

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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## Alabama Archaeological Society Annual Meeting Itinerary and Program

The A.A.S. annual meeting will be held this year at the Holiday Inn in Decatur, Alabama, on Saturday, December 11th, from 8:30 until 5:00. This year's program will concentrate on archaeological research recently conducted or currently going on in Alabama.

The following papers will be presented:

- Eugene Futato ..... *Benton, The Middle Archaic Horizon*  
Greg Waselkov ..... *Old Mobile*  
Ian Brown ..... *Recent Investigations at Bottle Creek*  
Jim Knight ..... *Excavations at the Moundville Site*  
Read Stowe and  
Michael Kerney .... *Cave and Rock Shelter Investigations in North Alabama: 1950 to 1993*  
Rebecca Lumpkin . *Paleo and Early Archaic on the North Central Gulf Coast*  
Harry Holstein ..... *The Hurley Site, 1Ce137: A Case for Coosa*  
Tray Earnest ..... *1Co54: An Archaic Site in the Coastal Plain*  
April Smith ..... *1Ba301: Kennedy's Saw Mill in the Tensaw Country*  
Dave Chase ..... *Cultures in Collision in Central Alabama During the Late Woodland Period*

- 8:30 - 11:30 ..... Papers  
11:30 - 1:00 ..... Lunch on your own  
                    ..... Board of Directors Meeting at the Holiday Inn  
1:00 - 1:20 ..... Business Meeting  
1:20 - 5:00 ..... Papers

## 1994 Nominations For AAS Officers and Board Members

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: DR. PHILLIP E. KOERPER, CHAIR; DR. HARRY O. HOLSTEIN; MR. LARRY SMITH

PRESIDENT.....Greg Rhinehart  
1st VP.....Joe Copeland (to replace Charles Hubbert who  
asked to step down)  
  
2nd VP.....McDonald Brooms  
SECRETARY.....Regina Horne  
TREASURER.....Betsy Jones  
JOURNAL EDITOR.....Eugene Futato  
1st ASSOC. EDITOR.....Carey Oakley  
2nd ASSOC. EDITOR.....Bev Curry  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....McDonald Brooms  
ASSOCIATE EDITORS.....Garnet Phalen, Gwen Barron, and April Smith  
PHOTOGRAPHER .....O. D. Hartley  
AHC REPRESENTATIVE.....Bart Henson

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS (3 YEAR TERM):

Bart Henson  
Charles Hubbert  
Truman Ryan  
Gregory A. Waselkov  
Brigitte F. Cole  
Timothy S. Mistovich

### REMAINING 2 YEAR TERM BOARD MEMBERS:

Ian Brown  
Boyce Driskell  
Harry Holstein  
Phil Kroerper  
Charles Moore  
Dan Shinn  
A. J. Wright

### REMAINING 1 YEAR TERM OFFICERS:

J. W. Lee  
Joe Copeland  
Larry Smith - (to replace Jody Perroni)  
Reed Stowe  
Joe Watkins  
Howard King

## **Strands of Time - A Geneticist's Work On DNA Bears Fruit For Anthropologists**

Douglas C. Wallace can see the future in a tiny strand of DNA. He can foretell, for example, whether some people will go blind. Soon he may be able to predict whether others will lose memories to Alzheimer's disease, develop the tremors of Parkinson's disease or suffer a heart attack.

But he also can peer into the past. He has looked back more than 100,000 years to the first humans in Africa. And recently, at a gathering here of science reporters, he painted a picture of prehistoric migrations emerging from DNA that is exciting anthropologists.

The scene depicts groups of prehistoric, intrepid mariners moving, not out of Siberia as anthropologists have long assumed, but out of Southeast Asia across the Pacific into the Americas 6,000 to 12,000 years ago. If this picture is accurate, it makes many American Indians distant cousins of the Polynesians.

Dr. Wallace's crystal ball is a unique fragment of DNA hidden in every human cell. This clairvoyant DNA is distinct and separate from the long strings of DNA that house almost all human genes in the cell nucleus. It resides, instead, in an outlying compartment called a mitochondrion. Hence its name : mitochondrial DNA, or simply mtDNA.

The mtDNA contains a mere 37 genes compared with the 50,000 to 100,000 genes in nuclear DNA. And these few mtDNA genes are devoted largely to the mitochondria's principal job of producing chemical energy for the thousands of second-by-second chemical reactions in a cell.

Yet, astonished medical researchers are finding that defects in this snippet of DNA can cause human disease. And, to the surprise of anthropologists, mtDNA is turning into a kind of biological Rosetta stone for decoding human origins. (Taken from Wall Street Journal, 11-10-93)

## **What's Happening Around the State**

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

There are presently two crews under the direction of Dr. Vernon J. Knight conducting excavations at Moundville. The field school, which meets on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons , is conducting the excavation of Mound Q. This excavation is in its fourth season and the purpose of the excavation is to determine the type of architecture present during the various building stages associated with the mound. This years excavation is dealing with Stage II of five construction episodes. Currently the focus of the excavation is to remove any features from Stage III, IV and V that intrude into the Stage II matrix prior to excavation of the features associated with Stage II. All of this activity is at the summit of the mound. Additionally, one 2x2 meter unit is being excavated on the north slope of the mound. One unit exposed a midden and has produced a large number of artifacts that include fish, bear, deer, and bird bones along with the expected pottery, stone, and daub.

The second crew is working under the auspices of an NSF Grant and its purpose is to determine the building sequence of four mounds at Moundville. To accomplish this a one meter wide trench is excavated from the top to the bottom of the mound. Once this trench is completed and the profiles drawn, a second one meter trench will be excavated adjacent to the first using the stratigraphic data obtained from the first trench. This task has been completed on Mound F and E. There have been some interesting artifacts and features discovered during the excavations. At the base of Mound E there was a pit that appears to have been associated with a semi sub-terranean house. Mound F has produced a few sherds of negative painted pottery associated with ritual prayer bowls. The matrix of Mound F also indicates that the area was purposely built up approximately one meter prior to the construction of the mound. Although unconfirmed at this time, it appears there may have been ramps constructed on Mound F either to facilitate construction or as a permanent feature of the mound.

Both crews will continue work on their respective projects through November and into December.

*Orval "Dan" Shinn*

### ***Troy State University***

Has recently completed the excavation of 1BA301, the Kennedy Saw Mill Site. Select timbers will be removed and brought back to the archaeology lab in December for further study and preservation. The crew amassed a wealth of data on the remains of the mill and dam and is now in the process of developing detailed architectural plans and drawings.

## **Chapter News**

### ***Muscle Shoals Chapter***

After a three months suspension of meeting, the Muscle Shoals Chapter resumed meeting on October 11th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Thirty-four members and guests attended. Charles Moore presented a lecture on Regional Indian History. He discussed the four principal cultural periods of the region. He concluded his talk by discussing three of the largest (if not the three largest) Indian battles which all occurred in Alabama. They were Markila, Ft. Mims, and Horseshoe Bend.

On November 8th, Charles Hubbert presented a program on the Beartail Mountain Rock Shelter. This rock shelter is located near Huntsville and judging from initial testing, shows signs of being an outstanding early man site. Thirty-two guests and members attended the meeting.

Our next meeting will be held at the Florence Lauderdale Public Library on Dec. 13th at 7:15. Dr. Kathryn E. Holland Braund of Auburn University will speak on Historic Indians in Alabama.

*Charles Moore*

### ***Huntsville Chapter***

The Huntsville Chapter held its November meeting on the 23rd. The program was presented by Mr. Bobbie Gillespie who spoke on Early American Metal Working.

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the auditorium of the Public Library on St. Clair Avenue. The public is welcome.

*D. P. Luke*

### ***Troy State Chapter***

The Troy State Chapter will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be held on January 20th at 3:15 P.M. in the new Archaeology Lab in Eldridge Hall.

*Clay Helms*

### **Reminder: 1994 Membership Dues**

Your 1994 membership dues are due in January. Please send in your renewal to Eugene Futato at 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, Alabama, 35474 as soon as possible in order that you can continue to receive the Newsletter and Journal.

1994 Membership dues are as follows:

*Associate - \$9.00 U.S. and \$14.00 Foreign*  
*Individual - \$12.00 U.S. and \$17.00 Foreign*  
*Family - \$15.00 U.S. and \$19.00 Foreign*  
*Institutional - \$17.00 U.S. and \$22.00 Foreign*  
*Individual Sustaining - \$20.00 U.S. and \$25.00 Foreign*  
*Joint Sustaining - \$25.00 U.S. and \$30.00 Foreign*  
*Life Membership - \$240.00 U.S. and \$340.00 Foreign*  
*Joint Life Membership - \$300.00 U.S. and \$400.00 Foreign*

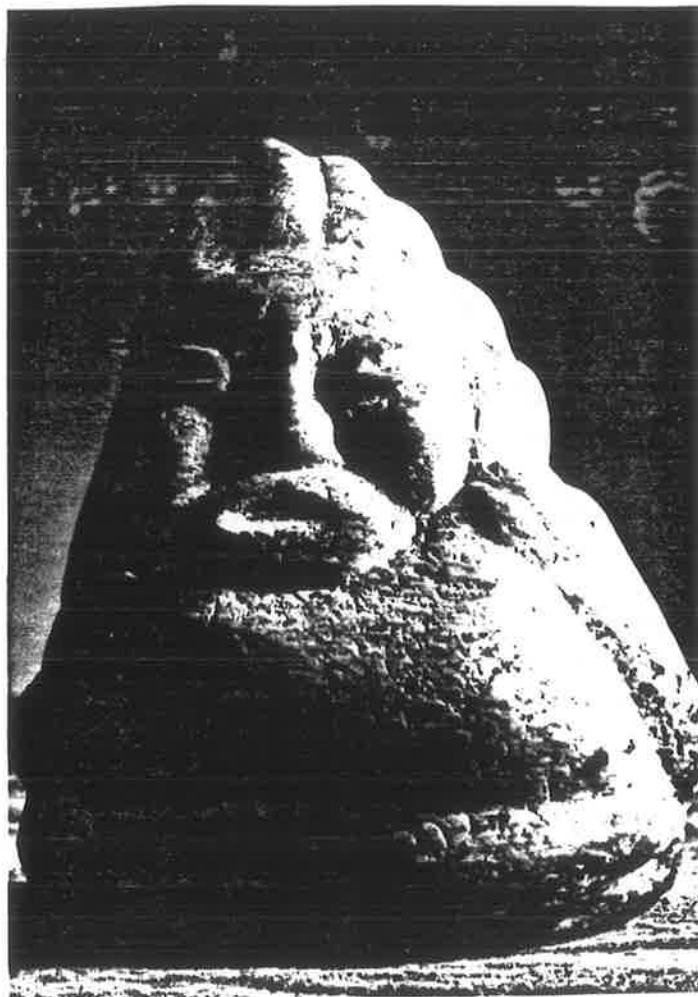
### **In the Alabama Archaeological Society's Past**

Those unhandy little, sometimes itsy-bitsy, "thumbnail" gadgets - thumb-and finger gadgets which would hardly seem to scratch an itch. It has been suggested that such things in Western Europe might have been used for striking fire, because of association in Magdalenian deposits with iron pyrites (though we have never been able to strike a spark with such soft material). O.T. Mason (THE ORIGINS OF INVENTIONS, 1895) said the Eskimo "leather-worker is constantly touching up his scraper edge with the chipper (of bone) and in time he wears it out to a mere stub." What kind of sandpaper leather to wear stone? P. V. Tobias (SKELETAL REMAINS OF BAMBANDYANALO, 1959) saw Bushmen "striking 2 tiny firestones together with great dexterity" and the "edges of the firestones" reminded him of certain microliths. We are reminded that C. van Riet Lowe

(MAN 37, 1945) remarked, concerning the evolution of lithic technology in South Africa: "The progress of man's skill...(is measured) by an abandonment of old respect, and abandon old ideas for the sake of progress...or at least question. (If we don't quit studying our betters we won't know nothin'!) But G. W. Stowe (THE NATIVE RACES OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1905) described a Bushmen "primitive spokeshave" for scraping shafts just like our spokeshaves, and for scraping hides "about 2 1/2 to 3 inches across the broadest part, and of a rudely circular shape". As we recall it, C. H. Worley, a taxidermist, used a celt-like lithic tool for scraping hides - "never cuts them, as modern steel scrapers sometimes do". (We scrape our back against a doorframe, to exhaust the subject.) (Taken from the December 1968 issue of *Stones and Bones*)

### Amazing Finds

The artifact pictured below was found by David Abbott, a Troy State University student studying anthropology. David discovered this interesting artifact near his hometown of Natchez, Mississippi, when the land owner was moving dirt to create a berm along the Mississippi River. The figurine is approximately 7 inches high and is made of a hard, dense stone that is green mottled gray in color. The artifact was found with other material that suggest the site was occupied during the Late Archaic Period.



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#### Publications Available

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

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SEND CHECKS TO: Journal Editor, A.A.S.  
 Division of Archaeology  
 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park  
 Moundville AL 35474

### MEMBERSHIP

The coupon below maybe 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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STONES & BONES  
 NEWSLETTER

