

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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A.A.S. SUMMER MEETING

The Alabama Archaeological Society summer meeting will be held Saturday, July 20, 1991. The location of the summer meeting will be the site of the A.A.S. fieldschool, described in the May and June issues of STONES & BONES. At presstime, final permission had not been received from the landowner of the proposed fieldschool site, 1HA11, near Moundville. If approval to dig on that site is not received by the time the fieldschool begins, the fieldschool will be moved to Moundville itself. Those who have signed up for the fieldschool will receive more information on its location as the time for the fieldschool approaches.

The Alabama Archaeological Society will join the fieldschool at the end of the first week - Saturday, July 20 - for the A.A.S. 1991 summer meeting. Since we do not yet know the exact location of the fieldschool and, therefore, of the A.A.S. meeting, we will meet at Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama beginning at 9 a.m. that morning for directions to the site. Please meet at the David L. DeJarnette Laboratory at Mound State Monument (once inside the park grounds, follow the loop road and watch for signs for the laboratory on the right).

The summer meeting is open to the public. Bring a picnic lunch and something to drink (alcoholic beverages are prohibited inside the park), as the dig will not be near restaurants or stores. An informal Board of Directors meeting will be held at the site.

Moundville is located south of Tuscaloosa, Alabama on State Road 69.

Eugene Futato
Moundville

FLUTED POINT SURVEY

The Alabama Archaeological Society is sponsoring a project to record projectile points of the PaleoIndian Period. This project is proceeding well, with over 70 projectile points recorded thus far. Most of these are from Colbert and Lauderdale Counties, and a few each from Limestone and Madison Counties.

July 1991

Members (and non-members) who have PaleoIndian points (including fragments) in their collections are requested to bring them along to the summer meeting at Moundville. A table will be set up there where the points will be measured, photographed and drawn.

This is an important project which, when completed, will contribute greatly to our understanding of the PaleoIndian presence in Alabama during those long-ago days at the end of the Pleistocene. Who were those people who lived in the time of the giant mammoth, sloth, and bison? Did they hunt those fearsome creatures in the pristine Ice Age forests of Alabama? Help seek answers to those and other questions. Bring your PaleoIndian spearpoints to be recorded. See you at Moundville!

Charles Hubbert
Huntsville

CHAPTER NEWS

Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter held at picnic on June 25 at the home of Dee and Charles Hubbert. This dinner took the place of a formal chapter meeting; the regular chapter meetings will resume in July. The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library on St. Clair Avenue. The public is welcome. For more information on chapter meetings and other activities, call President Dee Hubbert at 880-1113, or Secretary/Treasurer Beth Justice at 880-2836.

Dorothy Luke

Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its May meeting on the 13th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Thirty-eight members and guests attended. Bart Henson presented an interesting update on rock art in the region. Bart also commented on other archaeological activities with which he is concerned.

The June meeting, which was held on the 13th, involved a paleo point photographic session, the annual chapter picnic, then a talk about this year's excavation at Dust Cave near Florence.

Charles Hubbert and Van King started photographing and documenting paleo points at 4:00 p.m. using natural light at the Indian Mound Museum. They worked until about 7:30 as the natural light began to fade. Six collectors brought points for the Society's paleo survey project. We hope to have more sessions to cover many of the paleo points from this area of the state.

Fifty-two chapter members and guests enjoyed a hamburger cookout and covered dish supper on top of the mound. We were pleased to have most of the crew from the nearby Dust Cave excavation join us. After supper, Boyce Driskell gave us a report on Dust Cave. This summer's excavation had restarted a few days earlier. Boyce discussed last year's progress and the plans for this summer. He also invited members and guests to join in assisting the staff at this outstanding site.

The chapter will suspend meeting for three months during the summer and resume the meetings on October 14.

Charles Moore

NEW MEMBERS

David Allison - Atlanta, Georgia
David F. Black, Sr. - Centre, Alabama
Ian W. Brown* - Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Catherine Clinton - Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Kenneth M. Creson - Cedar Bluff, Alabama
Joella Dennis - Gadsden, Alabama
Bart Frary - Hartford, Alabama
Matt Gurley - Nahunta, Georgia
John Gustafson* - Somerville, Alabama
Jessie M. Inis - Fort Myers, Florida
Scott Jones - Manchester, Tennessee
D. J. Lehew - Murphreesboro, Tennessee

*Former members - welcome back!

A.A.S. MEMBER RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP

Kimberly M. Tinkham of Toney, Alabama has received a \$20,000 scholarship from the Department of Archaeology at The University of Evansville in Evansville, Indiana. This scholarship includes three semesters of study at Harlextan in England and one semester in Greece or Rome.

Congratulations, Kim!

INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER - FORT MITCHELL, ALABAMA

The Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association received a boost recently toward its goal of raising \$700,000 for an Indian Heritage Center at Fort Mitchell, Alabama with a \$50,000 donation from the Knight Foundation. Douglas Purcell, a member of the association's board of directors, called the Knight Foundation's gift a "key" contribution and "catalyst that will enable us to go after the rest of the money we need".

The planned "museum without walls" on approximately ten acres at Fort Mitchell County Park will tell the story and

celebrate the culture of Indians who inhabited the Chattahoochee River Valley until their removal west in the 1830's. An interpretive complex with bronze plaques will tell of the Indians' culture and accomplishments. The complex will include a recreated 45-foot-high mound overlooking a sacred fire sculpture, and stones inscribed with names of Indians taken from the 1833 census.

Fort Mitchell played a key role in the War of 1812-14 and was a point of origin for the Creek Indian "Trail of Tears" during their removal to Oklahoma in the 1830's.

(From "Chattahoochee Tracings", Newsletter of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission - Volume 23, Spring 1991)

COTIGA MOUND

(Note: The following is abstracted from a letter received from Dr. Robert F. Maslowski - Editor, West Virginia Archeologist.)

Cotiga Mound is a large Adena burial mound estimated to be at least 2,000 years old. It is located in Mingo County, West Virginia. The West Virginia Department of Highways has a \$1.8 million contract with a Pennsylvania consultant firm for excavation and analysis of the mound, which appears to be relatively undisturbed and has the potential to be one of the more significant Adena mounds in the Ohio valley.

The West Virginia State Highways Commissioner has signed a legal agreement with a group called the West Virginia Committee on Native American Archaeological and Burial Policies, which gives the group control over the excavations. The Committee was formed at the request of the West Virginia Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. The Committee includes registered and non-registered Native Americans, and spouses of Native Americans. No tribes are officially represented. The Council for West Virginia Archaeology was not informed of the formation of the Committee or agreement; the only archeologist participating in the negotiation of the agreement was from the Pennsylvania consulting firm.

The agreement states that only members of the Committee will be permitted access to the site, the site will be protected from the public, no access will be permitted to the news media, and the Committee will be permitted to hold traditional ceremonies at the site. The agreement further states that skeletal remains and grave goods are to be kept covered with red flannel and women will not handle sacred artifacts or skeletal remains during menstruation. The agreement stipulates that after a period of one year from completion of the excavation, the remains and grave goods and "other cultural and noncultural remains" will be turned over to the Committee as a unit for reburial. This apparently means everything will be reburied and nothing will be curated.

Hence there will be no opportunity for future study of the Cotiga collection. The agreement also stipulates that human remains and associated grave goods cannot leave West Virginia, which means there will be no opportunity for direct radiocarbon dating or trace element analysis of skeletal material. Copies of the agreement are available from the West Virginia Archeological Society upon request.

The Council for West Virginia Archeology and the West Virginia Archeological Society believe this agreement is illegal on various counts. It violates freedom of religion, discriminates against women, and violates freedom of the press. Furthermore, both the state and federal law requires evidence of lineal descent. We have seen no evidence to suspect that the West Virginia Native American Committee has claimed lineal descent from the Adena people which occupied this area 2,000 years ago. Federal law also requires federal agencies to deal directly with recognized Indian tribes.

The Council for West Virginia Archaeology is interested in pursuing legal action against the Federal Department of Transportation and the West Virginia Department of Highways on the basis of the Cotiga Mound agreement. We would like to obtain a court injunction to stop all work on the highway and mound until the Memorandum of Agreement is abrogated, and compel these agencies to comply with existing federal and state regulations that require consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes based on lineal descent with the dead. We would also like assurances that professional archeologists are in complete charge of the excavations and analysis and that there are no discriminatory practices involved in future Memoranda of Agreement or negotiations with Indian tribes.

We are asking the SAA, SOPA and other archeological organizations to support the Council for West Virginia Archaeology in its efforts to have this agreement abrogated. If we let this agreement stand, it will be detrimental to archeology nationwide. Native American groups in other states are already looking at the Cotiga Mound Agreement as a model. We are asking your organizations and members to write to the governor of West Virginia (Gov. Gaston Caperton; Capitol Complex; Charleston, WV 25305) expressing your concern over the agreement and its detrimental effect on archeology in West Virginia and the nation. Send copies of the letter to William Drennen, State Historic Preservation Officer (Capitol Complex; Charleston, WV 25305).

Dr. Robert F. Maslowski
Editor
West Virginia Archeologist
P.O. Box 213
Milton, WV 25541

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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Vol. 20-31, each issue	\$3.50 pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue	\$6.00 pp
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<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i>	\$15.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$10.00 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile)	\$9.00 pp

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: **ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

SEND CHECKS TO:

Journal Editor, A.A.S.
Division of Archaeology
1 Mound State Monument; Moundville, AL 35474

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The coupon below may be used EITHER to APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP in the Society, or for the PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES. Please be sure that your name and address are CLEARLY entered, and that appropriate boxes are checked.

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MOUNDVILLE, AL 35474

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