



REBEL STATE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

FEB. 2014 CHATOM SHOW

The Chatom Artifact Show, formerly the Jackson Artifact Show, was held Sunday February 9th at the Chatom Community Center in Chatom Al. This is a new facility and is a wonderful place for an Artifact Show. The lighting was great, it has sufficient space and tables to accommodate a show, and a modern kitchen area (where some really great food was served from). Every table was reserved and there was a steady flow of viewers all day long viewing the fine artifacts that were on display from all over the Southeast. There were a few new displayers that attended the show and several people walked in with some great local collections.

We would like to congratulate the following Award Winners; Andy Odom and family for the best educational award and Larry "Tootsie" Thornton for winning the Committee Award. The Point Type (Maples/Bascomb) award went to Wayne Dykes and Dannie Williams won the award for the Best Recent Find (Gorget).

I would like to thank Bimbo Kohen and Larry Givens & Family for making this a very successful show. We are looking forward to many more shows at this location.



There was a constant flow of people all day viewing the fine artifacts on display at the Chatom Show.



Mischief in the making.....



Chatom Show Award Winners

Danny Williams, Wayne Dykes, Larry Thornton and Andy Odom.



Ms. Betty Lowery looks over some of the many stone tools that were on display.

UPCOMING RSAS ARTIFACT SHOW LISTINGS

- **04/27/14 - Prattville Al. Doster Memorial Community Center** - Contact Charles Ray at 334 494-3203 or chipolaman@yahoo.com.
- **07/12/14 - Huntsville AL. Jaycees Building** 2200 Jaycee Way. Contact David Weinstein at 256-534-7384 / 256-880-3999 or Dennis Bushey at 256-880-3999.
- **09/28/14 Rogersville, AL. Joe Wheeler State Lodge** Contact Rick Weems at (256) 577-6122 or rdweems@earthlink.net



PRATTVILLE ALABAMA INDIAN ARTIFACT SHOW

April 27th, 2014

Doster Memorial
Community Center
624 South Northington St.
Prattville, Alabama 36067

For Table Reservations and
Information contact:
CHARLES RAY
334 494-3203
chipolaman@yahoo.com

A REBEL STATE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY SHOW



**MESSAGE FROM
DANNY WILLIAMS
RSAS PRESIDENT**

My name is Danny Williams and I was elected as your new president for the 2014 year at Rebel States. I, along with our other officers would like to say welcome to any new members and we are glad to have you back with us to our current members. There has been a lot happen with Rebel States in the past few months.

As most of you know the officers of Rebel States and Hillabee Archaeological Societies have been in discussion over the past year about rejoining the 2 societies. With a lot of hard work and dedication and feedback from members of both societies, this past October at the Rogersville show it was voted on by a joint meeting of both societies to join back together. After reading suggestions from members of both societies, it was decided that we should keep the name Rebel states Archaeological Society since that was what we were registered with through the CSAS and it would make things a lot easier to keep that name.

I look forward to working with our current officers in making our new society the best it can be for our members. We also want to announce we have 3 more shows scheduled for our 2014 year and 1 more in the making. Hopefully it will debut this year. We have shows scheduled for Prattville in April, Huntsville in July, and Rogersville in October and we are currently working on a show for South Alabama in the Andalusia area. Hopefully we can have news of a fifth show there in the next newsletter. We also want to thank Bimbo Kohen for another great show in Jackson, AL this past Feb. 8th. I heard a lot of comments on how good the show was.

Our next scheduled show is set for April 27th, 2014 at the Doster Memorial Community Center in Prattville. This has been a great show in the past and we had a few issues with getting the building last year but we are back and looking to make this the best show ever.

Again, I look forward to working with all of our members to make Rebel States a great society for all of us.

Danny Williams - President



**MESSAGE FROM
BIMBO KOHEN
RSAS VICE PRESIDENT**

I would like to take this time to thank all of you that had the time to attend my artifact show this year in Chatom Alabama. This is a new venue for this show. This was my 26th show to host down here in Southwest AL. This building is very modern with great lighting. As it stands now this will be where we will host this show from now on. I had the chance to see many old pals and meet a lot of new people.

Hopefully spring will be here soon and that means time to get out and hunt for "arrowheads". I would like to recommend that when you go try to take along a child and let them experience the joy of finding artifacts and pleasure of the outdoors. We owe them the chance to share in our history and learn from our years of first hand knowledge. The children are the future of this nation and this hobby. You can't know where you are going if you don't know where you have been. History has been shoved off the shelf in the school systems now of days.

In this new year I hope most of yall will take the time and get a chance to attend some artifact shows. It's a great chance to see many fine relics and meet some of your fellow collectors. Also think about giving a membership to someone who has an interest in this great hobby.

Wishing you all a healthy and productive new year.

Bimbo Kohen

TENNESSEE RIVER BLADES

Tennessee River Blades are un-notched Archaic blades that some believe to be preforms used to create various notched forms. Others believe them to be just large Archaic knife forms (including myself). These below blades display Archaic style flaking and edge work and range in size from 4.25" to 5.25" and are from Lauderdale & Colbert Co. Alabama.



**MESSAGE FROM
CHARLES RAY
RSAS SECRETARY**

**MESSAGE FROM
RICK WEEMS
RSAS TREASURER**

Hello everyone, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I've been collecting artifacts since the 1970's and attending artifact shows since the 1980's. Two of the first collectors I ever met were Dennis and Lisa Bushey. Over the years I've learned a lot and met many more great and knowledgeable collectors.

I look forward to serving the Society and its membership and I hope everyone will attend the first show I've ever hosted, the Prattville Show this coming April 27th at the Doster Community Center.

Charles Ray

SHOW RESERVATIONS

Please remember to call the show host if you have reserved tables and you discover that you can not make the show.

When you reserve a table and don't show up it can possibly prevent someone from getting a table that would have shown up. This happens almost every show. The Rogersville show was completely booked up and several people failed to show up and failed to call. I had turned down several people that called wanting to reserve tables that could have had tables if people would have been thoughtful enough to call and let me know they were not coming.

Rick Weems

I would like to welcome all of the new members to the Rebel State Archaeological Society and hope that you will remain members for many years to come. I also want to thank all of our members that have been with us for so many years. Without your continued support this society could not exist.

RSAS has four artifact shows scheduled for 2014 with another potential show in the works. One show (Chatom) is already behind us and what a great show it was. If you have a chance to attend one of the RSAS Shows, please do so. It is amazing to see and talk about all of the great artifacts that are displayed. These shows have produced many long and endearing friendships over the past 30+ years since the society was founded.

We need to continue to increase our membership. Buying a gift subscription for a friend or a young person new to collecting would go a long way in educating them as to the importance of artifact identification and documentation.

As everyone knows by now, the 2014 dues were increased from \$21 to \$24. Central States receives \$18 from the dues and Rebel State receives the remaining \$6. This is the first increase in many years and was unavoidable due to a price increase on just about everything in the known world. The journals we receive from Central States are very well done and printed on high quality paper. Steven Cooper does a impressive job as the journal editor.

May 2014 be the year of your greatest find.

Rick Weems



VARIOUS DRILL FORMS FROM LAUDERDALE AND COLBERT COUNTIES IN ALABAMA

Alabama Archaeological Sites

Russell Cave National Monument

The **Russell Cave National Monument** is a U.S. National Monument in northeastern Alabama, United States, close to the town of Bridgeport. The Monument was established on May 11, 1961, when 310 acres of land were donated by the National Geographic Society to the American people. It is now administered and maintained by the National Park Service. The National Monument was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966.

With a mapped length of 7.2 miles Russell Cave is the third longest mapped cave in Alabama, is ranked 90th on the United States Long Cave List, and is currently listed as number 314 on the World Long Cave List.. Its exceptionally large main entrance was used as a shelter by prehistoric Indians from the earliest known human settlement in the southeastern United States, through to European colonization. The surrounding forest provided food, tools, and wood fuel for fires.

Russell Cave provides the most thorough records of any prehistoric culture in the southeast. Archeological field surveys have uncovered the records of the cave's occupants. Around two tons of artifacts have been recovered from the site. These discoveries include charcoal from fires, bones of animals (as remains of hunted game and as bone tools), spear and arrow points, shards of pottery, and the remains of several adults and children buried at the site. The bodies, ranging in age from infant to 50 years, were buried in shallow pits in the cave floor and were not accompanied by artifacts.

The first relics were discovered in 1953 when four members from the Tennessee Archeological Society and University of Chattanooga began digging in the cave. This first excavation reached a depth of six feet. Upon realizing the extent and importance of the site, they contacted the Smithsonian Institution which conducted three seasons (1956–1958) of archeological digs in cooperation with the National Geographic Society reaching a depth of more than 32 feet. An additional excavation was performed in 1962 by the National Park Service to a depth of 10.5. This final excavation completed the archeological record and established an on-site exhibit.

Analysis of the distribution of the artifacts among functional categories (fabricating and processing tools, domestic implements, weapons) using an experimental technique proposed by Howard Winters reveals that the ratio of non-weapon artifacts to weapons was very low. This is indicative of a hunting camp with lack of permanent occupancy. It should be noted that the picture of prehistoric life gained from Russell Cave is incomplete due to the incomplete nature of archeological records and because Russell Cave only represents a portion of the annual life cycle of the inhabitants

Native American Festival

Each year during the first weekend in May, the Russell Cave National Monument hosts a Native American Festival. The festival includes performances of storytelling, dancing, and Native American flute playing. A historical reenactment of a Cherokee encampment is conducted. At this event and at other times throughout the year, demonstrations of Native American lifestyles and weaponry are conducted. Weapons demonstrations include flint knapping to produce points (arrowheads), use of the atlatl for spear throwing, and use of a bow and arrow. Other demonstrations feature wood carving, hand building of pottery, and fire building.