

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

Volume 42, Issue 4

Editor:

McDonald Brooms

Associate Editors:

Kathy Gilchrist

Samantha Wolfe



July/August 2000

Editorial Office:

40 Eldridge Hall

Troy State University

Troy, AL 36082

☎ 334-670-3638

Fax # 334-670-3706

Email: anthro@trojan.troyst.edu

Summer Meeting 2000

The 2000 Summer Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society was held on Saturday, June 17 at Moundville Archaeological Park. There were at least 76 people in attendance, which may be a recent record.

Call for Papers for the AAS Winter Meeting

The winter meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society will be held at Auburn University, Auburn, AL, on Saturday, December 16. Both professional and amateur/avocational archaeologists are encouraged to make presentations. Provisions also will be made for presentations by this year's recipients of AAS grants. If you would like to present a paper, please contact the program coordinator Gary Mullen (Auburn, AL) at Telephone (334) 844-2553, Fax (334) 844-5005, or Email mullegr@auburn.edu as early as possible to ensure your placement on the program. Further details about the meeting,

registration, associated events, and overnight accommodations in the Auburn area will be provided in subsequent issues of the *Stones & Bones*.

Places in Peril Program: AHC

Do you know of a special, irreplaceable historic building or site in your area that is highly threatened by demolition or neglect? This year marks the seventh edition of the highly successful Places in Peril program, a joint cooperative effort between the Alabama Preservation Alliance and the Alabama Historical Commission. The goals of the program are to highlight Alabama's most endangered historic sites and raise the awareness of community members and the general public. Please call Patrick McIntyre at (334) 230-2671 to nominate a property to the list. Nominations from 2000 have expired, but Places in Peril is an annual program, so start early for next year.

Visit the AAS Web Page:

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



This year's summer meeting was held at the site of Moundville on June 17th.
 Photograph by Margaret Russell, Eufaula AL.



AAS members listen intently to their guide as they tour Moundville.
 Photograph by Margaret Russell, Eufaula AL.



Dr. Jim Knight and Van King discuss the Moundville site during the Summer Meeting.
 Photograph by Margaret Russell, Eufaula AL.



AAS members take a break while touring Moundville.
 Photograph by Margaret Russell, Eufaula AL.

Hickory Ground is Nominated to Alabama's Places in Peril

The site of Hickory Ground, or Ocheopofau, is located in downtown Wetumpka on the banks of the Coosa River. It was the last capitol (1802-1814) of the National Council of the Creek in the Creek's original homeland. In the late 1790's, the residents of the Little Talasi abandoned their famed town and moved to Ocheopofau. The town progressed in size and importance in the Creek Nation's affairs until Ifa hadsho, Chief of the Creeks, transferred the National Council of the Creek Nation from Tuckabatchi to Ocheopofau in the summer of 1802. After the Treaty of Fort Jackson in 1814, the Indians were allowed to resettle Ocheopofau is one of the few Creek Indian towns known to have been inhabited as late as 1832 and one of the few remaining such sites which has not been extensively disturbed. Today, dense archaeological deposits are known to exist at the site, which includes human burials. The site is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The AHC bought the land 20 years ago in trust for the Creek Indians through a grant from a Federal Grant pool in order to reunite the Creek Indians with land of their ancestors. The AHC put a 20 year historic easement on the property, which expires in July 2000. In 1987, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians drew up plans for a bingo parlor which was halted by the AHC. With the easement expiring in two months, the Poarch plan on building a Harrah's casino, parking garage and hotel on the site beginning in 2001. Construction of the casino complex would destroy the historic integrity of the land and would require full excavation of most of the cultural components of Hickory Ground. Development plans have been opposed by the AHC, the City of Wetumpka, the Indian Affairs Commission, members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, various state

Indian Tribes, and federally-recognized Indian tribes. Considering this significant site's impending destruction, Hickory Ground has been added to the Year 2000 list of Places in Peril.

submitted by: Daphne Battle, AHC

Martin Petroglyph Display

An orphan cultural artifact that may be the most unusual of its kind finally went on permanent display on April 16th in its native county.

The Tennessee Valley Art Center unveiled its specially designed exhibit room for a 3,000-pound sandstone boulder whose surface is covered with carvings.

The stone carvings of feet and a serpent may be more than 1,000 years old, predating by more than 500 years the arrival of European explorers.

The odyssey of the petroglyph's arrival at the art center began a decade ago.

The gigantic stone was nestled under a bluff shelter in a wooded area south of Barton. The bluff shelter is located on property that was owned by the late Robert B. Martin, Jr., who in 1990 gave the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources permission to remove the petroglyph to protect it from vandals and thieves who had chipped away some of the footprints and carved their initials in the stone.

The University of Alabama Museums took possession of the stone, but it was broken in half during removal from the Martin property. Controversy over where the petroglyph would be displayed erupted immediately.

James Martin, who was conservation commissioner at that time, wanted to take the stone to Montgomery and display it at the department's headquarters. But Colbert and Lauderdale County residents objected, lodging complaints with state officials. They said the artifact should stay as close to its original home as possible to preserve its significance.

The problem with keeping the stone in the Shoals area was that there was no suitable place to display it. As a result, it was buried in a corner of Joe Wheeler State Park for protection and remained there for seven years.

In 1993, the Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation endorsed the Tennessee Valley Art Center as the best location for the petroglyph. The art center was just launching a fund-raising campaign to expand the center, and plans for a special area for the stone were developed.

Mary Settle Cooney, director of the art center, said almost \$100,000 was spent to create an appropriate display for the petroglyph. The bluff shelter was recreated and two stones that were near the petroglyph that contain large holes are included. Special lighting and a voice-over round out the display, she said.

Money for the display and the expansion of the center-\$500,000-came from the state and from private and corporate contributions, Cooney said. Cooney credited many people for the petroglyph's permanent home in Tuscumbia, but she singled out Roger Creekmore as the person who had the vision to make the art center its home.

Creekmore, a Colbert Countian of Cherokee Indian descent, was a member of the state Indian Affairs Commission at the time and was outspoken about preserving and protecting the artifact.

"I would never have believed this 10 years ago," Creekmore said. "When they buried it at Joe Wheeler State Park, I thought that would be the end."

"Now, people can look over it and wonder over it," he continued. "It's important that it be preserved in its indigenous area. It would have lost something of its historical significance had it been moved to Montgomery." Archaeologists say the Martin petroglyph is unique because of its portrayal of footprints of various sizes. Some of the footprints have six toes and others have only four toes. The serpent weaves near several of the footprints.

Creekmore said the artist probably used a stone to etch the symbols and a sandstone to

smooth the edges. The display does not attempt to interpret the meanings of the images.

Taken from "Saved in Stone," written by Robert Palmer, *Times Daily*, 8 April 2000.

Submitted by Teresa Paglione.

Tell Halif Talk

Eugene M. Futato, M.A., Senior Archaeologist, University of Alabama Museums, delivered a talk "Bronze Age and Iron Age Settlements at Tell Halif, Israel" on May 11, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. The talk was held in the Union Grove Gallery on the UAH campus and was sponsored by the North Alabama Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA).

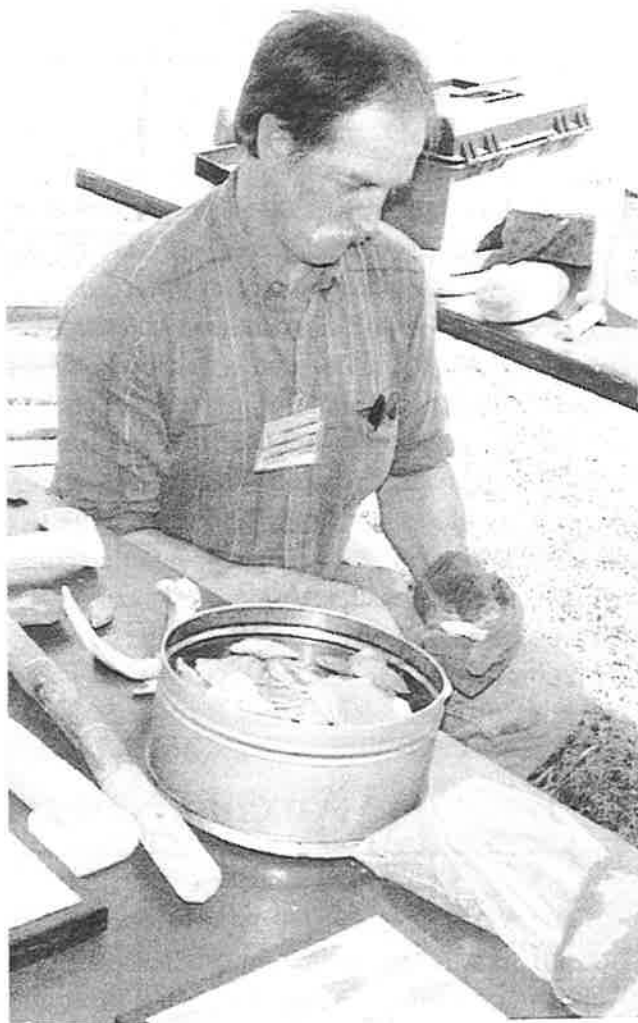
Tell Halif is in the Judea Hills overlooking the coastal plain. Mr. Futato discussed the changing occupation of the site from the Copper Age to the Israelite Period and he brought a sample of actual artifacts from the site. Home-made baklava and hommos were served as refreshments.

Submitted by Dr. Lillian Joyce.

Redstone Arsenal News

The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal, Madison County, Alabama celebrated Earth Day with a program of educational activities pertaining to natural and cultural resources. Redstone Arsenal is comprised of 38,650 acres (15,641 hectares) in north central Alabama, bordering Huntsville. Over 400 archaeological sites, historic and prehistoric, have been recorded there. At the arsenal's Earth Day celebration, Jeff Thomson exhibited artifacts he has made that represent the time periods of the arsenal's prehistoric sites. Thomson explained the process of projectile point production, beginning with finding chert in the natural environment, and he demonstrated the process of knapping a projectile point. Thomson's participation was

sponsored by his employer, Alexander Archaeological Consultants.



Archaeologist Jeff Thomson demonstrating flint knapping process.

Photograph by Jim Bowne, courtesy of the Redstone Rocket newspaper.

Bev Curry, Staff Archaeologist at Redstone Arsenal, gave a technical presentation to The Alabama Society of Professional Engineers on May 9 in Huntsville. Her presentation focused on Federal Section 106 of requirements for archaeological survey and the standards and guidelines of the Alabama State Historic Preservation Office. Curry also discussed other

issues that engineering firms must cope with such as time allowance for the completion of cultural resources clearance, gaining private land owner permission, and the Alabama legislation (Act No. 93-905) regarding memorials of the dead and desecration of burials.

Articles submitted by Beverly Curry.

Speaker's Bureau

Each issue of the Stones & Bones includes a biographical sketch of one speaker in order that the Chapters will be knowledgeable of their individual research interests and archaeological experiences. Mr. Carey B. Oakley is profiled in this issue.

Carey Oakley is a native of Alabama, hailing from Walker County which is located just west of Birmingham. He has always had an interest in archaeology, which began when he was a small boy picking up Indian artifacts on the family farm. At age sixteen, he had an opportunity to participate in an archaeological dig with University of Alabama college students. From that point on, his career goals were set. Mr. Oakley earned his undergraduate degree in anthropology from the University of Tennessee. After graduating from UT, Mr. Oakley attended the University of Alabama where he earned his Master's Degree in 1971. He began working in 1972 for the University of Alabama where he established what is known today as the University of Alabama Office of Archaeological Services, a major archaeological research program.

For over thirty years, Mr. Oakley has personally been involved in archaeological research that ranges from investigating ten thousand-year-old Paleo-Indian sites to recent cemetery relocation projects. The archaeological areas he has explored include the southeastern United States, the Caribbean, and Mexico.

Mr. Oakley is married, has three grown sons, and five "canine kids."

Calendar

The South Central Historical Archaeology Conference

September 15-17, 2000

SCHAC is hosted by the Geography and Anthropology Department of LSU and Coastal Environments, Inc. The conference will be held at Pleasant Hall, Louisiana State University Campus, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Presentations: Friday afternoon, September 15 & Saturday, September 16. Students and professionals are encouraged to share their research. All papers are welcome. You may choose a 10 minute or a 20 minute presentation format.

SCHACitecture Workshop: Sunday, September 17. There will be morning presentations given by Sid Gray, Dr. Jay Edwards, and Elizabeth Moore. Afternoon field trips are planned to visit South Louisiana's vernacular architecture from the 18th and 19th centuries.

For more information, contact Sara Hahn at shahn@coastalenv.com.

Chapter News

The April meeting of the **Cullman Chapter** of the AAS consisted of a presentation by Mr. Doug Hill of Cleveland, Alabama on Crump's Cave. Crump's Cave is a famous Copena burial cave located near Blackburn Fork, a tributary of the Locust Fork River. Crump's Cave was discovered in the mid-nineteenth century by local hunters. In the very dry cave were found the intact wooden, canoe-like coffins containing the skeletal remains and artifacts of Copena aged burials. Most of the artifacts were scattered among the local settlers but a sample were saved and are now preserved in the Smithsonian including some of the wooden artifacts. Mr. Hill, who has visited the

cave, told of the cave being mined for Salt Peter during the Civil War. His presentation was much appreciated by all.

The May meeting consisted of a program where members brought in and discussed 'heart breaker' artifacts. Members told of the thrill of finding what was thought to be a prized artifact and the disappointment of discovering that it was only a fragment. Also, the summer field trip to the Oakville Indian Mounds and Museum was rescheduled to the 3rd Saturday in July. The Cullman Chapter dismissed for the summer and will reconvene regular meetings in September.

In lieu of a June chapter meeting, all members and guests of the **East Alabama Chapter** were encouraged to attend the summer meeting of the AAS.

At the April meeting of the **Huntsville Chapter**, Van King gave a presentation on Flint Knapping. His presentation included: how and where the native inhabitants of Alabama obtained their cherts and other knappable stone, the materials used for making flint knapping tools, and a demonstration of Flint Knapping. His presentation was concluded with the fluting of a Clovis Preform.

Also in April, Mr. Scott Meeks of the University of Alabama's Division of Archaeology presented a program on the Whitesburg Bridge Site (1Ma10). The site is characterized by a major Late Archaic and Middle Woodland Component. Mr. Meeks said the Alabama Highway Department plans to replace one the older bridges which spans the Tennessee River. The site was first excavated between 1939 and 1940 with W.P.A. labor. Mr. Meeks spoke of the recent archaeological testing that he and his colleagues have been conducting at the site and of their plans to conduct extensive excavations this summer before bridge construction begins. His presentation was very exciting, especially for those members who hope to participate in the upcoming excavations.

May's program was given by Mr. Larry Beane of the National Parks Service. Mr. Beane

presented a much enjoyed program on the Little River Canyon and Russell Cave. His presentation was augmented by several slides from both Russell Cave and Little River Canyon. After his very informative presentation most of the members were eager to revisit these important and beautiful areas located in Jackson and DeKalb Counties. The Huntsville Chapter elected not to meet during the summer months but to take advantage of the Alabama Archaeological Society's summer meeting in June and the field trip in July to the Oakville Indian Mounds and Museum. Regular meetings will reconvene in September.

Myths, Legends and Science: Origins of Native Americans

On a bright sunny day in 1492, Christopher Columbus and his crew laid eyes on the beautiful Caribbean island coastline and to their amazement saw individuals staring back at them as they stood on their three tiny ships. These strange inhabitants of the Caribbean Islands would later become known as Indians or Native Americans, but the questions they caused in the Spanish explorers minds would begin at that historic point and continue unabated up into the 21st Century. Who are those people? Where did they come from? How did they get here? Why are they so different from us?

Scores of Europeans from Spain, France, England and other countries left Europe to explore and discover the natural and cultural wonders of the New World. They discovered an immense landscape full of spectacular scenery, bountiful flora and fauna, rich natural resources and populated with people whose lifeways ranged from simple hunting and gathering societies to incredible state level civilizations with metropolitan cities that rivaled any of their European counterparts.

During the 19th and 20th Centuries, archaeology developed as a science. Science is

based in part on careful observations, empirical data and rigorous testing. With the addition of new techniques such as radiocarbon dating, genetic studies, computer modeling and ground penetrating radar, researchers are in a better position to understand past and present Indian cultures.

Physical anthropologists have demonstrated what many early American founders such as Thomas Jefferson had known since the 18th Century; that the American Indians are physically/genetically closer to Asiatic populations than to European or African ones. Physical characteristics such as the epicanthic eye fold, shovel shaped incisor teeth, blood types and proteins are common in Asian and Indian populations while they occur infrequently or are absent in European and African groups. Sophisticated biochemical evidence from DNA studies of Asians compared with skeletal remains of ancient North Americans and living Indian populations has cemented a biological connection between Indians and Asians.

These findings do not discount the possibility of an occasional European or African visitor wandering into the Americas in Pre-Columbian times. Any contact they would have made with indigenous peoples does not appear to have been memorable or left much of an African/European technological, physical or cultural stamp on Pre-Columbian American cultures.

The 1996 discovery in Washington State of the 9,300 year old skeleton of "Kennewick Man" set off an origin controversy between Native Americans, anthropologists, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers that still continues today. Partially sticking out of the riverbank, the skeleton was fragmented and scattered along the shore. An Archaic time period (9500-9000 years ago) willow-leaf-shaped Cascade projectile point was embedded in the pelvis of the skeleton. Several noted forensic and physical anthropologists have examined the skull, detecting distinctive Caucasoid traits such as a long, narrow braincase, a narrow face and a slightly projecting upper jaw. However, these "white" characteristics are not always exclusively

found within white populations, they can be found in some south-Asian groups such as the Japanese Ainu. The Ainu contain a blend of European and Japanese physical traits such as wavy hair, thick beards and, occasionally, blue eyes. The controversy arises that if Kennewick Man is of Caucasoid ancestry and in North America by 9,300 years ago, Europeans, not Asians, may be the first Americans.

Kennewick ancestry may still be a moot point. Modern Indians have genetic links to Asiatic populations, but they are not Asians. Today's Indians are the result of over 12,000 years of physical and cultural evolution. Their uniqueness can be easily demonstrated by comparing obvious physical and cultural differences between Indian tribes inhabiting geographical areas such as Canada and tribes inhabiting the tropical forests of South America. Kennewick, if he was, indeed, of ancient European descent, would have represented European populations much different physically and culturally from those who occupy that portion of the world today. The real issue is when did *Homo sapien sapiens* as a species enter the New World.

The earliest well documented evidence for early man's entry into the New World is the 15,000-10,000 year old fluted point Clovis Cultures, called by archaeologists Paleo-Indians. During the end of the last Ice Age, Paleo-Indians roamed the Americas from Canada to the tip of South America. Hunting large prehistoric elephants, bison and other strange beasts, Paleo-Indians left behind, embedded in the bones of the animals, beautifully crafted fluted spearpoints. Paleo-Indian flaked-stone expert, Bruce Bradley has suggested European Paleolithic (circa 30,000 B.C.) Solutrean spearpoints are quite similar visually and technologically to Paleo-Indian points, implying that the unique Paleo stone technology may have evolved out of the earlier European Solutrean spearpoints. If this is the case, then Paleo fluted tool makers may have in fact been of European heritage rather than Asian. Kennewick Man may be a Caucasoid descendent from the Ice Age hunters.

Paleo-Indian specialist Dennis Stanford of the Smithsonian has suggested that the first Paleo populations may have been of European descent and later migrations of Asian origin wiped out the earlier European groups. Whether they are Asian, European, or a blend of both, these ingenious groups of hunters and gatherers managed to cross thousands of miles of uncharted desolate landscape, hunt Ice Age mega fauna and populate North and South America.

Taken from "Myths, Legends and Science: Origins of Native Americans." First appearing in the *Anniston Star* in April, 2000. Written and submitted by Harry O. Holstein.

Book Review

"Crucible of War"

by Fred Anderson

Alfred A. Knopf, publisher

New York, 2000. 862 pages

A very comprehensive and detailed account of the French and Indian War, 1754-1760, called the Seven Years War in Europe. The author is associate professor of history at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

The French were determined to gain control of the Ohio Valley and build a string of forts from Quebec down the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys to New Orleans, consequently controlling the lucrative fur trade over the entire western part of North America. Whitehall in London had different ideas and prodded the Governor of Virginia to reconnoiter the Ohio Valley. Major George Washington was sent in April 1754 to search out the French. He found them at Jumonville's Glen. With his Indian allies, Washington silently approached the French encampment, and when the smoke cleared, 13 Frenchmen were dead and 21 were made prisoner. Washington lost one man while the Indians scalped the dead. The war had begun.

The French soon built a fort in the forks of the Ohio, present day Pittsburgh, and were entrenched

there for several years, confounding the British by successfully using their Indian allies, which were most of the tribes west of the Appalachians.

The opening of war caused a much stronger reaction in London than it did among the colonies, who were somewhat indifferent. Consequently, Whitehall had difficulty getting the colonies to raise troops or appropriate funds. This was the unsuccessful framework of the war in the early years of 1754-1757. The English, in their frustration, finally decided to take a different approach to enlisting the colonies to help. They would pay them, an expense eventually reaching 200,000 pounds a year. With this boost to the economy, the colonies started raising troops to supplement the thousands of redcoats and the momentum of the war changed, with successes coming in Canada and the Ohio Valley.

Meanwhile, war had broken out in Europe. England and Germany allied against France, Austria, and, near the end of the war, Spain. The war in Europe became stalemated and cost the English a great sum of money each year. They were paying the Germans to carry on the war, though English troops never landed on the mainland. Instead, England used their troops in North America, the Caribbean, and at home against a perceived invasion from France.

The war came to a close in 1760 with the French being swept from North America, never to return. The war also gave a young militia officer, George Washington, the experience and knowledge of the British military that would be invaluable some 15 years later.

Unknown at the time to the colonies, the French and Indian War was a prelude to the Revolutionary War a few years later. The colonies had procrastinated and stood up to Whitehall and, as a result, were reluctantly treated more as allies than as subjects.

The book also covers the interim between the end of the war and 1766. The Stamp Act and Quartering Act of 1765 caused a considerable unrest in the colonies led by Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia. There were riots, raiding of British Arms depots, and forcing of the Stamp Act regulators to resign or flee in some cases.

Whitehall was not ready to confront the colonies with a gun at this time and moved to pacify them by repealing the offensive acts. The British were faltering because of a depleted treasury approaching bankruptcy and a huge debt of 13,000,000 pounds caused by the war.

The author did his homework and makes this a most interesting account of the war and well worth reading if you are interested in the colonial period. A couple of criticisms may be in order however. The author in describing an event or place fails sometimes to tell us exactly where the events took place leaving the reader unable to relate to today's geography. Also, as do many historians, he gives little notice to the war in the South, especially south of Virginia, which he rarely mentions.

Written and submitted by: Amos J. Wright, Jr.
Huntsville Chapter

Lunch at the Tortoise & Hare

Taken from "Paleolithic Fast Food," written by Jonathan Shaw, HARVARD Magazine, May-June 1999, pp. 18-19.

"Fast food" meant just the opposite to the cave-dwelling humans in north coastal Israel 50,000 years ago. Shaw discusses the work of professors of prehistoric archaeology, MacCurdy and Ofer-Bar-Yosef, who have been excavating three caves in Israel (Kebara, Qafzeh, and Hayonim) since 1982. As a group, the caves yield dates covering a time period from 200,000 to 10,000 B.P. The zooarchaeologist working with the team, Mary Stiner of the University of Arizona, analyzed shells and bones found in the trash heaps. According to Shaw, the group has made two important discoveries.

The first is: At the lower depths, slow-moving prey such as tortoises and shellfish constituted the greatest portion of the human diet. It was not until the Upper Paleolithic period (44,000 to 19,000) that the consumption of fast-moving prey such as hares and birds begins to steadily increase in the

diet. It is speculated that because capturing hares and birds requires the use of snares or other technological innovations, humans did not hunt them until slow prey became less abundant and hard to find. The decline in slow moving creatures resulting from a proliferation of the hunting/gathering population and competition for natural resources could have resulted in the crossing of a threshold that led to the development of the snare.

The second is: The average size of the slow-moving prey was much smaller in more recent strata. A one-tortoise lunch 150,000 years ago would have been 50 percent larger than one 20,000 years ago.

Shaw states that it was found that for 100,000 years human hunting did not noticeably diminish either the size or the relative abundance of slow prey at the cave sites. Tortoise populations plummet when 7 percent have been eaten, due to a threshold effect. However, half the animal remains from the early Middle Paleolithic (200,000 to 100,000 years ago) found at Haymonim were tortoise. The significant drop in tortoise size at Kebara did not occur until 30,000 years ago. Shaw concludes that the comparatively recent reductions in both size and relative abundance of slow prey in prehistoric diets serve to strengthen the hypothesis that early human populations in this area were still small and mobile.

Shaw points out that these findings support estimates, made by geneticists based on analysis of DNA from living populations around the world, that indicate prehistoric populations were small. He states that genetics-based data suggest that fewer than 10,000 people--not 100,000 people, as generally cited, inhabited sub-Saharan Africa 100,000 to 200,000 years ago, and that as few as 500 people, by one estimate, departed their homeland to colonize Eurasia. (Researchers seeking further information can contact Ofer-Bar-Yosef at: obaryos@fas.harvard.edu)

Article summary written and submitted by: Beverly Curry, Staff Archaeologist, Redstone Arsenal.

Oldest Stone Axes in China Discovered

Meteorite strike may have played role in tool creation, researchers say.

Eight hundred thousand years ago, a meteorite blasted into what is now Vietnam, burning forests, killing off wildlife and probably badly frightening the pre-humans who lived there. But eventually, the hominids came back, perhaps having survived the explosion in limestone caves or perhaps wandering in from neighboring regions decades later. They found a freshly exposed outcropping of rock, perfect for making stone tools. Archaeologists say they have found those tools--the oldest stone axes ever discovered in China.

Researchers say the tools show that the Asian representatives of Homo Erectus were every bit as advanced as their African cousins and suggest that this species of early humans shared a global culture.

"The early humans in China, in eastern Asia, were not part of some cultural backwater," Rick Potts of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, who helped lead the study, said in a telephone interview.

What has been found is a rich collection of stone tools. Potts and colleagues report in the journal *Science*, that they have dated the tools and the tektites to 803,000 years ago.

"What we also found to our surprise at the time was that at the layer of these tektites there were also microscopic pieces of plant fragments, of burned wood, of charcoal," Potts said.

"What that indicates was that there was a lot of burned wood. I think it is evidence of fairly massive deforestation."

It is known that Homo erectus lived in the area at the time. "They would have been greatly affected by this," Potts said. "It's a darn shame we don't have fossil bones from this area."

But his team is digging in nearby limestone caves to see if they can find any.

Potts thinks the evidence so far tells a good tale, however. "The fire would have actually really destroyed the forest, and that would have exposed these large outcrops of stone," he said. "Large, large areas of exposed cobbles would have been available. Under those conditions that local and regional populations moved back in and made stone tools."

Potts specializes in studying how environmental change helped force the ancestors of humans to adapt and change. He thinks the blast zone is evidence of how curious and innovative early humans turned disaster to their advantage.

"There has been this long, over 50 years, viewpoint that because we don't find stone tools in eastern Asia like what we find in Africa, that there must have been great deep cultural isolation and behavioral differences," Potts said. "This suggests that this is not the case."

Taken from:

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/377002.asp>

Old Stones & Bones Newsletters Are Available

Missing a copy of the Stones & Bones? Contact the Alabama Archaeological Society at 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, Alabama 35474. Hurry! Supplies are limited. Listed below are the years and issues that are available.

1956 - April-Dec.
1957 - Jan-July
1958 - Jan, May, Sept, Dec
1959 - Mar-May, July, Oct, Dec
1960 - Jan
1961 - Mar, July, Aug-Dec
1962-63 - Complete
1964 - Jan-Nov
1965 - Complete
1966 - Jan, June-Dec

1967-1975 - Complete
1976 - Mar-Dec
1977-1992 - Complete
1993 - Feb, Mar, June-Dec
1994-1999 - Complete

Price:

1-12 issues - \$1.50
13-24 issues - \$2.75
25-36 issues - \$4.00
37-48 issues - \$5.75
49-60 issues - \$6.50
61+ issues - add \$1.00 per 12 to \$6.50

Postage:

1-4 issues - \$1.12
5-12 issues - \$1.53
13-24 issues - \$2.53
25-36 issues - \$3.53
37-48 issues - \$4.53
49-60 issues - \$5.53
61+ issues - add \$1.00 per 12 to \$5.53

Donations

The following people donated funds to each of the **Edward C. Mahan Fund**, **Wimberley Scholarship Fund**, and the **Public Education Fund**:

Loren D. Bredeson, Tuscaloosa AL
Ben Carpenter Jr., Sheffield AL

Thank you for your contribution!!!

Donations can be made to the grant programs any time during the year. For more information about the grant programs see page 14.

Please send your donations to:

AAS
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, Alabama 35474

2000 Renewals

Doris H. Allegri, Fairhope AL
David Allison, Tucker GA
Donald B. Ball, Louisville KY
Clayton T. Bell III, Dothan AL
Butch Beste, Troy AL
M/M Harold S. Biggs, Talladega AL
Loren D. Bredeson, Tuscaloosa AL
Drew Buchner, Memphis TN
Carroll B. Butler, Shalimar FL
Richard N. Cain, Jasper AL
Robert A. & Brenda J. Camp, Hanceville AL
Ben Carpenter Jr., Sheffield AL
Phil Carr & Amy Young, Mobile AL
Jerry & Lanelle Cauthen, Brandon MS
Janett Chalker, Wetumpka AL
William A. Childress, New York NY
Eloise Clark, Helena AL
William H. Dodson, Birmingham AL
M/M Charles J. Ebert Jr., Foley AL
H. Blaine Ensor, Memphis TN
Phylis Floyd, Opelika AL
Charles L. Forrester, Ashford AL
Matthew D. Gage, Moundville AL
Indiana University, Bloomington IN
Roland O. Glover, Killen AL
William B. Greshem Jr., Birmingham AL
Gene M. Hamby Jr., Sheffield AL
Historic Chattahoochee Comm., Eufaula AL
Harry O. Holstein, Jacksonville AL
Horseshoe Bend, Dadeville AL
Lewis R. Humphries, Ohatchee AL
Rodney L. Johnson & Family, Gadsden AL
Douglas E. Jones, Tuscaloosa AL
Gene R. & Wanda C. Kearley, Dothan AL
Vernon J. Knight Sr., Birmingham AL
Terry Lolley, Northport AL
Thomas O. Maher, Montgomery AL
Mark J. McDougal, Laceys Spring AL
Scott Meeks, Moundville AL
Katherine H. McGhee-Snow, Tuscaloosa AL
Jeff & Cathy Meyer, Moundville AL
M/M James H. Miller, Florence AL
Tim S. Mistovich, Mary Esther FL

Wallace C. Morey, Hoover AL
Gary R. Mullen, Auburn AL
Tom A. Mullendore, Anniston AL
M/M Donald E. Noel, Boaz AL
Bibs Page, Watervliet MI
Ernest G. Pate, Fairfield AL
Nancy Rohr, Huntsville AL
M/M David C. Russell, Mobile AL
Elizabeth A. Ryba, Starkville MS
Frank T. Schnell, Columbus GA
George Shorter, Mobile AL
Lesly & Margaret Southard, Rogersville AL
M/M William E. Stewart, Huntsville AL
Tennessee Valley Authority, Norris TN
Christine Wimberly, Panama City Beach FL

2001 Renewals

Steve Lamb, Geneva AL

New Members

Douglas S. Hill, Cleveland AL
J.D. Weeks, Gardendale AL
Roger D. Young, Trafford AL
Thomas Foster, University Park PA
Kent Reilly, Austin TX
Jennifer L. Myer, Tuscaloosa AL
Jennifer Keeling, Tuscaloosa AL
Rodney Blake Young, Hayden AL
Robert D. Marley, Geneva AL
Patty Crow, Birmingham AL
Rob Langford, Hoover AL
Susie & Larry Binder, Mountain Brook AL
Eleanor Cunningham, Eufaula AL
Ronald Tomberlin, Montgomery AL
Geraldine A. Clower, Russellville AL
Mildred Gray, Homewood AL
James M. Bailey, Milton FL
Dr. Katherine H. Braund, Dadeville AL
Greg & Kim Ward, Tampa FL

Speaker's Bureau

The following individuals have volunteered to present programs on a variety of topics at Chapter meetings. Please contact them directly. It is expected that more will be announced in future newsletters.

Carey Oakley
13075 Moundville Archaeology Park
Moundville, AL 35474
Office 205-371-2266
Fax 205-371-2494
COakley@bama.ua.edu
General archaeological topics

Paul D. Jackson
924 26th Avenue East
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
Office 205-556-3096
Fax 205-556-1144
Panam@dbtech.net
Cultural resource management, Late
Woodland, prehistory in NW Alabama

Julie Lyons
511 Dixie Drive
Selma, AL 36701
Home 334-872-9874
Fax 334-872-2244
GLyons@compuserve.com
Old Cahawba, historic archaeology, public
archaeology, Project Archaeology education
programs, Central Alabama, Mississippian/
Protohistoric periods

Linda Derry
719 Tremont Street
Selma, AL 36701
Office 334-875-2529
Fax 334-875-2529
Cahawba@zebra.com
Site of Cahawba, historical archaeology

Eugene Futato
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474
Office 205-371-2266
Fax 205-371-2494
Efutato@bama.ua.edu
Archaeology of North Alabama, Iron Age
and Bronze Age Israel

Craig T. Sheldon
301 Tuskeena Street
Wetumpka, AL 36092
Home 334-567-8942
Office 334-244-3378
Shelcra@sciences.aum.edu
Historic Creek Indians; archaeology of the
historic Creek Indians; archaeology of the
Lower Tallapoosa Valley; preserving your
collection.

Hunter B. Johnson
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474
Office 205-371-2266
Fax 205-371-2494
Hjohnson@bama.ua.edu
Mississippian settlement and social
organization; Pride Place (1Tu1); Middle
Woodland Copena, Flat-top mounds; Lower
Mississippi archaeology; Plaquemine culture.

McDonald Brooms
100 Lake Ridge Lane
Mathews, AL 36052
Office 334-670-3639
Fax 334-670-3706
mcbrooms@trojan.troyst.edu
Alabama Coastal Plain archaeology;
prehistory of Alabama; Southwestern
archaeology; Mesoamerican archaeology
(travel restricted to SE or Central Alabama on
weeknights because of teaching schedule)

Bruce D. Bizzoco
1769 Russet Woods Lane
Birmingham, AL 35213
Home 205-425-0222
Office 205-391-2966
Bizzoco@bellsouth.net
General archaeology; frauds, myths, and
fantastic archaeology (the pseudoscience of
archaeology); epistemology; Charles Darwin
and evolution; Classical fencing, history of
armor (weapons)

Speakers List (cont.)

Joe Watkins
29336 One Blvd.
Orange Beach, AL 36561
Home 334-980-5687
Watkins@zebra.net
Maya sites of Palenque, Yaxchilan,
Bonampak, Uxmal, Chichen Itza; lifestyles of
the Lacandonese of Chiapas, Mexico, in the
1960's.

Larry Beane
3589 County Road 822
Collinsville, AL 35961
Home 256-523-5849
Office 256-997-9129
Fax 256-845-9605
Russell Cave/Little River archaeology; tools
and weapons demonstrations; flintknapping
(travel restricted to NE Alabama, Birmingham
north to Huntsville and points east)

Jim Knight
72 Coventry
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
Office 205-348-5947
Vknight@tenhoor.as.ua.edu
Moundville; Historic Creeks; history of
Alabama archaeology; Woodland cultures of
the Tennessee Valley; Coosa River Valley
archaeology; Mississippian art and
iconography

Ian Brown
3811 Derby Downs Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
Office 205-348-9758
Fax 205-348-7937
Ibrown@tenhoor.as.ua.edu
Bottle Creek archaeology; the personal side of
field work; mounds of the Mississippi Valley;
archaeology in Russia; studying salt in China;
The Indian in Art; Romance and Reality

Harry Holstein
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, AL 36265
Office 256-782-5656
Fax 256-782-5336
Holstein@jsucc.jsu.edu
NE Alabama; Alabama prehistory; general
archaeology; DeSoto/DeLuna; general
anthropology; Native American Indians

Matthew Gage
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474
Office 205-371-2266
Fax 205-371-2494
Gage@bama.ua.edu
Moundville; Mississippian; Remote sensing;
Core drilling techniques

Boyce Driskell
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474
Office 205-371-2266
Fax 205-371-2494
Bdriskel@bama.ua.edu
Dust Cave; Paleoindian and Archaic in the
mid-South; Egypt and the Nile Valley

Phil Carr
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology
University of South Alabama
HUMB 34
Mobile, AL 36688-0002
Office 334-460-6907
Fax 334-460-7925
Pcarr@jaguar1.usouthal.edu
Middle Archaic hunter-gatherers; Great Basin
archaeology; lithic analysis; cultural resource
management

Richard A. Diehl
Box 870210
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0210
Office 205-348-7550
Fax 205-348-9292
Rdiehl@tenhoor.as.ua.edu
Mesoamerica; Olmec; Toltecs; La Moudarra

Van D. King, Jr.
3905 Bright Star Road
Horton, AL 35980-7563
Office 205-466-3201
melvanmd@hopper.net
Flint knapping, lithic resources, ceramics of
the Tennessee Valley, Stone (steatite) vessel
quarries from Alabama to Newfoundland, Site
destruction along the Tennessee River.

In addition: The Alabama Humanities Foundation
has an extensive Speakers list. Visit their website at
www.Bham.net/ahf or call 205-930-0540 for a complete
list of speakers and topics.

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.

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 the 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.

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.

Scholarship Committee Chair

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

Public Education Committee

Linda Derry
Old Cahawba
719 Tremont Street
Selma, Alabama 36701

Research Committee Chair

Jean Allan
P.O. Box 278
Double Springs, AL 35553

AAS Chapter Presidents

Stephen Meredith- Birmingham Chapter
P.O. Box 1466
Alabaster, AL 35007
smeredith@wwisp.com
205-664-2739

Robbie Camp- Cullman Chapter
3175 Co. Rd. 702
Hanceville, AL 35077
256-739-1194

James Thomas- Troy State Chapter
Route 2, Box 142
Goshen, AL 36035
334-566-3855 (Home)

Dr. Phillip E Koerper- Coosa Valley Chapter
JSU Box 3039
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, AL 36265
256-782-5604

Gary Mullen- East Alabama Chapter
2102 Longwood Drive
Auburn, AL 36830-7108
334-887-2554

Barry Waters- Florence Chapter
P.O. Box 635
Rogersville, AL 35652
256-247-3793

John Kmetz- Huntsville Chapter
20 Arvida Drive
Laceys Spring, AL 35754

Judith Knight- Tuscaloosa Chapter
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
205-348-1568
jknight@uapress.ua.edu

Please send us your name and address if you are a chapter president!

**Alabama Archaeological
Society dues for the year 2000
are past due. Please pay them
promptly in order to retain
membership for 2000!**

2000 Alabama Archaeological Society Officers & Board Members

OFFICERS:

President - Van King
1st Vice President - Gary Mullen
2nd Vice President - Judith Knight
Secretary - Linda Derry
Treasurer - Eugene Futato
Assistant Treasurer - Julie Lyons
Journal Editor - Eugene Futato
Associate Editors - Ned Jenkins, Carey
Oakley, Boyce Driskell
Newsletter Editor - McDonald Brooms
Associate News Editor - Kathy Gilchrist,
Samantha Wolfe
Photographer - Anderson Brooms

Board Of Directors:

Three Year Term -
Bart Henson
Steve Merideth
Bill Fowler
Howard King
Tom Maher
Joe Copeland

Two Year Term -
Rick Fuller
Gary Mullen
Charles Moore
Margaret Russell
Amos Wright
Ian Brown
Greg Rhinehart
Michael Poe

One Year Term -
Jim Lee
Van King
Lee Luis
John Van Valkenburg
Bonnie Gums
Charles Hubbert

Jim Knight, Past Pres.

ARTIFACTS!

Do you have any interesting artifacts that you would like to share with the members of the Alabama Archaeological Society? If you do, please send a description of the artifact and a color photo (black and white is fine if that's all you have) to the editorial staff here at *Stones & Bones* and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.

TELL US ABOUT IT!

The editorial staff at *Stones & Bones* is looking for articles to publish and we would like those articles to come from you the members. If you have visited a site recently that you found to be of interest (it doesn't have to be in Alabama) tell us about it. If you have been doing research on a particular topic, tell us about it. If you have been involved in anything else archaeological, tell us about it. These do not have to be professional papers, so please feel free to contribute. If you have color pictures (if you only have black and white photos that's fine) which accompany your article, please send those as well and we will include them with your article.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

Are you a reader? Do you read interesting books about archaeology and related topics? Do you think others might be interested in reading the same books? If so, *Stones & Bones* would like to hear from you. If you have read an interesting book, write a review and send it to us. Book reviews are a good way of letting others know about archaeological publications which may be of interest.

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER/
OCTOBER ISSUE OF STONES & BONES IS AUGUST 15TH, 2000!**

Available Publications

Available Issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 20-31, each issue (<i>two issues per volume</i>)	\$3.50pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue (<i>two issues per volume</i>)	\$6.00pp
Vol. 40 (Dust Cave), two issues per volume	\$18.00pp
Vol. 44 (Alabama Ceramics), two issues per volume	\$18.00pp

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
-----------------------------	----------

<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types</i>	\$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

☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP

☐ ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT

☐ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

☐ DONATIONS

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

☐ Life (individual).....\$340.00

☐ Sustaining (individual).....\$25.00

☐ Joint Life (husband & wife).....\$400.00

☐ Sustaining (couple).....\$30.00

☐ Annual (individual).....\$17.00

☐ Annual (institutional).....\$25.00

☐ Annual Family (husband, wife,
children under 18).....\$20.00

☐ Associate (students under age 18).....\$14.00

☐ Steven B. Wimberly 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



STONES & BONES
NEWSLETTER

Alabama Archaeological Society
40 Eldridge Hall
Troy State University
Troy, AL 36082-0001

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.99
Troy, AL 36082