

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

Volume 38, Issue 8

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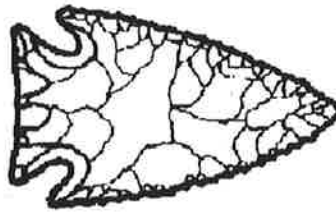
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Highlights of the AAS Summer Meeting

The summer meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society was held on June 29th at the Wright Farm Site in Calhoun County. Dr. Harry Holstein, members of the Jacksonville State University field school, and members of the Coosa Valley Chapter hosted the meeting. This summer's excavation units were left open for the members of the Society to view and tours were given by Harry and his crew. This site is truly outstanding as everyone that attended the meeting can attest. Large, black features stood out against the red subsoil illustrating just how rich and important the Wright Farm Site is.

In addition to the educational benefits the meeting afforded, the food prepared by Harry, his students, and the chapter members was fantastic. Homemade hamburgers and hotdogs were grilled on site with all the trimmings. Watermelon after lunch was an unexpected treat. The food, the site, the setting (large shade trees along the edge of a clear creek), the company, and the welcome we received from the natives made for a very enjoyable day. We want to extend a special thank you

to all that worked so hard to make this meeting a success.

At noon, the Board of Directors met at the pavilion and conducted a very successful business meeting. Highlights of the Board of Directors meeting were:

1. The Journal has ample articles to fill both volumes of the 1996 issue.

2. The Winter Meeting will be held at the University of Alabama Birmingham Hall Center Auditorium on Saturday, December 14, 1996.

3. The Board approved a minimum of \$500.00 each year for three grant projects;

-Archaeological Research

-Public Education and

-Scholarships, to be funded by donations (see related article in this issue).

4. The Archaeological Resources Committee presented a proposal for the Alabama Site Stewardship Program (a copy of the proposal is presented in this issue of *Stones & Bones*).

5. One thousand copies of the *Handbook of Alabama Archaeology, Part 1: Point Types* will be reprinted this year. In related action, a revised version of the *Point Type* book is still under consideration and tile publication on *Alabama Prehistoric Ceramics* will be postponed until 1997, in order that the Society can afford to reprint the *Point Type* book.

6. The Board requested that the Alabama Historical Commission develop a lecture series open to all members of the Society to be presented by the final applicants for the position of State Archaeologist.

1997 Alabama Archaeological Society Grants

At the Summer Meeting of the Board of Directors, a motion was passed to fund \$500.00 for public education grants, \$500.00 for archaeological research grants, and \$500.00 for student scholarships each year beginning in 1997. Funding of the grants will be contingent upon receiving at least \$500.00 in donations every year for each grant category. To date, the Public Education Grant Fund has received \$35.00, the Edward C. Mahan Archaeological Research Fund has received \$45.00, and the Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund has received \$410.00. While the Scholarship Fund is in reach of its goal, it is essential that the Society raise the remaining \$465.00 for the Public Education Fund and \$455.00 for the Archaeological Research Fund by January 1st, 1997. The motions that the Board passed on June 29th, 1996, to fund these three worthwhile endeavors are presented below. While the projects are still fresh in your mind, please pull out your checkbook and make your donations today. Please specify which fund you would like your donation to go towards.

The following is a list of people who have contributed to the AAS funds:

Ben Carpenter

Sheffield, AL 35660 - Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund and Edward C. Mahan Research Fund.

Eugene Futato

Moundville, AL 35474 - Public Education Fund (Project Archaeology).

Steven Meredith

Alabaster, AL 35007- Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund.

Jim Parris

Adamsville, TN 38310 - General Fund.

Public Education Grants

The Alabama Archaeological Society shall award public education grants each year in the amount of \$500.00. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500.00. Proposals for the grants must be submitted to the Education Committee Chairman by January 31st. The Education Committee shall review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors shall vote on the proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the grant recipient(s) shall be made by March 31st.

Funding for the grant(s) shall come from contributions made to the Public Education Special Projects Fund. The Education Committee shall initiate fund drives as needed. In the event that the full \$500.00 goal is not reached, the amount donated from April 1st to March 31st of that year will be the amount awarded. In the event that the goal of \$500.00 is exceeded, the amount over \$500.00 will be applied towards the following year's grant fund unless the Board of Director's votes to exceed the amount of \$500.00 for that year's grant(s).

Minimum criteria for the grant shall be:

1. The project director/grant administrator must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society.
2. The public education project must be located in the State of Alabama.
3. The project director or his or her representative will be required to give a presentation on the project at the Winter meeting in the year that the grant is awarded.

Additional grant criteria may be submitted to the Board for its approval by the Education Committee at the Annual Winter meeting.

Archaeological Research Grant

The Alabama Archaeological Society shall grant an award of \$500.00 each year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chairman by January 31st. The Archaeological Resources Committee shall review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors shall vote on the proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the recipient shall be made by March 31st.

Funding for the grant shall come from contributions made to the Edward C. Mahan Research Fund. The Archaeological Resources Committee shall initiate fund drives as needed. In the event that the full \$500.00 goal is not reached, the amount donated from April 1st to March 31st of that year will be the amount awarded. In the event that the goal of \$500.00 is exceeded, any amount over \$500.00 will be applied towards the following year's grant fund unless the Board of Directors votes to exceed the amount of \$500.00 for that year's grant.

Minimum criteria for the grant shall be:

1. The project director/grant administrator must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society.
2. The project must be located in the State of Alabama.
3. The project director or his or her representative will be required to present a paper on his or her archaeological project at the Winter meeting in the year that the grant is awarded.
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.

Additional grant criteria may be submitted to the Board for its approval by the Archaeological Resources Committee at the Annual Winter meeting.

Scholarship Grants

The Alabama Archaeological Society shall grant scholarships each year in the amount of \$250.00 each to two students actively engaged in an archaeological research project. Proposals for the scholarship grants must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee Chairman by January 31st of each year. The Scholarship Committee shall review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors shall vote on the proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the recipients shall be made by March 31st.

Funding for the grant shall come from contributions made to the Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Committee shall initiate fund drives as needed. In the event that the full \$500.00 goal is not reached, the amount donated from April 1st to March 31st of that year will be the amount awarded. In the event that the goal of \$500.00 is exceeded, any amount over \$500.00 will be applied towards the following year's grant fund unless the Board of Directors votes to exceed the amount awarded to the two recipients or votes to increase the number of awards.

Minimum criteria for the grant shall be:

1. The student recipient(s) must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society.
2. The research project that the student is involved with must be located in the State of Alabama.
3. The student must be an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a college or university in the State of Alabama with an active anthropology program.
4. The student must submit a letter of endorsement from an anthropology instructor.
5. The student will be required to present a paper on his or her research project at the Winter meeting in the year that the scholarship is awarded.

Additional scholarship grant criteria may be submitted to the Board for its approval by the Scholarship Committee at the Annual Winter meeting.

Calendar

September 6-8, 1996- Cherokees of Southeast Alabama Annual Native American Pow Wow & Festival. Ommussee Creek Park in Columbia, AL. There will be a charge for admission. For further information contact Sandy Faulk at (334) 541-2505.

October 5, 1996- The Fall Meeting of the Society for Georgia Archaeology will be held at the West Georgia College campus in Carrollton, Georgia in the Townsend Performing Arts Center and will begin at 9:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time).

November 6-9, 1996-Southeastern Archaeological Conference will hold its annual meeting at the Sheraton Civic Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Room rates are \$85.00 for singles, doubles, triples, and quads; phone number is (205) 324-5000; fax (205)-307-3045. For further information contact:

Ian W. Brown, Program Chair
Alabama Museum of Natural History
University of Alabama, Box 870340
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0340.

AAS Site Stewardship Program

The following is a proposal from the Archaeological Resources Committee to establish a state-wide Stewardship Program. Members are invited to send comments to:

Tim Mistovich
5735 Bradford Lane
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
(205) 556-3096

Reminder!! Final Dues Notice

Approximately 100 members have not renewed their 1996 membership. These members have been receiving the *Stones & Bones* but will not receive the Journal. If you know that you haven't renewed, do so today! This will be your final notice as well as your final *Stones & Bones*. If you are unsure about your status, write to the Alabama Archaeological Society address on the last page of this issue.

Alabama Archaeological Society Site Stewardship Program

The purpose of the Alabama Site Stewardship Program is to secure the protection of land that contains important archaeological resources. The major function of this program within Alabama will be:

1. To provide low-level site protection.
2. To provide opportunities for regular and systematic monitoring of significant sites.
3. To provide opportunities to educate participating landowners about the importance and the preservation of their sites.

A Site Stewardship program will allow Alabama to monitor the preservation of Stewardship sites that are located primarily on privately owned lands and to educate and recognize those landowners that participate in the program.

General Guidelines

1. The Stewardship program shall be a suborganization of the Alabama Archaeological Society (AAS). This program shall be administered by the Board of Directors of the AAS, through the Archaeological Resources Committee.

2. A Steward shall be a member of the AAS in good standing. This person will apply to the Archaeological Resources Committee, hereafter referred to as Committee, an indication of their willingness to assume responsibility for a site(s). The prospective Steward may submit a site or the Committee may assign a site(s) to a prospective Steward from a list compiled by the Committee of significant sites that may benefit from the program. This list may be compiled from current records of the Alabama Historical Commission and from archaeologists statewide. Written permission from the owner of the site property stating that said owner fully understands the program must be obtained.

3. It is the Stewards responsibility to act as liaison between the participating landowner and the AAS. The landowner participants are asked to honor three requests:

1. Preserve and protect their sites to the best of their abilities.
2. Notify the Steward of any threats to the site.
3. Notify the Steward of any intent to sell or transfer ownership, in which the program would need to be renewed with the new owner.

In turn, the Steward and the AAS agrees to:

1. Educate the landowner about his/her site.
2. Provide site management information.
3. Provide, upon request, aid to the landowner in selecting the most appropriate tools for site protection.

4. A landowner participates in the program by verbally agreeing to protect the site or by signing a non-binding Stewardship Agreement. The landowner's commitment is recognized through the presentation of awards, commensurate with the level of participation. These awards may

include, but not be limited to, certificates, plaques, or complimentary AAS publications. Determination of awards shall be made by the Board of Directors based on recommendations from the Steward and the Committee.

5. A Steward shall visit their site(s) a least four times annually and submit a written status report to the Committee. A form must also be completed upon the initial visit to the site and submitted to the Committee. These reports will be maintained by the Committee and sent to the Alabama State Archaeological Site Files as supplementary data sheets. (Sample form attached).
6. Stewards will consult the Committee prior to any site cleanup or preservation efforts.
7. Stewards not fulfilling their designated role after one year will be asked to resign.
8. Stewards will comply with all federal, state, and local preservation laws and regulations. In activities not regulated by law, Stewards will be guided by the Society for American Archaeology code of ethics and by professional assistance.
9. Site location information will be held confidential by the Stewards and will be revealed only to the Committee.
10. No news releases or other public statements concerning the sites, collections, or stewardship activities will be issued without the consent of the involved landowners and authorization by the Committee.
11. Upon termination of Stewardship, each Steward will transfer to the Committee all records and collections pertaining to the Steward's program activities. The Steward agrees to cooperate with their successor.
12. The Chairman of the Archaeological Resources Committee will make an annual report of the programs activities to the Board of Directors.

Site Selection

Before a site may be considered for the Stewardship program, it must have been identified, located, recorded, and evaluated for its significance. A site's significance is commonly evaluated according to the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which includes considerations of site integrity and research potential. Additional considerations should also include, for example, the site's cultural affiliation, physiographic setting, or the threats to its preservation (from vandalism, erosion, development).

Pre-Initial Visit Activities

These activities consist of initiating contact with landowners and developing a Landowner Information Pack. During this time, available information on the site should be

obtained. The most helpful source of information may be the archaeologist who has been most involved in research at the site. This archaeologist has the advantage of knowing the landowner, the site, and their common histories. The Landowner Information Pack, which is left with the landowner at the end of the initial visit, contains general information on the program, specific information about the site, and where warranted, information about other archaeological topics. It also contains the Stewardship Agreement which consists of a map, preferably a copy of a topographic map, of the site boundaries, a cover page that briefly describes the site, its significance, and the preservation commitment the landowner is being asked to make. The Pack functions to educate the landowner about the site and its significance.

It is suggested that the landowner be contacted twice before the initial visit. The first contact is by mail, in which a brief descriptive statement about the program is included in the letter along with any other pertinent information. Next, the landowner is contacted by telephone to set up an appointment to visit.

Initial Visit

The initial visit is the focal point of the landowner contact process. During this visit, the Stewardship program is explained in detail within the context of discussing the site and its importance. Stewardship activities the landowner may have undertaken in the past, as well as the appropriate activities the landowner should continue to follow, are discussed.

It is through this initial visit that the foundation is laid for establishing the landowner's preservation commitment and his/her long-term relationship with the Stewardship program. One of the purposes of the program is to educate the landowner about the site: how old it is; who were the inhabitants and how they lived; the identification of artifacts; and its significance. The visit also allows the Steward to collect information on the landowner, the site's history of use, and the types of threats it faced in the past.

Some landowners may decide to participate in the program and sign the agreement during the initial visit. Others may wish to think it over and discuss it with family members. The Steward makes a determination whether verbal registration has been secured. If the landowner is sincere and interested, then a verbal agreement is considered to have been made.

Post-Initial Visit Activities

Many of the activities that take place after the initial visit depend on its results. A few activities, however, take place immediately after the visit regardless of the landowner's decision regarding site Stewardship. They fall into two categories: recording information and communicating with the landowner. This information is important to future contacts with the landowner because it serves as a baseline from which to monitor the site's condition on subsequent visits.

A report of the initial visit itself is prepared which includes a description of activities during the visit, the Steward's feelings about the landowner's receptiveness to the program and

perspective on site preservation, the results of the visit, and the topics discussed. Information detailing the condition of the site, including the location and degree of any looting and vandalism or ground disturbance is noted on the Initial Visit Record.

As soon as possible after the initial visit, a follow-up letter is sent to the landowner regardless of his/her response to the program. If the landowner agreed to participate, the letter mentions the awards the landowner may receive and reiterates that agreement made, as well as site protection options if necessary. Announcement of the agreement in the local newspaper or other media depends on the landowner's permission, the site's notoriety, its state of preservation, and threats of looting and vandalism. All public announcements **must** be approved by the Committee. In addition, if the landowner has agreed to participate in the program, his/her name may be added to various mailing lists to receive complimentary publications of the AAS and other willing organizations. A copy of the Stewardship agreement, if it was signed, is also sent to the landowner. About a month later, the Chairman of the AAS Board of Directors sends a letter to the landowner in which he/she personally expresses appreciation for the landowner's decision to participate.

If the landowner did not agree to participate in the course of the initial visit, but wanted to think it over, a telephone call is made within a month of the follow-up letter. If the answer is "yes," the activities discussed above are carried out. A follow-up letter is sent after the initial visit even if the landowner is clearly not interested in participating in the program. Depending on the nature of the landowner's negative response, the immediacy of threats to the site, and the significance of the site, an attempt to contact the landowner again in six months to a year to reconsider the decision may be appropriate.

Stewardship Program Maintenance Activities

Upon a site's entrance into the Stewardship program, a long-term commitment to the site and its landowner begins. Participation in the program provides an opportunity to establish a relationship with the landowner. In the years that follow, it is hoped that the landowner's interest in the protection and preservation of the site will grow by virtue of this participation.

Stewardship follow-up activities are important to maintaining a successful protection and preservation program. These activities consist of communicating with the landowner, educating him/her about the importance of protecting the site, and monitoring the condition of the site at regular intervals. It may be advisable to bring "gifts" to the landowner during some or all of the quarterly site visits. These consist of items such as posters, articles, brochures, or copies of legislation that deal with archaeological sites. These items serve several purposes: (1) they provide an obvious reason for visiting landowners and not just his/her site; (2) they provide an opportunity to demonstrate once again appreciation for the landowner's preservation commitment; and (3) they represent a means to educate landowners about archaeology.

During the quarterly visits, questions are always asked about the site, its condition, and any problems with looting or vandalism the landowner may have had since the last visit. If at all possible, the site is visited in the company of the landowner, and site stewardship activities are

discussed. Information is collected about features of the site locale, locations of current and previous human and natural destruction, and site boundaries.

Activities conducted after the quarterly visits resemble those undertaken after the initial visit. A note is sent to the landowner, thanking them for spending time with the Steward. A note may also be sent to the Committee informing them of the visit. The information recorded during these quarterly visits should be maintained by the Steward for the purpose of writing the annual report to the Committee. At any time during the process a detailed site management plan may be prepared by the Steward and the Committee and discussed with the landowner.

* Excerpts were taken from A. Gwynn Henderson (1989), The Kentucky Archaeological Registry, Archaeological Assistance Program, *Technical Brief No. 6*. National Park Service.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

- Vol. 20-31, each issue (*two issues per volume*).....\$3.50pp
- Vol. 32 & up, each issue (*two issues per volume*).....\$6.00pp
- Stanfield- Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations* (Journal of Alabama Archaeology)
- Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint.....\$7.50pp
- Special Publication 2 - *The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama*.....\$6.00pp
- Special Publication 3 - *Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend* ..\$8.00pp
- Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types*.....\$15.00pp
- Lively, Long, Josselyn - *Pebble Tool Paper*..... \$3.00pp
- Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology* (Juvenile).....\$9.00pp

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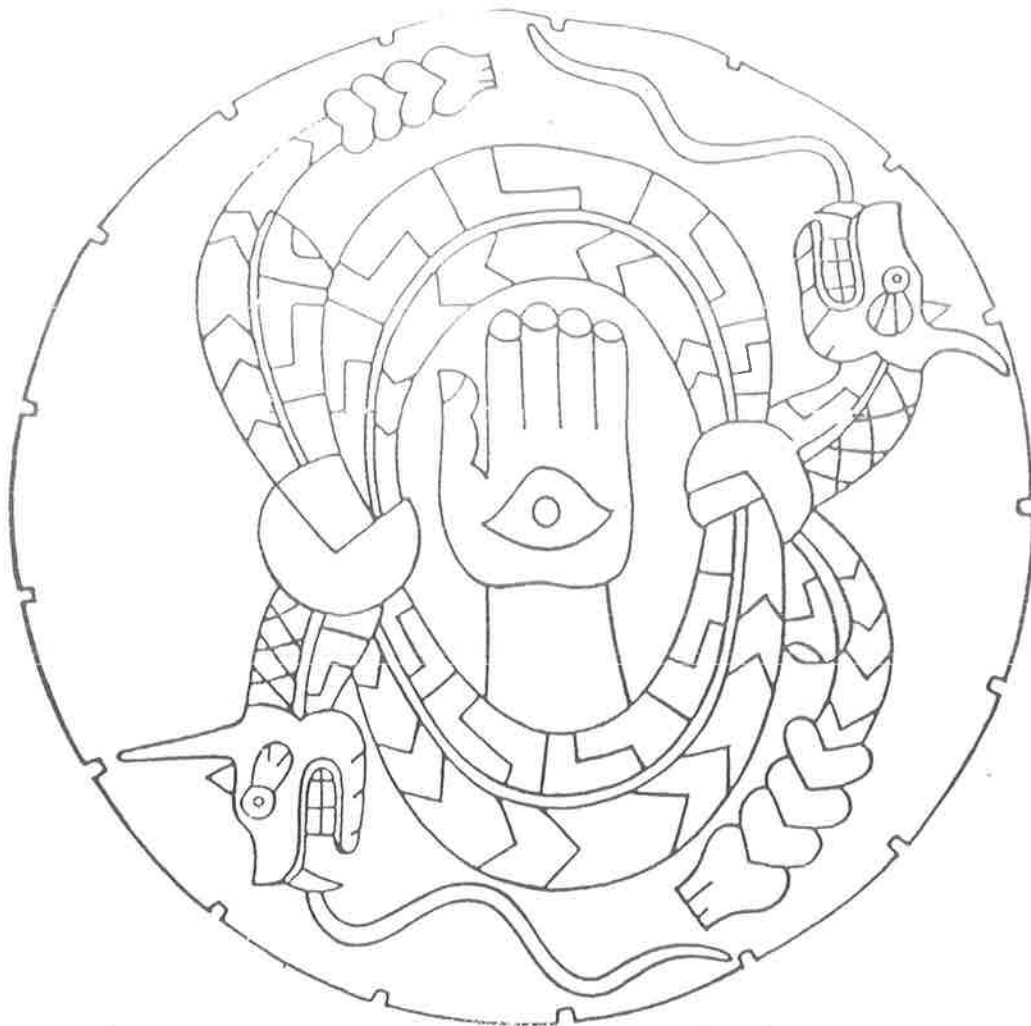
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