# CURRENT RESEARCH IN TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGY 15TH ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, January 31 and Saturday, February 1, 2003 Ed Jones Auditorium, Ellington Agricultural Center

# FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31	
2:00	Archaeological Advisory Council, Annual Meeting
4:00	Open Discussion: Future Publication of Tennessee Archaeological Research (upon conclusion of Advisory Council meeting)
5:00	Reception at the home of Susan Hollyday
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1	
8:40	Welcome and Opening Remarks Michael C. Moore (Tennessee Division of Archaeology)
8:45	The Middle Tennessee Explorations of Edwin Curtiss, 1877-1880.  Michael C. Moore (Tennessee Division of Archaeology) and Kevin E. Smith (Middle Tennessee State University)
9:00	Archaeological Testing at Site 40Dr12, Decatur County, Tennessee. Aaron Deter-Wolf $(TRC)$
9:15	The Carnton Kitchen Wing: Investigating its Present and Past in the Plantation South. Marc Wampler, Larry McKee, and Ted Karpynec (TRC)
9:30	Archaeological Investigations at the Evans Ferry Site (40Gr22): A 19th Century Settlement on the Clinch River, Grainger County, Tennessee.  Paul M. Matchen (Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Tennessee)
9:45	The Fall Creek Falls Archaeology Project: Our First Year.  Sarah C. Sherwood, Nicholas P. Herrmann, Jan F. Simek ( <i>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</i> ), Stuart W. Carroll ( <i>Fall Creek Falls State Park</i> ), Christopher Goodmaster, Stephen Yerka, Daniel Brock, and Julianna Lindsay ( <i>Middle Tennessee State University</i> )
10:00	Bedrock Mortar Hole Sites in Tennessee: Distribution and Variability.  Jay D. Franklin ( <i>University of Memphis</i> ), Jan F. Simek, Charles H. Faulkner ( <i>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</i> ), and Alan Cressler ( <i>National Speological Society</i> )
BREAK	10:15-10:30
10:30	Excavation of Feature 14 at Wynnewood State Historic Site. Samuel D. Smith (Tennessee Division of Archaeology)
10:45	Interpretation of Feature 14 at Wynnewood State Historic Site.  Daniel Brock (Middle Tennessee State University)
11:00	Archaeological Site Destruction within Tennessee's Waterways: A Case Study from Douglas Lake. William F. Stanyard (TRC)

11:15 The Mason Coffins: Metallic Burial Cases in the Central South.

Daniel S. Allen, IV (DuVall & Associates, Inc.)

# 11:30 Archaeological Excavations at the Essary Site, 40Ce40.

Mike Angst (Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Tennessee)

# 11:45 Relative vs. Chronometric Dating at the Citico Site (40Ha65), Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Nicholas Honerkamp (*University of Tennessee, Chattanooga*) and Tom Bodkin (*Hamilton County Medical Examiner's Office*)

LUNCH 12:00-1:00

#### 1:00 The Link Farm Site (40Hs6) in Regional Perspective.

David Dye (University of Memphis)

# 1:15 Recent Developments in the Treatment of Cemeteries on Archaeological Projects.

Nick Fielder (Tennessee Division of Archaeology)

## 1:30 The Press, the Pit, and the Postholes: The Search for Andrew Jackson's Cotton Gin House and

#### Press.

Elizabeth J. Kellar (*The Hermitage*)

### 1:45 Mississippian Structures and Settlement Patterns in Townsend, Tennessee.

Cameron Howell (Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Tennessee)

#### 2:00 Recent Phase II Investigations in West and Central Tennessee.

Shawn Chapman (Panamerican Consultants, Inc.)

BREAK 2:15-2:30

#### 2:30 The New Memphis Arena Project.

Thomas J. Carty and Guy G. Weaver (Weaver & Associates, LLC)

# 2:45 Archaeological Survey of the Ocoee No. 1 Reservoir, Polk County, Tennessee.

Todd M. Ahlman and Brad Duplantis (*The Louis Berger Group, Inc.*)

#### 3:00 Archaeologists Visit the Lawson Home: Phase III Archaeological Investigations at Site 40Sv51.

Christopher Hazel (DuVall & Associates, Inc.)

#### 3:15 Native Plant Landscaping for Management of Archaeological Sites in Middle Tennessee.

LinnAnn Welch (Radnor Lake State Natural Area)

# 3:30 Recent Highway Projects in Tennessee.

Warren J. Oster and Guy G. Weaver (Weaver & Associates, LLC)

#### 3:45 Education by Howitzer Fire: Federal Naval Losses at the Battle of Johnsonville.

Michael C. Krivor and Steve James (Panamerican Consultants, Inc.)

#### ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS

Ahlman, Todd M. and Brad Duplantis (The Louis Berger Group, Inc.)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE OCOEE NO. 1 RESERVOIR, POLK COUNTY, TENNESSEE. In early 2002, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., on behalf of the Tennessee Valley Authority, undertook an archaeological survey of shoreline of the Ocoee No. 1 Reservoir in Polk County. The survey identified 18 new sites and two previously recorded sites that ranged in age from the Middle Archaic to the early twentieth century. As a follow-up study to the survey, a Weights-of-Evidence analysis was applied to the survey results to test the survey assumptions regarding the potential for the occurrence of archaeological sites. Weights-of-Evidence is a Bayesian approach that uses an evidential theme of known points and environmental factors to derive a probability for the occurrence of the point theme elsewhere on the landscape. Factors used to test the assumptions were slope, aspect, and soil type.

Allen, Daniel S., IV (DuVall & Associates, Inc.)

**THE MASON COFFINS: METALLIC BURIAL CASES IN THE CENTRAL SOUTH.** The first patent for a cast iron coffin was awarded in 1848 to Almond J. Fisk, who produced three models before 1854. Other companies (in particular the Crane, Breed and Company of Cincinnati) obtained licenses to produce Fisk coffins early in the 1850s and introduced several modified versions.

DuVall & Associates conducted an archaeological relocation of the Mason Cemetery in Giles County, Tennessee during the summer of 2002. Thirty-nine human interments, including four adults and two children within cast iron or metallic burial cases, were studied in association with development of the surrounding tract as an industrial park. The metal coffins were of four differing styles and six sizes, and came from dated contexts ranging from 1858 and 1865. This presentation is designed to provide information regarding this particular type of coffin in the mortuary patterning of Civil War-era Euro-American planters in the Central South.

**Angst, Mike** (Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Tennessee)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT THE ESSARY SITE, 40CE40. In the summer of 2002, the Archaeological Research Laboratory conducted archaeological excavations at 40CE40, a small upland site in upper east Tennessee. The project was conducted in order to mitigate damage from highway construction and was funded by the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Excavations identified a series of lithic clusters in a mostly filled sinkhole. The lithic clusters represent primary deposition of individual reduction episodes of locally available Knox chert. Because of the nature of the features, refitting of tools and debitage is anticipated. Although the site appears to have been occupied sporadically throughout prehistory, recovered diagnostic artifacts indicate that the site was primarily occupied during the Late Archaic period.

Bodkin, Tom (see Nicholas Honerkamp)

**Brock, Daniel** (Middle Tennessee State University)

INTERPRETATION OF FEATURE 14 AT WYNNEWOOD STATE HISTORIC SITE. The Wynnewood State Historic Site (40SU75) in Sumner County is one of Tennessee's many valuable cultural resources. Since prehistoric times, people have ventured to the area, drawn to its mineral springs and aesthetic beauty. Besides the springs, located in the area know historically as Bledsoe's Lick, the main feature of the property is a large log inn that was built over 170 years ago. In 2001 monitoring of the digging of a septic drain line by the Tennessee Division of Archaeology led to the discovery of a previously unknown stone-filled feature in the east portion of the site. This feature was excavated during the spring of 2002, and the artifacts recovered suggest a construction episode that occurred during the early nineteenth-century. The feature contained a high percentage of window glass, and this artifact category became the main focus for interpreting the feature. This paper discusses the analysis of this feature through the means of window glass dating, and further discusses the technique's relevance to Tennessee historic sites.

Brock, Daniel (see Sarah Sherwood)

Carroll, Stuart W. (see Sarah Sherwood)

Carty, Thomas J. and Guy G. Weaver (Weaver & Associates, LLC)

**THE NEW MEMPHIS ARENA PROJECT.** In the summer of 2002, archaeological investigations were conducted in conjunction with the construction of the New Memphis Arena, located south of the Beale Street Historic District in downtown Memphis. The investigations covered portions of a six-block area, and included demographic reconstructions, testing, and excavation of over 90 features, including more than 60 wells, privies and cisterns. This paper examines the historical significance of the project area, the methods employed, and preliminary results.

Chapman, Shawn (Panamerican Consultants, Inc.)

**RECENT PHASE II INVESTIGATIONS IN WEST AND CENTRAL TENNESSEE.** Panamerican Consultants Inc. has recently conducted Phase II testing investigations at a number of sites in Carroll, Giles, Hardin, and Obion Counties for various TDOT projects. Six sites will be discussed with components present ranging from early Late Archaic through Mississippian.

Cressler, Alan (see Jay Franklin)

**Deter-Wolf, Aaron** (TRC)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING AT SITE 40DR12, DECATUR COUNTY, TENNESSEE. In June 2002, TRC conducted Phase II archaeological testing at prehistoric site 40Dr12, located along the Tennessee River in Decatur County. The archaeological investigations were performed in conjunction with plans to develop the surrounding property as a recreational vehicle campground/park. Testing of the site was accomplished through a program of intensive backhoe trenching and hand excavations. In addition to a previously recorded 1.5 m high conical mound and dense surface scatter, the site was determined to feature two deeply buried stratified deposits. In addition to discussing archaeological investigations at 40DR12, this paper will propose a chronology of prehistoric occupations at the site spanning a 5400-year period from about 7000 to 16,000 BP.

**Duplantis, Brad** (see Todd Ahlman)

**Dye, David** (University of Memphis)

**THE LINK FARM SITE (40HS6) IN REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE.** Excavations at the Link Farm site (40Hs6) in 1936 remain the only archaeological research to date conducted at this regional Mississippian center. In this paper I place the Link Farm site in regional perspective and discuss the possible role of the site as a fourteenth century ritual center.

Faulkner, Charles H. (see Jay Franklin)

**Fielder, Nick** (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TREATMENT OF CEMETERIES ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS.** How archaeologists treat prehistoric and historic cemeteries is in a constant state of evolution and change. Recent cases in various local courts have redefined the application of cemetery laws and regulations to prehistoric period human remains. Modern Native Americans are not recognized as defendants in suits to relocate prehistoric cemeteries. Recent policy statements by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians place limitations on excavation, recording and analysis of burials. The archaeological ramifications of these changes will be discussed.

Franklin, Jay D. (University of Memphis), Jan F. Simek, Charles H. Faulkner (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), and Alan Cressler (National Speological Society)

**BEDROCK MORTAR HOLE SITES IN TENNESSEE: DISTRIBUTION AND VARIABILITY.** Until recently, reports of bedrock mortar hole sites in Tennessee were virtually nonexistent, excepting antiquarian literature and unpublished manuscripts. These site types have a wide distribution and are myriad in Kentucky, and they are also common in northern Alabama. That relatively few exist in Tennessee seemed implausible. This paper reports on recent survey efforts aimed at locating and recording such sites in Tennessee. We focus on their distribution, temporal span, and especially their variability, as we currently understand these characteristics. Finally, we suggest some ideas regarding their function(s).

Goodmaster, Christopher (see Sarah Sherwood) Hazel, Christopher (DuVall & Associates, Inc.) ARCHAEOLOGISTS VISIT THE LAWSON HOME: **PHASE** Ш ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT SITE 40SV51. This presentation focuses on Phase III investigation of portions of site 40Sv51 that were conducted for the Tennessee Department of Transportation. Site 40Sv51 is located between the Little Pigeon River and Main Street in the northern portion of Sevierville, Tennessee. This multi-component site contained evidence of prehistoric occupation possibly dating to the Archaic and Early Woodland periods, and also a portion of the early 19th century Forks of the River Baptist Church Cemetery. Block excavation and mechanical stripping were used to identify and excavate living surfaces, features and burials. Although analysis of the data is on-going, we accomplished three goals from these investigations: (1) community outreach during the 2002 Archaeology Awareness Week; (2) discovered evidence to refute claims of 20th century grave desecration in the next-door Piggly-Wiggly and funeral home parking lots; and (3) created a synthesis of new and old histories from the Forks of the Little Pigeon River community.

Herrmann, Nicholas P. (see Sarah Sherwood)

**Honerkamp, Nicholas** (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga) and Tom Bodkin (Hamilton County Medical Examiner's Office)

**RELATIVE VS. CHRONOMETRIC DATING AT THE CITICO SITE (40HA65), CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.** The Citico site (40HA65) has been the focus of enormous interest by relic collectors and archaeologists from the Civil War until the site's nearly complete destruction in the 1960s. Despite thousands of artifacts that have been taken from this Mississippian mound center over the years, chronological dates have never been generated for any of its components. This paper presents the results of a recent radiocarbon date from a prehistoric burial discovered during construction activities at the site, and the challenges in accurately dating the surviving archaeological remnants using nonchronometric approaches.

**Howell, Cameron** (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

MISSISSIPPIAN STRUCTURES AND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN TOWNSEND, TENNESSEE. The Townsend Archaeological Project opened up large block areas that allowed visibility of, among other components, the Mississippian component consisting of multiple palisaded villages, individual households, and a variety of related features. In this preliminary survey, certain patterns and relationships between different aspects of the components will become clear, answering some questions about the Mississippian period in East Tennessee, and posing new questions, that even with the tremendous amount of data collected, currently go unanswered.

James, Steve (see Michael C. Krivor)

Karpynec, Ted (see Marc Wampler)

Kellar, Elizabeth J. (The Hermitage)

THE PRESS, THE PIT, AND THE POSTHOLES: THE SEARCH FOR ANDREW JACKSON'S COTTON GIN HOUSE AND PRESS. During the 2001 field season, Hermitage archaeologists attempted to locate the original cotton gin house and press. Through researching Jackson family letters, documentary and cartographic resources, an approximate location for the cotton structures was established. Fieldwork conducted in this area revealed the remains of a cotton pit press dug in ground to a depth of nearly nine feet, and nearby postholes associated with the original cotton gin house. The identification and location of these structures have allowed for a better understanding of the industrial activities that took place on the plantation.

Krivor, Michael C. and Steve James (Panamerican Consultants, Inc.)

**EDUCATION BY HOWITZER FIRE: FEDERAL NAVAL LOSSES AT THE BATTLE OF JOHNSONVILLE.** For the past several years, Panamerican Consultants (under the auspices of the Tennessee Historical Commission) have conducted intensive remote sensing surveys and diver investigations on the historic Tennessee River channel off the submerged town of Johnsonville, Tennessee. The investigations have been conducted to locate the remnants of Union vessels lost at Johnsonville during a raid by Confederate forces under General Nathan Bedford Forrest on November 4, 1864. The remains of one tinclad, one barge, and at least two (possibly three) supply transports have been located. This talk will focus on the finds to date, as well as future investigation plans.

Lindsay, Julianna (see Sarah Sherwood)

Matchen, Paul M. (Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Tennessee)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE EVANS FERRY SITE (40GR22): A 19TH CENTURY SETTLEMENT ON THE CLINCH RIVER, GRAINGER COUNTY, TENNESSEE. In May 2002, the Archaeological Research Laboratory, in contract with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, began mitigation of the Evans Ferry Site (40GR22) near Tazewell, Tennessee. This project was in preparation for bridge construction and the expansion of U.S. Hwy 25E (SR32). With laboratory analysis ongoing, our findings suggest this activity area was composed of two sizable residential structures, which may have been used to house ferry patrons. Surrounding these are several outbuildings that include a smokehouse and a possible slave cabin with an intact cellar. In addition, specific activity areas that involved hog processing, building construction, and sorghum syrup manufacturing were also encountered. These data contribute to the greater understanding of the day-to-day life of southern Appalachian communities in the 1800s.

McKee, Larry (see Marc Wampler)

Moore, Michael C. (Tennessee Division of Archaeology) and Kevin E. Smith (Middle Tennessee State University) THE MIDDLE TENNESSEE EXPLORATIONS OF EDWIN CURTISS, 1877-1880. A third year of research at Harvard University provided additional insights into the explorations of Edwin Curtiss, a Nashville resident sponsored by Frederic W. Putnam to collect native artifacts for the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Curtiss began working for the Peabody Museum during Putnam's trip to Nashville in the late summer of 1877. After Putnam's departure, Curtiss continued working for the museum until his death in December of 1880. During this relatively short tenure, Curtiss explored numerous mounds and graves across the Cumberland Valley of middle Tennessee, acquiring thousands of artifacts for the museum. This presentation will discuss the breadth of sites dug by Curtiss, show a variety of artifactual material acquired through his work, and briefly examine Curtiss himself.

Oster, Warren J. and Guy G. Weaver (Weaver & Associates, LLC)

**RECENT HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN TENNESSEE.** This paper briefly summarizes the results of Tennessee highway projects completed by Weaver & Associates during 2002. Phase II testing projects include those conducted at the nineteenth century Wayne Furnace site in Wayne County, and the multi-component prehistoric and historic period Wolf River Boulevard site in Shelby County. The reconnaissance survey for the proposed I-69 route between Dyersburg and Memphis is discussed, as are the results of Phase I surveys for the Bolivar By-Pass in Hardeman County, and Kirby-Whitten Road in Shelby County.

Sherwood, Sarah C., Nicholas P. Herrmann, Jan F. Simek (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Stuart W. Carroll (Fall Creek Falls State Park), Christopher Goodmaster, Stephen Yerka, Daniel Brock, and Julianna Lindsay (Middle Tennessee State University)

THE FALL CREEK FALLS ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT: OUR FIRST YEAR. Fall Creek Falls State Park is located on the Cumberland Plateau in Bledsoe and Van Buren Counties, Tennessee. Currently the park consists of approximately 22,000 acres, 6,200 of which are relatively recent acquisitions whose boundaries have not appeared on any available maps. According to the Tennessee State Site Files there are only 20 historic sites, and no prehistoric sites recorded within the park boundaries. The Fall Creek Falls Archaeology Project was initiated with two primary objectives 1) the development of a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) base map of the park and 2) complete a preliminary survey of prehistoric archaeological resources there. The GIS base map and the survey are needed to provide an important management tool for the park while serving as a platform for archaeological research to study the prehistoric use of the Cumberland Plateau. In this presentation we will report on our efforts to date including: the status of the GIS base map; development of a relational database to record sites for the State Site File and manage site location and survey data; our survey progress; and some initial efforts to test the preservation and condition of looted rockshelters.

**Simek, Jan F.** (see Jay Franklin)

Simek, Jan F. (see Sarah Sherwood)

Smith, Kevin E. (see Michael C. Moore)

**Smith, Samuel D.** (Tennessee Division of Archaeology)

**EXCAVATION OF FEATURE 14 AT WYNNEWOOD STATE HISTORIC SITE.** Wynnewood in Sumner County is one of fifteen Tennessee properties that carry the designation "State Owned Historic Site." The general management of these sites is the responsibility of the Tennessee Historical Commission, but the management of archaeological resources on these and all other state-owned lands is the responsibility of the Tennessee Division of Archaeology. The Wynnewood State Historic Site, which is also identified as archaeological site 40SU75 and is a designated National Historic Landmark, has been the subject of several archaeological projects dating back to 1975. This paper provides a general overview of past work conducted on the site and discusses the circumstances surrounding the discovery and excavation of a historic period feature, designated Feature 14. This stone-filled feature was first encountered during some 2001 backhoe digging, and it was excavated in the spring of 2002. The presentation will also serve as a tribute to the many volunteer excavators who made the project possible.

Stanyard, William F. (TRC)

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE DESTRUCTION WITHIN TENNESSEE'S WATERWAYS: A CASE STUDY FROM DOUGLAS LAKE.** This paper will present a visual tour of archaeological sites within the Douglas Lake floodpool, and examine the erosion, looting, and other destructive agents that are destroying those important resources. The discussion will focus on current conditions, management policies, and recommendations for reducing or eliminating the causes of site destruction within Tennessee's waterways.

Wampler, Marc, Larry McKee, and Ted Karpynec (TRC)

THE CARNTON KITCHEN WING: INVESTIGATING ITS PRESENT AND PAST IN THE PLANTATION SOUTH. In the spring of 2002 TRC Nashville undertook investigations of the kitchen wing foundation at the Carnton Plantation mansion, near Franklin, Tennessee. The work, conducted for the small museum at the site, focused on the layout, construction history, and use of the wing. This paper will present the project findings as well as consider the general assumptions, romantic notions, and current scholarship on the role of kitchens within the architectural and social settings of antebellum plantations. In combination with still standing mansion/service wing complexes in the area, the Carnton findings provide insights on how mansion residents combined yet separated their private domestic space and the workspaces and enslaved workers supporting their gracious lifestyles.

Weaver, Guy G. (see Thomas Carty)

Weaver, Guy G. (see Warren Oster)

Welch, LinnAnn (Radnor Lake State Natural Area)

**NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPING FOR MANAGEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE.** The purpose of this study was to investigate the effectiveness of replacing archaeological sites dominated by fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) with native forbs and grasses. Thirty-two 0.04 ha plots were established in an old field near Mound Bottom in the Harpeth River Valley, Cheatham County, Tennessee. The field was disked in the autumn of 1999, and the plots were sown with varying numbers of native wildflowers and grasses in late winter 2000. Coverage, density, height, and reproduction of plants that were sown and those not sown (volunteers) were recorded in the autumns of 2000 and 2001. Data was also collected in summer 2002. Higher production and reproduction and lower amounts of volunteers were predicted in plots sown with greater numbers of native species than those with lesser numbers. Of the ten species sown: five became well established, three were moderately established, and two never established. In most cases, less volunteer species were present in the second year of the study than the first year. Native plant coverage enhances cultural history interpretation as well as providing protection for the sites in question.

Yerka, Stephen (see Sarah Sherwood)