

# Stones & Bones

May and June 2014

Volume 56, Issue 3

The Newsletter of the Alabama Archaeological Society

## President's Letter

Hello all! The dog days of summer are rapidly approaching...and that means the AAS Summer Meeting is not far away! This year's meeting will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> at Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson in Wetumpka, Alabama to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Fort Jackson. Look for details in this newsletter, as well as on our website and Facebook/Twitter, and at: <http://www.fttoulousejackson.org/>.

As a friendly reminder, AAS renewals for 2014 are now due. We rely heavily on our membership dues to support the organization and the publication of the society's journal. Speaking of the Journal - our next Journal issue (2011) is a double-issue featuring a site report on the Paleoindian Belle Mina site by Blaine Ensor. If you were a paid member of AAS in 2011, this issue should be in your mailbox very soon! For our new members, I will explain that we are still trying to catch up on publications due to an extended illness of the former Journal Editor. Our new editor, Dr. Ashley Dumas, has been making great strides towards getting the journal back on track. We hope to be caught up in the next year or so, but until then it might be some time before new members receive journal issues. Rest assured, as the journal catches up, paid members will receive issues for the years when their dues were paid.

In other news, the AAS Board recently met in Clanton, Alabama on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Items on the meeting's agenda included Treasurer's (AAS finances are in good shape!) and Journal Editor's reports (see above), AAS' participation in the recent Alabama Historical Society's meeting in Scottsboro, Alabama, fund raising and membership drives, updating the AAS website, and selecting a site for the upcoming AAS Winter Meeting (we are currently looking for a site in north Alabama). However, there was one item on the agenda that I would like to bring to the membership's attention - AAS Committees and nominations of officers for 2015. . Basically, for the past several

years, the AAS Board has been relatively static with few additions of new Board members, and relatively few non-professional archaeologists on the Board. This year, I would like to see a few new members on the Board and on our many committees (Archaeological Resources, Publicity, Fund Raising, etc.). Any member of the AAS is eligible to serve on either the Board or any of its committees (membership on the Board of Directors is not required to serve on a committee). Hopefully, this year we will also see some new candidates for AAS Officers on the ballot. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please let me or one of the other AAS Officers know!

Well, that's all for now - I'm off for fieldwork in the mountains. I hope to see you all at Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson on June 21<sup>st</sup>! In the meanwhile, for upcoming events, please continue to watch our website, as well as our Facebook and Twitter feed. If you know of any upcoming events that might be of interest to our members, please feel free to forward them to the Website and the Newsletter Editors.

Eric Sipes, AAS President

## A Note from the Journal Editor

The 2011 volume of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology was mailed the week of May 19. You will receive the journal if you were a member of AAS during that year. Questions about membership and ordering back issues of the journal should be directed to Eugene Futato, [efutato@bama.ua.edu](mailto:efutato@bama.ua.edu).

The editors of the JAA are seeking scholarly articles on the archaeology of Alabama or from surrounding states on issues that are also relevant to Alabama. Peer review is available upon request. See the Publications section of [www.alabamaarchaeology.org](http://www.alabamaarchaeology.org) for author guidelines or contact Ashley Dumas, [adumas@uwa.edu](mailto:adumas@uwa.edu).

## 2014 Summer Meeting Agenda

The 2014 AAS Summer Meeting will be held at Fort Toulouse/Fort Jackson Park in Wetumpka on June 21.

Dr. Craig Sheldon (Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus, AUM), Ned Jenkins (Senior Archaeologist) and Jim Parker (150th Anniversary Coordinator/Archaeologist) will be speaking about the prehistory of the area and specifically the archaeology and history of Ft Toulouse and Fort Jackson.

Presentations will be at the pavilion but will also include walking tours of the recreated 1749 French Fort Toulouse, the 1814 earthworks of Fort Jackson, recreated Creek Indian houses, the thousand year old Mississippian Indian Mound, the Alibamu Indian village of Pakana, the William Bartram Nature Trail and 'down to the point' - where the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers join to become the Alabama River.

The 'Fort Toulouse Garrison' - a French Colonial Living History educational event will be at the park the same weekend (June 21-22)

Entrance fee to the park is waived for those attending the AAS meeting. Registration for the AAS Summer Meeting will be \$4 for members, \$5 for non-members, and \$12 for families of three or more that are members of AAS or \$15 for non-member families.

As in previous years, lunch will be available for \$5 per person. We will have grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, drinks, snacks, and watermelons.

For more information about the park, see <http://www.fttoulousejackson.org/>.

**Join or Renew Today!**

**Visit AAS at  
[www.alabamaarchaeology.org](http://www.alabamaarchaeology.org)**

## USA Field Methods Class at Fort Mims (1BA218)

The University of South Alabama's spring semester Archaeology Field Methods courses taught by Greg Waselkov were held at Fort Mims, site of a major battle of the Creek War of 1813-1814 and now a state park administered by the Alabama Historical Commission.

Excavations continued in units started last year in an effort to uncover the eastern half of a large shallow pit. The pit turned out to be somewhat difficult to define, and it now appears that there are two pits in this area - both with an abundance of artifacts including Creek Indian pottery, British creamware and pearlware, and olive green bottle glass. Unique artifacts include a silver-plated brooch with glass settings, several gunflints and brass gun parts, and a copper kettle patch. Animal bones and turtle shell fragments were well preserved. Originally interpreted as a privy pit, the features now appear to be associated with temporary structures erected in the summer of 1813 to house some of the hundreds of refugees seeking protection during the lead-up to the Creek War. Twenty-three students participated in this year's field methods class.



### Fort Tombecbe Website Launched

UWA and the Black Belt Museum are proud to announce the launch of the Fort Tombecbe website. The site includes a brief history of the fort, its archaeology, and a virtual tour. The website was made possible with an operations grant from the Alabama Historical Commission and can be located at [www.forttombecbe.org](http://www.forttombecbe.org). (You must have an updated web browser for the site to work properly.) The 2014 field school at Fort Tombecbe will run from May 19 to June 13 and will focus on the barracks for the French marines that were garrisoned there from 1736 to 1763. Those interested in visiting the site during the dig should contact Ashley Dumas, [adumas@uwa.edu](mailto:adumas@uwa.edu), to arrange a time.



University of South Alabama students excavating a portion of a large shallow pit at Fort Mims



Students in University of South Alabama's 2014 field methods class at Old Mobile

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Facebook and  
Twitter!**

## Recent Discoveries Shed New Light on Paleoindian Origins

More pieces are being fit into the puzzle of Native American origins every day. The latest piece comes in the form of the skeleton of an adolescent girl found in the flooded depths of Hoyo Negro Cave along the eastern edge of the Yucatán Peninsula. The skeleton was discovered in 2007 by a group of Mexican and Venezuelan cave divers who named the girl Naia. Her remains were found among well-preserved skeletons of Pleistocene ground sloths, gomphotheres, and saber-toothed cats.

In an article published in the May 16 edition of the journal *Science*, an interdisciplinary team led by archaeologist James Chatters announced that they had successfully dated the skeleton using radiocarbon dating of tooth enamel and bat-dropped seeds along with uranium-thorium dating of calcite deposits. The resulting dates were between 12,000 and 13,000 years ago making Naia's the oldest complete skeleton yet discovered in the Americas.

Like the scant number of other Paleoindian remains that have been examined, Naia's features differed markedly from those of extant Native American populations. Her face was narrower with wide-set eyes, a low prominent forehead, and a flat nose – features more akin to those of modern populations from Africa, Australia, or the Pacific Rim. These differences have previously led researchers including Chatters himself to speculate that the Paleoindian remains represented a distinct population unrelated to modern Native Americans.

The team successfully extracted mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) from one of Naia's teeth, and discovered that despite her different appearance, she shared genetic origins with extant Native American populations which have consistently been tied genetically to Siberian populations.

The authors concluded that Naia and her people were descended from a founding population from Siberia which crossed over the Beringian land bridge and from which most modern Native American populations descended. Any difference in appearance between Paleoindians and modern Native Americans were most likely the result of evolutionary change that occurred once they became isolated in the Americas.

This finding echoes that of the recent

analysis of Paleoindian remains from the Anzick Clovis Site in western Montana. This study, published in the journal *Nature* in January sequenced DNA from the fragmentary remains of a baby boy found in direct association with Clovis tools and radiocarbon dated at 12,707-12,556 cal. BP. Analysis of both mtDNA and nuclear DNA from extracted from cranial fragments from the Anzick child demonstrated a gene flow from the Siberian Upper Paleolithic Mal'ta population. The study also demonstrated that of all the modern DNA that was compared with that of the Clovis child, the DNA of the 52 modern Native American populations from South America and Canada that were used in the study was most closely matched. This indicates a common ancestry between the Anzick child and most modern Native American groups.

Together, these two studies make a good case for Clovis people deriving from the spread of Siberian people across Beringia and demonstrate that modern Native American populations can trace their ancestry to the Clovis people. That being said, the sample is extremely small. Other pioneering genetic studies like that at the Early Archaic mortuary pond at the Windover Site in Florida have suggested different genetic origins. Without additional data, the possibility remains that other human populations migrated to the Americas during the Pleistocene, but went extinct or otherwise did not pass their genes on to the modern Native American populations.



### Archaeologists May have found the Santa Maria

A shipwreck discovered a decade ago off the coast of Haiti has been tentatively identified as being Christopher Columbus' flagship Santa Maria. Barry Clifford, an underwater archaeological explorer best known for discovering the remains of the

wrecked pirate ship Whydah in 1984, discovered the wreck and photographed it with his team in 2003. At the same time, archaeologists had identified the probable location of Columbus' fort nearby. Clifford used data from the explorer's diary to work out where the wreck should lie geographically in relation to the fort. The ship is the right size, he said, and ballast stones found at the site match the kind from the part of Spain where the ship was built. However, there are still doubts about the identity of the ship, and it is unknown if, after the looting episode(s), there is enough evidence still extant to conclusively identify it.

Clifford has since returned to the site of the shipwreck to examine it non-invasively with sophisticated metal detectors and sonar scans to study the remains. Although a full excavation will be necessary to determine for sure that it is the Santa Maria, the evidence is substantial. Unfortunately, many of the artifacts that would have been key to identifying the vessel have been looted since Clifford first photographed the site, including a 15th century cannon, but Clifford hopes it may be possible to recover what remains of the vessel's artifacts (not the ship itself, which is long gone) in order to conserve them and then perhaps put them on display in a museum in Haiti. First he needs permission from the Haitian government, and he also hopes for support from Spain, Columbus' launching point.

The ship was found in the exact area where Columbus said the Santa Maria ran aground more than 500 years ago. The wreck is stuck on a reef off Haiti's northern coast, 10 to 15 feet beneath the water's surface. The Santa Maria, built in Spain, was hired by Columbus in 1492 to sail in search of a new route to Asia via the Canary Islands. He reached the Americas but had to abandon the ship when it drifted onto a reef. He built a fort on Hispaniola -- believing that he had indeed found a new route to Asia -- and left his men there while he went back to report his discovery in Europe.

**Visit AAS on Facebook and Twitter!**

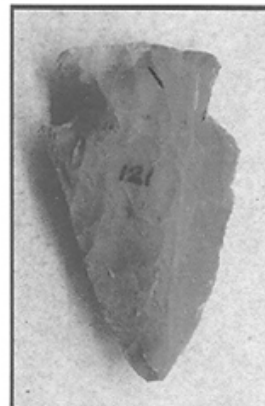
# Little River Canyon

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Little River Canyon  
National Preserve



## Little River Canyon National Preserve's Second Annual Knap-In



**Saturday, July 26, 2014 and  
Sunday July 27, 2014  
Time 10 AM – 4 PM**

It's a rock party! Come out and have a great day breaking rocks and making stone tools, or you can just come to watch how prehistoric stone tools were made.

Little River Canyon Center located on Hwy 35

For more info or to RSVP,

email [Larry\\_Beane@nps.gov](mailto:Larry_Beane@nps.gov) or call the park office at (256) 845-9605.

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*The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.*

Free camping will be available for all participating flintknappers!

# Once Upon a Time (The Indian is Introduced to the Horse)

By John VanValkenburg

America is an historic nation where  
artifacts and literature record the past.  
The introduction of the horse was slow at first, but  
created possibilities ever so vast.

The horse was introduced by the Spanish  
on ranches with horses for sale or trade.  
Often Indians worked on these ranches  
and developed skills of the highest grade.

It was not long before the Indians  
had horse ranches of their own.  
The ranches under magnificent mountain settings  
did not take long to become known.

Horses created one more spin off as  
tribes were often isolated and apart.  
Now with the sharing of horse wisdom,  
new relationships were bound to start.

It was the Arikara, Hidatsa, and Mandan  
who followed the Missouri trail  
The Yellowstone was to be followed by the Ute,  
Apache, and Kiowa on a much larger scale.

They became a skilled horseman, with children  
beginning by age five or six.  
The children attended the larger herds and with  
growing talent took pride in rider tricks.

An Indian on the back of the horse could free his  
hands and for the bow and arrow with ease.  
He simply tucked the rein between his belt or teeth  
and asserted the pressure with his knees.

George Catlin with awe, saw the riders  
movement, skill and ability  
And remarked, perhaps the Indian was the best rider  
in the world with his learned agility.

He could drop off a horse at full gallop  
and return to the back with a leap or roll.  
He could swing under the horse's neck and belly  
and yet be able to keep control.

Horses were controlled by spoken words  
trained to the warrior's voice.  
The rider and horse were thought as one, with the  
horse being selected by the rider's choice.

It was in this development that the Indian  
became more aggressive and skilled.  
He was able to outrun and out maneuver the larger  
cavalry mount time after time as he willed.

The U. S. Cavalry developed plans to move  
against the Indian in a more organized way.  
It was in June 1874 that they took a significant step  
catching the Comanche asleep that day.

It was in the Palo Duro canyon  
where the retaliatory act took place.  
The troops burned teepees and destroyed food  
and the Indians left in hurried haste.

Over a thousand horses were captured on  
that day and were piled after being shot.  
They were never moved from under the sun  
and there they were left to rot.

In 1875 similar raids were  
planned and with a surprising gate.  
In that year six to seven thousand horses were killed  
and piled in the sun to a similar fate.

Chief Quanah Parker walked his tribe  
200 miles to give up at Fort Sill.  
He felt that the time had come to surrender  
and many of his people were already ill.

We have turned a page in history  
with this poem's simple story.  
The Indian tales were orally shared around camp  
fires of their forefathers honored glory.

All agreed there was a time  
when the Indians with talent did show.  
With their horsemanship and talent  
they set the horse world aglow.

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## Member News

### New Members

William E. DeVore, Memphis, TN

### Renewals

Kathryn H. Braund, Dadeville, AL

Paul N. Eubanks, Northport, AL

V. Keith Fleming, Jr., Langley, WA

T. R. Henderson and Family, Headland, AL

Don Hudgins, Gadsden, AL

Margie Klein, Buford, GA

Jeff McCool, Daphne, AL

Roger and Vally Nance, Topanga, CA

Gerald and Susan Ollhoft, Mobile, AL

Robert K. Polk, San Pedro, CA

Margaret and John Scarry, Chapel Hill, NC

Racheal Shubert, Jasper, AL

John Smith, Union Grove, AL

Claire and Jim Stallworth, Beatrice, AL

William B. Stepp, Huntsville, AL

Jeff Thomson, Owens Cross Roads, AL

Richard A. Weinstein, Baton Rouge, LA

U. G. and Frances Wilson, Muscle Shoals, AL

Kay and Dean Wood, Shiloh, GA

## Chapter News

**News from the Cullman Chapter by Robbie Camp:** The Cullman Chapter met Thursday night, April 17th to the pleasure of a presentation by Muscle Shoals member Charles Moore. Charles brought some excellent Paleoindian artifacts and talked extensively about his theories on the migration of early man to the Americas and comparison of artifacts found in different parts of the world.

The Chapter met again Thursday, May 15th for its last meeting before a summer break. Regular meetings will resume in September. Redstone Arsenal Cultural Resource Manager and Archaeologist, Ben Hoksbergen, presented an informative power point presentation on present and upcoming work on the 38,000-plus acre military base. With nearly 1000 sites recorded, Ben is busy applying for grants to continue his research, excavation and preservation efforts on this massive area of prehistoric and historic sites. After extensive research and analysis, several previously recorded sites have been combined and in other cases new ones are being recorded as they are discovered. The erosion of riverfront sites at a rate of 16 centimeters a year is a main concern and keeps Ben busy trying to salvage all information possible. It was a great presentation, and Ben's enthusiasm for his work is obvious. Our chapter is very appreciative for his work and willingness to openly discuss all of his work and future plans.

A summer field trip was briefly discussed, but no plans were made at this time. Members will be notified if a date and destination are selected. Our next scheduled chapter meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18th at 7:00 pm at The Cullman County Health Department Community Meeting Room.

**News from the Muscle Shoals Chapter by Charles Moore:** The Muscle Shoals Chapter met on January 13 at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Charles Moore brought us a talk with maps about Hernando de Soto's expedition. On February 11, Dr. Paul Gray discussed the use of atlatls and demonstrated with examples how they were used. Pete Smith discussed pottery types of the region on March 10. On April 8, Howard King explained the stages of making stone artifacts and showed examples and drawings of all the steps before reaching the finished artifact. He proceeded to explain the difference between some points made by right-handed knappers and others made by left-handed craftsmen. Our winter and spring meetings were concluded with a hamburger picnic followed by a talk and discussion of Paleoindian points by Charles Moore. The Chapter will suspend meetings until September 8 when our fall meetings will resume.

**News from the Huntsville Chapter by Ben Hoksbergen:** The Huntsville Chapter met on May 27 for an excellent presentation by National Park Service Archaeologist, Larry Beane, on the archaeology and history of Little River Canyon National Preserve. Since the creation of the Park in 1992, archaeological surveys have recorded 140 sites, and more are being found with each new survey. Sites range from late Paleoindian camps in rockshelters through historic Cherokee occupations and early 20<sup>th</sup> century home sites.

This was the last meeting of the season before our summer break. Meetings will resume on September 23<sup>rd</sup> after which they will continue to be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Main Branch of the Huntsville – Madison County Public Library.

## AAS Chapters

### 2014 Chapter Presidents

**Troy:** Jason Mann  
jmann@troy.edu

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**East Alabama:** Teresa Paglione  
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**Muscle Shoals:** Gerald Hester  
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**Coosa Valley:** Phillip Koerper  
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## Join or Renew Today!

You can pay AAS membership dues or make donations to AAS online at  
**[www.alabamaarchaeology.org](http://www.alabamaarchaeology.org)**

Or, send a check made out to  
"Alabama Archaeological Society"

to

Alabama Archaeological Society  
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park  
Moundville, AL 35474

## DUES

Type	U.S.	Foreign
Annual Associate (under 18 years of age)	\$15.00	\$20.00
Annual Individual	\$25.00	\$30.00
Annual Family	\$30.00	\$35.00
Annual Institutional	\$50.00	\$55.00
Annual Sustaining Individual	\$35.00	\$40.00
Annual Sustaining Joint	\$40.00	\$45.00
Life Individual	\$500.00	\$600.00
Life Joint	\$600.00	\$700.00

## AAS Research Grant

The AAS will grant an award of \$500 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Chairman by October 1st. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and announce the winner at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS; 2) the project must be located in Alabama; 3) the project director or his or her representative will be required to present a paper on the archaeological project at the Winter Meeting; 4) the project director or other personnel working on the project must submit a written report for publication in the Journal of Alabama Archaeology within twelve months of receiving the grant.

## Public Education Grant

The AAS will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500. Proposals for grants must be submitted to the Chair of the Public Education Committee (see below) by October 1st. The Board will announce the grant recipient(s) at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grants are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS; 2) the public education project must be located in the state of Alabama.

## AAS Scholarships

The AAS will award up to two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250 each to undergraduate and/or graduate students attending an Alabama college or university. Scholarship nominations are to be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chair (see below) by October 1st. Each eligible student nominee must have an academic sponsor who must submit the nomination on the student's behalf. The nomination must take the form of a letter addressed to the Chair of the Archaeological Resources Committee. The letter must clearly identify both the nominee and the academic sponsor and must include pertinent contact information for both. The nomination letter must indicate the academic degree being sought and progress made to date toward that degree. The letter should include and discuss all the information necessary for the committee to evaluate the nominee. The sponsor should summarize the academic credentials and achievements of the nominee in the body of the nomination letter. The student must also be a member of the AAS.

**Submit applications and questions** to Hunter Johnson, [Hunter@TVAREsearch.com](mailto:Hunter@TVAREsearch.com), or Hunter Johnson, Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research, 2211 Seminole Drive, Suite 302, Huntsville, AL 35805

Additional details are available on the AAS website at:

[www.alabamaarchaeology.org/aasgrants](http://www.alabamaarchaeology.org/aasgrants)

## Stones & Bones

*Editor: Ben Hoksbergen; Assistant Editors: Teresa Paglione and Jason Mann*

*Stones & Bones* is published bi-monthly at the beginning of January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for submitting articles is the end of the month prior to publication. Articles, questions, and comments can be sent via email to:

[benhoksbergen@gmail.com](mailto:benhoksbergen@gmail.com)

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