TROWEL AND PEN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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KAS GOES INTERNATIONAL

KAS and a diverse group of organizations are partners in a bi-national pilot project called the Kentucky-Uruguay Cultural Heritage Education Project. The project gives students and teachers the opportunity to learn about prehistory and contemporary cultures in both countries. It uses the processes and methods of archaeology to create hands-on language and cultural learning opportunities.

Over 300 students and teachers from Manchester Elementary, Oneida Elementary, and Big Creek Elementary in Clay County, Kentucky and from St. Patrick's School in Montevideo and public schools in Rocha Province, Uruguay are participating in the project. Engaged as colleagues in each others' archaeological research, the Kentucky and Uruguay students are using the internet, as well as writing letters and drawing pictures, to exchange and share information.

Clay County students help archaeologists investigate rockshelter.

In October, the Kentucky students, under the supervision of KAS and National Forest Service archaeologists, carried out fieldwork at a rockshelter in Leslie County as part of the Kentucky phase of the project. Materials recovered from four test units indicated that Archaic (8,000-1,000 B.C.), Woodland (1,000 B.C.-A.D. 1,000), and Late Prehistoric (A.D. 1000-1700) peoples lived there. In December, students visited the University of Kentucky's Archaeology Lab to wash and sort the artifacts.

Video fieldtrips of research at project sites in Kentucky and Uruguay are being prepared by KET, The Kentucky Network, and a bilingual Teachers Resource Guide also will be prepared. Visit the project web page to see pictures of the fieldwork and students' stories of their experience: ***http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/khc/kas.htm***

In 1999, KAS published its fourth volume in its continuing Education Series. *Forests, Forest Fires, & Their Makers: The Story of Cliff Palace Pond, Jackson County, Kentucky* is by Paul A. Delcourt, Hazel R. Delcourt, Cecil R. Ison, William E. Sharp, and A. Gwynn Henderson. This booklet tells the 10,000 year long environmental and human story of Keener Point Knob, based on research carried out at a small ridgetop pond and nearby rockshelters by paleoecologists, archaeologists, and fire ecologists. It describes the changes in forest vegetation brought about by changes in climate and prehistoric peoples' use of fire to manipulate the forest as they turned to a gardening way of life. The booklet is available from KAS for $5.00.

DISTURBED SITE STILL A WINDOW ON THE PAST

In May and June 1999, KAS archaeologists conducted research at the Highland Creek site, a prehistoric site in Union County. The project was carried out at the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on land managed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Looters had damaged an unknown amount of the site, digging at least 40 holes and disturbing trash deposits and more than 20 American Indian burials. The goals of the KAS investigations were to identify the age and function of the site; find its boundaries; and figure out how much of site remained undisturbed. Fieldwork consisted of excavating four rectangular pits (3 x 6 feet) in the middle of the site and placing auger probes 4 inches in diameter around the perimeter of the site.

The Highland Creek site covers an area 225 feet in diameter. Trash deposits extend to 3 feet below the surface. KAS archaeologists recovered many artifacts, documented several hearth and pit features, and recorded four human burials. Radiocarbon dates show that people lived at this site during the late Middle Archaic/early Late Archaic (ca. 3,000 B.C.).

Researchers found grinding stones and lots of hickory nuts at the Highland Creek site. This shows that collecting and processing hickory nuts was an important economic activity for the people who lived there. These Archaic people also collected other wild plants, including persimmon, wild grape, erect knotweed, and marshelder. The size and shape of some seeds shows that these people had begun to experiment with domesticating plants, such as gourds and squash. The bones of deer, turkey, duck and goose found at the site show that they ate a variety of animals. Archaeologists can also say that these people used the wetland habitat that surrounded the Highland Creek site, because they found pondweed seeds and swamp rabbit bones.

A 5,000 year old pit feature at the Highland Creek site.

In 1998, KAS published its third volume in its continuing Education Series. *Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers: Kentucky's First Pioneers* is by Leon Lane, Eric J. Schlarb, and A. Gwynn Henderson. This booklet draws on research carried out in Kentucky in general and the mountainous portions of Cumberland and Clinton counties in particular. Focusing on Paleoindian and Early Archaic lifeways, it presents a new explanation for how the earliest peoples colonized and settled Kentucky. The booklet is available from KAS for $3.00.

DID YOU KNOW...

that prehistoric Kentuckians domesticated native Kentucky plants, beginning around 3000 B.C.? The facts lie in the samples of dirt archaeologists have collected from prehistoric household trash at such diverse sites as shell middens along the Green River and rockshelters in eastern Kentucky near the Red River Gorge.

How did the archaeologists know what the dirt held? They didn't, until a process called flotation came along in the late 1960s. By washing the dirt samples in a tank of agitating water, facts about the past (light-as-a-feather bits of seeds) floated to the surface.

Under microscopes, archaeobotanists (archaeologists specializing in the study of plants) identified the tiny burned seeds of maygrass, knotweed, goosefoot, marshelder, and sunflower. By comparing their size, shape, and other characteristics to modern examples of the same seeds, they saw the tangible evidence of domestication. Archaeologists named these plants the Eastern Agricultural Complex. The cultivation of starchy or oily seeded plants (that look like weeds to us) slowly turned prehistoric Kentuckians into gardeners.

RE-FIGHTING THE BATTLE OF RICHMOND

Interest in the Civil War in Kentucky is at an all-time high, and many local communities are rallying around the preservation of important Civil War sites. In many cases, the first step is to properly identify where a battle or encampment took place.

KAS recently completed a study designed to identify significant areas associated with the Battle of Richmond. This was the second largest battle in Kentucky (after Perryville), and one of the more decisive Confederate victories in the Civil War.

The Battle of Richmond took place in three separate stages: the first two south of Richmond and the third in and around the Richmond cemetery. KAS archaeologists conducted an intensive metal-detecting survey to determine where the first two stages took place. While it appears that some important parts of this battle site have been lost to development, KAS archaeologists identified several intact areas with a high density of cannon ball fragments, minie balls, and other bullets. These areas should be studied in the future.

Much of this project was carried out on land now owned by the Blue Grass Army Depot, which was an important partner in the project. Local landowners also helped, as did a newly formed group of metal detector hobbyists, the Kentucky Artifact Recovery and Preservation Society. The Madison County Historical Society, another partner in this project, will now develop an interpretive and preservation plan for the battlefield.

Volunteers help archaeologists identify Civil War artifacts from the Battle of Richmond.

BELL'S TAVERN, WHERE HISTORY IS SET IN STONE

In June 1999, KAS archaeologists opened up a new chapter in the history of William Bell's regionally famous tavern when they surveyed Bell's Tavern Historical Park located in Park City, Barren County.

All that remains of the walls of the second tavern.

William Bell established the tavern in the late 1820s at the fork of three roads. A popular stage stop for folks traveling south to Nashville and for tourists visiting nearby Mammoth Cave, it hosted such notables as Henry Clay and Charles Dickens. After fire destroyed the tavern in 1858, the owners laid plans for its successor. Construction of a massive stone structure, one that would be bigger and better than the first, began in 1860. The outbreak of the Civil War brought construction to a halt, and the tavern was never finished.

During the course of the survey, KAS archaeologists, assisted by local volunteers, found layers of trash, a builder's trench, an ash pit, and a robber's trench. These features appear to be associated with the occupation and destruction of the original tavern, as well as the construction of the second tavern. Researchers also found architectural artifacts, including nails, window glass, and bricks, that may be the remains of outbuildings, such as a kitchen or slave houses that would have stood behind the tavern. More work at this site will increase our understanding of early to mid-nineteenth century tavern life in Kentucky.

The local elementary also school took part in the project. Students from Park City Elementary School toured the site and their teachers developed educational activities inspired by the archaeology at Bell's Tavern. KAS was assisted by Mammoth Cave National Park personnel and University of Louisville staff archaeologist Phil DiBlasi.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY IS HERE!

Project Archaeology, a curriculum designed to teach students to appreciate and protect our nation's cultural heritage, has arrived in Kentucky. The activity guide, Intrigue of the Past: A Teacher's Activity Guide for Fourth Through Seventh Grade, and additional materials focused specifically on Kentucky support the existing curriculum. Hands-on activities use local archaeology and history to teach science, math, history, social studies, art, language arts, and higher-level thinking skills.

Project Archaeology workshop participants discover the science of archaeology and its applications in their classrooms by doing Intrigue lessons designed to teach basic concepts and principles. Each workshop is lead by a facilitator team made up of a teacher/educator and a professional archaeologist.

Kentucky's first Project Archaeology workshop will be held February 19-21at Wickliffe Mounds Research Center in Ballard County. It will be hosted by Wickliffe Mounds. Though workshop size is limited to 20 participants, educators of all kinds may attend. To reserve a spot for yourself in the workshop, call 270/335-3681.

Additional workshops are planned in 2000 at the following locations (dates to be determined):

Blue Licks State Park	March 25-26
McConnell's Springs	March
Kentucky History Center	July 20-21
Greenbo Lake State Park	August 2000
Clay County	August 2000

For more information, call Gwynn Henderson at 606/257-1919; email her at aghend2@pop.uky.edu; or visit the Survey's web page at **http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/khc/kas.htm**

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1020-A Export Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40506-9854
Voice 606/257-5173 Fax 606/323-1968
Website: *http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/khc/kas.htm*

It is the mission of the Kentucky Archaeological Survey to provide technical assistance to state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations and to work with educators to develop public education programs by establishing good working relationships with other agencies and organizations, conducting archaeological surveys and other research, and providing educators with information on Kentucky archaeology.