



NEWS RELEASE

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REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUBLIC INVITED TO SHARE ARTIFACTS AND HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES DURING KANSAS ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

Note to media - "archeology" vs. "archaeology" - although both spellings are correct, the Kansas Historical Society's official style calls for the modern spelling (archeology). The Professional Archaeologists of Kansas, sponsor of Kansas Archaeology Month, uses the traditional spelling (archaeology) and we use that spelling in references regarding their organization and programs as a professional courtesy.

TOPEKA, KS—The Kansas Historical Society announced that as part of its Kansas Archaeology Month celebration in April, it will host two opportunities for the public to learn more about the field.

- Artifact Identification and Archeology Lab Tour Day – 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday, April 19, 2008 in the Kansas Historical Society lobby, 6425 SW 6th Avenue.
The public is invited to bring artifacts, where staff members specializing in prehistoric Native American artifacts from Kansas and the Central Plains will be available to help identify items and provide conservation advice. No appraisals will be made. Visitors may observe archeology lab work in progress as lab volunteers demonstrate how artifacts are cleaned, sorted, catalogued, and stored.
- Kansas Archaeology Month exhibit – 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday; 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Saturday throughout the month of April in the Kansas Historical Society lobby, 6425 SW 6th Avenue. Using artifacts from the Historical Society collections, this exhibit illustrates the similarities between two prehistoric hunting, gathering, and gardening cultures in eastern Kansas. Kansas City Hopewell peoples inhabited the area around the junction of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers during the period AD 1-750. The Cuesta peoples settled along the Neosho and Verdigris Rivers in southeast Kansas around AD 500-1000. Pottery fragments from the Trowbridge site in Wyandotte County and two reconstructed pots from the Arrowhead Island site in Coffey County and a site in Labette County suggest that the Cuesta people were in contact with Kansas City Hopewell people and recreated Hopewellian decorative motifs on their ceramic vessels. Washburn University student Jeff Spencer prepared the exhibit. Spencer is a spring semester intern in the Historical Society's Archeology Lab.

The Professional Archaeologists of Kansas is the lead organization in promoting Kansas Archaeology Month and posts an online calendar of events at ksarchaeo.info/calendar.shtml.

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The Historical Society's archeology staff provides assistance to the public and public agencies on issues relating to archeological resources. Through seminars, conferences, publications, and the Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) field school, the agency works to document and preserve the rich history of Kansas and help others to do the same. This year's KATP field school will be conducted in June at the Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site near Republic. Volunteers from across the state will converge on the site to take classes and do field work. Participants range from those curious about what happens at an archeological site to professionals who have been in the field for decades. For more information on any of these events or Kansas Archaeology Month, visit kshs.org/archeologists or contact Kansas Historical Society Public Archeologist Virginia Wulfkuhle at 785-272-8681 ext. 266 or vwulfkuhle@kshs.org.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.