

# JACKSON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

May 2015

The Jackson Archaeological Society will meet **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6:00 pm** at Gander Mountain – The Columns, 1523 Vann Drive, 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 scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month and are **Free** and open to the public. This month's program:

**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 Tuesday, Mark

Information: Mark Norton –615-741-1588, ext. 113 [mark.norton@tn.gov](mailto:mark.norton@tn.gov)

## Tennessee Archaeology Network

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

## Tennessee Archaeology – Online Journal

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

## Cave Archaeology Research Team – University of Tennessee

<http://web.utk.edu/~anthrop/research/cart.html>

## Bats – White-Nose Syndrome

<http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>

## Kingsport Knap-In and Primitive Arts – May 23, 2015

<https://kingsportknapin.wordpress.com/>

## Fort Loudoun State Park – Garrison Weekend – May 16-17

<http://www.tnstateparks.com/events/details/garrison-weekend3>

## National Speleological Society

<http://caves.org/>

## Science Daily – Replica Cave Showcases Artistry of Stone Age Man

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/videos/c76257cc191e679154cb58e4f7e34d3b.htm>

## Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society

<http://memphisgeology.org/>

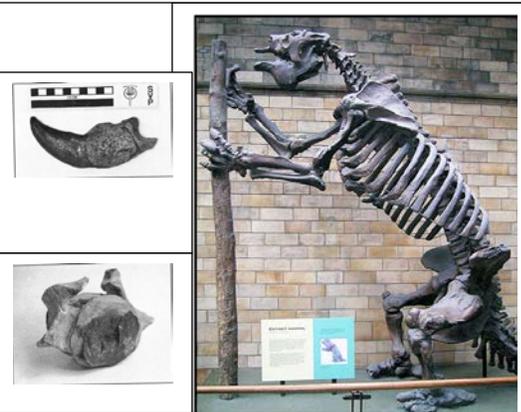
## Gray Fossil Site

<http://www.etsu.edu/NaturalHistoryMuseum/>



**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