

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

Volume 37, Issue 5

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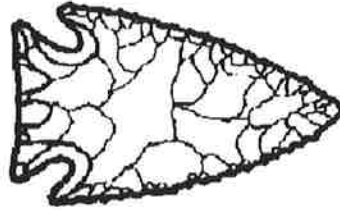
Editor:

McDonald Brooms

Associate Editors:

David Abbott

Brad Solomon



Editorial Office:

40 Eldridge Hall

Troy State University

Troy, Al 36082

☎ 334-670-3638

Fax # 334-670-3706

Alabama Archaeological Society Summer Meeting

The Alabama Archaeological Society's Summer Meeting will be held at the Wright Farm Site (1Ca18) in Alexandria in Calhoun County on Saturday, June 29th from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The meeting will entail a tour of the site as well as an opportunity to participate in the excavations.

The Wright Farm Site has produced over 120 features thus far and this summer promises to be just as fruitful for the Jacksonville State field school. The site was inhabited from 800 BC until AD 1100 with a large Middle Woodland occupation. However, 1Ca18 also has an emergent Mississippian component which offers a great opportunity to study this mysterious transitional period in Alabama's prehistory.

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be grilled on site at noon. We will picnic on the banks of Cane Creek, a good swimming hole so prepare to take a dip if you are so inclined. The Board of Directors will meet at the gazebo during lunch.

Please complete the registration form at the back of the newsletter and mail today!

Directions to Wright Farm Site:

If you are coming from the south, travel through Anniston on US 431. Go three or four miles past Alabama Highway 21 when you will see the sign that says "Pelham Range." Cross over a bridge and turn left on to Cane Creek Farm Road (if you pass the Spur station on your right, you have gone too far). Go past the dairy complex and turn left on to a dirt farm road just before you dead end at the Maple Grove Cemetery. This road goes to the site. Look for the bright orange porta-potty!

If you are coming from the north, go about 14 miles south of Gadsden on US431. Continue about 2 miles south of the intersection of Alabama Highway 21 and US 431 until you see the Grub Market on your right and the Spur station on your left. Turn right on to Cane Creek Farm Road just past the Grub Market. Go past the dairy complex and turn left on to a dirt farm road just before you dead end at the Maple Grove Cemetery. This road goes to the site. Look for the bright orange porta-potty!

AAS Summer Field Opportunities

This summer, Society members will have two opportunities to participate in archaeological excavations. Harry Holstein and the Jacksonville State field school has invited members of the Society to participate in excavations at the Wright Farm Site in Calhoun County and Boyce Driskell has extended an invitation to our members to work with his crew at Dust Cave near Florence. The scheduling of the two excavations allows members to take advantage of both opportunities.

The Wright Farm Site has produced 120 features thus far with most being Middle Woodland storage pits full of pottery and other artifacts. Carbon 14 dates indicate that the site was occupied from 800 BC to AD 1100. The excavations will begin in late May and extend until the first week of July. Participation is free but each participant is responsible for their own food and lodging. However, the site is just minutes away from numerous hotels and restaurants in north Anniston. For further information, contact Dr. Harry Holstein at 205-782-5656.

The University of Alabama will once again be excavating at Dust Cave near Florence, Alabama. The field season will begin in June and will run for ten weeks through August.

In previous years, field school students and staff excavated a series of test units as well as a 10m by 2m trench that ran from the cave's entrance to its back wall. The excavations revealed deep deposits consisting of thin lenses of reddened clay, ash, and charcoal, the bulk of which were brought in as people used the cave thousands of years ago. Five cultural components spanning from Paleo-Indian through the Middle Archaic Period have been identified in the site. These have been defined on the basis of Late Paleo-Indian, Early Archaic, and Middle Archaic projectile points found during excavations, which include Beaver Lake, Dalton, Early Side Notched ("Big Sandy"), Kirk Stemmed, Morrow Mountain, and Benton forms.

Other artifacts include a Late Paleo-Indian lithic assemblage on blades and blade-like flakes and a variety of bifaces, scrapers, and bone tools. Preservation in the site is excellent. We found an abundance of faunal materials, which are currently being analyzed. In addition, samples of charred plant remains, mainly nutshell, were also collected for identification.

Dust Cave appears to have been used intermittently through the course of approximately 5,500 years. We now have forty radiocarbon dates from the site. The earliest dates from the trench are 10,570 +/-60 (Beta-81603), 10,480 +/-60 (Beta-81599), and 10,470 +/-60 (Beta-81613), taken from basal deposits close to bedrock.

Excavations this summer will focus on Middle Archaic deposits adjacent to the entrance trench. Volunteers will be accepted during the field season (\$150 per week for food/camp fee). For further information contact:

Boyce Driskell: (205) 371-2266
Email: bdriskel@ualvm.ua.edu

Highlights of the Board of Directors Meeting

The Alabama Archaeological Society met on April 29th at the Ox restaurant in Birmingham. Highlights of the meeting included a report by the Journal editor and the chairs of the Education, Membership, Scholarship, and Archaeological Resources committees.

Journal editor Eugene Futato reported that the final draft of the *Alabama Prehistoric Ceramics* manuscript is in and currently being reviewed. Eugene reported that he anticipates publication within the year. Eugene also reported that the Society is about out of the *Alabama Point Type* book. A discussion followed regarding whether or not the Society should reprint the point type book. The consensus of the Board was that the point type book should be reprinted in limited quantity in order to meet the current demand for it but that the Society should consider publishing an

updated version to include new additions and more recent information regarding the points that are currently in the book, particularly new data on C-14 dates. It was decided that the Publications Committee should conduct a feasibility study regarding updating the existing point type book and report their findings at the next Board meeting.

Linda Derry, Education Committee chair, reported that she was involved with the *Intrigues of the Past* project, a federally sponsored program designed to teach teachers how to teach the principles of archaeology in their every day course work. The Board agreed to give Linda a grant in the amount of \$500.00 to assist her in her efforts to establish the *Intrigues of the Past* program in Alabama. McDonald Brooms reported that Troy State University received a grant from the Alabama Historical Commission to conduct teacher workshops this summer. The grant will provide teachers that attend the workshops with study guide materials, audio visual aides, and artifact kits designed to help teachers teach Alabama prehistory and Alabama archaeology. After some discussion, the Board agreed that the Society should support programs in public education whenever possible. In order to fund future grants, a *Public Education Special Projects Fund* was established (see related article in this issue of S&B).

Membership Committee chair McDonald Brooms reported that the Troy State chapter mailed out a Society membership form and letter explaining the goals of the Society and its publications to all the public libraries in the state (190) as well as to all the public and private high school libraries in the state (over 500). To date, this action has generated approximately 30 new memberships. The Board agreed that the Society should continue efforts to enlarge our membership. It was felt that an increased participation in public education would result in an increase in memberships.

McDonald Brooms, Scholarship Committee chair, reported to the Board that the Society has not given a scholarship in a number of years. Eugene Futato added that the original scholarship criteria stated that scholarships be given to a

graduate student in anthropology. Neither UAB nor the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa (the only two schools in the state with graduate programs) have requested scholarship funds from the Society in recent years. Since the scholarship has been inactive, members have not contributed. After discussion regarding the possibility of extending the scholarship offer to undergraduates as well as graduate-students-based upon research proposals and papers submitted for publication in the AAS Journal, the Board requested that the Scholarship Committee submit a proposal at the next Board meeting.

Tim Mistovich, chair of the Archaeological Resources Committee, reported that his committee was studying the stewardship programs used by other states in order to develop a workable program for Alabama. A stewardship program will entail Society members visiting and reporting on the condition of archaeological sites throughout the state (see related article in this issue of S&B). The Board agreed that a stewardship program for Alabama was badly needed and requested the Archaeological Resources Committee to submit a proposal at the next meeting.

What's Happening Around the State

The Alabama Museum of Natural History would like to invite Alabama Archaeological Society members to join them on Museum Expedition #18. This year the museum will conduct an archaeological dig at the Indian Hill site, near Camden in Wilcox County.

The Indian Hill site has been excavated by archaeologists over a period of decades. Auburn University professor, Dr. John Cottier, co-director of the current excavation, did research at the site during the mid-1960's. The site, which lies in the Alabama River floodplain and the Pine Barren Creek floodplain, is located in northern Wilcox County about ten miles from Camden.

Indian Hill, long believed to be a special place by the local people, was, in fact, occupied by

Native Americans at a number of different times. The higher ground was an ideal location for a hunting or fishing camp because the hilltop never floods. People from the Woodland and Mississippian cultures built dwellings there one to two thousand years ago, hunting game, fishing in the river, and gathering mollusks.

Archaeologists believe that the site was perhaps a permanent village, especially in mound building times. Archaeological evidence shows that residents traded with the Gulf Coast Indians. Researches say that a water bottle found at the site is also evidence of commerce with the ceremonial center located in Moundville, the largest population center in the Southeast. Exchange of ideas and goods was carried on both water and overland trails.

The Museum's Expedition will begin on Sunday, June 16, and extend through July 13. The program is broken into four one-week sessions, beginning on Sunday afternoon of each week and ending on the following Saturday morning. During this time individuals will be full participating members of the research team.

This program provides an excellent opportunity for high school students to develop projects for both science fairs and science paper contests.

Individual contributions to the program are \$225 for nonmembers and \$200 for members of the Alabama Natural History Society. Food, tents, and scientific equipment are provided. You only need to bring a bedroll and personal items.

For further information about summer Expedition #18, please call (205) 348-0534 or 348-2319 or write :

W. Brown Hawkins, Jr.
Expedition Leader
Expedition #18
University of Alabama Museums
Box 870340
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0340

The Alabama Museum of Natural History announces the opening of a new exhibition, *The Indians of Mound Island: Archaeology in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta*. This exhibition explores the prehistory and early history of some of the

first people who lived in Alabama. It features information and artifacts resulting from recent archaeological research at the Bottle Creek site, a large prehistoric Indian mound complex located in the Mobile-Tensaw delta. In addition to artifacts, the exhibition contains photographs illustrating the unique natural setting of Mound Island and the delta plus information about the Indians of the region and descriptions of the methods archaeologists use to study the past. Also, it features historical accounts and lore about the Bottle Creek site and the delta. *The Indians of Mound Island* presents an intriguing picture of southwestern Alabama's original inhabitants as they lived in the forbidding swamps of the Mobile-Tensaw delta.

The exhibition opened on April 25, 1996, on the University of Alabama campus. It is installed in the first-floor gallery of Smith Hall, home of the Alabama Museum of Natural History. The museum is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 to 4:30., and Saturday 1:00 to 4:00. Admission is free. For additional information about this exhibition, call Frances Tucker at (205) 348-2041.

Dedication of Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center

On July 12 dedication ceremonies for the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center will be held at Fort Mitchell County Park in Fort Mitchell, Alabama. This event will mark the culmination of eight years of work by a volunteer board of directors committed to interpreting the important role the Indians played in the development of the Chattahoochee Valley. Design plans for the Center include a sacred fire sculpture centered in a traditional Creek town square surrounded by four "beds" or arbors standing in the four cardinal directions. A full-size Indian stick ball field will be sited just south of the sculpture which sits on the crown of the hill overlooking the Chattahoochee River. In addition, the names of thousands of heads of Creek households who were removed from the area in the 1830's will be inscribed on plaques located near the sacred fire

sculpture. The Historic Chattahoochee Commission initiated work on this project in 1987.

Alabama Site Stewardship Program

The Archaeological Resources Committee-of the Alabama Archaeological Society is in the process of preparing a proposal for Alabama. Stewardship programs are designed to involve members of archaeological societies in the protection of sites considered important to the cultural heritage of the state. Over the past few months the committee has been involved in a fact-finding effort to obtain information on other state programs involving site stewardship programs. With this information now in hand, the members of the committee are currently attempting to integrate these into a similar program for the Society. Hopefully, by the summer meeting of the Society, we will have a draft document ready for review.

Any comments or suggestions from the members of the Society concerning site stewardship would be greatly appreciated. Please direct these to any of the committee members listed below or to Terry Lolley at:

Panamerican Consultants, Inc.

P.O. Box 40930

Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

or E-mail to: panam@itnet.net

Tim Mistovich

Chairman, Archaeological Resources
Committee

Archaeological Resources Committee:

Van King

3905 Brightstar Road

Horton, AL 35980

(205) 466-3201

Terry Lolley

P.O. Box 40903

Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

(205) 556-3096

Lee Luis

Alabama Department of Transportation
Design Bureau, Room T-205

1409 Coliseum Blvd.

Montgomery, AL 36130-3050

(334) 242-6225

Charles Moore

887 Riverview Drive

Florence, AL 35630

(205) 764-1000

Margaret Clayton Russell

P.O. Box 353

Eufala, AL 36072

(334) 687-8879

Board of Directors Establishes Public Education Special Projects Fund

At the Board of Directors meeting in Birmingham on April 29th, the Board voted to give Linda Derry a grant in the amount of \$500.00 to assist her in her efforts to conduct teacher workshops associated with the Society of American Archaeology's *Intrigues of the Past* program. By this action, the Board acknowledged the need for public education in archaeology and recognized the importance of funding additional public education projects in the future. In order to allow our Society to support and participate in public education projects, a *Public Education Special Projects Fund* has been created. If each member of the Society contributed just \$5.00 every year, the Society would have a budget exceeding \$2000.00 annually to fund public education projects. Please take a minute to check the box on the back page of this newsletter and send it with your contribution today! Mail your form and contribution to: Alabama Archaeological Society, 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, Alabama, 35474.

Adopt a Library

In September, 1995, the Troy State Chapter mailed an AAS membership form and letter explaining the goals of the AAS and the benefits of becoming an institutional member to all of the public libraries in the state (190). In January, 1996, the chapter mailed the same information to over 500 public and private high school libraries in Alabama. To date, approximately 30 public libraries have joined the Society and a few schools have followed suite. A follow up telephone call to several public libraries and high school librarians revealed that their budgets are set in the summer and our letters arrived to late for this year. A common response from the librarians at the public libraries was that they were very interested in receiving our publications and would budget it for next year. However, many public school librarians simply said that they did not have the funds this year and that their budgets would be even less next year. A sign of the times I guess, but it seems rather absurd that thousands of Alabama school children will never have the opportunity to know of Alabama's prehistoric past or have any exposure whatsoever to the fascination of archaeology. These students will be left out because their school libraries can not afford to spend a little over a dollar a month for the publications of the Alabama Archaeological Society, the leading source of information on Alabama archaeology. What can YOU do about it? Sponsor a local school with an institutional membership to the Society. Better yet, get your local chapter involved and sponsor a membership for every school library in your town and county. All you have to do is fill in the application at the back of this newsletter (institutional membership) and mail it in with your check. Do it ! I bet it will make you feel good. If the school you choose is already a member, the computer will detect this and your check will be returned to you. This will give you the opportunity to sponsor another school.

Teachers-N-Digs / Kids-N-Digs

The Troy State University Archaeological Research Center, has recently received a public education grant in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) from the Alabama Historical Commission for their "Teachers-N-Digs" / "Kids-N-Digs" proposal. The "Teachers-N-Digs" / "Kids-N-Digs" programs are new approaches designed to involve students in Alabama archaeology by getting teachers directly involved in and excited about archaeology. The "Teachers-N-Digs" project will provide an abundance of learning resources to interested teachers. A half day workshop will be held at the TSU Archaeological Research Center and a full day workshop will be held in the field on an archaeological site currently being excavated. These workshops will provide teachers with a background in Alabama archaeology as well as introduce them to methods of teaching archaeology and Alabama prehistory that are interesting and fun for both the teachers and students alike. The workshops will include:

- 1) Presentations from professional archaeologists,
- 2) Informational handouts to use in teaching archaeology and
- 3) Alabama Prehistory Activity / Study Guides for the classroom.

During the 1996 - '97 school year an audio visual presentation will be made available to teachers for classroom use. The presentation will either be a narrated slide show or VHS tape on Alabama Prehistory and Archaeology. In addition, classroom presentations will be given by members of the TSU Archaeological Research Center staff. Teachers can also reserve a hands on teaching kit of replica artifacts from Alabama's prehistoric past which will be made by TSU students. In addition, periodic events will be held for the enjoyment of students such as a coloring contest for the younger students, essay contests for older students, and announcements of field trips to archaeological sites to which teachers can take their classes.

A newsletter will also be provided to teachers for students in grades K- 12 that will include a question and answer section; puzzles, games, and other activities; essays and pictures submitted by students and facts on Alabama archaeology and prehistory

Topics for the newsletter will include articles on: Why is the past important ?, Indian Mounds, Looting (Archaeological Ethics), Indian pottery and tools, Archaeological techniques, Specific site news, What does architecture tell us about the past ?, Alabama Forts, Historical Archaeology in Alabama, What faunal and botanical remains tell us about the past, and Prehistoric Alabama Indian lifeways.

A packet providing information on starting "Junior Archaeological Societies" will be provided to interested teachers and schools upon request. The "Junior Archaeological Societies" will be patterned after and closely associated with the Alabama Archaeological Society.

The activities mentioned will promote the conservation of archaeological sites and the adherence to laws that apply to such locations. "Teachers-N-Digs" and "Kids-N-Digs" will give teachers and students the opportunity to participate in and do something about archaeology. In essence, the program will develop a better understanding of archaeology and Alabama's prehistoric past.

Calendar

September 1, 1996 is the deadline for submitting three clean double-spaced copies to SEAC Student Paper Competition. The submitter must insure that the same version of the paper reviewed for the competition is offered for presentation at the annual meeting. A cover letter should accompany the entry, containing a representation of the student's current status in a degree program. Only one paper submitted per applicant may be considered for the award. Mail the entry to Dr. Margaret Scarry, Chair, SEAC Student Paper Competition Committee, Department of Anthropology,

CB#3115 Alumni Building, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3115. The winner of the Competition and Book Prize will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. The winner may receive the Book Prize (valued at \$2800.00 in 1995) at the Annual Meeting. The Committee reserves the prerogative to reserve the award in the event of a shortage of competitive entries.

October 5, 1996- The Fall Meeting of the Society for Georgia Archaeology will be held at the West Georgia College campus in Carrollton, Georgia in the Townsend Performing Arts Center and will begin at 9:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time).

November 6-9, 1996-Southeastern Archaeological Conference will hold its annual meeting at the Sheraton Civic Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Room rates are \$85.00 for singles, doubles, triples, and quads; phone number is (205) 324-5000; fax (205)-307-3045. Anyone interested in offering papers, symposia, or poster sessions should contact:

Ian W. Brown, Program Chair
Alabama Museum of Natural History
University of Alabama
Box 870340
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0340.
Deadline for Proposals is **August 1, 1996.**

New members

Milton L. Brown
P.O. 8011
Mobile, AL 36689

**Alabama Archaeological Society
Summer Meeting
June 29, 1996
Wright Farm Site**

_____ I will attend the Summer Meeting and will attend the hot
dog/ hamburger lunch (bring your own drinks).

_____ I will attend the Summer Meeting but do not include me for
lunch.

Number of people in your party _____ X \$3.00 per person =
\$ _____
(The meeting is free; \$3.00 per person for lunch only)

Name(s) _____

**Please register before June 25th. Send a check made out to Harry
Holstein and mail to:**

**1111 Louise Drive
Jacksonville, AL
36265**

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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
- Special Publication 2 - *The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama*.....\$6.00pp
- Special Publication 3 - *Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend* ..\$8.00pp
- Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types*.....\$15.00pp
- Lively, Long, Josselyn - *Pebble Tool Paper*..... \$3.00pp
- Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology* (Juvenile).....\$9.00pp

MEMBERSHIP

The coupon below may be 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.

TO: THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

- ☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES
- ☐ REPORTING OF NEW ADDRESS

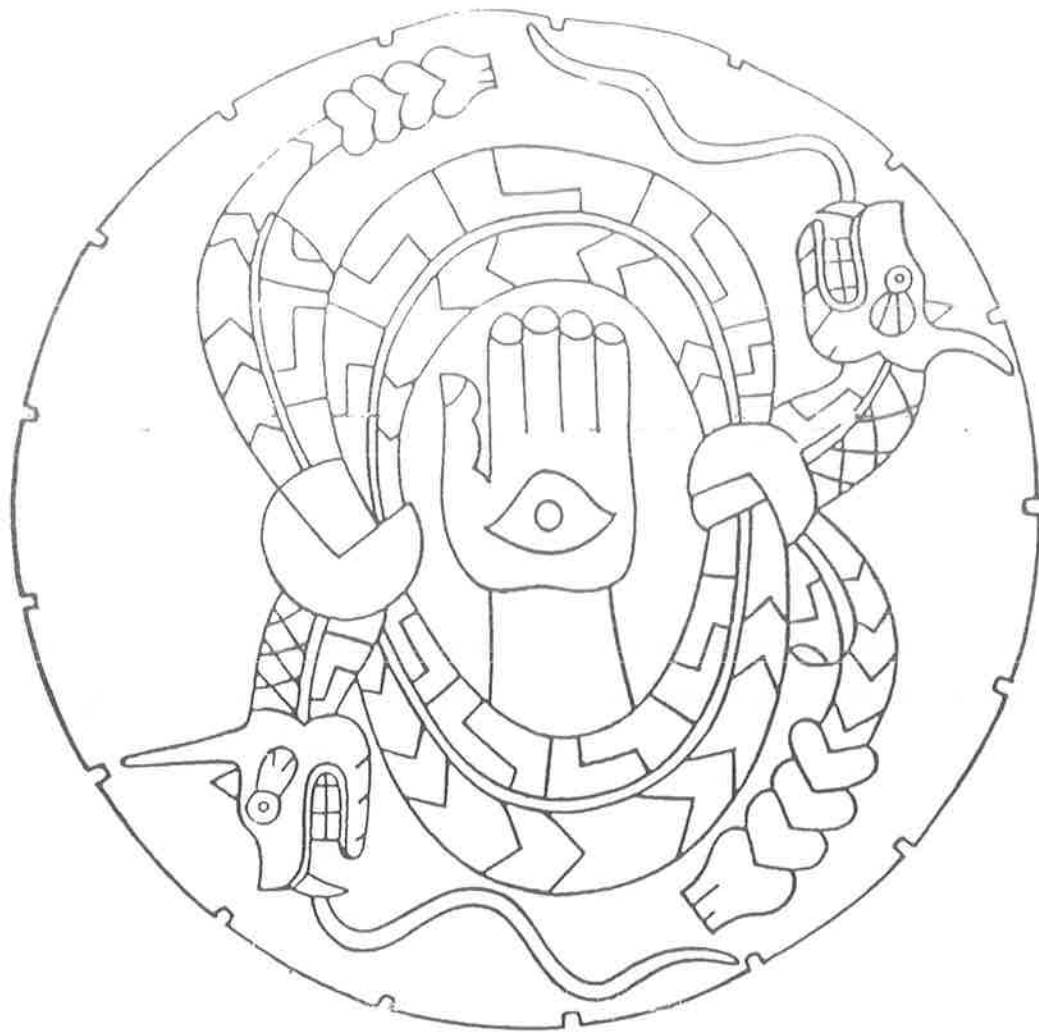
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- ☐ Annual, Family (husband, wife, and children under age 18).....\$15.00 ☐ *Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund..\$ _____
- ☐ Associate (Students under age 18)..\$9.00 ☐ *Edward C. Mahan Research Fund.....\$ _____
- *Contributions are tax deductible ☐ Public Education Special Projects Fund\$ _____

Checks Should Be Made Payable To: **Alabama Archaeological Society**

Send Checks for
Memberships and
Publications to:
**Alabama Archaeological Society
Archaeological Services
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474**



Alabama Archaeological Society

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