



# Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society

March 2011

The Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society will meet **Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 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. We meet on the second Thursday of each month and our meetings are **Free** and open to the public. Our program this month:

**Mark Norton**  
*who will present*  
**Chichen Itza**

Thanks to National Geographic Magazine, I have long had a fascination with the Mayan city of Chichen Itza. I guess the intrigue began when I read that people were thrown into the sacred cenote as sacrifices to their Gods. I later learned that Chichen Itza became the most powerful Mayan city in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico during the Post-Classic period AD 900 – 1250.

Maybe the most impressive feature of Chichen Itza is the centrally located Pyramid of Kukulcan. This pyramid was precisely built on a north-south axis, with four staircases – each having 91 steps (364). Two large serpent heads adorn either side of the base of the northern staircase. Two times a year on the Equinox (March 21 and September 21) the sun casts light and shadow on the northern staircase, giving the appearance of their God Kukulcan (the plumed serpent) descending.

I have had the pleasure of visiting Chichen Itza twice, in 1991 and in 2011. This presentation is comprised of photographs from these two visits, coupled with maps, photos and drawings of various archaeological investigations of this site. Since this presentation will be a bit like the travel channel, I will also have a Xeroxed article of the chronology of Chichen Itza at the meeting.

See you Thursday,

*Mark*



Equinox appearance of Kukulcan



Information: Mark Norton – 615-741-1588, ext.113 [mark.norton@tn.gov](mailto:mark.norton@tn.gov)  
**Old Stone Fort State Park** 931-723-5073

<http://state.tn.us/environment/parks/OldStoneFort/>  
**Tennessee Archaeology Network – and Online Journal**

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

**Mesoweb – An Exploration of Mesoamerican Cultures**

<http://www.mesoweb.com/welcome.html>

**FAMSI – Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies**

<http://www.famsi.org/>

**AZTLAN**

<http://listserv.linguistlist.org/cgi-bin/wa?A0=AZTLAN>

**Tennessee State Museum – February 27-September 4, 2011**

**Egyptian Relics, Replicas & Revivals**

**Treasures from Tutankhamun**

[www.tnmuseum.org](http://www.tnmuseum.org)

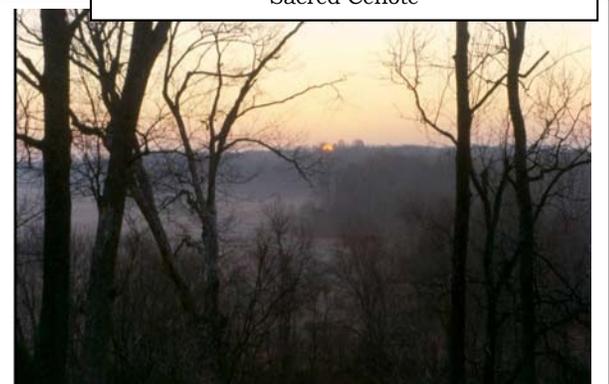
## Equinox Sunrise at Pinson Mounds

Watch the Equinox sunrise at Pinson Mounds March 20, 2011. The Almanac indicates the sun will rise at 6:58 am, but I encourage all to arrive around 6:00-6:15 to allow time to walk to and climb the stairs of Sauls Mound.

Information: Mark Norton 615-741-1588, ext.113



Sacred Cenote



Equinox Sunrise at Pinson Mounds