



# Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society

November 2010

The Old Stone Fort Archaeological Society will meet **Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> 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. We meet on the second Thursday of each month and our meetings are **Free** and open to the public. Our program this month:

**Mark Norton**  
*who will present*  
**Archaeology Soup**

Archaeological digs take place in Tennessee each year, either as Federal compliance projects prior to highway construction, or research oriented investigations such as field schools taught by Universities. Additional archaeological research is carried out in the laboratory, sometimes utilizing high-tech computer aided equipment to identify source locations for exotic artifacts. This presentation will highlight a number of recent archaeological projects that were conducted in middle Tennessee.

Thanks to Mr. Wayne Ison for his presentation on the Battle of Hoover's Gap and Beechgrove at our October meeting. See you Thursday, *Mark*

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

**Old Stone Fort State Park** 931-723-5073

<http://state.tn.us/environment/parks/OldStoneFort/>

**Tennessee Archaeology Network**

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

**Tennessee Archaeology E – Journal Volume 5, No. 1**

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

**Chaco Research Archive**

<http://www.chacoarchive.org/cra/>

**Institute of Egyptian Art and Archaeology – University of Memphis**

<http://www.memphis.edu/egypt/>

**Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society**

<http://memphisgeology.org/>

**MTSU - Castalian Springs Archaeological Field School**

<http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kesmith/Castalian/CSAP2009.html>

**UT Archaeological Field School - Bells Bend**

<http://bellsbend.pidba.org/index.html>

**X-Ray Fluorescence - Wikipedia**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-ray\\_fluo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-ray_fluo)

Portable XRF Spectrometer analyzing a pottery sherd from a Contact period site in Chattanooga to determine source of clay.



Highway Project in Perry County



MTSU Field School at Castalian Springs



UT Field School at Bells Bend

## ACQUISITION

POINT-4

Protect Our Irreplaceable  
National Treasures

# Preserving A Pristine Mound

For years Alexander Mound had been protected by nothing more than dense brush. Now it will be protected by the Conservancy.

The Conservancy has acquired one of the best-kept archaeological secrets in west Tennessee. Alexander Mound is a near-pristine conical mound that apparently dates to the Woodland Period (approximately 1000 B.C. to A.D. 1000). The site is hidden in the wooded hills of south-west Madison County, near the little village of Denmark.

The site is located on land formerly owned by Harbert Alexander, a prominent banker, local historian, preservationist, and amateur archaeologist. During a visit to another site in 2009, Alexander told Tennessee state archaeologists Mike Moore and Mark Norton and George Lowry, the Conservancy's Southeast Region field representative, about a recorded, but little-known mound site that was less than a mile away, hidden from view by dense brush. That mound site, which was later named after Alexander, was impressive enough that Lowry got the Conservancy to purchase it with POINT funds.

Very little is known about the site. An archaeologist from Union University in nearby Jackson excavated the mound in the 1930s, but his field notes and other documentation have been lost. Conical mounds are one of the signatures of the Woodland people, and consequently Alexander Mound



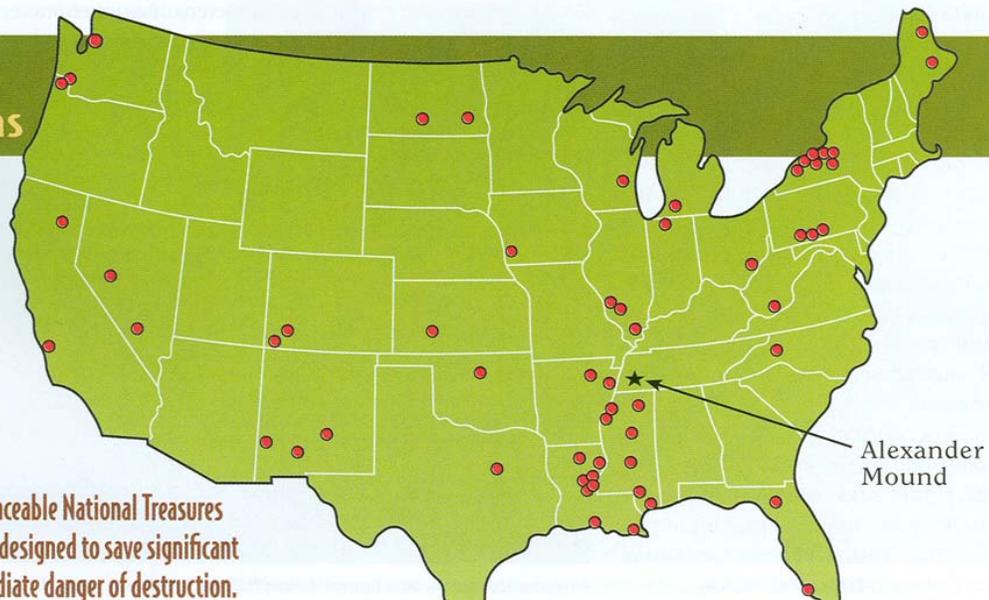
Jessica Crawford, the Conservancy's Southeast Region director, and Harbert Alexander and his daughter stand on the mound.

is assumed to have been built during that time. Because so little work has been done at Alexander, the site has tremendous research potential.

By preserving this important site, the Conservancy will give researchers an opportunity to reveal its secrets.

—George Lowry

## POINT Acquisitions



Alexander Mound

The Protect Our Irreplaceable National Treasures (POINT) program was designed to save significant sites that are in immediate danger of destruction.