

RESULTS FROM JUNE 11, 2011

Today was the first of our Saturday volunteer days. Nineteen of our student crew were on hand to participate, along with six volunteers. Volunteer days provide an opportunity for family members of the crew to try their hand at archaeology – along with opportunities for members of the public. Volunteer days are an important part of our community outreach – an opportunity for us to share our work and for to students to learn how to explain what they're doing in everyday terms. We work from 9:00-3:00 on volunteer days – giving us a little break from the long workdays during the week.

Husband Michael and son Adrien (center) came out to give Mom Brittani (left) a hand. Jesse and Amy are working at right while field director Michael supervises.



Over in the palisade area, Brooke (at left below) – an MTSU alum and two-year participant in the Castalian Springs field school – volunteers her Saturday. In the background, Caitlin, Rae, and Noah work on Level 2 of their unit while Joey screens. In the foreground at right, Kelly supervises while volunteer Emily tries her hand at shovel skimming along with field school student Brandi. Emily is interested in pursuing archaeology at college in the future.



Over on Mound 3, Megan's husband Mike assists her at the screen while Hillary checks excavation depths with a line level.



Our long time volunteer Howie also managed to make it out today – Howie has volunteered on many years of the project and has worked on archaeological projects around the world as his hobby. Here, Howie assists crew chief Matt as they continue work on Level 2 over the pit from 2008.



Unexpectedly, we began to see distinctive features – soil discolorations – less than 20 cm deep on Mound 3. The blue arrows below point to a dark linear pit feature.



In an adjacent unit, a distinctive light colored feature consisting of burned clay and ash (upper right) was clearly visible at about 17 cm below surface. This may be either the beginning of basket loaded fill in the mound – or more likely, we think, a partially disturbed hearth or fireplace on a surviving summit of Mound 3. Only more work next week will tell.



As we near the base of the plow disturbed deposits, better preserved artifacts begin to emerge – like the tiny arrowpoint shown in the center of the photograph below.



Perhaps half a dozen of these small stone arrowpoints were discovered today – most from Mound 3, but some from the palisade area.



As we closed up at 3:00 pm today, a “cold front” had arrived – promising to drop temperatures back closer to normal for the coming week. Our thanks to the volunteers – and we look forward to a day of rest on Sunday before returning at 7:00 Monday morning.