

Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society

March 2015

The Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society will meet **Thursday, March 12th 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
who will present
Big Bone Cave

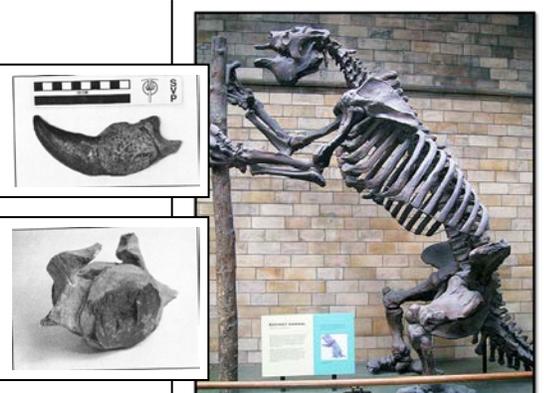
Big Bone Cave is located in Van Buren County, Tennessee and has a long history of habitation/exploitation by ice age animals, Native Americans, and saltpeter miners. Extinct Ground Sloth and Jaguar remains have been recovered from this large cave as well as a number of ancient birds. Cavers and archaeologists have also recovered numerous cane torches, moccasins, and other artifacts of prehistoric Native Americans. The historic period exploitation of this cave was in the quest to obtain saltpeter, first during the War of 1812 and later during the Civil War. This presentation will highlight each of these archaeologically significant periods discovered within Big Bone Cave.

This cave is currently closed due to the white nose syndrome that has infected the native bat populations of our region. Rock Island State Park manages this natural area and hopes to reopen this fascinating cave for tours once the white nose problem has been solved.

See you Thursday, Mark



Big Bone Cave
Managed by Rock Island State Park
<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/rock-island>



Ground Sloth
Megalonyx jeffersoni



Prehistoric Native American woven-fiber bag



Civil War Era Saltpeter Vat

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
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kesmith/TNARCH/index.html>
Tennessee Archaeology – Online Journal
<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kesmith/TNARCH/tennesseearchaeology.html>
Middle Tennessee Gem and Mineral Society - Tullahoma
<http://mtgms.org/>
Nashville Grotto of the National Speleological Society
<http://nashvillegrotto.org/>
Moundville Knap-In and Ancient Arts Gathering
March 13-14, 2015
https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10155139427075553&set=pcb.709061769191599&type=1&relevant_count=2
Middle Tennessee Museum of Natural History
<https://www.facebook.com/MidTnMuseum>
Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County
<http://www.hcmrc.org/Education>
Coffee County Archives
http://coffeecountytn.org/history/county_archives/index.html
Tennessee Electronic Library
<http://tntel.tnsos.org/>
The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA)
<http://www.nps.gov/archeology/tools/Laws/arpa.htm>