



JACKSON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

January 2014

The Jackson Archaeological Society will meet **Tuesday, January 21st at 6:00 pm** at the Jackson Madison County Library in Jackson, Tennessee. The purpose of this Society is to learn more about past Native American cultures and the early historic period of Tennessee. Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month and are **Free** and open to the public.

Mark Norton
who will present
Shaman's Tricks

Please notice our venue change - we are once again meeting at the **Jackson Madison County Library**. We congratulate Dr. Michael McMahan in his retirement from Union University and thank him and the University for hosting our Society meetings.

The archaeological record reveals that prehistoric Native Americans utilized all of the natural resources available. One of the geologic resources available was crystalline quartz, which was used to fashion projectile points for thousands of years. The most intriguing fact is the presence of crystalline quartz on Middle Woodland period sites (200 BC – 500 AD) throughout the eastern woodlands. Crystals, projectile points, flakes, and angular fragments of quartz are found within the artifact assemblages at large ceremonial centers, giving elevated significance to this material.

One of the best explanations for crystalline quartz on Middle Woodland sites was provided by archaeologists at the Leake site in northern Georgia. Scott Jones and George Williams looked at the ethnographic record of the Ute in southern Colorado –who put crystal quartz in a rawhide rattle. Due to the triboluminescent properties of this material, flashes of light are seen when the rattle is shaken and the crystals collide. This flash of light may have been one of the Shaman's tricks employed during specific rituals.

Thanks to Mr. Bill Lawrence for his presentation on Reelfoot Lake at the December meeting. I will bring crystalline quartz and other minerals to the January meeting to demonstrate triboluminescence.

See you Tuesday, Mark

Information: Mark Norton 615-741-1588, ext. 113 mark.norton@tn.gov

Jackson Madison County Library

<http://www.jmcl.tn.org/>

Tennessee Archaeology Network and Online Journal

<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kesmith/TNARCH/>

Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area – 731-988-5614

<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/PinsonMounds/>

Triboluminescence

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triboluminescence>



Ute Rawhide rattle



Leake Site
Quartz Crystal
Georgia

Current Research in Tennessee Archaeology January 24-25, 2014

- Friday, January 24 – Governor's Archaeological Advisory Council Meeting
- Saturday, January 25 - Current Research Presentations

<http://capone.mtsu.edu/kesmith/TNARCH/CRITA.html>

Preliminary Program

<http://capone.mtsu.edu/kesmith/TNARCH/CRITA/CRITA2014Prelim.pdf>

