

Alabama Archaeological Society

STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

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Handbook of Alabama Archaeology, Part I, Point Types \$7.35pp
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology, Part II, Uniface Blade and Flake Tools. \$2.25pp
Lively-Long-Josselyn, Pebble Tool Papers \$3.00pp

CHECKS FOR ABOVE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:
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Available Back Issues of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology (thru 1973). \$1.00pp
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Special Publication 1 - Fort Mitchell \$2.00pp

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CHAPTER NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, Red Mountain Museum Complex, 1st Wed., 7:30pm, Tom Hutto
956-1895. The last meeting of the Birmingham Chapter was held on
September 8th and featured a movie on the Onomion Indians of Brazil
and Venezuela. The program for the October 6th meeting will be
announced. The chapter hopes to be able to participate in a dig with
Dr. Roger Nance for an environmental impact statement sometime during
September or October.
CULLMAN, 3rd Mon., 7:30pm, Eulis King 734-4548. All the members of the
Cullman Chapter are hard at work preparing for our Winter Meeting. The
September 13th meeting featured Houston Wright from the Huntsville
Chapter who spoke on Pottery in the Americas.
EAST ALABAMA, Comer Hall Aud., Auburn, 2nd Wed., 7:30pm, Dru McGowan
821-2595.
HUNTSVILLE, Fellowship Center, Senior Citizens Bldg., 3rd Tuesday,
7pm, Cindy Sims 536-2939. The September 21st meeting featured
Dorothy Luke on Guatemalan archaeology. Dorothy has travelled
throughout South and Central America and she gave an interesting talk.
MORGAN-LIMESTONE, Decatur City Hall, 4th Thurs., 7pm, Rodger Schaefer
353-5828.
MUSCLE SHOALS, Indian Mound Museum, 2nd. Mon., 7pm, Gerald Hester
764-2249. Al Beinlich presented the September 13th program which
concerned mineralogy as applied to archaeology. Al also had slides
of the 1960 and 1961 Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations.
TUSCALOOSA, Ferguson Center, 2nd Tues., 7:30pm, Eugene Futato
345-8724.

NEW MEMBERS

Michael Whisonant, 2725 Pinewood Drive, Garland, Texas 75042
Donald W. Peck, P.O. Box 24029, LSU, Baton Rouge, La. 70803

REPORT ON SEVENTEENTH DIG FUND

Your Research Association is again delighted to report increased activity among our donors, and happily list below a good showing from among our "regulars." Here's hoping we have another good month so that our customary listing in the November newsletter will be most worthwhile. Please try to remember our "Dig Fund" when you read the report this month!

Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Jackson, Jr., Birmingham, their 16th donation.

Lively-Long-Josselyn Pebble Tool Papers, their 6th this year.

Dr. John E. Wood, Haleyville, his 21st donation and 2nd for this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. McSpadden, Birmingham, their 15th consecutive donation.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom W. Cornell, Huntsville, their 21st consecutive donation.

Our total for 1976 now exceeds \$1000.00 from 27 donations and gives us hope of eventually more nearly equalling our excavation obligation this year. Also, a total of \$42.00 has been added to the Dan Josselyn Memorial Fund. Hopefully the report on the Pleistocene survey included in this newsletter will provide further incentive for additional contributions this next month.

1976 ANNUAL MEETING

The 1976 Winter Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society will be held at the Cullman County Museum on November 20th. The registration fee will be \$2.50 per person, which includes the Museum admission fee.

Although the program will appear in next month's newsletter, our list of speakers includes Howard King, the development of the Cullman County Museum; Dr. Al Trowse, early man and his food; B. Bart Henson, petroglyphs in northern Alabama; Britt Thompson, a phase of Alabama's prehistoric culture; Charles Moore, founding of the Florence Museum; Cailup Curren, Pleistocene animal remains from the Tombigbee area; W. Edward Luttgies, man and his environment - past and present; and our special speaker, Dr. Jefferson Chapman, who will talk on the Little Tennessee Excavations.

Lunch will be on your own, and there are many fine, closeby restaurants. Watch for the meeting schedule in next month's newsletter.

OCTOBER 1976

THE LATE PLEISTOCENE IN ALABAMA

In the May, 1976 newsletter, Steve Wimberly outlined a project that began this summer. Dr. Richard Krause serves as Administrative Director of the program while I serve as Project Director. The University of Alabama, the Alabama Historical Commission and the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc. are the funding agencies for the effort. The project itself is unprecedented in the history of early man studies in the State. Through the cooperation of these groups, a full year of research into the life of early man in Alabama has been initiated. The research is not bound by geographical boundaries as is the case many times with salvage programs. I am free to roam the rivers, fields and forests recording data that as we all know has so badly needed attention. This project is a credit to many people around the State who have cooperated so well with me to initiate the effort.

For the past several years, working with agencies such as the University of Alabama, Geological Survey of Alabama and the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc., I have been involved in research concerning the Late Pleistocene of Alabama. Emphasis includes not only lithics, but a wide spectrum of studies. Palynology, paleobotany, paleontology and geomorphology are a few of the subjects which have received practical application. The examination of Late Pleistocene pollen, wood, fossils and the deposits in which they rest is a must when attempts are being made to reconstruct the lifestyles of our early ancestors. One cannot stop with only lithic technology studies. The use of Scuba gear is being applied to the search, and is proving very effective in gathering data heretofore inaccessible. I am working with the bone and lithics while calling in consultants to cover the remaining disciplines.

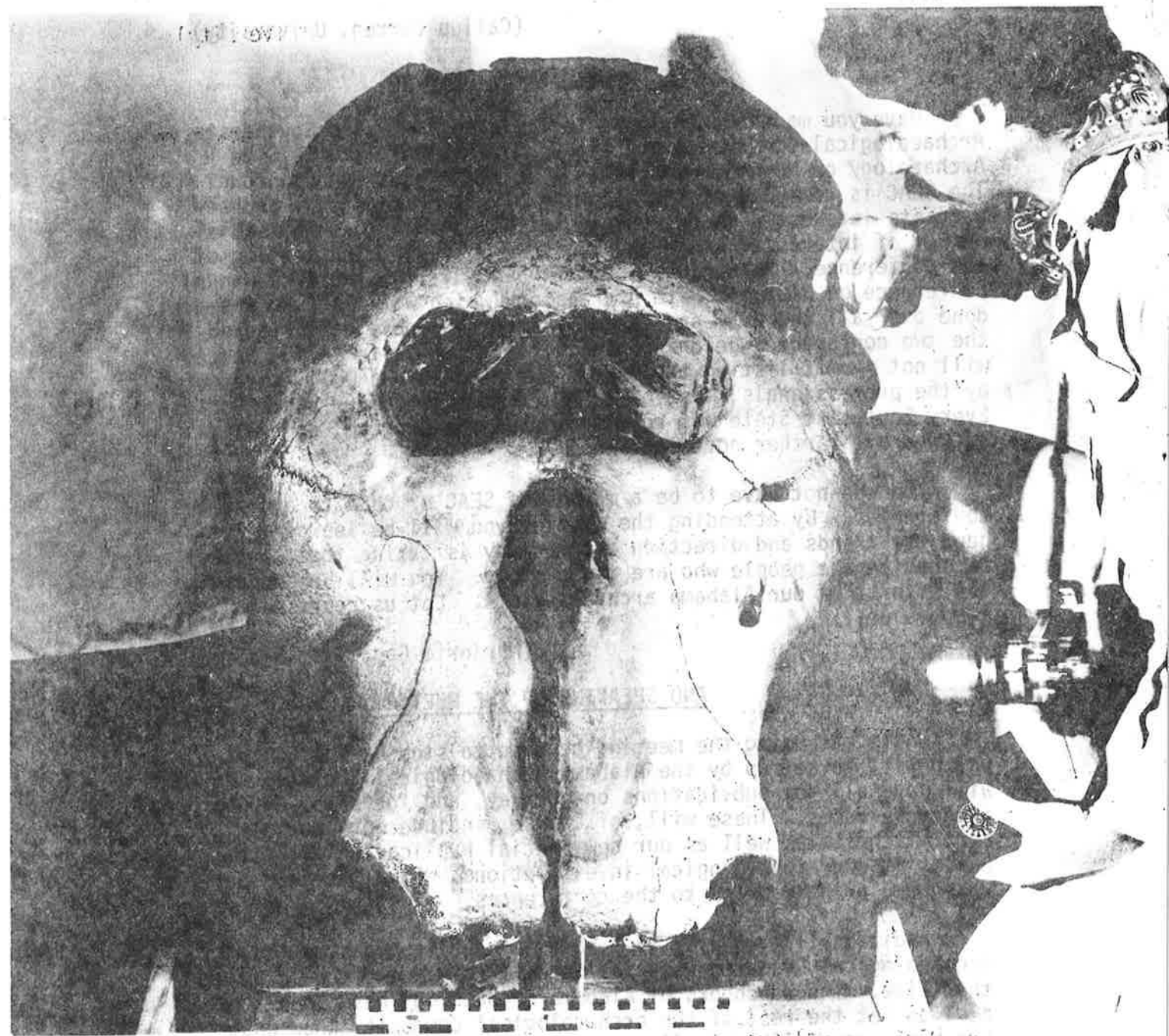
My research has centered primarily in a much neglected portion of Alabama early man studies...the lower half of the State. We are indeed fortunate that recently-discovered deposits contain well-preserved bone and vegetative remains. A rare opportunity presents itself to examine questions such as: did man co-exist with now extinct animals such as the mastodon, mammoth, giant sloth, saber-tooth tiger and many others? What was the climate like? Were the rivers larger or smaller or even present at all? Was the region grassland? Savanna? Forest? What happened to the so-called Paleo Indian and the giant animals?

It appears that the span of time being dealt with is some 9000 to 20,000 years ago. Lanceolate projectile points, including Daltons, are being examined. Areas of the State are being searched which have never before been seen by archaeologists.

Some ten years ago, remains of a mastodon were found which gave us some of our first clues to the existence of well preserved bone of articulated Pleistocene animals in the coastal plain of Alabama. A photograph appears here of the skull of that specimen which was donated to the University of Alabama Museums. Much additional bone has been discovered during the short time since this project has been underway. In addition, many Paleo Indian sites have been recorded. Both aspects of the project will be reported in the coming issues of the newsletter and, of course, a publication will be forthcoming at the conclusion of the year's work.

This subject was a female I have had for some time in the
 new school - about 1940. She was a very good student
 in school and after her death she was buried in the
 cemetery and some friends of the family were present
 at the funeral.

(Case No. 100-100000)



The skull was found in a ditch, and the body was never recovered.

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This project is a dream I have had for many years since in Graduate School I passed through these regions and wondered if early man had lived and died here. Through the cooperative efforts of several agencies and many individuals, the answers may soon be available to us all.

(Cailup Curren, University)

ANOTHER REMINDER

Have you made a note to be in Tuscaloosa for the Southeastern Archaeological Conference and the Conference on Historic Site Archaeology on November 4 through 6 at the Ramada Inn Downtown? The SEAC is composed of the majority of the professional archaeologists interested in or working in the Southeast as well as a number of interested amateurs. This will be the 33rd meeting of the Conference. In conjunction with SEAC will be the 17th Annual Conference on Historic Site Archaeology which will include research done over all the U.S. and Canada. Over 80 people participated in the two conferences held in Gainesville, Florida in 1975. Space will not permit listing the names, but Alabama was well represented by the professionals, most of whom are members of our State Society. Every Southeast State was represented on the program, as well as a few a bit farther north and west.

You do not have to be a member of SEAC or CHSA to attend the conferences. By attending the meeting you will be learning first hand the trends and direction archaeology is taking today, as well as meeting the people who are responsible. You will be supporting the efforts of our Alabama archaeologists. Let us represent Alabama well!

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama)

AND SPEAKING OF THE MEETING

While attending the meeting be sure to stop by the table which will be set up by the Alabama Archaeological Society. We will have all our publications on display, and for sale, during the conferences. These will, of course, include our Journals, Fort Mitchell, as well as our new Special Publication #2 on the Durant's Bend archaeological investigations, which has been promised us by the printer prior to the conferences.

Additionally, we will also have the publications of the Archaeological Research Association available for purchase at that time. The Handbooks of Alabama Archaeology have done a great deal to let the rest of the archaeological community know what has been accomplished in Alabama, and how hard we have all worked to further the study of prehistoric Alabama.

We look forward to seeing many of our State and Chapter members at the conferences, and hope that you will stop by and purchase the publications needed to complete your set of Journals and get your copy of Special Publication #2.

PUBLICIZING OUR SOCIETY

The first issue of the *Amateur Archaeologist*, a new publication out of Wichita, Kansas, was released in July. The second issue, due for release in October, will carry a full page ad about the Alabama Archaeological Society, with membership information and a statement of our objectives and goals. We are very appreciative of the cooperation and generosity of Dan Vap, the publisher, in assisting us in spreading the word of our Society.

An upcoming issue of the newsletter, will contain a flyer concerning the *Amateur Archaeologist*, for those of us wishing to subscribe.

A COMMENT ON THE LAGRANGE REPORT

A recent letter from James W. Cambron, co-author of the *Handbook of Alabama Archaeology, Part I, Point Types*, to David L. DeJarnette, senior author of the LAGRANGE report which appeared in the June issue of the *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* was received for publication. Jack's comments are as follows:

"Concerning the LAGRANGE Site report in the June issue of the *Journal*: I have found what appears to be errors in the classification of some projectile points as follows - Plate V (O) Motley, Plate VI (D) White Springs, Plate VIII (H and L) Big Sandy knives, Plate XI (K) Osceola, (P) McKean and (T) Decatur. I thought you might want to put my opinions on the classification in the Newsletter."

(Well, that just goes to show that there are "lumpers" and there are "splitters"...both serving their purposes, and keeping us interested.)

NOTE ON THE NEW FORMAT

As promised months ago, and finally implemented last month, your newsletter obviously has a new format. Additionally, this month, also quite obviously, there appears a photograph supplementing an article of importance to us all. We hope that this will be a welcome change and that many more articles will be received which we can use for future newsletters.

Our "special" for next month is an update concerning our August article on Nashville's Oldest Cat, received from Robert B. Ferguson, past member of our Society and THE MAN who should know the facts.

We also have "promises" of articles concerning the Shell Banks area of Baldwin County, and various excavations conducted by the University of Alabama. With the inclusion of photographs, however, articles cannot be submitted at the last minute. We are counting on our Editorial Board for keeping these articles coming and on each Society member to keep us posted on the happenings in your area. The more team members we have, the better the newsletter will be.

WHY JOIN A CHAPTER?

The Alabama Archaeological Society is a large and diverse group of individuals who are interested in archaeology and archaeological preservation. The members are spread through over 40 states and extend overseas. While monthly newsletters and the Journals are fine for providing certain information, there is very little on the "personal" side to attract and hold members. This is one of the basic reasons for chapters.

The chapter is rather like a small society, interested in Alabama archaeology in general, but honed to the local history and prehistory of the chapter area. The local chapter meetings are a gathering point for those people who wish to share what they know of the archaeology of their area with others. This exchange of ideas is what keeps us going, but does not preclude meetings concerned with archaeology of other areas. If each chapter were well versed on their own surroundings, then they would be able to provide invaluable educational opportunities to other chapters...and the society as a whole.

A few small voices have been heard to the effect that their chapters don't "do anything," or the things done are always the same; not out of a lack of leadership, or a lack of interest, but perhaps a lack of ideas for new programs. One fact which often goes unnoticed is that chapter officers can only be chosen from those on the rolls of the State Society, and occasionally these few people are the ones doing all the work (sometimes very literally) while the other chapter members sit back and wait to be taught or entertained. One person can only have just so many creative ideas. If each chapter member would spend one hour per month prior to the chapter meeting investigating the history of the area in which they live, then many interesting programs would result. The following ideas may help provide for more interesting programs: Make a list of the creek, river, stream, etc., names in your area and investigate the sources for these names. Most libraries, especially small ones, have information on the local history and the librarian would undoubtedly be glad to point you to the right shelf. If everyone were to report one sentence or two concerning some interesting fact they have learned about their locale, then that would be a contribution to the education of the other members. You don't have to be highly educated or a novelist to repeat what you have read to your friends. Perhaps this could blossom into the compilation of a local history by your chapter.

Getting people involved and interested in a program is one of the best ways of keeping chapter members; and keeping the individual chapters strong is the best way to keep the State Society strong. Having all chapter members also enrolled in the State Society, is a good way to make sure everyone feels a part of the group, and is also an extremely good way of making sure that we utilize our members to their fullest capacity. We probably have many really fine chapter members who could help us with so many varied programs, if we knew of them or if they knew they were needed.

EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING 1976



18-21 NOVEMBER, 1976 - RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

The 1976 annual meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation will be held November 18-21 at the Hotel John Marshall, Fifth and Franklin Streets, Richmond, Va. 23219. Members should write to the Hotel to secure accommodations. The host society is The Archaeological Society of Virginia. Federation societies or members wishing to reserve display space for artifact or publication exhibits should contact Mr. M. D. Kerby, Local Arrangements Chairman, 13419 Oak Lane, Midlothian, Va. 23113.

A focus of the 1976 program will be prehistoric and historic archaeological research in Virginia and surrounding areas. Papers of general interest to the membership are also encouraged. Persons desiring to present a paper should contact either the chairman of the session or the program chairman. The program chairman is William Engelbrecht, Anthropology Department, State University College, Buffalo, N.Y. 14222. Requests to present a paper should be received no later than October 22.

The Preliminary Program Schedule is as follows:

Thursday, November 18

7:00 — 9:00 p.m.

Registration

Friday, November 19

9:00 — 9:15 a.m.

Opening Address (W. Fred Kinsey, President, ESAF)

9:15 — 11:30 a.m.

State Research Review (Jefferson Chapman, Univ. of Tennessee)

1:00 — 5:00 p.m.

Historic Archaeology (William Kelso, Va. Res. Center for Arch.)

7:00 p.m.

Executive Meeting

8:30 p.m.

General Business Meeting

Saturday, November 20

9:00 — 11:30 a.m.

Virginia Archaeology (Howard MacCord, Arch. Soc. of Virginia)

1:00 — 5:00 p.m.

General Session (James Fitting, Commonwealth Associates, Inc.)

7:30 — 10:00 p.m.

Annual Dinner with speaker I. Noël Hume of Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Topic: "The West Indies and the American Revolution: An Archaeological Perspective."

Sunday, November 21

9:00 — 12:00 a.m.

General Session (Roger Moeller, Am. Indian Arch. Institute)

Advance Registration. Please return to M. D. Kerby, 13419 Oak Lane, Midlothian, Va. 23113. Make checks payable to the Eastern States Archaeological Federation.

Name(s): _____ Society: _____

Address: _____

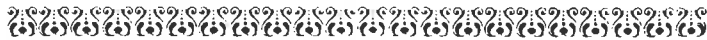
Registration Fee: Number _____ at \$3.50 for a total of \$ _____

Annual dinner to be paid for at registration.

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Following are the objectives stated in our Constitution, slightly modified for emphasis: To promote informed interest in the study of Archaeology in Alabama and neighboring States; to encourage careful scientific archaeological research in such ways as surface scouting, mapping, marking, studying and especially reporting; to promote and support professionally directed excavations and discourage unsupervised "digging"; to promote the conservation of archaeological sites and to favor the passage of laws prescribing such; to oppose the sale of antiquities, and the manufacture and sale of fraudulent artifacts; to encourage and develop a better understanding of archaeology through providing Newsletters, Journals, Chapter and State meetings, helpful associates and good fellowship; to serve as a bond between individual archaeologists in the State, both non-professional and professional; and perhaps most importantly, to give everyone the opportunity to "do something about archaeology" through the accomplishment and enjoyment of these high aims.

The Society needs and welcomes as members, all persons whose ideals are in accord with the objectives set forth above. Active members receive the JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, devoted to articles on the archaeology of Alabama and nearby States, and also receive the STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER, published monthly, containing news of members and their activities, also State, national and worldwide events of archaeological importance.



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 checkmarks appear in applicable blanks!

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Alabama Archaeological Society

C/O MR. & MRS. JERRY J. NIELSEN

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