



REBEL STATE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY



MARCH 2015  
VOLUME 4,  
NUMBER 1

## Chatom Alabama Show

### FIRST SHOW OF THE YEAR FOR RSAS

Our thanks goes out to Bimbo Kohen for sponsoring the Chatom Show again this year.

February 8th was the date for the 2015 Chatom RSAS Artifact show. The show was once again held at the Chatom Community Center which is a beautiful venue for this show. This was the second year for the show at this location and we hope there will be many more to come.

Every display table was filled with great artifacts from all over the southeast area. Attendance for the show was extremely good throughout the entire day.



#### SHOW AWARD WINNERS

**Larry "Tootsie" Thornton** - Committee Award for his impressive collection of personal finds.

**Andy Odom** - Best Educational Award for his very large and informative display of artifacts.

**Robert O'Dell** - Point Type Award for his fine Kirk Corner Notch.

**Randy Luker** - Best Recent Find for his great Pickwick



### RSAS SHOW DATES

#### PRATTVILLE ALABAMA

Saturday, April 18, 2015  
Destiny Christian Center  
1852 Alabama 14,  
Prattville, Al.  
Contact - Charles Ray  
Phone 334 494-3203

#### HUNTSVILLE ALABAMA

Saturday, July 11, 2015  
Jaycees Building  
2180 Airport Rd. SW  
Huntsville, Al.  
Contact - David Weinstein  
256 534-7384 / 256 880-3999  
Dennis Bushey  
256 796-0555

#### ROGERSVILLE ALABAMA

Sunday, September 27, 2015  
Joe Wheeler State Lodge  
4403 McLean Dr.  
Rogersville, AL  
Contact - Rick Weems  
256 577-6122





**John at the 2014 Huntsville Show.**

John was a RSAS member for many years and regularly attended our events. He will be missed by many people.

## JOHN CALVIN HILL 1947 - 2014

Submitted by Tim Tucker

John C. Hill passed away on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at the age of 67. He was born in New York City, NY. In 1947. He spent his early years in New York before his family moved back to Madison Co. Al. where his family was originally from. John was a young man when he found his first arrowhead while picking cotton with his Great Aunt. That first find started a life long interest in Indian Culture and their way of life.

After high school, he enlisted in the Army and served with the Army Corps of Engineers during the Vietnam War. John served two tours of duty and was honorably discharged when he was injured during a fire fight that wrecked his back. Following recovery he returned home and worked for the US Postal Service in Huntsville, Al. for over 25 years. When he retired from the Postal Service he devoted most of his time to hunting and studying Indian Artifacts in and around the North Alabama Area.

I met John at an antique store in Huntsville a few years ago and we became fast friends I will miss John deeply as a good friend and as my hunting buddy. We shared many miles and happy times together.

Rest In Peace my friend, You have earned it.

## CHATOM SHOW PHOTOS

### DOTHAN ARTIFACT SHOW

The Dothan Indian Artifact Show is scheduled for Saturday, August 8, 2015 at the Westgate Gymnasium, 501 Recreation Road, Dothan, Al.

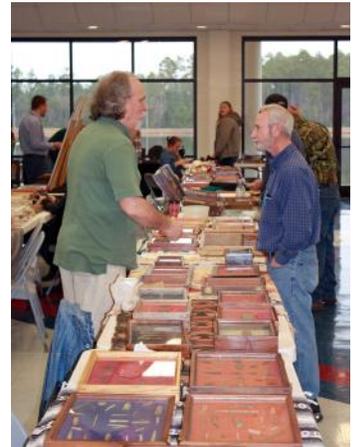
This show is hosted by Troy Futral, family, and friends and is one of the largest shows in Alabama and a great one to attend.

Admission is a \$2.00 donation. Children under 12 are admitted free.

For more information on this great show call Troy Futral at T & B Case Company at (334) 821-5823 or (334) 703-4313, Email: dothanshow@yahoo.com. Web site is www.dothanshow.com.

All proceeds made at the show are donated to the following Archaeological Societies: Peach State, Rebel State, Sunshine State and Tristate.

Be sure to thank everyone involved in this show for their hard work and generosity to the societies.





*Slate Gorget from Colbert County Alabama - Rick Weems Collection*



*Slate Gorget from Humphries County, Tennessee - Rick Weems Collection*

**ARTICLES AND PICTURES FOR THE NEWSLETTER  
ARE STILL NEEDED**

If you have an artifact you legally found or obtained and would like to see it featured in the newsletter, send a picture along with any related information to me. I will be glad to resize your photographs and format your stories to enable them to fit the newsletter.

As I have stated before, this is your newsletter, not mine. I am sure that some of our members have artifacts, stories, or other artifact related information that would be of great interest to all of our members.

You can send your photos and articles to me at [rdweems@earthlink.net](mailto:rdweems@earthlink.net).  
Or snail mail me at:  
Rick Weems  
629 Jabo Dr.  
Killen, Al. 35645



*Two Decatur Type  
Points from Tennessee.  
Rick Weems Collection*



*A well used Decatur  
point from Colbert  
County, Al.  
Rick Weems Collection*

## REBEL STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Rebel State Archaeological Society of Alabama (RSAS) is an affiliate of The Central States Archaeological Societies, Inc. (CSAS).

RSAS and CSAS are nonprofit organizations and have no paid officers or employees. Our mission is to develop a better understanding among professional and non-professional collectors of archaeological material, students, museums and institutions of learning, and to further this understanding by providing a means of publishing articles of interest by both professional and amateur archaeologists. With the help of members from 19 societies, The Central States Archaeological Journal is published four times per year.

Join or donate now to assist us in meeting our mission statement. Support from members and donors who value RSAS and CSAS is essential to the long term financial health and to the fulfillment of our mission. All of CSAS's operating revenue comes from State Society membership and the sales of journals.

### Rebel State Archaeological Society 2015 Officers

**President** - Bimbo Kohen  
**Vice-President** - Dennis Bushey  
**Secretary** - Micah Nash  
**Treasurer/Editor** - Rick Weems.



## ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

### Indian Mound Park (Dauphin Island, Alabama)



Indian Mound Park, also known as Shell Mound Park or Indian Shell Mound Park, is a park and bird refuge located on the northern shore of Dauphin Island, a barrier island of Mobile County, Alabama in the United States. The site is historically significant due to the presence of prehistoric Indian shell middens, mounds composed of discarded oyster shells. The park was added to the National Register of Historic Places on August 14, 1973. It is administered by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

The shell middens located at Indian Mound Park date to the Mississippian period (1100 to 1550). The mounds were visited throughout this period by Native American of the Pensacola culture, who harvested oysters and fished in Little Dauphin Island Sound, an inlet of the Gulf of Mexico. Archaeologist Gregory Waselkov of the University of South Alabama believes that the visitors to the island came from Bottle Creek, the largest Mississippian settlement in the area. Waselkov theorizes that Bottle Creek, located on the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, served as the major village while Dauphin Island acted as a migration destination during the winter months.

Relatively immune from the unpredictable weather conditions that affect farming, the fish and oysters from the sound were a reliable supply of food that could be immediately consumed or dried for use during later months. The oysters were collected from reefs during low tide conditions. Placed atop heated coals in a pit, the oysters were steamed by covering with seaweed. The cooking technique likely resembled a traditional New England clam bake. The steaming process would also have facilitated easy recovery of the oyster meat since the shells open naturally when heated. For preservation of the oysters, the recovered meat would be treated by smoking. Over the years, the discarded shells accumulated to form the middens. Some have suggested that such waste disposal (dumping) with apparent lack of care is inherent in human behavior, not just a trait of Western civilizations. Spaniards first visited Dauphin Island in 1519. The arrival of Europeans to the region led to the disruption of the Mississippian culture. The Mississippian tribes in the coastal region were replaced by or became the Choctaw and Creek tribes. The Creeks and Seminoles continued to fish and harvest oysters in the area until the 1830s when they were forcibly displaced to the Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma.

In 1699, Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville landed on the island and discovered a large pile of human bones. Based on the discovery, d'Iberville coined the name Massacre Island. It is now assumed that these were not remnants of a massacre but remains dislodged from a burial mound during a hurricane. The height and serpentine shape of the shell mounds on the north side of the island indicated use or habitation by earlier civilizations.

Indian Mound Park contains six oyster shell middens of varying sizes. The largest is approximately circular with a recessed bowl in the center of the mound. This midden measures 180 feet by 165 feet with a height of 3 feet to 22 feet. In the book *Stars Fell On Alabama*, however, Carl Carmer states that the largest mound rose to a height of 50 feet and was composed of layers measuring ten feet thick. The structures are archaeologically similar to shell rings found on the coasts of Florida and South Carolina.

*Information obtained from Wikipedia*