

Newsletter



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A Newly Discovered Hattiesburg Quartzite Quarry In Amite County, Mississippi

by

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Hattiesburg Quartzite is a Middle Miocene age orthoquartzite known only from a few outcrops along the uplands overlooking the Homochitto River Valley near the Franklin/Amite County line in Mississippi. It is characterized as hard, gray-colored, opal-cemented, siltstone to fine-grained sandstone that can contain dissolution vugs that may be opal-filled. Fresh Hattiesburg Quartzite exhibits excellent conchoidal fracture. In artifacts, the stone weathers differentially or completely, to a friable, light gray to white colored silt/sandstone that can be uniform in color and texture or mottled. Similar pieces of rock were recently posted by Janet Spillman on Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society's Facebook page. She and son, Wesley Sturdivant, collected these rocks from gravel bars on Dry Creek near Rosetta in Amite County. Supposition by the authors about the possible identity of the material quickly prompted a field investigation (see photos on p. 2). An extensive prehistoric quarry was eventually located deep in a steep, narrow ravine off the main creek channel by following an artifact "bread-crumbs" trail along gravel bars of the creek. The ravine walls and floor were lined with thick debitage of large spalls and flakes were embedded in colluvium amongst exposed boulder-sized bodies of heavily-worked Hattiesburg Quartzite. A contrast from previously-documented quarry outcrops, approximately 3.5 miles away in the uplands, this site remains wet, pristinely-preserving the largely-unweathered quarry artifacts. Despite the extensive activity depicted in this quarry, little is known concerning the distribution and cultural use of Hattiesburg Quartzite. Additionally, a single brown chert, Middle-Late Archaic, Sykes point was the only age-diagnostic artifact recovered from the ravine.

President's Letter

I hope everyone's spring is treating them well, and if you are in the field, that you are staying warm and dry. The winter has its pros and cons for sure where fieldwork is concerned. One thing that is a big "pro" for all of us this February is the annual MAA meeting! This year's meeting is a joint meeting with the Louisiana Archaeological Society. I'm not sure whether this newsletter will arrive before or after the meeting, so if it is before, I know we are all looking forward to the meeting and what a wonderful meeting it is shaping up to be! If it is after, then wasn't that such a great meeting? So many good papers and great opportunities to visit and learn from one another! Both of these I can say with confidence, because either way, Lance Harris and Rachel Watson deserve a huge thanks for all the work they put in as program chairs of the meeting. Additionally, thanks to everyone else who, one way or another, played a part in organizing, submitting, attending, and generally just making this meeting so great. We couldn't have amazing meetings like this one without each and every one of our MAA members (and LAS members this year too). Lots of good things are coming up later this spring around the state, so keep an eye out on the webpage for updates. As always, I encourage all of you to keep up the good work that you do all over Mississippi. If we can ever be of assistance, don't hesitate to contact one of the MAA officers. We're here to help any way we can!

Bradley Carlock

Interesting Finds

An artifact made from the fossil of Calamites, a giant horsetail-like plant from the Carboniferous Period, was recently brought to the attention of staff from the Mississippi Office of Geology (see photo on p. 2). This ancient plant fossil was traded by prehistoric Native Americans into Mississippi's Delta region from coal-bearing outcrops far from the coastal plain, and modified and utilized culturally, as one face exhibits polish and wear. A high polish is also exhibited along both the right and left edges of the specimen. The reverse is ground flat along the length near one margin where the matrix is exposed. The artifact was discovered on an archaeological site in Leflore County by Thomas Lucas on his property and shared recently with the Office of Geology staff for identification, photographing, and study by the collector's great grandson, Nathan Thompson.

James E. Starnes
Mississippi Office of Geology



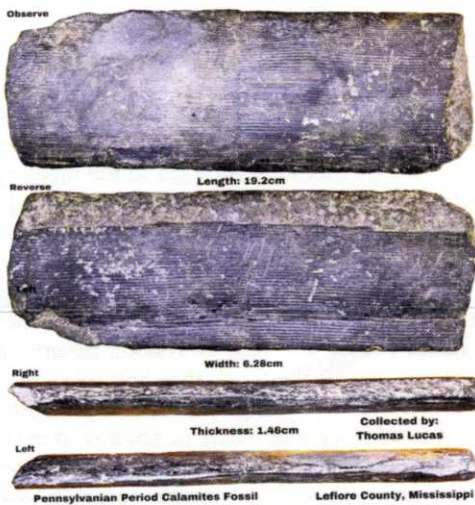
Sykes point (Middle to Late Archaic) of pre-loess terrace gravel chert recovered from quarry floor.



Quarry debitage encased in colluvium in the floor of the quarry ravine.



Moss-covered Hattiesburg Quartzite boulder protruding from quarry wall.



Calamites from Leflore County.



Sam Brookes speaking to the Delta Chapter of the MAA.

University News

University of Mississippi

SEAC Success

Jay Johnson, Tony Boudreaux and Maureen Meyers, with a lot of assistance from Stephen Harris, Robbie Ethridge, and multiple graduate students, hosted the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in early November in Jackson, which was very successful—over 630 people attended! Thanks to the Mississippi History Museum, especially Meg Cook and Emily Clarke, for hosting the successful Thursday night reception with amazing food, drink and music. Thanks to Scott Barretta and Sam Brookes for hosting tours of the blues scene in Jackson and Mississippi mounds on Saturday—a great time was had by all. Thanks especially to the members of MAA who assisted with various stages of planning and set-up, and who staffed a table in the book room. As is hopefully apparent, none of this was done without the help of many people, and we thank you all.

Save America's Treasures/Curation Project

Work on the National Park Service Save America's Treasures grant, awarded to Tony Boudreaux and Maureen Meyers in September, officially began. Many students are busily employed cataloging Calvin Brown artifacts for posterity. We have also been granted over 6,000 square feet of space in the South Oxford Center, or SOC (the hold hospital) and will soon move operations there. Stay tuned as we work on both a new curation center and the curation project.

New Book on Contact Period

Boudreaux, Meyers and Johnson are happy to announce the publication of a new edited volume, *Contact, Colonialism, and Native Communities in the Southeastern United States* (University of Florida Press). This volume brings together papers given at the 2017 MidSouth meetings in Oxford. As the press release states, "featuring sites from Kentucky to Mississippi to Florida, these case studies investigate how indigenous groups were affected by the expeditions of explorers such as Hernando de Soto, Panfilo de Narvaez, and

Juan Pardo. Contributors re-create the social geography of the Southeast during this time, trace the ways Native institutions changed as a result of colonial encounters, and emphasize the agency of indigenous populations in situations of contact. They demonstrate the importance of understanding the economic, political, and social variability that existed between Native and European groups." Copies can be pre-ordered and hard copies will be available at SAA. Thanks to the many MAA members who contributed to this volume.

CAR Survey

The Center for Archaeological Research recently surveyed the property surrounding the Craft House, an antebellum home in Holly Springs, MS and discovered anomalies that may reveal outdoor activities or hidden structures from the nineteenth century. The Behind the Big House Program in April will feature archaeological excavations that further investigate these findings.

Migration Project

This semester kicks off a year of migration-related programming, which will feature talks in southern studies, anthropology, and chemistry this spring, as well as the *Hostile Terrain 94* participatory art project to highlight the dangers migrants face as they cross the US southern border with Mexico. The University of Mississippi joins the Undocumented Migration Project and more than 100 institutions around the world to talk about the importance of migration in the modern world.

2020 Archaeology Field School

The 2020 UM Archaeological Field School will take place at the Butler Mound, an archaeological site on the Tombigbee River near Columbus, Mississippi that dates to AD 1350 to 1500. Students will learn techniques of archaeological fieldwork that include excavation, recording of context, mapping, photography, and basic artifact classification. Also, students will have the opportunity to work alongside archaeologists and other students from across the Southeast as we will be collaborating with individuals from the University of Florida and Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. The dates of the field school are May 27 to June 22. For more information, please contact Tony Boudreaux at tboud@olemiss.edu or 662-915-7339.

MAA - Delta Chapter Event

In January, archaeologist Sam Brookes, presented a lecture to a packed house on the Denton site and Middle Archaic culture and zoomorphic stone effigy bead manufacturing to the newly-formed Delta Chapter of the Mississippi Archaeological Association at the Museum of the Mississippi Delta in Greenwood Mississippi (see photo on p.2). Many patrons brought their incredible finds to share with others and have their artifacts identified. Meetings for this chapter are held the first Thursday of each month. Check out the Delta Chapter's Facebook page for updates, news, interesting articles, and to share photos of your finds.

2019 Treasurer's Report

Shown in the table below are the opening and closing balances for the MAA checking and PayPal accounts in 2019:

Date	Checking	PayPal	Total
1/1/19	18,427.88	2,340.21	20,768.09
12/31/19	17,209.04	2,029.71	19,238.75
		Total:	-1,529.34

Total income from all sources (Annual meeting, memberships, & interest) in 2019 was \$5,450.32. Total disbursements in 2019 were \$6,979.66. The disbursements for 2019 are shown in the following table:

Category	Amount
Annual Meeting Expense	1,813.83
Archaeology Expo Expenses	2,249.57
Website	145.00
Publication Distribution	1,179.59
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,513.53
Secretary of State Fees	78.14
Total:	6,976.66

Items Included in the Miscellaneous Expenses:

Laptop & Accessories for Madison Chapter	\$573.53
Post Office Box Rental	\$60.00
Madison Chapter speaker reimbursement	\$50.00
Madison Chapter Food	\$20.00
Fort Saint Pierre Tercentennial Donation	\$100.00
James Ford Marker Donation	\$210.00
Choctaw Horse Feed Donation	\$500.00

Note: the laptop computer is used for speaker presentations at both the Madison Chapter meetings and Archaeology Expo, and for providing Powerpoint videos at the Gem & Mineral Show and Fossil Road Show. It will also be available as a backup computer for the MAA annual meetings.

Benny Roberts
MAA Treasurer

2020 Annual Meeting

The MAA's 2020 annual meeting is being held in Natchez from February 7-9 as a joint meeting between the MAA and the Louisiana Archaeological Society. Paper sessions are scheduled for Friday and Saturday along with a Saturday night reception and keynote address by Vin Steponaitis of the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. For more information please visit the meeting webpage at <http://www.msarchaeology.org/maa/meetings.html>. The meeting is being organized by Lance Harris and Rachel Watson. Any questions can be sent to info@natchezgrandvillage.com.