Introduction to Experimental Flintknapping : Stone Tools in Archaeology

Wednesday, October 2nd

4:10 – 5:30 p.m.

Garland Hall 121

This 2-part program will begin with a lecture and PowerPoint presentation explaining the manufacture and use of stone tools beginning with hominid ancestors through history to modern humans. It will also explain the geology of flint and other toolstones in various areas of North America. Finally, the mechanics of flint fracture that lead to predictable tool manufacture will be illustrated. The second part will be a **live demonstration of flintknapping techniques**, various types of toolstone, and analysis of lithics in archaeology. Audience questions and interaction will be welcomed.

Mike McBride is currently president and a principal archeologist of the Hill Country Archeological Association, based in Kerrville, Texas. HCAA is one of the largest and most active avocational archeological organizations in the state, providing public educational lectures, demonstrations, publications, as well as ongoing field work projects researching the archeology of Central Texas. In addition to his role as HCAA archeologist, he has been an experimental flintknapper for 20 years, studying and replicating the manufacture of stone artifacts of ancient North American and Mesoamerican peoples.

Professionally, Mike is a retired pharmacy business owner, pharmacist, and pharmacologist. He received his BS Phr degree from the University of Texas at Austin, and certification as Doctor of Pharmacy from the Tennessee State Board of Pharmacy. He has been an independent researcher of Maya and Mesoamerican cultures for over 30 years, having lectured and published on topics of the evolution and pharmacology of psychoactive agents in ancient cultures.

Images: Mike McBRide

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