



Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society

January 2014

The Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society will meet **Thursday, January 9th 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 scheduled for the second Thursday of each month and are **Free** and open to the public. Our program this month:

Mark Norton and Will Bacon

who will present

Shaman's Tricks

The archaeological record reveals that prehistoric Native Americans utilized all of the natural resources available. One of the geologic resources available was crystalline quartz, which was used to fashion projectile points for thousands of years. The most intriguing fact is the presence of crystalline quartz on Middle Woodland period sites (200 BC – 500 AD) throughout the eastern woodlands. Crystals, projectile points, flakes, and angular fragments of quartz are found within the artifact assemblages at large ceremonial centers, giving elevated significance to this material.

One of the best explanations for crystalline quartz on Middle Woodland sites was provided by archaeologists at the Leake site in northern Georgia. Scott Jones and George Williams looked at the ethnographic record of the Ute in southern Colorado –who put crystal quartz in a rawhide rattle. Due to the triboluminescent properties of this material, flashes of light are seen when the rattle is shaken and the crystals collide. This flash of light may have been one of the Shaman's tricks employed during specific rituals.

I will bring crystalline quartz to the January meeting to demonstrate this phenomenon. Thanks to Hobart Akin for his excellent presentation on Fort Loudoun at the December meeting.

See you Thursday, Mark



Crystalline Quartz



Quartz Crystals recovered at the Leake Site
Northern Georgia

Information: Mark Norton 615-741-1588, ext.113
Old Stone Fort State Park – 931-723-5073
<http://state.tn.us/environment/parks/OldStoneFort/>
Tennessee Archaeology Network & Online Journal
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kesmith/TNARCH/index.html>
Leake Site – Northern Georgia
<http://www.bartowdig.com/>
Triboluminescence in Minerals – www.Geology.com
<http://geology.com/minerals/triboluminescence/>



Ute Rawhide Rattle

Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology January 24-25, 2014

- Friday, January 24 – Governor's Archaeological Advisory Council Meeting
- Saturday, January 25 - Current Research Presentations

<http://capone.mtsu.edu/kesmith/TNARCH/CRITA.html>

