

# Newsletter



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April 2020

## President's Letter

Greetings members of the MAA! It is my honor to serve a second term as your President; I am truly humbled to be re-elected. Much has changed in the world since my last letter, but as you will see in this newsletter, archaeology is still going strong in Mississippi.

Before I go any further, I would like to take a moment to welcome Jessica Crawford as our new Editor of the MAA newsletter. She has been involved with the MAA for many years and has worked all over the Southeast Region of the United States, so I am sure many of you know her already. Please be sure to support her with plenty of content to include in future newsletters. Following that thought, congratulations to Shawn Lambert (MSU) for being chosen as Editor and Jay Johnson (U of M), Tony Boudreaux (U of M), and Maureen Meyers (U of M) as Associate Editors of the MAA journal, *Mississippi Archaeology*. They will also need your support with content for the journal. Remember, without submissions, we have nothing to print! I would also like to congratulate Nikki Mattson and Brian Flynt for being elected Northern and Southern Vice-Presidents, respectively. I ask that you take a moment and congratulate them all. They, along with the returning officers, have been actively working to develop activities, lectures, etc. not only for our upcoming Archaeology Month but throughout the year. Some of these may be done differently than in the past, but be assured that we are doing all that we can to keep the MAA active and provide for our members as best we can.

However, that is not to say we can (or should) do it alone. I earnestly ask that every one of you commit to serving the MAA in some way during this challenging year. It may be helping with an MAA booth at an event, encouraging new members to join, volunteering to give archaeological talks, or just attending any of the activities sponsored by the MAA. Everyone can help; everyone is important. Thank you, and let us all do our part for Mississippi archaeology and our association.

Bradley Carlock, MAA President

## Message from the Editor

Thank you, everyone, for your patience with me. I'm still learning Quark, so bear with me. It's tough to fill the shoes of Jeffrey Alvey who, while he was at the Cobb Institute, put in many hours on the newsletter, the website and for the MAA in general. Thank you, Jeffrey! I'm planning to have the next newsletter out shortly after this one, so we can get back on schedule and everyone will be up to date on Archaeology Month, which is October. Note the coordinators on page 3. We had plenty to share in this newsletter and I wasn't able to get everything in. The next one will be much more exciting and longer!

When life is unpredictable, as it seems to be lately, or when we disagree with each other, which also happens a lot lately, one thing we share is our interest in the archaeology of Mississippi and the Southeast. If you find yourself a little stressed, just go to the MDAH website and download a report you haven't read and get lost in the past for a bit. Hang in there, y'all!

Jessica Fleming Crawford

## New Editors of Mississippi Archaeology

Evan Peacock has served as the editor of *Mississippi Archaeology* since 2014. Under Evan's guidance, and with the assistance of Jeffrey Alvey, significant progress was made in catching up *Mississippi Archaeology's* backlog. We want to thank Evan and Jeffrey for their hard work, dedication, and high standards. With their departure, they have left big shoes to fill. Toward that end, we want to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves the new co-editors of *Mississippi Archaeology*.

We are: Shawn Lambert

(Shawn.Lambert@anthro.msstate.edu) at Mississippi State and Maureen Meyers (memeyer1@olemiss.edu), Jay Johnson (sajay@olemiss.edu), and Tony Boudreaux (tboud@olemiss.edu) at the University of Mississippi.

We all are looking forward to continuing the momentum established by our predecessor, and, yes; four of us are stepping into the role vacated by Evan.

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## Annual Meeting Recap

Our annual meeting was held jointly with the Louisiana Archaeological Society in Natchez, the weekend of February 7th-9th. Attendance was excellent. We had a packed house for two days of papers, a reception and tours. As always, thank you to our friends in Louisiana who helped tremendously with arrangements and also to Lance Harris at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians for all of his work. Much appreciation to the Historic Natchez Foundation for hosting the reception.

It was a special meeting because we presented the L.B. Jones Award to Ian Brown and Vin Steponaitis. The L.B. Jones Award is presented to professional archaeologists who have made significant contributions to the preservation, documentation and dissemination of Mississippi's archaeological heritage. Both Ian and Vin knew the man for whom the award is named and both of them have spent their careers sharing their love of Mississippi archaeology. We owe them both a debt of gratitude.

The recipient of the Calvin Brown Award for a significant number of new sites recorded was Anna Reginelli of Shaw. Anna has spent a tremendous amount of time in the field adding sites to the State Site File and this award is well-deserved. Congratulations, Anna, and thank you for your hard work. And thanks everyone for another great MAA/LAS meeting!

## University News

### Ole Miss

Submitted by Maureen Meyers

#### Center for Archaeological Research

CAR had a busy field season planned for Spring and Summer 2020 that included continuing NPS-funded work at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, NSF-funded work and the UM archaeological field school at the Butler Mound near Columbus, working with the Chickasaw Nation at sites in the Starkville area, and partnering with the Archaeological Conservancy in helping graduate student Bryce Krumcke in his research at the Prospect Hill plantation near Port Gibson. All of this work has been postponed due to COVID-19, and we are eager to resume these projects.

In the fieldwork that we were able to conduct in the Spring, we were able to locate a second buried mound at the Grand Village. Through a grant from the National Park Service and in partnership with the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians and the University of North Carolina, we have been able to now relocate two mounds depicted on French maps of the 1730 conflict when the French and their Native allies laid siege to the Natchez. These mounds were buried by flood deposits sometime during the 1800s. Both of these mounds were used by the French during the siege.

Work has continued, albeit slowly due to COVID, on the cataloging of UM's archaeological collections through a Save America's Treasures Grant from NPS.



Ian Brown and Vin Steponaitis were presented with the

L. B. Jones Award for their contributions to the archaeology of Mississippi

## Students

Three graduate students defended or are about to defend their theses this summer. This includes Rachel Smith "Isotopic Analysis of Human Migration among the Ancient Maya of Ambergris Caye, Belize"; Jacob Harris "Bone Tool Technologies at the Classic Maya Site Ucanal, Guatemala" and Dakota Street "A Ceramic Analysis of the Mound A Enclosure at the Carson Mounds Site."

## Publications

Carolyn Freiwald has a new publication, co-authored with a Ph.D. student in Canada, about using Sulphur to track migration and diet, which might be able to be used in the United States to identify animal trade. The full citation is: Rand, Asta J., Varinia Matute, Vaughan Grimes, Carolyn Freiwald, Jarosław Żrałka, and Wiesław Koszkuł. "Prehispanic Maya diet and mobility at Nakum, Guatemala: A multi-isotopic approach." *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 32 (2020): 102374.

## Fellowships

Undergraduate student Sophie Husslein was awarded a University of Mississippi Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship for her proposal "Archaeological Analysis of an Early Mississippian Frontier Structure in Southwestern Virginia." She is analyzing artifacts from structural remains uncovered at the fourteenth-century Ely Mound under the direction of Maureen Meyers. Her forthcoming Honors thesis will be based on this work.

Graduate student Shannon Wooten was awarded the University of Mississippi 2020 Summer Research Assistantship. She is spending the summer analyzing artifacts uncovered last year at the Ely Mound for her master's thesis, under the direction of Maureen Meyers. Funds from both fellowships will be used to obtain radiocarbon dates for the site.



## News from MDAH

Greetings from Capers! Archives and History has undergone a lot of changes recently, but we are working hard to preserve Mississippi's history and excited about the path we are on. Of course, the first change is new leadership. As a born- and -raised Mississippian, I am thrilled to serve as MDAH's new Chief Archaeologist. No matter where CRM led me the last 20 years, Mississippi was always home, and I believe that we have the most challenging yet spectacular archaeology in the country.

One of my main goals as Chief is to reboot the Mississippi Survey. Mississippi's public lands are full of archaeology sites, and most of those have never been investigated. In addition to initiating discussions with state agencies, I am pleased that I was able to lure a fantastic archaeologist away from the Arkansas Survey, Jessica Cogburn, who has already become a valuable member of the Archaeology Section team. We have some survey work planned and intend to use these investigations as opportunities for outreach to the public, so stay tuned!

Another major initiative at MDAH this summer is revamping our search room and the MS Site file. Our registrar, Patty Miller-Beech, has been working with our I.T. staff and agency leadership to secure a grant with funding for much-needed updates to the database, including online site card submission. A reboot of the search room will be completed soon, and we intend to add a research library and reference database for Mississippi archaeologist looking for out-of-print references in the future.

Finally, MDAH hopes to be an effective partner with MAA as we work to promote archaeology around the state. Ultimately, we all have the same goals, and we look forward to preserving the cultural history of our great state for future generations.

Cindy Carter Davis, Chief Archaeologist, MDAH

## October is Archaeology Month

### Deadline for scheduling events is September 1st!

Watch the website and Facebook page for updates on activities and possible cancellations due to COVID-19.

The Archaeology Expo is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th at the Museum of Mississippi History in Jackson

Cindy Carter Davis with MDAH is contact person.

ccarterdavis@mdah.ms.gov

### Regional Coordinators for Archaeology Month 2020

Northern Region- Brad Lieb brad\_lieb@yahoo.com; Derek Anderson dta49@msstate.edu

Central Region- Cindy Carter Davis ccarterdavis@mdah.ms.gov

Southern Region- Brian Flynt brian.flynt.nfg@mail.mil Rita McCarty rita.d.mccarty.nfg@mail.mil

Delta Region- Anna Reginelli annareginelli@yahoo.com

Please consider volunteering and remember, there is a donation box for Archaeology Month on the MAA website!

www.msarchaeology.org

## Jan-June 2020 Treasurer's Report

Shown in the table below are the opening and closing balances for the MAA checking and PayPal accounts for the first 6 months of 2020.

Date	Checking	PayPal	Total
01/01/2020	17,209.04	2,029.71	19,238.75
06/20/2020	15,523.43	3,676.11	19,199.54
		<b>Total</b>	<b>-39.21</b>

Total income from all sources (Annual meeting, memberships, donations, & interest) \$3,283.22. Total disbursements were \$3,322.43. The disbursements are shown in the following table.

Category	Amount
Annual Meeting Expense	2,380.21
Internet Website	145.00
Publication Creation & Distribution	676.51
Misc. Items	95.71
Secretary of State Fees	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,322.43</b>

Items Included in the Miscellaneous Expenses:

Post Office Box Rental

\$70.00

New Check Order

\$25.71

Benny Roberts

Treasurer

### Continued from page 1

We are soliciting manuscripts! We know that there is fascinating and important research being conducted across the Magnolia State by lots of people, universities, CRM firms, Native American scholars, state and federal agencies, etc. The programs at the SEAC meeting in Jackson in November 2019 and the LAS/MAA meeting in Natchez in February 2020 were chock full of current research. If you have a manuscript you want to submit for review, please email it to Shawn Lambert (Shawn.Lambert@anthro.msstate.edu).

*Mississippi Archaeology* is a great journal; please help us keep it that way by contributing your research to it.

Tony Boudreaux

Center for Archaeological Research

University of Mississippi

### It's back! The MAA - Delta Chapter!

A dedicated group in the Delta has decided to re-form the Delta Chapter of the MAA. They've had several meetings and usually meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Museum of the Mississippi Delta in Greenwood.

We will share their meeting information on the main MAA Facebook page (and soon the website, too). They also have their own Facebook page with information about their meetings.