

RESULTS FROM JUNE 9, 2011

A little refreshed from an afternoon in the lab, we returned to the field at 8:00 this morning – with the temperature promised to head back to 95 in the shade by the afternoon. With the deep 2008 units covered with plywood for safety (and to prevent them from drying out), the sod has been removed from three new units. Here John practices shovel skimming.



Elsewhere, Alex and Sean screen their excavation dirt through 1/4-inch hardware mesh to retrieve artifacts – here they are using some portable sawhorses at the backdirt pile.



Although most of the objects in the upper 8-10 inches of soil have been heavily damaged and broken up by plowing, some objects miraculously survive intact. This tiny ear ornament – an hourglass shaped earspool made of pottery tempered with crushed shell – is undamaged.



Later in the morning, Mike Moore (State Archaeologist and Director of the Tennessee Division of Archaeology) dropped by for a visit and inspection of our excavations.



Once again, the temperature was already in the 90s by the time we broke for lunch at noon. We retreated once again to the shade for the afternoon. I briefly wandered out into the sunshine around 3:00 to check the temperature – my thermometer topped out at 107 degrees, sending me wilting back to the frigid 93 degrees in the shade.



We have decided to shift our starting time to 7:00 am so that we can at least get an extra hour of fieldwork completed in the mornings. Many of the students are staying on-site in our tent city.



Brood XIX of the 13-year periodic cicadas are doing well in the trees and shrubs around our on-site facilities – providing a constant background noise during labwork and leaving behind evidence of their presence on this towel.

