

# Alabama Archaeological Society

## Stones & Bones

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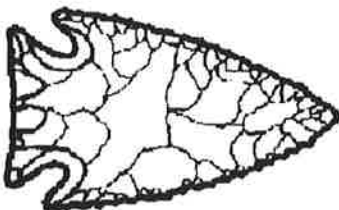
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### Reauthorization of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Below is a copy of a mail out from the Society of American Archaeology regarding legislation to reauthorize the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Council is a critical aspect of Historic Preservation and is a real target for elimination by certain groups. It has three strikes against it in their eyes: it is regulatory, it is small, and it is advisory. If the Council is regulatory it must be a nuisance. If it's small and advisory it can't be important.

Please take the time to contact your representatives and indicate to them that the President's Advisory Council is important and why. Howell Heflin is the only Alabamian on either committee, but sooner or later, everyone will vote on the bill. I have been told that a letter carries much more weight than a fax, voice mail, or e-mail. But anything is better than nothing.

With the present Washington emphasis on reduced spending, reduced regulation, and reduced concern for cultural and environmental matters in general, we are facing serious challenges to historic preservation efforts. Archaeology will surely

undergo great change in the next few years in response to many pressures. We must take a hand in shaping the future of archaeology.

*Submitted by:*

*Eugene M. Futato*

### SAA

#### Society For American Archaeology

##### Government Affairs Network Alert

**Issue:** Reauthorization of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council). Authorization for the Council to receive funding expires September 30, 1996.

**Background:** Earlier this year Representative James Hansen (R-Utah) introduced H.R. 3031, which reauthorizes the Council to receive funding up to \$5 million annually through the year 2002. If the Council is not reauthorized this year it places at risk the Council's ability to receive annual appropriations from the Congress. In March, Rep. Hansen's Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands of the House Resources Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3031, and the subcommittee has now scheduled a markup of the bill for later in May (a markup is a committee or subcommittee meeting during which members may

modify a bill by offering, debating, and voting on amendments to it).

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic resources. The Council's role in this process is to assist federal agencies in compliance with section 106 and to ensure a balanced consideration of historic resources in agency planning and decision-making. The section 106 process also guarantees that tribal, state and local governments, as well as private citizens and businesses, will have an opportunity to participate in the planning process when the proposed undertaking affects historic resources.

**What You Can Do:** It is important that you contact your representative and senators soon to tell them of the important need to reauthorize the Council. It is extremely important to write members of the House Resources Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee since these committees must pass reauthorization legislation first before it goes to both chambers of Congress for a vote. If your representative or senators are not on either committee, it is still vital to communicate with them and explain the important role that the Council plays in our country's historic preservation system. Eventually, all members of Congress will have to vote on legislation reauthorizing the Council.

**Talking Points:**

- Support H.R. 3031, which reauthorizes the Council until the year 2002 at no more than \$5 million (actual appropriations are likely to be less).

- The Council is the only federal agency that ensures that federal agencies take into account the effects of their actions on historic resources, and there are no other federal agencies that can perform the statutory responsibilities of the Council.

- If reauthorization is not passed, the Council's yearly appropriation would be in jeopardy.

- Without reauthorization, the potential for delay, litigation, and loss of valuable historic resources would be significant.

**Contacts:** Please write or call your representative and senators as soon as possible. You can contact your members of Congress at:

The Honorable (name)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable (name)  
U.S. Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

U.S. Capitol Switchboard  
(202) 224-3121

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## What's Happening Around the State

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Panamerican Consultants, Inc. is currently performing the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation of the Gardiner-Warring Knitting Mill building in Florence (1927) and the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) documentation of the Taylor-Cook house in Sylacauga (ca. 1835). Both projects are in advance of road construction by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ADOT). Daniel R. Pratt, Principal Investigator, and Kelly Nolte, Architectural Historian, are directing this research, assisted by research assistant Kristen M. Zschomler.

HAER recordation of the Oscar W. Underwood Bridge near Eutaw was submitted to the ADOT in January. The Underwood Bridge was part of the Alabama Memorial Bridge System authorized by Governor Bibb Graves in the late 1920's. HAER recordation is also being completed for the Memorial bridges near Demopolis (William B. King Bridge), Gainesville (Julia S. Tutwiler Bridge), Butler (W.B. Crumpton Bridge) and Scottsboro (Braxton Bragg Comer Bridge).

Documentation for the ADOT is proceeding on the Bellwood Bridge in Geneva County. The

bridge was constructed ca 1904 to provide Central of Georgia Railroad access to southeastern Alabama.

In April and May of 1996, Paul D. Jackson of Panamerican Consultants, Inc., (PCI) conducted an intensive Phase II investigation of three Woodland sites, 1Wal28, 1Wal29, and 1Wal52, in Walker County, Alabama. This investigation was performed for Drummond Coal Company. Two sites, 1Wal28, and 1Wal52, were dated to the Late Middle Woodland Period. The third site, 1Wal29, was determined to be a multi-component, twentieth-century homesite and a West Jefferson, late Woodland occupation.

Testing at 1Wal28 revealed an undisturbed occupational midden. The lack of any features and the relative thin nature of the midden suggests the site was an ephemeral base camp. 1Wal29 was severely disturbed by years of land-use. Only a minor amount of topsoil was noted within the excavation units. A grader strip placed along the center of the site revealed a post mold and a surface hearth. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered within the features. 1Wal52 had an immense artifact distribution across the site. Unfortunately, previous clear cutting and subsequent erosion had removed almost all of the site's topsoil and no features were encountered.

1Wal28 and 1Wal29 were recommended as being eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and for preservation or excavation. 1Wal52 was recommended to be considered ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP and the property was released to Drummond Coal for their further use.

Excavations at the Coahatchee site (1Cc53), in Conecuh County, Alabama, were conducted between the months of August and October, 1995, by Panamerican Consultants, Inc., for the Alabama Department of Transportation under the direction of Principal Investigator, Terry Lolley. Phase II and III excavations were conducted to mitigate potential impacts to a portion of the site to be affected by the proposed bridge replacement over Cane Creek. Laboratory analysis has been completed and the draft report is in the final stages.

Surface mapping, shovel testing, and the excavation of approximately 65 square meters within the portion of the site provided sufficient data to indicate that the site is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Coahatchee is a wellstratified site with components ranging from the Early Archaic to Mississippian periods. The primary occupation of the site occurred during the Late Woodland Weeden Island Period, apparent from the large collection of plain and decorated ceramics. Radiocarbon dates obtained from three feature samples indicate the Weeden Island occupation to date from about A.D. 520-900.

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## Preparing the Way For the Next Generation of A.A.S. Members

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Mac Brooms has clearly designated public education as a priority during his tenure as president of the A.A.S. In keeping with this goal, the A.A.S. executive board recently voted to encourage the general membership to support an established archaeological education program called Project Archaeology.

This program is already established in several other states, and A.A.S. First Vice President, Linda Derry is coordinating its introduction into Alabama. The general membership is being asked to donate toward a teacher stipend fund for Project Archaeology.

### **Project Archaeology Fact Sheet**

#### **Goal:**

Archaeological sites and artifacts help connect us to the land and give us an understanding of our place in history. Project Archaeology is an educational program developed by the Bureau of Land Management. It was designed to teach America's young citizens the value of our rich cultural heritage. By introducing the project archaeology program into Alabama, we hope to equip our children with the knowledge needed to make wise decisions concerning the use and protection of archaeological resources.

**Audience:**

The ratio of archaeologists to school children in our state is too great for an archaeologist to visit every classroom. So, Project Archaeology targets educators: classroom teachers, scout leaders, and museum educators.

**Three Integral Program Components:**

1. *Intrigue of the Past: A Teacher's Guide for Fourth through Seventh Grades.*

This teaching guide contains 28 classroom tested lessons which use archaeology to teach science, math, history, social studies, art, language arts, and higher level thinking skills such as problem solving, synthesis, and evaluation. State student handbooks are under development which will provide specific information about state and local archaeology.

2. Workshops. Participants discover the science of archaeology through (a) *Intrigue* lesson plans which teach basic concepts and principles, (b) the expertise of professional archaeologists, (c) discussions of the need to preserve and protect sites and artifacts, and (d) consideration of Native American perspectives on archaeological preservation.

3. Continuing professional development for *Intrigue* educators through printed updates, networking opportunities, and additional learning opportunities with professional archaeologists.

**Project Archaeology appeals to educators because:**

- it supports existing curriculum
- hands-on activities are included
- it is flexible and can be used in a variety of ways including multi-disciplinary studies.
- local information about archaeology and history is provided
- opportunities for teachers to receive in service and university credit are provided.

**Project Archaeology appeals to students because:**

- the individual is involved in the learning process

-it models a real profession and real world problems

-young people like to learn about cultures and archaeology

**Track Record**

Project Archaeology began operating in Utah in 1990. In 1993, a complete program evaluation was conducted by surveying the 550 educators who had taken workshops. Eighty-two percent of the educators who returned questionnaires stated that they were still using the program. They also reported that most of the students changed their attitudes regarding the conservation of the archaeological resources as a result of instruction.

**Operating Procedure**

The whole program depends on a statewide network of archaeologists and teachers.

Participating archaeologists throughout the state will select an educator that has demonstrated an interest in archaeology. Together they will become a Project Archaeology Facilitator team, and will attend a two day workshop. When they return home, each facilitator team will conduct a similar workshop for ten or more local teachers. These regional teachers will return to their classrooms with workbooks, resources materials, exciting new ways to teach established curricula, and most importantly, an accurate appreciation of Alabama Archaeology.

The Alabama Historical Commission has agreed to underwrite the cost of the workbooks, and of bringing the Project Archaeology specialists from Colorado to initially train our facilitator teams.

Sponsors are being sought to provide \$500 stipends for each of facilitator educators. The stipend is needed to cover the teachers travel to and from the facilitator workshop and expenses associated with planning the local teacher workshops.

*Submitted by:*

*Linda Derry*

*Old Cahawba Project*

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## AAS Summer Meeting Reminder

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The Alabama Archaeological Society's Summer Meeting will be held at the Wright Farm Site (1Ca18) in Alexandria in Calhoun County on Saturday, June 29th from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The meeting will entail a tour of the site as well as an opportunity to participate in the excavations.

Hot dogs and hamburgers will be grilled on site at noon. We will picnic on the banks of Cane Creek, a good swimming hole so prepare to take a dip if you are so inclined. The Board of Directors will meet at the gazebo during lunch.

### Directions to Wright Farm Site:

If you are coming from the south, travel through Anniston on US 431. Go three or four miles past Alabama Highway 21 when you will see the sign that says "Pelham Range." Cross over a bridge and turn left on to Cane Creek Farm Road (if you pass the Spur station on your right, you have gone too far). Go past the dairy complex and turn left on to a dirt farm road just before you dead end at the Maple Grove Cemetery. This road goes to the site. Look for the bright orange porta-potty!

If you are coming from the north, go about 14 miles south of Gadsden on US431. Continue about 2 miles south of the intersection of Alabama Highway 21 and US 431 until you see the Grub Market on your right and the Spur station on your left. Turn right on to Cane Creek Farm Road just past the Grub Market. Go past the dairy complex and turn left on to a dirt farm road just before you dead end at the Maple Grove Cemetery. This road goes to the site. Look for the bright orange porta-potty!

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## Old Girard (Phenix City)

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Archaeologists with Southern Research recently completed data recovery excavations on an urban site located on the west bank of the Chattahoochee River in Phenix City across from

Columbus, Georgia. The work was sponsored by Phenix City, which plans to construct an amphitheater on the site. The project area was the site of a settlement that grew in tandem with Columbus and at times had a somewhat sordid reputation; during the 1830's it was known as Sodom. The first bridge to span the Chattahoochee River had its western landing adjacent to the project area, which became known as Girard during the mid-nineteenth century. Archival and archaeological investigations indicate that the project area was the location of domestic housing from the second quarter of the nineteenth century until the 1980s. A house and dependent structure stood on the site until sometime in the 1880s when row houses (shotgun style) were built; the last of the row houses were razed in the 1980s when the city built a park at the location.

A large block unit and several discontinuous units were excavated by hand. A total of 120 square meters of soil was removed to reveal a deeply buried site, which was underneath as much as a meter of twentieth century alluvial and bulldozed deposits. The architectural features of six structures, including four shotgun houses and two nineteenth century domestic buildings, were identified. Extensive stratified nineteenth and twentieth century midden zones accompanied the architectural features. Excavations and analysis focused on the mid-nineteenth century occupation of the site. A final report is in preparation by Rita F. Elliot, the Field Director. Kya G. Wood and W. Dean Wood are the co-principal investigators for the project.

*-SHA Newsletter, Volume 28, Number 3, October 1995.*

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## Calendar

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**July 1-September 1, 1996** - The Birmingham Museum of Art will exhibit treasures from the First Emperor of China (221-210 B.C.E.) who created the country of China and built the Great Wall. On view will be 14 spectacular life-size terra cotta figures from what is considered the archaeological find of the century - the 1974



**Alabama Archaeological Society**

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