies associated with astronomical observations

Our meetings are **Free** and open to the public. Invite your friends and family; see you at the meeting, Mark

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**Old Stone Fort Archaeological Area** – 931-723-5073 -

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

**Tennessee Archaeology Network**

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

