

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Foraging in the Tennessee River Valley 12,500 to 8,000 Years Ago* by KANDACE D. HOLLENBACH. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa. 2009. xiii + 298 pp. Figures, Tables, Index.

Reviewed by David G. Anderson, University of Tennessee.

This book, a revision of the author's doctoral dissertation, examines the role of plant resources in shaping Paleoindian and Early Archaic settlement and mobility patterns in the Southeast. One of a number of remarkable studies to derive, at least in part, from the multi-decade long excavations at Dust Cave near Florence, Alabama, it represents a major advance in our understanding of the lives of the first peoples of the region. It does so by considering paleosubsistence data, particularly plant remains well-preserved in rock shelter sites but not given much consideration in great detail prior to this study, and using them to develop a new perspective on early settlement.

Paleosubsistence remains from four rock shelters from the middle Tennessee River Valley of northwestern Alabama are examined: Dust Cave, Stanfield-Worley, LaGrange, and Rollins. Hollenbach begins by reviewing the Late Paleoindian and Early Archaic archaeological record locally and in the broader region, and the settlement models that have been developed to interpret it. Plant remains have played little role in the development of most of these

models, she demonstrates, in large part because they are scarce to nonexistent in the open air sites used to develop them, and because these sites are dominated by stone artifacts, with projectile points and other presumed hunting/butchering tools fairly common and possible plant processing tools notably lacking, or at least not recognized as such.

Hollenbach then reviews approaches to human foraging based on evolutionary ecology, and specifically central place foraging theory as it relates to the division of labor by age and sex. Calculating return rates for differing resources, she argues that base camp locations will be placed on the landscape in such a way as to maximize subsistence production for women, children, and the elderly and not, as assumed or implicit in earlier hunting-based models, adult males. A mixed procurement strategy employing both localized foraging and wider ranging hunting was hypothesized and evaluated with the data from the four rock shelter sites.

A detailed description of environmental conditions and how they changed over time is presented for northwestern Alabama, including a reconstruction of paleoclimate in the immediate Dust Cave area, which differed somewhat from predictions based on more general regional scale models, highlighting the importance of developing such local data. The syntheses of physiography, paleoclimate and biota, and of previous archaeological research are excellent, and make the middle Tennessee River Valley

arguably the best documented landscape of early human settlement in the Southeast.

Using GIS technology, Hollenbach then models travel costs and return rates for different plant and animal resources and knappable stone in her study area to hypothesize how prehistoric peoples could have made use of the landscape from each of the four rockshelters. The model of seasonal mobility and resource procurement developed is then evaluated with assemblage data, particularly paleosubistence/paleobotanical remains, from these four sites. Researchers interested in understanding how and why early peoples in northern Alabama gathered resources will find her argument both superbly documented and compellingly argued.

The examination of paleosubistence data from the four rockshelters is then presented, with each step described and justified. In the process, Hollenbach provides extensive new information about the work and findings from these sites. Importantly, she collected new paleobotanical samples or reanalyzed old samples from the three sites excavated much earlier, the LaGrange, Rollins, and Stanfield Worley rock shelters. The cornerstones of Hollenbach's analysis, however, are the samples from the recent excavations at Dust Cave, where she served as a crew member and later field director over many seasons. Her synthesis of the fieldwork and the analyses of the many specialists who have worked at Dust Cave over the past two decades is itself an important contribution, providing a broad and up-to-date overview of the site and demonstrating its importance in Southeastern archaeology.

The results of Hollenbach's paleoethnobotanical analyses are recounted site by site, then through comparisons between the four sites. Primary data as well as trends over time are discussed and are used in conjunction with the predictions advanced from consideration of foraging theory to develop a model of plant use, of paleosubistence strategies and mobility in general for the Late Paleoindian and Early

Archaic periods in northwestern Alabama. This model, together with implications from it for research elsewhere in the region, is described in a straightforward way, using intelligible prose. Given the extent and sophistication of the analyses that were conducted, the fact the results are presented in such a lucid manner is itself an important aspect of this study, ensuring it will be widely read and emulated.

Hollenbach's research, in my opinion, is of great importance to archaeologists working on early sites throughout the Southeast and beyond and represents a major improvement in the way we have modeled settlement and mobility at this time level. In her concluding chapter, importantly, she discusses the implications of her work, as well as ways it could be refined in the future, especially things researchers wishing to adopt her approach elsewhere should consider. Among the many important observations she makes, three stand out to me. First, no significant differences in broad patterns of plant use were evident in her study samples, at least in the kinds of plant resources used at the four sites examined, suggesting they had been adopted and were important in subsistence quite early, at least as far back as her samples extended, to Dalton and immediate pre-Dalton times. Second, different activities related to plant use were apparent at each site that appear linked to the occurrence of resources in the immediate area, highlighting the need to understand local paleoenvironmental conditions when examining activities at specific sites. Third, our models must consider and control for the fact that paleosubistence pursuits encompassed many different kinds of activities, and settlement locations would have reflected the importance of activities by all of the members of society, younger men and women, children, and the elderly alike.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in understanding how hunter-gatherer populations structured their settlement on the Southeastern landscape around the most

fundamental of pursuits, those of obtaining food, toolstone, and other resources essential for life. Hollenbach's research, like the recent work by David H. Thomas and his colleagues on St. Catherines Island, Georgia, has demonstrated the value of what has variously been called behavioral ecology, evolutionary ecology, or optimal or central place foraging theory in Southeastern archaeology. It highlights an approach that must be seriously considered by anyone examining prehistoric adaptation in the region, at any time or place.

*Speaking with the Ancestors: Mississippian Stone Statuary of the Tennessee-Cumberland Region.* KEVIN E. SMITH AND JAMES V. MILLER. University of Alabama Press. 2009. i-xvii + 234 pp., preface, tables, figures, maps, bibliography, index. \$60.00 (hardcover) ISBN 9780817315955; \$38.50 (paper) ISBN 9780817354657.

*Reviewed by* Michael P. Fedoroff, District Archaeologist, USACE Mobile District

*Speaking with the Ancestors: Mississippian Stone Statuary of the Tennessee-Cumberland Region* is the product of years of letter-writing, interviews, site identification, collection visits, and archival work. This book is a well-developed synthesis of various lines of information about the Tennessee-Cumberland statuary style—a unique regional expression of Mississippian stone statuary located in the Cumberland River valley of north central Tennessee, western Kentucky, and portions of northern Georgia. Within this well-researched book, Kevin E. Smith and James V. Miller provide a comprehensive inaugural discussion of Mississippian stone statuary of the Tennessee-Cumberland region, and they consider the implications of statuary form and function in relation to Mississippian cultural practices. The

authors masterfully provide equal parts data and historical accounts of the life histories of these artifacts, and the tone and pitch of this approach makes the work accessible to both the public and professionals in the discipline.

The book is divided into seven chapters that contribute to four main objectives: provide an overview of Mississippian stone statuary; define the Tennessee-Cumberland statuary style; outline the core/periphery areas where the statues have been found, and to provide an explanation of the statuary complex based on the direct and indirect evidence contained in the archaeological record. The chapters are organized based on the geographic locations of the statues and reflect the difficulties of determining the provenience of these artifacts. The central argument that the Tennessee-Cumberland style was concentrated in Middle Tennessee and North Georgia requires an underpinning of good provenience, thus every effort was made by the authors to verify and inventory the life history of each statue examined for the study. Despite some limitations, the authors address the challenges honestly in the statuary case studies. The investigations are exhaustive, informative, and often entertaining. Attributes from forty-eight statues were inventoried, providing baseline data for the technical classification of the style defined as Tennessee-Cumberland.

Chapter 1 opens with an overview of literature on Mississippian stone statuary, highlighting key studies. This brief overview offers a reference point for those unfamiliar with the history of such artifacts. This chapter defines Cahokian style stone sculpture as realistic portrayals of costumed human or human-like figures portraying specific actions, deeds, rituals, or mythic stories enveloped by the Mississippian cosmic vision. The Cahokia style offers a counterpoint to both compare and contrast the Tennessee-Cumberland style that is defined in this book. Although there is a great range of variability within the corpus