



# Stones & Bones

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Alabama  
Archaeological  
Society

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## Old World Lithic Technologies in the New World

Past articles in this newsletter have referred to the Levallois or Levallois-like tool producing stone tool technologies. H. Blaine Ensor has reported on the Capps Technology in southeastern Alabama; (Stones & Bones—Nov/Dec 2004). Other articles that have dealt with this technology and finds along the Southeastern Gulf Coast Plain have been “Poe’s Ponderings on the Paleolithic” (Stones & Bones—Nov/Dec 2003) and “Recognizing the Early Paleolithic in the Southeast; Poe; (Stones & Bones March/April 2005).

These were all surface finds but they do infer Pre-Clovis age by the very nature of the technology itself. These are very similar if not exactly like unifacial stone tool technologies of the Old World.

It is notable that similar artifacts have been excavated at the Meadowcroft Rock shelter a multi-component site located southwest of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the early 1970’s. Indeed, Levallois blades were reported in stratified deposits with radiocarbon dates in excess of 19,000 years B.P.

Levalloisian rhomboidal flake “knives” designated as “Mungai knives” appear to have been retouched bilaterally at the Meadowcroft Rock shelter. So, as I have stressed in previous articles on this subject, we in Alabama and adjoining regions should be on alert for these types of tools. They are easy to recognize as unifacial (one sided) flakes often long enough to be called blades if desired.

Field surveys should begin to produce these artifacts and as one anthropologist has stated: “Surface collections are commonly regarded as of no consequence because they cannot be dated, whereas they often can be of real importance for plotting the distribution of various levels of technological development even if their dates are unknown.” (Alex D. Krieger 1964).

Joel Gunn, Ph.D, who worked on at Meadowcroft Rock shelter has confirmed the Meadowcroft tools described above and illustrated in this article as Levallois blades by definition. (Personal communication 2005)

It should be noted that these triangular “Points” are mentioned because they are more easily recognized as Levallois products but represent a minor component of the end products of this unique technology. *Article and drawing (on next page) submitted by Michael C. Poe.*

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DORSAL VIEW



MEADOWCROFT ROCKSHELTER



S.E. GULF COASTAL PLAIN



MEADOWCROFT ROCKSHELTER



VENTRAL VIEW



(Meadowcroft artifacts drawn after J. Gunn)

## Cottonfield Meditations 10

Think about this...if all of the resources that were needed by Paleo Indian people were distributed absolutely evenly across the landscape, it would not have mattered where they lived or where they put their encampments. One place would have been as good as another. This is not the way things are. Environments are "patchy". In the forest there are places that favor the growth of different kinds of trees. There are places that favor the growth of cedar, pine, oak, hickory and chestnut. There is even evidence that prior to disturbance of the land by Man, there were places that were natural prairie. In order to harvest the resources needed, Paleo Indian people had to be at the appropriate place at the appropriate time. If you wanted a handful of blackberries you had to go where blackberries grow, and you had to be there when the blackberries were ripe.

There is an ecological term that is interesting...it is the concept of "niche". The term niche describes how a species interacts with its ecosystem. Now...a "niche-point" is a place on the landscape where a given species can be reliably predicted to occur. In Alabama, deer hunters plant food plots that contain grasses and grains that attract deer during winter months. When they do that they create "niche-points" for deer. An example of a natural niche-point for deer would be a mineral lick, where naturally occurring minerals reach the surface of the land. Paleo Indian people were territorial. Aren't we all? Paleo Indian bands moved around in territories they were familiar with, and thought of as "home". They moved in such a way that they could collect the resources they needed as the resources became available. For this reason their movements around the landscape had a seasonal aspect. They would be at certain places, or in certain localities during certain times of the year.

I believe that Paleo Indian people put their encampments in places where they would be near resources that were abundant and predictable. They made camp near niche-points for species they were interested in acquiring. There were a number of species that could have been a part of their adaptation. I must say that I do not believe that Paleo Indian men hunted Mastodon or mammoth on a day-to-day basis. (If they had, I suspect, it would have been Paleo Indians who became extinct. Sticking spears into elephants is an activity that is guaranteed to occasion many "accidents". Hmmmm....could that be why population levels remained low through the Paleo Indian Period?....population levels began to rise only after the mammoth was gone?)

We know that Paleo Indian encampments were sometimes on terraces along river floodplains. We know that they were sometimes away from rivers, and were along the margins of swamps, sinks, and natural ponds. We know that they were sometimes on terraces along the banks of tributary streams. *Submitted by Charles Hubbert.*

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## The Alabama Paleo-Indian Point Survey (APPS)

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The following is a continuation of featured APPS points submitted by Howard King.

### APPS Artifact #598

**Type:** Beaverlake projectile point

**Found:** Morgan County, Alabama

**Material:** Fort Payne chert

**Measurements:**

72 mm. long (2 13/16 inches)

24 mm. wide (15/16 inches)

7 mm. thick (1/4+ inch)



**APPS Artifact #588**

**Type:** proximal end, Cumberland projectile point

**Found:** Colbert County, Alabama

**Material:** Fort Payne chert

**Description:** Fluted on both faces, each extending the full length through the ancient break. It exhibits excellent secondary pressure flaking along the edges.

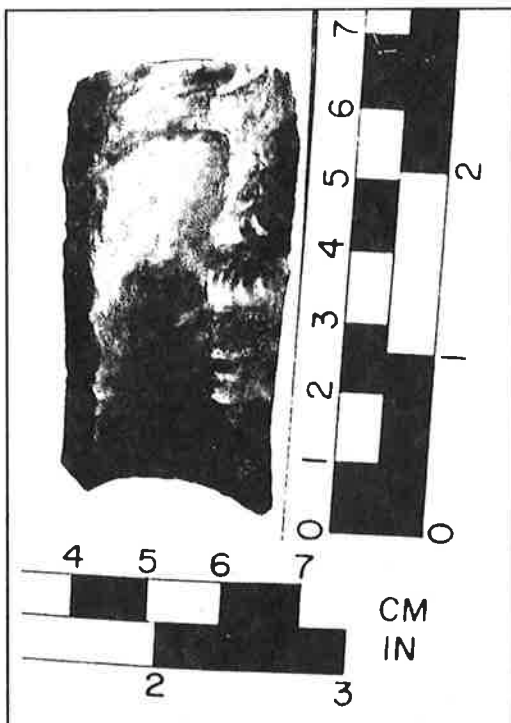
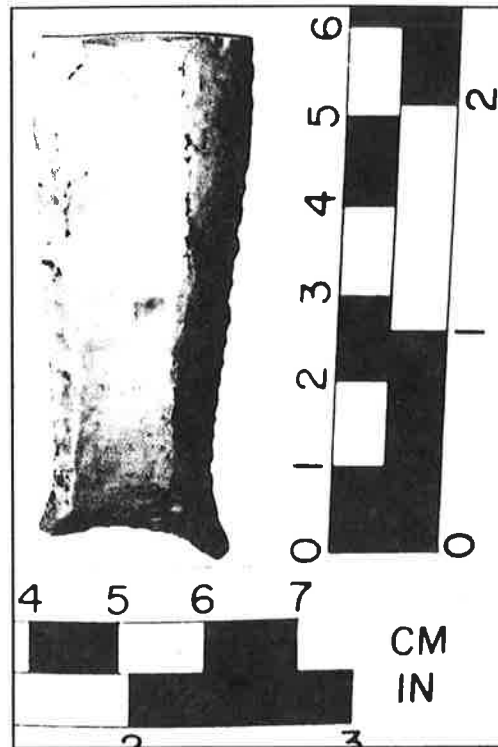
**Measurements:**

60 mm. long (2 3/8 inches)

\*estimated length of 110 mm. (4 3/8 inches)

24 mm. wide (15/16 inches)

6 mm. thick (1/4 inch)



**APPS Artifact #244**

**Type:** proximal end, Clovis projectile point

**Found:** Cullman County, Alabama

**Material:** Fort Payne chert

**Description:** Fluted on both faces extending through the ancient break. It exhibits very fine secondary pressure flaking along the edges.

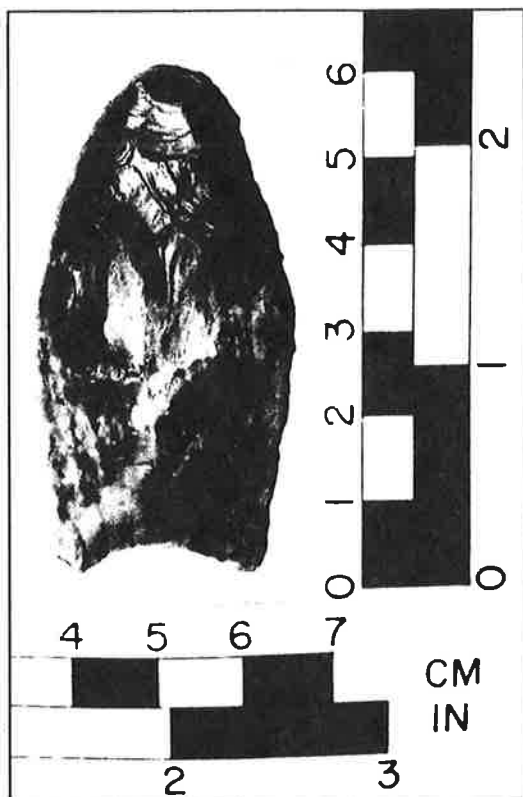
**Measurements:**

63 mm. long (2 1/2 inches)

\*estimated length of 95 mm. (3 3/4 inches)

31 mm. wide (1 1/4 inches)

7 mm. thick (1/4+ inch)



#### APPS Artifact #475

**Type:** Clovis projectile point

**Found:** Jackson County, Alabama

**Material:** Bangor chert

**Description:** Fluted on both faces. It exhibits a small impact flute on its distal end.

#### Measurements:

59 mm. long (2 5/16 inches)

28 mm. wide (1 1/8 inches)

9 mm. thick (3/8 inch)

#### APPS Artifact #493

**Type:** Quad projectile point

**Found:** Jackson County, Alabama

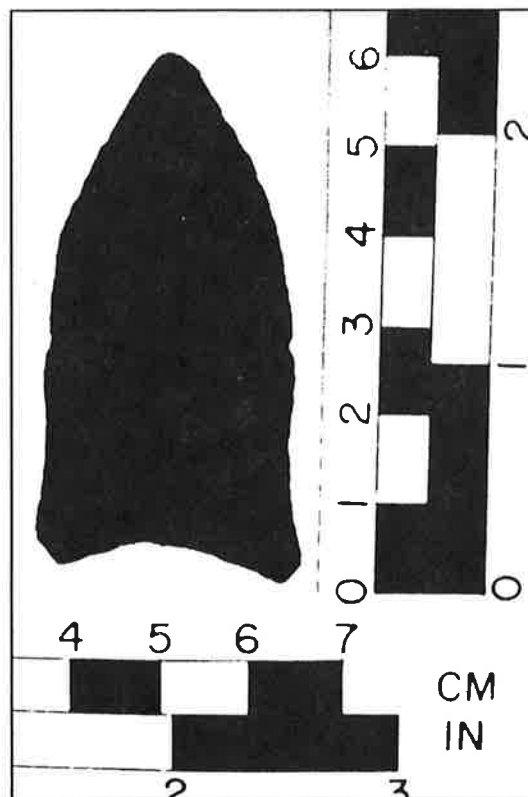
**Material:** Bangor chert

#### Measurements:

59 mm. long (2 5/16 inches)

27 mm. wide (1 1/16 inches)

7 mm. thick (1/4+ inch)



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## Chapter News

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### East Alabama Chapter

The East Alabama Chapter met on October 11th at 7:00 pm in Auburn. The speaker for the meeting was Gary Mullen from the Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology, Auburn University. His topic of discussion was: "Poverty Point, A Late Archaic Mound Site in Louisiana". Poverty Point is a unique Late Archaic site located in northwestern Louisiana on the western bank of Bayou Macon overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain. Dating to the period 700 B.C. to 1700 A.D., it served as an important center for extensive trade throughout a 700-square-mile area. The site is characterized by an unusual complex of earthen moundworks forming semicircular, concentric arcs encompassing some 400 acres. Equally unusual are a variety of ceramic artifacts, including large numbers of baked-clay figurines, that have captivated the attention of archaeologists since the site was first investigated in the late 1800's.

### Southwest Chapter

The Southwest Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society resumed its monthly meetings after our summer break. For the September meeting, our speaker was University of South Alabama archaeologist Bonnie Gums who talked about the 2004 excavations at the Bayou St. John site (1BA21), a Weeden Island shell midden in Orange Beach. In August, USA's Center for Archaeological Studies conducted a shovel test survey on the property east of the 2004 dig. Southwest Chapter members Steve Belk, Traci Cunningham, Jimmy Fox, Dennis Guy, Patrick Johnson, Tom McCaskey, Jackie McConaha, and Gerry Ollhoft, help excavate 119 shovel tests, 94 of which contained pottery, and over 2,100 sherds were recovered, indicating that a richer part of the site exists on this tract and is now threatened by development.

At our June meeting, Walter Davis, the local authority on the Clarke County salt works was our guest. He showed us the Alabama Public Television documentary about the salt works that he assisted with and starred in, and shared his extensive knowledge about the prehistory and history of this area of Clarke County. Walter also brought water from one of the salt springs and showed us how to boil it to make salt. We first met Walter last year when many Southwest Chapter members assisted University of Alabama PhD candidate Ashley Dumas at her excavations at two prehistoric sites at the salt works at Oven Bluff.

Southwest Chapter President Louis Scott, Walter Davis, and Ashley Dumas at the 2004 Oven Bluff excavations.



Ten members and friends of the Southwest Chapter spent Saturday, June 4th in Historic Pensacola Village for its annual summer open house. They viewed the University of West Florida field school excavations behind the Wentworth museum in the colonial part of town. They also visited the downtown museums and historical houses and Christ Church, all of which were open free of charge. It was a very hot day, but the trip was great.

*Submitted by Bonnie Gums*

#### **Troy University Chapter**

The Troy University chapter of the AAS held its November meeting on the 2nd. Their first item of business was to elect officers for this year. The results are as follows:

Shae Allison—President

Kate Fairfield—Vice President

Kinga T. Ferguson—Secretary/Treasurer

The club also planned its annual Thanksgiving dinner, which was held on the 21st of November from 11:30 to 1:30 at Eldridge Hall, room 40. The members each brought a food item for the meal.

On the 4th of November, the chapter met at the Archaeological Research Center to travel to Fort Toulouse to enjoy the Fall French Rendezvous. *Submitted by Kinga T. Ferguson*

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## **New Website**

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Mr. David Allison recently launched a new website, Southeastern Archaeology News at: [www.southeasternarchaeology.com](http://www.southeasternarchaeology.com). Mr. Allison welcomes any comments or criticisms. He hopes to have paper information, excavation news, photos and other related information on the site. *Submitted by David Allison.*

<p><b>The deadline for submissions for the March/April issue of Stones &amp; Bones is February 1st.</b></p>
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## Publications

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### **Archaeology of the Middle Green River Region, Kentucky**

**Edited by William H. Marquardt and Patty Jo Watson**

The shell-bearing sites of the middle Green River region in western Kentucky have played a defining role in how archaeologists conceptualize Middle Holocene fisher-hunter-gatherers. This book presents new interpretations of data gathered over a 30-year period about the Native American people who lived along the middle Green River from about 4500 to 2000 B.C.

Interdisciplinary by design, the Shell Mound Archaeological Project directed by William Marquardt and Patty Jo Watson focused first on subsistence, particularly the emergence of indigenous agriculture in eastern North America. As more was learned, the research focus broadened to include not only archaeobotany and zooarchaeology, but also geoarchaeology, peoarchaeology, archaemalacology, paleodemography, dental biology, and other specialties. Results of all these investigations are included, as well as comparative studies of stone, bone, and shell artifacts. Accounts of how archaeologists have revised their interpretations of the Green River sites over time provide insight into the history of archaeology in the Mid-South and Mid-west. In the final chapter, the co-editors synthesize their findings and suggest research directions for the future.

Richly illustrated with over 240 photos and drawings, this volume will serve as an invaluable reference work for all those interested in eastern United States archaeology.

**William H. Marquardt** is curator in archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History and director of the University of Florida Institute of Archaeology and Paleoenvironmental Studies. **Patty Jo Watson** is Edward Mallinckrodt Distinguished University Professor Emerita of Anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis.

Price: Cloth \$65.00

ISBN: 1-881448-14-2

Distributed by: University Press of Florida



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## Publications

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### **Interacting with the Dead**

#### **Perspectives on Mortuary Archaeology for the New Millennium**

**Edited by Gordon F.M. Rakita, Jane E. Buikstra, Lane A. Beck and Sloan R. Williams**

This collection explores the behavioral and social facets of funerary, mortuary, and burial rites in both past and present societies. By utilizing data from around the world and combining recent and ongoing concerns in anthropology, it takes the study of mortuary archaeology to a new and significant level of interdisciplinary research.

Drawing inspiration from ethnohistory, ethnography, bioarchaeology, and sociocultural anthropology, the authors focus on themes of gender, ancestorhood, ritual violence, individual agency, space and placement, and extended and secondary mortuary ceremonialism. They also expand the interdisciplinary focus of mortuary practices and reassess previous anthropological theories. No previously published work on the archaeology of mortuary remains presents such a range of examples of ritual practices through time and around the globe.

Because of its wide scope and interdisciplinary approach, *Interacting with the Dead* will be indispensable not only to archaeologists and anthropologists but also across the social sciences and humanities and to all who study cross-cultural rituals.

**Gordon F. M. Rakita**, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, is coeditor of *Style and Function: Conceptual Issues in Evolutionary Archaeology*.

**Jane E. Buikstra**, Leslie Spier Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, is the author or editor of several books, including *The Bioarchaeology of Tuberculosis* (UPF).

**Lane A. Beck**, associate curator at the Arizona State Museum and associate professor of anthropology at the University of Arizona, is the editor of *Regional Approaches to Mortuary Analysis*.

**Sloan R. Williams**, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Illinois, has written extensively on the human genetics of ancient populations.

Price: Cloth \$75.00

ISBN: 0-8130-2856-6

Distributed by: University Press of Florida

**To order either of these books, log on to the University Press website:  
[www.upf.com](http://www.upf.com) or call 1-800-226-3822.**

### Available Publications

#### Available Issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 21-31, each issue ( <i>two issues per volume</i> ).....	\$3.50 pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue ( <i>two issues per volume</i> ).....	\$6.50 pp
Vol. 40 (Dust Cave), special issue.....	\$18.00 pp
Vol. 44 (Alabama Ceramics), special issue.....	18.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology)	
(Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 reprint).....	\$7.50 pp
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NEWSLETTER**

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