

Alabama Archaeological Society

Associate Editor
Amos J. Wright



STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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Editor
Dorothy Prince Luke
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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Number 3

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO THE MEMBERSHIP

As members of the Society in the 1990's, we face several challenges. First, and possibly foremost, we must recognize that archaeological sites are a finite resource. Unlike forests, there will never be more archaeological sites of a particular period of the past, and these resources are rapidly disappearing due to natural but—most particularly, cultural impacts. We now have successful cultural impact laws at the federal level which help to protect important archaeological sites in cases of large construction projects. But wanton and even uninformed vandalism by individuals is our most pressing concern at present. This can be likened to a person who rips out the pages of a rare book in a library, except in the case of archaeological sites, there may be no other copies of the "book"!

A second challenge to our Society is to purvey our appreciation of Alabama's heritage and patrimony to our State's uninitiated citizens, young and old. No doubt, all of us in the Society have experienced that special feeling as we touch the past, literally or figuratively, through archaeology. The objects of our past and the story they hold are important to us and should be shared by many others.

How do we, as individuals and as an archaeological society, meet these challenges? To suggest that you share your love of archaeology and the past is to ask something that you no doubt already do and probably constitutes an important motivation for your membership in the Society. Let's be more specific.

Because of our special interest in archaeology, either as a hobby or profession, we are often called upon to address schools and civic groups or provide public displays. This gives each of us a unique forum to touch other lives with our special interest: let's use these opportunities to encourage site conservation, to get the word out about the critical need to preserve our cultural patrimony, and to become involved in the study of our past. Moreover, encourage membership and participation in the Alabama Archaeological Society.

A second way that each of us can help to meet these challenges is to assist in the documentation of archaeological resources. Do you maintain careful records for your collection? Do you label your artifacts by location of discovery? Do you serve as the "eyes" of officials trying to protect important sites? Do you fill out state site forms for the State Site File? If not, you are missing an opportunity to fully participate in

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the study of the Past for the Future. If that sounds strange, let me explain. Remember that "Rare Book" mentioned above? Will you be the one that tears out pages or the one to write the pages of that rare book? Without your unique knowledge to tell the story behind your artifacts, your collection is simply a group of pretty or interesting objects. Make sure the story outlives you; write it down! Remember, for all of us, the written word is our way to talk to generations we will never meet in person.

Finally, I encourage all of you to fully participate in Society functions. If you have a comment of interest to members of the Society, submit it to this Newsletter. Questions? Let us hear from you. Write an article for the Journal. Volunteer for an archaeological dig. The State Museum at the University of Alabama offers various opportunities of this type and archaeologists at several of our state institutions are always in need of help. In this regard, I will encourage the Society to institute a Society-sponsored summer field school this July for members. I hope to see all of you there.

In closing, I am privileged to serve as your president this year and I look forward to working with each of you. If the foregoing comments seem like preaching, you're right! Help me get the word out.

With best regards,

Boyce Driskell
President

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter

Our February meeting was held on the 14th. Our speaker was Mr. Charles Hubbert from The University of Alabama (Moundville). His topic was the Wheeler Basin area survey.

Bobby Hawkins

Cullman Chapter

Ron Morrow gave the program at the February 18 meeting: a discussion on how to identify and record sites. Site recording form samples were available.

Dewitt T. Coleman

East Alabama Chapter

Our February meeting was presented by Mark J. Weaver, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, Auburn University. Dr. Weaver is a landscape architect. His topic was "The Role of Water in the Mayan Landscape". His slide presentation was well received by the 16 members present.

Our next meeting will be March 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Alabama Power Company Auditorium, 230 N. Gay Street, Auburn. B. Bart Henson of Huntsville, who is well known for his work on Alabama's aboriginal rock art, will present a slide lecture showing many of the petroglyphs he has discovered and studied. Visitors are welcome.

Caroline R. Dean

Huntsville Chapter

Mr. Jerry Akridge of Arab was the guest speaker at the February chapter meeting. Mr. Akridge is interested in paleontology and geology and has worked for several years on a site in Texas. His talk was entitled "Footprints in Cretaceous Limestone in Texas."

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library on St. Clair Avenue. The public is welcome.

1991 chapter dues are payable now; if dues are not paid by March 31, your name will be removed from the chapter mailing list. Please mail your dues (\$7.50 - individual or family) to Secretary/Treasurer Beth Justice at 2711 Cynthia Lane, Huntsville, AL 35803.

Dorothy Luke

Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its January meeting on the 14th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Twenty-two members and guests attended. Dr. Terry Tarkington of Florence brought us an excellent slide presentation about archaeology in Central America, with the main emphasis on Copan in Honduras.

Jody Perroni, who now resides in Sheffield, was the speaker for our February 11 meeting. She showed slides from several historic and prehistoric sites from West Texas to Mississippi with which she had been involved. Special emphasis was given the preservation and stabilization of building sites as well as salvage archaeology. Thirty persons attended this meeting.

Charles Moore

Troy State Archaeological Society

Students on the campus of Troy State University have recently created the Troy State Archaeological Society and have requested chapter status from the Alabama Archaeological Society's Board of Directors. Membership requirements were modeled after those of the A.A.S., with the addition that all members must also be a member of the A.A.S. After two organizational meetings in

October and November, the society held its first official meeting in January. The following officers were elected: Dann Shinn - President, Lisa Patterson - Vice President, April Smith - Secretary, Jan Whaley, Treasurer.

The January meeting was followed by a weekend field trip to 1Pk2, a stratified archaeological site in Pike County that was inhabited from the Archaic to the Mississippian Period. Society members learned a variety of archaeological techniques, ranging from how to use a bush hook to using a transit. After the grid was laid out, members participated in the excavations.

1Pk2 is a 40-acre site that is steadily losing its intact stratigraphy to commercial tree farming. The site was heavily occupied during the middle and late Woodland Period and shows a transition into the Mississippian. The predominant pottery type has a concentric circle "raised bull's eye" stamped design and an incised "imitation" of the more common concentric circle stamped design.

A second field trip to 1Pk2 is planned for February 16th, and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the society will be held on March 7th at 3:00 in the TSU Archaeology Lab in Smith Hall. All local residents and TSU students are invited to become members. For more information, call the TSU Archaeology Lab at 566-8112, Ext. 3517.

McDonald Brooms

ESAF ANNUAL MEETING

The 1991 Eastern States Archeological Federation (ESAF) Annual Meeting will be held in historic Williamsburg, Virginia on November 8th (Friday) through 10th (Sunday). The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn (U.S. Route 60) in Williamsburg.

The host society is the Archeological Society of Virginia. Chairman is Wm Jack Hranicky (703/256-1304); P.O. Box 11256; Alexandria, VA 22312. This year's program promises to be a great one, with a focus on Colonial archaeology as well as prehistory. The featured banquet speaker will be Dr. Dennis L. Stanford of the Smithsonian Institution.

CADO INDIAN POTTERY

The following is from a letter from a member of the Coosa Valley Chapter:

"Several years ago a friend of mine living in Dangerfield, Texas was deer hunting in St. Augustine County, Texas, where he came across the badly eroded Cado Indian habitation site as

reported by the survivors of the Hernando DeSoto expedition. The Spanish report says they were the Ha-Ish tribe; the location is on what the Spaniards called Ayish Creek, in what is now St. Augustine County, Texas. The report states there were 160 families living on the site in 1543; it also states the Spaniards visited the site again in 1603 and discovered they had been almost wiped out by smallpox, and the survivors had moved to the Brazos River.

"With the help of a professional archaeologist, more than 4,000 clay pots, bowls, and bottles were recovered, along with thousands of projectile points and other lithic artifacts. Each eroded burial contained from 6 to 20 pots, etc., with family designs incised on each piece. White clay or paint still remained in the incised designs.

"It was determined that so many burials at the same period resulted from the smallpox epidemic.

"Enclosed is a picture showing pottery from that site now in my collection."



Tom A. Mullendore
Anniston

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 20-31, each issue	\$3.50 pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue	\$6.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint	\$7.50 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama</i>	\$8.00 pp
Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i>	\$8.00 pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i>	\$15.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$10.00 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile)	\$9.00 pp

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SEND CHECKS TO:

Journal Editor, A.A.S.

Division of Archaeology

1 Mound State Monument; Moundville, AL 35474

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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Dorothy Prince Luke
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