

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

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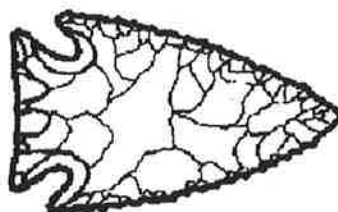
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Chapter News

Birmingham Chapter

On March 21, the Birmingham Chapter took a trip to the Alabama State Natural History Museum and Archives Building in Montgomery. The trip was arranged by Joe Amari and included a showing of archived Indian artifacts that were not on display to the general public. Most of the artifacts were collected near Montgomery during the early and middle parts of this century by a few prominent collectors. The tour guide was Bob Cason, a curator with the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Bill Fowler, President

Troy State Chapter

The Troy State Chapter held its monthly meeting on April 9th. We discussed a possible trip to the southwest as part of a university class for summer quarter, welcomed a few new members, and planned something special for our May meeting. Members are asked to bring a Native American dish. Anyone is invited to join us in this feast of "exotic foods".

Catherine Crowell, President

What's Happening Around the State

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Services (OAS) conducted archaeological testing at Site 1Au268 located along Autauga Creek near Prattville, Alabama. Site 1Au268 is located primarily along a levee edge above the confluence of Autauga Creek and an unnamed stream. Our testing has shown that intact cultural deposits lie at least 60cm below the surface in some areas. 1Au268 is a large multi-component site that measures 400m northwest-southeast and 200m east-west. The Woodland period is well represented at Site 1Au268, primarily containing materials related to the Callo way (AD 175-600) and Autauga (AD 800-1100) phases.

Site 1Au268 potentially represents a village that was occupied at times during the Woodland period. Some of the excavated artifact types are indicative of a site that was occupied either permanently or semi-permanently during the Callo way and Autauga phases. Artifacts such as mica, greenstone, and soapstone suggest that this site was used for more than a temporary hunting and processing camp. These materials are associated

with craft production, which generally takes place at established settlements.

Site 1Au268 would be an excellent site for additional testing by someone interested in the Calhoun and Autauga phases of the Woodland period, as it has the potential to contribute to our knowledge of settlement patterns during this period. The overall condition of the site is very good. Given the presence of well-stratified and well-preserved archaeological deposits, Site 1Au268 has demonstrated the potential for contributing to regional research problems concerning prehistoric lifeways in the Central Alabama River region.

Submitted by
Hunter Johnson

Donations

Recent Donators:

Wimberly, Mahan, and Education Funds

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Birmingham, AL 35243

Troy State University
Troy, AL 36082

Thank you for your contributions!!

New Members

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Springville, AL 35146

Jerry D. Ernsberger Jr.
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Edward S. Smith
Birmingham, AL 35213

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Moundville, AL 35474

Old Cahawba Festival

Have you or your child found a broken piece of pottery or an old clay marble while digging in your garden? Or picked up an arrowhead while walking across an open field? Have you wondered about the person who left it there centuries ago? If so, indulge your curiosity at the Old Cahawba Festival, Saturday, May 9th. Professional archaeologists from across the state will be traveling to this site near Selma to identify your finds and help you determine just how long ago your artifact was made.

But you certainly don't have to bring an artifact to enjoy the festival. The event features an entire day of family fun from 9:00 in the morning until 5:00 that afternoon. Children's games, dancers, good food, and music will keep the kids busy while you browse among 100 quality art and craft vendors. Or just relax, enjoy the beautiful setting, and listen to a day's worth of entertainment. The festival band will be Kickin' Kountry and recording artist Kevin Derryberry is expected to debut his inspirational song, "Ole Cahawba". A beautiful baby contest at 11:00 a.m. will surely be a highlight of this year's festival. All this, and more, can be enjoyed for only \$3.00 for an entire carload of people.

The archaeology fair will last from 10 am to 2 pm. In addition to artifact identification there will be hands-on exhibits. Visitors will find information on summer digs, archaeological societies, archaeology books, lesson plans for teachers, a merit badge for boy scouts, and a brand new stewardship program. This new program provides certificates and statewide recognition for landowners who protect their archaeological sites from looting and destruction. Best of all, visitor's will learn about one of Alabama's greatest historical

mysteries and how they might be able to help solve it. Park manager Linda Derry said that if a person wants to find a fun and constructive way to get involved in Alabama archaeology, he or she will find it at Old Cahawba on May 9th.

The archaeology fair is new, but the Old Cahawba Festival has a track record of 19 fun-filled years. Located at the junction of the Cahaba and Alabama Rivers, some 15 miles west of Selma, Cahawba was a large American Indian Village in the early 16th century, Alabama's capital city from 1820-1826, and a prison for captured Union soldiers from 1864-1865. Today Cahawba is a ghost town, an important archaeological site, and a place of picturesque ruins. The Alabama Historical Commission is developing an interpretive park at this location and all proceeds from the festival help to preserve and protect Cahawba's historical and archaeological record. For more information about the May 9th Festival contact Evelyn Cox at the Old Cahawba Welcome Center (334) 872-8058.

Submitted by Linda Derry

Calendar

Cherokee Trust

Lone Eagle's Legacy PowWow

April 24-26, 1998

Alexander City, AL

(334) 541-2505

Anniston Museum of Natural History

Southeastern Indian Cultural Festival

May 7-9, 1998

Anniston, AL

(205) 237-6766

Cherokee Tribe of Northeast Alabama

Sequoyah Caverns Spring Indian Festival

May 14-16, 1998

Ider, AL

(205) 681-0080

Oakville Indian Museum

Lawrence County Schools 11th Annual Indian Festival

May 17-19, 1998

(205) 905-2494

MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians

MOWA Choctaw Annual Pow Wow

June 20-21, 1998

McIntosh, AL

(334) 894-6578

Peruvian Artifacts on Display

The largest exhibit of Peruvian artifacts ever to travel to the United States is opening Thursday at The Pyramid in Memphis, Tenn.

"Ancestors of the Incas: The Lost Civilizations of Peru," which runs through Sept. 16, is the seventh exhibition presented by WONDERS: The Memphis International Cultural Series.

The exhibit spans 3,000 years of Peruvian history and features gold and silver objects, intriguing mummies, richly decorated ceramics, delicate feather and cotton textiles, and human skulls with evidence of successful brain surgery.

Most of the more than 300 objects in the exhibit have been recovered from ancient tombs. They represent the rituals, artistry, warfare, and daily lifestyles of 30 different cultures in Peru from as early as 1000 BC.

The artifacts will be displayed in a 30,000-square-foot area divided into small galleries. The overall architecture of the galleries is designed to show the colors, decorative patterns, and architecture of ancient Peru.

Taken from the Montgomery Advertiser, April 14, 1998.

Archaeologists Uncover Oldest Synagogue

Israeli archeologists have found the world's oldest synagogue in the ruins of a 2,000-year-old palace outside the West Bank town of Jericho.

The synagogue, which dates from 50-70 BC, was uncovered by archaeologists in the ruins of a Maccabean winter palace, Ehud Netzer, a professor of archaeology at Hebrew University, said Sunday.

Netzer said worshippers would have sat on a bench running along pillars in the synagogue's basilica-shaped hall. The Torah, the Jewish holy book, was the most likely read in the middle of the room.

In the adjoining room, archaeologists found a U-shaped bench that Netzer said was likely used for ceremonial meals.

The synagogue was not lavish but its floors may have been carpeted, he said.

Netzer said the synagogue was important not only because of its age and direct connection with the Macabean monarchy, but gave scholars "a clearer picture of the nature and form of synagogues that existed in the land of Israel prior to the destruction of the Temple" in A.D. 70.

The palace where the synagogue stands is adjacent to Wadi, then a Jewish town near Jericho that was a winter resort for the wealthy and year round home to farmers. Today it is in the part of the West Bank that remains under full Israeli control.

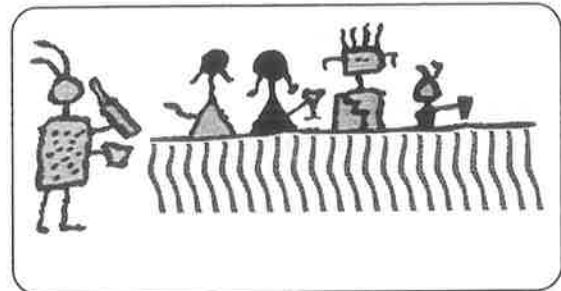
The synagogue and the palace were destroyed in an earthquake in 31 B.C. and King Herod later built another palace over the ruins.

Until the discovery of the Wadi Kelt synagogue in the last couple of months, the oldest known synagogue was in Gamle, in the Golan Heights. The Gamle synagogue was built about 50 years later than the Wadi Kelt synagogue, Netzer said.

Written by Gwen Ackerman of the Associated Press.



Before April 15th....



After April 15th!!!!

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

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| Vol. 32 & up, each issue (two issues per volume)..... | \$6.00pp |
| <i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) | |
| Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint..... | \$7.50pp |
| Special Publication 2 - <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama</i> | |
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| Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i> | |
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Alabama State Artifact
"The Rattlesnake Disk"



Moundville, Alabama

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