

Alabama Archaeological Society

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1ST ANNUAL SUMMER FIELDSCHOOL - ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The first annual summer fieldschool of the Alabama Archaeological Society will be held near Moundville July 15 through 27, 1991 (two one-week sessions). Each participant must register for at least one of the two weeks; the fieldschool is limited to 15 persons per session.

Field camp facilities will be provided. Campground includes camping pads, full electrical and water hookups, and a bathhouse. A weekly fee of \$100 will be charged to cover camping fees and instructional costs (subsistence not included).

Professor Richard Krause has excavated the fieldschool site, 1H11, for two seasons, during which he uncovered two domestic structures. During this summer he proposes to investigate a low, centrally located rise which may be the remnants of a mound. Additional domestic structures may also be excavated.

For additional information or questions, contact Dr. Boyce Driskell (President, Alabama Archaeological Society) at the following address, or call 205/371-2266.

Dr. Boyce Driskell
Alabama Archaeological Society
1 Mound State Monument
Moundville, AL 35474

An application form appeared as an insert in the May issue of the STONES & BONES for your convenience in registering for this fieldschool.

Dr. Boyce Driskell
Moundville

June 1991

EARLY SPANISH BEAD FOUND IN TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

by John Wm. (Bill) Adkison
Tuscaloosa Chapter, Alabama Archaeological Society

On Sunday, April 21, I was surface collecting a site that I had hunted for years. I was not having much luck, so I began to notice some of the kinds of things I do not normally pick up. On a little slope I saw an object on the surface that at first looked like wire insulation, although I had never seen insulation of that color. Upon inspection (and mashing it to see if it was rubber), I noticed the hole in the end. It turned out to be a blue glass bead. I knew then that this must be a contact-period find, since the site normally produces mainly Protohistoric shell-tempered pottery of the local Alabama River phase. The site also has minor earlier occupation of Late Woodland age.

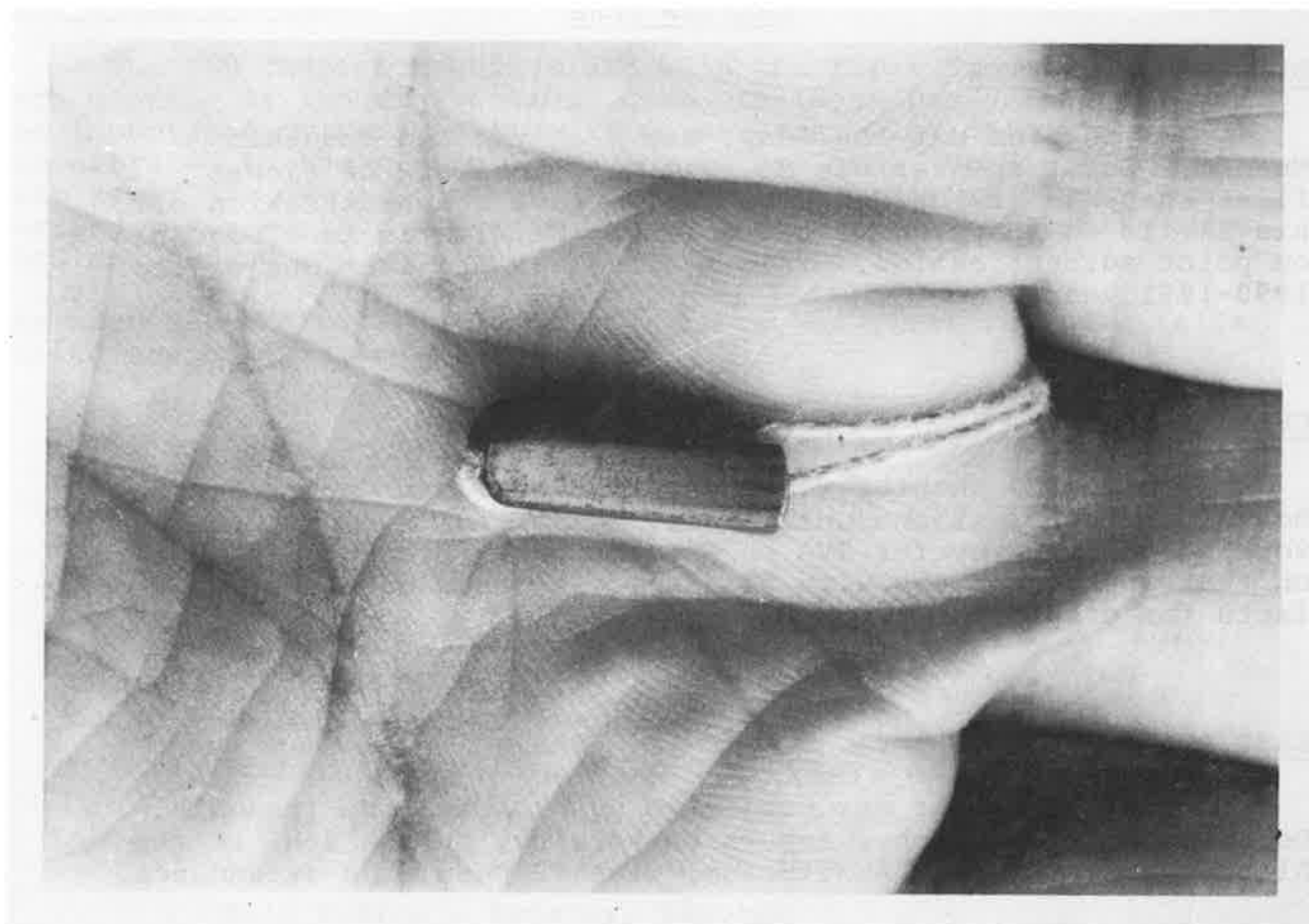
The site is a fairly large village site near the town of Fosters, in the Black Warrior River Valley in Tuscaloosa County.

The bead is classified as a Nueva Cadiz Twisted. Using the classification system of Marvin Smith and Mary Elizabeth Good, in their book Early Sixteenth-Century Glass Beads in the Spanish Colonial Trade (Cottonlandia Museum, Greenwood, Mississippi, 1982), it is a "Class III, Type 2, variety A." It is a little over one-half inch long. It has three layers of different colored glass. The outer layer is turquoise blue. Next is a thin white layer. The inner layer looks dark brown or black, but probably is actually a deep blue. It is square in cross-section and has a slight twist.

This type of bead is a very good time marker, being traded by the Spaniards only during the first half of the sixteenth century. I believe it is a De Soto artifact, having been dropped rather than deposited in a grave.

In December of 1540 Hernando de Soto was in this vicinity. In the Chiefdom of Apafalaya he remained seven days, leaving December 9 going westward towards Chicasa. According to the reconstructed route of Charles Hudson, the site of the find lies virtually on the De Soto route at the northern end of Apafalaya province.

This is the first such bead ever found in West Alabama. I plan to keep the bead in a safety deposit box. I immediately shared the find with professional archaeologists at the University of Alabama, and the accompanying photograph was made by the Alabama Museum of Natural History.



Nueva Cadiz Twisted Bead - 16th Century

(Photograph courtesy of Alabama Museum of Natural History)

A.A.S. ARCHIVES

I made a recent visit to the Department of Archives and Manuscripts, Birmingham Public Library, to check on their progress in cataloging and organizing the Society archives. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the complete collection had been cataloged and arranged chronologically. The Department had a student intern work most of last winter on the collection. The collection is now available to anyone wanting to research the Society and its history.

Amos J. Wright
Chairman, Archives

CHAPTER NEWS

BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER

The chapter met Thursday, May 9 at the Red Mountain Museum. Guest speaker was Mr. Van King, one of the finest flint knappers in the Southeast. Van gave a demonstration of his skills on knapping fluted points. He also is knowledgeable on point authentication. This meeting was the last one of the 1990-1991 year.

Bobby Hawkins

CULLMAN CHAPTER

The May 20 chapter meeting, at the Cullman County Courthouse, was the last one until Fall. Van King, who has been working on a survey for TVA on Wheeler Lake, presented an update on that work, complete with slides. Two other guests brought artifacts for display.

Dewitt T. Coleman

EAST ALABAMA CHAPTER

Our May meeting was presented by Dr. David W. Icenogle, Department of Geography, Auburn University, on the 8th, at the Alabama Power Company Auditorium, with 22 people in attendance.

Dr. Icenogle gave a slide lecture on the Minoan civilization, which flourished on the island of Crete in the eastern Mediterranean dating back to the third millennium BC. Contemporary with the great empires of Egypt and Mesopotamia, this culture with its distinctive architecture and sophisticated art reached its peak between 1570 and 1400 BC. The speaker has recently returned from Crete, where he had an opportunity to personally visit a number of archaeological sites reflecting this ancient civilization.

Caroline R. Dean

HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER

The chapter met on May 28 to hear Charles Hubbert talk about the survey work he has conducted recently along the Tennessee River.

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. For more information on chapter activities call President Dee Hubbert at 880-1113 or Secretary-Treasurer Beth Justice at 880-2836.

Dorothy Luke

TROY STATE CHAPTER

The TSU Chapter meetings are held the first Thursday of each month. At the May meeting, Club President Dan Shinn explained the importance of using a transit on an archaeological site and demonstrated to the club members how to use one. On May 4, the club spent the day at a newly discovered site in Pike County. Testing revealed that the site was inhabited from the Archaic and Woodland period and into the Mississippian period.

The next meeting will be June 13th, since the first Thursday falls during the quarter break.

April Smith

NEW MEMBERS - ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Laura Cook - Troy, Alabama
Lisa Holloway - Birmingham, Alabama
Stephen K. Hudson - Anniston, Alabama
Dale C. Huschka - Mobile, Alabama
Richard and Helena McCarthy - Troy, Alabama
Bette Sue McElroy - Gadsden, Alabama
Alan Lyle Mullen - Mobile, Alabama
Bill Patton - Decatur, Alabama
Poarch Creek Indian Heritage Center - Wetumpka, Alabama
Linda Stieffelmeyer - Cullman, Alabama
Howard R. Symons, Jr. - Eufaula, Alabama
G.L. Lacy & D.J. Vanlandingham - Mobile, Alabama
Bill and Milly Wright - Florence, Alabama
Bob and Carmelita Yates - Florence, Alabama

Eugene Futato
Moundville

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
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama</i>	\$6.00 pp
Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i>	\$8.00 pp
<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

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: **ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

SEND CHECKS TO: Journal Editor, A.A.S.
 Division of Archaeology
 1 Mound State Monument; Moundville, AL 35474

MEMBERSHIP

The coupon below may be used EITHER to APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP in the Society, or for the PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES. Please be sure that your name and address are CLEARLY entered, and that appropriate boxes are checked.

TO: **THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**, for

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