# Alabama Archaeological Society

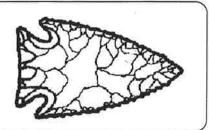
## Stones & Bones

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## Chapter News

Tuscaloosa Chapter...

The Tuscaloosa Chapter met Thursday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m. Bill Adkinson, chapter president, opened the meeting and introduced Hoarce Hayes. Hoarce gave an excellent presentation on fossils. He brought examples of many different kinds of fossils, told their age and where in the state they could be found. Next, Bill gave a presentation on Indian projectile points. He also brought examples of many point types, told their age and the type of material they were made from. There were 14 people present for this meeting.

#### East Alabama Chapter...

The East Alabama Chapter met February 11, 1997 at 7:00. Dr. Gary Mullen presented the film "First Frontier" produced by Auburn Television, depicting events in Alabama's early history. The film focused on the interactions between indigenous Indian cultures in the southeastern United States from their first contact with Europeans in 1540 up to Andrew Jackson's defeat of the Creek Indians at the Battle Of Horseshoe Bend in 1814. This one-hour documentary film provides an overview of this formative 300 year period that gave

rise to the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Creeks. At the same time it provides a historical context for understanding and interpreting archaeological artifacts recovered at sites throughout Alabama during this time span. Twenty-two members were present for this meeting.

Dr. Kathryn E. Holland Braund from Dadeville, AL presented the March program on native southeastern Indians based upon firsthand accounts by William Bartram during his travels in 1773 through the Creek Indian territory in what is now Alabama. This program is being sponsored by The Alabama Humanities Foundation as part of their 1996-1997 Speakers Bureau.

#### Cullman County Chapter...

The Cullman County Chapter met Thursday, March 27, 1997 at 7:00p.m. The members discussed Indian artifacts and archaeology.

Troy State University Archaeological Research Center now has E-mail. The address is anthro@trojan.troyst.edu. The address will be displayed in all future newsletters in the *Editorial Office* section on the front page.

# What's Happening Around the State

The University of Alabama will once again conduct an archaeological field school at Dust Cave, in northwest Alabama near Florence. Pending final approval of a grant from the National Science Foundation, The University of Alabama will provide financial support for each of ten students accepted for the 1997 summer field school at Dust Cave. Support is anticipated to include \$2,500 cash stipend, tuition, fees, lodging, food, and reimbursement of some or all travel expenses for each student. Selection will be competitive based on academic achievement and faculty recommendations.

The University of Alabama is also seeking a graduate student with training in archaeological botany to serve as a staff assistant during the field school. The position includes a modest salary, food, and lodging. This is an excellent opportunity for thesis or dissertation research in the area of early (Paleoindian through Middle Archaic) plant utilization in the mid south.

The University of Alabama University of Alabama Museums, Office of Archaeological Services (OAS) conducted Phase II testing at Site 1Mt249 at the request of the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT). The site was recorded in 1995 by OAS in connection with a cultural resources survey of proposed corridors for the proposed Montgomery Outer Loop project. The site was considered to have the potential for containing intact cultural deposits and was considered potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The testing program included intensive shovel testing and excavating eight 1 m by 1 m test units. The field work was conducted October 1-11, 1996. The Principal Investigator for the project was Dr. Boyce Driskell (Senior Archaeologist). Jeffery M. Mever (Archaeological Technician) was the Field Director.

Field investigations determined the size of the site to measure approximately 100 m by 100 m. Stratigraphically, all of the cultural material was retrieved from a disturbed plowzone context. No intact deposits were found at the site. The artifact assemblage is moderate in density with a preponderance of debitage, fire cracked rock and unmodified rock. Few chipped stone and projectile point/knife artifacts were retrieved and the ceramic assemblage primarily consists of small, eroded sherds. Nevertheless, a few of these artifacts at least represent occupations dating to the Early Archaic, Middle-Late Archaic, and Middle-Late Woodland. Associations during the Woodland indicate occupancy during the Calloway, Hope Hull and Autauga phases. Although the site contains a quantity of lithic and ceramic artifacts, there is little chance of cultural deposits existing in an undisturbed context. Furthermore, the material present is in poor condition. It is unlikely that the site will contribute significant information pertaining to the prehistory of the area. Therefore, Site 1Mt249 is not considered eligible for the NRHP and has been recommended for clearance.

Submitted by Catherine C. Meyer (Cultural Resources Analyst).

The Office of Archaeological Services of the University of Alabama Museums has begun a project funded by the Tennessee Valley Authority and aimed at a greater understanding of lithic assemblages in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama. The project will not focus on chronology or typology but will try to develop a better understanding of prehistoric lifeways through study of the lithic materials. More specifically, we will examine the prehistoric economy through the lithic assemblages.

The Tennessee Valley is a large region and as a result of WPA era excavations along the river and other large projects such as the Bear Creek watershed there is a tremendous amount of material available for study. Our first problem, then, is to develop a research design that will permit us to approach the problem with the limited resources available. It is obvious that any such study will need to take a broad-brush approach. We will need to look at a fairly large sample of material

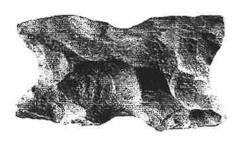
and can not go into a tremendous amount of detail on any one collection, site, or artifact type. We decided, therefore, to select a few variables that can be recorded quickly for a relatively large sample of material.

The attributes we are recording include: artifact type, raw material, presence and type of cortex, presence and type of evidence for recycling or rejuvenation, presence and type of any flaw which prohibited completion of the artifact, length, width, thickness, and weight. Taken together, these characteristics can tell us quite a bit. We can determine which portions of the lithic reduction process took place at a site (at times called the reduction trajectory segment and length), we can look at raw material procurement and use and through this possibly collect information on patterns of group movement and exchange. We can define what tool assemblages are present on sites and what activities may have taken place there. In combination with other information on site type and environmental setting, we may gain a better understanding of settlement patterns. Other questions may be asked as well.

We will spend the first year of the project working on the Pickwick Basin area, source of some of the most impressive lithic assemblages in the Southeast. Our first site will be Site 1Lu25, on Seven Mile Island. About 30,000 stone tools, broken preforms, and other artifacts were recovered from the site during one of the largest WPA single site excavations ever conducted. We will look at approximately 2,000 tools from Blocks 1 and 2. These excavation blocks were located in Unit 1 at the site. Unit 1 was excavated in six inch levels within zones and provides the best controlled materials from the site.

We have just begun the analysis, so no results are available yet. We do have one question however. The two artifacts pictured are from a group of six similar artifacts from the site. All the artifacts are relatively thick bifaces, sometimes with two notches, sometimes with four. They were all bagged together, so even during the WPA analysis they were recognized as unusual. No one here has ever seen anything like them. As yet, we are unable to determine what these artifacts may have been used for. The best suggestion offered

so far is "something to wrap your fishing line around." Any other suggestions?









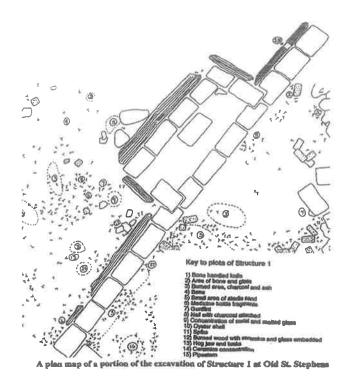
## Archaeological Investigations at Alabama's First Territorial Capital - St. Stephens

Native American settlements were abundant in the Southwestern corner of Alabama when the Spanish first established a fort in 1789 on a high limestone bluff overlooking the Tombigbee River. First named San Esteban, the name was later Americanized to St. Stephens.

A primary factor in deciding to settle here was the fact that just north of St. Stephens the rocky shoals proved a formidable obstacle to the sailing cargo ships of the day. When Samuel Ellicott completed his official survey of the 31st parallel, St. Stephens was found to be located on land belonging to the United States, making St. Stephens a major port for large boats to transfer goods to smaller vessels for the remaining trip up river. It also became the first territorial capital. During the 1800s, shallow draft steamboats could navigate the shoals that kept other vessels docked at St. Stephens.

Subsequently, St. Stephens became a prosperous river port with several thousand residents, hotels, banks, theaters, saloons, schools, and other city amenities - but no church. Legend goes that a traveling preacher came through St. Stephens and admonished the residents for their sinfulness. He cursed the town, saying it would be home to nothing but "owls and bats" one day. Sure enough, to this day. St. Stephens remains little more than an historical landmark. Several bouts of yellow fever killed off many of its residents. Others, fearing the curse was at hand, left and settled a couple of miles away at the town of New St. Stephens. While New St. Stephens is a small town today, no one has lived at the site of Old St. Stephens for nearly 150 years.

In the mid-20th century, limestone quarrying created a gaping hole several hundred acres in size, virtually removing a large part of the territorial capital. However, about 70 percent of



the streets were nearly as they were left--a bit overgrown but discernible and lined with crape myrtle, mock orange, black walnut, and chinaberry. Cellar holes and wells indicate the location of homes and businesses, although fire has destroyed all of the buildings. No standing structures remain today.

Archaeological investigations on the site of Old St. Stephens have been ongoing for over two years. Led by principal investigator Read Stowe of the University of South Alabama, these excavations focus mainly on a structure foundation that is in danger of tumbling down the bank and into the Tombigbee River. This feature is at, or near, the location of the original Spanish fort of San Esteban. Hand cut limestone blocks, decayed cypress timbers, nails, and other hardware are all that is left of the building; however, numerous artifacts including ceramics, dark green glass, bone handled knives and forks, trade beads and animal bones have also been recovered. Aided by students from the Universities of South Alabama and Southern Mississippi, as well as local volunteers, Read and his crew have extended investigations to include the entire town.

Nearby residents are very much interested in Old St. Stephens. The St. Stephens Commission, a state agency, has been around for many years, but until recently was inactive. Under the leadership of commission president Jim Long, the St. Stephens project has been rejuvenated. Last October, the second annual Old St. Stephens Day celebration was held on the site of Judge Crawford's house. With a recent grant from the legislature, the commission has plans to acquire parts of the site (all of which are currently privately owned) to develop a historic park. Continuing archaeological investigations will be central to this plan.

We will be kicking off our third field season at Old St. Stephens in June. Anyone interested is invited to visit and participate in the excavation. We usually work on weekends (Friday through Sunday) to allow volunteers to work on the site; however, Saturday is probably the best day to come. Visitors are asked to come self-contained (that is, bring your own lunch, water, bug spray, etc.). It is advisable to let us know when you are planning to arrive so we can keep the gate unlocked for you. If necessary, we will pick you up in New St. Stephens.

Camping is possible and motels are located in Wagarville and Jackson. The site is two miles from any amenities and can only be reached by vehicle during dry weather.

We hope you will be able to visit Old St. Stephens. For more information, call Jim Long at (334)246-5229 or Becky Stowe at (601)947-4050 or Read Stowe at (334)460-6347.

University of Southern Mississippi anthropology graduate student Brody Fredericksen and myself have been conducting an archaeology unit for 5th and 6th grade students in Mobile County. We spend a week teaching archaeological subjects including excavation techniques, dating methods, ethics, and field observations. We also introduce the kids to Alabama archaeology from Paleoindian up to the present and show them associated artifacts. We then take them into the school yard and have a simulated excavation during which they experience first-hand many of the field techniques learned in class.

At the "field site" set up in the school yard, students are split into six groups, each with an assigned task; i.e., excavator, map person, bucket person, screener, and lab person. Students rotate through the different stations so each one has an opportunity to participate in every phase of field site activities. The program has been successful with both the 5th and 6th grades students, typically 11 and 12 years old.

Other activities include face painting, corn grinding, and ceramics. The kids enjoy the classroom and excavation activities and develop an appreciation for archaeological resources and their significance. So far, we have held the program for private schools in Mobile County, however, we would like to also include public schools. If you are interested in providing this program for your students, please contact Becky Stowe at 601-947-4050.

The two previous articles submitted by Becky Stowe.

## Redating Serpent Mound

New radiocarbon dates suggest that Serpent Mound, a one-quarter mile long earthen effigy of a snake in south-central Ohio, was built as many as 2,000 years later than previously thought. The effigy had been attributed to the Adena culture (1000-100 B.C.) based on the presence of Adena burials nearby. The Adena people, who lived in an area stretching from the Midwest to the Atlantic coast, collected and began domesticating plants, improved methods of food storage, and buried their dead in mounds. Two samples of wood charcoal were obtained from undisturbed parts of Serpent Mound, Both yielded a date of c. A.D. 1070, suggesting that the effigy was actually built by people of the Fort Ancient culture (AD 900-1600), a Mississippian group that lived in the central Ohio Valley. Mississippian people inhabited the Tennessee, Cumberland, and Mississippi river valleys, built huge earthworks, cultivated maize, and were governed by powerful chiefs, ruling families, or both. The Mississippian's

centralized authority would have made possible organizing a large building project such as the construction of Serpent Mound. Additional evidence for the later date includes the remains of Fort Ancient village 100 yards south of the mound and rattlesnake motifs on Mississippian gorgets (ornaments worn on the chest) made from marine shells.

The new dates are the result of work by University of Pittsburgh archaeology student Robert Fletcher, who noticed that maps of the mound were out of date, He and a friend, Terry Cameron, began to remap the site on weekends. Mound had not been scientifically investigated since the late 1800's, when Frederick W. Putnam of Harvard's Peabody Museum mapped the mound an excavated sections of the serpent's sinuous body and oval "head" which has also been described as an egg or an enlarged eye. Putnam attributed the creation of Serpent Mound to the Adena culture even though he found no Adena artifacts within the serpent itself. Fletcher and Cameron wanted more solid evidence with which to date the effigy, so they contacted archaeologists Bradley Lepper, a curator at the Ohio Historical Society, and Dee Anne Wymer, of Bloomsburg University, who took core samples and conducted the limited excavations that yielded the samples for dating.

Other studies indicated that features of Serpent Mound are aligned with both the summer solstice sunset and, less clearly, the winter solstice sunrise. A pile of burned bones once located inside the oval head area was several feet northwest of its center, possible to make a more precise alignment with the point of the "V" in the serpent's "neck" and the summer solstice sunset. The AD 1070 date coincides roughly with two extraordinary astronomical events. Light from the supernova that produced the Crab Nebula first reached Earth in 1054 and remained visible, even during the day, for two weeks. The brightest appearance ever of Haley's Comet was recorded by Chinese astronomer's in 1066. Could Serpent Mound have been a Native American response to such celestial events? "It is impossible to test whether or not the effigy mound represents a fiery serpent slithering across the sky," says Lepper, "but it is fun to speculate."

Taken from Archaeology Nov/Dec 1996.

#### Calendar

April 4-6, 1997. American Indian Dance Festival in Childersburg, AL. The public is invited to Desoto Caverns Park's 22nd annual American Indian Dance Festival, featuring its first-ever Indian pow-wow. Contact Desoto Caverns or call 800-933-CAVE (2283).

April 4-6, 1997. The First Annual North Georgia Knap-In. The North Georgia Knap-In is expected to attract knappers from all over the Southeast and even Central U.S. People will be buying and selling tools and rock, but mainly it is designed to bring people with an interest in knapping together. Primitive bows and atlatls will also be featured.

The event is being held at Lutherwood Campground near Lake Allatoona. You can camp out or stay in a local motel. The site has a well-lighted pavilion, showers, campfire sites, and RV hookups. Restaurants are nearby, and the Knap-In will host a pizza party Saturday night.

To get to the campground, take Exit 121 off I-75. Go south on Glade Road one-half mile, then turn right on Hwy. 92 (Cherokee Road). Go three-quarters of a mile and turn right, following the signs for 293 North. Turn left on 293, go two miles, take the first right after the bridge, then take the second drive on the right.

For more information, contact:
Mark Bracken
330 Oakhill Drive
Canton, GA 30114
(770) 345-7305

April 24-27, 1997. The Battle of Selma Reenactment will be held at Battlefield Park. Activities include campfire visits and a grand ball. Admission charge. For more information contact Perry Woodruff at (334) 874-8166. June 15 - July 12. Alabama Museum of Natural History's Museum Expedition #19 held this year in Natchez, Mississippi, provides excellent field experience for high school students in archaeology and natural science. Participants learn excavation, lab procedures, and artifact identification. Four week-long sessions beginning on Saturday and ending on Sunday. For more information call (205) 348-0534. Admission is charged.

July 8 - August 16, 1997. Arkansas Archaeological Survey - University of Arkansas Field School. An archaeological field school will be taught at the Parkin site in northeast Arkansas from July 8 through August 16, 1997. The Parkin site is a 17-acre fortified Mississippian and Protohistoric period village located in Parkin Archeological State Park, with laboratory and curation facilities immediately adjacent to the site. Archaeological and ethnohistoric evidence suggest that Parkin is the town of Casqui visited by the Hernando de Soto expedition in June, 1541. Previous excavations revealed that the site was continuously occupied for as long as 500 years.

The 1997 excavations will investigate a portion of the defensive palisade that surrounded the town, and will also continue work on sixteenth-century structures in the village area. Students will be taught basic excavation techniques, transit use, mapping, record keeping, laboratory methods, and flotation. Archaeological method and theory and local prehistory will also be addressed.

Students will earn six (6) semester hours (either undergraduate or graduate) in ANTH 4256: Archeological Field Session. Out-of-State tuition is waived for non-University of Arkansas students. Tuition and fees are \$504.00 (undergraduate) and \$846.00 (graduate). There is an additional \$15.00 application fee (\$25.00 for graduate students) for students not enrolled at the University of Arkansas. Students will also be required to pay \$60.00 to cover on-site housing. A hired cook will be provided, but students will be responsible for food costs. Deadline for receipt of applications is May 31, 1997. Enrollment is limited to 24 students.

For further information and applications, contact: Dr. Jeffrey M. Mitchem, Arkansas Archeological Survey, Parkin Archeological State Park, P. O. Box 241, Parkin, AR 72373-0241. Telephone: (501) 755-2119.

E-mail: jmitchem@comp.uark.edu

November 13-16, 1997. American Society for Ethnohistory 1997 Annual Meeting at National Museum of Anthropology, Mexico City. Call for Papers. Papers, organized sessions, special events, and speakers that treat any world area are encouraged. Abstracts of 50-100 words on appropriate submission forms and pre-registration fees of \$40 (regular participants), \$20 (student or retired participants), are due by June 6, 1997. Write for submission forms and return to either:

William Autry 1997 ASE Program Co-Chair PO Box 917 Goshen, IN 46527-0917 email: billoa@goshen.edu telephone: (219) 535-7402 fax: (219) 535-7660

Jes'us Monjar'es Director de Etnohistoria, INAH Paseo de la Reforma y Calz. Gandhi Col. Polanco, CP 11560, Mexico DF Mexico

## **Publications**

The 1996 Awards Committee of the American Society for Ethnohistory are pleased to announce the recipients of the Society's Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin Awards.

For the best book-length work in ethnohistory, the 1996 Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin Prize was awarded to Patricia Galloway (Mississippi Department of Archives and History), for her book, Choctaw Genesis 1500-1700, published by the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, in 1995. Ellen B. Brasso's The Last Cannibals: A South American Oral History (University of Texas Press) received an honorable mention. Members

of the 1996 Selection Committee were Kevin Gosner, University of Arizona, Chair; Frederic Gleach, Cornell University; and Rayna Green, Smithsonian Institution.

Rex Weeks JR 702 1/2 17th Avenue Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 Contribution to Mahan Fund.

### New Members and Donations

Lawrence S. Alexander PO Box 62 Wildwood, GA 30507

Jason A. Mann 3354 Albans Lane Montgomery, AL 36111

Joe McCarthy 909 Briarcliff Road NE Apt 9 Atlanta, GA 30306

Mary S. Weiss 901 Hargrove Road Apt 9C Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Nick R. West PO Box 190 Dozier, AL 36028

The following is a list of contributors to the Mahan, Wimberly, and Education Funds.

McDonald Brooms
100 Lake Ridge Lane
Matthews, AL 36052
Contribution to Mahan, Wimberly, and Education Funds.

Teresa L. Paglione
NCRS Cultural Resource Spec
600 South Seventh ST
Opelika, FL 36801-4936
Contribution to Mahan, Wimberly and Education Funds.

### Reminder

Please mail your contributions to the Public Education Fund, Steven B. Wimberly Fund, and the Edward C. Mahan Research Fund. Everyone's contribution will be essential if we are successful. Tear off the donation page on the back of this newsletter and mail it with your check to Eugene Futato at Moundville State Park.

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

The Alabama Archaeological Society will hold its spring board meeting on **April 15th**, **1997** in Birmingham at O'Charley's Restaurant. Directions to this particular O'Charley's take Exit 246 off I-65. Proceed west on highway 119 approximately two city blocks and O'Charley's will be on your right across from Oak Mountain Expressway.

#### **Grant Proposals**

Proposals are now being excepted for the 1998 Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund, Public Education Fund and Edward C. Mahan Fund. Proposals must be submitted by December 31, 1997. Award announcements will be made in March, 1998. You may mail proposals to the Stones&Bones.

#### APPLICATION

#### VOLUNTEERS

#### 1997 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL AT DUST CAVE

The 1997 field school at Dust Cave will convene on Monday, June 9, 1997, and offer eight one-week sessions in which adults and high school students can participate. Minors under the age of 15 must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. Acceptance to the program is based on first applications received; participation is strictly at the discretion of the Field School Director. We can accommodate up to four volunteers each week. Please fill out the information section below and return to:

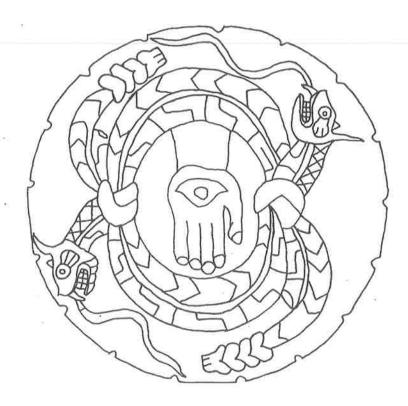
Dr. Boyce Driskell, Director
Dust Cave Archaeological Field School
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, Alabama 35474

The fee of \$150.00/participant/week includes tent accommodations and all food and supplies. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH.** 

#### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of love	as of Alahama Araba	7	
Available issues of Journ			02.50
		volume)	
Vol. 32 & up, ea	ich issue (two issues pe	er volume)	\$6.00pp
Stanfield-Worley Bluff S	Shelter Excavations (Jo	ournal of Alabama Archaeo	ology)
Vol. VIII Nos.	I & 2 - Reprint		\$7.50pp
Special Publication 2 - 7	he Archaeological Seg	juence at D <mark>urant Bend</mark> , Da	llas County
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Special Publication 3 - A	rchaeological Investig	gations at Horseshoe Bend	\$8.00pp
Handbook of Alabama A	rchaeology Part I Po	int Types	\$15,00pp
Lively Long Tosselyn -	Pehble Tool Paper		\$2.00m
Fynloring Prehistoric A	lahama through Archa	eology (Juvenile)	\$5.00pp
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## Alabama State Artifact "The Rattlesnake Disk"



Moundville, Alabama

Alabama Archaeological Society 40 Eldridge Hall Troy State University Troy, Alabama 36082-0001

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 99