

# Alabama Archaeological Society

## Stones & Bones

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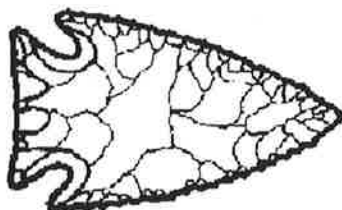
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### Site Stewardship Program

During the Winter Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society, the Board of Directors approved the proposal for a Site Stewardship Program prepared by the Archaeological Resources Committee. Stewardship programs are designed to involve members of archaeological societies in the protection of sites considered important to the cultural heritage of the state. We believe that a stewardship program in Alabama offers great opportunities to involve Society members, landowners, and the general public in the continuing protection of significant archaeological sites. Now that the program is approved and in place, we urge every member of the Society to become involved. The full text of the program is reprinted in this issue of the Stones and Bones. Take the time to read it and consider how you can become involved. The members of the Archaeological Resources Committee will be happy to answer any questions you may have concerning the program or help you become involved. A list of the members of the Committee is provided below.

Let's work together to protect and preserve for future generations the great cultural heritage of the State of Alabama.

Tim Mistovich

Chairman,

Archaeological Resources Committee

### Archaeological Resources Committee Members

Tim Mistovich, Chairman  
Tuscaloosa, AL

Vann King  
Horton, AL

Terry Lolley  
Tuscaloosa, AL

Lee Luis  
Montgomery, AL

Charles Moore  
Florence, AL

Margaret Clayton Russell  
Eufaula, AL

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## AAS Grants Program

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Due to a lack of donations, the Edward C. Mahan Research Grant and the Public Education Grant will not be awarded for 1997. Unfortunately, we were several hundred dollars short for each grant. The 1996 donations will be carried over to December, 1997, so hopefully, both grants will be funded in 1998. One of the main reasons the grants did not reach their goals this year is the late start. The grants were not approved until July, 1996, resulting in only a six month period to raise the necessary funds.

The good news is that the scholarship fund has been slowly growing for some time now. Since the Society has not awarded a grant for the past several years we will have enough funds to award two \$250.00 scholarships (see related article in this issue).

These worthwhile grants can not be funded without your donations. Please send your contributions for all three grants today! If every member would donate just \$2.00 per fund, we would have enough to award all three grants next year.

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## AAS Scholarship Grants

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The Alabama Archaeological Society will award two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250.00 each to two students actively engaged in an archaeological research project. Proposals for the scholarship grants must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee Chairman by March 1st. The Scholarship Committee shall review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors shall vote on the proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the recipients shall be made by March 31st.

Minimum criteria for the grants shall be: 1) the student recipients must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, 2) the research project that the student is involved with must be located in the State of Alabama, 3) the student must be an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a college or university in the State of Alabama with an active anthropology program, 4) the student must submit a letter of endorsement from an anthropology instructor, and 5) the student will be required to present a paper on his or her research project at the 1997 Winter meeting.

Send scholarship proposals to:

McDonald Brooms

Archaeological Research Center

40 Eldridge Hall

Troy, AL 36082

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## What's Happening Around the State

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### University of Alabama

The University of Alabama Museums, Office of Archaeological Services (OAS) conducted a monitoring and feature removal program at site 1Ma308 in Madison County, Alabama, at the request of Huntsville Utilities. Located on the banks of Wheeler Lake north of Hobbs Island, the field project was conducted during September, 1996. Carey B. Oakley served as Principal Investigator. Mechanical stripping of the plowzone exposed eight features which probably served as prehistoric trash pits. The excavated fill material contained large amounts of chipped stone, ceramics, bone, charcoal, fired clay, shell, and fire cracked rock.

The artifact analysis concluded that the main occupation at Site 1Ma308 relates to the late Middle Woodland Bell Hill phase. The ceramic assemblage primarily contains Mulberry Creek Plain sherds with few *var. Hamilton*. An age later than Copena horizon but earlier than Flint River culture can be deduced based on the absence of

complicated stamped pottery and the small percentage of roughened sherds. Ten of the twenty-one projectile points/knives retrieved are classified as Lanceolate Spike cluster types (Bradley Spike, Ebenezer, and Flint River Spike) and consistently relate to the late Middle Woodland throughout the Tennessee Valley. The absence of small triangular projectile points (e.g., Hamilton cluster types) infers an occupation earlier than the Flint River culture. Charcoal samples taken from two features resulted in radiocarbon dates of A.D. 670 +/- 60 and A.D. 560 +/- 50 (uncalibrated) respectively. Both of these absolute dates concur with the ages associated with the diagnostic artifacts.

Site 1Ma308 represents a suite of artifacts whose chronological position falls between known chronologic taxa. Upon reviewing previously reported sites in the region, a similar representation of cultural material occurs at Sites 1Ma210 and 1Ma327. Vernon J. Knight recognized this cultural pattern and proposed the Bell Hill phase in the eastern Wheeler Basin. Radiocarbon dates from 1Ma308 firmly date the phase during the late Middle Woodland, ca. A.D. 550 to 700.

The report, currently in progress, will include a zooarchaeological analysis conducted by Renee Walker, a graduate student at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Walker's contribution will also include a study of the freshwater shell recovered. Species identification and shell shapes lend information regarding stream size, depth, current, and substrate.

By Marla Jo Spry, OAS

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## Looters Convicted in Virginia

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On June 17, 1996, a game warden with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries caught two men illegally removing Civil War artifacts from Herring Creek, off the James River near Evelynton Plantation in Charles City County. The two men--Ernest N. Walker of Mechanicsville and Houston L. Crayton of Auylett--had

been diving on submerged artifacts that might have been supplies for Union forces during the Peninsular Campaign of 1862. The men's boat was outfitted with a vacuum that sucked up dirt, debris, and artifacts from the creek bed and deposited them into a sifting screen. In fact, a Civil War relic show was scheduled to occur in Mechanicsville the following week, the motivation for this looting incident.

Learning that Walker and Crayton had sought Civil War artifacts in this same area previously, Game Warden (and case investigator) Alan Wolf and Lieutenant Ken Conger sought search warrants of both suspects' residences. Conservator Melba Myers and archaeologist Cara Metz of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) accompanied the two search warrant teams: their expertise was required to help identify evidence, particularly Civil War artifacts that appeared to have been recently excavated from an underwater context. While the search of Crayton's home revealed few artifacts, Walker's house contained thousands. Rather than face the confiscation of all of his artifacts (to have the Herring Creek ones identified through later analysis), Walker agreed to point out those he took from the creek bed.

The artifacts--now evidence--were removed to DHR for analysis, identification, and evaluation, which received help from curators at the Museum of the Confederacy. The commercial value of the artifacts was reckoned in thousands of dollars, easily surpassing the threshold for grand larceny (a felony under *Code of Virginia* 18.2-95). During the search of Walker's home, an officer prepared to confiscate an accoutrement plate when Walker said that its value was minimal because it was a reproduction. Melba Myers recommended its confiscation: later study revealed it to be not only authentic but worth \$2000 commercially. Further, owing to the illegal dredging involved, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was notified. They preferred to postpone intervention pending the outcome of the state case.

The first court appearance in September ended in a continuance until December. On December 4, 1996, the defendants agreed through their attorney to a guilty plea on the misdemeanor

charge of 10.1-2214 (unlawful removal, destruction, or disturbance of underwater historic property from the state-owned creek bottom) rather than face additional charges, including the grand larceny of the artifacts and an additional larceny concerning the "no trespassing" and "no relic hunting" signs that Walker had removed from private property. Walker was convicted of the misdemeanor, received a suspended 90-day jail sentence (against a promise of good behavior for the next two years), a \$2000 fine, and forfeiture of the looted artifacts. Clayton received a fine of \$750 and forfeiture. Both defendants additionally paid the court costs. Ethel Eaton from DHR and Tony Watkinson of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission were present in court to testify about the defendants' lack of a permit (and their probable ineligibility to obtain one).

Charles City County Court Judge J. R. Zepkin imposed a severe penalty on the two looters, thus sending a message to relic hunters but also demonstrating to law enforcement officers that the investigations of theft of or vandalism to historic or archeological resources can be fruitful. The prosecuting Commonwealth's Attorney, B. Randolph Boyd, was pleased with the outcome. A resident of Charles City County, he has found holes dug by looters on his own property. Further, the case attests to excellent work by DGIF and it bodes well for future cooperation between archaeologists and law enforcement officers. Lieutenant Conger had attended one of the first "time crime" classes conducted jointly by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and DHR, and he later said that the course materials significantly guided the investigation. The investigative protocol taught in the classes, modeled on techniques used in federal Archeological Resources Protection Act investigations, proved its worth.

[The Walker case number was GC96-164: the Crayton case number was GC96-165.]

Robert Hicks  
Department of Criminal Justice Services  
805 E. Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
804-786-8421

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## Chapter News

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### East Alabama Chapter

On January 14, 1997 the East Alabama Chapter held their first meeting of the new year. Gary R. Mullen of the Department of Entomology at Auburn University spoke on "The Island of Thera and the Lost Continent of Atlantis". His slide presentation focused on the archaeological discoveries that have been made on the Greek island of Thera in the Aegean Sea prior to its destruction by a volcanic eruption some 3500 years ago.

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## Donations !!!

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The AAS would like to thank Robert W. Gay and Lois Nichols for their donations to the Public Education Fund, Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund, and the Edward C. Mahan Research Fund. Every donation is appreciated!!!

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## New Members

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Elizabeth C. Degrummond  
Tallahassee, FL

Lois Nichols  
Marion, AL



## **Alabama Archaeological Society Site Stewardship Program**

The purpose of the Alabama Site Stewardship Program is to secure the protection of land that contains important archaeological resources. The major function of this program within Alabama will be:

1. To provide low-level site protection.
2. To provide opportunities for regular and systematic monitoring of significant sites.
3. To provide opportunities to educate participating landowners about the importance and the preservation of their sites.

A Site Stewardship program will allow Alabama to monitor the preservation of Stewardship sites that are located primarily on privately owned lands and to educate and recognize those landowners that participate in the program.

### ***General Guidelines***

1. The Stewardship program shall be a suborganization of the Alabama Archaeological Society (AAS). This program shall be administered by the Board of Directors of the AAS, through the Archaeological Resources Committee.

2. A Steward shall be a member of the AAS in good standing. This person will apply to the Archaeological Resources Committee, hereafter referred to as Committee, an indication of their willingness to assume responsibility for a site(s). The prospective Steward may submit a site or the Committee may assign a site(s) to a prospective Steward from a list compiled by the Committee of significant sites that may benefit from the program. This list may be compiled from current records of the Alabama Historical Commission and from archaeologists statewide. Written permission from the owner of the site property stating that said owner fully understands the program must be obtained.

3. It is the Stewards responsibility to act as liaison between the participating landowner and the AAS. The landowner participants are asked to honor three requests:

1. Preserve and protect their sites to the best of their abilities.
2. Notify the Steward of any threats to the site.
3. Notify the Steward of any intent to sell or transfer ownership, in which the program would need to be renewed with the new owner.

In turn, the Steward and the AAS agrees to:

1. Educate the landowner about his/her site.
2. Provide site management information.
3. Provide, upon request, aid to the landowner in selecting the most appropriate tools for site protection.

4. A landowner participates in the program by verbally agreeing to protect the site or by signing a non-binding Stewardship Agreement. The landowner's commitment is recognized through the presentation of awards, commensurate with the level of participation. These awards may

include, but not be limited to, certificates, plaques, or complimentary AAS publications. Determination of awards shall be made by the Board of Directors based on recommendations from the Steward and the Committee.

5. A Steward shall visit their site(s) a least four times annually and submit a written status report to the Committee. A form must also be completed upon the initial visit to the site and submitted to the Committee. These reports will be maintained by the Committee and sent to the Alabama State Archaeological Site Files as supplementary data sheets. (Sample form attached).
6. Stewards will consult the Committee prior to any site cleanup or preservation efforts.
7. Stewards not fulfilling their designated role after one year will be asked to resign.
8. Stewards will comply with all federal, state, and local preservation laws and regulations. In activities not regulated by law, Stewards will be guided by the Society for American Archaeology code of ethics and by professional assistance.
9. Site location information will be held confidential by the Stewards and will be revealed only to the Committee.
10. No news releases or other public statements concerning the sites, collections, or stewardship activities will be issued without the consent of the involved landowners and authorization by the Committee.
11. Upon termination of Stewardship, each Steward will transfer to the Committee all records and collections pertaining to the Steward's program activities. The Steward agrees to cooperate with their successor.
12. The Chairman of the Archaeological Resources Committee will make an annual report of the programs activities to the Board of Directors.

### ***Site Selection***

Before a site may be considered for the Stewardship program, it must have been identified, located, recorded, and evaluated for its significance. A site' significance is commonly evaluated according to the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which includes considerations of site integrity and research potential. Additional considerations should also include, for example, the site's cultural affiliation, physiographic setting, or the threats to its preservation (from vandalism, erosion, development).

### ***Pre-Initial Visit Activities***

These activities consist of initiating contact with landowners and developing a Landowner Information Pack. During this time, available information on the site should be

obtained. The most helpful source of information may be the archaeologist who has been most involved in research at the site. This archaeologist has the advantage of knowing the landowner, the site, and their common histories. The Landowner Information Pack, which is left with the landowner at the end of the initial visit, contains general information on the program, specific information about the site, and where warranted, information about other archaeological topics. It also contains the Stewardship Agreement which consists of a map, preferably a copy of a topographic map, of the site boundaries, a cover page that briefly describes the site, its significance, and the preservation commitment the landowner is being asked to make. The Pack functions to educate the landowner about the site and its significance.

It is suggested that the landowner be contacted twice before the initial visit. The first contact is by mail, in which a brief descriptive statement about the program is included in the letter along with any other pertinent information. Next, the landowner is contacted by telephone to set up an appointment to visit.

### ***Initial Visit***

The initial visit is the focal point of the landowner contact process. During this visit, the Stewardship program is explained in detail within the context of discussing the site and its importance. Stewardship activities the landowner may have undertaken in the past, as well as the appropriate activities the landowner should continue to follow, are discussed.

It is through this initial visit that the foundation is laid for establishing the landowner's preservation commitment and his/her long-term relationship with the Stewardship program. One of the purposes of the program is to educate the landowner about the site: how old it is; who were the inhabitants and how they lived; the identification of artifacts; and its significance. The visit also allows the Steward to collect information on the landowner, the site's history of use, and the types of threats it faced in the past.

Some landowners may decide to participate in the program and sign the agreement during the initial visit. Others may wish to think it over and discuss it with family members. The Steward makes a determination whether verbal registration has been secured. If the landowner is sincere and interested, then a verbal agreement is considered to have been made.

### ***Post-Initial Visit Activities***

Many of the activities that take place after the initial visit depend on its results. A few activities, however, take place immediately after the visit regardless of the landowner's decision regarding site Stewardship. They fall into two categories : recording information and communicating with the landowner. This information is important to future contacts with the landowner because it serves as a baseline from which to monitor the site's condition on subsequent visits.

A report of the initial visit itself is prepared which includes a description of activities during the visit, the Stewards feelings about the landowner's receptiveness to the program and

perspective on site preservation, the results of the visit, and the topics discussed. Information detailing the condition of the site, including the location and degree of any looting and vandalism or ground disturbance is noted on the Initial Visit Record.

As soon as possible after the initial visit, a follow-up letter is sent to the landowner regardless of his/her response to the program. If the landowner agreed to participate, the letter mentions the awards the landowner may receive and reiterates that agreement made, as well as site protection options if necessary. Announcement of the agreement in the local newspaper or other media depends on the landowner's permission, the site's notoriety, its state of preservation, and threats of looting and vandalism. All public announcements **must** be approved by the Committee. In addition, if the landowner has agreed to participate in the program, his/her name may be added to various mailing lists to receive complimentary publications of the AAS and other willing organizations. A copy of the Stewardship agreement, if it was signed, is also sent to the landowner. About a month later, the Chairman of the AAS Board of Directors sends a letter to the landowner in which he/she personally expresses appreciation for the landowner's decision to participate.

If the landowner did not agree to participate in the course of the initial visit, but wanted to think it over, a telephone call is made within a month of the follow-up letter. If the answer is "yes," the activities discussed above are carried out. A follow-up letter is sent after the initial visit even if the landowner is clearly not interested in participating in the program. Depending on the nature of the landowner's negative response, the immediacy of threats to the site, and the significance of the site, an attempt to contact the landowner again in six months to a year to reconsider the decision may be appropriate.

### ***Stewardship Program Maintenance Activities***

Upon a site's entrance into the Stewardship program, a long-term commitment to the site and its landowner begins. Participation in the program provides an opportunity to establish a relationship with the landowner. In the years that follow, it is hoped that the landowner's interest in the protection and preservation of the site will grow by virtue of this participation.

Stewardship follow-up activities are important to maintaining a successful protection and preservation program. These activities consist of communicating with the landowner, educating him/her about the importance of protecting the site, and monitoring the condition of the site at regular intervals. It may be advisable to bring "gifts" to the landowner during some or all of the quarterly site visits. These consist of items such as posters, articles, brochures, or copies of legislation that deal with archaeological sites. These items serve several purposes: (1) they provide an obvious reason for visiting landowners and not just his/her site; (2) they provide an opportunity to demonstrate once again appreciation for the landowner's preservation commitment; and (3) they represent a means to educate landowners about archaeology.

During the quarterly visits, questions are always asked about the site, its condition, and any problems with looting or vandalism the landowner may have had since the last visit. If at all possible, the site is visited in the company of the landowner, and site stewardship activities are



discussed. Information is collected about features of the site locale, locations of current and previous human and natural destruction, and site boundaries.

Activities conducted after the quarterly visits resemble those undertaken after the initial visit. A note is sent to the landowner, thanking them for spending time with the Steward. A note may also be sent to the Committee informing them of the visit. The information recorded during these quarterly visits should be maintained by the Steward for the purpose of writing the annual report to the Committee. At any time during the process a detailed site management plan may be prepared by the Steward and the Committee and discussed with the landowner.

\* Excerpts were taken from A. Gwynn Henderson (1989), The Kentucky Archaeological Registry, Archaeological Assistance Program, *Technical Brief No. 6*. National Park Service.

**Alabama  
Stewardship Monitoring Record  
Initial Visit**

State Site No. \_\_\_\_\_ Site Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Steward's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Visit Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tenant: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the landowner agreed to participate in the Stewardship Program? yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

If no, give brief explanation. \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the topics discussed with the landowner. \_\_\_\_\_

What practices or conditions have or are currently affecting the site and to what extent?

Field observations of the site (vegetation, cover, etc.). \_\_\_\_\_

Artifacts in landowner collection or on site surface: \_\_\_\_\_

Current recommendations or other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alabama  
Stewardship Monitoring Record  
Annual Report**

State Site No. \_\_\_\_\_ Site Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Steward's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Visit Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarterly Visit Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tenant: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the landowner been given or received any additional literature or other information?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What practices or conditions are currently affecting the site and to what extent?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Has the site been looted or vandalized since the last visit? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Field observations of the site (vegetation, cover, etc.). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Artifacts in landowner collection or on site surface: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current recommendations or other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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