

***SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING 2020***  
***AWARDS CITATIONS***

**2020 Patty Jo Watson Award**

The Patty Jo Watson Award honors the best article or book chapter in southeastern archaeology, published in the preceding year. All articles published in *Southeastern Archaeology* are automatically considered. Other publications may be nominated. The award is named in honor of Professor emerita Patty Jo Watson in recognition of her major accomplishments in southeastern and world archaeology and her many years of mentoring young scholars.

This year, the award is made to Beau Duke Carroll, Alan Cressler, Tom Belt, Julie Reed, and Jan F. Simek for their article "Talking Stones: Cherokee Syllabary in Manitou Cave, Alabama," published in *Antiquity* (vol. 93, April 2019).

The nomination letter by Prof. David Anderson effectively explains the value of this contribution:

"The paper is authored by a multidisciplinary team led by Beau Carroll, an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians working in their Tribal Historic Preservation Office. This paper is a summary and expansion of his MA thesis *Talking Stone: Cherokee Syllabary Inscriptions in Dark Zone Caves*. The paper is a remarkable study showing how Manitou Cave was regarded by early 19th century Cherokee as a spiritually potent place where wall embellishment, including both images and texts, were actively linked to ritual and cosmological matters. A second important aspect of the paper is the convincing demonstration that collaboration between archaeologists, historians, and Native Cherokee scholars provided "a much richer understanding of the cave their meaning and historic context in terms of Cherokee memory and experiences" (p. 534)... The paper offers an interpretation not only on how the Cherokee who wrote the texts were using the cave, but also a method for better understanding how native peoples may have used them in much earlier times. The work demonstrates the kind of positive accomplishments that can come from collaborations between archaeologists, historians, photographers, and Native peoples."

Given Professor Watson's many years of archaeological research in the Mammoth Cave system in Kentucky and in other southeastern caves, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference is especially pleased to give the 2020 Patty Jo Watson award to Beau Duke Carroll, Alan Cressler, Tom Belt, Julie Reed, and Jan F. Simek.