

# Stones & Bones

July and Aug. 2016

Volume 58, Issue 4

The Newsletter of the Alabama Archaeological Society

## Meet a Member!

The member profile for this edition is the society newsletter editor, Ben Hoksbergen. Ben is the Cultural Resource Manager and Installation Archaeologist at Redstone Arsenal in Madison County. He has an MA in Anthropology from Iowa State University, and has been doing archaeological work in Alabama on and off since 1998.

*What's the most interesting artifact you've ever found?*

People ask me this question a lot, and I think I answer it differently every time! One of the most interesting things I've ever found was an Acheulian hand-axe I found during a survey of a Late Roman village at the Umm el-Jimal site in northern Jordan. The Paleolithic components at the site had never been documented before, so it was some fun new data, and it was awe-inspiring to hold a tool that had been fashioned by someone who lived up to a quarter-million years ago!

*Who influenced your decision to become an archaeologist?*

I have a page from my third-grade journal hanging up in my office that says, "When I grow up I would like to be an arkeologist." My spelling has gotten a little better over the years, but my passion for archaeology has never changed. I can trace it to my third grade teacher, Brenda Nugteren who recognized my interest and made special arrangements to take me to see a talk by a classical archaeologist who came to speak to the older grades where I went to school. Another big influence was a local arrowhead collector named Dennis Rozenboom who was the first to find prehistoric artifacts on my parents' farm in southern Iowa. After I saw him pick up a handful of arrow points and a Middle Woodland dart point in my parents' corn field, I was hooked!

*What is the first site you worked on? What is the last one (or current one)?*

I've long forgotten the site number, but the first site I worked on was a multi-component prehistoric site that I surface collected with the Iowa Archaeological

Society back when I was in high school. We found a nice Woodland pit feature bisected in the cut bank of a stream, and I found a lovely little ground hematite pendant and a couple of bifacial preforms.

The latest site I've worked on is 1Ma279, a multicomponent site on Redstone Arsenal in the bluffs above McDonald Creek. I was assisting some contractors with a Phase II investigation. We found half a dozen prehistoric features and a large early 19<sup>th</sup> century house footprint with a large cellar full of 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts.

*Fieldwork or labwork?*

Fieldwork if I had to choose. Labwork and writing can be fun, but it's hard to beat the great outdoors!



*What are you currently reading?*

For work, I'm wrapping up *Deerskins & Duffels* by Kathryn E. Holland Braund about the Creek deerskin trade. For fun, I'm reading *Cracker Culture* by Grady McWhiney about Celtic influence in Southern culture. I highly recommend both for anyone interested in the historical contexts of Alabama.

*Why are you a member of AAS?*

It's always good to be a member of a community which shares common

interests. The AAS has provided me with endless opportunities for networking, information sharing, and fun. The Society also serves as an outstanding platform for public outreach, for educating people in the community about the amazing archaeological resources we have in our state. The journal, the newsletter, the biannual state meetings, and chapter meetings are great resources for learning about the latest archaeological work happening around the state. I also value the way the Society draws together professional archaeologists, artifact collectors, and interested lay-people. We all share common passions, and all bring something to the table that the others can learn from.

*How many years have you been a member?*

I moved to Alabama in 2005 and have been a member ever since. I'm not sure where the last ten years have gone!

If you would be willing to be interviewed for "Meet a Member", please email Kim Pyszka ([kpyszka@aum.edu](mailto:kpyszka@aum.edu)).



**Site 1MA491,  
The Madkins Farm, on  
Redstone Arsenal**

by Orion S. Kroulek

**Editor's note:** This and the following article make up the ninth installment of a feature in the *Stones and Bones* profiling archaeological sites in Alabama that exemplify sites from a given time period or culture, starting with the Paleoindian, and going forward through time. If you know of a site that has contributed in a major way to our understanding of a particular time period or culture or in some way typifies Alabama sites of a certain age or cultural affiliation, send me a manuscript! This edition focuses on historic sites from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Alexander Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (AAC) recently submitted the final report to Redstone Arsenal (RSA) on

Investigations at Site 1Ma491 were conducted in April and May of 2014, and included clearing of brush from the site, thorough pedestrian survey, GIS overlay of LiDAR and historic aerial photography and maps for prospection purposes, GPS and total station mapping, soil probing, shovel testing, the excavation of six test units, and in-depth historical research. All historic structures, a garden plot, the “Big House” driveway, a remnant of the Old Triana Road bed, and several fence lines were located and mapped. Test unit placement was guided by the presence of surficial features such as depressions, chimney falls, and foundation sections as well as by shovel test results. Test Unit 1, for instance, was placed over a small depression near the rear of the main house site. Excavation of this unit confirmed that the depression was the result of settling and in-filling of a sub-floor cellar, which became derelict late in its use-life and was reused as a trash dump for kitchen garbage. Test Unit 1 yielded 8,073 artifacts (out of 9,942 recovered at the site) including a wide variety of kitchen glass, metal, and ceramics. The vast majority of the temporally diagnostic artifacts suggest a range of the mid-1880s to the 1930s for the use of this feature. This interpretation is consistent with the observed architectural morphology of the structure; the trash pit was immediately below the house’s “el” addition, which were often indoor kitchen additions.

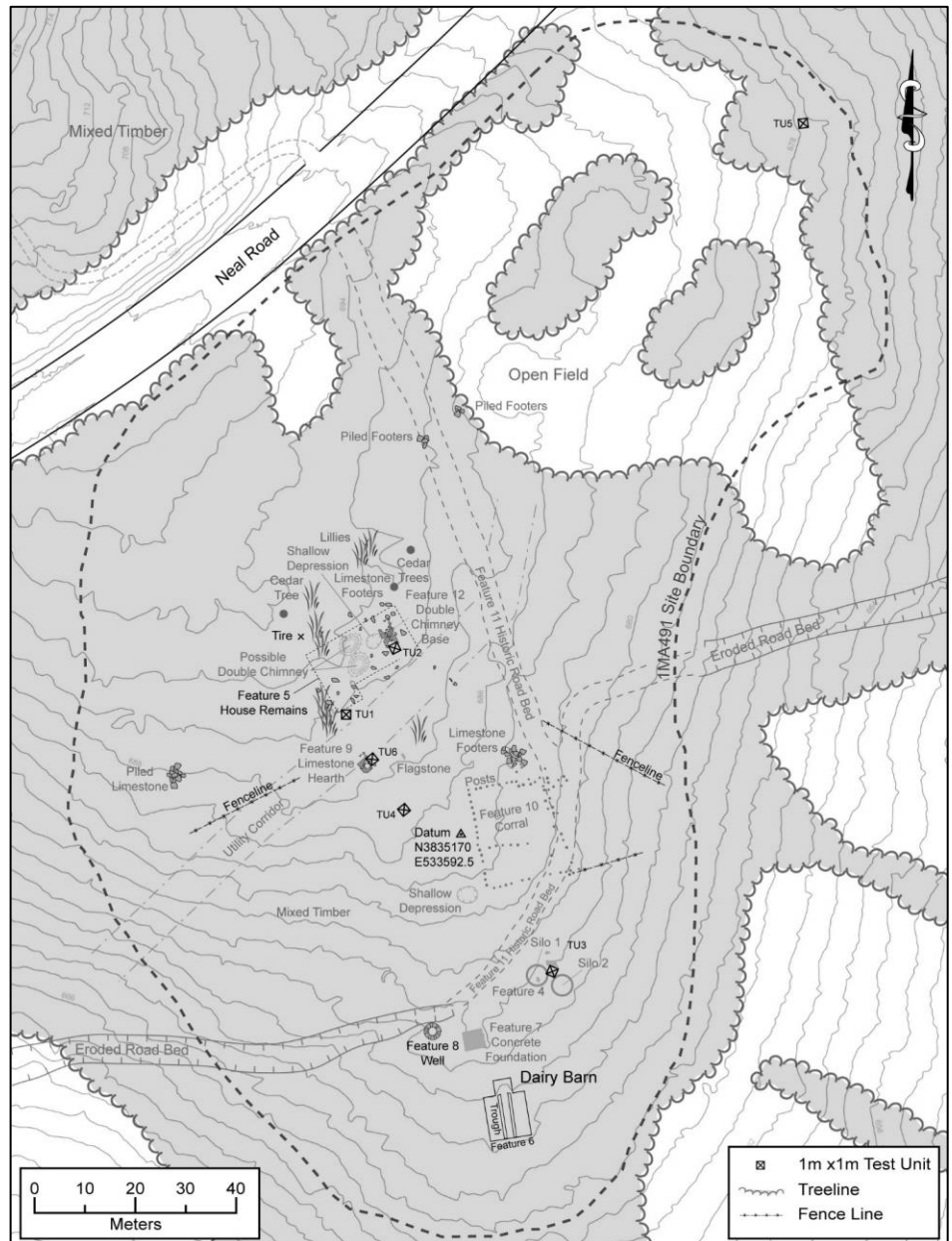
Historical research was conducted to elucidate the chain-of-title as well as to enrich the overall corpus of historical narrative in regards to the site. Maps and aerial photographs from 1875 through the present were consulted and analyzed in a GIS environment in order to locate historic components of the site, but also to understand modern site formation processes and land use and how various uses of the property have impacted archaeological deposits. By all indications within the historical record, the first owners of the property to make any substantial improvements to the property were the Wood and Pride families, who

had obtained the land from Francis Anderson. Anderson had married his two daughters into the Wood and Pride families, and sought to secure the financial futures of his daughters. A deed dated 1829 references tenements and appurtenances located on the parcel, although the Wood and Pride families were located in Virginia at the time of the sale, which suggests that they were absentee landowners. The property became the possession of Thomas and William Brandon of Huntsville around the turn of the century, but the Brandons, who owned a large amount of land in the area, are not likely to have lived at the farm.

George W. Lane, another local farmer, bought the land in 1850, selling it to William and Margaret Madkins in 1852. In the 1860 agricultural schedule, Madkins is listed as having a large farm of 750

improved acres worth about \$40,000. He had livestock including 15 horses, 19 cattle, and 150 swine. Madkins also owned 44 slaves, who were responsible for the farm's production of wheat, maize, rye, and cotton. The Madkins family (and their relatives the McDonnells) ran the farm for two generations, selling the property to John A. and Clinton D. Anderson in 1910, who were the last owners to actually live on the property. The Anderson brothers occupied the farm until 1914, when Clinton Anderson died of hepatic cirrhosis, leaving tens of thousands of dollars' worth of debt.

Archaeological deposits investigated during Phase II fieldwork reflect the archival record of the site's occupation with temporally diagnostic artifacts representing William and Margaret Madkins' tenure through the Anderson



### Site 1Ma491 site map



**1Ma491 Test Unit 1, base of excavation**

brothers' management of the farm until 1914. The assemblage hints at lost details of the everyday lives of these turn of the century farmers, such as a reed plate from a reed organ, likely used by Margaret Madkins who played organ at her nearby church. Cholera remedy and other medicine bottles date to the period in which an elderly Margaret Madkins lived by herself at the farm, and a bevy of E. R. Betterton whiskey bottles tightly date to the period in which the Anderson brothers lived at the farm. With such a rich archival history in conjunction with intact, stratified archaeological deposits, Site 1Ma491 was recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



**Selected kitchen artifacts from 1Ma491: a. Root Glass Co. Coca-Cola bottle (1901-1932), b-c. glass bottle stoppers, and d. Kork & Seal bottle cap**

## 20<sup>th</sup> Century Archaeology on the AUM Campus

by Kimberly Pyszka

Prior to its purchase by the state of Alabama and Auburn University in the late 1960s, the 500 acres that would eventually become Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) was part of McLemore Plantation, an approximately 7000 acre cotton plantation. As seen in much of Alabama and the Southeast after the Civil War, sharecroppers and tenant farmers worked much of that land, well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The 1958 USGS topo map indicates seven structures within the current AUM boundaries, likely tenant farmer houses or related structures. One of the houses still stands, although it is very much in a state of disrepair. A second possible tenant house site is identified by the presence of a chimney hearth. During the Spring 2016 semester, thirteen students enrolled in AUM's Field Archaeology class and participated in archaeological excavations at the two sites. The primary research goals at this time were to determine the approximate occupation dates of the two sites and to begin to learn more about the daily life and living conditions of tenant farming families who lived and worked on the land prior to it becoming AUM.

We began at the surviving house (1Mt576), a wood-framed cabin that consists of two pens that are separated by a dog trot. This structure is situated immediately along one of the nature trails that

are located in the wooded area of AUM's campus, west of the campus center. Based on the construction materials used, namely machine-made bricks and wire nails, the house dates to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Faux brick asphalt siding, very common in the 1930s, still covers many exterior walls, while newspapers dating to the late-1920s through the 1930s, line the interior walls.

Archaeological testing at this site consisted of shovel-tests along the north (front) and east sides of the house. Students recovered a number of artifacts, with wire nails and bottle glass being the most common. While full analysis of the artifacts is pending, artifacts with marks or other attributes that could provide production dates indicate people lived in the house from the 1930s into the 1960s, and possibly up until the late 1960s when the state purchased the land. AUM students enrolled in future archaeology courses will continue shovel testing the south and west sides of this house, in addition to excavating text units.

Most of our excavations focused on the second site (1Mt577), where a relatively intact chimney hearth, built with hand-made bricks, is the only above ground evidence. The hearth is located in a wooded area just off one of the nature trails, near a 20<sup>th</sup> century animal pen. Shovel tests indicated that artifacts were relatively concentrated, generally within 10m of the chimney hearth. Based on those results, we opened three excavation units – one to the north of the hearth, another to its east, and third to its south (nature trail immediately to the west, so no unit placed there).



**North side of the cabin's east pen that shows wood-frame construction and faux brick asphalt siding**

Initially, the recovery of a number of cut nails along with the handmade brick of the hearth suggested that this site may date to the mid to late-19<sup>th</sup> century. However, as excavations continued, nearly all other artifacts pointed to an early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century occupation, similar to the occupation dates of the first site. Rather than an earlier site, the former structure also appears to have been constructed in the 1930s, but of recycled 19<sup>th</sup> century bricks and nails. A linear trench feature that ran parallel to the chimney hearth and approximately 20 feet to its east may be evidence of a foundation. We will expand and explore this feature further in future excavations.

Bottle glass and nails were the two most common types of artifacts recovered. Several glass fragments have Owens Bottling Company and other marks that will help pinpoint production dates. Additionally a number of soda pop bottles, some complete, should also provide date ranges for their production. Children's toys included marbles, a plastic toy fence, and a plastic bird whistle, and the recovery of a 1950 metal rabies vaccination tag indicate the presence of a family pet.

Although this semester's Field Archaeology class is over, the analysis of artifacts and research into the sites and other potential tenant farmer sites on AUM's campus continues. Two students will analyze the recovered artifacts during the fall semester, while a graduate student is researching McLemore Plantation and its tenant farmers as part of her MA thesis. Stay tuned for more results!



## The 38<sup>th</sup> Expedition: Shell Midden Excavations in Gulf State Park, Alabama

by Brandon S. Thompson

Throughout the month of June, the University of Alabama Museum of Natural History's 38<sup>th</sup> annual Expedition, in collaboration with the University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research, conducted archaeological and geophysical testing of Site 1Ba88 in Gulf State Park (GSP), Baldwin County, Alabama. The Expedition program, originally the vision of the late Dr. John C. Hall, is a summer program that allows youth and the public at large to actively



Chimney hearth at second site



UAM field school students excavate a test unit at 1Mt577

participate in scientific research and experience the natural world. This exploratory and educational research focused on a shell midden dating to the Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 400-1100). The shell midden was comprised, predominantly, of fresh water Atlantic Rangia (*Rangia cuneate*), with minor frequencies of fresh and salt water bivalves and univalves including clam (*Mercenaria* sp.), whelk (*Busyon* sp.), and olive (*Oliva* sp.) among others.

Archaeological testing included the excavation of three 2m by 2m and one 1m by 1m test units along the base and flank of the shell midden. In addition to the vast quantities and types of shell, additional cultural materials were also recovered in moderate densities. These artifacts

included prehistoric ceramics such as Wakulla Check Stamped, *var. Bridge*, Carabelle Incised, *var. Unspecified*, and plain sand tempered wares, shell tools including spokeshaves, a gouge, bipointed tool, and hammer, and fauna including alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), fish, and bird. While analysis is ongoing, initial observations of the recovered ceramics suggest a cultural affiliation within the Tates Hammock (ca. A.D. 400-750) or Coden (ca. A.D. 750-1100) phases (Fuller 1998).

The research design also consisted of remote sensing, utilizing ground penetrating radar (GPR), conducted in select locations across the shell midden to examine the subsurface environment for its stratigraphic sequence and potential

feature locations. An additional purpose of remote sensing was to introduce Expedition participants to technologies utilized by archaeologists. A single feature, a basin-shaped pit, was identified and excavated at the base of the midden in the easternmost test unit. It was rich in organic matter and shell with future analysis planned to provide a more detailed examination of its contents. Additional subsurface features and shell strata were potentially identified as a result of GPR along the midden's crest and flank.

Ultimately, the Expedition program successfully introduced and, for some, continued to enrich previous experiences with archaeology, its methods, purpose, and goals. Participants from across the country contributed to the knowledge of the area's prehistory, its people, and the ways in which the landscape was utilized and changed. Thirty-eight years ago Dr. John C. Hall started the Expedition program with the belief that younger generations should be exposed to nature with hands-on learning in an academic field. Much of the equipment he was able to gather including chairs, tables, tents, and trailers, are still in use and have been touched by generations of the adventurous. It is in his memory that this project is dedicated and the archaeological site, 1Ba88, is named.

## Reference

Fuller, Richard S.  
1998 Indian Pottery and Cultural Chronology of the Mobile-Tensaw Basin and Alabama Coast. *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* 44(1-2):1-51.

## True Crime Walking Tour of Old Cahawba

History tells us that Cahawba grew from a frontier capital into a prosperous center of wealth and culture, home to some of the most affluent families in the state. Despite its short-lived grasp on prosperity, civilization, and refinement, Cahawba was a frontier town that had never lost its frontier mentality. From feuding families delivering street justice, to colorful characters threatening to assassinate the President, Catawba's corruption will be revealed on this one-hour guided walking tour.

Catawba lies at the confluence of the Alabama and Cahaba Rivers, and from 1819 to 1826, it served as Alabama's state capital. Today, the Alabama Historical Commission owns and operates this significant archaeological site.

To get there from downtown Selma, take Highway 22 (Dallas Avenue) west 8.6 miles. Cross over the Cahaba River and turn left onto County Road 9 and follow this 3.3 miles until it dead ends. Turn left onto County Road 2 and follow this 1.5 miles until you see the Old Cahawba Welcome Center on the right.

The tour will be this Saturday, August 6, from 10-11 am. Admission for the tour is \$8 per person.

For more information, contact Jonathan Matthews at [cahawbam@bellsouth.net](mailto:cahawbam@bellsouth.net), or call the park at (334)872-8058.



Shell tools recovered from 1Ba88: from left to right, spokeshave, hammer, gouge, bipointed tool

## Passings

### John Hall

by James Lamb and Julie Hall

Dr. John Cody Hall of Tuscaloosa died June 7, 2016 after a prolonged illness. He was preceded in death by his parents Edmond Cody Hall and Barbara Hodge Hall, his first wife Marilyn Hall, and his brother Randy Hall.

John was born in Birmingham, AL, and grew up in Anniston where his father was the editor of the *Anniston Star*. Growing up, John was an Eagle Scout and began displaying his lifelong love of nature at an early age by raising a pet beaver.

As a Captain in the U.S. Army Rangers, he served in Vietnam and later was one of the few entrusted with the U.S. nuclear arsenal while stationed in West Germany. During this time, John met his first wife Marilyn, to whom he was married for thirty years.

John was an inspirational educator to generations of students. His formal instructional experience included teaching science at Tuscaloosa High School, and geology at Shelton State for 25 years. Additionally, John was Assistant Director of the Alabama Museum of Natural History for over 20 years, founded the museum Summer Expedition Series, and taught geology at the University of West Alabama, where he was also the first Director of the Black Belt Museum. He had a talent for explaining complex scientific theories in a way that anyone could understand and appreciate.

John enjoyed a long friendship and fifteen wonderful years of marriage with his wife Rosa. Together, they have been actively involved in living history, where John portrayed the naturalist William Bartram at events across the Southeast. Throughout his life, John shared his infectious enthusiasm, humor, and wit with thousands of individuals whose lives were forever altered by the experience of having known him.

John loved his family, cannons, cats, Pogo comics, duck hunting, was critical of "tomfoolery", and yet excelled at blowing things up. He was an opinionated polymath, an award-winning author, conservationist, public speaker, a storyteller, and humorist. John was an expert on Prince Madoc, the Hodges Meteorite, and the natural history of Alabama. John was frequently irreverent, and a lovable curmudgeon.





He is survived by Rosa Newman Hall (wife), Mary Marchewka Hall (sister), children Douglas Cody Hall (Julie), Tom Newman (Beth), Michael Newman (Susan), Monica Newman Moore (Walter), John Newman (Neva), grandchildren Eric Newman, Glen Newman, Calloway Newman, Ben Newman, Justin Newman, Butler Newman, Pierce Hall, Mary Ella Hall, great grandchildren Spencer, Sienna, Sage, E.J and Isaac.

He is also survived by many, many dear friends and colleagues, the Cracker Barrel Breakfast Club, and Bob the cat.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to the John C. Hall Memorial Fund, to establish the Education Programs Facility at the Black Belt Museum at UWA, or that individuals plant Lingleaf Pines in Alabama (contact the Lingleaf Alliance) or buy and plant a native Oakleaf Hydrangea.

Ipsidixit.



## Member News

### New Members:

Jeremy Britten, Florence, AL  
Israel Marshall, Madison, AL  
W. Rex Weeks, Jr., Soddy Daisy, TN

### Renewals:

Brent Catchings, Auburn, AL  
William H. Dodson, Birmingham, AL  
Roger and Vally Nance, Topanga, CA  
Harrison Williams, Auburn, AL  
University of Alabama at Birmingham, Brmingham, AL

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**Coosa Valley:** Phillip Koerper

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## Join or Renew Today!

You can pay AAS membership dues or make donations to AAS online at

**[www.alabamaarchaeology.org](http://www.alabamaarchaeology.org)**

Or, send a check made out to  
"Alabama Archaeological Society"

to:

Alabama Archaeological Society  
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park  
Moundville, AL 35474

## DUES

Type	U.S.	Foreign
Annual Associate (under 18 years of age)	\$15.00	\$20.00
Annual Individual	\$25.00	\$30.00
Annual Family	\$30.00	\$35.00
Annual Institutional	\$50.00	\$55.00
Annual Sustaining Individual	\$35.00	\$40.00
Annual Sustaining Joint	\$40.00	\$45.00
Life Individual	\$500.00	\$600.00
Life Joint	\$600.00	\$700.00

## AAS Research Grant

The AAS will grant an award of \$500 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Chairman by October 1st. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and announce the winner at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS; 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; 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.

## Public Education Grant

The AAS will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500. Proposals for grants must be submitted to the Chair of the Public Education Committee (see below) by October 1st. The Board will announce 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 AAS; 2) the public education project must be located in the state of Alabama.

## AAS Scholarships

The AAS will award up to two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250 each to undergraduate and/or graduate students attending an Alabama college or university. Scholarship nominations are to be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chair (see below) by October 1st. 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 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 AAS.

**Submit applications and questions** to Hunter Johnson, [Hunter@TVAResearch.com](mailto:Hunter@TVAResearch.com), or Hunter Johnson, Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research, 2211 Seminole Drive, Suite 302, Huntsville, AL 35805

## Fund Balances

Education Fund: \$0.00  
Mahan Fund: \$422.35  
Wimberly Fund: \$303.12

# Stones & Bones

*Editor: Ben Hoksbergen; Assistant Editor: Jason Mann*

*Stones & Bones* is published bi-monthly at the beginning of January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for submitting articles is the end of the month prior to publication. Articles, questions, and comments can be sent via email to:

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