

**CURRENT RESEARCH IN TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGY  
17TH ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, January 21 and Saturday, January 22, 2005  
Ed Jones Auditorium, Ellington Agricultural Center

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 21**

- 2:00 Governor's Archaeological Advisory Council meeting.
- 3:30- Tennessee Council for Professional Archaeology meeting and reception.  
5:30

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 22**

- 8:25 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**  
Michael C. Moore (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)
- 8:30 **Wayne Furnace: Iron Age Archaeology in Middle Tennessee.**  
Guy G. Weaver (*Weaver & Associates, LLC*)
- 8:45 **Recent Analysis of Human Coprolites from Big Bone Cave (40VB103): Evidence for Early Agricultural Diet and Seasonal Food Storage in Central Tennessee.**  
Meta Pike (*Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)
- 9:00 **Digging at Both Ends: Investigations of Historic Sites Associated with Proposed Commuter Rail Station Sites in Lebanon and Nashville, Tennessee.**  
Larry McKee, Marc Wampler, Jared Barrett, and Ted Karpynec (*TRC, Inc.*)
- 9:15 **Applied Archaeology at a Middle Holocene Shell Midden Site within the Cumberland River Drainage of Middle Tennessee.**  
Daniel S. Allen, IV (*Cumberland Research Group, Inc.*)
- 9:30 **Recent Legal Developments Affecting Archaeology in Tennessee.**  
Nick Fielder (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)
- 9:45 **On the Backs of Serpents: Prehistoric Cave Art in Tennessee.**  
Jan F. Simek (*Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*) and Alan Cressler (*USGS*)
- BREAK 10:00-10:15
- 10:15 **Digital Preservation and Access for the TVA/WPA Archaeological Photograph Collections.**  
Lynne P. Sullivan, Lesli Rowan, and Shannon Koerner (*Frank H. McClung Museum, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)
- 10:30 **Mississippian Site Preservation in 2004: Castalian Springs (40SU14) and Fewkes (40WM1).**  
Kevin E. Smith (*Middle Tennessee State University*)
- 10:45 **Another Cox Mound Gorget from Castalian Springs (40SU14), Sumner County, Tennessee.**  
Michelle Willard, Jodi Johnson, and Merrill Dicks (*DuVall & Associates, Inc.*)
- 11:00 **The Johnston Site (40MD3): At the Edge of Preservation.**  
Mark Norton (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)

- 11:15 **A Townsend Archaeological Project Update: The Artifact Database and GIS.**  
Nicholas P. Herrmann and Chad Caswell (*Department of Anthropology, Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)
- 11:30 **Limited Archaeological Investigations at Inglehame (40WM342), A Mississippian Period Village, Williamson County, Tennessee.**  
William Bryce and Merrill Dicks (*DuVall & Associates, Inc.*)
- 11:45 **Two “Ships” that Don’t Pass in the Night: Archaeological Stewardship through Internships at Big South Fork NRRRA.**  
Tom Des Jean (*National Park Service*) and Kevin E. Smith (*Middle Tennessee State University*)
- LUNCH            12:00-1:00
- 1:00 **Plantation Architecture at the Samuel Doak Site, Greeneville, Tennessee.**  
Nicholas Honerkamp (*University of Tennessee, Chattanooga*)
- 1:15 **A Radiocarbon Chronology for the Platform Mound (Unit 5), Chucalissa, Tennessee.**  
Jay D. Franklin (*East Tennessee State University*) and Todd D. McCurdy (*University of Memphis*)
- 1:30 **An Alternative View of Social and Political Change in Middle Cumberland Mississippian.**  
Merrill Dicks and Catherine Dietz (*DuVall & Associates, Inc.*)
- 1:45 **Recent Data Recovery Investigations at the Parker’s Pasture and Johnson-May Sites in Giles County, Tennessee.**  
C. Andrew Buchner (*Panamerican Consultants, Inc.*)
- 2:00 **Beginning the Search for the Sam Davis Home Slave Quarters (40RD23), Smyrna, Tennessee.**  
Kevin E. Smith and Christopher Hogan (*Middle Tennessee State University*)
- 2:15 **Going Deep: Phase II Testing at Sites 40GN228 and 40GN229, Greene County, Tennessee.**  
Paul G. Avery, Carey B. Oakley (*MACTEC Engineering and Consulting*), Sarah C. Sherwood, and Brad Creswell (*Department of Anthropology, Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)
- 2:30 **Tennessee Cave Archaeology and Geographic Information Systems.**  
Timothy J. Smith II, Jan F. Simek (*Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*) and Alan Cressler (*USGS*)

## ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS

**Allen, Daniel S., IV** (*Cumberland Research Group, Inc*)

**APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGY AT A MIDDLE HOLOCENE SHELL MIDDEN SITE WITHIN THE CUMBERLAND RIVER DRAINAGE OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE.** In 2001, grading for a new residential development in northeastern Davidson County was interrupted when bulldozers disturbed a series of prehistoric human interments. The developer of the property retained Cumberland Research Group, Inc. after successfully acquiring an order for cemetery termination from the Davidson County Chancery Court. During the fall and winter of 2004-2005, Cumberland Research Group began the process of systematic burial relocation and archaeological data salvage at the one-acre site. In addition to a plethora of surface collected artifacts, numerous prehistoric archaeological features (including storage pits, human inhumations and cremations, and canine inhumations) have been identified, sampled, and documented within thick shell and midden deposits. The salvage project is designed around monitored backhoe stripping of soils over the site, manual feature excavation and matrix screening, and the systematic collection of whole or partial matrix samples for flotation from all archaeological features. To date, several burials have yielded tool kits (including biface caches, other bone or lithic tools) and personal items such as stone or copper beads. Preliminary analysis of these mortuary artifacts and the materials collected from non-mortuary contexts indicate the most intensive use of the site probably occurred during the Middle to Late Archaic periods (ca. 8000 to 3000 B.P.). The primary objective of this presentation is to highlight some of the archaeological features and artifacts recorded during this on-going field investigation.

**Avery, Paul G., Carey B. Oakley** (*MACTEC Engineering and Consulting*), **Sarah C. Sherwood, and Brad Creswell** (*Department of Anthropology, Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)

**GOING DEEP: PHASE II ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING AT SITES 40GN228 AND 40GN229, GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE.** In 2003, archaeologists with MACTEC Engineering, in conjunction with the University of Tennessee Archaeological Research Laboratory, conducted Phase II testing on two sites along the Nolichucky River in Greene County, Tennessee. Site 40GN228, also known as the Birdwell site, is located on the west bank of the river. Site 40GN229 (Neas site) is located on the river's east bank. Both sites proved to be expansive and contain intact, deeply buried, cultural deposits. Each site is multi-component, with 40GN228 possessing Mississippian, Woodland and Archaic components. 40GN229 contains evidence of Woodland and Archaic, and Historic occupations. This presentation provides a brief overview of the field methodologies employed and materials recovered during the testing program.

**Barrett, Jared** (see Larry McKee)

**Bryce, William and Merrill Dicks** (*DuVall & Associates, Inc.*)

**LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT INGLEHAME (40WM342), A MISSISSIPPIAN PERIOD VILLAGE, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE.** Limited investigations at the Inglehame site (40WM342) in Williamson County, Tennessee revealed the presence of a previously unrecorded Mississippian period village. In compliance with the state cemetery law, the investigation was conducted to ascertain the extent, potential number, and cultural affiliation of human graves found during initial residential construction activities on the property. With the consent of the developer, however, archaeological investigations were undertaken and funded by DuVall & Associates to recover additional information on the site. While limited in scope, this additional work resulted in the detailed documentation of extremely well preserved prehistoric deposits.

**Buchner, C. Andrew** (*Panamerican Consultants, Inc.*)

**RECENT DATA RECOVERY INVESTIGATIONS AT THE PARKER'S PASTURE AND JOHNSON-MAY SITES IN GILES COUNTY, TENNESSEE.** Under contract with the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the Memphis office of Panamerican Consultants, Inc. recently conducted data recovery investigations at two multi-component sites in Giles County, Parker's Pasture (40GL25) and Johnson-May (40GL85). Johnson-May produced evidence of a primary Late-Middle Woodland occupation and revealed a number of intact features including a well-defined structure pattern. A primary Early Mississippian occupation is indicated at Parker's Pasture, which also produced numerous intact features including several burials. An impressive artifact cache accompanied one of the latter. A brief summary of preliminary findings from both sites will be presented.

**Caswell, Chad** (see Nicholas P. Herrmann)

**Cressler, Alan** (see Jan F. Simek)

**Cressler, Alan** (see Timothy J. Smith II)

**Creswell, Brad** (see Paul G. Avery)

**Des Jean, Tom** (*National Park Service*) and **Kevin E. Smith** (*Middle Tennessee State University*)

**TWO "SHIPS" THAT DON'T PASS IN THE NIGHT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP THROUGH INTERNSHIPS AT BIG SOUTH FORK NRRRA.** Begun in 1996, the Cliffline Archeological Survey Project has developed into a long-term cooperative summer internship program between Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and the National Park Service at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BISO). Over the last nine years, twenty-six student interns from MTSU have located and recorded baseline information on over 300 archaeological sites along almost 100 miles of cliffline in Tennessee and Kentucky. The project provides BISO managers with information critical to protect these fragile rockshelter sites from persistent looting and undergraduate archaeology students with "real world" training and experience in archaeological survey.

**Dicks, Merrill and Catherine Dietz** (*DuVall & Associates, Inc.*)

**AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGE IN MIDDLE CUMBERLAND MISSISSIPPIAN.** Smith and Moore (Smith 1992; Smith and Moore 1996; Moore and Smith 2001) have presented a model of region-wide social and political change and development for the Middle Cumberland Mississippian period archaeological record that they broadly correlate with two distinct, phase-level constructs. They proposed an initial interval of region-wide political centralization and the development of ranked, chiefdom-like society, between approximately A.D. 1000 and 1250. After A.D. 1250 political decentralization is believed to have ensued with formerly dispersed populations becoming reorganized into compact, fortified, and politically autonomous village communities where leadership positions were primarily achieved rather than ascribed. In contrast to the existing model, an alternative interpretation is presented here that stresses the role of political agency and social interactions as primary mechanisms in precipitating both regional and more local changes. Each Middle Cumberland polity is envisioned to have followed a unique historical trajectory that unfolded within a more general regional milieu where the nature of elite power shifted through time from a fundamental emphasis upon sacred to more secular means of empowerment.

**Dicks, Merrill** (see William Bryce)

**Dicks, Merrill** (see Michelle Willard)

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

**RECENT LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING ARCHAEOLOGY IN TENNESSEE.** The Department of Environment and Conservation has requested an Attorney General opinion regarding the use of human Native American skeletal materials in teaching and research and the photography of such remains by news media. There is also a pending case on the treatment of human remains using site burial techniques and whether the process is considered to be desecration under Tennessee law.

**Franklin, Jay D.** (*East Tennessee State University*) and **Todd D. McCurdy** (*University of Memphis*)

**A RADIOCARBON CHRONOLOGY FOR THE PLATFORM MOUND (UNIT 5), CHUCALISSA, TENNESSEE.** The University of Tennessee conducted the initial archaeological investigations at Chucalissa in 1940. This was before the advent of radiometric dating, and virtually all of the field notes were lost. The construction of the platform mound is presumed to have been restricted to the Walls Phase based largely on ceramic chronology. Recent excavations by the University of Memphis aimed to refine the chronology through the recovery and radiometric dating of charcoal samples from the various construction and destruction episodes revealed within the profile of the mound. In this presentation, we suggest that the periodicity of both mound construction and use was relatively brief.

**Herrmann, Nicholas P. and Chad Caswell** (*Department of Anthropology, Archaeological Research Laboratory, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)

**A TOWNSEND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT UPDATE: THE ARTIFACT DATABASE AND GIS.** A critical component of the Townsend Archaeological Project is the development of a functional artifact and context relational database and GIS. We have been working with Dr. Rod Riley of IBM to develop a web-based artifact analysis data entry interface. The structure and user interface of the Townsend relational database will be presented, and our progress will be detailed. In addition, the status of the project-wide GIS will be presented and illustrated.

**Hogan, Christopher** (see Kevin E. Smith)

**Honerkamp, Nicholas** (*University of Tennessee, Chattanooga*)

**PLANTATION ARCHITECTURE AT THE SAMUEL DOAK SITE, GREENEVILLE, TENNESSEE.** A second field session of archaeological testing at the Samuel W. Doak plantation, in Greeneville, Tennessee, revealed two extensive architectural features adjacent to the extant plantation manor and the Doak "academy," or schoolhouse. Artifacts associated with both features indicate that they both predate the initial construction dates of buildings documented for the site. This archaeological challenge to the archival version of the plantation's history has resulted in a more accurate but at the same time more complex reconstruction of the Doak occupation.

**Johnson, Jodi** (see Michelle Willard)

**Karpynek, Ted** (see Larry McKee)

**Koerner, Shannon** (see Lynne Sullivan)

**McCurdy, Todd D.** (see Jay D. Franklin)

**McKee, Larry, Marc Wampler, Jared Barrett, and Ted Karpynek** (*TRC, Inc.*)

**DIGGING AT BOTH ENDS: INVESTIGATIONS OF HISTORIC SITES ASSOCIATED WITH PROPOSED COMMUTER RAIL STATION SITES IN LEBANON AND NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.** In the spring of 2004 the Nashville office of TRC undertook investigations of property proposed for use as station sites along the eastern line of the new Nashville commuter rail system. The sites are located at the terminal points of the line, at the west end along the riverfront in downtown Nashville and at the east end a few blocks from the square in Lebanon. Documentary research on both properties found that each was the site of significant commercial operations during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In Lebanon, the station footprint included the location of an early twentieth century bottling works and ice plant as well as workers housing associated with the Tennessee Woolen Mill. In Nashville, the riverfront site had been the location of a variety of enterprises since the early nineteenth century, including a ferry landing and the Brennan iron foundry. Phase II testing was carried out at both station sites to search for and evaluate archaeological remains at each locale. Although the investigations found that the station construction will not disturb intact archaeological deposits, the work did produce additional archaeological and documentary information on historic period activity at each site.

**Norton, Mark** (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)

**THE JOHNSTON SITE (40MD3): AT THE EDGE OF PRESERVATION.** The Johnston site is located on the Forked Deer River in Madison County, Tennessee, some three miles north of the Pinson Mounds complex. In 1916-1917, archaeologist William E. Myer mapped the Johnston site after completing the first map of Pinson. Myer noted 10 mounds, geometric earthworks, and a cemetery at Johnston. Although very little is known about the site, the available clues suggest the mounds were constructed during the Middle Woodland period (200 BC-500 AD) and are contemporary with Pinson. The major indicators are: (1) platform mounds; (2) Middle Woodland period ceramics identical to those recovered from Pinson Mounds; and (3) a lack of Mississippian period artifacts. Fortunately, landowner Judy Vailes understood the significance of this Native American site and contacted Tennessee State Parks officials about the purchasing the property. Tennessee State Parks and the Division of Archaeology (both with the Department of Environment and Conservation) have teamed together to move this site forward through the land acquisition process. This presentation will display the information available for the Johnston mounds, from Myer's investigations to current photographs of this mound complex.

**Oakley, Carey B.** (see Paul G. Avery)

**Pike, Meta G.** (*Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)

**RECENT ANALYSIS OF HUMAN COPROLITES FROM BIG BONE CAVE (40VB103): EVIDENCE FOR EARLY AGRICULTURAL DIET AND SEASONAL FOOD STORAGE IN CENTRAL TENNESSEE.**

This paper presents the results of a macrobotanical analysis on the unanalyzed portions of eight human coprolites recovered from Big Bone Cave in Van Buren County. Represented in all eight specimens are indigenous seed crops of the prehistoric Eastern Woodlands, such as sumpweed (*Iva annua*), goosefoot (*Chenopodium berlandieri*), sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), and erect knotweed (*Polygonum erectum*). This study provides evidence for the seasonal use of cultivated plants as stored food resources based on the presence of spring and fall ripening plants in the paleofeces.

**Rowan, Lesli** (see Lynne Sullivan)

**Sherwood, Sarah C.** (see Paul G. Avery)

**Simek, Jan F.** (*Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*) **and Alan Cressler** (*USGS*)

**ON THE BACKS OF SERPENTS: PREHISTORIC CAVE ART IN TENNESSEE.** Examination of nearly fifty prehistoric cave art sites in the Southeast indicates that some caves were organized compositions rather than simple scatters of unrelated pictures. This paper considers several sites from the late Mississippian Period and, using detailed recordation and analysis of spatial distributions, illuminates an underlying structure or grammar controlling the locations of different image types. Mississippian cave art depicted transcendental pathways from the outside to the underworld, emphasizing the role of dark reaches in the cosmological landscape of late prehistoric people.

**Simek, Jan F.** (see Timothy J. Smith II)

**Smith, Kevin E.** (*Middle Tennessee State University*)

**MISSISSIPPIAN SITE PRESERVATION IN 2004: CASTALIAN SPRINGS (40SU14) AND FEWKES (40WM1).** In contrast to the destructive trend of the last three decades, two major Mississippian sites in Middle Tennessee have been preserved from development by public acquisition during the past year. This paper presents information on the land acquisition process for the Castalian Springs Mound site in Sumner County along with a summary of previous archaeological investigations. In addition, an update on archaeological testing and park development at the Fewkes Mound site in Williamson County will be provided.

**Smith, Kevin E. and Christopher Hogan** (*Middle Tennessee State University*)

**BEGINNING THE SEARCH FOR THE SAM DAVIS HOME SLAVE QUARTERS (40RD23), SMYRNA, TENNESSEE.** In summer 2004, students in the MTSU Archaeological Field School initiated an archaeological search for the fourteen buildings that once housed over fifty enslaved African-Americans at the Sam Davis Home in Smyrna. Originally preserved by the Sam Davis Memorial Association in honor of young Sam Davis, a Confederate Civil War hero, interpretation at the site is being expanded to include more comprehensive information about the upper middle-class plantation of the Davis family and their slaves. This paper presents the results of the initial search for the lost slave quarter(s) and preliminary interpretations of the field and lab work.

**Smith, Kevin E.** (see Tom Des Jean)

**Smith II, Timothy J., Jan F. Simek** (*Department of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*) **and Alan Cressler** (*USGS*)

**TENNESSEE CAVE ARCHAEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS.** The geology of the state of Tennessee allows for a tremendous amount of karst activity, the geological process responsible for the formation of a majority of the state's caves. With over 8,600 surveyed caves, 350 of which exhibit some degree of archaeological importance, the state of Tennessee affords archaeologists the opportunity for an in-depth analysis of prehistoric and historic cave use patterns. Through field data collection and an intensive literature review of Tennessee caves, the authors have assembled a substantial archaeological cave use database. This database has

recently been incorporated into a Geographic Information System (GIS), allowing for an intensive study of potential variables affecting prehistoric and historic cave use.

**Sullivan, Lynne P., Lesli Rowan, and Shannon Koerner** (*Frank H. McClung Museum, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)

**DIGITAL PRESERVATION AND ACCESS FOR THE TVA/WPA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTIONS.** Some 7000 photographs from WPA-era excavations in the Tennessee Valley are being preserved digitally and made internet accessible. This joint project of the McClung Museum and Hodges Library at the University of Tennessee, in partnership with the Universities of Kentucky and Alabama, is funded by an Institute for Museum and Library Services grant. The project is using international standards for image and text digitization and preservation. The searchable database is now online [<http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/wpa/index.htm>], but will be completed and more accessible in the spring.

**Weaver, Guy G.** (*Weaver & Associates, LLC*)

**WAYNE FURNACE: IRON AGE ARCHAEOLOGY IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE.** During the summer of 2004, Weaver & Associates, LLC conducted extensive archaeological data recovery excavations at the Wayne Furnace site (40WY62). The investigations were conducted for the Tennessee Department of Transportation in conjunction with proposed improvements along State Route 15 (US Highway 64) in Wayne County, Tennessee. Archival research suggests that there were at least four major building episodes at the site, beginning in the 1830s and ending in the 1880s. First operated as an iron plantation with enslaved labor, the works were acquired and refitted by an Ohio firm after the Civil War. Archaeological investigations at 40WY62 uncovered the partial remains of a limestone furnace stack and hearth associated with Rogal Ferguson's original Mt. Jasper Furnace, in use between ca. 1836-1846. In addition, a larger brick foundation and hearth, believed to be Gaylord & Company's Wayne Furnace stack (ca. 1865-1886), were unearthed. The excavations also revealed a series of complex stratified deposits comprising the casting yards, as well as stone foundations and other features of the charging deck, situated on a bluff overlooking the stacks and casting yards. Investigations in the area surrounding the furnaces identified auxiliary structures, work areas, and iron ore mines. This paper briefly examines the environmental, technological, and social contexts of the site, and presents a review of the fieldwork and preliminary conclusions.

**Willard, Michelle, Jodi Johnson, and Merrill Dicks** (*DuVall & Associates, Inc.*)

**ANOTHER COX MOUND GORGET FROM CASTALIAN SPRINGS (40SU14), SUMNER COUNTY, TENNESSEE.** Monitoring of the excavation of a sewer line trench at the Castalian Springs site in Sumner County, Tennessee resulted in the discovery of both intact and disturbed Mississippian period deposits within the State Route 25 right-of-way. Intact remains defined within the one meter wide by 450 meter long trench included portions of wall trench structures, lines of postholes, pit-like features, and midden deposits that contained animal bone, shell-tempered ceramics, lithic artifacts, and abundant charcoal. Also recovered was a Cox Mound Style gorget fragment manufactured on green slate. Although this artifact was recovered from disturbed contexts, it represents one of about seven Cox Mound Style gorgets that have been recovered from Castalian Springs. The potential significance of this find is discussed in site specific and regional contexts.