

# Alabama Archaeological Society

## Stones & Bones

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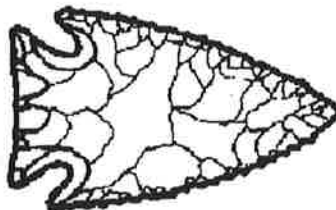
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### AAS Annual Meeting

The 1997 Annual Winter meeting was held in the Ferguson Student Center at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa campus. There were about 40 people in attendance at the meeting and 12 excellent papers were presented this year. The AAS would like to thank the twelve presentors for taking the time and effort to share their research with the society members. President Linda Derry noted that 1997 was a good year for the AAS with several improvements initiated and two scholarships awarded; Judith Gilles of the University of Alabama and Garnet Garvin of Troy State University.

At the Board of Directors meeting, Eugene Futato gave the Treasurer's report and noted that membership is up about 1% to 1 1/2% and donations were slightly higher than expected. The scholarship fund met its goal, while the Public Education grant was \$125.00 short and the Mahan Research grant was \$21.50 short for the upcoming 1998 grant year. The Board decided to make up the difference from its general fund in order that all grants would reach their goal of \$500 each.

The Publications Committee discussed the possibility of a new book on Alabama

Archaeology that would address the PaleoIndian through the Historic period in Alabama and include information on new technological research and public education. The committee also informed the Board that the long awaited Ceramics volume should be completed in 1998.

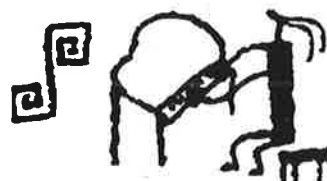
The Finance Committee discussed the need of a membership survey to assess the needs of the membership and how best the finance committee can market to these members.

Changes in the Bylaws were proposed (1) swapping the duties of the 1st V.P. and the 2nd V.P. so that the incoming V.P. would have one year's experience working with the 1st V.P. on the Program Committee, (2) two words were changed in the text to give a genderless reading of the Bylaws. Bart Henson made a motion to accept the proposed by-laws as revised. The by-law revisions were seconded and approved.

Other topics that were discussed included the AAS webpage and the Officers Handbook.

Julie Lyons

AAS Secretary



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## AAS Webpage

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At the fall Board meeting in Birmingham, there was a consensus among those present that the AAS needed to join the information age and set up a Web site for members and prospective members to enjoy. Joe Watkins has graciously agreed to get this idea up and running. We hope to hear soon from Joe, @gukftel.com, that the Web page is available. In the meantime, it was suggested that the Board members provide their e-mail addresses (contact Julie Lyons at: glyons@compuserve.com) so that members can correspond.

It was also suggested that all members of the AAS might want to provide their e-mail address when they renew their membership in January 1998. If you are interested in doing so, please write your e-mail address on your 1998 renewal form.

### AAS Officers Email Addresses

Linda Derry - 72020, 3035@compuserve.com  
Eugene Futato - efutato@ualvm.ua.edu  
Margaret Russell-76603,2621@compuserve.com  
Joe Copeland - jcopelan@unaor.una.edu  
Julie Lyons - glyons1@compuserve.com  
Bill Fowler - fowler@ari.org  
Joe Watkins@gukftel.com  
Gary Mullen - gmullen@acesag.auburn.edu  
Boyce Driskell - bdriskell@ualvm.ua.edu  
Bill Ackison - <http://members.aol.com/blkwriter/>  
McDonald Brooms - anthro@trojan.troyst.edu



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## AAS Scholarships

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The Alabama Archaeological Society will award two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250.00 each to two students actively engaged in an archaeological research project. Proposals for the scholarships must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee by January 31st. The Scholarship Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the recipients will be made by March 31st.

Minimum criteria for the grants are: 1) the student recipients must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, 2) the research project in which the student is involved must be located in the State of Alabama, 3) the student must be an undergraduate or a graduate student enrolled in a college or university in the State of Alabama with an active anthropology program, 4) the student must submit a letter of endorsement from an anthropology professor, and 5) the student will be required to present a paper on his or her research project at the 1998 Winter meeting.

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## Research Grant

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The Alabama Archaeological Society will grant an award of \$500.00 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chairman by January 31st. The Archaeological Resources Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the recipient shall be made by March 31st. Minimum criteria for the grant are:

1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, 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 and, 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.

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## Public Education

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The Alabama Archaeological Society will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500.00. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500.00. Proposals for the grants must be submitted to the Public Education Committee Chairman by January 31st. The Public Education Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Spring BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on proposals at the Spring meeting and an announcement of the grant recipient (s) shall be made by March 31st.

Minimum criteria for the grants are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, 2) the public education project must be located in the State of Alabama, 3) the project director or his or her representative will be required to give a presentation on the project at the Winter meeting.

### Scholarship Committee Chair

McDonald Brooms  
Troy State University  
Archaeological Research Center  
40 Eldridge Hall  
Troy, Alabama 36082

### Research Committee Chair

Tim Mistovich  
Panamerican Inc.  
PO. Box 40930  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404

### Public Education Committee

Linda Derry  
Old Cahawba  
719 Tremont Street  
Selma, Alabama 36701

**Please note that proposals for all grants are due January 31st.**

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## Donations

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### Edward C. Mahan Fund

Jean W. Allen  
Double Springs, AL 35553

Donations can be made to the grant programs any time during the year. Donations to the Stephen B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund provides the financial support necessary for the Student Scholarship program while donations to the Edward C. Mahan Fund are used to fund research grants. Funds for the Public Education grants are provided by the Public Education Special Projects Fund.

### Please send your donations to:

AAS  
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park  
Moundville, Alabama 35474

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## GIS Enhances Alabama Site File

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Maintained by archaeologists and researchers at the University of Alabama since 1931, the Alabama State Site File currently contains records for almost 20,000 archaeological sites. These records provide concise information about the function, cultural affiliation, location, and natural setting of prehistoric and historic sites. The Site File began as hard copy record forms and

a series of maps for plotting site locations. It has evolved through the years into a digital database, allowing researchers to query the data for archaeological information in ways inconceivable only a few decades ago. The most recent technological advancement of the Site File has been the integration of the database into a geographic information system (GIS).

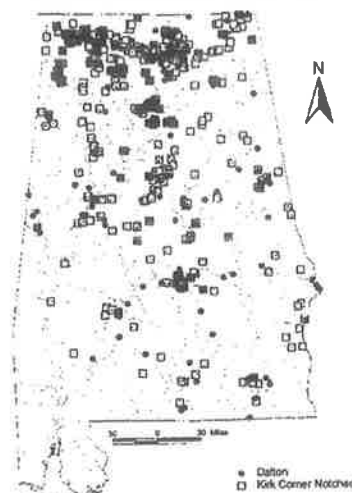
The analytical capabilities of GIS make it a powerful tool for studying spatial patterns and relationships. GIS essentially allows the user to create a smart map that knows what information is being displayed. Thematic data are organized into layers that can be stacked on top of each other for analysis (visualize a set of transparencies: one with hydrography data, one with physiographic regions, another with topographic data, and a fourth with archaeological site data). Stacking data layers in this fashion can reveal information about site relationships to each other and the natural environment which could not be ascertained from data in a tabular (spreadsheet) format. Analogous to computers enabling large volumes of data to be processed in a fraction of the time it would take to do it manually, GIS can graphically display data and perform geographic analysis in an efficient and meaningful manner.

The Alabama Site File GIS project is still in its developmental stages, though 95% (18,606) of the archaeological sites have been entered into the system. The remaining 5% of the Site File records do not contain enough geographic information to confidently plot on a map. It is possible at this time to perform basic geographic analysis of site distribution patterns, including comparative studies of multiple horizons or cultural phases (Figure 1). More advanced analysis such as predictive modeling of site location will be possible as the amount and quantity of environmental data available increases. Compiling environmental data into meaningful layers is an expensive and time consuming process, but we feel that this will further enhance the value of the Site File as a research tool and positive steps are being made toward achieving these goals.

Distribution of Paleoindian Sites in Alabama



Distribution of Dalton and Kirk Horizon Sites in Alabama



Alabama Site File - Office of Archaeological Services, 1997

*Submitted by Sam Mizelle, University of Alabama,  
Office of Archaeological Services.*

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## Renewals

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University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Caleb Curren  
Pensacola, FL 32503

Henry G. Hudson  
Ozark, AL 36360

William J. Given  
Foley, AL 36535

Edgar S. Greer  
Newnan, GA 30263

Fred E. Johnson  
Sheffield, AL 35660

William C. Johnson  
Pittsburg, PA 15224-0175

Dan F. Morse  
Panacca, FL 32346  
Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH 43210

Southeast Missouri State University  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

William B. Stepp  
Huntsville, AL 35802

Valdosta State University  
Valdosta, GA 31698

Earl J. Wright  
Hoover, AL 35236

Jean W. Allen  
Double Springs, AL 35553



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## A Reminder

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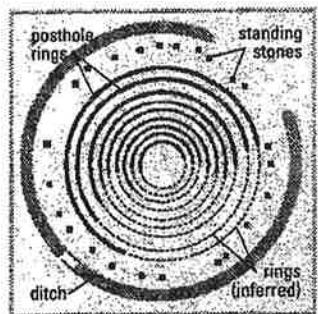
A reminder to all members of the Alabama Archaeological Society that dues for 1998 are due in January. Send your \$12 annual dues by using the MEMBERSHIP page at the end of the newsletter.

Please mail your dues and membership form to:  
Eugene Futato  
Alabama Archaeological Society  
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park  
Moundville, AL 35474

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## New Wood Henge

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Plan of newly detected henge  
at Stanton Drew, England

Remains of the largest timber henge ever found have been discovered at Stanton Drew, near Bristol, England, a site already famous for its three circles of standing stones. The new henge, detected during a magnetometer survey of the Great Circle, the largest of the stone monuments, has nine concentric rings of what look like postholes, each about three feet wide. The outermost ring is more than 300 feet in diameter, filling most of the area within the Great Circle, while the innermost ring is about 75 feet across. All total, there were probably between 400 and 500 posts. Beyond the stones the magnetometer

located an encircling ditch, no longer visible, about 23 feet wide and almost 450 feet in diameter. Thus, the whole monument is somewhat larger than Stonehenge, whose outer bank measures about 360 feet across. A date of ca. 3000 BC seems probable, though excavation would be needed to confirm it and show that the magnetic traces are indeed those of postholes. Neolithic timber circles are known at other sites in southern Britain, such as Woodhenge and Avebury, but none is on the scale of the Stanton Drew Circle.

*Taken from Archaeology, January/February 1998.*

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## Study Dispels Theory of Travel By First Americans

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New research , near Calgary, Alberta, Canada, demolishes a long held theory that prehistoric people migrated through North America via an ice-free corridor in Alberta during the last age.

The study also reveals a northwest Calgary riverbank campsite is not among the oldest evidence of humans on the continent - as archaeologists speculated last summer.

Lionel Jackson, lead author of the study , said it shows there was no ice-free corridor along the Rocky Mountain foothills in southern Alberta about 15,000 years ago, a theory that goes back to the 1930s.

"I think the ice-free corridor (idea) has been laid to rest now, " said Jackson, a geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada, which led the study.

It's more likely North America's first arrivals migrated by water along the food-rich western coastline, Jackson added.

The study was published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Geology*.

Jackson and other researchers in western Canada and the U.S. used a sophisticated tech-

nique that dates glacially deposited rocks to the time they're exposed when the ice retreats.

They found the glacial rock "train" along southern Alberta's foothills - including the "Big Rock" near Okotoks, just south of Calgary - was an average 15,000 years old.

So, up to that time, immense continental and mountain glaciers at least one-kilometer deep, blanketed the area.

*Taken from the Calgary Herald, January 2, 1998.*



## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

- Vol. 20-31, each issue (two issues per volume).....\$3.50pp
- Vol. 32 & up, each issue (two issues per volume).....\$6.00pp
- Stanfield- Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations* (Journal of Alabama Archaeology)  
Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint.....\$7.50pp
- Special Publication 2 - *The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama*.....\$6.00pp
- Special Publication 3 - *Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend* ..\$8.00pp
- Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types*.....\$15.00pp
- Lively, Long; Josselyn - *Pebble Tool Paper*.....\$3.00pp
- Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology* (Juvenile).....\$9.00pp

## MEMBERSHIP

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

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Send Checks for  
 Memberships and  
 Publications to:  
 Alabama Archaeological Society  
 Archaeological Services  
 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park  
 Moundville, AL 35474

Alabama State Artifact  
"The Rattlesnake Disk"



Moundville, Alabama

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