

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

Volume 47, Issue 2

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March/April 2005

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Flintknapping Workshop June 6-10, 2005

The Center for American Archaeology will offer a week-long, hands-on workshop in chipped stone tool technology as a part of their summer calendar for 2005. Tim Dillard, an expert flintknapper with over twenty years of experience, will lead the course. Informal lectures on tool forms, chert, quarrying strategies, local geology, and technical aspects of knapping will set the stage for work sessions in percussion, billet, and pressure flaking techniques. Chert collection trips and head-treating sessions are also a part of the week's activities. Experienced and novice flintknappers alike are welcome to join Tim this summer.

Tuition and Fees

Adults 18 and older are welcome to enroll in this program. Fees are \$500.00 per person for the week, and includes room, complimentary field lunches each day, and instruction. It is not necessary to bring your own tools, but you are welcome to do so. For a registration packet, please contact our office.

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Letter from the President

Dear fellow Society members,

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that I am honored to serve as Society president during the coming year. Most of you don't know much about me so I thought I would take this opportunity to give you a little background. I grew up in Huntsville, where early on my parents dragged me through the muddy red fields of Madison County. This early experience, along with my parent's dedication to study and classify the artifacts we found certainly had a big impact on me. Later, after a couple of lackluster attempts in

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<http://www.southalabama.edu/aas.html>

college to obtain a business degree, I ended up at the University of Alabama. Here I enrolled in a field school at Dust Cave and was hooked. Most of my research since then has dealt with late prehistoric Mississippian sites in Alabama and Mississippi, but like many collectors in North Alabama I have a strong interest in Paleoindians. During my professional career I have tried to work closely with local collectors because I realize the value of their knowledge and contributions.

I recognize that a communication gap exists between collectors, avocationalists and professionals. I will work closely with Society members on some of the barriers that exist. I pledge that during and following my term as president that I will keep an open line of communication with members. Our past president, Dr. Phil Carr, also made this a primary objective of his term and he continues to work towards bringing Society members closer.

My primary objective as Society president during this year will be to raise membership and to put the AAS on sound financial footing for my predecessor. The Society need to grow, and I believe recruit a younger audience. I believe that it is important to get young people involved in the preservation and documentation of archaeological sites in Alabama and teach them to be stewards of cultural resources around the state. While there are some underlying issues between professionals and avocationalists, we certainly share a passion for the study and protection of archaeological resources in Alabama. Most important is that we pass this passion on to a new generation of people who will help preserve some of the quickly vanishing archaeological resources around the state. We need everyone's help to recruit new members and to be active stewards in their local communities.

Sincerely,
Hunter Johnson
AAS President 2005

Chapter News

East Alabama Chapter

The East Alabama Chapter presented a program on **Windover Pond: Site of the Florida Bog Burials** on January 18, 2005. Windover Pond is an Early Archaic site located in Brevard County on the eastern coast of Florida about five miles from Cape Canaveral. Excavations by archaeologists from Florida State University in 1982 revealed the first evidence of human burials in peat deposits at the bottom of a shallow pond, dating 7,000 to 8,000 years ago. Both human remains and associated artifacts, including brain and other tissues, woven fabrics, wooden objects, and stone and bone tools are remarkably preserved in the acidic deposits. Even the stomach contents have persisted through the intervening millennia, revealing the last meals eaten by some individuals. The program focused on these extraordinary finds and what they tell us about an unusual culture and their unique burial practice.

The East Alabama Chapter met on February 8, 2005 in the Rouse Life Sciences Building, Room 112. Dr. John Blitz gave a presentation entitled "Southeastern Platform Mounds: What we know, What we think we know, What we wish we knew". Dr. Blitz is an archaeologist who studies the origins of complex societies. He is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alabama and author of *Ancient Chiefdoms of the Tombigbee*. With a colleague, he recently completed a book on Mississippian mound sites on the Lower Chattahoochee River that he hopes will be published next year. Currently, he is the director of the Early Moundville Archaeological Project at Moundville, Alabama. In addition to research in the American Southeast, Dr. Blitz participates in excavations at Actuncan, an early Classic Maya site in Belize, Central America, a project headed by his wife, Dr. Lisa LeCount, also of the University of Alabama.

Both articles submitted by the East Alabama Chapter.

Coosa Valley Chapter/JSU

The Coosa Valley Chapter/JSU Archaeology Club held their joint monthly meeting on January 27, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. in Martin Hall on the

Jacksonville State University campus. Dr. Philip E. Koerper, chapter president, welcomed members and guests to the meeting. We look forward to seeing our guests return for additional meetings in the near future. The Treasury Report was given. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. Following the business meeting, Dr. Harry O. Holstein announced that the 82nd Annual Academy of Science meeting is scheduled for March 30-April 1, 2005 at Birmingham Southern. Contact Dr. Holstein for the exact times/dates when JSU faculty and students will present their papers. Russell Cave Indian Day is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 30th and May 1st. The weekend will be filled with many excellent exhibits, games and demonstrations. Dr. Holstein will be presenting demonstrations. A drive is underway to organize "Friends of Davis Farm" to save the farmhouse and some of the acreage surrounding the spring. An ad hoc of concerned citizens, area city leaders, county commissioners, the Alabama Historical Commission and others are trying to put Davis Farm on the National Register of Historic Places. The farmhouse is one of the oldest houses in Calhoun County. Future plans are to use the house as a welcome/information center and park. Dr. Holstein will give additional information at a later date as it becomes available.

There being no additional announcements the meeting adjourned for the night's program. Dr. Kelly Gregg gave a talk and a slideshow on the "Trail of Tears". Dr. Gregg has relocated and traveled over 80% of the 19th historic trail. His journey began in Tennessee, went as far north as Illinois, west as Missouri terminating in Oklahoma. He has recently finished writing a book that will allow others to retrace his journey. Submitted by the Coosa Valley Chapter.

What's Happening

Alabama Historical Commission

Staff members of the Alabama Historical Commission recently conducted a shovel testing project at Old Cahawba. A total of 259 shovel tests were dug on three city blocks of the first

state capitol. The findings appear to confirm documentary evidence indicating that several structures once stood on each block. perhaps the most interesting discovery was the location of the jail built on First North Street around 1824. A substantial structure befitting the vision of Cahawba's founders, the two story brick building was later sold to the Pegues family. Prominent members of Cahawba's social elite, the Peguese family planted a "Mystical Cedar Maze" on the grounds that became a favorite of courting young socialites. One night a romantic couple reported sighting a glowing green ball floating in the maze. Soon the sighting was reported by other strollers. The story is recorded by Katherine Tucker Windham as one of the state's most memorable ghost stories. Several shovel tests revealed features that may be the remains of plants in the garden of the Maze but no evidence of the glowing ball was encountered. The shovel testing was the first project conducted since staff archaeologists developed an archaeological base map of the town. It provides the first opportunity to tie a substantial amount of field data to the base map using a specialized grid developed by Linda Derry to insure that archaeological provenience information is consistent with the town's original plat. Now that Commission archaeologists are on the trail of relic landscapes, we are developing a project for Gainswood where we hope to relocate the ante-bellum mansion's "Lover's Lane.". Submitted by Jack Bergstresser, AHC.

Office of Archaeological Research

In May of 2003, the Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) received a \$211,961 Preservation and Access Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to rehabilitate over 1,500 cu. feet of archaeological collections curated by OAR. Work on the project is now entering its final stages. The grant provided funds for OAR to (1) sort the collections into provenience based units, (2) label and package the materials using appropriate archival quality materials and procedures, (3) accession the collections into the collections register, (4) inventory the materials into the collections database, (5) prepare a collection report

for each collection, (6) post portions of this information, including enhanced versions of the collection reports, on OAR's web page.

Funding was provided for work on the specimen collections, the associated field forms and notes, and analysis or catalog sheets and other laboratory records. The associated photographs were not covered by this grant. All of the collections resulted from professionally conducted surveys and excavations performed by staff of the Alabama Museum of Natural History (AMNH). The four decades of research represented by these collections span the careers of Dr. Walter B. Jones, Director of the Alabama Museum from 1927 until his retirement in the 1960's, and David L. DeJarnette, who began as a Museum archaeologist in 1929, gaining a joint appointment in the Department of Anthropology in 1956 and retiring in 1976. These collections are a historic record of the development of scientific methods in Alabama. They began with the transition from excavation as a means of collecting objects for museum exhibits and trace the major questions and paradigms of Southeastern prehistory through four decades. The collections can be roughly organized into six groups, summarized below.

Warrior River Survey. Given that the Moundville site is part of the AMNH, it follows that the first major survey work by the museum was in the Warrior River Valley between the University and the Moundville site. A total of 250 sites were recorded. Excavations were conducted at a few sites, including Snows Bend and the White site.

Mobile Bay/Gulf Coast. These collections began with surveys in Baldwin County during 1933 and 1934, recording 185 sites. In 1940 and 1941 excavations were conducted at 19 sites along the lower Tombigbee River and Mobile Bay. Excavations were also conducted at the Bottle Creek site, the largest Mississippian mound complex on the lower Coastal Plain, Site 1Ba81, an extensive Mississippian shell midden in extreme southern Baldwin County, and a series of nine sand mounds in this same vicinity. Later collections were

obtained from excavation of the D'Olive Creek site complex and at a large shell midden on Dauphin Island.

Coosa River Valley. The Coosa collections primarily date to the development of a series of dams along the river built by the Alabama Power Company. The Museum conducted surveys here in 1954, 1956, and 1960, recording 587 aboriginal sites. Excavations were conducted at 37 sites.

North Alabama Project. The North Alabama Project is the largest collection group rehabilitated under the grant. The collections resulted from survey and excavation projects conducted from 1960 to 1975. Excavations focused on bluff shelters and two series of open sites, primarily along upland tributaries of the Tennessee River. All of these collections came from work done in cooperation with the AAS and funded by the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama.

Jefferson County. The Jefferson County collections come from several sites in different portions of Jefferson County, Alabama, all dating to Late Woodland and Mississippian times. Primary among these is the Bessemer site, where excavations were conducted in 1934-35 and 1939-40. Pinson Cave, a Late Woodland ossuary in north central Jefferson County, was excavated in 1970. Three sites were excavated in 1973 prior to the construction of the West Jefferson Steam Plant. Shortly thereafter, several small Late Woodland sites were excavated in the Cahaba River drainage.

Protohistoric Project. The Protohistoric project was an examination of the twilight of prehistory and Native American occupation in the Warrior River valley. Research at the Moundville site established that the site was largely abandoned by approximately A.D. 1500-1550. The population of the valley was much smaller and lived in small scattered farmsteads and hamlets. Some 100 or so years later, a remnant population had gathered into a few larger villages, perhaps for defense, perhaps for mutual support during a time of serious stress. Within another 100 years,

baseline research: intensive, multi-year projects in areas which were previously archaeologically unknown. Together, they represent the survey of over 1100 sites and the excavation of nearly 100. The archaeological collections upgraded by this proposed curation program form the basis for much, probably most, of what is known of the aboriginal occupation of a significant portion of the state of Alabama. In all, 78 separate site or project collections were rehabilitated, including over 62,000 bags of specimens and 466 folders of records, filling more than 1,600 1 cu. foot storage boxes. The research potential of the collections, however, is scarcely touched. Most of the collections were reported only at a superficial level, some have never been reported at all. The majority of the collections came from sites which no longer exist. Many of the sites were in inundated river valleys. Industrial development and urban development of coastal areas have destroyed many of the other sites. These collections can never be replaced. They must be preserved. Submitted by Eugene Futato.

Archaeological Resource Laboratory

JSU Archaeological Resource Laboratory (ARL) archaeologist John Noel recently completed a Phase I archaeological survey of the Taylor's Mill Timber Sale on the Talladega National Forest. Nearly 400 acres were surveyed. One stone mound site, 1Ta677, was recorded. This site consisted of a loose stone conical mound. Two lithic scatters were recorded, 1Ta672 and 1Ta674. Several isolated finds were also recovered during the survey. The final report was submitted to the Talladega National Forest, Talladega District.

Rebecca Turley Ridley was the principal investigator on a Phase I investigation of an existing and proposed wetland that is associated with the construction of the Churchill Downs Subdivision Development in Morgan County, Alabama. One unknown aboriginal site, 1Mg929, and one Early Archaic site, 1Mg929, were recorded. Neither site was recommended for further investigation.

Jamie Dickeson of the ARL staff is currently mapping two important sites. As part of a

cooperative effort with the Talladega National Forest archaeologist, he and his survey crew are doing a detailed map of the Piedmont Springs Hotel site located upon Talladega National Forest property. This 19th Century hotel complex straddles the steep western slope of Choccolocco Mountain a few miles north of Jacksonville. Mr. Dickeson's second mapping project involves mapping the Shelton Stone Mound complex, which straddles the steep eastern slope of Choccolocco Mountain overlooking White's Gap in Calhoun County. This complex consists of over sixty loose conical stone mounds and fourteen loose lineal stone walls.

Submitted by Harry O. Holstein.

Jacksonville State University

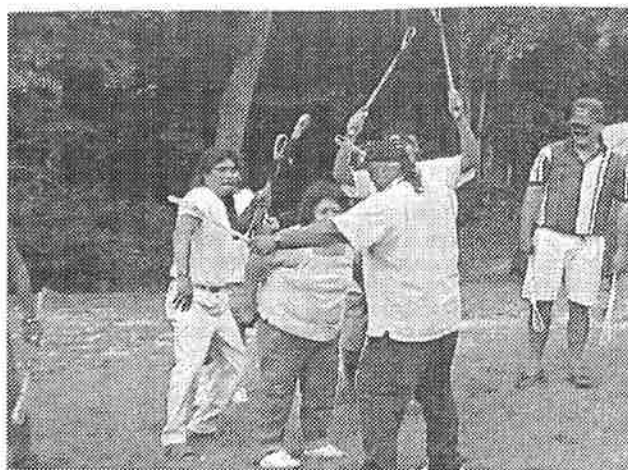
On February 1, 2005 the Jacksonville State University (JSU) Archaeological Resource Laboratory (ARL) participated in Career Day hosted at JSU. The three-day event was sponsored by the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, Gadsden State Community College, and Jacksonville State University. The focus of the event was to present career possibilities to local eighth graders, who were scheduled to come in waves each day. Each wave of students was divided into six groups, so that each presenter would have a maximum of approximately thirty-five students.

Gail King, archaeologist and director of the Southeastern Indian Educational and Research Center under the Archaeological Resource Laboratory, and Renee Morrison, wildlife biologist and coordinator of the JSU Little River Canyon Field Schools, did a joint presentation to eighteen groups. Ms. King presented archaeology as a career and gave extensive information about the upcoming Archaeology Summer Camp in June 2005.



Pictured above, Gail King gives a presentation to students on the Little River Canyon Field School.

The presentation of the Archaeology Summer Camp was met with a great deal of excitement by the eighth graders as well as their teachers, because of its uniqueness in combining living history with an archaeological excavation, including lab analysis, at a significant Creek Indian village site in central Alabama. Those who attend the week-long camp will truly feel Creek culture come alive in their daily lives. They will live in a simulated Creek Indian village, become a member of a Creek clan (for one week), and eat a Creek dinner prepared by the camp chef under the direction of Creek descendants. The lives of late eighteenth century and early-nineteenth century Creek Indians will be explored through learning pottery making, basketry, going to Nature's pharmacy, and many other essentials of daily living.



Shown in the previous column, a demonstration of traditional Stomp Dancing. Above, a game of stickball is enjoyed.



Above, students learn about Archaeology and the Archaeology Summer Camp scheduled for June.

An additional cultural activity will be a stick-ball game played as it is played in the Creek Nation in Alabama and Oklahoma today. Social stomp dances will be taught, as they have been performed for hundreds of years. Each day will be topped off sitting around a campfire at night, with Creek Indian lore being taught against the backdrop of cricket sounds of a June evening in Alabama.

Below, students excavate a feature during the Archaeology Summer Camp.



For further information about the camp, please call Renee Morrison (JSU Field Schools) at 256-782-5697 or Gail King (Archaeological Resource Laboratory) at 256-782-8207.

Website <http://fieldschool.jsu.edu>

Photos and article submitted by Gail King.

Recognizing the Early Paleolithic in the Southeast

I read the article contributed by Blaine Ensor in the November/December 2004 issue of this newsletter with great interest. The article dealt with the important and significant finds he has reported while studying and analyzing unifacial stone tools and technologies collected from the Capps site (1He178) and the Shelly site (1He105). His fine illustrations resemble the artifacts pictured with my article, "Poe's Ponderings on the Paleolithic" in the November/December 2003 issue of this same newsletter. Blaine's research appears to parallel my own as I also mentioned the existence of previously unrecognized stone tools that may pre-date the Clovis era also located along the Southeastern Gulf Coastal Plain.

I agree for the most part with Blaine's observations and conclusions regarding the "prepared" lithic core technology and its subsequent tools and endproducts. Blaine exhibits a great deal of

professional integrity. Some researchers in the past have been challenged severely by colleagues when they have chosen to explore and publish similar artifact assemblages that they have discovered, particularly when their findings went counter to prevailing thought and theory.

I am concerned that many readers of this newsletter may be confused as to where in pre-history these artifacts may belong, who made them, and where the technologies originated. As I pointed out in my article and as Blaine also notes, these artifacts are "not in the vein of traditional archaic core/biface reduction", or as I stated, "they have not been documented in other cultural sequences in the Southeast or elsewhere in North America for that matter." I am however, chasing down some references to similar technologies that may have existed in Oregon and as far south as Cuba.

For most of us this is hard work. It is not easy to recognize and become familiar with little known and amorphous patterns of stone breakage. The artifacts illustrated by Blaine in the last issue may be difficult to discern until we get used to viewing them in a different fashion than we are accustomed to viewing popular tool types and typologies- just as it is recognizing strings of characters in books that are written in a language that we have not been taught to read.

Absence of consistent association with Paleo, Archaic, Woodland or Mississippian period artifacts offers, in my opinion, strong evidence suggesting that the Southeastern unifacial tool tradition, as evidenced by my finds as well as Ensor's, easily pre-dates all known cultural periods thus inferring an early time frame of at least 12,000 years ago and a more likely date of 15,000 to 25,000 years before the present (bp). Tools of this type are also known from Asia, Mongolia, Europe, the Levant, as well as Africa. This fact alone argues that these typologies are not all of the same age. The basic resemblances of these tools are so great however, that this technology must have been distributed from a common center that would consequently be much older and far removed from our Alabama lithic assemblages.

(continued on page 12)

Moundville 2005 Educational Programs

For more information or reservations, call 205-371-2234.

Email: mbeo@bama.ua.edu

Web: <http://moundville.ua.edu>

Park Tours

Unguided- All Grades

Group rate for unguided tours is **\$2.00 per person with a reservation**. One teacher for every 15 student and bus drivers are admitted free of charge.

Moundville & the Mississippians - All Grades

Learn why Moundville is one of the most important prehistoric sites in North America! Take your class on a comprehensive tour of the Southeast's former "big apple" and learn about scientist's latest findings. Tour information is presented in a grade appropriate format. **Available year round. Group rate plus \$40.00 (up to 40, then \$1.00 for each additional child).**

Art, Images & Ornaments - Grades 3 through 6

Tour parts of the Moundville site and learn how archaeologists know what Mississippian Indians looked and dressed like. You'll see images of what the Moundville Indians looked like. Then your students will decorate their faces like a Mississippian Indian and make themselves a shell necklace. **Available year round. Group rate plus \$60.00 (up to 40, then \$1.50 for each additional child).**

Ancient Tools & Weapons - Grades 2 through 12

Following a short park tour, students will watch our master "flintknapper" fashion an arrow or spear point from rocks that break like glass. Afterwards, your class will see longbow, tomahawk and blowgun demonstrations, then get a chance to try their hand at the atlatl, a spear throwing device. The teacher gets to keep the point made in front of the class and each student takes home their own small arrow point. **Available February 15 through November 20. Group rate plus \$60.00 (up to 40, then \$1.50 for each additional child).**



Rhythm of Life: Indian Music and Dance - Grades K through 3

Learn how the heartbeat is central to the rhythm of Native American percussion and listen to Native American choral and flute music. Students get to play several different rhythm instruments and make their own shaker from recycled materials. Your class finishes up the day by learning the Choctaw snake dance, hathe sinte. **Available year round. Group rate plus \$50.00 (up to 40, then \$1.25 for each additional child).**

Mother Earth & the Three Sisters: Indian Plants & Foods - Grades 3 through 6

Tour our nature trails and visit our museum and Indian garden (in season) while learning about native plants and foods. An expert then lets you class see how different plants can be used for tools, weapons, medicine and food. Kids will make a fiber friendship bracelet, taste Indian tea and sample an authentic Indian trail mix. **Available March 21 through May 31. Group rate plus \$60.00 (up to 40, then \$1.50 for each additional child).**

Pastime Pastimes: Southeastern Indian Games - Grades 3 through 6

Find out how the game of lacrosse evolved and why Southeastern Indians called stickball "the little brother of war". Kids play two versions of this game as well as learn how to play Indian football and chunky. Finally, kids make and take their own pieces, playing a bean toss game. **Available March 21 through October 31. Group rate plus \$50.00 (up to 40, then \$1.25 for each additional child).**

Special Events

Moundville Knap-In - April 7-9

The Moundville Knap-in is a gathering of flintknappers - artisans who create arrow and spear points. Toolmakers demonstrate and sell their work as well as selling raw materials and knapping tools. Weapon demonstrations include the atlatl (a spear throwing device) and longbow. Children's activities are available. **Admission is \$5.00 for children, \$7.00 for adults. Group rates are available. Friday is kid's day and the group rate covers both the knap-in and the powwow.**



Firehawk Powwow - April 8-10

Powwows are a modern Native American tradition that evolved from many different Indian cultures coming together out west. A powwow is the native people's way of meeting, joining in dancing, singing and visiting, renewing old friendships and making new ones. Intertribal dancing, storytelling, flute playing and demonstrations of various arts and crafts are featured throughout the powwow. Visitors can purchase one-of-a-kind handmade items that represent the works of several different tribes. Native foods such as frybread and Indian tacos are regular concessions are also available for visitors.

Fusing Red Earth: Moundville Pottery Gathering - June 15-18

Fusing Red Earth is an annual gathering and expo of people interested in Southeastern Indian pottery, past and present. Program features are open discussions, a presentation on the evolution of prehistoric ceramics, viewing institutional collections of prehistoric and historic indigenous ceramics and exhibiting and demonstrating the art of Southeastern Indian pottery. Potters, both native and non-native, doing traditional, contemporary or replication work, are joining scholars, museum people and others to brainstorm and network while sharing their knowledge of the art, technology and evolution of ceramics in the Southeast.

The public day of Fusing Red Earth is Saturday, June 18. Potters set up booths demonstrating and selling their works. A children's area allows kids to experiment with clay to see pottery being fired outdoors. **Admission is \$4.00 for children and \$6.00 for adults. Group rates are available.**

Moundville Native American Festival - October 5-8

One of Alabama's Top 20 Tourism Events and designated a Cultural Olympiad Event, the annual Moundville Native American Festival will be held at The University of Alabama's Moundville Archaeological Park. Celebrating the rich culture and heritage of Southeastern Indians, Native American performing artists, craftspeople and musicians will entertain and educate visitors. Components of the festival include a living history camp, children's hands-on area, an arts market, a food court, the Native American Stage and a demonstration square. **Admission is \$5.00 for children and \$7.00 for adults. Group rates are available.**

School Outreach

Dream Catchers and Talking Feathers - Grades 3 through 6

Make two authentic Indian crafts. Hear the story of how the dream catcher came to be and learn how to weave sinew, beads and feathers into an attractive hanging. Your class finds out why Cherokee councils invented the talking feather and why the four directions were so important to Native Americans while they fashion their own talking feather. Teachers get an extra fancy feather to use in class. **\$80.00 instructor fee, plus \$2.50 per child supply charge. Up to 20 per class. Can schedule up to 3 classes per school per day. Includes mileage for up to a 40-mile radius.**

10,000 Years an Hour - Grades 3 through 12

Learn about the archaeology, prehistory and history of Alabama Indians. Kids get to see and touch artifacts and reproductions representing cultures as old as 10,000 B.C. Your class will learn the basic principals of archaeology and what distinguishes different Indian cultures from one another. Speaker comes dressed in historic Southeastern Indian clothing. **\$75.00 instructor fee, plus .50 per mile.**

Summer Camp

Indian Summer Day Camp - Ages 9 through 13

Two Sessions: June 6-10 and July 25-29

Indian Summer Day Camp is a weeklong program teaching children southeastern Indian life-ways. Located at Moundville Archaeological Park, children learn about archaeology, studies in nature and Native American arts, crafts and technologies. Activities include park, museum and archaeological laboratory tours, videos, nature hikes, sampling Indian foods and playing Native American games. Children create pottery, baskets and gourd containers.

The \$150.00 per child fee includes all materials, transportation and snacks. Children need to bring their own lunch and drink. Members of the Alabama Museum of Natural History have a discounted fee of \$130.00 per child. A van leaves Smith Hall (Alabama Museum of Natural History) at 8:30 a.m. for Moundville Archaeological Park. The van returns by 4:30 each afternoon.

Workshops

Flintknapping, July 16 - Ages 12 and up

An expert guides you through the art of making arrow and spear points from rocks that break like glass. When you're through you'll have one or more arrowheads and a growing fascination. Class size is limited. **\$35.00 (\$30.00 for museum members). Get a complete tool kit to keep you going for an additional \$40.00.**

On-Demand Classes

Want to spend the day with your friends at Moundville learning something new? These classes work great for birthday parties. A minimum of 6 people is required to schedule a class. Just email us or give us a call!

Flintknapping - Ages 12 and up

An expert guides you through the art of making arrow and spear points from rocks that break like glass. When you're through you'll have one or more arrowheads and a growing fascination. Class size is limited. **\$35.00 (\$30.00 for museum members). Get a complete tool kit to keep you going for an additional \$40.00.**

Gourd Art - Ages 10 and up

Gourds have been put to a variety of uses by Native Americans. Pick a gourd and make your own bowl, bottle or mask. Decorate it using traditional designs or let your imagination run wild! Time normally allows for two projects. **Cost is \$25.00 per student.**

Reed Basketry - Ages 12 and up

Learn basic techniques of split-reed basketry still used today by Native Americans. Spend a day at Moundville creating your own distinctive design and bring home a work of art! **Cost is \$25.00 per student.**

Native Lifestyles - Ages 10 and up

What can you do with two rocks, a deer bone, two pieces of wood or a strip of plant fiber? We'll show you how Native Americans made tools, weapons, fire and rope using the above materials. Students also take a nature tour of Moundville Archaeological park, learning about native plants and animals important to Southeastern Indians. **Cost is \$25.00 per student.**

For more information about these events or reservations:

Phone: 205-371-2234

Email: mbeo@bama.ua.edu

Web: <http://moundville.ua.edu>

Submitted by Betsy Gilbert.

All of this presents a predicament if we are to say the Levallois tool types were not introduced into the Southeast U.S. from either Europe or Asia at an early date. If this is true, then we must say that these lithic technologies evolved somehow in an autochthonal fashion at a period of time prior to the last glacial maximum. So it would follow that we must then add at least 15,000 to 20,000 years to our earliest PaleoAmerican dates in order to account for their development in the Americas as similar lithic development has been observed by archaeologists in the Old World.

So, it may be a great deal easier to show that these Southeastern unifacial technologies diffused orthogenetically from other continents and from "known" Paleolithic cultures than to be required to search for early man's existence in the New World anywhere from 40,000 to 100,000 years ago.

Perhaps a little background on the dilemma would help. The Clovis First Model for early man's entry into the New World has been permanently dismissed with the confirmation of more ancient habitation sites such as Meadowcroft and Monte Verde. It has become evident that the Clovis culture was simply a "flash in the pan"! Thus the matter of the arrival of early man into the New World has again been left wide open for interpretation. As Edward P. Lanning and Thomas C. Patterson, two renowned lithic specialists stated in 1963, "man came to America no less than 19,000 years ago and that we should be busy searching for cultures that are even older."

Our concern here is with a pre-projectile point lithic stage in the New World, when it began, and from where its participants may have migrated. As I said earlier, this is not easy work! There will be some who still may deny a very early existence for man in the Southeast and elsewhere in the Americas based upon stone tool technologies. These people will hold out until excavations illustrate stratigraphies that are totally "bullet proof". This may take some time. These types of stratigraphies are rare to even absent in East Asia and Siberia where most scientists rely upon geological dating of artifacts relative to the sediments nearest to them. In the United States it has been

our fortune that many of our important archaeological discoveries have been initially made by amateurs and avocational archaeologists. It would seem that the majority of our professionals are more of a "response" team than a truly innovative force making new discoveries and investigating challenging information.

Maybe we should beckon back to what two prominent scholars said concerning pre-projectile point cultures in the New World. Gordon Willey and Phillip Phillips (1955/1958) allowed for a very early technological stage in the Americas.

They referred to this earliest stage as being represented by "unspecialized and largely unformulated core and flake industries, with percussion the dominant and perhaps only technique employed..." Is this beginning to sound familiar? They later would revise their model while still conceptually allowing for future separation of the "lithic" era into "upper and lower". Our concern here is obviously with that of the lower lithic stage.

Ensor's reference to the resemblance of the Capps Technology to that of "the Old World Victoria West or para-Levallois method of flake detachment..." is acceptable. This particular style of lithic reduction is found from Belgium to South Africa. Even though he disavows any "real" connection with Old World technologies I would propose that a much closer affinity can easily be found in the East Asian cultures of the Middle Paleolithic period. In the center of his artifact illustration on page 14 he has illustrated classic Levallois "points" of the first and second order as described initially by Bordes (1953). The term "point" as used does not necessarily imply that the tools were actually "hafted" to handles or spears but is more of a morphological reference.

I consider the second stage Levallois point to be a technological type of "Index" fossil tool that has an almost global distribution and dates consistently in extremely ancient contexts at least 40,000 years bp and in some places extending far back into the Middle Paleolithic. As we view similar early lithic assemblages such as Levallois over vast stretches of time and terrain we can see the tool-maker's ideal form, type concept, or

template becoming evident as certain trends occur. It must be this way or the assemblages in question would fall back into chaos. Once one leaves the more obvious forms of tools and studies those only identifiable by technique of manufacture rather than by form it becomes necessary to find a classification system which will reflect the choices that the toolmaker was required to deal with as he worked. Several classification systems are in use but perhaps the ideal one has yet to be developed.

I am not proposing a novel approach to understanding man's early presence in the Americas. These paths of discovery have been trod many times before by well informed scientists who may have been "ahead of their time". In fact there was a time, not so long ago, when this discussion and these discoveries were treated like plutonium by scientists in the main stream.

The concern with exploring absolute time and the concept of vast reaches of time in the Southeast and elsewhere in the Americas seems to be a remarkable rare phenomenon among archaeologists. The late Dan Josselyn's publication of the Lively Complex back in the 1960's is required reading for any who may be seriously interested in early lithics specific to Alabama. To Dan's credit let me point out a statement by A.P. Okladnikov, who intensely studied the Paleolithic record of Mongolia, "...this pebble tool technique is genetically associated with the Levallois technique of flake production known in the Upper Paleolithic of Siberia..." (1978). Of course he is dealing with Eurasia but this simply underscores my call for intercontinental affinities for our Alabama discoveries. And for the Clovis enthusiasts looking for origins, you may find "fluting quite common among the cores, spalls, and tools associated with Dan's Lively Complex as well as the Capps and Shelly materials. And retired Alabama archaeologist Roger Nance chips in "...if there are pre-Clovis industries in North America (outside of Alaska), some of them could contain high percentages of uniface tools, including large scraper planes and uniface cores." (personal communication 2004)

In an abstract from a paper given at the "Clovis and Beyond" conference a few years ago, Dennis Stanford, Margaret Jodry, and Robson Bonnichsen had a few comments that appear to deal with the Paleolithic in the southeast and elsewhere in the Americas. First, "...Clovis represents a series of regional adaptations by different human groups who were in the Americas prior to the development and spread of the Clovis pattern." They go on to say "that Clovis has its roots in pre-Clovis Paleolithic technology that may have existed in the southeastern U.S. and then spread by various means..." Finally they state "The origin of these lanceolate traditions is likely to be found in the Asian Paleolithic, but the situation is not at all clear." They go on to say that there was much cultural variability represented by multiple biological, cultural, and linguistic groups by terminal Pleistocene times.

It is, in my opinion, imperative that we now ask somewhat different questions in quite different fashion than most of the researchers of the past on these subjects. We will have to view artifact assemblages and prehistoric sites that do not exhibit "known" lithic technological traits with an open and informed mindset that allows for seeing the process of change in lithic technologies and the sometimes enormous amounts of time required to effect these changes.

As we penetrate greater time depth we naturally must extend our geographic realm in a wider context to include those people who occupied East Asia perhaps 40,000 to 75,000 years ago. Keep in mind that during much of this era the two continents, Asia and America, shared a vast, resource rich area at times up to 1,300 miles wide at the present location of the Bering Strait. The land-mass would combine the continents of North America and Asia creating an area which I like referring to as AmerAsia - a virtual subcontinent. People and animals moving through this area during the Pleistocene era would have had no idea that they were entering into a New World as they followed their game animals and food resources. One land mass was in fact indistinguishable from the other at these times. As R.S. MacNeish once

As our Paleolithic vision broadens, we may begin to see an obvious phylogenetic relationship that our Alabama technologies had with their cousins in East Asia and other areas including Europe and Africa.

So for researchers who are aware of what appear to be very early artifact assemblages in North America a more panoramic view of human tool making will emerge, leading to more insights into the true antiquity and origins of the American Paleolithic era. In my view, the Paleolithic world most likely was not, technologically speaking, composed of mutually exclusive cultural spheres of the old and the new worlds. We should begin to embrace the idea of various global technological lithic traditions having a possible universal and unilinear evolutionary course of development. By doing this the Levallois core technology as evidenced by the Capps Technology and its end products can be seen to have a distribution that has been shared across huge chunks of time and terrain.

Levallois Flake Tools

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Core and secondary flake (point)
(Drawn after Grace)



Secondary Levallois flake (point)
(found along S.E. Gulf Coastal Plain)

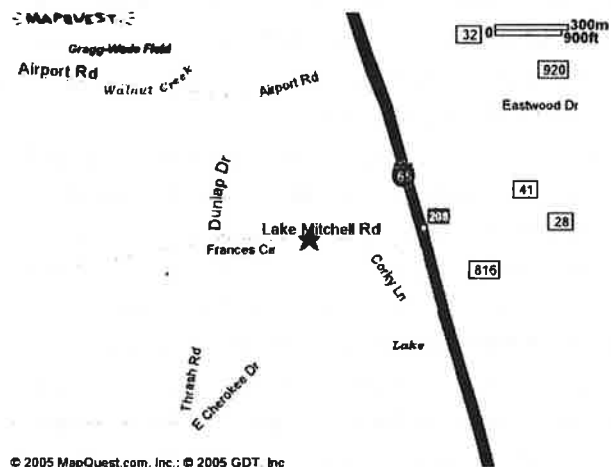
While Ensor states that "these sites may contain information not available anywhere else in the North American archaeological record", we actually should be stating that the initial discoveries have been made and these will lead to others-the task of synthesis is now in action. When he points out that the flake technology of the Capps and Shelly sites bear resemblances to Old World Levallois core technology he is on the mark! Having found this same technology in other locations over the past 30 years myself, it only requires that more folks learn how to recognize these tools, cores,

and associated technologies. By doing so, we certainly can expand our knowledge of the antiquity of the earliest inhabitants of North America and their techno-genetic relationship with their counter parts regionally and globally.

Article and Photo submitted by Michael Poe

Board of Directors Meeting

The Spring BOD meeting is scheduled for February 24th at the Shoney's Inn in Clanton. Reservations have been made for 5:30 that evening. Shoney's is located at exit 208 off I-65 at Clanton.



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Submitted by Linda Derry

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Dues Reminder

Please take a moment to renew you 2005 annual dues right now. This will be your last newsletter for those that do not renew. Remember, your annual dues covers the period from January 1st to December 31st.

Donations

McDonald Brooms and Ben Carpenter donated to the Mahan, Wimberly and Education funds. Blaine Ensor donated to the Mahan fund.

Teresa Paglione donated for the domain renewal and Lee & Mary Swetman donated to the Pottery fund.

Totals: Pottery \$1720.00
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It's NOT just the (arti)Facts

"What is the neatest or coolest thing you ever found?" is usually asked of me as soon as most folks find out what I do . . . (Well, except for other archaeologists!) It doesn't matter if the questioner is 8 years old or 80 years old. This is the first thing that anyone thinks to ask. I used to say it was the first projectile point I ever found. I happened on it by pure chance. I was an Art major at AUM and was on the underdeveloped portion of campus sketching the landscape. On my way back to "civilization," I walked a small constructed drainage ditch and was very surprised to find "an arrowhead." I took it to Dave Chase, who was teaching a course in archaeology that I was taking as an elective. He said it was a Kirk Ser-rated, about 7,000 years old. I gave it to him but he told me to keep it. It was from a disturbed context and really didn't tell him anything he didn't already know about a prehistoric site that was in the general area. (By the way, this is the ONLY artifact I personally own or have kept.)

Years after, when I was working for the Georgia Department of Transportation, another archaeologist and I were testing a Swift Creek site (about 1500 years old). In one of our many shovel tests, we discovered a large quartz crystal and a potsherd. Initially, we thought the crystal was some kind of glass chandelier piece, but on closer inspection decided it was quartz and not glass. Then we noticed that the tip of the crystal had been abraded. It was an odd artifact, but we bagged it with the pottery and labeled which shovel test it was in. A few months later, we attended a Swift Creek "round-table discussion" at Ocmulgee Mounds National Park. It seems we weren't the only ones to have found an abraded quartz crystal in a Swift Creek context . . . THAT was a pretty neat thing to have found. . . (By the way GDOT avoided disturbing this site by widening the road on the other site.)

Now when I am asked, I tell folks the coolest thing I ever found is something you can't see or hold. It was so subtle, it was almost overlooked.

indistinguishable, but the soil was texturally different. I don't know that I will ever find anything as "cool!", or as important. But that doesn't matter, because what I found that day in Florida proves the point that CONTENT and CONTEXT are so very important when it comes to archaeology.

I had been working at the Governor Martin Site in 1987 with a dozen or more other archaeologists and another volunteers. This particular archaeological site was discovered by accident - despite generations of archaeologists and others looking for one of these! Calvin Jones was searching for a Spanish mission site in Tallahassee; he found what he was looking for at the Governor Martin Site. This was the location of a Spanish mission. It was also the rural retreat for a Florida governor. Most importantly, however, in the winter of 1539, this specific location was once occupied by the soldiers of the infamous Spanish conquistador, Hernando de Soto.

Across the southeastern US, there are an untold number of signs and claims that "De Soto was here." The Martin site, however, is the only site in which Spanish artifacts have been discovered and recorded in context. This site, which was scientifically investigated by professional and trained volunteers, was plotted and mapped horizontally and vertically; all artifacts were identified and bagged by their location. All features were mapped and photographed; feature contents (artifacts) were identified and soil colors and texture were recorded. Most importantly, a professional report AND a book for the general public was written. As a result of the rigorous methodology, research and documentation, there are a few doubts that what Calvin Jones claimed to have found was indeed an area occupied by the De Soto entrada in the winter months of 1539.

There were plenty of other Spanish artifacts that were recovered, including patches and links of chainmail, Portuguese coins, the iron arrow-point for a Spanish crossbow, and beads - lots of colorful glass beads. However, these items could have been traded and not in the possession of De Soto's troops when they were last used or discarded. The remains of a pig's jaw and a

cremation were not so easily dismissed as potential 'trade' items, however. And I'd like to think that the feature I discovered and excavated helped to dispel any doubts that "De Soto slept here" - in present-day Tallahassee.

That brings me back to the question of the coolest thing I ever found. It was a feature - not an artifact, but literally just a hole in the ground. Of course, over the course of 450 years, this hole had filled in and I excavated the fill material. The soil that was washed or eroded into the open hole was pretty much the same color as the surrounding, undisturbed soil. There was nothing to visually identify or recognize this feature. However, while troweling the floor of the 2x2m (6x6 ft) unit I was working in (to bring it level or flat), I believed there was a distinct border that was textural. The undisturbed, sterile soil was consistently a clayey sand, but there was a portion of my unit that was more of a sandy clay, or so I thought. I was given the OK to continue excavating the sterile sandy clay (by trowel). The pattern of the sandy clay feature was circular and extended into 3 other units. It was quite deep - my upper torso was disappearing head-first into this hole as I slowly followed the sandy clay limits. The hole was beginning to look like another aboriginal borrow pit - a source of clay for making pottery. But unlike the borrow pit previously excavated at the site, there were no artifacts and this one was smaller - only a couple meters in diameter and depth. There were, however, a few odd channels near the opening of this feature (at its surface). I was clueless as to what these small diversions represented until I found a few artifacts at the bottom of this hole in the ground. What a difference a few pieces of Spanish olive jar meant. This was a cistern - something to catch and contain rainwater. A cistern was definitely something the Native American residents - the Apalachee - did not need since there were plenty of springs and a creek nearby. On the other hand, the unwelcomed Spanish soldiers would have had a need for water catchments; the displaced Apalachee surrounded the Spanish soldiers that occupied their village. To say that the Apalachee were hostile to the occupying army would be an understatement.

have been a life-threatening event for the Spanish. Apalachee arrows could and did penetrate the Spanish armor.

So, I come to the essence of my title: Content and Context: It's NOT just the (arti)Facts." The Kirk Serrated point was important as an artifact because it indicated there was an Archaic site behind AUM, but it came from a disturbed context. The original location was destroyed before I found it. As an artifact, it represented a time period and an activity, but it was an isolated artifact that yielded little more archaeological information. The quartz crystal was recorded and mapped, but since it was found in a shovel test that was excavated in 20 cm levels, the exact depth below surface is unknown. We have no idea if the shovel test had been placed in a storage pit or discarded in a house floor. We know what was found with the crystal, but its specific context is questionable - until and unless the site is professionally excavated. When that time comes, evidence of this specific artifact will have been documented in a Georgia site form, field notes and an archaeological site investigation report. (This site, as far as I know, has not been professionally investigated since GDOT realigned the road widening.)

The discovery and importance of that cistern and the Spanish pottery, however, is represented in the context of the feature and artifact as recorded in a scientific investigation. Without a thorough excavation of the site and the careful troweling of controlled excavation units, it would have been very easy to overlook this feature. Furthermore, the existence of the cistern could have been attributed to the much later Spanish Mission period occupation - except for the fact that Spanish olive jar fragments were discovered at the base of this hole. Without its diagnostic contents, this feature was just a cistern of unknown origin. Without context, the pottery would just be marked as Spanish, provenience unknown. Together, with content and context recorded, the whole history can be revealed.

I sometimes wonder how many other sites have eluded us - their tell-tale artifacts removed or displaced; their provenience unknown because

they had been collected from a disturbed surface or context: A site's very existence unknown because there is no map location recorded. A site may contain "cool" artifacts, but their history ends there. And so does their importance to history. In the world of archaeology, without careful excavation and documentation - without content and context recorded, it may as well be just another artifact to be sold for profit based on aesthetic appeal. The scientific historic and archaeological values are lost. Forever.

So please note that when I answer that the neatest, coolest and maybe most important thing I ever found was a hole in the ground, I get some satisfaction by puzzled looks. It gives me a chance to explain the value of archaeology to history and the importance of a hole the ground, whether excavated by Spanish soldiers in AD 1539 or by archaeologists more than 450 years later.

Submitted by Teresa Paglione.

Cottonfield Meditations 5

This morning I walked along the edges of my wife's flower beds.....I looked at her irises' and her daylillies.....and other flowers that I did not know. I was looking at the way the sun shown through them.....at the amazing.....brilliant colors.....and my neighbor walked up. He is a nice man.....I like him.....He wanted to know if I would go play golf with him.....

I looked at him carefully for a moment.....then said "no. Thank you for your invitation." You see.....some of us are sort of gregarious.....we like to be with other people.....and we are stimulated by competition.....!

On the other hand, some of us like to be out by ourselves.....out in the woods and fields.....out where our ancestors were before us.....where we are alone.....undisturbed.....able to address ourselves to the evidences they left.....

Do you know what I mean.....??

Submitted by Charles Hubbert.

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Any person currently enrolled in a BA or MA granting program and a member of the AAS may submit a paper for the student paper award. Only single-authored papers are eligible and the paper must be presented at the annual winter meeting. The paper should be written for presentation to a general audience consisting of amateurs, professionals, and students. The length of the paper should be such that it can be presented in a 15-minute time slot and additionally should include references cited to aid in judging. Papers must be submitted in advance of the meeting for judging by a committee appointed by the AAS Board of Directors and a completed registration form should accompany the submission.

Submit three double-spaced copies of the paper to the AAS Student Paper Award Committee by November 15th. The author will insure that the same version of the paper reviewed for the competition is offered for presentation at the annual meeting. Only one paper submitted per applicant may be considered for the award. Mail the entry to: Dr. Philip Carr, AAS Student Paper Award, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, HUMB 34, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL 36688-0002.

The winner of the Student Paper Award will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society associated with the Winter Meeting. The winner must pick up the book prize at the meeting. The committee reserves the prerogative to defer the award in the event of a shortage of competitive entries.

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The Alabama Archaeological Society will award up to two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250.00 each. Scholarship nominations are to be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chair by a deadline of October 1. 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 of 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 Alabama Archaeological Society.

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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 October 1st. The Public Education Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Winter BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on proposals and make an announcement of 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 Alabama Archaeological Society, 2) the public education project must be located in the State of Alabama.

Contact the Public Education Committee Chair for grant application requirements.

Research Grant

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 October 1st. The Archaeological Resources Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Winter BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and an announcement of the recipient shall be made at the Winter Meeting. 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.

Contact the Archaeological Resources Chairman for grant application requirements.

Scholarship Grant

Teresa Paglione
PO Box 311
Auburn, AL 36830

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Linda Derry
Old Cahawba
719 Tremont Street
Selma, Alabama 36701-5446

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Teresa Paglione
PO Box 311
Auburn, AL 36830

ARTIFACTS!

Do you have any interesting artifacts that you would like to share with the members of the Alabama Archaeological Society? If you do, please send a description of the artifact and a color photo (black and white is fine if that's all you have) to the editorial staff here at *Stones & Bones* and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.



Don't forget your taxes!!

TELL US ABOUT IT!

The editorial staff at *Stones & Bones* is looking for articles to publish and we would like those articles to come from you the members. If you have visited a site recently that you found to be of interest (it doesn't have to be in Alabama) tell us about it. If you have been doing research on a particular topic, tell us about it. If you have been involved in anything else archaeological, tell us about it. These do not have to be professional papers, so please feel free to contribute. If you have color pictures (if you only have black and white photos that's fine) which accompany your article, please send those as well and we will include them with your article.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

Are you a reader? Do you read interesting books about archaeology and related topics? Do you think others might be interested in reading the same books? If so, *Stones & Bones* would like to hear from you. If you have read an interesting book, write a review and send it to us. Book reviews are a good way of letting others know about archaeological publications which may be of interest.



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