

Stones & Bones

Nov. and Dec. 2014

Volume 56, Issue 6

The Newsletter of the Alabama Archaeological Society

President's Letter

It is hard to believe that 2014 is drawing to a close. This month marks the end of my term as President of the AAS. I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve. It has been a wonderful experience, and I have enjoyed meeting so many of you over the past two years!

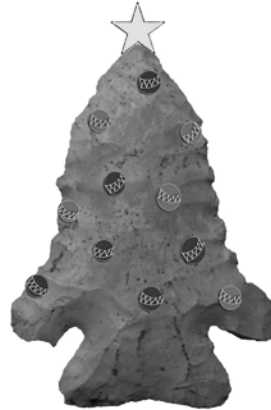
I am pleased to announce that the Muscle Shoals Chapter will be hosting the 60th Annual Winter Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society on January 24, 2015 at the new Visitor's Center in Florence, Alabama. A formal call for papers just went out, and if you would like to present findings on recent archaeological research in the state of Alabama, please contact me or Teresa Paglione. As always, the Winter Meeting will include one of our largest fundraisers, the annual Silent Book Auction – please consider donating your archaeology and/or history books and journals to help support the outreach activities of the AAS. Also, please continue to check our website, as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages, for the Winter Meeting program and potential tours, as the agenda for the meeting is finalized.

As I noted above, my term as President is drawing to a close, and it is almost time to elect new AAS Officers and Board of Director members. Over the past few years, the composition of the Board and Officers has been relatively static, with few changes or additions. In fact, the majority of the Board is currently comprised of professional archaeologists. We are in need of new blood – particularly those with financial planning and/or fund-raising experience. If you are willing to serve in any capacity, I encourage you to contact our Nominations Committee Chair, Matt Gage. Please keep in mind, the only way this society will continue to be successful is if the membership is willing to make it so.

Thank you all for your continued support and membership in the Alabama Archaeological Society. I will look forward to seeing you all at the Winter Meeting in Florence!

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

Eric Sipes, AAS President



Happy
Holidays!

Meet a Member!

Amanda L. Morrow graduated from Georgia Southern University in May of 2012 with her MA in Anthropology. While there, she conducted archaeological research on the Camp Lawton Confederate Prison Camp in Millen, Georgia. After graduation she worked for a year on the East St. Louis Mound Center project associated with the new Mississippi River Bridge for the Illinois State Archaeological Survey. She has worked for the University of Alabama Museums since August of 2013 as a Museum Educator at Moundville Archaeological Park.



What's the most interesting artifact you've ever found?

This is a tough one, because I have been fortunate enough to find many interesting things. One artifact that will always stick with me though is a basal sherd of an English stoneware ink bottle I found on my first field school in South Carolina the summer of 2009. It was stamped EX (which I later researched meant 'excise tax') and had fingerprints imprinted in the clay around the stamp. This artifact really connected for me because of that human element, and it cemented the idea that archaeology was the career path for me.

Who influenced your decision to become an archaeologist?

I really can't attribute this to any one individual. I had many teachers in high school who suggested various fields to me: writing, history, science, foreign language, fine arts. In the end, I selected archaeology because it was fascinating to me and it combined all of my assorted skills and interests. My father cultivated my interest in the American Civil War, which became my archaeological specialization.

What is the first site you worked on? What is the last one (or current one)?

The first site I ever worked on was an early 19th Century plantation site called Mont Repose in Coosawhatchie, SC (38JA407) as an undergraduate student in the Georgia Southern University field school in the summer of 2009. My professor, Dr. Sue Moore, had been working in a large open block excavation of a collapsed exterior structure since 2004. I volunteered to help close and backfill this unit (lovingly dubbed 'the swimming pool') in June of 2014, so it's the most recent site I have worked on as well.

Fieldwork or labwork?

I enjoy both, and archival work too. If I had to pick one, I guess I would go with fieldwork because (like most archaeologists) I enjoy being outside. I love Public Archaeology so the opportunity to excavate and interact with the public would be my number one choice.

If you could have lunch with any archaeologist (past or present) who would it be?

I'd choose to have lunch with Dr. Charles Fairbanks. He was my mentor's mentor at the University of Florida and established plantation archaeology as a viable discipline in the field. He is definitely someone I would like to have gotten to know.

Why are you a member of AAS?

I joined AAS to meet other professionals in the state. I spent my academic career in Georgia and worked for a year in Illinois before moving to Alabama, so I figured becoming a member of the society would be a great way to start networking in my new state. It's a wonderful resource for getting out information about what's happening at Moundville, too!

How many years have you been a member (approximately)?

I have been a member for about a year now. I joined at the 2014 Winter Meeting in Dothan where I presented a paper about the research going on at Camp Lawton (9JS1) in Georgia.

If you would be willing to be interviewed for "Meet a Member", please email Kim Pyszka (kpyszka@aum.edu).



Moundville Training New Docents for the Jones Museum

Moundville Archaeological Park is hosting a Docent Training course beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 17, 2014.

This open-ended volunteer opportunity offers those interested in the fields of history, archaeology, Native American folklore and more a chance to advance their educational interests in a museum atmosphere, while enhancing the Moundville site experience for daily Jones Museum visitors.

In addition to learning how to interpret current knowledge about archaeology, Mississippian Indians and the Moundville site, trainees will get a personalized guided tour of the museum.

Breakfast fare, snacks and lunch will be served. Time permitting, a hands-on make and take activity will also be included as part of the program.

International Archaeology Day at the Swift-Coles Historic Home

By Bonnie Gums

Volunteers participated in International Archaeology Day with a three-day public dig at the Swift-Coles Historic Home on the Bon Secour River in south Baldwin County. International Archaeology Day is sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America, an international group of professional archaeologists and scholars and people interested in archaeology. The beautiful two-story Swift-Coles house was built around 1882 and is a unique architectural example of a Tidewater mansion.

The archaeological work at the Swift-Coles Historic Home took place on October 16-18 and involved a shovel test survey in the yard around the house. The goal of the survey was to identify buried archaeological deposits based on the presence of artifacts. We also hoped to generate public awareness of this unique historic house and the contribution that archaeology can make for interpreting the historic site.

Over 130 shovel tests were excavated at 5- and 10-meter intervals. About 25 people helped with the excavations, including Friends of Swift-Coles Historic Home, docents at the house, Master Gardeners of Baldwin County, Baldwin County Historic Development Commission members, and volunteers from the Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of South Alabama, Lisa and Lilly Brazelton, Traci Cunningham, John Ellis, Dana Foster, Jimmy Fox, Lori Sawyer, and Lee Swetman. A special thanks to Reggie Anderson, member of the Master Gardeners and Baldwin County Historic Development Commission, for all his hard work organizing the dig.

Artifacts were recovered in small numbers from nearly every shovel test, and consisted mostly of structural materials such as nails. This leads us to believe that the occupants of the house kept the yard clean, and removed trash further away from the house. We did recover a few historic ceramics, mostly plain whitewares, and a porcelain doll's arm. A concentration of artifacts was identified at the rear of the house where a summer kitchen once stood. We were surprised with the recovery of about 10 sherds of prehistoric pottery, mostly plain with sand tempering.

We had beautiful weather and it was a fun dig. The excavations were viewed by the public on Friday and Saturday when the Swift-Coles Historic Home was open for tours. The archaeology event was hosted by the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission and was featured on Channel 15 news and in the *Gulf Coast News Today* and *al.com*.



Huntsville Celebrates International Archaeology Day

By Ben Hoksbergen

The annual International Archaeology Day festival was held once again at the historic Lowe Mill in Huntsville on Saturday, October 18. Several archaeological organizations from around north Alabama participated, and around 200 visitors attended.

The event was organized by the North Alabama Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research (TVAR), and the Redstone Arsenal Cultural Resource Management program.

The Huntsville Chapter of the AAS had an informational table at the event with artifacts on display and helped visitors identify artifacts they brought in. TVAR had their lab open for tours. Larry Beane with Little River Canyon National Park joined the fun this year with atlatl demonstrations and displays of early Spanish artifact replicas. Jeannine Allen and her team from the US Forest Service had an exhibit on preventing looting and had several kids' activities. Jeannine Windham with the University of Alabama, Huntsville had a display of historic artifacts and provided information on the budding historic archaeology program at UAH. Huntsville City Schools Earthscope led visitors in Native American games like chunky. Erin Pritchard with TVA was also there with an exhibit on TVA's cultural resource program along with ceramic activities for kids.

The day was capped off at the UAH Wilson Hall Theater with an excellent presentation by Erin Pritchard who discussed TVA's historic role in Southeastern archaeology and agency's ongoing efforts to preserve our shared archaeological resources in north Alabama.

An Elk River Chiefdom in South-Central Tennessee

By Donald B. Ball

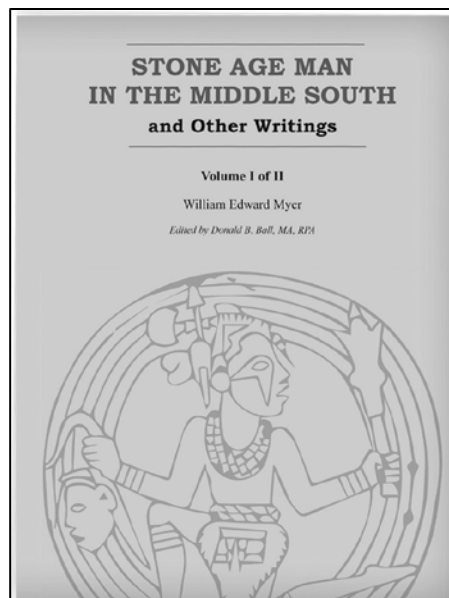
The readership of *Stones & Bones* might find it of interest that a literature-based study is now underway of what appears to be a heretofore unrecognized “hinterlands” Mississippian-era chiefdom along the central reaches of the Elk River in Franklin, Moore, and Lincoln counties, Tennessee. Available survey information indicates the presence of a mound group in southern Moore County (reported as consisting of three mounds in 1923 – two of these have since been leveled as a consequence of farming activities), at least two fortified villages in Lincoln County, and a scattering of 23 small Mississippian-era sites (presumably hamlets, farmsteads, or procurement sites) extending from northeastern Franklin County downstream to the western boundary of Lincoln County. As based upon the 1923 records of William Edward Myer, the two largest mounds in Moore County had volumes of 606,000 cubic feet and 248,000 cubic feet, respectively. Our knowledge of these sites is severely restricted with limited excavations having been conducted on only three of the outlying sites (one fortified village and two outlying hamlets). The presence of stone box graves on several of the outlying sites in Lincoln County clearly suggests that this group was influenced by contact with the so-called Middle Cumberland Culture to the north and there is every reason to suspect that they were in regular contact with the large Mississippian enclaves along the Tennessee River in northern Alabama. As is often the case, considerable further field work is needed to better address questions relating to the chronology and territorial boundaries of this society. It is anticipated that the final study will be submitted to the *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*.



Reprint of Myer’s Classic on Tennessee Archaeology Now Available

William Edward Myer (1862-1923) of Carthage, Tennessee, was the state’s most significant and productive archaeologist in the early twentieth century. Unfortunately,

until now, his monumental and previously unpublished *Stone Age Man in the Middle South* manuscript – intended to be his *magnum opus* summarizing decades of observations regarding the archaeology of the upper and central Cumberland Valley – has been accessible to only a limited number of regional archaeologists for the better part of a century. These volumes make readily available for the first time both Myer’s *Stone Age Man* manuscript and an extended sampling of his other writings including his previously unknown *Record of Relics No. 2*, his personal inventory of his extensive (12,000+ items) collection. This anthology of Myer’s work fills a long standing void in the literature of this region, and is a “must have” addition to any library devoted to the prehistoric archaeology of Tennessee, the southeastern United States, and the study of Mississippian-era chiefdom level societies.



The two volumes were compiled and edited by AAS member, Donald Ball, a native of Middle Tennessee and editor of two regional journals, *Ohio Valley Historical Archaeology* and *The Millstone: Journal of the Kentucky Old Mill Association*.



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Opening the Window to See More Clearly: Identifying, Researching, and Relocating an African American Community along Cane Creek, Calhoun County, Alabama

By Heather R. Puckett, PhD

Little information has been identified for the historic African American community of Calhoun County, other than a few scant images housed at the Library of Congress. Neither Dorothea Lange nor Walker Evans identified the individuals they photographed, other than a brief mention of them being from Calhoun County, near Anniston.

The lands encompassing Pelham Range, the primary training lands for the Alabama National Guard, initially had been Creek lands ceded through the Treaty of Cusseta (1832). Settlement from non-natives began early on, with portions of the lands being encompassed by the Mississippi Territory (1798-1817), Alabama Territory (1817), and eventually becoming part of the State of Alabama (1819). Benton County was established, with the County being renamed for Senator John C Calhoun in 1858. Subsequently the county lines were changed in 1866 to include 611 square miles of land. Small communities, such as Polkville, Peaceburg, Zula, Morrisville, and Shady Glen, emerged along Cane Creek. As early as 1898, Camp Shipp was established in the area, followed by a National Guard artillery training post (Camp McClellan) in 1917. In 1929, the post was renamed Fort McClellan, with the Morrisville Maneuvering Area (Pelham Range) being established by the 1940s on 22,000 acres of land. In 1999, the US Army Corps of Engineers acquired the range and portions of the main fort; since 1999, the Alabama National Guard has operated the Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center under a lease agreement.

On Memorial Day weekend, 2014, Pelham Range was opened to descendants of former settler families for an opportunity to visit their family cemeteries. Visitors were provided maps and corresponding rosters for each cemetery and voluntarily participated in impromptu and informal oral history interviews, which proved most successful at the New Mount Sellers Cemetery.

The New Mount Sellers Cemetery has at least 60 graves with markers that vary in style and size; some are broken and several graves are unmarked. Seven headstones feature a symbol associated with the Mosaic Templars of America, a predominately African American fraternal organization. It was believed that additional information regarding the African American community could be identified through archival research.

As a result, research was performed working from the “known” – using census records from the 1940s and working backward to include tombstone applications, cemetery rosters, military service records, church and school records, comparing historical maps and land acquisition records to photographs and lithographs to the “unknown.” Additional research was made to include newspapers, state prison records, Confederate Pension records, and slave narratives. Comparisons to the US Census revealed far more people not accounted for in the cemetery, with residential properties being identified throughout the range as opposed to being clustered solely around the New Mount Sellers Cemetery. Thus, the images and maps were incorporated into the

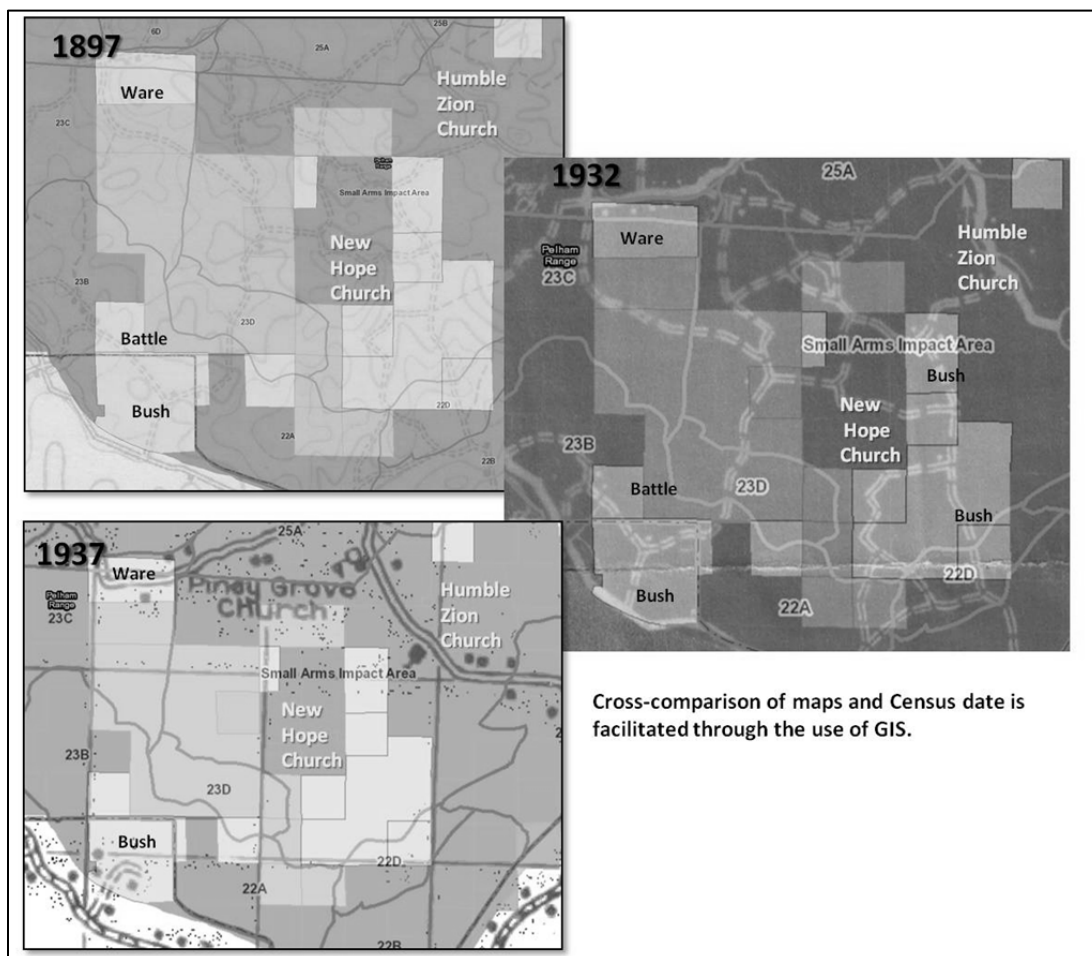
Geographic Information System (GIS) for better analysis of spatial distribution of related archaeological sites and associated cultural material. This method of cross comparison of the data allows for better management of the resources as a whole and allows for a better understanding of the previous land-use.

War Department land acquisition records between 1940 and 1945 allow for the identification of prior land owners, parcels, deed transactions, and acreage. Through use of the US Census, characteristics such as ethnicity, industrial operation, or social function are identified and included in the GIS. The beauty of this tool is that it also shows major holdings of the mining companies, federal lands, churches, and orphanages across the Range. Additionally, incorporation of the data into the GIS allows for rapid viewing between historical maps (1895 to 1945) and aerial photographs (from 1954 to the present) to convey the land use patterns. As noted above, these records can be cross-referenced to the Census, as well as State Convict Records and military service records.

The preliminary viewing allows a look at archaeological sites identified as being

associated with African American families throughout Pelham Range, as well as an African American school, the New Mount Sellers’ church, the Mosaic Templars of America, and lands associated with the Methodist Orphanage of Selma. Further, the analysis identified the potential for future research. For instance, similar research will be performed for additional properties using Census Enumeration maps from 1910 which identify the properties by owner or resident. Artifact collections recovered from associated archaeological sites will be examined more closely to identify ethnic indicators, if possible. And most importantly, the analysis resulted in the identification of a previously unknown church and potential cemetery on the east side of the range, which are now future targets for additional research.

Collectively, the research has shown the importance of archival research, closer examination for ethnicity markers, and the significance of tenant farmers in this region of Alabama. The Alabama National Guard continues to be a good steward of the resources and strives to contribute to the greater understanding of cultural resources on the training lands in accordance with the military mission.



Historic Creek Component Documented on Redstone Arsenal

By Ben Hoksbergen

A historic Creek component has been documented on Redstone Arsenal along the Wheeler Reservoir of the Tennessee River. Site 1Ma141 stretches along a section of the first terrace of the Tennessee River along the southern edge of the Arsenal. Multiple stratified prehistoric components have been documented on the site over the years including everything from the Middle Archaic through the Mississippian. The site has one of the largest concentrations of late prehistoric diagnostic artifacts including Jacks Reef and Madison points.

In 2010, a body sherd of the Chatthoochee Brushed type was found on the shoreline during routine monitoring of the riverbank during winter low water levels. Since then, two more Chatthoochee Brushed sherds from the site have been located in the Redstone Arsenal collection.

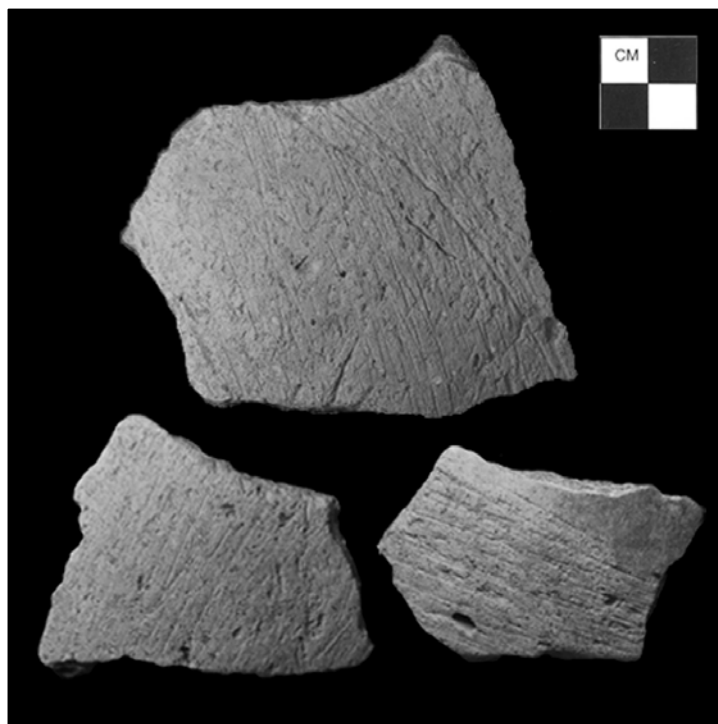
The Chatthoochee Brushed type, also known as Chatthoochee Roughened *var. Chatthoochee*, is a historic Creek type which seems to first appear in the Atasi phase of the lower Tallapoosa Valley and the Kymulga phase of the Middle Coosa

Valley beginning around A.D. 1600. Chatthoochee Brushed quickly became the dominant type on historic Creek sites by the early 1700's and continued in use into the 19th century.

Other artifacts possibly associated with the Creek component on site 1Ma141 have been found in the last several weeks as winter riverbank monitoring commenced. These include a British gunflint, at least one aboriginal gun spall of local raw material, and a few Guntersville type arrow points including one made of exotic raw material (possibly a variety of Knox chert from the Chattanooga area).

While the McKee Island phase in the Guntersville Basin probably represents a local contact period group that moved southward to join the Creek Confederacy, the Chatthoochee Brushed type is not part of the ceramic assemblage for that phase. It most likely was developed in the Creek towns of the Tallapoosa and Coosa, and the sherds at 1Ma141 represent a later foray into the area by Creek Indians from the south.

Limited excavations on the site in 2006 failed to identify this component, and no associated features have been identified in the cut bank along the shoreline, so it is unknown how historic Creek visitors used the site. What is known, though, is that sometime between 1600 and the 1830's, Creek Indians spent some time along the bank of the Tennessee River south of Huntsville and left behind a small mark of their visit.



Chatthoochee Brushed sherds from 1Ma141

Alabama Archaeological Society 60th Annual Winter Meeting Florence, Alabama Celebrating 60 Years of Archaeological Research! January 24, 2015 Call for Papers

The Alabama Archaeological Society invites proposals for papers and posters to be presented at our 60th Annual Winter Meeting to be held on January 24, 2015 at the new Visitor's Center in Florence, Alabama.

The meeting is open to all who share an interest in Alabama archaeology, including professional archaeologists, scholars, educators, historians, and members of the general public. Preference will be given to proposals directly related to Alabama archaeology; however, general papers related to

Southeastern archaeological projects are also encouraged. Proposals should include a short abstract (a paragraph or two will suffice) and contact information/affiliation for the author. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Please send proposals to:
Eric Sipes, President
Alabama Archaeological Society
PO Box 1846
Auburn, AL 36831
sipes.eric@gmail.com

Member News

New Members

Thom and Dottie Pierce, Owens Cross Roads, AL
Cynthia Sneed, Northport, AL

Renewals

Robert J. Austin, Riverview, FL
Erin Boyer, Birmingham, AL
Robbie Camp, Holly Pond, AL
Lawrence A. Conrad, Macomb, IL
Cornell University Library, Ithaca, NY
Joseph and Patricia Carl, Decatur, AL
Richard A. Krause, Northport, AL
Ted Urquhart, Mary Esther, FL
Nancy White, Tampa, FL
Lamar Wilson, Dadeville, AL

Chapter News

News from the Cullman Chapter by Robbie Camp: The Cullman chapter met on Thursday, September 18th and had the pleasure of a flintknapping demonstration by local knapper Tim Baker. Tim treated the group to the creation of a Cumberland projectile point from the start to completed product including the fluting process.

The chapter met again on Thursday, October 16th and enjoyed a presentation by member Howard King. Howard brought a collection of casts of some of the most famous fluted points found in America and discussed in depth the history and significance of these important finds. Howard then presented a program on the Decatur point and compared a Cullman County site to a Blount County site discussing the similarities of the two including proximity to a small stream, game/travel trail, the overall size of the site, and the type and size of artifacts found.

The Cullman Chapter held its November meeting Thursday, November 20th. A good crowd turned out to hear a presentation on steatite vessels by chapter member and archaeologist Van King. Van has a passion for stone vessels and has spent many years examining and recording 140 plus examples. He brought several vessels and other artifacts made of steatite for examination and discussed in depth the sources for soap stone (steatite) and its distribution patterns. Of particular interest were the details of the southernmost known source of steatite from a site in Talladega County.

The chapter will not meet in December but will resume on the third Thursday in January with regular monthly meetings.

News from the Huntsville Chapter by Ben Hoksbergen: The Huntsville Chapter has been growing! Thanks to the information table at International Archaeology Day and cooperation with sister organizations like the North Alabama Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, a couple dozen members have been added to the distribution list. These new members have been swelling the ranks at the meetings over the last few months.

Our fall meeting season kicked off in September with a talk by Dr. Kim Pyszka of Auburn University in Montgomery who discussed her work on early English colonial sites on the Carolina coast. Kim brought lots of examples of colonial artifacts that she excavated during her work, and members enjoyed seeing these early historic artifacts which rarely occur this far inland.

Nearly 25 people showed up for the October meeting to attend a talk by Jennifer Pinkly, a local independent researcher and caving expert affiliated with the National Speleological Society. Jennifer and her husband, Steven Pitts, have been instrumental in the exploring and mapping of Fern Cave, the longest cave in Alabama, located right next door in Jackson County. Jennifer discussed the archaeology in Fern Cave, and following her talk, there was a general discussion about Southeastern cave archaeology in general.

Archaeologist Dan Polito of Alexander Archaeological Consultants gave a presentation at the November meeting on his work with Appalachian State University in North Carolina on a Civil War Confederate bushwhacking camp near Ashville. Dan led a remote sensing survey of the camp and used several innovative GIS techniques to analyze the data. His talk was followed by a discussion of Civil War archaeology in general and brief presentation on the survey of the battlefield for the Affair at Indian Creek Ford by Chapter President, Ben Hoksbergen.

The Chapter does not meet in December, but will resume meetings in January, meeting the fourth Tuesday every month at 7:00pm at the Main Branch of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library.

AAS Chapters

2014 Chapter Presidents

Troy: Jason Mann
jmann@troy.edu

Cullman: Robbie Camp
robbie@alabamaprinting.com

East Alabama: Teresa Paglione
tlpaglione@gmail.com

Muscle Shoals: Gerald Hester
GeraldRH@aol.com

Huntsville: Ben Hoksbergen
benhoksbergen@gmail.com

Southwest Chapter: Bonnie Gums
bgums@southalabama.edu

Coosa Valley: Phillip Koerper
pkoerper@jsu.edu

Join or Renew Today!

You can pay AAS membership dues or make donations to AAS online at
www.alabamaarchaeology.org

Or, send a check made out to
"Alabama Archaeological Society"

to

Alabama Archaeological Society
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474

DUES

Type	U.S.	Foreign
Annual Associate (under 18 years of age)	\$15.00	\$20.00
Annual Individual	\$25.00	\$30.00
Annual Family	\$30.00	\$35.00
Annual Institutional	\$50.00	\$55.00
Annual Sustaining Individual	\$35.00	\$40.00
Annual Sustaining Joint	\$40.00	\$45.00
Life Individual	\$500.00	\$600.00
Life Joint	\$600.00	\$700.00

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 Hunter Johnson, Hunter@TVAREsearch.com, or Hunter Johnson, Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research, 2211 Seminole Drive, Suite 302, Huntsville, AL 35805

Additional details are available on the AAS website at:

www.alabamaarchaeology.org/aasgrants

Stones & Bones

Editor: Ben Hoksbergen; Assistant Editors: Teresa Paglione 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:

benhoksbergen@gmail.com

or via U.S. mail to:

Ben Hoksbergen
3699 US Hwy. 72
Paint Rock, AL 35764

Alabama Archaeological Society

President: Eric Sipes, sipes.eric@gmail.com

1st Vice President: Teresa Paglione, tlpaglione@gmail.com

2nd Vice President: Hunter Johnson, hunter@tvaresearch.com

Secretary: Heather Puckett, heather.r.puckett@gmail.com

Treasurer: Eugene Futato, efutato@bama.ua.edu

Assistant Treasurer: Brandon Thompson, branthompson@hotmail.com

Journal of Alabama Archaeology Editor: Ashley Dumas, ashleydumas@usa.net

Journal Editorial Assistants: Matt Grunewald, Matthew.M.Grunewald@usace.army.mil;

Matt Gage, mdgage@alan.ua.edu; Stuart McGregor, stuman41@comcast.net

Stones & Bones Editor: Ben Hoksbergen, benhoksbergen@gmail.com

Stones & Bones Assistant Editors: Teresa Paglione, tlpaglione@gmail.com; Jason Mann, jmann@troy.edu

Web Editor and Photo Archivist: Jason Mann, jmann@troy.edu

AHC Representative: Craig Sheldon, csheldon@aum.edu

Board of Directors:

Terms expire 2015:

John Hall, jhall@uwa.edu

Cathy Meyer, cathy.mrsconsultants@yahoo.com

Kristi Shuler, kas0007@auburn.edu

Terms expire 2016:

Matt Gage, mdgage@alan.ua.edu

Margaret Russell, srussell@eufaula.rr.com

John Van Valkenberg, joycevan@knology.net

Terms expire 2017:

Van King, melvanmd@hopper.net

Kimberly Pyszka, kpyszka@aum.edu

Steven Meredith, mered003@bama.ua.edu



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Alabama Archaeological Society
3699 US Highway 72
Paint Rock, Alabama 35764

