

# Alabama Archaeological Society

## Stones & Bones

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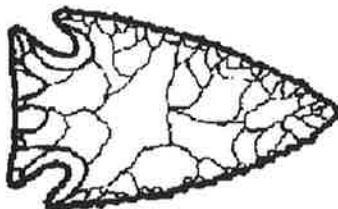
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### What's Happening Around the State

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Services conducted three field seasons (1994-1996) to explore the deposits of Beartail Rockshelter (1Ma96) on Redstone Arsenal in Madison County, Alabama. The archaeological materials excavated from the rockshelter represent a period of human occupation spanning some 10,500 years. Every prehistoric cultural stage known to exist within the Wheeler Basin is represented at the site, including Paleoindian, Archaic, Gulf Formational, Woodland, and Mississippian. Unfortunately, most of the cultural deposits are stratigraphically mixed, although the deepest component (Paleoindian) lies intact. In spite of the disturbed nature of some of the deposits, intensive archaeological, stratigraphic, and geomorphological analyses have led to an overall understanding of the developmental history of the site, which has been divided into five stages. Stage 1 represents the site area prior to human use near the end of the Pleistocene. Stage II dates ca. 10,500 to 10,000 B.P. and represents the period of initial human use of the rockshelter during Late Paleoindian times. These cultural deposits were contained within a deep (ca. 190 cm to 230 cm),

compact colluvium within the shelter and appear to have remained relatively intact. During Stage III (10,000 to 3200 B.P.) the site was used by a secession of Archaic hunters and gatherers. Deposits dating to this stage of site development are somewhat jumbled but can be fairly reliably divided into two components: A lower component representing site development from about 10,000 to 6500 B.P.; and an upper component dated from about 6500 to 3500 B.P. The refuse from these visits, as well as natural processes, developed a rich, organic midden soil that, with the addition of artifacts and detritus from later ceramic-making people (Stage IV), eventually came to be over 1.5 m thick. Similar patterns of site usage are attested for in Stage IV (3200 to 500 B.P.), but these include the ceramic cultures of the Gulf Formational, Woodland, and Mississippian periods. Stage V is postprehistoric (500 B.P. to present) and includes a thin screen of colluvium on a part of a steep talus in front of the rockshelter. Investigations focused on the Stage II deposits which yielded a radiocarbon date of 9820 $\pm$ 60 B.P. Among the tools recovered from this intact zone were one Quad pp/k, one Hardaway pp/k, two Early Side Notched pp/ks, and numerous biface and uniface tools.



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## Friend of the Fort

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At age 75, Ronnie Wacker is far from finished with her preservation battles. But she's savoring the recent victory of saving a 400-year-old Indian fort on Long Island, N.Y., after a 12-year fight to protect it from a housing development. "I can't believe it actually came to pass," Wacker says. She thought an agreement was struck in 1989 after an exhaustive letter writing campaign, but it fell through. Finally, a complicated land deal put together by the Peconic Land Trust at the end of June will preserve 105 acres of wooded land and the buried fort used by Cutchoque Indians while making wampum. Wacker had been working with the nonprofit group to conserve the east end of Long Island, so she threw a party. She won't rest long. Now Wacker has her eye on a certain 100-acre parcel nearby: "I just hate to see this beautiful area turn into the rest of what Long Island looks like-strip malls."

Taken from Preservation, September/October 1997.



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## Looking Back

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20 years ago this month....

Radiocarbon dating for Moundville

The Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc., announces the results of Carbon 14 tests run on two charcoal samples from archaeological excavations conducted some years ago at the well-known mound, dwelling, and burial site officially known as "Mound State Monument" at Moundville, Alabama. Dr. John Walthal of the University of Alabama's Department of Anthropology selected the samples from the collection of Moundville archaeological material stored at Mound State Monument, one sample from the

roadway area excavations and another sample from one of the mounds.

The two samples were dated by the Geochronology Laboratory, University of Georgia, who furnished the following data:

Sample	Date
Mound "W" Excavation	1260 AD+/-85yrs.
Roadway Excavation	1465 AD+/-160yrs.
Steve Wimberly, Birmingham Stone & Bones, Sept. 1977	



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## Neandertal DNA

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For the first time, DNA of a premodern human has been recovered. Svante Paabo of the University of Munich and colleagues in Germany and the United States successfully extracted the DNA from a right upper arm bone found in Feldhofer Cave in the Neander Valley, near Dusseldorf, Germany, in 1856. They presented their findings in the July issue of the journal *Cell*. The researchers identified 27 differences between the Neandertal DNA and a modern reference DNA sequence. The amount of variation between Neandertal and human DNA suggests that our common ancestor existed about 550,000 to 690,000 years ago.

The relationship between Neandertals and modern humans, who are thought to have arisen in Africa some 120,000 to 150,000 years ago, is uncertain. In the Middle East the two overlapped for tens of thousands of years (see *Archaeology*, January/February 1996). In France, at Arcy-sur-Cure (see *Archaeology*, September/October 1996), stone tools and ornaments found with 34,000-year-old Neandertal remains are similar to those associated elsewhere with modern humans, suggesting the two peoples traded.

Did Neandertals make a significant genetic contribution to modern humans-as a direct ancestor or through late mixing of Neandertal and *Homo sapiens* populations? If so, similarities should exist between DNA of Neandertals and that of people of Europe, where the Neandertals persisted the longest. Paabo and his colleagues found that the Neandertal DNA was no closer to DNA from modern Europeans than to that from other modern populations. While this does not rule out all possibility of Neandertal and modern human interbreeding, it suggests that the Neandertal genetic contribution to modern gene pools, if any was small.

Taken from *Archaeology*, Sept/Oct.1997



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## Alabama Historical Commission Announces Grants

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The Alabama Historical Commission recently announced that \$66,874.00 for archaeological projects has been granted for 1997-98. The total awarded for all grants was \$544,434.00 for this grant cycle. Listed below are the archaeological projects funded:

### SURVEY AND REGISTRATION

#### **University of Alabama**

Encoding Archaeological Site Data Ph 2D&3D

Amount Requested-\$12,019

Amount Awarded-\$10,000

Project narrative: Continuation of upgrading the Alabama State Site File into computerized data base.

#### **University of Alabama**

Prehistoric Lithic Project, Wheeler Basin

Amount Requested-\$10,000

Amount Awarded-\$10,000

Project narrative: Full title: "Prehistoric Lithic Technology and Settlement in the Middle Tennessee Valley: Wheeler Basin". Focus: Middle to Late Archaic period. This project does not involve field survey and is primarily the analysis of artifacts from previously excavated sites, though the application form indicates that three NR site nominations will be prepared.

#### **University of South Alabama**

Archaeological Survey of Dauphin Island

Amount Requested-\$9,501

Amount Awarded-\$9,501

Project narrative: Historical Archaeology survey of Dauphin Island, site of the earliest French settlement in modern-day Alabama. Though a few individuals sites have been located and are being excavated on the island (including the village site itself), no systematic survey to determine the number and extent of sites on the island has been performed. "The goal of the survey is to identify and locate these components [French colonial sites on the island], evaluate their condition, establish their limits, and record their existence in the Alabama State Site File. Ultimately this will assist in developing a long term, systematic research plan for the investigation and preservation of these cultural resources. An estimated 40 site forms will be completed.

#### **AHC-Maritime Heritage Council**

Survey Bayou Canot (Remote Sense, Clotilda)

Amount Requested-\$10,000

Amount Awarded-\$10,000

Project narrative: An archaeological remote sensing survey to find the burnt and scuttled remains of the Clotilda (last known vessel to illegally import slaves into the U.S.)

## PREDEVELOPMENT

### **University of Alabama**

Florence Mound Project

Amount Requested-\$4,873

Amount Awarded-\$4,873

Project narrative: The site, which lies within a heavily industrialized part of Florence, is operated by the City and is a park with a small interpretive museum. A management plan will be produced to protect and interpret this site.

## DEVELOPMENT AND MITIGATION

### **Baldwin-University of South Alabama**

Archaeological Excavations at the Spanish Fort

Amount Requested-\$24,719

Amount Awarded-\$22,500

Project narrative: Access to this site has afforded an opportunity to recover data from this threatened area. Located in a rapidly developing neighborhood, this area is part of late 18th century development and must be researched as soon as possible.



## The Last Hunt

With every breath weaker his chant grew  
Death had cast its shadow everyone knew  
Women were crying the warriors wanted to, but  
They were too proud and the children were there too

Many moons ago when a battle was near  
The chant was much different he knew no fear  
Now the days have grown long with endless nights too

For this old Chief there's so little to do  
Passing him by as the warriors go hunt for food  
If only once they would ask would you like to go too

The women were busy with no time for him

The children knew he was too old to play with them

As the old Chief wiped a tear from his eye  
Remembering how different it was in days gone by

Then he smiled as he watched the setting sun  
Knowing at last, the hunt was done  
With great effort the old man looked up to the sky  
Gripping his faithful friend the spear by his side.

This poem was submitted by Don Sivley who is an active member of the Alabama Archaeological Society.



## New Members

Melanie Bradford  
Stevenson, AL 35772

Ann D & Tom Cousins  
Atlanta, GA 30319



## People, Plants, and Landscapes

*People, Plants, and Landscapes*

Studies in Paleoethnobotany

Edited by Kristen J. Gremillion

Kristen J. Gremillion is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at The Ohio State University.

296pp., 6 x 9, illustrations

ISBN 0-8173-0827-X

paper \$29.95s

The University of Alabama Press  
Box 870380  
Tuscaloosa, Al 35487-0380

*People, Plants, and Landscapes* showcases the potential of modern paleoethnobotany, an interdisciplinary field that explores the interactions between human beings and plants by examining archaeological evidence. Using different methods and theoretical approaches, the essays in this work apply botanical knowledge to studies of archaeological plant remains and apply paleoethnobotany to nonarchaeological sources of evidence. The resulting techniques often lie beyond the traditional boundaries of either archaeology or botany.

With this ground-breaking work, the technically and methodically enhanced paleoethnobotany of the 1990s has joined forces with ecological and evolutionary theory to forge explanations of changing relationships between human and plant populations.



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## AAS Scholarships

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

Minimum criteria for the grants are: 1) the student recipients 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 a 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, and 5) the student will be required to present a paper on his or her research project at the 1998 Winter meeting.

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## Research Grant

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

Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, 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 and, 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.

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## Public Education Grant

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The Alabama Archaeological Society will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500.00. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500.00. Proposals for the grants must be submitted to the Public Education Committee Chairman by January 31st. The Public Education Committee will review the proposals and make

recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the grant recipient (s) shall be made by March 31st.

Minimum criteria for the grants are: 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 .

#### **Scholarship Committee Chair**

Mc Donald Brooms  
Archaeological Research Center  
40 Eldridge Hall  
Troy, Alabama 36082

#### **Research Committee Chair**

Tim Mistovich  
Panamerican Inc.  
P.O. Box 40930  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404

#### **Public Education Committee**

Linda Derry  
Old Cahawba  
719 Tremont Street  
Selma, Alabama 36701

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## AAS T-Shirts

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The Troy State Chapter is offering for sale AAS t-shirts. These t-shirts are all cotton, have a front pocket, and come in either navy blue or hunter green. Proceeds go to helping the AAS reach its goal to fund the 1998 student scholarships, public education grants, and the archaeological research grant. Help a good cause and get a great looking t-shirt in the process. Order today! Order often!



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## Donations

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Donations can be made to the above grant programs any time during the year. Donations to the Stephen B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund provides the financial support necessary for the Student Scholarship program while donations to the Edward C. Mahan Fund are used to fund the Research grants. Funds for the Public Education grants are provided by the Public Education Special Projects Fund.

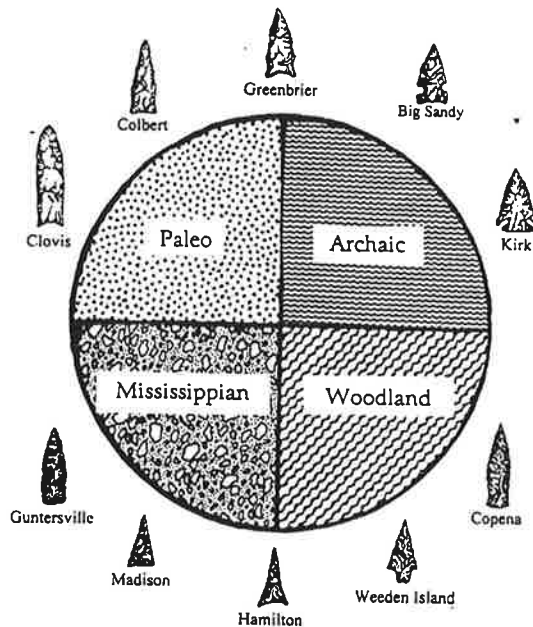
Please send your donations to:

AAS  
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park  
Moundville, AL 35474

# Alabama Archaeological Society T-Shirts!!

The AAS now has T-shirts in your choice of navy blue or hunter green with beige lettering. Each shirt is \$15.00 which includes shipping and handling. It has the design featured below on the back with "Alabama Archaeological Society" on the front pocket. If you are interested in purchasing a shirt please return this order form along with your check or money order to:

**Troy State University  
Archaeological Research Center  
40 Eldridge Hall  
Troy, AL 36082**



**Size:**

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*medium*  
*large*  
*x-large*  
*youth small*  
*youth medium*  
*youth large*

**Color:** *(Specify blue or green)*

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**Quantity:**

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## 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

## MEMBERSHIP

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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| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual, Family (husband, wife, and children under age 18).....\$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> *Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund...\$ _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (Students under age 18) ..\$9.00                            | <input type="checkbox"/> *Edward C. Mahan Research Fund.....\$ _____          |
| *Contributions are tax deductible  | <input type="checkbox"/> *Public Education Special Projects Fund ....\$ _____ |

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Send Checks for  
 Memberships and  
 Publications to:

Alabama Archaeological Society  
 Archaeological Services  
 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park  
 Moundville, AL 35474



**Alabama State Artifact  
"The Rattlesnake Disk"**



**Moundville, Alabama**

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