Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society

June 2012

The Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society will meet **Thursday, June 14th 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 on the second Thursday of each month and are **Free** and open to the public.

Mark Norton

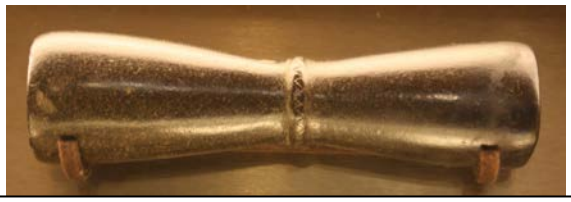
Native American Utilization of Steatite

Steatite, also known as soapstone is a metamorphic rock that was utilized by prehistoric Native Americans to create utilitarian and ceremonial items such as bowls, pipes, beads, and atlatl weights. This stone was very popular trade item due to its durability for cooking vessels, and it is very soft and easy to carve for pipes and other non-utilitarian items. Archaeologist Van King has been researching steatite in Alabama and has investigated a steatite quarry site 1TP21 in Tallapoosa County. This quarry site displays scars in the bedrock where bowl blanks were removed, as well as some of the quarry tools and fragments of failed bowls. This presentation will highlight this quarry site - along with a wide variety of steatite artifacts that have been recovered in the Southeast.

I encourage all to bring steatite artifacts to the June meeting.

See you Thursday, Mark

Steatite Bowl



Steatite Tubular Pipe

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

Tennessee Archaeology Network

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

Archaeology News – National Geographic

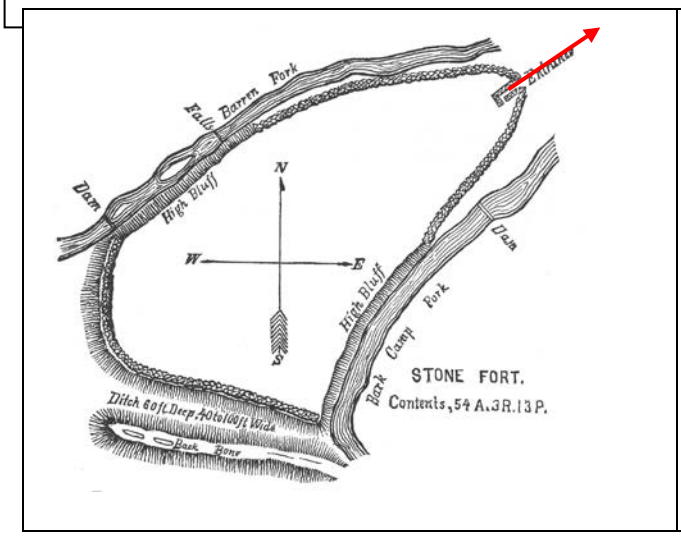
http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/archives/ancient-world

Blind Wolf Pipe

Old Stone Fort State Park

Summer Solstice Sunrise - June 20, 2012

Join us to watch the Summer Solstice sunrise Wednesday, June 20. The sunrise charts indicate the sun will rise at 5:30 am. The Native Americans who built this enclosure some 2,000 years ago, aligned the entrance with the Summer Solstice sunrise.

Information: 931-723-5073

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