

Stones & Bones

Sept. and Oct. 2012

Volume 54, Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Alabama Archaeological Society

President's Letter

Wow, this has been a quick, busy summer. I can't believe we are well into the football season already – known as 'Fall' to the rest of the world...! And while most of us are looking forward to football, tailgating, and a season of triumph on the field, there are a few of us looking forward to some cooler weather in which to do some archeology and celebrate October 20 -National Archeology Day! (See the list of events in this newsletter.)

I have been thinking lately – because of past legislative issues, National Archaeology Day – and our outreach efforts – how many citizens of Alabama have given more than a passing thought to our archaeological and historical sites? Polls indicate most people want to 'save history' and that the public does value the past, but do they really see the very tangible links to our heritage on the landscape?

The story of Alabama's history is written across our landscape. We are fortunate to have so many archaeological sites that are also federal, state, or county parks – like Old Cahawba, Moundville, Fort Toulouse/Jackson, Russell Cave, Bottle Creek, and the Florence Mound. Sites like these provide a visual link to our past. There is something to see. The same goes for the historic buildings and structures in our downtowns.

Most archeological sites, however, are not so special to look at. They are largely under the ground in cropped fields, grass pastures, forests, and even parking lots and sidewalks. They go unnoticed until there is some federal activity – a construction project of some kind usually. That is when archeologists are contracted to conduct surveys to find and record these hidden sites. Granted, many sites are not considered significant because there is no new information expected from additional excavations or because nothing of note "happened" at that spot – and so they are destroyed in the wake of progress. A few, however, are important and are worth preserving or at least being excavated by archeologists to find the information they contain that will contribute to the story of

Alabama's history.

Unfortunately, we – archeologists or even the state of Alabama – cannot afford (time or money!) to find every site or excavate every site. Fortunately, we don't have to find or dig every site because we can preserve sites in place. Of course, that calls for a strong historic preservation ethic or program. Preservation of course, costs some money when it comes to maintenance or the employment of park workers (archeologists, historians, and even the employees who cut the grass – sometimes all the same person!) I personally can't say Alabama has a strong preservation program in these economic times, but we already have several archaeological and historic parks preserved that are open to the public. Some parks, such as the Florence Mound and Fort Mims are small, and one – Bottle Creek, has restricted visitation (due to lack of security and protection from illegal digging), but many others are open and also serve to provide environments for recreation and exercise. Hopefully our legislature will keep our historic parks open and keep the employees needed to keep them open for all of us and for every tourist who crosses into our state. (Some states are closing their parks due to funding issues!)

I encourage you to visit our historic parks. Get some exercise walking around (or biking at Cahawba!) Maybe you will notice the archaeological features of the landscape and think about the history and the people who used to live at that place and maybe about what is just inches under your feet. And afterwards, just maybe, maybe you can drop a line to your legislator to let them know you support our historic parks. And they should too!

Oh – and maybe before – or after – you go on that walk in the park, you might remember to pay your AAS dues and encourage a friend or two or three to join! We need your support for our publications. Some of you may or may not have noticed, but many archaeological societies and (other) organizations have shifted to only producing their newsletters on-line in an effort to save money (printing costs and postage). Those of us on the AAS Board

have considered this option, but we think our membership really likes to get the newsletter in the regular mail. In the future we may have expanded editions of the newsletter on-line that feature color photos and longer articles, but for now we expect to print and mail the Stones and Bones for our membership.

Of course, we also accept donations! Our grants and scholarships are fully funded at the moment, but we expect to be awarding the same soon after October 1, the deadline for applications and submissions – at which point they will empty out again. We need the support of our membership to continue our very existence. Maybe you can even surprise a friend or family member or two or three with a gift membership in AAS.

Finally, join us at one of the public archaeology events in October (and November); bring your family and friends. Come discover what is new in Alabama's past!

Sincerely,

Teresa Paglione, AAS President

Upcoming Events

AAS leadership and many others have planned a busy October to help celebrate **National Archeology Day** – however we are doing the celebrating all month long all over the state. Following are the events we are aware of, but remember to check the AAS website (www.alabamarchaeology.org), and our Twitter and Facebook pages (linked at the AAS website) over the next month so you can perhaps attend one of the many events around the state. In the meantime, mark your calendars for:

October 13 - 14, 20, and 27 – 28, "The Ridge" Archaeology Interpretative Center is open to the public from 11am to 3pm. Exhibits include Native American history and artifacts; a local rural living exhibit is in progress. The Ridge is located on Macon County Road 10 in Warrior Stand, about 12 miles south of Tuskegee and 9 miles north of Hurtsboro.

October 14 - the University of South Alabama's new **Archeology Museum's Grand Opening**.

October 18 (Thursday) - the East Alabama chapter of AAS will meet at 7pm for a presentation by Jon Marcoux (AUM) entitled "**A Tale of Two Sites: Results of the 2012 AUM Summer Field School in Awendaw, SC and Montgomery, AL**" (The chapter usually meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Lee County Historical Society Complex on Hwy 14 in Loachapoka.)

October 15 to November 14 - Huntsville City Schools will sponsor **field trips on Redstone Arsenal**. EARTHSOPE will coordinate Indian Education field trips for around 1200 local 4th graders at the Redstone Arsenal Indian Education Outdoor Classroom. Students will tour a replica Mississippian period house, participate in a geo-caching exercise to learn about hunter-gatherer subsistence, try their hands at using atlatls, traditional bows and arrows, and blow guns, play traditional Native American games, and learn about other aspects of Native American history and culture.

October 20 - **National Archaeology Day**: An "**Artifact Identification and ARPA Amnesty**" event will be held at Wilson Hall at the University of Alabama Huntsville from 1:00 to 5:00. Professional archaeologists will be on hand at the event to identify artifacts the public brings in and tell them more about them. They can also help participants record archaeological sites they've found. Archaeologists from the Army and TVA will also be accepting artifacts from the public that were collected on public land. It's illegal to collect artifacts on federal land or from federal and state waterways, but for this day only, anyone who turns in artifacts from public land will be safe from prosecution and will be secure in knowing that the artifacts they collected will be available for professional study and public exhibit. Archaeologists from TVA will also be hosting children's activities, and there will be plenty of educational displays and literature to browse. Later in the evening (7pm) Ben Hoksbergen will give a public lecture on the cultural history of the Middle Tennessee Valley. Co-sponsored by the AIA, Redstone Arsenal, TVA, the Alabama National Guard, the Alabama Archaeological Society, Alexander Archaeological Consultants, and Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research.

October 20 - **National Archaeology Day**: The East Alabama Chapter of AAS will have an archaeology information booth at the **Lee County Historical Society's "Historic Fair"** (in conjunction with Loachapoka's annual Syrup Sopping) and conduct an "Artifact Identification" event from 10 until 2pm. (Hwy 14 in Loachapoka).

October 22 - There will be a **reception for Edwin Bridges**, the retiring Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, from 1-3pm. Dr. Bridges has been a good friend of archaeology and has helped in the conservation of the Archives significant archaeological collections.

October 27 - **The Poarch Band Creek museum** near Atmore (exit 54) will have its grand opening.

And three events in November worth noting:

November 1-4 - **The South Historical Association annual meeting** will be at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel. There will be a session on "The Creek War and the War of 1812: A 200 Year Retrospective" with presentations by archaeologists Greg Waselkov (USA), Craig Sheldon (AUM) and historian Kathryn Braund (Auburn).

November 7-11 - 8:30-4:40pm - **Frontier Days at Fort Toulouse**. The most authentic Living History event in the state, Alabama Frontier Days is a reenactment of Alabama cultures from 1700 to 1820 - from French Colonial times to the early American period. Living History reenactors include Native Americans, period traders, merchants and entertainers. The French Fort Toulouse will be occupied by a full force of authentically costumed French Colonial Marines. A War of 1812 camp will be set up next to Fort Jackson. There are scheduled demonstrations and period entertainments and a tent with artifacts found during excavations at the park. Admission is \$6.00 for students and \$7.00 for adults.

November 15 - **The North Alabama Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America presents Dr. James Adovasio** (AIA National Lecturer). His presentation

will be "The First Floridians: Early Humans on the Submerged Florida Coast" at 7:30pm, Wilson Hall, University of Alabama Huntsville. Dr. Adovasio is probably best-known for his excavations at Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Pennsylvania. Most recently he has co-lead a project to investigate and excavate submerged Paleo-Indian sites in the Gulf of Mexico.

Noteworthy also - although not necessarily archaeology-related - on Saturday, October 6, 2012, the Talasi Historical Preservation Society of Tallassee presents the second annual theatrical production, "Tecumseh at Tuckabatchee...And One Fire Still Burns." The outdoor event starts at 7 pm CDT at the Patterson Log Cabin in Tallassee, Alabama. Check their website at www.tuckabatchee.com or call 334-283-5151 for more info. (Tickets are \$10 at the gate or \$8 in advance.)

The Archaeology Museum: GRAND OPENING

The Archaeology Museum at the University of South Alabama will celebrate its grand opening with a slate of campus-wide activities on Sunday, October 14, 2012, from 2-5 p.m. The event will also include a presentation of the ancient art process used to create the new Moulton Tower murals, fine arts glassblowing demonstrations, and outdoor musical and theatrical performances. The long awaited opening of The Archaeology Museum is an inaugural event of the University's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Museum visitors will encounter a new look at the Gulf Coast's rich prehistory and history, as they explore 4,000 square feet of exhibits that draw on archaeology as a portal to the region's past. Artifacts are contextualized using a series of life-size scenic representations depicting archaeologists at work and glimpses into the ways of life of ancient Woodland cultures, mound-building Mississippian peoples, early French settlers, and an African-American family after the Civil War.

"The new Archaeology Museum has something to offer people of all ages," said Gregory Waselkov, director of the museum. "Visitors will enjoy new opportunities to explore the region's historical narrative in an inspiring and memorable setting that makes history come to life."

The Archaeology Museum aims to

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www.alabamaarchaeology.org**

promote the archaeological study and appreciation of the region's past, disseminate information about archaeology, and preserve archaeological evidence of the past for future study, use, and enjoyment.

Throughout its opening year, The Archaeology Museum will feature innovative educational programs for both children and adults, offering museumgoers varied opportunities to share in the ongoing discovery of the region's collective heritage. The first of these occurs on the weekend following the opening. On Saturday, October 20, The Archaeology Museum will join in celebrations for National Archaeology Day by offering visitors a chance to part-take in activities that demonstrate what archaeologists do.

"Museums today are increasingly implementing fresh approaches to connect with the communities they serve. They are an important part of a society's educational infrastructure, where everyone, from children to scholars, can learn, imagine, contemplate, and envision," notes Barbara Filion, the museum's Education Curator. "We want The Archaeology Museum to be a major resource for schools and teachers and for the community at large. We are dedicated to offering programs that address community needs and issues of the day. Our plan is to build on the success of programs launched in the past several months, some of which are tied to major national movements, such as the First Lady's *Let's Move!*, *Museums and Gardens*, and *Nova Science Cafes*."

The Archaeology Museum was completely designed in-house, and the fabrication of exhibits was realized thanks to the hard work of the staff at the Center for Archaeological Studies as well as dedicated volunteers. The Museum is housed in the Alfred & Lucille Delchamps Archaeology building, located in the heart of USA's campus.

The Archaeology Museum was made possible thanks to the generous contributions of many donors, including: Alfred and Lucile Delchamps, The Crampton Trust, The Hearin-Chandler Foundation, The J.L. Bedsole Foundation, White Smith Land Company Inc., Sybil H. Smith Charitable Trust, Alabama Power, Mr. and Mrs. M. Palmer Bedsole, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas H. Holmes, Jr., and USA Alumni Association.

Visitors may learn more about The Archaeology Museum and its programs via our website: <http://www.southalabama.edu/archaeology/museum.html>.

Rededication Ceremony for Blakeley Courthouse

By Bonnie Gums

Alabama Governor Robert Bentley presided over a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the re-dedication of the brick foundation remains of the first Baldwin County courthouse in Historic Blakeley State Park. The town of Blakeley (1BA221) was founded in 1813 and it soon became a boom town rivaling Mobile. Based on historical documents, the courthouse was built around 1832-1833. By the Civil War, the town had disappeared, due to yellow fever epidemic and Mobile's rise, among other factors.

Partial brick remains of the Baldwin County Courthouse foundation were uncovered decades ago and left open for visitors to see. Over the years, the remains deteriorated, with erosion, walls collapsing, and bricks stolen. In 2011 the University of South Alabama's Spring Semester archaeological field methods class spent four days excavating portions

of the massive brick foundation, under the direction of Greg Waselkov and Bonnie Gums. Staff members from the Center for Archaeological Studies completed the work, which involved the removal of thousands of brick fragments to reveal intact remains.

The courthouse foundation remains are at least six courses of brick in height and the partially intact floor has brick laid in a herringbone pattern. A brick herringbone pattern porch was also found at the Globe Hotel site at Old St. Stephens (1WN1), a contemporaneous American frontier town. This type of pattern is elaborate and costly, suggesting the importance of these two structures.

After the Blakeley Courthouse brick foundation was uncovered, it was stabilized and preserved for on-site exhibit, protected by a wooden structure that covers the site. Funding for restoration, preservation, and interpretation development was provided to Historic Blakeley State Park by a Save America's Treasures grant, administered by the National Park Service.



2011 excavation of the brick remains of the first Baldwin County Courthouse in Historic Blakeley State Park.

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SCHAC at USA's Archaeology Museum

By Bonnie Gums

The 14th annual meeting of the South Central Historical Archeology Conference (SCHAC) was held Saturday, September 15 in The Archaeology Museum at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. It was co-hosted by the Center for Archaeological Studies and the Southwest Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society. Thirty-seven attendees from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama participated in a day-long program of 10 talks and 5 posters. Greg Waselkov gave a sneak preview tour of the exhibits under construction in The Archaeology Museum, and Bonnie Gums led a tour of archaeology labs and curation facility. We enjoyed a catered picnic lunch in the colorful Native Plants Garden surrounding The Archaeology Museum. AAS Southwest Chapter members Angie Bednarski, Traci Cunningham, Jackie McConaha, Susan McWhirter, and Frank Vogtner volunteered with set-up, registration, lunch, and clean-up.

SCHAC talks covered a wide range of topics, including a French colonial site on Ship Island, Mississippi by Barbara Hester (USM) and Spanish colonial Galveztown in Louisiana by Rob Mann (LSU). Susan Olin (MDAH) discussed linear cultural resources, such as trails, roads, railroads, and canals, based on her studies in Mississippi. Research on ethnic identity through the study of human remains from a French colonial cemetery in Biloxi, Mississippi, and Fort Michilimackinac in

Michigan was presented by Heather Guzik, Danielle Cook, and Marie Elaine Danforth (USM). Sara A. Hahn and Thurston H. Hahn III (CEI) shared their research on nineteenth-century British ceramic import businesses in New Orleans. Joanne Ryan and Lukas Zarychta (CEI) discussed architectural reconstruction based on archaeological remains at the Plaisance Plantation sugarhouse in Louisiana. Dennis C. Jones (LSU) described the removal of a portion of a historic Louisiana cemetery, followed by study of the human remains, analysis of coffin hardware, and reburial.

Alabama was represented by Linda Derry, who provided an overview of Old Cahawba and her efforts to increase public awareness and park visitation. Jack Bergstresser discussed his research on African-American industrial workers and their families at Tannehill Ironworks and Smythe Mining Camp on Red Mountain. Dave Anderson (Fathom Exploration) presented his views on recent attempts to amend the Alabama Underwater Cultural Resources Act of 1999, followed by a group discussion highlighting the efforts of the Coalition to Protect Alabama's History (<http://www.c-pah.org/>).

SCHAC poster topics included the creation of a historic interpretive trail for the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Industrial Complex in Tennessee by Doug Heffington (Middle Tennessee State University) and Steve Ward (Radnor Lake State Natural Area), and the study of human remains from the 1848 Mexican-American War found washing out of the beach on Greenwood Island, Mississippi, followed by public involvement in a reburial ceremony, by Morgan Devlin, Amanda Harvey, and Nicole Musselwhite (USM).

Posters on Alabama research included the analysis and interpretation of olive-green glass from Old Mobile by Barbara Hester (USM) and Sarah Mattics (USA), historic Creek Indian pottery by Katie Bates and Tara Potts (USA), and archaeological survey along coastal Alabama following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in April 2010 by Tara Potts (USA).

On Sunday morning, some SCHAC attendees toured Historic Blakeley State Park in Baldwin County. Blakeley Park has a complex archaeological past, including prehistoric shell middens and mounds, an Apalachee Indian mission, an ethnic French colonial plantation, the community of Blakeley (once a boom town rivaling Mobile), and some of the best preserved Civil War battlefield earthworks in the Southeast. Our tour guides were Donnie Barrett, Director of the Fairhope Museum of History, and John Ellis, an expert on the Confederate Navy (<http://www.csnavy.org/>).



New Anthropology Minor Program at the University of West Alabama

The University of West Alabama began offering a minor in anthropology for the first time this fall. The new course of study provides students an opportunity to enhance their skills in analytical reasoning, communicating in unfamiliar social or cultural settings, and developing a global perspective, all of which are critical to success in the job market.

Course requirements for a minor in anthropology focus heavily on archaeology - the study of past cultures through their material remains. As required, students enroll in the archaeological field school, where they practice techniques used to learn about past cultures and also take part in a real-world project requiring teamwork, problem solving, observation and application of scientific methods.

For more information about UWA's minor in anthropology, contact Dr. Ashley Dumas at adumas@uwa.edu or 205-652-3830. More information on anthropology and the benefits of studying it can be found at www.aaanet.org/profdev/careers/Careers.cfm.



SCHAC picnic in the Native Plants Garden at USA's Archaeology Museum.

Two New Sites to Explore and Record

By Robbie Camp

I recently purchased 5.5 acres in the Holly Pond community, in the southeastern area of Cullman County to build a house adjoining a house my daughter had just purchased through a short sale offer. It is in a subdivision that has been at a standstill for about the last 10 years and is bordered by Mud Creek which flows into Turkey Hop Creek. I truly purchased the place for the building site but had hopes that there might be some archaeological materials to explore.

Shortly after getting it surveyed and perked and after reaching an agreement with a local builder to proceed, the bank decided to retract the agreement reached with my daughter on the adjoining residence. I said no problem, I don't need 5.5 acres anyway. We'll just split it and build two houses. I gave her the choice of the front site or the back site which was the closest to the creek and she chose the back site (Rats!!). After another perk and survey, the builder came in and cleared two house sites. Then it just happened to come a nice little rain. At the crack of dawn I was in her yard-to-be and picked up about a dozen flakes of Flint Creek chert, a mortar, flint hammerstone, two midsections, and a Ledbetter point. This site is on a nice little knoll about 50 yards from the creek. All fired up, I proceeded to my future home place and immediately spotted more flakes of Flint Creek chert. Suddenly there was a Camp Creek point, and shortly thereafter another one. The second was larger and made of a Knox type material. This site is about 300 yards from the creek and also is up on a knoll. We have been moved in about two weeks now and I am about to start landscaping and preparing a garden spot for next spring (Big Garden Spot). I hope my daughter will let me prepare a garden area for her also!



North American Archaeology in the News

A new study on the nature of leadership in Ohio Hopewell societies (100BC-400AD) using biological markers on skeletons confirms the now accepted view of Hopewell society as “strongly egalitarian with no inherited leadership positions.” There were elaborate burials, but the skeletal evidence suggests that leaders earned the honor either through a “lifetime of achievement or by special circumstances of their death.” The skeletal markers are considered indicators of physiological stress, dietary stress, non-specific infection, or trauma. In other words, an individual's status didn't include better food or less intensive labor when compared to ordinary Hopewell peoples. In fact, there were few or no differences in biological status between men and women – an indication that women were not subordinate to men but also were leaders. For more information and references, go to <http://ohio-archaeology.blogspot.com>.

A recently discovered 500-year-old Alaskan settlement is rapidly disappearing into the Bering Sea. The Yup'ik archaeological site is eroding due to higher rates of coastal erosion and a melting permafrost. Among the thousands of artifacts are well-preserved strands of hair; scientists hope to analyze the hair for chemical signatures of salmon, caribou and other animals – and perhaps get an idea of what sort of changes in the Bering Sea ecosystem affected the peoples diet and subsistence. For more information, go to www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-19521091.

This summer archaeologists from the University of Oklahoma finished excavating a 10,000-year-old bison kill site. The Badger Hole Site contained Folsom points and bison skeletal material. For more info, go to www.oudaily.com/news/2012/aug/30/bisonkillsite/.

A team of archeologists at the University of South Carolina has mapped the Charleston Harbor naval battlefield. The survey shows where military actions took place, including the resting places of Union ironclads and Confederate blockade runners (1861-1865). The National Park Service funded the project through an American Battlefield Protection grant. Learn more at www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/08/120823175352.htm.

And, closer to home, a portion of the

the remains of a vast cypress forest is being explored by divers at a depth of sixty feet on the continental shelf south of the Fort Morgan Peninsula. Nick Tew, a geologist with the Geological Survey of Alabama, said that the stumps had likely been preserved for millenia by virtue of being buried beneath a few feet of sand, which prevented oxygen from reaching them. The same phenomenon is responsible for bones and remnants preserved in peat bogs and other oxygen-deprived locations. Tew and Mimi Fearn, head of the Earth Sciences Department at the University of South Alabama, said it was a rare treat to uncover a relict Pleistocene forest deep beneath the ocean. Both suggested that radiocarbon dating of wood samples could provide a more precise date for the age of the trees, and yield new clues about the history of the Gulf and its river deltas. So far, there has been no effort to search the area for submerged Paleoindian sites.

Its back! The Alabama shore is revisited almost annually by TV reporters who “discover” the recently uncovered, recovered, and uncovered remains of the Rachel – they make the national news when they repeatedly and erroneously speculate that it is a Civil War blockade runner. (Reporters don't fact-check anymore?) Never mind - we know that the ship was built to haul timber in the early 1900s and we even have pictures of it being built in nearby Moss Point, Mississippi at the DeAngelo Shipyard.... It sank in 1923.

However – what is really news to those of us in Alabama is that the recent summer drought has affected the water level of the Missouri River and revealed the outlines of the Montana, a wooden steamboat built in 1882. Seems to be no speculation to make it on national news, even though it is older than the Rachel and was the largest ship on the river when it ran aground.

Speaking of Montana –University of Montana archaeologists are scouring the landscape of the battle at Rosebud River - where Cheyenne and Sioux Indians fought the US Cavalry for about six hours – a week before the Battle of the Little Big Horn, where Custer and his 700 troopers met their fate. For more information, go to http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/um-archaeology-team-explores-rosebud-battlefield/article_bf510024-0b17-5e4f-87fd-304bd27b6540.html.

For these and other stories, check out the AAS Facebook page. You don't have to have a Facebook page to view the pages.

New Evidence in the Debate over a Younger Dryas Cosmic Impact

A study published this month in the online version of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* replicated the results of a 2007 study that identified microspherules and other physical evidence for an extra-terrestrial impact in strata dating to 12,900 years ago. Some intervening studies using different methodologies had failed to replicate the results.

The impact may have marked the beginning of the Younger Dryas climatic cooling episode and is hypothesized by some to have contributed to the extinction of Pleistocene megafauna and a demographic collapse of prehistoric people in North America and an end to the Clovis archaeological culture.

An interdisciplinary team from 18 different institutions from around the globe analyzed samples from 18 sites in North America, Europe, and Asia with dated strata from the Younger Dryas boundary at 12,900 years BP. They closely followed the methodology used in the 2007 study by R. B. Firestone et al. Like Firestone et al., they found abundant silica- and iron-rich microspherules in the 12,900 BP strata, but found none or few in the strata directly above and below.

They compared the microspherules with melt products from known sites of cosmic impacts or nuclear airbursts and found that they were geochemically and morphologically comparable.

This study supports the hypothesis that a meteor or other extra-terrestrial object impacted the ice sheet or exploded above the northern hemisphere around 12,900 BP.

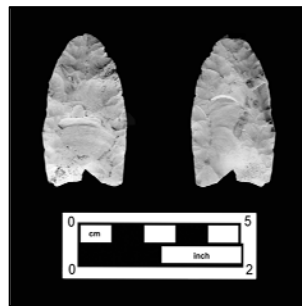
Some archaeologists have hypothesized that the widespread fires and subsequent climatic cooling from this event was cataclysmic for the Clovis population in North America. This model has been used to explain the low numbers of Redstone, Cumberland, Gainey, Vail, Debert, and Barnes points and sites in eastern North America compared to those of Clovis. The changes in point style and fluting technology may have been the result of the geographic isolation of small survivor populations.

Other archaeologists have pointed out that none of these presumed post-Clovis point types have been securely dated. If these types turn out not to be post-Clovis, then any post-Clovis demographic collapse

may be an illusion. On the Great Plains, the archaeology seems to tell a much different tale. There, according to some counts, Folsom, the securely-dated successor of Clovis, actually represents an *increase* in both the number of points and the number of sites recorded compared to Clovis.

Generally, this debate has pitted Paleoindian experts in eastern North America against those in western North America since both regions have markedly divergent archaeological records from this time period. The debate highlights the importance of absolute dating in developing cultural chronologies, as well as the inherent difficulties in extrapolating human population sizes from the archaeological record.

We may not know at this point how prehistoric human populations were impacted (so to speak) by the 12,900 event, but it is becoming increasingly clear that one or more major extra-terrestrial impacts or airbursts occurred around 12,900 BP.



Clovis point from Redstone Arsenal.

Chapter News

News from the East Alabama Chapter by Teresa Paglione:

The East Alabama Chapter recently heard a presentation by Dean Woods of Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants entitled "That Dam Job on the Chattahoochee River," about their research of two National Historic landmarks, the 1882 Eagle and 1901 Phenix stone dams. They found six earlier wooden dams, raceways and other industrial features that date from 1828 to 1869; Columbus was second only to Richmond, VA in Confederate industrial production! The dams are being breached and removed for white-water canoeing and kayaking - part of the riverfront development in Columbus and Phenix City.

Our speaker will be Dr. Jon Marcoux (AUM) in October (18th) and Dr. Kriste Shuler (Auburn) in November.



News from the Huntsville Chapter by Ben Hoksbergen:

After the summer hiatus, the Huntsville Chapter of the AAS resumed its monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 25. We met with Mary Jo Deaver of the DAR to discuss putting together an educational exhibit about north Alabama prehistoric culture in the Madison

County-Huntsville Public Library.

In the business meeting, the chapter discussed doing analysis of materials from the salvage excavation of a Morgan County site last year that was being impacted by construction of a duck pond.

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm in the large meeting room at the Main Branch of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library in downtown Huntsville.



AAS Chapters

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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:

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or via U.S. mail to:

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Alabama Archaeological Society

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