

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor
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2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Volume 24

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Number 5

COLBERT COUNTY SITE SELECTED FOR THE SUMMER DIG

The Archaeological Resources Committee recommended to the Board of Directors of the A.A.S. that the Society conduct a summer excavation in Colbert County. This project will be jointly sponsored by the Alabama Archaeological Society and the Office of Archaeological Research at The University of Alabama.

The purpose of this project is twofold: 1) to provide the serious avocational archaeologists with hands-on experience in participating in a professional archaeological research problem, and 2) to derive information about Alabama's earliest inhabitants. This project affords an excellent opportunity to accomplish both tasks.

The genesis of this project began when amateur archaeologists began providing professional archaeologists locational information about the occurrence of fluted projectile points in association with springs and old ponds which occur in abundance in certain portions of the Tennessee Valley. Several sites were discussed, and two were evaluated in March 1982 by the Archaeological Resources Committee. The extinct ponds near Leighton were selected because of the numerous early artifacts collected from this area. A preliminary examination of the area indicated several areas of human activity predominantly restricted to the clay knolls associated with the pond complex.

Research plans for this area initially involve two field trips. The first, to be held on June 5, 1982, will involve the extensive controlled surface collection of specific areas. The purpose of this controlled collection is to obtain a sample of the kinds of lithic materials in their intrasite locational context. Strict provenience control will be maintained, and all visible surface materials will be collected. This area has been heavily surface collected for years, and the chance of finding any fluted points is small. We expect to obtain a sample of tools (uniface scrapers, graters, etc.) and, of course, debitage (flakes, shatter, etc.). One of the more exciting specimens we hope to find is the thin channel flake derived from the manufacture of a fluted projectile point! Sufficient OAR staff members will be on hand to provide instructions and information about the project. All materials recovered from this surface collection phase will be maintained by the Office of Archaeological Research and will become the property of the State of Alabama.

May 1982

A second phase involving the testing of select areas is planned for later this summer. This phase will be in conjunction with the summer meeting and will principally involve a subsurface examination of the site utilizing hand excavation and some mechanical excavation techniques. It is during this phase that we hope to obtain information about site depositional characteristics and the extent of any intact deposit.

In order to plan these activities and to defray some of the costs involved, a participation fee of \$10 for one weekend or \$15 for both weekends will be charged, payable to the Alabama Archaeological Society (please use the enclosed registration form). Pre-registration is most important for planning purposes, and we cannot guarantee your participation if you do not pre-register.

For the June 5 outing, we will meet at the Leighton Public Library (located in the middle of town) at 1:00 p.m. All you need to bring is good sturdy field clothing, suntan lotion, cold drinks, etc., and a willingness to work and ask questions. Lunches may be purchased at a local sandwich shop. Field equipment and supplies will be furnished by the Office of Archaeological Research.

Eugene Futato
Moundville

NEW COURSE OFFERING

In connection with the A.A.S. planned summer activities, the Office of Archaeological Research will be offering a six-hour graduate and undergraduate course in Archaeology entitled Field Work in Archaeology, Course Number ANT: 450 and 550. This six-hour course may be taken for credit or non-credit and will involve supervised and independent research in archaeology. The course can be tailored to suit individual needs.

The course options available are as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------|----------|
| ANT 550 | - | 6 hours graduate credit | \$349.00 |
| ANT 450 | - | 6 hours undergraduate credit | 331.00 |
| Noncredit | - | option for 6 hours | 150.00 |

NOTE: If you are not enrolled at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, an additional \$15 enrollment fee is charged.

If you are interested in taking this course, please contact Carey B. Oakley; Office of Archaeological Research; 1 Mound State Monument; Moundville, Alabama 35474 for details.

Carey B. Oakely
Director
Office of
Archaeological Research

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

A.A.S./O.A.R. SUMMER DIG(S)

NOTE: The participation fee for one weekend is \$10; for both weekends, \$15.
Make checks payable to the Alabama Archaeological Society.

Mail form (before May 30, 1982) to:

Mrs. Bettye T. Henson
Secretary and Treasurer
7608 Teal Drive, S. W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

I wish to participate in (one/two) trip(s) of the Alabama Archaeological Society/Office of Archaeological Research summer field experience. Enclosed is my check for \$10/\$15).

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the A.A.S. met on Saturday, April 3, 1982; in Montgomery. As has already been mentioned, plans for a two-phase summer activity were discussed.

Eugene Futato reported on the A.A.S. responses to Louis Brennan's fluted point survey (see the February 1982 issue of STONES & BONES). Over 1600 points were reported - from 103 collections, ranging from 1 to 476 points.

The 1981 A.A.S. scholarship award was made to Carlos Solis.

A nominating committee, consisting of Dru McGowen, Charles Moore and Dorothy Luke, was named. This committee will present a slate of nominees for 1983 officers at the A.A.S. winter meeting.

The Editors

EMERGENCY SITE WORK

The A.A.S. has awarded \$500 to the Archaeological Research Laboratory of the University of South Alabama for use in emergency site work. The A.A.S. Resources Committee, having learned details of the site as disclosed in a letter from Mr. Stowe to President Margaret Chase, recommended approval of the expenditure. The text of Mr. Stowe's letter, below, identifies the significant and imminent damage to this site.

"The site (aBa462) is a nationally-significant 16th-century protohistoric aboriginal site in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. During the last six months, portions of the site have been badly disturbed by relic collectors, and it will probably be completely destroyed within several months if steps are not taken immediately to protect the site.

"During the summer of 1981 I was contacted by the Alabama Attorney General's office and the Alabama Historical Commission concerning the destruction of an important Mississippian-period site in southwestern Alabama. An investigation followed, and it was determined that 1Ba462 was the site being looted; the names of the pot-hunters were obtained. During this period archaeologists from the University visited the site, assessed the damage, made a sketch map and collected from the pot-hunter debris a large number of recently-broken pots. At that time relatively little damage had been done: seven small holes - the largest approximately 4 feet by 4 feet and 3 feet deep - had been dug into the "mound". Shortly thereafter, the pot-hunters were contacted by the Attorney General's office and myself. At that time two of the pot-hunters, one from Mobile and the other from Jackson, Mississippi, agreed to turn over to the state of Alabama the artifacts they had removed from the site. The collection included 25 complete or restorable vessels (Bear Point Complex - Alabama River Phase, circa 1500-1700), several thousand large sherds from vessels broken by the pot-hunters, spatulate axe, repousse copper "headdress", approximately 100 large shell beads and pins, celts, other aboriginal artifacts, and a quantity of other material. Included in the collection were a number of colonial historic artifacts: a fragmentary sword,

lance head, rifle barrel, ear spool made from tin-glazed earthenware, four blue trade beads, four chevron beads, iron trade axe, numerous iron artifacts, and a brass candlestick holder and "holy water buckett". The lance head, chevron beads and altar set date from the 16th century. Other historic artifacts may also date from that period. These artifacts are now being curated and analyzed at the University of South Alabama Archaeology Lab.

"In summary, 1Ba462 is an extremely significant protohistoric site associated with one of the Spanish entradas into southern Alabama. It is possibly the most significant site ever discovered associated with this period.

"In the last few weeks other pot hunters have found the site and have dug a 4-foot-deep trench into the "mound", which is made of sand and easily excavated.

"Because of the importance of the site and danger of imminent destruction, we are requesting from the Alabama Archaeological Society \$500 (fine hundred dollars). This fund will be used to help defray expenses for travel to and from the site - it is located 80 miles northeast of Mobile - to pay for a part-time research assistant, and for expendable supplies. University employees and volunteers will participate in the project. Our plan is to work with the Alabama Marine Police, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Alabama Historical Commission and the land owner in surveillance of the site. We will also map the site, record the disturbances, collect exposed artifacts, and develop a research plan for archaeological investigations. A report concerning some phase of the project will be prepared for the Journal of Alabama Archaeology. The name, location and description of the site will not be published or made available to the public until the site is protected.

"The significance of this site is known by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Alabama Historical Commission; and the members of the Council on Alabama Archaeology. Please do not disclose the name or location or this site to other than those directly involved with this project."

Noel R. Stowe
Mobile

CHAPTER NEWS

Cullman Chapter

The projectile point for study in April was another bevelled point, the Lost Lake. The Chapter meet April 19; a field trip was held on Sunday, April 25, with a cookout to round out the day at the home of Dewitt Coleman, Chapter President.

Huntsville Chapter

Speaker at the April 20 meeting was John Gustafson of Decatur, who gave a most interesting program on fluted point technology. Included in his talk were "vugraph" slides on various manufacturing techniques and a film on flint knapping. The point of the month - introduced by Chapter President Ellis Whitt - was the Candy Creek.

Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its March meeting on the 8th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Charles Moore led the discussion and study of the "Point of the Month", which was the Beaver Lake. Bob Morgan of Auburn University reported on the TVA-sponsored survey of the Seven Mile Island area. The April meeting was held on the 12th at 7:15.

BOOK REVIEW

CEMOCHECHOBEE, Archaeology of a Mississippian Ceremonial Center on the Chattahoochee River. By Frank T. Schnell, Vernon J. Knight, Jr., and Gail S. Schnell. University Presses of Florida, Gainesville. 290 pages with 75 figures and illustrations. Price \$18.00.

This book is Ripley P. Bullen Monograph #3, Florida State Museum, with a foreword by the museum director, F. Wayne King. This report deals with the excavation of three Mississippian platform mounds and an associated village area of the Rood Phase, dating ca. 900 A.D. to 1400 A.D. It is located on the east bank of the Chattahoochee just above Ft. Gaines, Georgia. Although this is a somewhat detailed report, which would interest the professionals, it is handled in such a manner by the writers that it is also very interesting to the nonprofessional. The burials and grave goods are dealt with at length, and these are significant within themselves. We find the most important thing about this report is the reconstruction of the social and organizational environment of a late Mississippian chiefdom through archaeology. The results of the archaeological work are adeptly interwoven with historic accounts of the Creek social structure, providing a convincing continuity from late prehistoric to early historic. Those interested in the geographical region, the historic period or the prehistoric period of late Mississippian culture should have a copy of this book.

The Editors

NEW WORLD LOST ART

An article by Julie Ann Miller in Science News, March 20, 1982, recounts a fascinating story of "lost art of the New World". It seems that the king of Spain in 1787, with a burst of new interest in botanical science, sent to Mexico an expedition of botanists and artists to capture on canvas the new world flora and fauna. They roamed over Mexico, lower California, Alaska and Puerto Rico for 15 years. They returned to Spain in 1803 with their specimens and drawings, only to find a drastic change in the political climate and little or no support from the government, which dashed their hopes of further study and publishing their discoveries. One of the leaders of the expedition - botanist Jose Mocino - kept the watercolors and drawings, while the specimens were given to an herbarium in Madrid, where they lay untouched for over 100 years. Mocino was exiled from Spain and, although aging, is said to have brought his priceless collection of drawings across the Swiss border in a wheelbarrow. Later he decided it was safe to return

to Spain, and took his collection back with him. He died impoverished in Barcelona in 1820. The collection disappeared, with the suspicion that his physician took it. A few years ago, the Torner brothers inherited a collection of plant and animal drawings from their father's library and determined that this was the long-lost collection of Mocino, which had been in the Torner family since about 1880; but what happened between 1820 when Mocino died and 1880 is still a mystery.

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in Pittsburgh has been able to obtain, after long negotiations, this valuable collection of about 2,000 drawings, sketches and watercolors of New World flora and fauna. It's good to know that there are still "stories" around today that have good endings!

The Editors

AUTHORS WANTED

John F. Sloan is undertaking a publishing effort which will take 15 years and about 50 volumes to compile "The International Military Encyclopedia". He is soliciting authors for entries in prehistoric warfare. If anyone is interested, write for information to John F. Sloan; P. O. Box 1109; Springfield, Virginia 22151.

The Editors

PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

The Illinois Valley Archeological Program is the most comprehensive archaeological field research program ever conducted on the North American continent.

Now in its 18th year, Northwestern University archaeologists, joined by scientists in allied disciplines from many universities, have conducted an unprecedented in-depth study of prehistoric human life within a 40 by 70 mile area immediately north of St. Louis. This research program is also a case study in modern archaeological techniques and methods involving the widest range of scientific specialists participating in a joint effort to create the most comprehensive picture of human society ever attempted for a single area of North America. The time range of this study is 9500 B.C. to A.D. 1900.

The complete results of this unusual archaeological research program will be reported exclusively in a series of books published by the Center for American Archeology Press. The first volumes are now available at a 25% discount. For more information write to Center for American Archeology Press at Northwestern University; P. O. Box 1499; Evanston, Illinois 60204.

The Editors

A.H.C. PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The 15th Annual Preservation Conference of the Alabama Historical Commission will be held May 14, 15 and 16 at the Lakepoint Resort State Park; Eufaula, Alabama. To register write to: Eufaula Heritage Association; P. O. Box 486; Eufaula, Alabama 36072; Attention: Hilda Sexton.

The Editors

MUSEUM SUMMER PROGRAMS

For information on "Natural History Experiences for Children", write to Alabama Museum of Natural History; Box 5897; University, Alabama 35486.

The Editors

NORTH AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGIST

A quarterly publication covering Paleo Indian to historic industrial sites in North America is now available at \$15 per year to members of archaeological societies. This is \$13 off the regular price of \$28. If you are interested, send a check for \$15 to Baywood Publishing Co.; 120 Marine Street, Box D; Farmingdale, New York 11735 and state that you are a member in good standing of "XYZ" archaeological society, or whatever.

The Editors

EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

The annual meeting of ESAF will be in Norfolk, Virginia, at the Lake Wright Motel, on November 5, 6 and 7, 1982. To present a paper (time limit is 20 minutes), send a publishable abstract, title and audiovisual requirements to Dr. Joseph Granger; 8708 Eton Road; Louisville, Kentucky 40222. To request exhibit or publication sales space, contact William Jack Hranicky; Box 4190; Arlington, Virginia 22204, or phone 703/920-0342. Jack is in charge of local arrangements. The banquet speaker will be Dr. Joffre Coe of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His topic will be archaeological research in the southeastern U. S.

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the Lake Wright Motel; I-64; Norfolk, Virginia 23505, or call 804/461-6251. To get the lowest rate, be sure to mention ESAF.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 13-18 | \$1.00 pp |
| Vol. 20-24 (\$2.50 to Members) | \$4.00 pp |
| <i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2-Reprint | \$5.00 pp |
| Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell | \$2.00 pp |
| Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama</i> | \$4.50 pp |
| Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i> | \$6.50 pp |
| <i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i> | \$7.35 pp |
| Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i> | \$3.00 pp |
| <i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service | \$5.00 pp |
| <i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile) | \$7.00 pp |

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: **ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**
 SEND CHECKS TO: **MR. EUGENE FUTATO, Office of Archaeological Research**
 1 Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama 35474

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 7608 Teal Drive, S.W.
 Huntsville, Alabama 35802

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