

Stones & Bones

July and August 2012

Volume 54, Issue 4

The Newsletter of the Alabama Archaeological Society

President's Letter

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. If you think it is too hot to go outside, just think about those students in archaeological fieldschools – excavating sites in Alabama – and paying tuition for the experience. I remember my first fieldschool at AUM – we were digging at Fort Toulouse in the hottest summer on record. Radio and TV announcements were advising people to head to the malls and libraries to escape the heat. And yet, there we were, toiling away in triple-digit heat. (and wondering why, at times!) I will say though – in retrospect – as hot as it was, I enjoyed it. In later years, fortunately, I was paid to dig in the heat, but with pay came bugs and snakes and creepy-crawlies. Still – good times digging all over Georgia, Alabama, and Florida!

Speaking of the heat, if you were among the 70-some people that attended our summer meeting at Moundville, I hope you had a great experience – even as we were constantly adjusting our lectures' locations due to the unexpectedly large crowd. We met in the air-conditioned DeJarnette Research archaeology lab – which had plenty of room for all of us, however due to limited seating in the library (set up for PowerPoint/slideshow lectures by Dr. John Blitz and Jeremy Davis), we ended up splitting into two groups. Fortunately Dr. Knight didn't need new technology to present the history of archaeology at Moundville, so we just rotated between the lab and the library.

Lunch consisted of grilled hamburgers and hotdogs (thanks to "chefs" Steven Meredith and Eric Sipes), the fixin's (thanks to "prep chefs" Amanda Hill and Heather Puckett), chips, and watermelon. We ate in the archaeology lab at tables since it was just too hot outside. After lunch, Eugene Futato was presented an award for his service to AAS and to archaeology in Alabama – an eagle carved from cherry wood by Board member Dr. John Van Valkenberg. Eugene's accomplishments include 39 years (and counting) of service to the University of Alabama Office of Archaeological Research (OAR), 33 years as Editor of the

AAS Journal of Alabama Archaeology, the 2004 Milt and Bea Harris Award for outstanding service to the Alabama Archaeological Society, the 2008 Southeastern Archaeological Conference Distinguished Service Award, and most recently, the University of Alabama's highest award – the 2012 Roger E. Sayers Distinguished Service Award.

Following lunch, everyone headed to the museum and checked out one of the open excavation units in the plaza area near the museum – it was just too hot to be outside for long. Officially, our meeting was over by 2pm, but some meeting attendees were still lingering in the museum even after 4pm.

I want to extend a great big THANK YOU to Dr. Jim Knight, Dr. John Blitz, PhD students Jeremy Davis and Erik Porth, for supporting AAS and setting aside a Saturday to talk about Moundville. Thanks also go to OAR's Matt Gage, who helped coordinate use of the facility and Joel Watkins, and to Park Director Bill Bomar, who graciously allowed our membership to enter Moundville Archaeological Park free of charge. Finally – thank you to all who attended the meeting. YOU made it a success for all of us involved in the planning. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and learned a little more about Moundville – where we are still discovering what is new in Alabama's past!

Sincerely,

Teresa Paglione, AAS President



AAS members tour the latest excavations on the Moundville plaza during the 2012 Summer Meeting

National Archaeology Day!

October 20 is National Archeology Day. The Board and officers of AAS hope to plan and sponsor multiple events throughout the state that Saturday and all through the month, but we need YOUR help – especially from our members, chapters and Alabama's archaeological consultants. We'd like to offer group tours of Alabama's archaeological sites open to the public, present lectures on Alabama archaeology, maybe have a couple of artifact identification events, or even talk to local community groups, like the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club, the Confederate Sons of America, the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames, Veterans Hospitals, local historical societies, etc. Basically, you don't have to do anything but ask us – and perhaps be the local coordinator or contact! We'll do the rest.

The goal is to let the public know what archaeology is – and isn't. We'd like to invite everyone to join the Society in supporting archaeology – or perhaps join one of our local archaeology chapters or even national organizations like The Archaeological Conservancy or the Archaeological Institute of America, which publish magazines about archaeology. Or perhaps if someone is looking for a chance to volunteer at an archaeological excavation – lots of people say they always wanted to be an archaeologist, but think they are too old or they need experience to get dirty with us! Or maybe there are families that just want to spend a day at Moundville or Old Cahawba or Fort Toulouse – and passively learn a little about archaeology, Alabama, and our national heritage.

If you are interested in helping us celebrate archaeology and let others find out what is new about Alabama's archaeological past, let us know! Contact Teresa at tlpaglione@gmail.com or send a postcard to Teresa at PO Box 311, Auburn, AL 36831. We hope everyone will support us in celebrating National Archeology Day.

South Central Historical Archaeology Conference to Be Held in Mobile September 14-16

The 14th annual meeting of the South Central Historical Archeology Conference (SCHAC) will be held **September 14-16** at The Archaeology Museum in the Delchamps Archaeology Building, hosted by the Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of South Alabama (USA) in Mobile, and co-sponsored by the Southwest Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society. We plan to have a Friday night gathering, with Saturday paper and poster presentations, and an optional tour on Sunday. We will also have a sneak preview of The Archaeology Museum due to open in October 2012, and the Native Plants Garden that surrounds the museum will be in full bloom.

Accommodations have been made at a nearby Hampton Inn & Suites Mobile Airport.

Please submit a title and an abstract of 150 words (maximum) if you are interested in presenting a paper or poster at the conference. Any research relating to historical archeology in the South Central region is welcome, and students and new presenters are encouraged to participate. Submissions should include the author, affiliation, title, and abstract, and need to be received by **August 15, 2012**. Please send abstracts to bgums@southalabama.edu. Conference registration is \$5. A computer, digital projector, screen, and podium with microphone will be provided, but if you have other AV needs or questions, please contact Bonnie Gums at 251-460-6562 or bgums@southalabama.edu or Phil Carr at 251-460-6907 or pcarr@southalabama.edu. Additional information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.

A block of 20 rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn & Suites Mobile Airport (525 Providence Park Drive, Mobile, AL 36695), located less than two miles from USA campus. The rate is \$99 a night for a total with tax of \$112 and some change. This includes breakfast. You can make your reservation by calling the hotel directly at 251-776-5866. Make sure you tell them you are with SCHAC. You must reserve your room(s) by August 15, 2012. For additional information: <http://Hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/alabama/hamptoninn-and-suites-mobile-providence-park-airport-MOBMCHX/index.html>.



The Society for Georgia Archaeology Annual Fall Meeting to Be Held in Columbus, GA. October 27

The Society for Georgia Archaeology has invited members of the AAS to join them on **Saturday, October 27th**, for their Fall Meeting in Columbus, Georgia. They welcome papers on all subjects for this meeting. Students are encouraged to participate.

Papers that focus on archaeological research in Georgia or the bordering states will be considered for the program. Each presenter should plan for a presentation of 20 minutes. Please contact Lynn Pietak to submit your title by **September 15** (in time to print presentation titles in *The Profile*) and please send your title and abstract (100 words) to lpietak@edwards-pitman.com. First come, first served; the number of slots is limited. For questions, please call (770)823-8709.

The conference will take place in the Patrick Theatre at the Columbus Museum, (1251 Wynnton Road, Columbus, Georgia 31906; <http://www.columbusmuseum.com>). Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

A tentative schedule is outlined below:

8:30am	Registration and Coffee
9:00am	Welcome
9:15 – 11:00am	Presentations
11:00am	Business Meeting
11:30-1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:00 – 4:00pm	Tour (to be announced)

All technology will be provided on site; please do not forget to bring your presentation on a memory stick. To learn more about the exciting Fall Meeting, please visit <http://thesga.org/>.

Join or Renew Today!

Visit AAS at
www.alabamaarchaeology.org

Old Stone Fort Knap-in September 28-30

Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park will host its Fall Knap-in on **September 28-30**. A celebration of the ancient arts and skills, the main activities and special programming are slated to begin at 8 a.m. and will run until approximately 4:30 p.m. The festival is free and open to the public.

The knap-in is a great event for learning about the art of flint-knapping, learning about different lithic raw material types, and trying your hand at various prehistoric skills from stone tool making to atlatl throwing.

The State Park itself is worth a visit. The Old Stone Fort is a Middle Woodland ceremonial enclosure built between around AD 50 and 500. It consists of mounds and walls that combine with cliffs and rivers to form an enclosure measuring 1 1/4 miles around. The 50-acre hilltop enclosure is believed to have served as a central ceremonial gathering place for some 500 years. It has been identified as, perhaps, the most spectacularly sited sacred area of its period in the United States and the largest and most complex hilltop enclosure in the Southeast. Settlers tended to name such enclosures "forts."

The spectacular setting occurs where the two branches of the Duck River drop off the Highland Rim and plunge to the level of the Central Basin of Tennessee. As the forks of the river cut down, they isolate a promontory between them before they join. This promontory was further set apart by the construction of long, wall-like mounds during the Woodland Period.

At the narrow neck of land on one end of the promontory, there is a set of parallel mound walls oriented to within one degree of the summer solstice sunrise. Mound sites such as Old Stone Fort provided modified landscapes for ceremonies that may have represented in some way the culture's concept of their place in the cosmos and a separation of the sacred and mundane or pure and impure.

The state archaeological park and museum are located on U.S. Highway 41, about halfway between Nashville and Chattanooga, in Manchester. From I-24, take Exit 110 and follow the signs to the park entrance, which is approximately 1.5 miles. For more information about Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Park, visit the Web site at: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/OldStoneFort/> or call (931) 723-5073.

University of West Alabama Fort Tombecbe Field School

by Ashley Dumas

The University of West Alabama's Black Belt Museum held an archaeological field school at Fort Tombecbe in Sumter County. Eight students, hailing from UWA and four other universities, and several volunteers participated in the four-week long project. They uncovered a large portion of the French period (1736-1763) bakery and part of the fort's palisade wall. Historical records indicate that the bakery was built on piers of columbage construction, or masonry and mortar between upright posts. The students found large amounts of rubble consisting of chalk blocks cut into brick-sized pieces and larger. A midden outside of the bakery contained pieces of clay smoking pipes, Native pottery, and small glass beads, among other items. The most abundant artifact at the bakery is large fragments of animal bone, all of which has been well-preserved by the chalky soil. Participants also reopened excavation units from 2010 to continue work on the southwest bastion of the fort. A portion of the palisade wall was excavated to reveal that it had been repaired in one episode, probably around 1760. A very deep, mysterious trench was found extending from the corner of the bastion on the outside of the fort. Its purpose is being debated. The materials recovered from the field school are being processed by students in the Black Belt Museum's archaeology lab on the campus of UWA in Livingston and should prove to reveal much about the early history of fort and the culture of its occupants. The project is funded by a grant from the Alabama Historical Commission, with support from UWA's Division of Educational Outreach and College of Liberal Arts.

Excavations at Fort Tombecbe were wrapped up on June 15. The artifacts are now being processed at the University of West Alabama, and on July 14, area middle school students were able to help sort artifacts in the Black Belt Museum laboratory.

For more information, see the Black Belt Museum Facebook page at www.museumoftheblackbelt.blogspot.com.



Excavations of the fort's palisade wall



Columnella (marine shell) bead, possibly Choctaw, found underneath the French bakery



The field crew at the Fort Tombecbe monument on the banks of the Tombigbee River

Visit AAS on Facebook and Twitter!

University of Alabama Field School at Moundville

This summer, the University of Alabama fieldschool, under the direction of Dr. John Blitz and PhD student Jeremy Davis has been excavating several units in the Moundville plaza with the goal of mapping the distribution and arrangements of public buildings in the plaza. Moundville's vast plaza redefined and ramped up public activity at a critical moment in the crystallization of a new sociopolitical order. When it was built (around AD 1250), the remains of former gathering places were either buried beneath plaza fills or obliterated as their locations were leveled. It is likely that some of these were subsequently rebuilt in place while others were not. A magnetometer survey has revealed the locations of magnetic anomalies that are thought to represent buried buildings. A sample of these buildings must be "ground-truthed," that is, exposed through archaeological excavations so that similar remains elsewhere in the plaza can be confidently interpreted without time-consuming and costly excavation. The plaza is full of 'stuff': buildings, cemeteries, ditches, etc. – even a semi-subterranean house (sunken floor around which the walls and roof were erected). It is possible that this style of architecture kept things a bit cooler for the original inhabitants.

There are also a series of wall trenches which are believed to be sections of the north wall of a large, square building that postdates plaza construction. Wall trenches are the hand-dug slots into which the Moundville people lowered pre-fabricated sections of wooden wall. This construction technique was once quite widespread in the southeastern United States, practiced by populations from as far north as Illinois, south as Florida, and west as Oklahoma. It was dominant at Moundville throughout the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries.

Visit the Moundville excavations in the field any day of the week (except Friday afternoons) until July 27. For more information, visit the website at <http://moundvilleplazaproject.wordpress.com>.



Recent Work by the Office of Archaeological Research

The University of Alabama's Office of Archeological Research (OAR) at Moundville recently conducted a Historic Architectural Survey of a tornado-damaged neighborhood in Tuscaloosa. Last year's April 27th EF-4 tornado inflicted serious damage on the city of Tuscaloosa and the surrounding communities. Three of the City's neighborhoods, The Downs, Glendale Gardens, and Hillcrest were among the many historic areas impacted by the storm. The twister damaged or destroyed 34 homes in these neighborhoods. Shortly after the storm, the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) surveyed the wreckage of the neighborhoods and came away with several concerns about their historic standing and recommended that additional efforts be undertaken to preserve their historic status.

Prior to the tornado, the districts retained 62 of 69 historic homes in the Downs, 24 of 36 in Glendale Gardens, and 24 of 28 homes in Hillcrest. Research determined that The Downs, Glendale Gardens, and Hillcrest occupy a rarified place in Tuscaloosa's history. These historic neighborhoods are unique examples of Garden City, cul-de-sac, automobile, and garden suburbs, all residential development trends that became popular at the time.

OAR is also conducting ongoing investigations in Hamburg, AL, looking for the Weissinger family cemetery. The marked cemetery was plowed down to make room for agricultural fields in the 1950s. Now Charles Weissinger is seeking his ancestors' resting place. OAR is conducting a research project with the goal of relocating the cemetery near the community in southern Perry County. The cemetery dates to the early 1800's and through the years the exact location of the cemetery has been lost. The area believed to contain the cemetery covers approximately 15 acres of pasture and would be difficult to tackle using conventional exploratory methods. As a result, OAR is using various remote sensing technologies in conjunction with some very unusual methodologies. To date the project has employed Ground Penetrating Radar and a Magnetic Gradiometer. The techniques have had limited results, but the next phase of the project is slightly more nonconventional. In January a team from the Institute for Canine Forensics (ICF), Historic Human Remains Detection (HHRD) began the search for the cemetery. The dogs from

the ICF, based in Northern California (<http://www.k9forensic.org/>), have been successful in locating historic human remains from battlefield burials dated from 1200 to 1600 AD at a site near Prague, Czech Republic, and the famous lost Donner party in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The canines were successful in locating areas of probability for human remains. Now OAR will use additional remote sensing methods to try to verify the presence of the graves.



OAR staff collecting GPR data

Recent Research at Fort McClellan

Archeological surveys for the Alabama Army National Guard at the Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center in Calhoun County have discovered 36 new archaeological sites and revisited 71 previously recorded sites including two sites with Late Paleoindian/Woodland components as well as a rock shelter.

Prior to the US Government acquisition of the land, there were several towns or communities located in this portion of Calhoun County. Steven Meredith of Panamerican Consultants, Inc. (PCI), is conducting a study of two former town sites: Peaceburg & Morrisville. Both pre-date the Civil War. Morrisville included the site of the Cane Creek Iron Works which provided metal plating for the ironclad CSS Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimac).

A total of 50 stone feature sites had been recorded on the Fort prior to the start of this project. It is unclear whether these types of features are considered ceremonial, sacred, or are the result of historical field clearing or land improvements, or even later military use. The Army Guard is consulting with federally recognized tribes and the Alabama Historical Commission regarding these sites. Alabama Army National Guard strives to be a good steward of its cultural resources. While none of these sites are open to the general public at this time, there may be future opportunities.

Redstone Arsenal Selected for ACRA Award

The American Cultural Resources Association has selected the Redstone Arsenal, Environmental Management Division, Cultural Resources Team for a 2012 ACRA Award in the Industry-Public Sector category for excellence in the management of cultural resources on Redstone Arsenal. This award honors public sector clients of ACRA member firms who have made an on-going commitment to cultural resources management and whose efforts go above and beyond simple compliance with government regulations concerning the protection of historic properties.

Four of the five Awards Committee members scored Redstone Arsenal highest in this category, particularly noting its strong commitment to educational outreach.

The Award will be presented at the ACRA Awards Ceremony on Friday evening, September 7, 2012, during the ACRA Annual Meeting at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel in Seattle, Washington. The ceremony will begin around 9pm, after the keynote address by Wayne Donaldson, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and California's State Historic Preservation Officer.

Since 1995, ACRA has been the trade association supporting and promoting the common interests of cultural resource management (CRM) firms of all sizes, types, and specialties. Today, ACRA member firms undertake much of the legally mandated cultural resource management studies and investigations in the United States. These firms' clients include federal, state, and local government agencies, private industry, and non-profit groups.



Charles Moore Receives ASAA Achievement Award

Charles E. Moore was awarded the American Society of Amateur Archaeology Achievement Award on April 30th while on site the ASAA dig near Leighton in Colbert County by the society's organizer, Richard Michael Gramly. Only six other people have been honored with this reward.

Dr. Gramly stated that Charles was

chosen for the award for his obvious interest in furthering the field of archaeology and the information gained through the discipline and his willingness to share the knowledge he has acquired. Charles' recent self-published book, *Come Tell Me How You Lived: Native American History of the Tennessee Valley* is a compilation of much of what Charles has learned over his years of studying north Alabama prehistory. Charles has also generously shared his extensive personal collection of artifacts with the archaeological community, loaning some pieces for further study, and with the public at large by loaning or donating pieces to museums. Charles has been instrumental in opening doors for all of the ASAA work in northern Alabama.



Five People Convicted of ARPA Violations in North Alabama

Five people were recently found guilty during court proceedings in Huntsville on federal charges for violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

The misdemeanor charges stemmed from three separate incidents in which TVA investigators witnessed individuals illegally collecting artifacts – two incidents near the Guntersville Reservoir and another at the Pickwick Reservoir in southwestern Tennessee.

A Tuscumbia man was cited in June after investigators for the TVA reported seeing him bringing up Native American artifacts while he was diving at Pickwick Reservoir. He was fined \$250, plus related costs on July 17 by U.S. Magistrate Judge Harwell Davis.

A Monteagle, Tenn. man was convicted of an ARPA violation after TVA investigators reported finding him digging for Native American artifacts on the shore of Guntersville Reservoir in February. He was fined \$500 for the ARPA violation and another \$250 for misdemeanor marijuana possession.

During the Guntersville investigation, three people from Stevenson were found digging along the shoreline by the TVA investigators. All three were convicted of ARPA violations, and each was ordered to pay a \$250 fine plus related costs.

In a TVA press release, David Jolley, TVA's Vice President of Security and

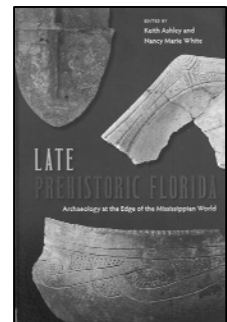
Emergency Management stated that TVA "will prosecute anyone who takes historic artifacts from TVA property." Jolley stated that it is illegal to collect any artifacts including projectile points from TVA-managed property. A second violation of ARPA could lead to as many five years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine.



New Book on Late Prehistoric Florida

A new book entitled *Late Prehistoric Florida: Archaeology at the Edge of the Mississippian World*, edited by University of North Florida archaeologist Keith Ashley and University of South Florida archaeologist Nancy White, is now out. It describes native societies in all different regions of the state right before the time of the Old World invasion (of which Florida celebrates the 500th anniversary next year). It includes information on cultural adaptations that also covered south Alabama and south Georgia, as well as all of north and northwest Florida.

Prehistoric Florida societies, particularly those of the peninsula, have been largely ignored or given only minor consideration in overviews of the Mississippian Southeast (A.D. 1000-1600). This groundbreaking volume lifts the veil of uniformity frequently draped over these regions in the literature, providing the first comprehensive examination of Mississippi-period archaeology in the state. Featuring contributions from some of the most prominent researchers in the field, this collection describes and synthesizes the latest data from excavations throughout Florida. In doing so, it reveals a diverse and vibrant collection of cleared-field maize farmers, part-time gardeners, hunter-gatherers, and coastal and riverine fisher/shellfish collectors who formed a distinctive part of the Mississippian Southeast.



Recent Developments in the Search for the First Americans

Two more sources in the argument that Clovis was not alone - or first in North America were published in the last month.

In the July 13 edition of the journal *Science* a multi-disciplinary team of researchers reported on archaeological work in Oregon's Paisley Caves which found evidence that stemmed projectile points were present in strata dating between 11,070 and 11,340 radiocarbon years ago - making them contemporary to slightly earlier than Clovis. The researchers from 13 institutions detailed substantial new documentation, including "blind-test analysis" by independent labs, that confirms the presence of human DNA in coprolites (dried feces) dating to before Clovis. No diagnostic Clovis technology was found at the Paisley Caves suggesting that the Western Stemmed points represent a distinct technology possibly indicative of a separate distinct human migration from Siberia.

Modern Native Americans are descended from three waves of migrants from Siberia rather than just a single migration, say researchers who have studied the whole genomes of Native Americans in South America and Canada. It has been a common belief that the Americas were peopled in one large migration from Siberia that happened about 15,000 years ago, but new genetic research shows that this migration was followed by at least two smaller migrations from Siberia, one by the ancestors of today's Eskimo-Aleut speakers and another by people speaking Na-Dene, whose descendants include Athabaskan, Tlingit, and possibly Haida groups in the Pacific Northwest and Navajo and Apache populations in the Southwest. This research was published online on July 11 in the journal *Nature*.

The first wave of migration across Beringia may have happened earlier than current models suggest. A new study of lake sediment cores from Sanak Island in the western Gulf of Alaska suggests that deglaciation there from the last Ice Age took place as much as 1,500 to 2,000 years earlier than previous estimates, opening the door for earlier coastal human migrations. The Sanak Island Biocomplexity Project, funded by the National Science Foundation, also concluded that the maximum thickness of the ice sheet in the Sanak Island region during the last glacial

maximum was 70 meters - or about half that previously projected - suggesting that deglaciation could have happened more rapidly than earlier models predicted.

Pollen data from the lake cores suggest an arid terrestrial ecosystem by 16,300 radiocarbon years BP indicating that the Beringian coast could have supported migrations at that early date. Results of the study were published in the August 10 edition of the journal, *Quaternary Science Reviews*.

In related news, in a paper published June 12 in the free online journal *Nature Communications*, UCLA researchers and colleagues demonstrated that a variety of factors resulted in the extinctions of woolly mammoths in Beringia as opposed to a single cause such as overkill by humans. Their analysis of accumulated evidence revealed that not long after the last ice age, the last woolly mammoths succumbed to a lethal combination of climate warming, habitat change, and encroaching humans - the same threats facing many species today. "We were interested to know what happened to this species during the climate warming at the end of the last ice age because we were looking for insights into what might happen today due to human-induced climate change," said Glen MacDonald, director of UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability (IoES). "The answer to why woolly mammoths died off sounds a lot like what we expect with future climate warming."



AAS Chapters 2012 Chapter Presidents

Troy: Joel Jackson

jjackson39792@troy.edu

Cullman: Robbie Camp

robbie@alabamaprinting.com

East Alabama: Teresa Paglione

tlpaglione@gmail.com

Muscle Shoals: Gerald Hester

GeraldRH@aol.com

Huntsville: Ben Hoksbergen

benhoksbergen@yahoo.com

Birmingham: Steven Meredith

mered003@gmail.com

Southwest Chapter: Carey Geiger

careygeiger@bellsouth.net

Coosa Valley: Phillip Koerper

pkoerper@jsu.edu

William Rathje Passes

One of the most influential archaeologists and Mayanists has passed away. William Rathje (1945-2012) began as a Mayanist and later in his life initiated what has been known as garbology, the archaeological study of contemporary garbage. In his book *Rubbish! The Archaeology of Garbage* (1992), Rathje proved that you could use archaeological techniques to learn about our own modern culture. Working with the City of Tucson and the USDA, Rathje and his students surveyed homeowners about what they bought and what they threw away. City garbage collectors routed the garbage from the houses that were surveyed to Rathje, where he and students sorted, weighed, recorded and analyzed what they found. They discovered gaps in what people reported that they used and threw away compared to what was documented by the physical evidence. For instance, even in a recession, food that had not been cooked and eaten was tossed due to expiration dates; generally, middle-class households wasted more than richer ones, and households consistently under-reported the amount of alcohol being consumed.

Rathje's excavations in modern landfills revealed that garbage was not decomposing but was mummified in the anaerobic environment. Hotdogs and lettuce looked like they were only days old, and newspapers were still readable decades later.

During the 30 year-long "Garbology Project," the results led to a better understanding of nutrition, diet and food loss, hazardous waste (from pesticides to batteries to nuclear materials), recycling, and landfill management.

Rathje received his PhD in anthropology from Harvard in 1971. He co-directed the Cozumel Archaeological Project in 1973, and received the Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology from the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1990 for "his innovative contributions to public understanding of science and its societal impacts by demonstrating with his creative 'Garbage Project' how the scientific method can document problems and identify solutions."

Rathje died on May 24 at the age of 66.



AAS Research Grant

The AAS will grant an award of \$500 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Chairman by October 1st. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and announce the winner at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS; 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; 4) the project director or other personnel working on the project must submit a written report for publication in the Journal of Alabama Archaeology within twelve months of receiving the grant.

Public Education Grant

The AAS will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500. Proposals for grants must be submitted to the Chair of the Public Education Committee (see below) by October 1st. The Board will announce the grant recipient(s) at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grants are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS; 2) the public education project must be located in the state of Alabama.

AAS Scholarships

The AAS will award up to two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250 each to undergraduate and/or graduate students attending an Alabama college or university. Scholarship nominations are to be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chair (see below) by October 1st. Each eligible student nominee must have an academic sponsor who must submit the nomination on the student's behalf. The nomination must take the form of a letter addressed to the Chair of the Archaeological Resources Committee. The letter must clearly identify both the nominee and the academic sponsor and must include pertinent contact information for both. The nomination letter must indicate the academic degree being sought and progress made to date toward that degree. The letter should include and discuss all the information necessary for the committee to evaluate the nominee. The sponsor should summarize the academic credentials and achievements of the nominee in the body of the nomination letter. The student must also be a member of the AAS.

Submit applications and questions to Erin Phillips, phill018@crimson.ua.edu, or Erin Phillips, Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama, P.O. Box 870210, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Additional details are available on the AAS website at:

www.alabamaarchaeology.org/aasgrants

Stones & Bones

Editor: Ben Hoksbergen; Assistant Editors: Bonnie Gums and Jason Mann

Stones & Bones is published bi-monthly at the beginning of January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for submitting articles is the end of the month prior to publication. Articles, questions, and comments can be sent via email to:

benhoksbergen@yahoo.com

or via U.S. mail to:

Ben Hoksbergen
3699 US Hwy. 72
Paint Rock, AL 35764

Alabama Archaeological Society

President: Teresa Paglione, tpaglione@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Eric Sipes, espies@charter.net

2nd Vice President: Linda Derry, cahawba@bellsouth.net

Secretary: Erin Phillips, phill018@crimson.ua.edu

Treasurer: Eugene Futato, efutato@bama.ua.edu

Assistant Treasurer: Jon Marcoux, jmarcoux@aum.edu

Journal of Alabama Archaeology Editor: Ashley Dumas, ashleydumas@usa.net

Journal Editorial Assistants: Stuart McGregor, stuman41@comcast.net; Steven Meredith, mered003@bama.ua.edu; Ned Jenkins, toulous1@bellsouth.net

Stones & Bones Editor: Ben Hoksbergen, benhoksbergen@yahoo.com

Stones & Bones Assistant Editors: Bonnie Gums bgums@southalabama.edu; Jason Mann, jmann@troy.edu

Web Editor and Photo Archivist: Jason Mann, jmann@troy.edu

AHC Representative: Craig Sheldon, csheldon@aum.edu

Board of Directors:

Terms expire 2012:

Margaret Russell, srussell@eufaula.rr.com

Carey Oakley, carey.oakley@att.net

Terms expire 2013:

John Van Valkenberg, joycevan@knology.net

Matt Gage, mdgage@bama.ua.edu

Terms expire 2014:

Van King, melvanmd@hopper.net

Charles Moore, cemoore@comcast.net

Hunter Johnson, hunter@tvaresearch.com

Kristi Shuler, kas0007@auburn.edu

Richard Kilborn, RLKilborn@charter.net

Cathy Meyer, cathy.mrsconsultants@yahoo.com

John Hall, jhall@uwa.edu



In this Issue of Stones and Bones...

President's Letter by Teresa Paglione	1
National Archaeology Day	1
South Central Historical Archaeology Conference	2
The Society for Georgia Archaeology Annual Fall Meeting	2
Old Stone Fort Knap-in	2
University of West Alabama Fort Tombecbe Field School	3
University of Alabama Field School at Moundville	4
Recent Work by the Office of Archaeological Research	4
Recent Work on Fort McClellon	4
Redstone Arsenal Selected for ACRA Award	5
Charles Moore Receives ASAA Achievement Award	5
Five People Convicted of ARPA Violations in North Alabama	5
New Book on Late Prehistoric Florida	5
Recent Developments in the Search for the First Americans	6
AAS Chapters & Presidents	6
William Rathje Passes	6
Grant & Scholarship Information	7
Stones & Bones Contact Information	7
AAS Officer & Board Contact Information	7