Alabama Archaeological Society

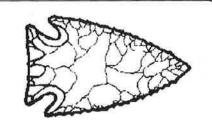
Stones & Bones

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Summer Meeting 1999!

This year's summer meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society was held Saturday, June 26 at Fort Morgan. In spite of afternoon rain storms, a good time was had by all.

Upon arrival, members had the opportunity to tour the ongoing excavations being conducted by Museum Expedition 21 and to take a look at artifact collections put on display by fellow members. For lunch, members were treated to an outdoor sandwich buffet. After lunch, it was time for the general business meeting (see *General* below). With the business taken care of, members were called upon to attend presentations of Paleo and Early Archaic projectile points from around the state. Representing North Alabama were Charles Moore, Vann King, and Charles Hubbert; from Southwest Alabama was Reed Stowe; and from Southeast Alabama were McDonald Brooms and Red Knight.

The summer meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society provided an excellent opportunity for the membership to come together, both professional and amateur, to share ideas, opinions, and artifact collections (Photgraphs on pages 2-6).

General Business Meeting

Summary of the Minutes

President Jim Knight called the meeting to order at 12:55 pm. He turned the floor over to Brian Rushing, who welcomed the group on behalf of Expedition #21, a program of the Alabama Natural History Museum.

Secretary Linda Derry read the minutes from the December 5th General Business meeting.

President Jim Knight then read a prepared message to the assembled group (see *Address* below).

The secretary read the journal editor's report.

Mac Brooms made the newsletter editor's report.

Program chair, Julie Lyons gave a brief report. The publicity chairperson, Judith Knight gave a brief report.

Visit the AAS Web Page:

http://www.gulfmart.com/org/aas.htm

Linda Derry spoke on behalf of the education committee.

Secretary Linda Derry read a proposed Amendment to the Constitution on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Purpose:

To provide for an improved continuity of leadership in the Society, and to allow for successful Directors of the Society to continue to serve the society over the long term.

Proposal:

Note: In the following proposal, language to be struck is <u>underlined</u>. Language to be added is presented in *bold italics*.

From the Constitution of the Alabama Archaeological Society, Article V, Section 11 (a), (revised May, 1974):

(A) Officers shall be elected for one (1) year by majority vote of the members present at the Annual State Meeting. The new officers shall assume office at the beginning of the next fiscal year and serve until their successors are installed. An Officer may be elected to succeed himself/ herself for one additional term.

Rationale:

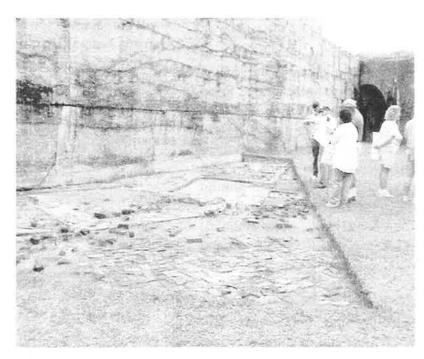
- 1. Recognizing that there are talented individual members who are willing to devote serious time and personal energy to the business of the Society, and that there are always a limited number of such individuals at any one time, the Constitution should not unduly restrict their participation as officers. Likewise, the Constitution should not unduly restrict the membership from voting for whom they please.
- 2. One-year terms of office remain intact, as the norm. Any officers succeeding themselves must always be re-elected at the Annual Meeting of the Society, by the vote of the members. Any concerns of a domination of the Society by particular members are softened by the fact that the will of the membership is democratically invoked each year.

A motion was made to accept the proposed change to the AAS Constitution. The motion passed.

Julie Lyons mentioned that the Winter meeting is scheduled for December 10th in Selma.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

submitted by: Linda Derry



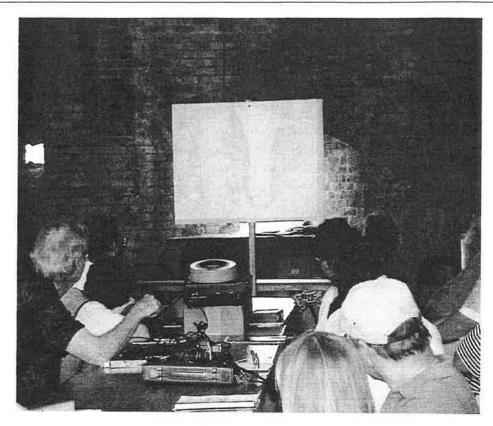
AAS members view Museum Expedition 21 excavations at Fort Morgan with interest.



An outdoor sandwich lunch was provided for the membership.



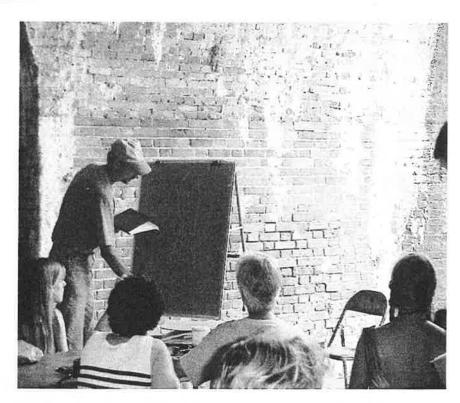
Members attending the General Business Meeting.



Charles Moore's slide presentation of North Alabama Paleo and Early Archaic projectile points.



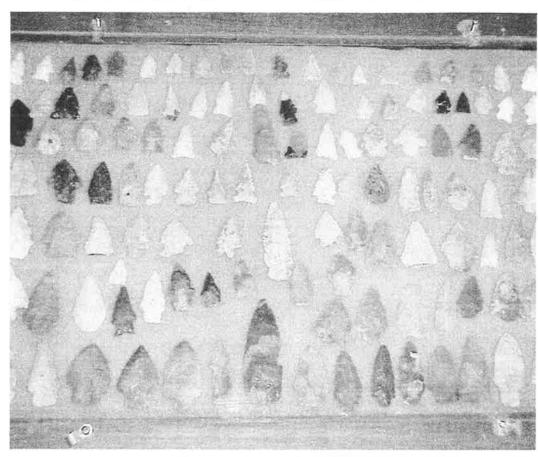
Opportunities for discussion were given following each presentation.



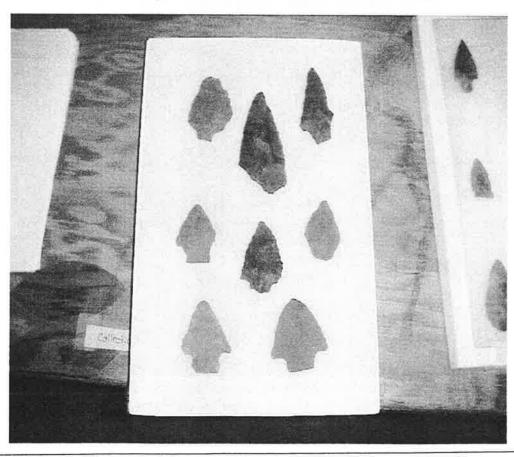
Vann King's presentation of North Alabama Paleo and Early Archaic projectile points.



Reed Stowe's presentation of Southwestern Alabama Paleo and Early Archaic projectile points.



Members were encouraged to bring their collections for viewing and discussion. Here are two examples. Thanks to all who participated!



Address of the President: Presented at the Summer Meeting

It is my privilege to serve as your President during 1999. I would like to take a few moments to comment on some of the issues that face the Alabama Archaeological Society at this point in its history. I would also like to remark upon some of the actions the Board of Directors have taken in recent months, whose intent is to set the Society on a new course. In accepting the nomination to stand for this office, I made a commitment to review some of the basic functions of the Society and to recommend change where it is needed.

For those of you who may not know me, I am a professional archaeologist at the University of Alabama. However, having been a Society member for about 25 years, I am also keenly aware that the Society's roots lie in the interested archaeologists. involvement ofamateur Historically, it is a fact that most of my predecessors in the office of President were elected from the rank of amateurs. And although the Society has evolved, it is still abundantly clear that amateur enthusiasts make up the vast majority of our dues paying members. When I speak to you as rank and file members, it is therefore understood that this is your Society.

Not all, certainly, but many of our members come to us originally out of a simple appreciation for the power of artifacts. This was true for the older generation, but my suspicion is that it is just as true for the many youngsters who are drawn to archaeology for the same reasons their grandfathers were. It is that profound moment of noticing and picking up a projectile point in a cotton field. We professional archaeologists tend to downplay this fascination with artifacts because it is impossible for people to understand what we do *unless* we downplay it. We are obliged to show people that what we really care about is information; that, to quote one of my colleagues,

it is not what you find, but what you find out that The ethics of professional important. archaeology is, in fact, a rather difficult topic to explain. Many people, for example, have great difficulty understanding why I do not have a personal artifact collection. But although we attempt to teach these things, we are not trying to be dismissive of those whose interest lies primarily in the objects themselves and the moment of their discovery. For artifacts, and especially the finding of artifacts, truly do have the power to engage a person's curiosity. Contemplating an object made with a lost technology, something finely crafted, something of unknown use, or something remotely ancient stir the passions of intelligent people. Moreover, finding or owning such an object is a means of making a personal connection with the past. This passion is ours to grasp and to mold, if we will only do so.

the Alabama The Constitution of Archaeological Society speaks of recording and preserving Alabama's past. And we do have a critical educational mission, because for every enlightened person there is at least one other who would thoughtlessly plow a site into oblivion, bulldoze a prehistoric burial mound as a source of fill dirt, sell off an important collection, deface an ancient rock art site with graffiti, or treat American Indians with disrespect. But our accomplished can only be mission understanding that much of out constituency, those we need to reach, have an interest that hangs precariously on just one hook, which is a fascination with artifacts. If we as a Society turn our backs on that fascination or treat it with embarrassment, we bury ourselves along with our public support.

With that as a preface, I would like to say that, at the beginning of my term as President, I was disturbed that the Society appears to be slowly drifting apart. Interest groups within it seemed to be finding less and less common ground. Some members felt alienated and said so. Some artifact collectors felt unwelcomed and even insulted at Society meetings that they felt were dominated by professional archaeologists. Many members have

dropped out. Some potential members have seen little point in paying their dues. Many members of our local chapters are not members of the state Society. Some professional members have become cynical about the contribution of the amateur to Alabama archaeology. The overall trend is such that our membership at the time I became President was at its lowest point since 1963. Membership has been steadily dropping since the middle 1970's.

During my presidency I have challenged the Board of Directors to make a vigorous attempt to reverse this trend. Our immediate goal, which the Board adopted at its May meeting in Cullman, is to restore 100 members by the summer of 2001.

There are several specific actions on which your Board of Directors has voted to take action. One is to modify the character of our statewide meetings, by encouraging members to bring their artifacts collections, by encouraging nontechnical paper presentations, and by inaugurating official Society awards. Second, the Board has taken up the challenge to expand and enliven our newsletter, the Stones and Bones, and to change its publication schedule to six issues per year. Third, we plan to bring the Journal of Alabama Archaeology up to date within the next 18 months, and we have asked the Editor to solicit and include non-technical articles within it. Fourth, we are taking action to revive our Special Publications series, the next issue of which will be the Handbook of Alabama Pottery Types. The bottom line, in my view, is to see to it that you, as dues-paying members, get your money's worth.

Shortly, we will be voting on an important change to the Constitution of the Alabama Archaeological Society, which proposes to lift a limitation to terms of service by officers of the Society. The proposed change recognizes that talented officers, like archaeological sites, are a resource that needs to be conserved.

I am excited about these prospects, but there is much yet to do, and much that you, as members, can do to help. The Membership Committee is currently in the process of contacting all recently expired members of the Society, urging them to rejoin. Please help us in our drive to expand our membership by contacting others who would benefit from a Society membership. Purchase a gift membership for a promising high school student. Make a gift to one of our scholarship funds. Attend and support your local chapter meetings. Let us look for creative ways to invigorate these chapters, and encourage those in attendance to become members of the State Society. Let us support Project Archaeology in its drive to educate a new generation concerning the value of archaeological resources.

And finally, let us attempt to reinvent a condition, similar to that of the early years of the AAS, where amateur Society members can meet and discuss their mutual interests, and where they can be encouraged to make personal contributions to Alabama archaeology in any number of ways, including conveying their discoveries and ideas by means of publications. We who are professional archaeologists must stand ready to interact with the rank and file membership and educate, where necessary, on matters of record keeping, site preservation, and the preservation of collections having scientific value.

Allow me to congratulate Ms. Julie Lyons, our Program Chair, for the wonderful meeting at historic Fort Morgan.

President, Jim Knight

1Tu1

The University of Alabama Office of Archaeological Services has now completed field excavations at Pride Place (1Tu1). Located within the City of Tuscaloosa, Pride Place proved to be a very interesting Mississippian site associated with the Moundville chiefdom to the south. The remains of a complete square house (5m by 5m) were excavated along with numerous pit and post interesting artifacts were features. Many excavated from the site, including the two illustrated. At top is a portion of a effigy bowl with engraved raptors. This vessel exhibits several different decorative modes: incising, engraving, red-filming and effigy adorno. At bottom is a



Top: Effigy bowl with engraved raptors. Bottom: Notched and Incised sandstone palette. artwork by: Jeffry C. Motz

sandstone palette, 13 cm in diameter, which is notched and incised on one side. Also evident on the decorated side are pecking scars where various pigments were ground. There is good evidence that such sandstone implements were being manufactured at this site.

submitted by Hunter Johnson artwork by Jeffrey C. Motz

Maritime Archaeology Law Passed

Alabama's statewide historic preservation education advocacy organization, and Alabama Preservation Alliance, assisted the Alabama Historical Commission in passing the Alabama Underwater Cultural Resource Act. The Act protects shipwrecks and other maritime cultural resources off Alabama's coast, in its bays, and its navigable rivers. Other aspects of the bill include a permitting process for underwater archaeology and serious fines for those that loot or destroy sites. The Alabama Preservation Alliance and the Alabama Historical Commission spoke before concerned committees on the bill's behalf and raised awareness of the issue statewide. The bill passed in the eleventh hour, literally. The bill's final passage came at 11:20 p.m. on the last day of the legislative session.

Executive Director Brandon Brazil said of the success, "The Alliance was glad to assist in passing this bill. While the APA has long had an interest in Alabama's built environment, we are interested in protecting all of Alabama's cultural resources, even those below ground - or in this case, below water." The passage of this bill was set against a very tumultuous legislative session no one will ever forget. "With the complicated nature of this session, everyone expected this little bill to die early on. I began calling it the 'little bill that could' as we cleared hurdle after hurdle. It's passage still amazes me; and it proves that preservation and archaeology do have friends in high places," Brazil said.

Brazil was quick to note that the APA had a lot of help in passing this bill. "The staff at the Historical Alabama Commission. archaeologist Greg Rhinehart, contributed time and talents in drafting and explaining the need for this bill. The bill's sponsors, Representative Turner and Senator Callahan shepherded this bill through the system. In fact, every single person over at the statehouse is to be thanked for this preservation." Maritime victory for The Archaeology Bill was the focal point of the Alabama Preservation Alliance's first-ever legislative agenda. The Alliance is proud of its ability to raise awareness of the need for this law as well as the ability to educate elected officials to the law's beneficial effects. The Alliance looks forward to working with the archaeological community in the future.

Jacksonville State University 1999 Field School

Jacksonville State University is holding its 1999 field schools on the Bains Gap Site, 1Ca625. This large multicomponent Aboriginal village lies at the base of Bains Gap (Choccolocco Mountain) along Choccolocco Creek near White Plains, Alabama. During the May Term, 27 JSU students participated in the excavation. Six Aboriginal features and over thirty postmolds uncovered. Of interest, the group uncovered what appears to be a portion of a Woodland circular structure. Plans are being made to expose the remaining portion of the structure during Summer I term. Along with our college students, two Youth Camps (JSU Continuing Ed Program) of children 10 to 16 years old will participate. Volunteers are also encouraged to participate.

JSU, Alabama Historical Commission and the Calhoun County Commissioners are beginning this month (June) to restore portions of the Civil war era Janney Iron Furnace near Ohatchee, Alabama. A stone mason will begin recreating the original mortar and refitting stone and brick work.

Test excavations to locate outbuildings and other historic iron furnace features will begin in the near future.

JSU and the Alabama Highway Department are beginning a Phase II excavation of a multicomponent Aboriginal village site, 1Ta571, recently located in the right-of-way portion of Alabama Highway 21 in northern Talladega County. Initial surface material indicate an Archaic, Woodland and Mississippian component to this cultural resource.

Again, any who wish to volunteer from the Summer I excavation on Bains Gap Site, 1Ca625, please contact either Curtis Hill or Harry Holstein at (256) 782-5656.

contributed by Harry Holstein

Expedition 21

The Alabama Museum of Natural History is currently conducting Museum Expedition 21. High school students, teachers, scientists and other adults will join together at Fort Morgan, beginning June 13 through July 10, to participate in one or more of the week-long sessions for an all outdoor experience.

"Campers have the rare opportunity to excavate one of the South's most important Civil War coastal fortifications," said Brian Rushing, Museum Expedition leader.

Participants work alongside scientists and historians as they reconstruct Fort Morgan's past and excavate a 19th century citadel.

"This large structure was destroyed during the Union siege of the fort following the Battle of Mobile Bay in 1864," added Rushing.

The Museum Expedition is divided into four one-week sessions beginning on Sunday and ending on the following Saturday morning.

The Alabama Museum of Natural History, in conjunction with the University of South Alabama, is working with the Alabama Historical Commission in its ongoing survey of this site.

For more information about Museum Expedition 21, call (205) 348-0534.

Alabama Museum of Natural History

20th Annual Mid-South Archaeological Conference

The Mid-South meeting was held June 12-13, 1999, at the Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area in Pinson, Tennessee. The theme of the conference, "Changing Paradigms and New Horizons in Mid-South Archaeology" was broad enough to allow a wide range of papers--a little something for everyone. The day-long conference included 16 papers with topics ranging from points/celts, axes/projectile shamanism, Woodland sites along the Tombigbee, excavation results from sites in Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Alabama; as well as the broader topics of the concept of cultural investigations, geophysical survey strategies, and an overview of the change in mound forms over the last 6,000 plus years. Of special interest to AAS members was a paper on recent excavations at the Florence Mound by Hunter Johnson, and Charles Hubbert's interesting discussion of early side-notched projectile points from Beartail Rockshelter in North Alabama. Saturday ended with a reception on the grounds and opportunities for further discussion of the day's papers. Sunday morning activities included a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the recent excavations at Pinson and the work of the field school from Middle Tennessee State University. Anyone planning to be traveling along Interstate 40 near Jackson, should schedule a little time for a sidetrip 10 miles south on Highway 45 to Pinson Mounds. It is well worth the trip.

Contributed by Judith Knight

Chapter News

Muscle Shoals Chapter

The chapter held its annual picnic at the Florence Indian Mound Museum on June 14 with 45 people in attendance. Special guests included staff members from the Dust Cave dig and Boy Scouts from Knoxville, Tennessee, who earlier in the day visited Dust Cave. Kandi Detwiler of the University of North Carolina and a Dust Cave staff member presented a program on Late Paleo Subsistence Strategies. The chapter is not scheduled to meet again until October 11.

Ancient Footprints

French archaeologists exploring a cave renowned for its ancient rock art believe they have discovered the oldest human footprints in Europe.

The scientists found four footprints, which they say appear to have been made by a young boy 25,000 to 27,000 years ago, inside the so-called Chauvet cave in the Ardeche region of southern France.

Archaeologists studying the site said Thursday there was no way to precisely date the prints in the damp clay, but that carbon datings nearby in the cave make their case "very strong."

The cave, discovered five years age by an amateur spelunker, contains the world's oldest reliably dated prehistoric wall paintings.

from the Columbus, Georgia, Ledger-Enquirer

Learn more about this article on the world wide web at:

http://www.iht.com:80/IHT/TODAY/THU/FPAGE/foot.2.html

Book Review

"Hernando de Soto Among the Apalachee, the Archaeology of the First Winter Encampment." By Charles R. Ewen and John H. Hann University of Florida Press. 1998.

This account of the de Soto camp found in downtown Tallahassee by archaeologist Calvin Jones is really a mystery thriller. It carries the reader through the trials and tribulations encountered by Jones and others when they try to save this site as the bulldozers are being unloaded. It was through a cooperative effort by archaeologists, historians, developers, land owners, state agencies, and private conservation organizations that the site was excavated, studied and most of it saved from the bulldozers.

Included is a translation of the four de Soto narratives (only the portions dealing with Apalachee) by John H. Hann. Hann seems unduly critical, with some justifications, of previous translators. He devotes three pages to the recent translations in the "De Soto Chronicles" published by the University of Alabama press in 1993. He is somewhat less critical of this translation. However, it comes across that the only "correct" translation is that by Hann. He is in error when he contributes the "De Soto Chronicles" as a project of the University of Alabama Press. In fact it was a project of the Alabama De Soto Commission chaired by Douglas Jones.

Over all, this paperback makes interesting reading for students of de Soto.

contributed by Amos J. Wright, Jr. Huntsville Chapter

Publications of Interest

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC) has released its twenty-fourth publication, The Very Worst Road: Travelers' Accounts of Crossing Alabama's Old Creek Indian Territory. This compilation by Jeffery C. Benton is a collection of sixteen ante-bellum accounts of traveling the Federal Road from Columbus, Georgia to Montgomery, Alabama.

These accounts, full of the interests and prejudices of their writers, provide insight into the frontier nature of early Alabama; European and Northern attitudes toward Southern whites and Native Americans; and the relationships of whites, Native Americans and African Americans. The authors covey the flavor of the Old Southwest with scholarly attention to detail, with ignorance and prejudice and, frequently, with humor.

The Very Worst Road serves as a convenient compilation for scholars and armchair historians, providing a fascinating experience for the general reader who, like ante-bellum readers of these travel accounts, can vicariously enjoy the physical hardships of the journeys and exotic landscape and peoples encountered, while reliving history.

With one exception, the travel books were first published within a few years of the events they describe. Although most of the books have been reprinted, the Alabama portions have not previously been extracted for separate publication. Spelling, punctuation, capitalization and grammar follow the original texts. A brief biographical note precedes each account.

The Very Worst Road is a soft cover 176-page book available for \$12.95 plus \$3 for shipping and handling. Direct orders to:

Historic Chattahoochee Commission P.O. Box 33 Eufaula, AL 36072-0033 or phone (334) 687-9755

Web Site of Interest

Visit a review of Christy Turner's new book, "Man Corn: Cannibalism and Violence in the Prehistoric American Southwest," on the internet at:

http://www.azstarnet.com/public/dnews/0528CV4.

submitted by Teresa Paglione

Correction

We wish to make the following corrections to the June 1999 edition of Stones and Bones:

Jerry Cauthen's web site address was incorrectly reported. It should have been:

http://users.digitalexp.com/~users/wjvd3/

Change of Address

If your address has changed, please fill out the attached Alabama Archaeological Society Membership Form. Simply check the change of address box in the top left corner of the form. Because they are mailed at a bulk rate, newsletters and journals will not be forwarded unless you have agreed in a forwarding request to pay the postage.

Reminder

The deadline for articles to be in the September/October 1999 issue of the Stones and Bones is August 15, 1999.

AAS Scholarships

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 scholarships must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee by January 31st. The Scholarship Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the recipients will be made by March 31st.

Minimum criteria for the grants are: 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 a 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 program, and 5) the student will be required to present a paper on his or her research project at the 1999 Winter meeting.

Research Grant

The Alabama Archaeological Society will grant an award of \$500.00 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Chairman by January 31st. The Archaeological Resources Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the recipient shall be made by March 31st. Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, 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 and, 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

The Alabama Archaeological Society will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500.00. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500.00. Proposals for the grants must be submitted to the Public Education Committee Chairman by January 31st. The Public Education Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the grant recipient (s) shall be made by March 31st.

Minimum criteria for the grants are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of he Alabama Archaeological Society, 2) the public education project must be located in the State of Alabama, 3) the project director or his or her representative will be required to give a presentation on the project at the Winter meeting.

Scholarship Committee Chair

Margaret Russell P.O. Box 353 Eufaula, AL 36702

Jean Allan

Research Committee Chair

P.O. Box 278
Double Springs, AL 35553
Public Education Committee

Linda Derry Old Cahawba 719 Tremont Street Selma, Alabama 36701

Donations

Donations can be made to the grant programs any time during the year. Donations to the Stephen B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund provide the financial support necessary for the Student Scholarship program, while donations to the Edward C. Mahan Fund are used to fund research grants. Funds for the Public Education grants are provided by the Public Education Special Projects Fund.

Please send your donations to:

AAS 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park Moundville, AL 35474

Available Issues of Journal of Alabama Archaeology Vol. 20-31, each issue (two issues per volume) \$3.50pp Vol. 32 & up, each issue (two issues per volume) \$6.00pp Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint \$7.50pp The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama Special Publication 2 \$6.00pp Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend Special Publication 3 \$8.00pp Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types \$15.00pp

Membership

The form below may be used for any or all of the following: applying for membership, payment of annual membership dues, change of address, or donations. Please be sure to print your name and address clearly, and check the appropriate boxes. All checks should be made payable to: Alabama Archaeological Society. Send the membership form and/or publication orders to:

Alabama Archaeological Society

Archaeological Services
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474

| The Alabama Archaeological Society Membership Form | |
|--|---|
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| ☐ Life (individual)\$240.00** | ☐ Sustaining (individual)\$20.00 |
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| ☐ Annual (individual)\$12.00 | ☐ Annual (institutional)\$25.00 |
| ☐ Annual Family (husband, wife, children under 18)\$15.00 | ☐ Associate (students under age 18)\$9.00 |
| ☐ Steven B. Wimberely Scholarship Fund* \$ | ☐ Edward C. Mahan Research Fund* \$ |
| ☐ Public Education Special Projects Fund* \$ | |
| *All donations are tax deductible. **Residents of foreign countries, including Canada and Mexico, please add: \$2.00 for Annual Individual, Institutional, or Associate; \$20.00 for Life; and \$25.00 for Joint Life | |





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