

Alabama Archaeological Society

Associate Editor
H. Blaine Ensor



STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

NADB DOC # - 4,058,508
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Volume 34

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Number 1

After 15 years of faithful service (14 as Editor), Amos J. Wright has retired from the staff of the STONES & BONES. I would like to thank A.J. for his many years of leadership - and for his support over the past year, when he served as Associate Editor and eased the transition to a new Editor. A.J. will remain active in the Alabama Archaeological Society, where he has also been Chairman of the Archives Committee for several years.

I would also like to welcome H. Blaine Ensor as the new Associate Editor of the newsletter. Blaine really needs no introduction to many of you, as he is a professional archaeologist who worked in Alabama for some time, was published in the Journal of Alabama Archaeology in 1979, and presented updates on his archaeological activities at A.A.S. annual meetings. After several years outside the state, Blaine has settled in Huntsville, where he has become active in the local A.A.S. chapter.

I look forward to working with Blaine on the STONES & BONES and to serving our membership with a newsletter that we hope will be responsive to your, the members', needs. I encourage A.A.S. members to submit items of interest pertaining to Alabama archaeology. I also ask professional archaeologists working in the state to send in short articles on their own and their institutions' activities. The deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month. Please send your articles, chapter news, etc., to the address at the top right of the front page of the STONES & BONES.

Editor

1991 WINTER MEETING OF THE A.A.S. A SUCCESS!

The Winter Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society was held on Saturday, November 23, 1991 at the Huntsville Marriott. An impressive slate of speakers, both professional and avocational, gave slide presentations and overviews of their own archaeological

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research projects. A total of seven different speakers made presentations in addition to the keynote address by Dr. Dan Morse of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey. Dr. Morse talked about archaeology and the Sloan Site, a Dalton-age cemetery in north-east Arkansas.

The meeting was well attended, the arrangements well thought out, and participants had an opportunity to display private artifact collections, puruse the excellent book displays, and in general converse with each other about archaeology and enjoy the company. A party was held after the meeting at the Justices' in southeast Huntsville which was also well attended and enjoyable for all who came.

The Board of Directors held at business meeting after lunch, and officers for the upcoming year were elected.

H. Blaine Ensor

TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

In the January 1982 STONES & BONES, Editor A.J. Wright urged educators "to instill in young people the need for conservation and preservation. It is a responsibility we should all be aware of."

He also reminded "all our members to make a determined effort to participate in Society activities, attend meetings, be willing to serve as an officer or on a committee assignment, express your views and be willing at the same time to assume some responsibility for furthering the goals and objectives of the Alabama Archaeological Society." (These are still valid points in 1992! - Editor)

President of the A.A.S. in 1982 was Margaret Chase; First Vice President, Mc Brooms; Second Vice President, Jim Lee; and Secretary-Treasurer, Bettye Henson. Bill Adkison, who has been a frequent contributor to the STONES & BONES, was a new member. Rodger Schaefer, David DeJarnette and Britt Thompson were on the Board of Directors.

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter

The chapter met December 12 to hear Boyce Driskell give an update on Dust Cave in North Alabama.

On January 7 the chapter met at the Linn-Henley Library. Guest speaker was Mr. Chris Hill of Jacksonville State University.

Mr. Hill gave a presentation on contract work they have done over the past year, including surveys on Weiss Lake and Lamar County.

Because of construction at the Birmingham Museum of Art, we have temporarily lost use of the museum auditorium for meetings. Therefore meeting places, dates and times may vary.

Bobby Hawkins

CULLMAN COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The December chapter meeting was a dinner get-together at Bobby's Restaurant in Eva on the 18th.

Howard King

EAST ALABAMA CHAPTER

Our January program was presented by Dr. John Cottier, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Auburn University, who introduced an excellent PBS film entitled "Myths and Mound-builders." This film explores the various theories which have been offered to explore who built these great earthenworks and what purpose they served. Based on revealing archaeological evidence, this film pieces together the intriguing story of the moundbuilding cultures and the Native Americans who constructed them dating back as early as 300 B.C. Forty-two people were present for this meeting.

Our next meeting will be February 12th at 7 p.m. in the Alabama Power Company auditorium, 230 N. Gay Street, Auburn; at which time Dr. Gary Mullen, Department of Entomology, Auburn University, will present a slide-lecture entitled "The Sinaqua: Prehistoric Pueblo Culture of Northern Arizona." The Sinaqua represent an indigenous culture in the American Southwest contemporary with the Anasazi and Mogollon peoples. The presentation will focus on several pueblos east of the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, Arizona, which flourished during the period about 1000 to 1200 A.D., following the volcano eruption known today as Sunset Crater. Visitors are welcome.

Caroline R. Dean

HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER

The Huntsville Chapter is scheduled to meet January 28; guest speaker will be Mr. Joe Hines, Curator of the Anniston Museum of Natural History. Mr. Hines will give a slide presentation on Inca sites in Peru.

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Public Library on St. Clair Avenue. The public is welcome.

Dorothy Luke

MUSCLE SHOALS CHAPTER

The Muscle Shoals Chapter met at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence on November 11. Twenty-five members and guests were in attendance. Van King presented a slide narration about the "Apple Orchard" Clovis site in Washington State. This site continues to get more interesting as additional excavations are carried on.

The December meeting was held on the 9th. Chapter members brought cookies, cakes and pies, and the chapter furnished punch and coffee. Twenty-five members and guests attended. Scott Shaw of Moundville brought us a program consisting of summary reports on the Wheeler and Pickwick Basin surveys of recent years and also an updated report on Dust Cave. Scott invited all of us to join him and the rest of the crew to help with the excavation of Dust Cave this summer.

Charles Moore

A.A.S. SUMMER DIG

The first A.A.S. summer field school was conducted at Hall last summer under the direction of Dr. Richard Krause. Professional archaeologists in Alabama have been invited to submit a proposal to sponsor the 1992 summer field school. Further information on dates, site, etc., will appear in a later issue of the STONES & BONES.

The field school will take place during the summer over a two-week period. The Society will charge a tuition of \$100 per person per week, and require each participant to sign up for at least one week. Living expenses will be in addition to tuition. The Society's objectives in conducting this field school are: 1) to actively support professional archaeological field research in the state; and 2) to provide for experiential training of our members and interaction between the membership and professional archaeology.

Dr. Boyce Driskell
Moundville

10TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON OHIO VALLEY URBAN AND HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

The 10th Annual Symposium on Ohio Valley Urban and Historic Archaeology will convene Friday-Sunday, March 13-15, 1992 at the

McClung Museum, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Papers are sought concerning all aspects of regional historic archaeological investigations; papers on house lot archaeology and architectural archaeology are particularly encouraged. Abstracts must be submitted by February 15, 1992. For more information contact Charles H. Faulkner; Department of Anthropology; University of Tennessee; Knoxville, TN 37996 (Phone 615/974-4408).

REMAINS OF MASTODON'S LAST MEAL FOUND PRESERVED

The skeleton of a mastodon has been recently uncovered near Newark, in the central portion of Ohio, just east of Columbus. Workers landscaping a new golf course hit a large skull. Further examination and excavation by paleontologists yielded a nearly complete skeleton of a mastodon encased in an oxygen-free bog environment. Apparently no artifacts were found associated with the remains. The mastodon's age has been determined to be 11,000 years old. Usually when mastodon remains are found in the Eastern Woodlands, only bone remains due to various agents which work to break down organic material over time. However, in this instance, the excavators came across a reddish-brown sack or tube-like structure 23 inches in length which rested in the vicinity of the beast's rib cage. A pungent odor was being emitted by the sack or tube, which led the paleontologists to determine that it is the remains of the mastodon's intestinal tract.

Biologists took samples of the material from inside the intestine and subsequently were able to cultivate the bacterium Enterobacter cloacae, the oldest living bacteria known to date. The investigators believe that the mastodon's cold, oxygen/light-free boggy environment helped preserve the intestinal tract and its contents, including the bacteria. Paleobotanists have analyzed the plant remains from the animal's gut and found, much to their surprise, that it was not full of twigs and needles from conifers or spruce trees; rather it consisted of wetland grasses, pond lilies, and pondweed. Paleobotanists and archaeologists have previously assumed that the mastodon's grazing behavior was adapted primarily to the coniferous forests present at or near the end of the last Ice Age. However, the contents of this mastodon's stomach indicates reliance upon wetland species. Although the paleobotanists are quick to point out that no firm conclusions or generalizations regarding mastodon grazing behaviour may be deduced from a single mastodon, one emerging theory about the demise and eventual extinction of the mastodon is that it was due to the net loss of wetlands rather than the forests. Regardless of the exact cause(s), both the gradual loss of wetlands and coniferous forest were related to global climatic change that may have contributed to the extinction of the mastodon and other Pleistocene megafauna. (From "Discover" - January 1992: 30-31)

H. Blaine Ensor
Huntsville

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available Issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 20-31, each issue	\$3.50 pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue	\$6.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint	\$7.50 pp
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<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i>	\$15.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$10.00 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile)	\$9.00 pp

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