

# STONES & BONES

The Alabama Archaeological Society

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## Searching for Maubila

*Steven Meredith*

The Alabama Archaeological Society had a field trip on the 9th and 10th of March in Dallas County. The primary objective was mapping and excavating shovel tests at the Armory Mound site in Selma. This work was a part of a field survey sponsored by the Alabama Historical Commission. The objective of this survey is to look for sites that date to DeSoto's AD 1540 expedition through what is now Alabama, with an emphasis on locating the site of Maubila.



*Valley Creek Hunting Lodge was a great place to get ready for the next day's work.*

The Armory Mound site is located within the city limits of Selma. Because of work done by AAS members as well as members of the University of Alabama Anthropology Club, who worked on the site the weekend before, the site can be eliminated as a DeSoto site candidate. What we did find was a site that covers several acres, with two mounds, midden deposits up to a meter thick, and a large amount of artifacts dating from the Middle Archaic to Late Woodland time periods. AAS members uncovered several projectile points, a lot of pottery



*Shovel Testing at the Armory Mound site*

and other artifacts. One notable artifact was a greenstone tubular core measuring almost 7 centimeters long (2 3/4 inches). This core is the byproduct of drilling a hole in rock using a hollow cane to make an artifact such as a pipe or bannerstone.



*Louis Scott had the "lucky screen" with 3 projectile points, the greenstone plug, and a dime.*

Some of the group stayed Friday night in the Valley Creek Hunting Lodge owned by Buchanan Hardwoods, who we thank for their hospitality. We cooked out and had an enjoyable dinner by the fireplace. On Saturday morning the rest of the group met up at the site, where we worked most of the day, breaking for lunch on the mound. At the end of the day some of the group went to the King's Bluff site, also in Dallas County, at which Troy University is doing test excavations, led by Mc Brooms.

More field trip opportunities related to this survey may come up again. Because of the nature of the project, notice has to go out through email or word of mouth, so if you want to participate, please email Ashley Dumas at [ashleydumas@usa.net](mailto:ashleydumas@usa.net) or call Steven Meredith at (205) 566-5376.

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# Some Thoughts On the Antiquity of Side-Notched Points In Alabama Prehistory

Charles McConnell Hubbert

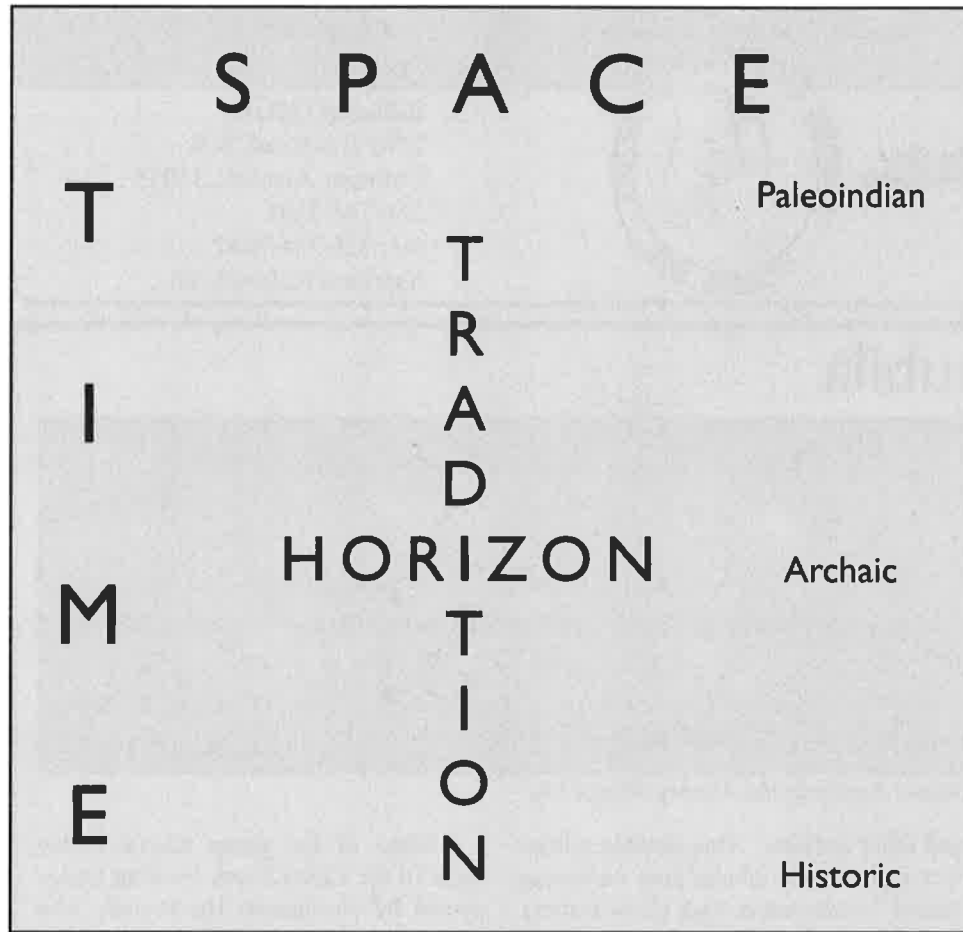


Figure 1. Diagram showing relationship of horizon and tradition.

Almost forty years ago, I learned two concepts which were important in American archaeology. One of the concepts is Horizon, and the other is Tradition. Here is what they mean to me: (1) A Horizon is a distinctive level in the archaeological sequence of a region. It is a division of culture history that is recognized by a trait, or a group of traits, with a wide geographical distribution and a brief duration. Some traits may be known as Horizon styles, or Horizon markers because they characteristically occur at that point in time. It is in that way that we recognize an Early Archaic Horizon, and one of its Horizon markers is side notched spear points. In various places side notched points are known as Big Sandy, Bolen, Taylor, Graham Cave Side Notched or simply as Early Side Notched. When a side notched point appears in an excavation, or on a site, our initial reaction is usually, "Aha! Early Archaic!"

I think we should consider that other word, Tradition. A Tradition is a trait or a technology (or some other element of a

culture) passed from generation to generation through time, so that it outlasts a single phase. Some Traditions can have great depth in time, a thousand years or more. A Tradition can be a certain style, design, or mode of manufacture. It is possible to consider a certain style spear point to be a Tradition, a type that persisted for a long,

long time. I think that is how it was with side notched points. This is not a new idea. It has been discussed by a number of archaeologists since at least as early as 1962.

Think about this: there was never a day when all the people in the southeastern U.S. decided that tomorrow they would begin making a new type of spear point. One archaeologist observed that some artifacts used as temporal markers actually were introduced and in relatively common use in a period prior to their peak of popular usage. The archaeological sequence of point styles is not a layercake kind of sequence, although we sometimes try to treat it so.

During the decade of the 1960's the Alabama Museum of Natural History excavated a number of sites in North Alabama in search of the earliest human remains in the area. The Stanfield-Worley Bluffshelter, the Fennel Site, the Shoal Creek Shelter, the Walls I Shelter, the Landers Shelter, and the Brooks Shelter were some of them. The membership of the Alabama Archaeological Society was a major part of those excavations. At none of these sites was there clear stratigraphic separation between side notched points and middle-to-late PaleoIndian lanceolate points.

During 1995 and 1996 I excavated at Beartail Rockshelter, near Huntsville, Alabama. I found a deep midden in the bottom of which were examples of Dalton, Quad, Beaver Lake, and Hardaway Side Notched projectile points. Thirty centimeters below the midden in a very different soil, sealed beneath a culturally sterile zone and caliche was an archaeological component that contained hundreds of flint flakes and forty-one formal tools, two of which were

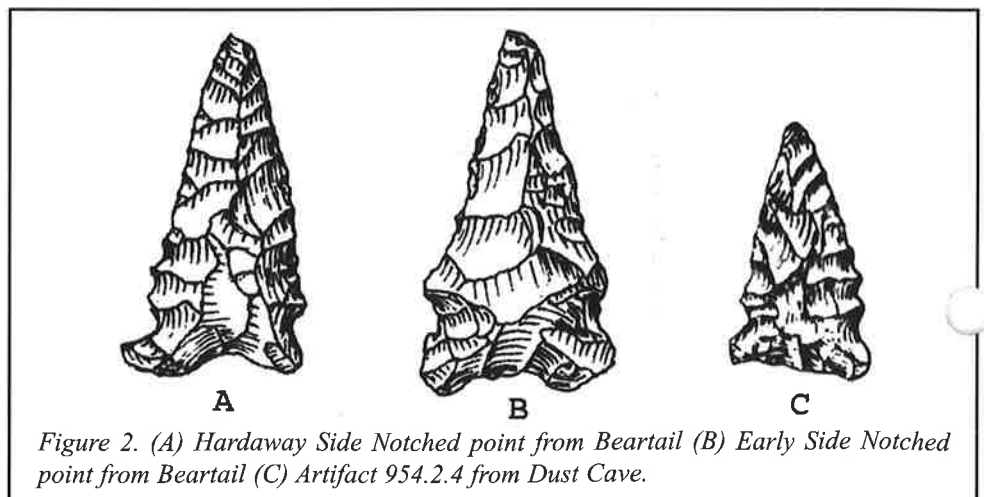


Figure 2. (A) Hardaway Side Notched point from Beartail (B) Early Side Notched point from Beartail (C) Artifact 954.2.4 from Dust Cave.



side notched points. An AMS calibrated C14 date (Beta-105643) for the component was 11,040 +/-60 B.P.

At Dust Cave, near Florence, Alabama, researchers found a very deeply buried Early Archaic zone which was defined by side notched points that are examples of Big Sandy points as they were defined by Cambron and Hulse (1964). Beneath that zone was a Middle PaleoIndian-to-Late PaleoIndian soil zone which contained reworked Cumberland, Quad, Beaver Lake, and Dalton points, and one point classified as Hardaway Side-Notched (Artifact #954.2.4). In my opinion Artifact #954.2.4 would more accurately be classified as an example of Early Side Notched (Figure 2). It was recovered from almost precisely the same depth as the Cumberland point and the Quad point. I believe that it is a slightly asymmetrical Early Side Notched point that has been resharpened along one blade edge. If I am correct, and Artifact 954.2.4 is actually an Early Side Notched point rather than Hardaway, then Dust Cave is another example of a southeastern site where the association of Middle/Late PaleoIndian with side notched spear points is not clear to us. What do you think?

At different places across the eastern United States side notched spear points have been recovered in association with Agate Basin points, Folsom points, Quad points, Beaver Lake points, Suwannee points, and other Middle-to-Late PaleoIndian points.

For all the above reasons, as well as a great deal more evidence from widely scattered places across Eastern North America, I have come to the conclusion that by Middle-to-Late PaleoIndian times (perhaps 12,000-11,000 years ago) there were at least two contemporary but differing projectile point traditions in existence in the Southeast. One of them is identified by

lanceolate, trianguloid points with ground basal margins and thinned or fluted bases. The other is identified by side notching.

Once side notching was innovated as a means of attaching a stone point to a shaft it was in use somewhere in North America until the stone was replaced by the metal of the white man. Archaeologists have studied a number of sites where the relationship between side notched points and PaleoIndian points has been unclear. The reason it has not been clear is not because of the contents of the sites we dug. Nor is it because of the way we did the archaeology. It is unclear because of the way we have interpreted what the evidence showed. Early Side Notched points are not Horizon markers delineating the Archaic. They are a predecessor to the Big Sandy point type. They are a part of an archaeological Tradition with a very long, and a very ancient history in the Southeastern United States.





# Quad Site Projectile Points... ... Side Notched and Others...

Hoyt B. Price

For a span of over twenty years Joe L. Wright surface collected the Quad site. The artifacts on the following pages are from his extensive collection of that site and illustrate the predominant projectile point of the Quad site; that is, the Big Sandy. When I examine a collection such as this, I am amazed at the time and effort that went into collecting the artifacts, but more impressed with the meticulous care and time taken in documenting their provenience. Each point in the collection has been identified by markings that specify site location. The Quad site, a complex of sites, has multiple small site areas scattered over a much larger area. Joe Wright has cleaned and marked his points as to those specific areas. We are indebted to him for preserving this important archaeological record and for sharing it. If only all surface collectors, amateur and professional alike, would take the time to do the same. The conglomerate of that mass of information might give us insights never before imagined.

In 1989, in the *Journal of the Tennessee Anthropological Association*, the *Tennessee Anthropologist*, David C. Hulse and Joe L. Wright reported on The Pine Tree-Quad-Old Slough Complex. From an inventory of the Hulse, Wright, and other collections 40,466 artifacts were examined from those sites and 16,788 of them were identifiable as projectile points. Of these there were 184 fluted points, 267 Daltons of two types, 1,684 ground base corner notched points corresponding to six types, and 3,102 Big Sandy points. In Alabama the Quad site along with paleo sites in Coffee Slough and Heaven's Half Acre are considered to be premier paleo sites, and rightly so, and yet in the Quad complex area consider that there were 184 fluted points found and 3,102 points classified as Big Sandy projectiles found. These sites are not purely paleo. Far and away the most common identifiable point on the Quad is one of the side notched variety. The points on the following pages are food for

thought. They are shown as an adjunct to the preceding Charles Hubbert article. They are representative of the great variety in the side notched point. Most but not all of the side notched points pictured are of the Big Sandy type. Some may even be "Early Side Notched." You look at them and draw your own conclusion. There are even a few other point types scattered through the frames . . . a few Quads, Daltons, Hardaways, a Beaver Lake, and even some that one might consider as corner notched rather than side notched. Again you look at them and draw your own conclusion.

In the preceding article Charles Hubbert postulates that there were some side notched points, that is the Early Sided Notched, contemporary with the middle-to-late PaleoIndian time period. Could it be that some of these points pictured from the Quad were these early points?



photo by Eugene Stewart

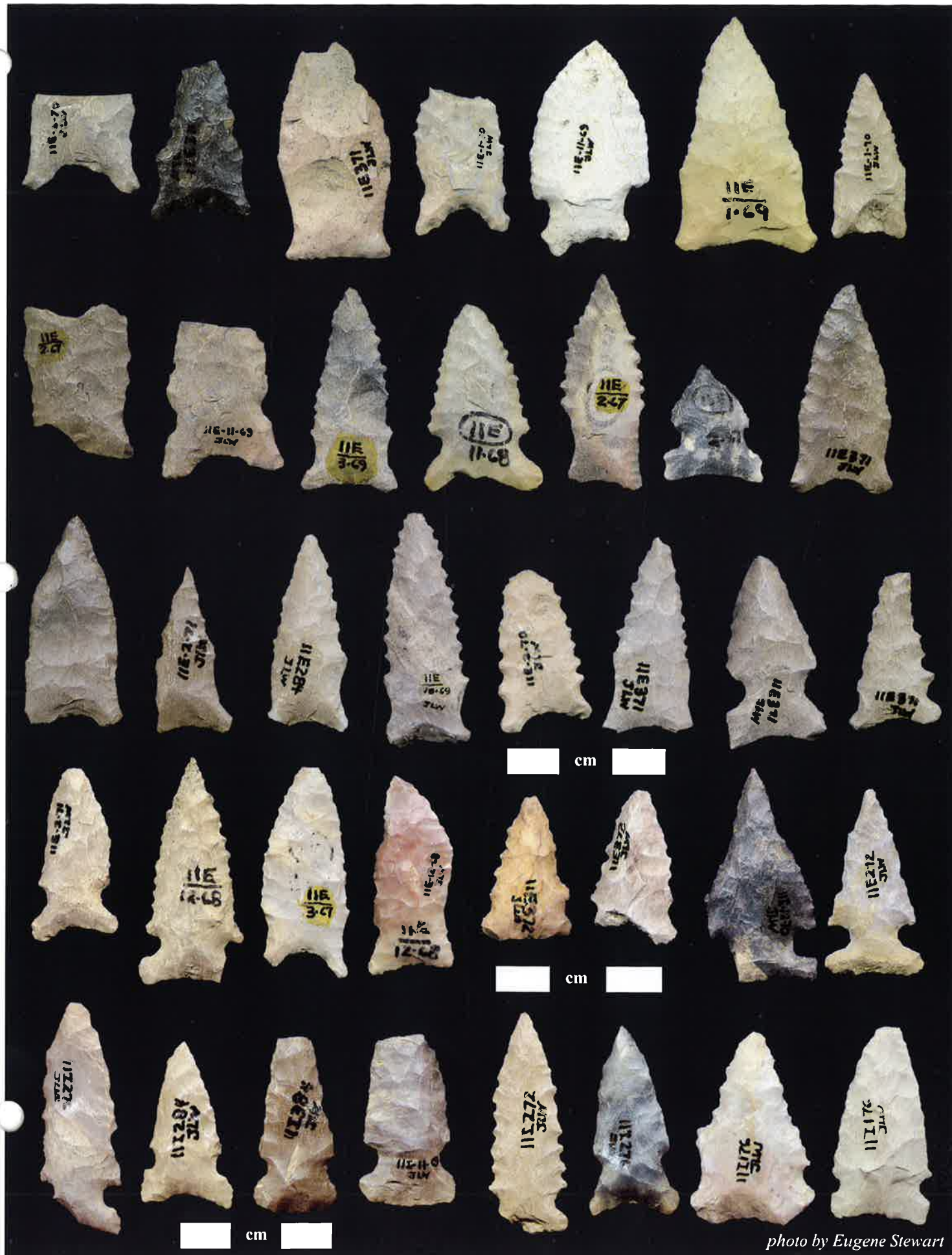


photo by Eugene Stewart



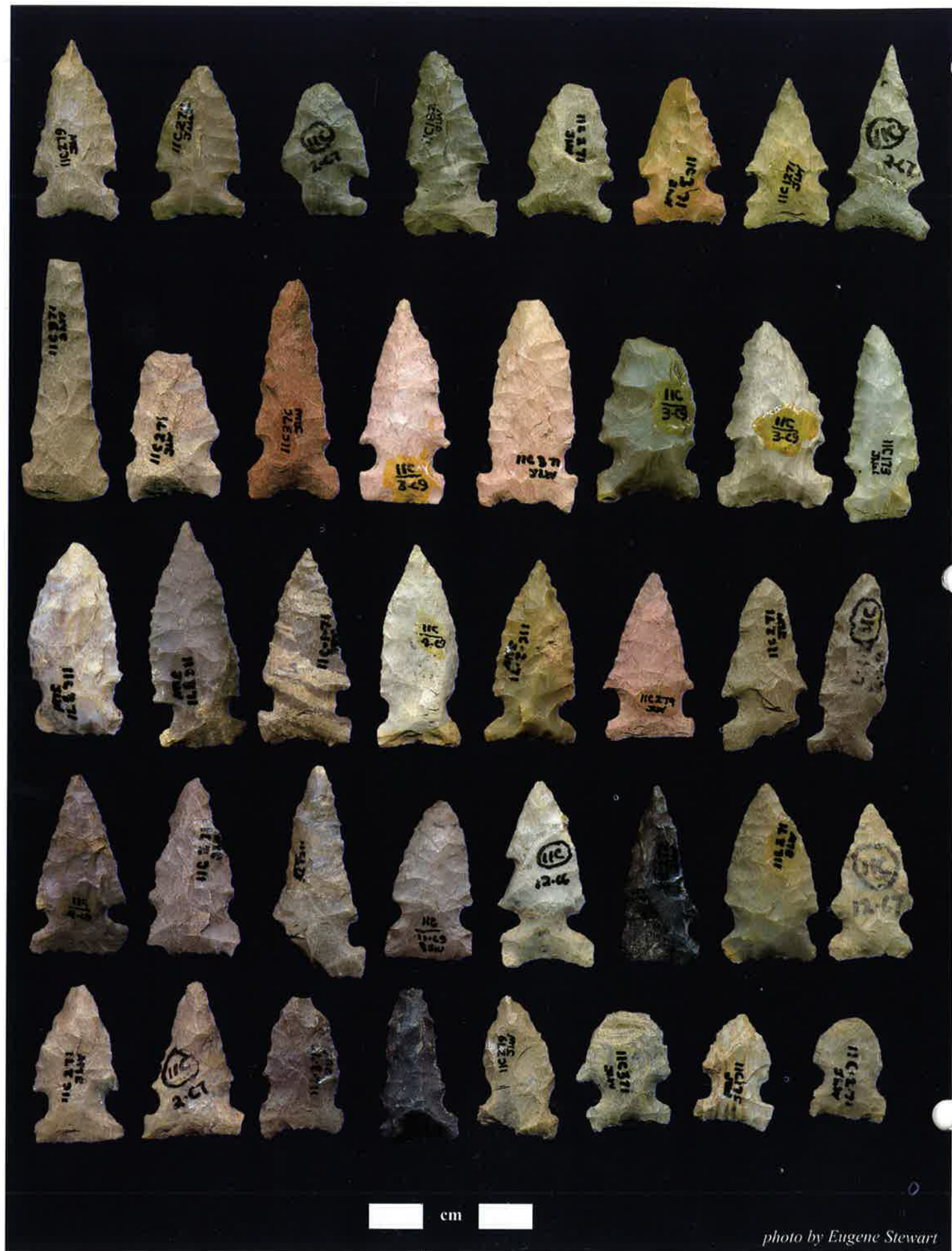


photo by Eugene Stewart



photo by Eugene Stewart



# Chapter News

## Southwest Chapter

At our March meeting, Margo Stringfield from the Archaeology Institute at the University of West Florida presented a program "The Search for the Hidden People of St. Michael's Cemetery", about the search for unmarked graves using remote sensing techniques, such as ground penetrating radar and thermal imaging, and historical research on death in colonial Pensacola.

Southwest Chapter member Carey Geiger has been invited to speak at several venues about his volunteer work at the Topper site in South Carolina. On February 13 he gave a talk to the Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society at Fernbank Museum, on February 17 he was a presenter at the Mississippi Archaeological Association meeting in Grenada, on March 15 he was guest of the Cahokia Mounds Archaeological Society in Illinois, and on March 28 he was at the Pearl River Chapter of the Mississippi Archaeological Association.

In February, Dr. Gary Mullen, President of the East Alabama Chapter and Professor of Entomology at Auburn University, spoke about the Alabama chapter in the life and work of nineteenth-century naturalist and artist Philip Henry Gosse. Dr. Mullen spent a few days with us and also joined USA's Saturday dig at Fort Mims.

In January Dr. Lew Toulmin entertained us with his talk on "Crime Against History & Genealogy". Lew is a descendant of Judge Harry Toulmin, one of the founding fathers of Alabama.

**Explorer's Club Expedition.** Southwest Chapter members joined a unique archaeological expedition to the wilds of Washington County in December 2006. Dr. Lew Toulmin asked the Center for Archaeological Studies to help him search for the early 1800s Washington Courthouse and



**Washington Courthouse Expedition Team Holding the Explorers Club Flag:** Traci Cunningham, Jackie McConaha, Harold Kirkland, Debi Lawrence, Eleanor Pomerat, Louis Scott, Jimmy Fox, Lew Toulmin, Jim Long, Carey Geiger, Bonnie Gums, and James Irby, (not shown- Gerry Ollhoft).

the 1823 grave of Judge Harry Toulmin (Lew's ancestor) using a sketch map drawn by his father in the 1970s. Lew is a member of the Explorers Club, the leading organization for scientific and geographical explorers in the world, headed by Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of Mount Everest. Lew secured a prestigious Explorers Club Flag, thus making this an official Explorers Club Flag Expedition. Our flag was first carried in 1929 by the famous explorer Harry Raven to central Africa. Recently it went to Mozambique for an underwater expedition and the discovery of King Phillip's huge fortune in silver coins on a 1622 shipwreck. We took numerous traditional

flag photographs of the Washington Courthouse expedition, and Lew will write a field report for the Explorers Club. We visited the area in last March and located the archaeological sites of the courthouse and a residence. In December our search for Judge Toulmin's grave continued with ground penetrating radar (gpr) operated by James Irby and Harold Kirkland from USA's Utilities Engineering. We were unable to locate any potential graves with the gpr at the courthouse site. However local residents took us to a small hill a quarter mile away and pointed out possible gravestones.

*Submitted by Bonnie Gums and Louis Scott.*

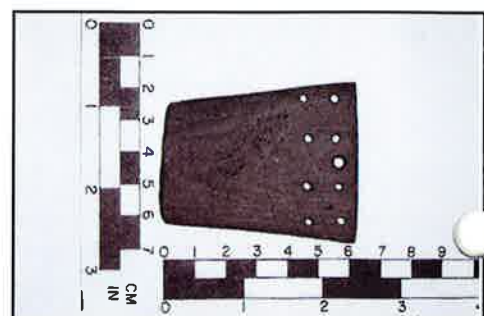
## Huntsville Chapter



Shown is Bart Henson discussing with the Huntsville chapter a rock carving he and Charles Moore visited in the North Carolina area. *Submitted by Howard King.*



This is Tom Badham's display at the January Huntsville chapter meeting. *Submitted by Howard King.*



Tom Badham of Madison County displayed this unusual fragment of a greenstone gorget. It has been drilled nine times. *Submitted by Howard King.*



## Cullman Chapter

The Cullman chapter met Thursday night, January 18 at the Cullman County Health Department Community Meeting Room. Dr. Jim Knight presented a very informative program on Mississippian period ceremonial artifacts, iconography, cosmology, material sources and relationship to specific sites.



Shown are several members of the Cullman chapter discussing Dr. Knight's program on Moundville. They are (left to right) Ron Morrow, DeWitt Coleman, and Charles Gover. Submitted by Howard King.

Richard Kilborn led the discussion on the Big Sandy projectile point which was the January point of the month. Richard and Doug Mill brought some beautiful examples for all to see and drool over. The Damron was drawn to be the feature point for February. Jerry McHan won the recent find ribbon with a beautiful corner notch Pine Tree found at a site in Blount County.

Officer elections were held for the current year and it was a unanimous vote to keep the present officers in place.

## Muscle Shoals Chapter



Shown is Dr. Jim Knight giving a program on his thoughts of the place in southeast archaeology that Moundville holds. Jim gave his thoughts and ideas at the January Cullman Chapter meeting. The chapter meet on the 3rd Thursday night of each month in the Cullman Health Department Conference Room.

The Cullman chapter met Thursday evening February 15, 2007 at the Cullman County Health Department Community Meeting Room on Hwy 278 West.

Potential places for our summer field trip were discussed but tabled until March. The point of the month for February was the Damron. Several good examples were present for examination and discussion. The point of the month for March will be the Quad, obviously a favorite of many members.

Kenneth Smith won the recent find award with a nice Pickwick he found.

Van King presented a very informative program on the "How To's" of authenticating artifacts. Everyone picked up some pointers on spotting the fakes that are unfortunately floating around out there. Submitted by Robbie Camp.



Shown is Van King speaking to the February Muscle Shoals chapter regarding the artifacts of the East Wenatchee Clovis site in the State of Washington. Submitted by Howard King.



## Birmingham Chapter

Shown is Howard King and Bill Fowler discussing the program that Howard gave to the February meeting of the Birmingham chapter. Howard showed slides of the 2005 Clovis in the Southeast Conference. The Birmingham chapter meets on the second Thursday of each month in the Emmet O'Neil Library in Mountain Brook. Submitted by Howard King.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Howard King



I would like to congratulate Dr. Hoyt Price for the outstanding Jan.-Feb. issue of the Stones and Bones newsletter. As Dr. Price told me, "It's a work in progress", and we look forward to future issues of the newsletter.

As we approach that dreaded April 15 (national tax day deadline) I would like to remind everyone that your donation to the AAS is tax deductible. Our society has many areas such as archaeological research, surveys, scholarships and publications that need your financial support. We are a tax exempt society where our annual dues are only sufficient to cover the expenses of our bi-monthly newsletter and our bi-annual Journal. All of the archaeological work of the society is directly dependent on your tax exempt donations.

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the Cullman Chapter. In May of 1967, my father and several others, including myself, met at the Cullman City Hall auditorium to form a petition to the AAS to form a local chapter. Then AAS president, Mr. Tom Cornell of Huntsville, talked to the group about Alabama archaeology. It doesn't seem that long ago. We had well over forty people in attendance that night and everyone was very enthusiastic. I'm sure the chapter will have some special activities planned. I hope that all of the AAS membership congratulates the Cullman chapter on this happy anniversary.

## 2007 AAS Officers

President: Howard King  
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2nd Vice President: Steven Meredith  
Secretary: Teresa Paglione  
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Assistant Treasurer: Lance Richardson  
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Assistant Newsletter Editors: Mark Cole and Ron Morrow  
Photographer: Barry Watters  
AHC Representative: Craig Sheldon



# Jacksonville State University Archaeological Resource Laboratory Host Two Day Lithic Workshop

Harry O. Holstein

On February 1st and 2nd the Jacksonville State University (JSU) Archaeological Resource Laboratory (ARL) hosted an intensive two-day lithic workshop at their new laboratory facility located at McClellan Center in Anniston. Dr. Phil Carr, from the University of South Alabama, was the guest speaker. Nearly 30 professional archaeologists, JSU students and staff were treated to a series of informative and enjoyable lectures and

Mr. Carey Oakley acted as “grill master” for the event at historic Lide Hall, the former Army Nurses Military Club located at Fort McClellan. Many true and false stories were exchanged between folks at this event.

Based on the overall success of the lithic workshop, the JSU-ARL would like to host a similar workshop next year focusing on ceramics. The ARL is requesting all members of the Alabama Archaeological



Society who are interested in ceramic analysis to give us suggestions regarding topics which need to be discussed so that we may host an informative and useful workshop in the future.



hands-on sessions focusing on theoretical and practical applications of lithic analysis for flake and stone tools. Such topics as raw material identification, microwear analysis, tool use and reuse, tool and flake morphology, middle-range theory and flake analysis were covered. Lively discussions between the participants and Dr. Carr concerning various aspects of lithic analysis occurred throughout the workshop resulting in a better understanding by all regarding the importance of lithic analysis to archaeological research.

Hands-on sessions included identification of flake debris attributes and flint knapping. Participants were fortunate to have as their “rock knocking” instructor one of the best flint knappers in the Southeast, Mr. Van King. In addition, a delicious barbecue dinner was hosted by the JSU faculty and staff on Thursday evening.



Take time to visit our website: <http://www.southalabama.edu/aas/>



# Announcing!!!!

## 2007 SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Knoxville, Tennessee

October 31, 2007 – November 3, 2007

Scott Jones is soliciting discussants and contributed papers to be presented at a symposium on "Paleoindian Research in the Southeast" to be held at the 2007 Southeastern Archaeological Conference (2007 SEAC), Knoxville, Tennessee, October 31 through November 3, 2007. The only thematic requirement is that contributed papers be strictly Paleoindian or Late Pleistocene in subject; topics may range from lithic analysis to computer modeling. Please pass this information to others who are working in this field and have information they wish to share. If you are interested, please contact Scott Jones at [paleojones@charter.net](mailto:paleojones@charter.net).

## Available Publications

### Available Issues of Journal of Alabama Archaeology

Vol. 21-31, each issue (2 issues per volume) .....\$3.50 pp  
Vol. 32 & up, each issue (2 issue per volume) .....\$6.00 pp  
Vol. 40 (Dust Cave), special issue.....\$18.00 pp  
Vol. 44 (Alabama Ceramics), special issue.....\$18.00 pp

### Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations

(Journal of Alabama Archaeology)

Vol. VIII Numbers 1 & 2 (reprint) .....\$7.50 pp

### The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas Co, Alabama

Special Publication 2 .....\$6.00 pp

### Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend

Special Publication 3 .....\$8.00 pp

## TO SUBMIT

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The form below may be used for any or all of the following: applying for membership, payment of annual membership dues, change of address, or donations. Please be sure to PRINT your name and address clearly, and check the appropriate boxes. All checks should be made payable to: Alabama Archaeological Society. Send the membership form and payment to: Alabama Archaeological Society • Archaeological Services • 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park • Moundville, AL 35474.

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STONES & BONES  
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