

# Alabama Archaeological Society

## Stones & Bones

Volume 46, Issue 1

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January/February 2004

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### AAS Turns 50 This Year!!

"Formation of the Alabama Archaeological Society was initiated by the unanimous approval of 18 persons interested in archaeology in a meeting called for this purpose at Decatur, Alabama, November 17, 1954." So reads the first sentence ever published in the Journal of Alabama Archaeology. The AAS Constitution was adopted on December 21, 1954. The first annual meeting was the 1955 meeting, actually held January 14, 1956, also in Decatur. Five of the six original officers and at least two of the three Directors were from Decatur.

AAS Plans to schedule as many of its 2004 activities around this anniversary as possible. Given the pivotal role of Decatur in the formation of AAS, we want to return there for this year's annual meeting. We are planning a special anniversary issue of the Journal and we want to highlight the Society's past in Stones and Bones.

We also want your ideas and suggestions. If you have any recommendations for commemorating this event, contact the officers, directors, or your chapter president. If you have old photos or other materials of interest, send them to the newsletter.

Let's celebrate!! Submitted by Eugene Futato

### Summer Meeting 2004

Save June 19th for a very special summer meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society at Ft. Toulouse in Wetumpka. AAS members will participate in the excavation of the first French fort on the site, built in 1717. Led by AHC archaeologists Ned Jenkins, Craig Sheldon, Jim Parker and possibly others, members will get the kind of hands-on experience that was standard in AAS summer meetings of decades past. So mark your calendar and watch for full details in the next newsletter. Submitted by Judith Knight.

### Dues are Due!

Just a friendly reminder to everyone that your annual dues are now due! Please fill out the enclosed membership form and return to:

**Alabama Archaeological Society**  
**13075 Moundville Archaeological Park**  
**Moundville, AL 35474**

**Visit the AAS Web Page:**

**<http://www.usouthal.edu/aas>**

## Confessions of the AAS President

I get a huge thrill from discovery! Finding something that no one knew was there. In my youth, this thrill was achieved by finding "old bottles" at a dump site in Louisville Kentucky. My grandfather and I would loot at the site. He allowed me to do the searching and digging while he walked the dog around the area and smoked. I would holler with delight when I found a complete bottle or other new discoveries. I dug up soda bottles, canning jars, panel bottles, and many others. We would look up the worth in various guide books and my grandfather would sell some on occasion.



With high school, my interest in the dumpsite waned and my grandfather became more and more ill with cancer, so we stopped going there. My sense of discovery was being fed to some degree by new subjects and new worlds were opened, but never to the height of finding a complete bottle. When it came time to decide what to do in college, I decided on archaeology. This was not a decision born out of an academic knowledge of archaeology because the only books near the topic I had read were Erich von Daniken's *Chariots of the Gods* series. While fascinated with what there was out there to find, his explanations never quite rang true. I was not a deep thinker, so did not consider archaeology because I wanted to prove or disprove any wild theories, I just knew that I wanted to discover things.

To my dismay, my freshman advisor at the University of Louisville told me they did not have archaeology courses. I was told to major in geology, which in her mind was the same thing. I

spend an unhappy year as a geology major, not so much because I did not like the material but because I wanted to do something else. My sophomore year I was awarded work study, and was told to go to the financial aid office and look through the listings for jobs on campus for which I could apply. I was eager to get started so I went by several weeks before the semester started. The listings were actually in the form of single sheets advertising individual jobs kept in a huge binder. I opened the book near the front and the top of the page read "Archaeology Lab Assistant." I had to read it again. I had to have this job! I called, found they had an opening, and interviewed that day. I discovered that my advisor and I were both ignorant of the fact that archaeology was a subdiscipline of anthropology and that they do indeed teach archaeology at the university. My academic career in archaeology had begun.

I still get a huge thrill from discovering things from the big to the small. From finding an archaeological site to unearthing a projectile point in place, fieldwork is still a passion and always will be. The difference from my looting of the dumpsite in Louisville is that I get a different thrill from considering who made the artifact and what the discovery means for understanding those people. As discussed by Hester Davis, the long-time state archaeologist of Arkansas, this is what makes a person an archaeologist. Not whether their profession is archaeology, but whether they look upon an artifact as a source of information as opposed to an end in and of itself. I have found that the deeper and longer-lasting thrill of discovery is to piece together all those small thrills from the field and develop a picture of the past. By this definition, any person that adheres to the AAS Constitution is an archaeologist.

As president of the AAS, I want to discover what its members think about the organization. Is the organization meeting expectations? What is being done right? What could we do better? What should we do that we are not? I would like to conduct a survey of the members so that the officers and Board of Directors can better serve the membership and plan for the future. My goal is to devise a survey for the next newsletter and to have

it available on the AAS webpage. Please be on the lookout for the survey and I would welcome informal comments anytime. You can e-mail me at pcarr@jaguar1.usouthal.edu or regular mail at HUMB 34, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL 36688. Let's move beyond categorizing each other as professionals or amateurs. Let's recognize that we are all archaeologists and contribute to the AAS and gain from it! Submitted by Philip J. Carr, Archaeologist and AAS President

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## A Function of Paleoindian Fluted Points?

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We received the following correspondence from Dr. Keith Fleming, of Port Townsend, Washington. Now retired, Keith was a graduate student in archaeology at the University of Alabama during the 1970's. He went on to earn a Ph.D. degree in history at Ohio State University and for many years was Historian for the Marine Corps Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard. Here are his thoughts on the nature of flutes, based on an analogy from his military career. Keith writes:

"The following information may or may not be of value. It's something I had intended to pursue had I remained in archaeology."

"In 1963, I was a Marine second lieutenant attending the Officers Basic Course at Quantico, Virginia. Among the classes was one on the bayonet. The instructor noted that the American military was switching from the traditional bayonet (with its blood groove) to one more like a stiletto. The old style bayonet was notorious for 'sticking' and being difficult to remove from the body of an opponent. The instructor went on to say that research (I presume by the Army since it develops most infantry weapons) had shown that the old bayonet stuck because of the blood groove. The flesh would close around the groove and make the bayonet stick in the body."

"If that instructor was correct about the research on bayonet design, then it could illuminate the value of the flute in some Paleo points. A fluted point would tend to stick in a target animal

even if the spear were thrown from too great a distance for optimal penetration. The point would not have to penetrate to its distal end in order to stick in the animal. It would still stick no matter how deep it penetrated. A point which remained stuck in the animal even if the animal was only slightly wounded would be a valuable tool. The hunter would have a trail of blood, even though slight, to follow. (My guess here is that the blood groove would live up to its name and help insure the blood kept flowing, especially in a moving animal.) If the fluted point were mounted on a fore-shaft, as I remembered reading, then the hunter had only to pick up the wooden spear, insert another point and fore-shaft, and be ready to throw again when he caught up with his wounded prey."

"The logic behind non-fluted points would be penetration rather than sticking ability. The eventual introduction of the atlatl would provide greater striking power and deeper penetration. An even smaller point, used in conjunction with an atlatl, would give a flatter trajectory and increase the penetration. The advent of the bow and tiny points such as the Madison would give even greater penetration into vital organs." Submitted by Jim Knight.

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## Chapter News

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### East Chapter

The East Alabama Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society met on November 11th. The speaker for the evening was Mr. Paul Holm, who discussed "Egyptian Archaeology From Cairo to Aswan on the Nile." Mr. Holm is a member of the East Alabama Chapter and recently returned from Egypt. He visited many sites along the Nile River including the Great Pyramids at Giza, Philae Temple, Temple of Horus, Edfu, Hatshepsut's Temple, Sagarra, Valley of the Kings, Valley of



the Queens, Karnak and Luxor at Thebes. Submitted by Caroline Dean.

The East Alabama Chapter's first meeting of the new year was held on Tuesday, January 13. The meeting was held at the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service building, 3381 Skyway Drive in Auburn. Mr. Doug Rodgers presented: Mississippian Themes & Motifs in Historic Period Beadwork. Mr. Rodgers, now retired, taught history at the University of Montevallo for 25 years. He has had a lifelong interest in southeastern Indians, with a particular fascination for native arts, especially beadwork and what it can tell us about cultural relationships of southeastern Indians to the Mississippian mound builders. Submitted by Caroline Dean.

#### **Southwest Chapter (NEW Chapter)**

On October 16th, the newly formed Southwest Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society held its first meeting. The Chapter applied for affiliation with AAS on December 6th at the AAS Winter Board meeting and was accepted by a unanimous vote. The current membership after two months is approaching 40 individuals.

Officers (shown below) are: Thomas McCaskey - President, Barbara Holley Reid - Vice President (not shown), Jackie McConaha - Secretary, Jerry Ollhoft - Treasurer, Bonnie Gums - Member at Large and Chris Arnott - Photographer. Photo submitted by Gary Mullen.



On Tuesday, November 18th, the Southwest Chapter of the AAS met at the Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of Alabama. George Shorter provided the presentation on the History & Archaeology of Old St. Stephens, Alabama's First Territorial Capital. All chapter meetings are open to the public.

The Chapter met on Tuesday, December 16. Archaeologist George Shorter spoke about the history and archaeology of Old Stephens, Alabama. Artifacts from the Globe Hotel were brought for viewing.

The Chapter held their first meeting of the year on January 20th at 7:00 p.m. at the University of South Alabama Center for Archaeological Studies.

For more information about the chapter or their meetings, contact Bonnie Gums at: 251-460-6562 or email: [bgum@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:bgum@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)

The chapter is working in the field weekly on the excavation of the site of Old Mobile under the direction of Dr. Greg Waselkov and will participate in an upcoming excavation of a Native American site under the direction of Ms. Bonnie Gums. We have participated in a boat tour of the Bottle Creek mound site this past month and co-sponsored the AAS Winter meeting as well as co-sponsoring the reception for AAS members held on December 5th. Plans have been made to initiate a volunteer laboratory, starting January 6. They will begin by rough sorting artifacts recovered from the Old St. Stephens site and switch projects as the situation warrants. It is planned that this lab will be a permanent and regular work session, working with the Center for Archaeological Studies. The Southwest Chapter's board plans to meet in January to address plans to increase membership, long range program plans and a possible field trip in the spring. This Chapter meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at the Center for Archaeological Studies. A program dealing with some aspects of archaeology in the general area is presented at each meeting. An invitation to meet with us is extended to each AAS member.

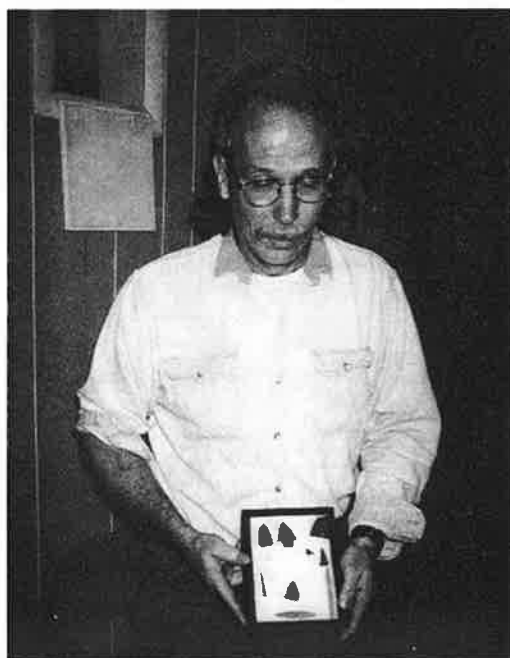
Volunteers are needed to help clean and sort artifacts at the Center, as well as work at the

excavation sites. For more information about this, please contact Bonnie Gums, C/O Center for Archaeological Studies, HUMB 34, Mobile Alabama 36688-002, or the email address below.

For more information about the chapter, please contact Tom McCaskey at [tmccaskey@cox.net](mailto:tmccaskey@cox.net) or Bonnie Gums, [bgums@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:bgums@jaguar1.usouthal.edu). Submitted by Tom McCaskey.

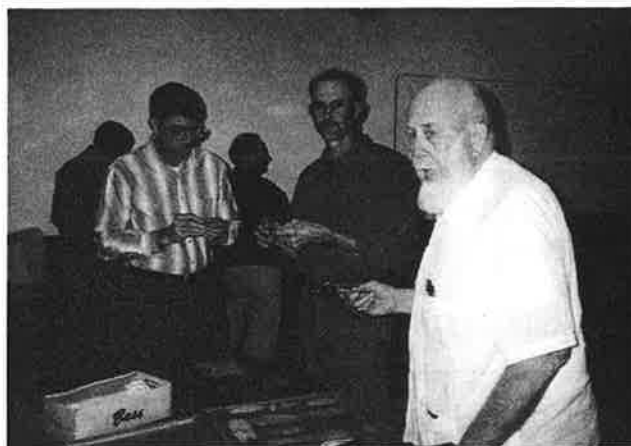
### **Muscle Shoals Chapter**

Pictured below is Mr. Barry Waters of Rogersville, AL showing artifacts to the members of the Muscle Shoals Chapter at their December meeting. The Muscle Shoals Chapter meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Mound Museum on Florence. For more information, contact the chapter president, Mr. Gerald Hester. Submitted by Howard King.



### **Cullman Chapter**

Shown in the next column, are Richard Kilborn, Van King, and Ed Kilborn discussing some greenstone artifacts. Van spoke to the Cullman Chapter in November on his past 30 years of observations on sites located in the Tennessee Valley. The Cullman Chapter meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Cullman County Library at 7 p.m. For more information contact Mr. Robbie Camp, chapter president. Submitted by Howard King.



## **AAS Winter Meeting**

A rousing good time was had by all at the AAS Winter meeting held on December 6th, 2003 in Mobile. Over 50 registrants found out about archaeology around the state and beyond with a focus on the local area. Despite a packed program of 11 presentations made throughout the day, people had the chance to explore the Museum of Mobile with its many fine exhibits. Presentations ranged from Moundville to Fort Mims and the keynote address made by Dr. Judy Bense (University of West Florida) compared the past of Pensacola and Mobile through time while providing an overview of some of the fantastic projects she and her colleagues have conducted.

Judith Knight announced the Harris Award winner for 2003 was Joe Watkins and the presentation was made by the 2002 honorees, Bart & Bettye Henson. Teresa Paglione announced that the scholarship winner for 2003 is Kyle Bond, a USA student whose work on a donated collection from Clarke County not only provides good and useful information, but also is a fine example of the value of donated collections. Kyle will present a paper on the results of his work at the 2004 Winter Meeting. Since the Wimberly Fund was short the required scholarship funds, several board members immediately donated to provide the \$250.00 award for Mr. Bond. Phil Carr announced that the AAS Student Paper Prize winner

for 2003 is Rebecca Turley Ridley for her work with the MOWA. Phil also reminded the board that this completes the three-year-test period for the paper prize so we need to evaluate the prize and determine if it is to be continued or dropped. This will be discussed in further detail at the February Board Meeting.

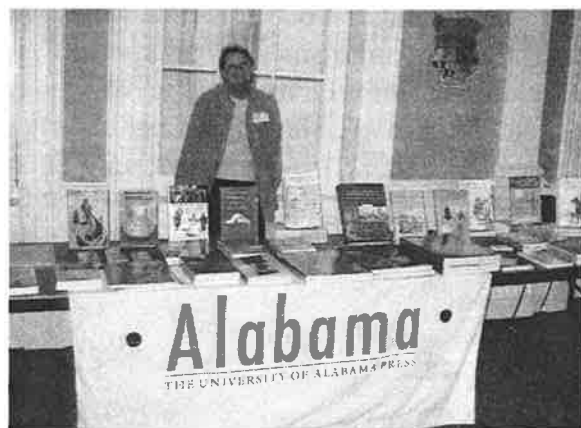
The meeting and reception was co-sponsored by the newly formed "Southwest Chapter" and the University of South Alabama Center for Archaeological Studies. The chapter members were responsible for the Friday evening reception and provided great food and conversation. Artifacts from Old Mobile and St. Stephens were on display as well as collection of local stone material types used by prehistoric peoples.

The reception and meeting were a great chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones as we celebrated the past of our state! Submitted by Phil Carr.

Shown below is Rebecca Turley Ridley of Jacksonville State University accepting the 2003 Archaeology Student Award from Dr. Phil Carr. Photo by Gary Mullen.



Shown in the next column is Bart and Bettye Henson presenting the 2003 Milt and Bea Harris Outstanding Service Award to Mr. Joe Watkins. Photo by Gary Mullen.



Above, Judith Knight is shown with the University of Alabama Press's book display. Photo by Gary Mullen.

Below are the 2004 AAS officers (left to right): Margaret Russell- 1st Vice President, Linda Derry- Secretary, Phil Carr- President, and Eugene Futato- Treasurer and Journal Editor. Not shown is Howard King- 2nd Vice President. Photo by Gary Mullen.





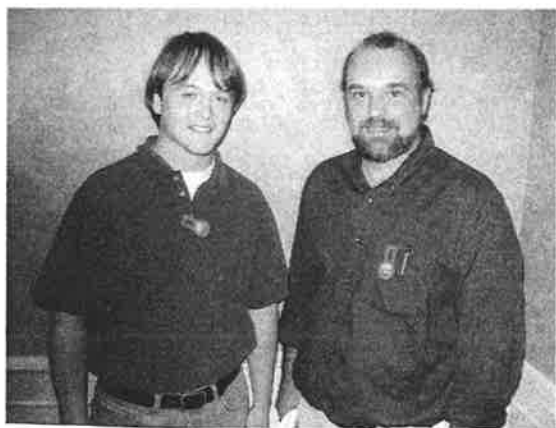
Shown below is Ashley Dumas, a graduate student from the University of Alabama - Tuscaloosa, the recipient of 2002 Student Research Award. Photo by Gary Mullen.



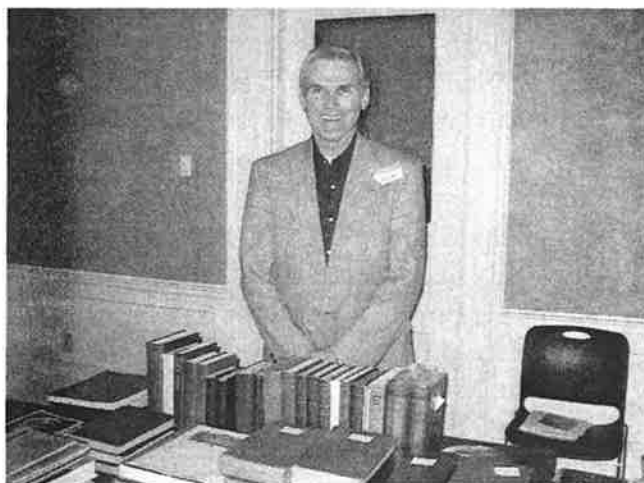
Shown below is the keynote speaker Judith Bense from the University of West Florida. Photo by Gary Mullen.



Shown below is the recipient of the AAS Scholarship, Kyle Bond from the University of South Alabama and Phil Carr. Photo by Gary Mullen.



Shown below is Jim Lee, with used archaeological books for sale at the Winter meeting. Photo by Gary Mullen.



Below, Ian Brown and Phil Carr listen to presentations at the Winter Meeting. Photo by Gary Mullen.




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## New Members

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Lee Bedsole, Troy AL  
 Kyle Bond, Mobile AL  
 C. William Clewlow Jr., Santa Monica CA  
 Mark Delorme, Spartanburg SC  
 Pamela Johnson, Tuscaloosa AL  
 Randy McGlaun, Dozier AL  
 Louis Scott, Mobile AL  
 John Smith, Union Grove AL

## Renewals

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa AL  
 Appalachian State University, Boone NC  
 Arizona State University, Tempe AZ  
 University of Arkansas, Fayetteville AR  
 R.B. Draughton Library, Auburn AL  
 Library - Serials Section, Binghamton NY  
 Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham AL  
 University of Alabama Birmingham, AL  
 Wayne CJ Boyko, Blackstone VA  
 BYU Harold B. Lee Library, Provo UT  
 Carnegie Museum of Natural History,  
 Pittsburgh PA  
 Phillip Causey, Tallahassee FL  
 University of Chicago, Chicago IL  
 Cornell University, Ithaca NY  
 William Dodson, Birmingham AL  
 Emory University, Atlanta GA  
 Florida State University, Tallahassee FL  
 University of Florida, Gainesville FL  
 Gadsden Public Library, Gadsden AL  
 Marjorie Gay, Five Points AL  
 University of Georgia, Athens GA  
 Mildred Gray, Homewood AL  
 Harvard University, Cambridge MA  
 Houston-Love Library, Dothan AL  
 Indiana University, Bloomington IN  
 Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville AL  
 Fred Johnson, Sheffield AL  
 Ernest Justice, Pittsview AL  
 Richard Kanaski, Savannah GA  
 University of Kentucky, Lexington KY  
 Gail Tate King, Sterrett AL  
 Jim & Judith Knight, Tuscaloosa AL  
 Vernon Knight Sr., Birmingham AL  
 Steve Lamb, Geneva AL  
 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA  
 Jean & Bill Lucas, Freeport FL  
 Robert Marley, Geneva AL  
 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI  
 Middle Tennessee State University,  
 Murfreesboro TN  
 M/M James Miller, Florence AL  
 University of Mississippi, University MS  
 Department of Archives & History,

Jackson MS

University of Missouri, Columbia MO  
 West Regional Branch, Mobile AL  
 Auburn University Montgomery,  
 Montgomery AL  
 David Morgan, Natchitoches LA  
 New York Public Library, New York NY  
 University of New Orleans, New Orleans LA  
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC  
 D/M Charles Ochs, Birmingham AL  
 Ohio State University, Columbus OH  
 Leland Patterson, Houston TX  
 Penn State University, University Park PA  
 University of Pittsburg, Pittsburg PA  
 Princeton University, Princeton NJ  
 Samford University, Birmingham AL  
 Simon Fraser University, Blaine WA  
 University of South Alabama, Mobile AL  
 University of South Florida, Tampa FL  
 SE Missouri State University,  
 Cape Girardeau MO  
 University of Southern Mississippi,  
 Hattiesburg MS  
 Southern Illinois University, Carbondale IL  
 University of Texas, Austin TX  
 George Thurlow, Huntsville AL  
 University of Toronto, Toronto Ontario  
 Troy State University, Troy AL  
 Tulane University, New Orleans LA  
 Valdosta State University, Valdosta GA  
 University of Vermont, Burlington VT  
 University of Virginia, Charlottesville VA  
 Wake Forest Library, Winston-Salem NC  
 University of Washington, Seattle WA  
 Wayne State University, Detroit MI  
 State University of West Georgia, Carrollton  
 GA  
 Wheeler Basin Library, Decatur AL  
 Nancy White, Tampa FL  
 College of William & Mary, Williamsburg

VA

UG & Frances Wilson, Muscle Shoals AL

## Donations

Marjorie Gay donated to each of the three  
 funds. Jim & Judith Knight, Sarah Mattics, Teresa



Paglione and Margaret Russell all donated to the Wimberly Fund.

Fund totals are:

Wimberly	\$100.50
Mahan	\$908.00
Education	\$150.00

Thanks everyone for your continued support!!



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## One Amateur's Opinion

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Well, I was shocked when I opened my November-December issue of the Stones & Bones newsletter. Now don't get me wrong, I thought basically that it was a very good newsletter since I had contributed several articles to be shared with everyone. But there was one article that had me scratching my head and wondering "why did Mc put this in"?

After a few days and weeks of thinking about this "Cumberland" article, and then participating in much discussion with many, and I mean a whole bunch of fellow North Alabama amateurs, about what they thought about the newsletter, nearly 99% of them stated that they thought that "this was probably one of the BEST newsletters EVER"! This wasn't exactly what I had anticipated. Only one of the 'amateurs' thought that "this guy ought to be strung up" for "breaking the law".

So now after many weeks of reflection, I think that Mc may be forcing many of "us" in the AAS to come to grips with "what's going on" in the world of ancient American artifacts, archaeology and interaction among the professionals in this state with the various groups of people that are connected in some way with these artifacts.

So maybe I need to start this discussion from my view point as an avocational, or amateur. One of my fellow "amateurs" and I got into a discussion about how many people in our county (Cullman) possessed, (either by finding, inheriting,

receiving as a gift, or buying) at least one ancient American "arrowhead" or artifact. After this discussion, we posed this question to several of our "amateur" friends; the general consensus was probably in the neighborhood of 80%. Now don't take this to the bank, because this was our guess. One of the amateurs stated that probably 40 years ago, maybe this percentage was near 100%. I'm not sure about that, but whether we like it or not, there is a large number of people who have in their possession ancient American artifacts. All one needs to get a handle on this is to attend one of the "rock" or artifact shows" that are held at various places in our state and watch the hundreds of local citizens who come to view, discuss, and many times bring artifacts to be identified, as well as to know its age, use and unfortunately, it's monetary value. So who are these people? And why is the AAS on a decline in membership while at least four other organization's memberships that I know of that sponsor an interest in ancient American artifact are flourishing?

First, there are the avocationalists. They are the ones who somewhere in their past found and recovered an ancient American artifact. Their interest caused them to continue searching and collecting these artifacts. But they did not stop there. They searched for more information on these "artifacts"; became members of the AAS and other groups; took care to document, report, and study these artifacts; and some even moved on to be professional archaeologists. They have a genuine interest in the artifact's history; its relation to the living conditions of the ancient Americans. This group has a lot to offer to the study of ancient man.

Second, there are the collectors; those who have found ancient American artifacts and/or have bought an artifact; whose interest is to continue to hunt and/or purchase the artifacts mostly because of their aesthetic appeal. They are "uneducated" in the anthropological aspect of these artifacts, but probably could be nurtured into a more responsible and thoughtful avocational. This group is extremely large; the largest of the groups in this discussion. At present they are greatly influenced by "artifact dealers".

Third, there are the "pot hunters". In recent years, they have seemed to multiply and have been, it seems, coming out of the woodwork. They only hunt and search for ancient American artifacts for the sole purpose of selling to someone. They care for nothing other than the current value of the artifact and who would buy it from them. I've tried to talk to some of these people by explaining why certain artifacts that they have found are unique in the way they were made, or used, or handled but I cannot get past their need to know the monetary value of the artifact. They basically cannot be archaeologically educated except in the matter of what the artifact is and its value. They see "all" archaeologists and some of the avocationalists as "jerks" who want to stop and/or "cut into their action". They will stop at nothing, whether lawful or unlawful, to achieve their goals.

Fourth, there are the "dealers". These are the ones who make a fairly good living in the buying and selling of ancient American artifacts. Many of these dealers also hunt and search for artifacts; they also are very knowledgeable in archaeological terms. Some started out as collectors, even some as professionals. They are in the business to make money and their main targets are the collectors. This is one reason why our Society needs to nurture and educate the collectors!

There is another group that has come into existence quite strongly in recent years. There have been a few of these around since humans got interested in ancient man's artifacts, the "flint knappers". This group transcends all the other groups in one way or another. A number of the dealers are knappers or they are supplied by knappers.

Finally, there is a large group of people who just do not care anything about history, ancient Americans, artifacts, etc. They may acknowledge that it exists, but certainly have no need for it or could not care less about it.

You may think of some other groups out there, but these are the main players beside the professionals and the Native Indian tribes. Exactly what role these tribes play in all of this has yet to be determined. Some want complete control and ownership; others, could not care less; while some

appreciate the effort to gain more knowledge of our past.

So why did I list these groups? What did this have to do with the "Cumberland" article? Maybe some of the answers lie in the objectives and purposes of our AAS. We're supposed to promote interest in the study of the cultures of historic and pre-historic people in Alabama. Well, there is certainly interest in most of the groups listed; mainly the professionals, avocationalists and collectors. It's at this point that I think is one of the recent failings of the AAS. It's the absence of genuine interest in reaching out to nurture and educate the collectors.

This brings up another objective of the AAS, to serve as a bond of good fellowship between career professionals and the avocational archaeologists (amateurs). One "interested" collector told me recently when I asked him to join our AAS, "I'm glad I don't throw (money) away each year to be a part of a club where the professionals p#%\$ and moan about a find in the bottom of a river (where it is otherwise lost forever for sure)". He went on to say that "if you turn off even the people who care the least little bit about the past, then (the professionals) someday will find nobody to finance the salvage archaeology that most are relegated to, and then they, (the archaeologists) can talk about the good old days." He went on to state: "I am not for the pilfering and destruction of contextual material, but on the other hand, you have to cultivate a following and interest in archaeology if you plan to have it bankrolled." Maybe he was quite harsh in his opinions, but I know he was very sincere.

Yes, several Federal laws and regulations as well as State law concerning removal of historic and pre-historic artifacts from the State's rivers and streams may have been broken. However, the overwhelming notion I get from collectors is that they see nothing wrong with recovering these artifacts since in most cases the artifacts have long been removed from context and were not "dug". In other words, a bad law serves no good to anyone. Most of the collectors with whom I've come in contact are honest, well meaning, salt-of-the-earth citizens who cannot understand why these

"laws" came into existence. They blame the professionals (because they want everything for themselves) and to a certain extent the AAS. Looks like we have a lot of educating to do!

Let me illustrate why I'm trying to explain with this true experiencing of my first time meeting with a professional archaeologist. Back in the mid 60's when I discovered this fantastic hobby, I was basically a collector. My father and I enjoyed going out surface collecting some of the sites we had discovered. We were discovering many artifacts, but didn't have a clue about what we were finding other than it being an arrowhead or some sort of tool. Soon after, we discovered the Alabama Point Type book by Cambron and Hulse, so we could start to get a handle on typing the arrowheads and their ages. We heard about the AAS and one of its chapters located in Decatur, AL. There we met with members who started talking about labeling, recording the artifacts and the sites, and some of the uses of these artifacts in the history of ancient Americans. At that time, we had hundreds of artifacts that we could not place at any certain site. It saddens me now that there was not some sort of mentor around to advise us when we first started collecting because of the lack of information we now have on that first group of unrecorded artifacts. We became quick learners by starting the establishment of the Cullman Chapter to help all of those in our area who likewise were starting to collect. At our first few meetings we had over sixty members attending, learning how to set up a site file and recording and identifying our artifacts. We had several speakers to come from surrounding chapters to advise us. Everyone was very enthusiastic about our new found hobby. We were moving out of the collecting stage into the avocational or responsible amateur stage.

Then it happened. We had invited a "professional" to come see what we were doing and advise us further, as well as to tell us that what he was presently doing in his archaeological endeavor. At the time, some of my buddies and I were big into cave exploring. In one cave we had discovered some ancient American artifacts; one such artifact was the front end of a steatite duck

effigy pipe. I had brought it to the meeting to get some information and the opinion of the professional. After showing him the artifact and explaining to him that it was found in a cave, he asked me "how far down in the dirt did we dig it out"? I hesitated a little and before I could give an answer he announced to the whole group that I was a "no-count pot hunter"; that I was completely destroying an important archaeological site. To say the least, I was very embarrassed and so were many of my friends. He had not waited for me to answer and had jumped to an opinion without any reply from me. The reason I couldn't respond quickly to his question is that we had not "dug" the artifact. I just didn't know how to respond to his question because we were finding the artifacts above our heads washing out of ceiling of the cave. But I didn't let his tirade quench my excitement of finding out all I could about this discovery.

Later I learned that the Copena people would cast burials and artifacts down a nearby crevice or pit (when available) to return them "back to the earth". The chamber of the cave in which we had discovered these artifacts was in fact the bottom of one of these crevices or pits. It had been filled in from above by the County road crew in order to build a road. So all of the artifacts were being washed down from above the chamber. So there was no "digging" at all.

That night the "professional" spoke to us about all the bluff shelters that he had "dug" in during the past year. Many of our members did not attend any more of our meetings. Never again did we have that many in attendance; in fact we rarely ever got more than thirty people to attend any given meeting. It was a set-back that our group probably never did overcome. I thought that night and I still think today that the professional was acting the way he thought he should, but our group was more in need of nurturing and educating than we were in being condemned. Of course my passion and enthusiasm for this hobby was not deterred as it was for some of the others. I guess I have thick skin.

Later on I discovered some people "digging" a large shelter. A fellow amateur and I went to

speak to the "diggers" convincing them of the harm they were doing and they soon afterward ceased their pilfering. I wrote a letter to a professional concerning this and if he wanted to further test this site, we would be at his disposal. He replied in the affirmative and we helped him in the testing. He was very appreciative of our actions.

I've helped several archaeologists with their archaeological investigations in our area. I've helped on several excavations; turned in site files; participated in surface surveys of sites; and recently have worked diligently with the fluted point survey. So you see, I think I've moved about the rank of a collector to that of a responsible avocational. At one time, I had strongly considered becoming a professional but decided against it.

Like the old saying, "you can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar". These are exciting times in archaeology with all the new discoveries and the uses of new scientific tools such as DNA tracing and other genetic testing. We need, as an archaeological group, all the help and insight that we can get, all the information we can get, and most of all, all the members we can get including the layperson and archaeologist.

If you disagree, agree, affirm, denounce or have an opinion on this, let us hear from you. This society's newsletter should be the forum of open and constructive dialogue for matters as important as this. If I have offended anyone (or strayed into some political incorrectness) then I certainly apologize. But I hope you will understand that I'm writing in complete honesty. Please respond in a like manner. Submitted by Howard King.

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## Editor's Note

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I would like to thank Howard for commenting on the "Cumberland" article that appeared in the last issue of *Stones & Bones*. In addition to Howard's more formal response, I received more e-mails about this article and the November/December issue of the *Stones & Bones* than any issue in the ten years that I have been editor. Most of the responses that I received indicated that the reader thought that this was a great

newsletter and they particularly enjoyed Howard's article on the "Ugly Artifact" and the article on the Cumberland point find. Those individuals that did respond in the positive included amateurs, professionals, and Board members. However, I also received several e-mails from amateurs, professionals, and Board members that questioned my sanity for including the "Cumberland" article. Before I go any further, I want everyone to know that I appreciate your time and effort in responding whether you enjoyed the article or thought that I should be burned at the stake.

When I first received the "Cumberland" article, several thoughts rushed through my mind; (1) Is this an obvious case of pot hunting or is an artifact that is found on the bottom of the river totally out of context and therefore has no archaeological significance? (2) Wow, this sure is a beautiful artifact. Should I toss the article and photograph in the trash or do the members of the AAS deserve to see such a work of art? (3) Isn't the bottom of the river owned by either the State of Alabama or TVA? Does picking up an artifact off the bottom of the river constitute breaking a state and/or federal law? (4) What about TVA's responsibility to protect archaeological sites on federal property? It seems that TVA should have a management plan to protect known significant sites from falling into the river (it is possible that TVA does have a management plan that I am not aware of). I know of several important sites that the Corp of Engineers saved by rip-rapping the river bank. Can TVA do the same? (5) And finally, why would anyone go down to the bottom of the river in almost total darkness among trot lines to hunt for a projectile point? Don't these people know that there are creatures down there that will eat you! Ever since I saw the original "Jaws" years ago, I feel a bit of anxiety creeping over me every time I swim in the pool in my back yard.

On the first question, I received several comments. One amateur told me that he thought the artifacts on the bottom of the river did have cultural context. He went on to say that at least we would know what site the artifact came from. On the other hand, a professional archaeologist replied that the Cumberland was found totally out of

context and therefore had no cultural significance. On this point I am at a loss. If anyone knows for sure and they know that they are 100% right, please let me know. I would like to resolve this issue in my own mind.

Was Mr. Sockwell guilty of "pot hunting" when he picked up the Cumberland? One member wrote that "This article sends the wrong message of the aims and purposes of the AAS and any reader will have ample reason to believe that AAS has undergone a fundamental change in direction and ethics." She went on to say that she feels that "the publication of this article has set us back decades". This member obviously had strong feelings that Mr. Sockwell's activities were that of a "looter". Another member stated that the recovery of an artifact on the bottom of the river was no worse than surface collecting. Again, it gets back to the question of was the Cumberland found in cultural context. Let me say that in no way has the Alabama Archaeological Society changed its goal to promote the protection and preservation of archaeological resources. The AAS does not condone the looting or destruction of archaeological sites. Pot hunting is wrong and the AAS supports the prosecution of anyone that is guilty of such an activity. It did become apparent to me that different members of the AAS have different ideas about what constitutes "pot hunting". It's interesting to note that the answer to this question did not follow professional/amateur lines. Maybe we need to work on this one in another newsletter.

The other question that I received comments about was the legality of collecting artifacts of the bottom of the river. One Board member e-mailed me that Mr. Sockwell's actions were a violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 USC 470aa-47011), Theft of Government Property (18 USC 641), Destruction of Government Property (18 USC 1361), and Conspiracy (18 USC 371). I haven't checked into these laws so I don't know if the references are correct but I do believe that one or more of these laws were broken. One thing that was obvious from the responses, not everyone is aware of these laws and how they pertain to cultural resources. Here again, this would also be a good article for a

future issue of the newsletter. Without question, the Alabama Archaeological Society does not condone any kind of illegal activity.

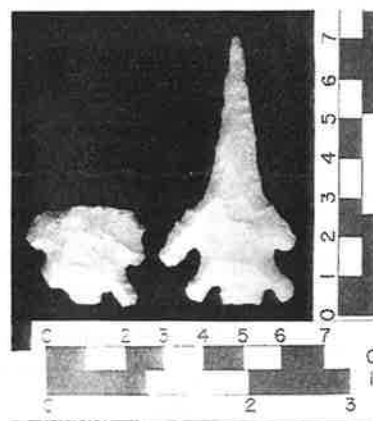
What about the Cumberland projectile point? What should happen to it? As I said above, this artifact is a beautiful work of art. It should be preserved for future generations. This is the kind of artifact that everyone can appreciate. I hope that Mr. Sockwell will place the point in a public museum somewhere in Alabama for all to see.

As Howard stated above, we welcome your comments. As a group we don't have many opportunities to communicate with each other. Use your newsletter to express your opinions about the important issues that confront us as a society. Submitted by McDonald Brooms.

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## What are these?

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These two artifacts are very unusual and very interesting. Both are made of Fort Payne chert, the one on the left is moderately patinated while the one on the right is more heavily patinated. Both were surface collected from multi-component sites yielding Paleolithic, Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian and even Historic cultural materials. However, the artifact on the left was discovered in Colbert County near Leighton, AL., while the one on the right came from a site some 50 miles further east in Limestone County near Greenbrier, AL.

The artifact on the left, discovered in 1992, shows many scars and breaks from cultivation, making its appearance quite uninteresting. As I later washed, examined and recorded it, I noted

the unique notching and classified it as possibly a multi-spurred graver; gravers were readily collected from this site. However, I also noted that the only spur left intact was not a graver, but appeared as some sort of barb with notches on either side. It offered nothing else of interest, so in the box it went with all the other artifacts recovered from that particular site. It should be stated that I have over a dozen boxes of artifacts from this one particular site; I always store artifacts from each identifiable site together.

Anyway, I had forgotten about this piece until one day in 1998 when I recovered the artifact on the right. This particular artifact, (I think that it's a Lost Lake projectile point reworked into a drill) with it's unique notches in the base, is unlike any I have ever found, whether it's surface collecting, or in any books and/or reports on ancient American artifacts. And believe me I've examined all the archaeological reports, site reports, point type studies, regional artifact reports and books, etc., that I could get my hands on, but still could not find anything that had any resemblance. I've shown this artifact to many others, professionals and amateurs, but no one has yet to confirm seeing anything like it. But I had this feeling that I've seen something like this before, but could not remember where.

So one day as I was examining boxes of artifacts from that particular site in Colbert County, WOW!, there was the other piece. This broken up, mutilated piece now made some sort of sense to me. It was nearly identical in size, shape and workmanship. What about that! Here I now had two very unusual, rare artifacts that to this day I don't believe exist anywhere else. Well, that's why I wrote the is little article; if anyone out there in archaeology land has seen, owns or knows of someone who has an artifact(s) like these, I would certainly like to hear from you. And if you have an idea of the purpose of double notching the base, you've gotten my attention.

The artifact on the right was retouched or re-sharpened by beveling the left edge of each face but shows no sign of being used or wear marks. The artifact on the left shows the start of beveling on the left edge of each face but of course the

distal end appears to be snapped off; this break appears to be an 'old break'. The broken bottom barb (on left side of base) is a 'recent' break probably from agricultural methods.

Both sites from which these artifacts were collected have yielded many early Archaic projectile points, including Lost Lake projectile points; a projectile that has the characteristics beveling on the left edge of each face due to retouching or re-sharpening the blade edge. Several of the collected Lost Lakes from both sites exhibited this resharpener of the blade edges ending with a 'needle' drill-like distal end.

If anyone can tell me anything about these artifacts, especially the double notching of the base, please contact me. Below is the 'Colbert County' artifact with the missing parts drawn in as accurately as I could considering the apparent breakage. Submitted by Howard King.



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## Passings

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Dr. Kenneth Turner, age 57, assistant professor of Anthropology and Director of the Laboratory for Human Osteology from 1974-1993 at The University of Alabama was diagnosed in May with colon cancer. He died October 24 in Goodwell, Oklahoma. At the time of his death he was the Curator of No Man's Land Museum in Goodwell. He is survived by his wife Kathleen who is a member of the faculty at Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Submitted by Jim Knight.



### Available Publications

#### Available Issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

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

#### *Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations* (Journal of Alabama Archaeology)

- Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 -reprint.....\$7.50pp

#### *The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama*

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

#### *Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend*

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

#### *Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types*.....\$20.00pp

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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/or publication orders to:

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## **Alabama Archaeological Society Student Paper Award**

Any person currently enrolled in a BA or MA granting program and a member of the AAS may submit a paper for the student paper award. Only single-authored papers are eligible and the paper must be presented at the annual winter meeting. The paper should be written for presentation to a general audience consisting of amateurs, professionals, and students. The length of the paper should be such that it can be presented in a 15-minute time slot and additionally should include references cited to aid in judging. Papers must be submitted in advance of the meeting for judging by a committee appointed by the AAS Board of Directors and a completed registration form should accompany the submission.

Submit three double-spaced copies of the paper to the AAS Student Paper Award Committee by November 15th. The author will insure that the same version of the paper reviewed for the competition is offered for presentation at the annual meeting. Only one paper submitted per applicant may be considered for the award. Mail the entry to: Dr. Philip Carr, AAS Student Paper Award, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, HUMB 34, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL 36688-0002.

The winner of the Student Paper Award will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society associated with the Winter Meeting. The winner must pick up the book prize at the meeting. The committee reserves the prerogative to defer the award in the event of a shortage of competitive entries.

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### **REGISTRATION FORM**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Enrolled at:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Major Professor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Paper:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **AAS Scholarships**

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 October 31st. The Scholarship Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Winter BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and an announcement of the recipients will be made at the Winter Meeting.

Minimum criteria for the grants are: 1) the student recipients must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, 2) the research project that the student is involved with 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 program, and 5) the student will be required to present a paper on his or her research project at the Winter meeting.

### **Public Education**

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 October 31st. The Public Education Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Winter BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on proposals and make an announcement of 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 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.

### **Research Grant**

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 Chairman by October 31st. The Archaeological Resources Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Winter BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and an announcement of the recipient shall be made at the Winter Meeting. 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.

#### **Scholarship Committee Chair**

Dr. James Knight  
University of Alabama  
Box 87020  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0210

#### **Public Education Committee**

Linda Derry  
Old Cahawba  
719 Tremont Street  
Selma, Alabama 36701-5446

#### **Research Grant**

Teresa Paglione  
PO Box 311  
Auburn, AL 36830

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rlkilborn@aol.com

Tom McCaskey - South West Chapter  
3765 Scenic Ridge Drive  
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tmccaskey@cox.net

Please send us your name and address if you are a chapter president!

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### ARTIFACTS!

Do you have any interesting artifacts that you would like to share with the members of the Alabama Archaeological Society? If you do, please send a description of the artifact and a color photo (black and white is fine if that's all you have) to the editorial staff here at *Stones & Bones* and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.



### TELL US ABOUT IT!

The editorial staff at *Stones & Bones* is looking for articles to publish and we would like those articles to come from you the members. If you have visited a site recently that you found to be of interest (it doesn't have to be in Alabama) tell us about it. If you have been doing research on a particular topic, tell us about it. If you have been involved in anything else archaeological, tell us about it. These do not have to be professional papers, so please feel free to contribute. If you have color pictures (if you only have black and white photos that's fine) which accompany your article, please send those as well and we will include them with your article.

### READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

Are you a reader? Do you read interesting books about archaeology and related topics? Do you think others might be interested in reading the same books? If so, *Stones & Bones* would like to hear from you. If you have read an interesting book, write a review and send it to us. Book reviews are a good way of letting others know about archaeological publications which may be of interest.



**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE  
MARCH/APRIL ISSUE OF STONES & BONES IS  
FEBRUARY 15TH.**



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