

Louisiana Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER

CHERIE A. SCHWAB, NEWSLETTER EDITOR
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC. BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

Volume 27, No. 1

Spring 2000

FROM THE EDITOR

As some of you already know, after many years of dedicated service, Rich Weinstein recently retired as Newsletter Editor for the LAS. Excepting a two year hiatus, Rich continuously acted as editor from 1987 until the beginning of this year. A new editor, myself, was elected at the LAS Annual Meeting by the Executive Committee. I would like to thank Rich for his nomination of me and the Committee for its approval. Rich's talent as an editor will be missed and I can only hope to perform as well as he in my newly-appointed position. I am sure I speak for everyone when I express thanks for his many years of service as editor for the LAS.

As I promised all who were present at the LAS Business Meeting this year, I have been harassing people for newsletter material! The response so far has been quite promising. If anyone has any information on new projects, field schools, local chapter information, university activities, volunteer projects, regional and station archaeology, new pottery types, etc., please share your information with others. Besides the Annual Meeting, this is the only opportunity we all have to share information with each other in an organized fashion. It's YOUR forum, use it.

I would ask that any submissions be sent in digital format, either via email or computer disk. If this is not possible, I can scan or type in your

submissions. Digital formats, however, save massive amounts of time when compiling the newsletter. Also, I would ask that you spread the word to others and get them involved. Many people don't even realize that there is such a thing as archaeology in Louisiana!

Well, I guess that will do it for now. It doesn't take a lot of time to make a valuable contribution. So take a few moments out of your busy day and let others know what's going on in your part of the world!

I thank you in advance for your participation.

Cherie Schwab
Newsletter Editor

Inside this issue. . .

President's Statement.....	2
Minutes of February 2000 Executive Meeting	4
Minutes of February 2000 Business Meeting	10
Chapter News	12
Announcements	15
News	16
2000 Annual Meeting of the LAS	18
Houses of the Attakapas Indians	20
Surprise! The Baptiste Site Mounds are Plaquemine in Age	22
Long-Term Storage of Archeological Data	27
Preserving Archeological Data: The Long View	29

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

April 10, 2000

Dear Richard Weinstein,

I wish to say that the "In Memoriam" article about the life and work of Roger Saucier was very much appreciated. I did not know Mr. Saucier personally, however, the article and photos did a very good job in informing LAS members such as myself (who do not belong to a particular chapter and are more or less "independents") of the loss of such a dedicated person as Roger Saucier. And I wish to say also that I am grateful to Roger Saucier for making a point of including people of all walks of life in his pursuit of archaeology. My personal sympathies go out to his family.

Sincerely,

Sue Olin, LAS member, Houma, LA

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

The LAS year 2000 has had a good beginning with a very successful and well-attended Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Delta Chapter and its members, who worked hard to make the meeting an enjoyable and educational one, are to be commended by the membership. Thanks are extended to the many presenters who either volunteered presentations or readily agreed to do so at the request of the program organizer. This support is evident in that more presentations were made at this year's meeting than in previous years.

(Nathaneal Heller's article in this Newsletter — *2000 Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society: Archaeology in the 21st Century, "Earth and Beyond,"* summarizes the Annual Meeting activities and the presentations.)

A particular thanks is extended to Sherwood M. Gagliano for his dedicatory presentation on

the life and scholarship of Roger T. Saucier, a task which was, no doubt, a difficult one. We were pleased to be honored by the attendance of Anita Saucier and their son and daughter at the opening morning session.

Plans are underway for the 2001 Annual Meeting. Tommy Ike Hailey has volunteered and secured the permission of his department to host the next meeting in Natchitoches.

The membership should welcome Joe Saunders of the Regional Archaeology Program and University of Louisiana at Monroe as incoming Vice President and President Elect of LAS. We all look forward to his contributions. Cherie Schwab was approved by the Executive Committee to replace Richard Weinstein as Newsletter Editor. This issue is her first newsletter as Editor. We all welcome her previous experience with this publication and the expected changes and contributions Cherie will bring to the Newsletter. As she has, and will continue to do so, I must also ask that the membership submit chapter activity summaries, articles, reports, notes and comments for the Newsletter that might be of importance and interest to the society. Richard Weinstein, as resigning Newsletter Editor, deserves a generous thank you from the LAS for his long years of often thankless and dedicated service to the society. T. R. Kidder will continue as Bulletin Editor, and we all look forward to his continuing efforts to bring the Bulletin up to date. As with the Newsletter, this can only be accomplished by increased and sustained numbers of article and report submissions. Chip McGimsey, Regional Archaeologist at University of Louisiana at Lafayette has been appointed Managing Editor of the Bulletin so that we can continue to use services the University Press there. David Jeane will continue as Treasurer, and Maureen Downey will remain as Secretary, both continuing the excellent job they have done in the past years.

Several important issues concerning future directions of the LAS were discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting, the Annual Business Meeting and in informal conversations with individual members. Foremost was the Bulletin. The obvious problems and solutions associated with that are noted above. T. R. Kidder reports, however, that the galleys for Bulletin 23 have been returned to the press for printing, the manuscript for Bulletin 24 has been submitted to the press, and that three articles are in hand and he is waiting for one more for Bulletin 25. We are also exploring the possibility of going to a larger format at some point, if that can be done economically, and will result in higher quality photographs and illustrations. In addition to the Bulletin and the Newsletter, the Society has also begun a reprint series. The first one done was Clarence Webb's *Stone Points and Tools of Northwestern Louisiana*, which was first available at the Annual Meeting this year. Plans are to reprint additional articles at the rate of about one a year.

Working on archaeological field projects has historically been an important part of LAS, and that interest continues. Over the years there have been numerous LAS Chapter projects and LAS-sponsored field projects. LAS members have contributed a great deal of volunteer labor and time to the professional archaeologists in the state, and in more recent years to various projects that have been done under the auspices of the Regional Archaeology Program and its station office professionals. It was agreed, that while the LAS should continue that support, it should also begin to emphasize support of graduate student field projects and museum and laboratory analyses that are being done for theses and dissertations. The proposal is that such student members of the LAS seeking the support of the society submit a brief proposal outlining the project and its objectives to the Executive Committee for approval. Once approved, a project summary and request for assistance could be

published in the Newsletter. The student would assume the responsibility for organizing and carrying the project through to completion. It might also be suggested, that in return for such assistance, a lengthy article and a more concise summary be submitted for publication in the Bulletin and Newsletter, respectively.

Another topic that has been discussed on several occasions is the current and future status of archaeology programs in the state supported higher education system in Louisiana. It seems apparent that the increase in professional and avocational archaeologists, general public interest in archaeology, and increased opportunities for employment and research has not been adequately matched by increases in educational programs. There is a real potential that archaeological programs could be reduced in the near future. I believe that since the LAS represents most of the State's professional and avocational archaeologists, the society should take an active role in communicating the need for either additional or enhanced archaeology programs focusing on Louisiana, the Lower Mississippi Valley and Southeastern archaeology at the university and graduate levels to the public, and to university and elected state officials.

Planning is underway for an Executive Committee meeting in late May or early June. Please forward to me, or another member of the Executive Board, any comments or suggestions that you might have regarding the preceding topics, or any others of importance, so that they might be discussed at that meeting.

Continuing the legacy left by the past presidents of LAS is a challenge. So, I respectfully solicit your patience and support.

Carl Kuttruff
April 2000

**MINUTES
OF THE
LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 4, 2000
Metairie, Louisiana**

**Reported by
Maureen Downey
LAS Secretary**

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society met Friday, February 4, 2000 at the Holiday Inn, Metairie, Louisiana. President Carl Kuttruff called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present were

Carl Kuttruff - LAS President, Baton Rouge Chapter
Jim Fogleman - LAS, Marrow, LA
David Jeane - LAS Treasurer, Springhill, LA
Rich Weinstein - LAS Newsletter Editor, Baton Rouge Chapter
Cherie Schwab - LAS Newsletter Editor-Elect
Maureen Downey - LAS Secretary, Delta Chapter Representative
Nancy Affeltranger - President, Central LA Archaeological Chapter
Lucretia McBride - President, Delta Chapter
Virginia Bommer - Past President, Delta Chapter
Rick Bordelon - President, Baton Rouge Chapter
Margarette Cheramie - CLAC Alternate Representative
Reca Jones - NE Chapter
Vickie Bordelon - Baton Rouge Chapter
Jenna Kuttruff - Baton Rouge Chapter
Marie Sandifer - Baton Rouge Chapter
John Polk - Delta Chapter
Mike Comardelle
John Guy - LAS Representative-at-Large, Anacoco, LA

Secretary Maureen Downey read the minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting held October 9, 1999 at the home of Nancy Affeltranger in Pineville, LA. There was one correction to the minutes. An incorrect amount was given for the printing of the new LAS brochures. The correct amount was \$1,798.00. Nancy Affeltranger motioned that the corrected minutes be accepted. Virginia Bommer seconded the motion, which was then passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David Jeane presented the 1999 LAS Financial Statement. Total income for 1999 was \$7,404.00. Total expenses were \$13,045.00, leaving a balance in the checking account as of 1/31/00 of \$3,618.00. An additional certificate of deposit for \$5,000.00 was purchased on April 16, 1999. Total assets beginning 1/01/99 were \$22,727.00 and ending 1/31/00 were \$21,194.00. After a query regarding the report on the 1999 Annual Meeting, Reca Jones explained that Joe Saunders, Meeting Chairperson, was unable to attend the Executive Committee Meeting because of scheduling conflicts, but that he would soon be submitting a final report to the Committee. President Kuttruff thanked David for the Treasurer's Report.

Membership Report

Membership Chairperson David Jeane gave the 1999 Membership Report. He reported a total of 282 members. This number includes five new life members and reflects a drop in student members. He remarked that he receives many inquiries concerning late Bulletins. After Carl Kuttruff asked if any new members were gained as a result of Archaeology Week, David answered "yes." He also said that the new brochure was helpful in increasing membership.

Various methods of increasing membership were discussed. President Kuttruff urged everyone to think of ways to increase membership. Rich Weinstein made a motion, seconded by Nancy Affeltranger, to accept the Membership Report. The motion passed.

Newsletter Report

Newsletter Editor Rich Weinstein reported that because of several delays concerning the receipt of items for inclusion in Volume 26, No. 3, that issue of the newsletter, normally mailed out in December, had not been completed. His report for 1999 pertained to Vol. 26, Nos. 1 and 2 mailed out in June and September. He added that Cherie Schwab was responsible for the new design and layout for those two newsletters.

Rich then submitted his resignation as Newsletter Editor. Carl Kuttruff informed the Committee that Rich has been Newsletter Editor since 1987 (except during the period when Chris Hays served as Interim Newsletter Editor.) He thanked Rich for his many years of excellent service. Carl announced that Cherie Schwab had agreed to become the new Newsletter Editor. Nancy Affeltranger made a motion to accept Rich Weinstein's resignation and to approve Cherie Schwab as the new Newsletter Editor. Virginia Bommer seconded the motion that was unanimously passed.

Cherie, as her first act as Newsletter Editor, appealed for submissions. Carl said that Nathaneal Heller of the Division of Archaeology was to submit a summary of the 2000 Annual Meeting. Marie Sandifer requested that the abstracts from the Annual Meeting be published in the Newsletter. Carl said that the membership list should continue to be published in the Newsletter. He also stated that he would contact Dr. Tom Eubanks and ask if at least three station archaeologists and/or state archaeolo-

gists would submit to the Newsletter each year. Nancy Affeltranger made a motion to accept the Newsletter Report. David Jeane seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Bulletin Report

Bulletin Editor T.R. Kidder was unable to attend the meeting. Rich Weinstein read the report that T.R. had previously e-mailed. Bulletin No. 23 (1996) contains 123 pages and has been sent to the press for publication. No. 24 (1997) contains two very interesting articles and will be 100-125 pages in length. T.R. now has two articles for No. 25 and expects to receive another soon. Bulletin No. 26 will be dedicated to Roger Saucier. T.R. added that he has submitted an obituary of Roger Saucier to be included in this month's *Anthropology News*, the monthly newsletter of the American Anthropological Association.

Discussion followed regarding changing the Bulletin to a 8 1/2 x 11 format. One advantage suggested was that the illustrations and graphics would be better. Rich Weinstein stated that if better illustration and graphics would be the reason for changing formats, then perhaps another publisher should be considered. David Jeane commented that there was adequate monies in the treasury to support a change in publishers. Cherie Schwab volunteered to compare publishers' quality of illustrations and prices. It was noted that faster publication is desirable since institutional, as well as total, membership is adversely affected by late bulletins. David Jeane motioned that the Bulletin Report be accepted. Cherie Schwab seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Archival Report

President Kuttruff reported that he had met with Anita Saucier and obtained President Roger

Saucier's records for the archives. In answer to a question by John Polk, Carl said that Dr. Eubanks has offered to house the LAS archives at the Division of Archaeology for the present. Carl said, after reviewing what is presently in the archives, he will submit to the membership a list of what is needed.

Chapter Reports

Several chapter representatives gave summaries of chapter activities during the past year. They also named newly-elected officers.

ONGOING BUSINESS

LAS Web Site

President Kuttruff remarked that the LAS web site needs to be updated. Jenna Kuttruff suggested that a position of LAS webmaster/mistress be created. David Jeane then reminded the Committee that Shannon Bonton has been paid for another year. An LAS member will be appointed after this time.

LAS Reprints

Cherie Schwab submitted the reprint of LAS Special Publication No. 1, *Stone Points and Tools of Northwest Louisiana*, by C. Webb to be sold at the meeting. All present agreed that she had done an excellent job. Carl asked if the Committee wished to have another reprint this year. David Jeane reminded the Committee that it had decided to reprint "classic" material. The Executive Committee will make a decision at their next meeting on whether to authorize another reprint and, if so, what should be reprinted.

Field Project

Referring to a recommendation made by Nancy Affeltranger at the previous LAS Execu-

tive meeting, Carl Kuttruff restated President Roger Saucier's proposed plan under which graduate students, who might need volunteers for projects, would submit proposals to the LAS. The Committee agreed and Carl will pursue.

LA Archaeological Position

Roger Saucier had been investigating the possibility of the LAS endorsing a Louisiana Archaeological position in higher education. Carl believes the LAS should continue with this project and called for ideas.

NEW BUSINESS

David Jeane reported that he had received donations of \$225.00 in Roger Saucier's name. An announcement regarding the fund will be placed in the next LAS Newsletter.

President Kuttruff appointed a nominating committee composed of Maureen Downey, Rich Weinstein, and Jim Fogleman. The committee submitted a ballot of nominees for Vice President/President-Elect which was voted upon on at the Annual Business Meeting.

Rich Weinstein distributed copies of a resolution recognizing archaeology's debt to Roger Saucier and mourning his untimely death. The resolution was read at the Annual Business Meeting.

President Kuttruff stated that he would notify all members of the date and location of the next Executive Committee meeting.

There being no further business, John Polk made a motion to adjourn. Rich Weinstein seconded the motion. Motion passed and President Kuttruff adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1999 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

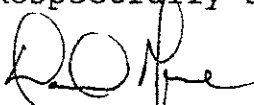
February 4, 2000

REGULAR MEMBERS.....	139
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.....	23
STUDENT MEMBERS.....	8
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS.....	25
SUSTAINING MEMBERS.....	2
LIFE MEMBERS.....	85

TOTAL 1999 MEMBERS	282
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Total membership for 1988 was 251
 Total membership for 1989 was 328
 Total membership for 1990 was 315
 Total membership for 1991 was 313
 Total membership for 1992 was 291
 Total membership for 1993 was 306
 Total membership for 1994 was 304
 Total membership for 1995 was 305
 Total membership for 1996 was 297
 Total membership for 1997 was 307
 Total membership for 1998 was 273

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Jeane, Treasurer
February 4, 2000

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 1999 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
 JANUARY 31, 2000

Period covered by this report - 1/01/99 thru 1/31/2000

ACCOUNT REPORTS JANUARY 1, 1999

Louisiana Archaeological Society Savings "A"...	7,120.00
Louisiana Archaeological Society Savings "B"...	4,781.00
Checking Account Balance.....	10,758.00
Petty Cash.....	68.00

TOTAL ASSETS - 1/01/99 22,727.00

1999 TRANSACTIONS

INCOME

Membership Fees and Publication Sales.....	4,592.00
Checking Account Interest.....	159.00
Brian Duhe Payments.....	1,570.00
Savings Account Interest.....	583.00
Monroe Chapter Annual Mtg. Reimburse.....	500.00

TOTAL 1999 INCOME 7,404.00

EXPENSES

Treasurer Expenses(printing,phone,postage)....	287.00
Newsletter Expenses(printing,postage,etc.)....	2,249.00
Society of American Archaeology.....	30.00
Bulk mail permit.....	100.00
La. Archeology Week Grant	200.00
LAS Web Page Expenses.....	1,038.00
Brochures.....	1,799.00
Bulletin #23.....	2,248.00
La. Archeological Conservancy.....	94.00
Purchase CD.....	5,000.00

TOTAL 1999 EXPENSES 13,045.00

BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT 1/31/2000..... 3,618.00

TOTAL ASSETS LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - 1/31/2000

LAS SAVINGS "A".....	7,356.00
LAS SAVINGS "B".....	5,111.00
LAS SAVINGS "C".....	5,016.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT.....	3,618.00
PETTY CASH ON HAND.....	93.00

TOTAL 21,194.00

Account Information
SAVINGS

- 1) LAS "A" - Certificate of Deposit #5017268
Louisiana Archaeological Society - Citizens Bank and
Trust Company, Springhill, La. 71075 - 12 Month
Certificate matures 4/14/00. (4.17% interest)

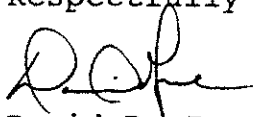
- 2) LAS "B" - Certificate of Deposit #5016697
Louisiana Archaeological Society - Citizens Bank and
Trust Company, Springhill, La. 71075 - 12 Month
Certificate matures 7/07/00. (4.42% interest)

- 3) LAS "C" - Certificate of Deposit #5502039
Louisiana Archaeological Society - Citizens Bank and
Trust Company, Springhill, La. 71075 - 12 Month
Certificate matures 4/15/00. (4.42% interest)

CHECKING

Louisiana Archaeological Society - Account # 005-338-4
Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Springhill, La. 71075
Money Market Interest account

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Jeane
Treasurer
Louisiana Archaeological Society
February 4, 2000

SUBMIT!!!

The LAS newsletter needs your help! Got information on a field school, a new project, or even an interesting artifact? What's going on in your local chapter? What's new at the universities, regional archaeology offices and state parks? Need volunteers or workers for a field project? Tell us about it and you'll see it here!

MINUTES
OF THE
LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2000 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

February 5, 2000
Metairie, Louisiana

Reported by
Maureen Downey
LAS Secretary

The 2000 Annual Business Meeting was held Saturday, February 5, 2000 at the Holiday Inn, Metairie, Louisiana. President Carl Kuttruff called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of the last Business Meeting held February 6, 1999 at the Holiday Inn/Atrium, Monroe, Louisiana, were published in LAS Newsletter, Volume 26, No. 1, Spring 1999. Jim Fogleman made a motion that the minutes be accepted as published. Tom Eubanks seconded the motion. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David Jeane presented the 1999 LAS Financial Statement, details of which will be published in the Newsletter. Total assets beginning 1/01/99 were \$22,727.00 and ending 1/31/00 were \$21,194.00. Income for 1999 was \$7,404.00. Expenses, which included expenditures for updated brochures, web page, and publishing of LAS Bulletins and Newsletters, were \$13,045.00. An additional certificate of deposit for \$5,000.00 was purchased on April 16, 1999. President Kuttruff thanked David for the Treasurer's Report.

Membership Report

Membership Chairperson David Jeane re-

ported that the LAS has a total of 282 members, ten more than the previous year. This number includes five new life members and reflects a drop in student members. Nancy Affeltranger made a motion, seconded by Maureen Downey, to accept the Membership Report. The motion passed.

Newsletter Report

President Kuttruff announced that at the Executive Committee Meeting held the previous evening, Newsletter Editor Rich Weinstein had submitted his resignation. President Kuttruff informed the membership that Rich has served as Newsletter Editor since 1987 (except during the period when Chris Hays acted as Interim Newsletter Editor.) He thanked Rich for his many years of excellent service. Rich Weinstein gave the Newsletter Report for 1999. The yearly bulk mailing fee was \$100.00. Total expenses for Volume 26, Numbers 1 and 2 were \$1,857.20. Rich explained that because of lack of items for inclusion in Volume 26, No. 3, that issue of the Newsletter, normally mailed out in December, had not been completed. Carl then introduced Cherie Schwab who had been appointed the new Newsletter Editor. Ms. Schwab was responsible for the new design and layout for the last three newsletters. She urged members and chapters to submit items, remarking that the Newsletter allowed chapters to exchange information as well as keeping members informed of current research. David Jeane made a motion to accept the Newsletter Report and Nancy Affeltranger seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Bulletin Report

Bulletin Editor T.R. Kidder reported that Bulletin No. 23 (1996) would go to press the next week and hopefully would be mailed by the end of March. Bulletin No. 24 (1997) should be mailed sometime in November. T.R. now has two ar-

ticles for Bulletin No. 25 (1998) that he plans to have out by next March. He reminded the members that the Bulletin is automatically one year behind since the Bulletin for each year is scheduled to be published at the completion of that year. To bring the Bulletins up to the present, T.R. emphasized that he must receive submissions. Submissions may be made by e-mail, on disk, or through regular mail. T.R. said that a larger format for the Bulletin is being considered. This larger format would allow for higher quality illustrations and graphics. He then introduced Chip McGimsey, who is to be the new Bulletin Managing Editor. Rebecca Saunders made a motion to accept the Bulletin Report and Tom Eubanks seconded the motion. Motion passed.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Carl remarked that under President Roger Saucier's guidance, much had been accomplished and many worthwhile projects begun. Among other things, during Roger's administration, a new LAS logo was developed, the LAS web site was set up (and will soon be updated), the LAS brochure was updated, and LAS Special Publication No. 1, *Stone Points and Tools of Northwest Louisiana*, by C. Webb had been reprinted. The Executive Committee, at their meeting, discussed the possibility of future reprints. Carl asked that any suggestions for reprints be sent to David Jeane or Cherie Schwab.

Joan Brudder asked the possibility of the LAS conducting a field school. Carl explained that he has proposed a plan under which graduate students, or archaeologists, who may need volunteers for projects, would submit proposals that the Executive Committee would review. The Executive Committee will discuss this plan at their next meeting.

In response to Linda Jackson's question regarding the status of the archives, Carl reminded everyone that he had completed the numerical system last fall, but that much work still needs to be done. He added that he had recently obtained Roger Saucier's records that will be placed in the archives. After evaluating the material already in hand, he will make requests for types of materials still needed.

NEW BUSINESS

At the Executive Committee Meeting, President Kuttruff appointed a nominating committee composed of Maureen Downey, Rich Weinstein, and Jim Fogleman to prepare a ballot of nominees for Vice President/President-Elect. The nominees were Dr. Rebecca Saunders and Dr. Joe Saunders. Carl called for nominations from the floor. There were none, so David Jeane made a motion, seconded by Recca Jones, to close the nominations. The motion passed unanimously. After brief resumes of both candidates, voting was held. Joe Saunders was elected Vice President/President-Elect. He made a short acceptance speech in which he revealed he had plans for the future that included ideas on ways to bring the regional programs and the LAS together.

Next, Rich Weinstein read the following Resolution:

"WHEREAS Roger T. Saucier died October 26, 1999, after almost a 40-year career devoted to understanding the evolution and landscapes of the Mississippi River alluvial valley; and WHEREAS Roger began his career as a Research Associate at the Coastal Studies Institute at Louisiana State University, and then became a long-term Research Geographer and eminent scientist at the U.S. Army

Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, and finally *retired* to the position of independent geomorphology consultant; and WHEREAS Roger was the leading authority on the Quaternary history, geomorphology, and geoarchaeology of the Lower Mississippi Valley and promoted the effective integration of geomorphology into a wide variety of cultural resources investigations; and WHEREAS Roger repeatedly demonstrated the indispensable role of archaeological evidence in paleoenvironmental reconstructions; and WHEREAS Roger was the 1985 recipient of the Roald Fryxell Award for Interdisciplinary Research presented by the Society for American Archaeology and received the 1996 Kirk Bryan Award for the most-outstanding publication in the field of geomorphology, presented by the Geological Society of America; and WHEREAS Roger was Vice-President of the Louisiana Archaeological Society for 1996-1997 and President of the Society for 1998-1999; and WHEREAS Roger, perhaps most significantly, was highly respected, greatly appreciated, and truly admired by both professional and avocational archaeologists and geologists; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Archaeological Society recognizes its debt to Roger, mourns his untimely death, and expresses its profound condolences to his wife Anita, his son Brian, and his daughter Connie."

Jim Fogleman then, speaking for the LAS, thanked Delta Chapter for hosting the successful Annual Meeting. More than 100 persons attended the meeting. Lucretia McBride, President of the Delta Chapter, presented a fruit basket to Carl Kuttruff for all his help with organizing the meeting.

President Kuttruff announced that Dr. Tommy Ike Hailey volunteered to hold the 2001 Annual Meeting at Northwestern in Natchitoches, pending approval of the Dean. He then reminded members of the informal session to be held later in the evening.

There being no further business, Nancy Affeltranger made a motion, seconded by Duke Rivet, to adjourn. Motion passed and President Carl Kuttruff adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

After the meeting, door prizes were awarded.

CHAPTER NEWS

BATON ROUGE CHAPTER

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society meets on the last Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Bluebonnet Public Library, unless otherwise noted.

New officers elected January 26, 2000:

President	Rick Bordelon
Josetta LeBoeuf	Treasurer/Secretary
Program Chair	Rebecca Saunders
Co-Program Chair	Josetta LeBoeuf
Bulletin	Vickie Bordelon

It is time to renew your Baton Rouge Chapter membership (\$5 per year). Dues may be paid at the monthly meetings or send check payable to the BR Chapter LAS to:

Josetta LeBoeuf
8631 Coy Ave
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Member Projects:

In April 1999, an OCR sample was taken from a unit at the Sharp Site (16LV13) for, LSU stu-

dent, Laura Tanley's Master's thesis. In August 1999, the first phase of a remote-sensing study for Ben Goodwin's Master's thesis, at the Broussard Site (16AN1), was begun. In December 1999, Josetta LeBoeuf defended her Master's thesis which was based on the lithic collection from excavations at the Hoover Site (16TA5). These excavations were conducted by Dr. Rebecca Saunders with the help of many volunteers from the Baton Rouge Chapter and students from both LSU and USL.

LAS members assisted Chris Hays and Ben Goodwin in a project to revisit sites in southeastern Louisiana to collect information for comparison of data previously recorded by the WPA. One of these sites was the Shultz Mound, 16WBR2, (September-November 1999). The artifacts are currently being analyzed.

News:

Vickie Bordelon has started a scrapbook for our chapter. If you would like to contribute to this project, please bring any photos, articles, newspaper clippings, and any other materials that feature our "members in action," to our monthly meetings.

Members are eager to start DIGGING! Please advise if any work is being conducted in which volunteers are needed. Let's get the word out!

If anyone would like to submit an article to be published in the LA Conservancy Newsletter, please contact or submit the article to Vickie Bordelon at vfbbrb@eatel.net. Thanks !

DELTA CHAPTER

The Delta Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society meets on the last Thursday of every month except November and December, to be announced. We do not meet June, July and

August. The public is invited to attend our meetings which are held at:

University of New Orleans
 Science Building Room 1001
 7:30 PM

Delta Chapter Officers and Board members are:

President	Lucretia McBride
Vice President	Barry Ferguson
Secretary	Dorothy Smallwood
Treasurer	Dolores Martin
X Officio	Virginia Bommer
3 year board member	Roquey Jobes
2 year board member	Deborah Morrissey
1 year board member	William Murphy
LAS Representative	Maureen Downey
Newsletter editor	Lucretia McBride
Parliamentarian	Roy Martin
Web Site Mistress	Susanne Dathe
Historian	Joan Bruder
Librarian	Helen Piazza

The Delta Web site is:

<http://www.geocities.com/athens/troy/8370/index.htm>

Monthly speakers and dates can be found on:

<http://home.att.net/~louisianaarchaeology/deltachaptermeeting.html>

Upcoming speakers:

April 27, 2000
 Kenneth Ashworth
 Department of the Army-New Orleans Corps of Engineers
 "Bio-Archaeology and Recovery Project in Vietnam"

May 25, 2000

Delta Chapter Members will be trekking to the Freeport-McMoran daily Living Science Center (Planetarium, Observatory and Space Station) for our last meeting of the season. Mike Sandras, director of the center and Delta Chapter member, will show us the stars. 7:30 - 9:30 PM

Daily Living Science Center Rivertown
409 Williams Blvd.
Kenner, Louisiana

Delta Chapter is planning at least one Archaeology Week Activity this year but the plans for that aren't complete.

Members have been volunteering with Scott Simmons, Director of the Greater New Orleans Archaeology Program, where we participated in the field work on a project at Evergreen Plantation and are now cleaning the artifacts.

I speak for everyone when I say that Delta Chapter members thoroughly enjoyed hosting the 26th Annual LAS Meeting this past February 2000.

Virginia Bommer
Delta Chapter
LAS Newsletter Correspondent

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

The Northeast Chapter is still meeting with very good and interesting programs. We are very fortunate to have three universities within a 40 mile distance from which we often get speakers.

Recent Speakers:

In October of 1999, Ned and Carol Webster, members of the Northeast Chapter, presented a talk on Colonial Archaeology in Panama. Mr. Webster, an Episcopal priest, wrote a book on

Colonial history while they were living in Panama. During their 20-year stay in Panama, the couple studied and collected information on indigenous life and examples of Panamanian crafts/art.

For January 2000, Mrs. Jeanette Ackel, local member, teacher and historian, gave a program on the old Monroe City Cemetery. All members found the program extremely interesting as Mrs. Ackel gave great insight into the history of this cemetery.

Upcoming Speakers:

April 20, 2000

Reca Jones

"Plum Creek – An Archaic site in Ouachita Parish"

7:00 p.m. in Rm. 145 of the Chemistry Building, ULM, Monroe

May 18, 2000

Susan Roach

"How to Collect and Record Oral History"

7:00 p.m. in Rm. 145 of the Chemistry Building, ULM, Monroe. This seminar, part of Ms. Roach's ongoing work, will concern the preservation of history through memories. Everyone who has a friend or kin (or self) with some interesting stories could enjoy and benefit from this program. As always, please invite others!

News:

When chapter member Nina Helfert moved away, she found a metal box with the original records of the Northeast Chapter society in it. Among the records were the minutes of the very first meeting in 1962.

Chapter member Maxine Dilmore is working on scrapbooks and records and pictures of our past and present. Contributions are welcome.

Consider how this club can help you enjoy and develop activities and study in the areas of archaeology, genealogy, history, ethnology, geology – or whatever is your own interest.

Yearly dues for the Northeast Chapter are \$10 per person.

Contact Claire Davis for more information.
816 E. Rimes Circle
Monroe, LA 71201
(318) 325-0782
misscecd@hotmail.com

Check the mailing label on your newsletter. If it says "LAS Member 1999"—instead of "LAS Member 2000"—it's time to renew your dues!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

Southeastern Archaeological Conference

The 2000 Southeastern Archaeological Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Macon, GA from November 8-11, 2000. In addition to a full program of papers, SEAC 2000 will feature a keynote address by Dr. Leland Ferguson of the University of South Carolina who will be speaking on Africans and German Moravians – cultural and racial alienation in the 18th and 19th century town of Salem, NC. Outside events will include the traditional dance with live music, a reception at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame hosted by the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists, and a tour of Ocmulgee National Monument, sponsored by the Society for Georgia Archaeology. Meeting registration is \$40 (\$30 with a copy of a valid stu-

dent ID) before October 2, 2000 and \$45 (\$35 for students) at the conference. The hotel room cost is \$79 (plus 12% tax) for single to quad occupancy. Visit the SEAC website (www.uark.edu/campus-resources/seac/index.html) for registration forms and more information or contact: Adam King, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, PO Box 400, New Ellenton, SC 29809, (803) 725-1130, aking@sc.edu.

Arkansas Archaeological Society Meeting

April 9, 2000

2:00 p.m.

Arkansas Archeological Survey Headquarters
2475 N. Hatch Ave.
Fayetteville. AK

Speaker:

Dr. Thomas J. Green

Director, Arkansas Archeological Survey

"Early Human Skeletons in North America and What they Mean for the Peopling of the Americas"

FIELD SCHOOLS

University of Arkansas–Arkansas Archeological Survey Laboratory Methods and Analysis Course at Parkin

A new course will be offered in laboratory methods and specialized analyses at Parkin Archeological State Park in summer, 2000. The course will last six weeks (July 5-August 12). Basic methods of laboratory processing and analysis will be covered, including washing, sorting, cataloguing, and data entry. Flotation of soil samples will also be taught. In addition to basic techniques, four workshops will focus on more specialized analyses: ceramic technology and analysis, lithic technology and analysis, ethnobotanical identification and analysis, and faunal

Edgar Howard's research was set in place due to the discovery of Folsom points in association with the bones of an extinct bison.

The book progresses by presenting a unique view of the lithic inventory of the signature collection of Clovis tool kit artifacts. These items represent an assortment of hunting implements and domestic utensils from tool kits belonging to nomadic groups of hunters apparently drawn to a prehistoric pond in the Blackwater Draw. These implements have been documented repeatedly at Paleoindian sites across the North American continent for over half a century. Dr. Anthony T. Boldurian approaches the collection of over 400 artifacts with a reassessment, offering new insights using modern analytical skills, ideas, and current perspectives dealing with early Americans. Of note is the fact that about 90 percent of the Clovis inventory had not even a provisional description and analysis prior to this project.

Early discussions and descriptions of the paleoenvironment of the American Southwest allow the reader to better understand regional climate, geomorphology, soils, hydrology, stone resources, and biomass, together with an understanding of the geochronology in the region. Following these environmental descriptions, the rest of the book attempts to give us glimpses of the Paleoindian lifeway by way of their stone and bone artifacts. Each specimen covered in this report is described using nine summary charts and supporting tables. Other charts and tables are used to convey technical facts or comparative measurements.

Concluding observations by the authors include discussions of broad issues concerning Paleoindian archaeology using information gathered and assessed from the Clovis collection. The reader is treated to a variety of intriguing subjects such as Clovis subsistence and megafaunal

extinctions, pre-Clovis manifestations, Clovis migration or dispersal, Clovis-Folsom relationships, as well as Clovis and late Paleoindian artifact relationships to the Solutrean Upper Paleolithic of Europe.

The text is also augmented by an array of photographs including early fieldwork in the American Southwest, field crew photos, and excellent artifact photos from the museum collection. "Clovis Revisited" offers us a unique window and an informative glimpse into America's archaeological past as well as a quality reference for comparative studies. This particular study fuels the raw fascination and almost mystic awe that Clovis artifacts and culture stir in many professional, avocational, and amateur archaeologists.

**2000 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY
"EARTH AND BEYOND"**

by
Nathanael Heller
Louisiana Division of Archaeology

This year's annual meeting of the LAS was held on the weekend of February 4 - 6, at the Holiday Inn in Metairie. The first day of the event was reserved for checking in and registration. The Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy and the LAS Executive Committee conducted their meetings, followed by a reception for all, complete with music by the Lafourche Cajun Band.

Saturday morning events began at 8:30 a.m. with welcoming and introductory remarks by members of the Delta Chapter, hosts of this year's events. The first presentation was given by Sherwood Gagliano, who paid tribute to his long-time friend, Dr. Roger Saucier. Several of Sherwood's slides showed Roger as a teenager

exploring the Metairie Mounds and Indian Beach in the early 1950s, once prominent features of the Lake Pontchartrain southshore, but now long since destroyed by urban sprawl. For a conference poised to kick off the 21st century, it was fitting to first remember the people and the places we have lost in this century.

Several morning presentations looked at recent research into Archaic period archaeology. Jeff Girard presented preliminary results of his excavations at the Conley Site, an extensive Middle Archaic midden in Bienville Parish which has produced the earliest evidence of human burials yet discovered in Louisiana. Recca Jones reported on limited testing at Plum Creek, a Middle Archaic camp site near Watson Brake. With her paper on the Rollins Shell Ring in northeast Florida, Rebecca Saunders reminded the audience that Louisiana is not the only place where Archaic Indians flourished. Also included in the morning session was a report by Chip McGimsey on his effort to build a database of radiocarbon dates from Louisiana, and a presentation by Chris Hays on ceramics from Poverty Point.

In the afternoon, following papers on lithic analysis by Joretta LeBoeuf and faunal analysis by Nathanael Heller and Charlene Keck, Michael Sadreas from the Freeport MacMoRan Living Science Center gave a particularly exciting presentation on the potential for using imagery taken from space in archaeological research. The focus then shifted to historical archaeology. Alyssa Loney explored themes related to the archaeology of French Louisiana, and George Avery looked at French influences at Los Adaes. Other papers looked at the Magnolia Mound and Woodstock Plantations near Baton Rouge, and the significance of historic Native American pottery at colonial sites in New Orleans.

This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Timothy Riordan, researcher at Historic St. Mary's City in Maryland, who presented a paper titled *Project Lead Coffins: The Interdisciplinary Study of Maryland's Founders*. This project involved the recovery and analysis of three 17th century lead coffins, including one believed to contain the remains of Philip Calvert, son of the first Lord Baltimore and prominent citizen of colonial Maryland. Dr. Riordan's paper showed the potential for archaeological research using 21st century technology.

Following the LAS business meeting and dinner, David Jeane gave an informal presentation on his adventures excavating pre-columbian mummies in Peru, while his audience made repeated trips to the beer keg. Activities continued late into the night, and although the mystery of the disappearing keg remains unsolved, those suffering hangovers on Sunday morning were duly noted!

Much of the Sunday morning session carried on the theme of burial archaeology from the previous evening. Timothy Riordan opened the session with additional information on research into historic burials at St. Mary's City. Then a trio of papers looked at results of the Historical Exhumation Project in Lafourche Parish, followed by three more papers on the recent disinterment and reburial of Colonel Lewis DeRussy. Other papers in the Sunday morning session included a look at recent public archaeology at Evergreen Plantation by Scott Simmons, and a preliminary review of data recovery investigations at the Lake Providence Mounds by Rich Weinstein.

In all, 111 people were registered for the meeting, and a good time was had by all. Presenters included a mix of avocational archaeologists, students, and professionals with university, government, and CRM affiliations. All presentations were interesting and informative. The Delta

Chapter deserves particular commendation for their excellent service as hosts of the meeting.

HOUSES OF THE ATTAKAPAS INDIANS

Chip McGimsey

University of Louisiana - Lafayette

The Attakapas Indians of southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Texas are one of the most poorly known historic tribes in Louisiana. The only document directly describing the Attakapas is that of Dyer (1917), who compiled information from informants and personal observations on the few tribal members still living in the Lake Charles area. The other primary source of information is the memoir of Simars de Belle-Isle, who lived with Attakapas or Akokisas in southeastern Texas during the mid to late 1700s (Margry 1877; Folmer 1940). The known information about them has been summarized by Swanton (1911), Dyer (1917), and Gibson (1976).

Of particular interest for this article are the structures (houses) of the Attakapas. The only previously known description is that of Dyer (1917:2). In relating information obtained from an American, Colonel Graham, who fell sick and spent a week in the Lake Charles village, an Attakapas house is described as:

... it's sides were made of poles interwoven with vines, and the conical top was open in the center to allow the smoke from below to escape; the fireplace of oyster shells (a mere pit) being in the middle of the dirt floor. Only one opening was provided, serving as door and window, and closed by a heavy hide suspended from a crossbar.

This description has been interpreted as representing "bent-pole, vine-interlaced, and pre-

sumably, thatched, conical huts with smoke holes" (Gibson 1976:13).

Recently however, a different description of an Attakapas house has been discovered. Dr. Lawrence Aten was conducting research at the National Anthropological Archives and came across correspondence from E.A. McIlhenny of Avery Island to Dr. Otis Mason of the U.S. National Museum. Dr. Aten forwarded a copy of this letter to the author. The letter, dated September 22, 1896, describes an Attakapas structure from the vicinity of Grand Lake in Cameron Parish. It provides a detailed, and different, view of an historic-period Native American house in this region.

Mr. McIlhenny begins his letter by describing his efforts to document this aspect of Native American life:

Since my return south, I have tried several times to go to Grand Lake, and learn something of the house building of the Attakapa Indians, but until, Sunday the 20th inst., I have been unable to go. I went on that day, and did what I could to learn how their original houses were constructed, the results I have placed on separate sheets, and I trust they will enable your man, to make use of them [McIlhenny 1896].

This introduction, unfortunately, leaves some uncertainty as to how Mr. McIlhenny obtained his information. It is not clear whether he actually saw a standing structure, talked with an Attakapas informant, or collected information from other observers in the region. Despite this, however, the following description is a very explicit illustration of a structure, suggesting Mr. McIlhenny was provided with significant information whatever the source.

The structure is described as an A-frame building (Figure 1). The end and center framing

cross-poles hold the central roof support pole in the crotch of their cross. The base of the A-frames are braced by a series of poles lying on the ground lengthwise between the frames and across the base of each end A frame. This simple framework is strengthened by a series of poles lashed midway along the sides. His description indicates:

All poles are lashed at points of intersection with strips of bark or vines. The sides are covered with sheets of rushes held in place by long strips of wood at the top and bottom as shown in [Figure 2]. There are generally 4 sheets to a side. The ends are made in same manner, [with] one large triangular piece being used. The inside is plastered with wet clay.

This figure [Figure 3] represents one side of [a] house showing how rafters and supports are seen. This is the house built of reed cane and mud. It is exactly the shape of an A tent, only much longer, and not so high. The reeds are woven in and out of the rafters in an upright position, small end up, and are

packed as close as possible. This is then covered with a thick coating of grey moss, worked in mud. These houses are often 10 feet high [McIlhenny 1896].

The accompanying illustrations (shown here as Figures 1 - 3), together with this description, provide an excellent image of this structure. There is some confusion as to the exact nature of the wall construction. McIlhenny says first that they are covered by sheets of rushes lashed together by strips of wood, while later indicating the rushes (reeds) are woven in and out among the side beams. It may be that these are simply two different ways of describing the same construction (the rafters or side beams representing the strips of wood holding the rushes in place), or it may reflect slightly different construction methods on different houses that he saw. The end product is essentially the same; a framework of poles covered with sheets of tightly-laid cane or rushes, which is then plastered with mud and/or mud mixed with moss.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this structure is its unusual shape. A review of

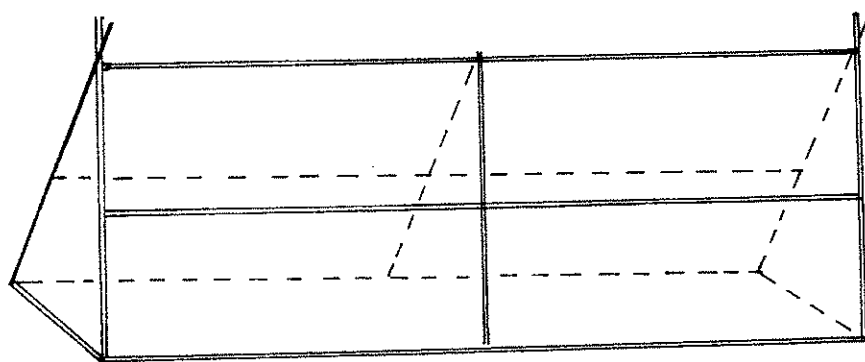


Figure 1

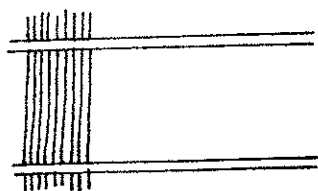


Figure 2

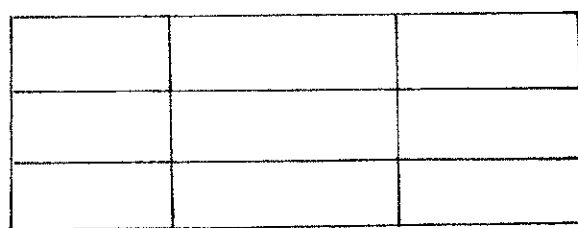


Figure 3

Swanton (1946), who describes Native American houses for many southeastern and Gulf Coast tribes, does not reveal a single instance of an A-frame structure. Perhaps the house McIlhenny saw or had described to him represents only a temporary domicile used by individuals that anticipated moving on within a few days or weeks. The Attakapas are believed to have been seasonal migrants between the coast and interior (Gibson 1976), and this simple construction may have served adequately for short visits to a coastal resource location.

In the end, it is difficult to know how to accept this information. McIlhenny's precise descriptions and illustrations indicate he either saw this structure or talked with knowledgeable informants. Yet his information describes a structure not known from this region, nor remarked on by early travelers in the southeast and Gulf Coast. In addition, this type of structure would be nearly invisible in the archaeological record. If daub were to be found at a historic Native American site, it would be presumed to have come from the more well known square/rectangular/circular house. Perhaps McIlhenny's description can explain the presence of daub at sites lacking postholes.

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SURPRISE! THE BAPTISTE SITE MOUNDS ARE PLAQUEMINE IN AGE

Chip McGimsey and Michele Cossey
University of Louisiana - Lafayette

The Baptiste site (16AV25) lies on the Avoyelles Prairie approximately 2.5 miles SSE of the Marksville site (16AV1). It originally included two large mounds and an extensive village midden (Figure 1). Nearly 51,000 square feet

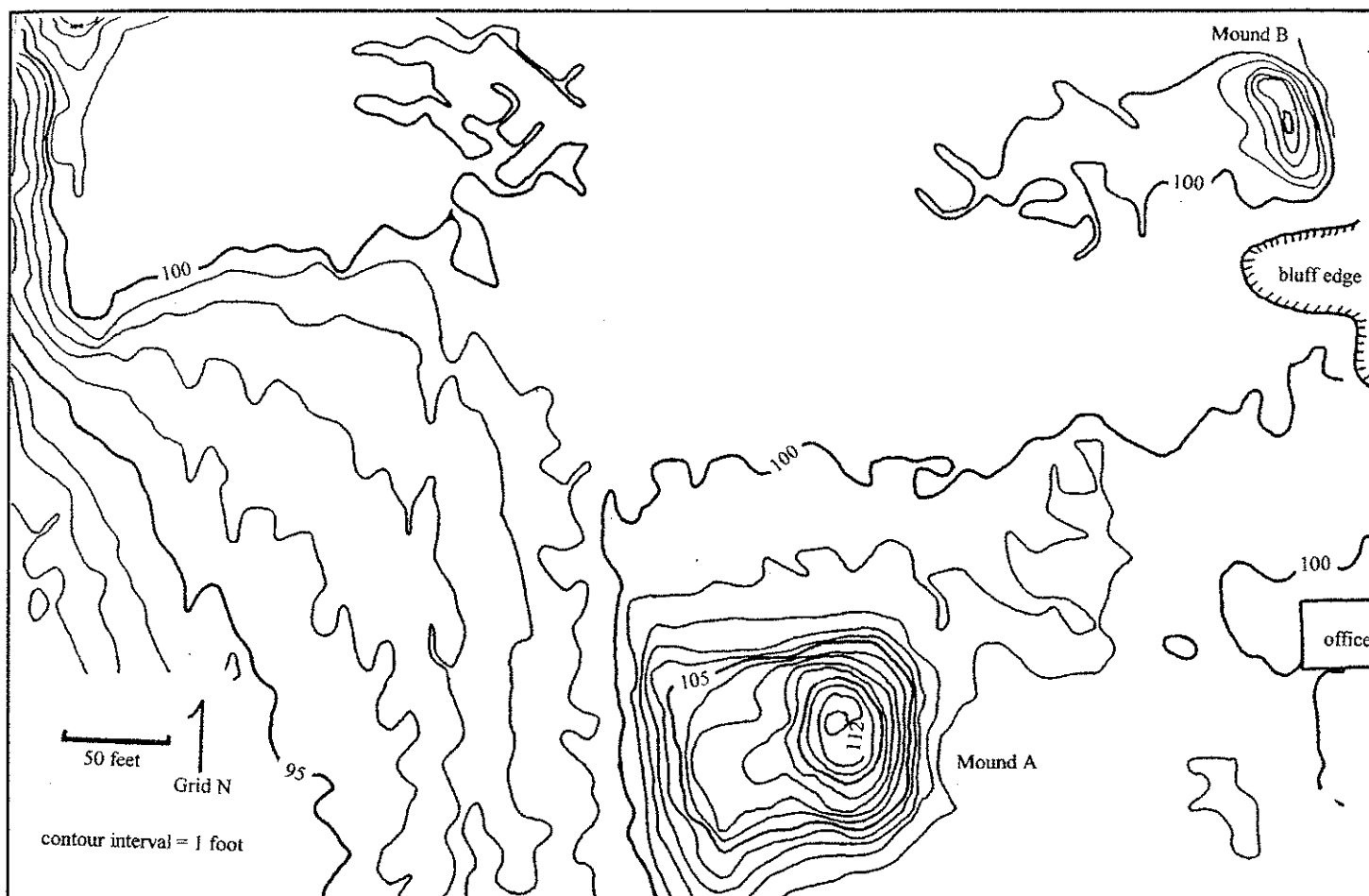


Figure 1. Topographic map of the Baptiste site, reprinted from Whitmer (1978:Figure 25).

(4,750 sq. m.) of the site, including both mounds, were excavated by a WPA crew under the direction of Stuart Neitzel between December 1939 and September 1940. Although analysis of the enormous collection had begun, it had not been completed before funding for WPA work ended at the onset of World War II. Consequently, a report on these excavations was never produced. What is known about this investigation was compiled by Ann Whitmer in 1987 for her Master's thesis, *Physical Structure of the Baptiste Site (16AV25)*, from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Washington.

Unlike many WPA projects in Louisiana, most of the primary documents and all of the artifacts are available and are curated at the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University. Except for Whitmer's study describ-

ing the history of work at the site, there is virtually no information available on the cultural history, context and nature of the prehistoric occupations of the site. A short manuscript describing a preliminary analysis of a small ceramic sample was produced but is not widely known (Smith 1941). What has survived over the years is the recognition that James A. Ford directed the WPA crew to this site because of his belief that it represented a Troyville (or Late Marksville) component. By 1940, Ford and his co-workers had excavated the Greenhouse site (16AV2, established as the type site for the Coles Creek culture), and Marksville (considered the type site for the [Early] Marksville Culture). Baptiste was envisioned as the type-site for the culture lying between these two periods. Ford identified this culture as Troyville, later workers have categorized it variously as Late Marksville, Troyville,

or Baytown (see Gibson 1982 for an extended discussion of the typological history of this temporal interval). The chronological position of the site remains an issue as various scholars have used its mounds in debating the evolution of mound form over time in the Lower Mississippi Valley.

The expectation that Baptiste was a Late Marksville village led Chip McGimsey to revisit the site in the fall of 1999. New radiocarbon dates from the Marksville site (McGimsey 1999) suggested the chronology of the Marksville period might not fall into the expected pattern. Examination of radiocarbon dates from Marksville period sites in the Louisiana - Mississippi region indicated Early Marksville components dated between 200 B.C. and A.D. 400, while the few Late Marksville dates fell between A.D. 400 and A.D. 700 (McGimsey 1999:Figure 9.1, all dates are calibrated ages). In particular, a suite of four dates from a midden deposit at Marksville containing classic Early Marksville ceramics returned median ages between A.D. 240 and A.D. 385. All of this information suggested that Late Marksville components might date much later than expected.

Given this situation, it seemed appropriate to return to the Baptiste site to obtain radiocarbon dates and determine the age of this Late Marksville/Troyville type site. The site landowner, Mr. A.J. Roy III, of Marksville, generously gave permission for this work. In the fall of last year, three units were excavated at the site to obtain the desired information. This work, however, is not the focus of this article. We expected that the artifact samples from our test excavations would be limited due to the small size of the excavation. Therefore, McGimsey decided to reanalyze a small portion of the WPA collections to obtain a larger sample of the ceramic artifacts. Little did we know the size of the "Pandora's Box" that this decision opened.

The 1940 ceramic collection consists of thousands of sherds (perhaps 20-25,000 decorated sherds [Whitmer 1987]) organized by ceramic type, not by provenience — which we were interested in. In order to find the few proveniences we wanted, it became necessary to sort through all of the sherds and pull out those we wanted. This project has taken Michele Cossey most of two semesters, with the assistance of Kim Horn and Josette Van der Koogh, to accomplish. In the end, all of the decorated sherds have been reorganized by provenience (catalog number). The sherds had originally been boxed by the 1940 ceramic types but the entire collection was reclassified by John Belmont in the early 1990s. It is his identifications which are used in this study.

The benefit of this reorganization was that we got to look at every decorated sherd from the site and there are lots of large, beautiful specimens. Marksville/Troyville types/varieties are abundant and make it clear why Ford and others considered this a Late Marksville or Troyville site. What surprised us was the large numbers of Plaquemine culture ceramic types — the presence of a later component had never been mentioned in any of the discussions about the site we had seen. A relatively unknown manuscript (Smith 1941) however, does indicate that a "minor" Plaquemine component is present. The more we sorted, the clearer it became that the Plaquemine component was substantial and important.

As the sorting neared completion, we became suspicious that the two mounds at the site might actually belong to the Plaquemine component rather than the Marksville component. At McGimsey's urging, a final sorting of the sherds occurred to segregate those catalog numbers representing Mound A proveniences and Mound B proveniences. It was not possible, in a reasonable time frame, to sort out all the sherds from these two mounds and so we focused only on large blocks of catalog numbers assigned to each.

Nor was it possible to determine the stratigraphic placement of various ceramic types within each mound. In the end, we compiled ceramic tabulations for 21.4% of the Mound A catalog numbers, and 86.5% of the Mound B catalog numbers, totaling nearly 14,000 sherds. The results of this analysis are shown in Table 1. As noted, the tabulations are those of John Belmont and a complete listing of the different type/variety and descriptive categories he identified in this collection would include 220 distinct categories. Consequently, Table 1 only summarizes the most abundant types and varieties to demonstrate the late Marksville age of one component and the Plaquemine age of the mounds. Interested readers should contact the authors if they want a complete inventory of the ceramics identified from these two mounds.

Mound A is a rectangular two-stage platform mound 40 m long, 27.5 m wide, and 4 m high. Excavation profiles revealed numerous fill zones and surfaces; many of these apparent surfaces had postholes present (Whitmer 1987:Figures 33, 34). Neitzel interpreted this mound as a series of sequential construction episodes, with each episode capped by an occupational surface that may have contained a structure of some kind. Only a single burial was found. Table 1 indicates Plaquemine component sherds are abundant in these proveniences (28.1% of the total). While their specific stratigraphic context is unknown, their abundance and our subjective sense that they occurred throughout all proveniences, clearly indicates that most, if not all, of this mound can be attributed to the Plaquemine culture.

Table 1. Summary Tabulation of Selected Type/Variety Sherds from 1939-1940 WPA Excavation of Mound A and B.

Type	Variety	Mound A		Mound B	
		variety total	type total	variety total	type total
Marksville/Troyville types					
Marksville Stamped			369		1190
	Manny	191		609	
	Newsome	137		420	
Marksville Incised			524		1597
	Yokena	35		92	
	Anglum	29		92	
	Vick	25		83	
	Hays Landing	73		289	
Troyville Stamped			272		1461
Churupa Punctated			48		266
Chevalier Stamped			49		821
Yokena Incised			268		1187
Total			1530		6522
Plaquemine types					
Plaquemine Brushed			209		1432
Coles Creek Incised			187		488
	Mott	46		125	
	Hilly Grove	29		76	
	Hardy	45		122	
Leland Incised			76		193
Mazique Incised			36		102
L' Eau Noire Incised			12		84
Sanson Incised			14		88
French Fork Incised			29		51
Avoyelles Punctated			34		94
Total			597		2447

Mound B is an elongate mound 22.5 m long, 13.5 m wide, and 1.5 m high. Profiles suggest this mound is less internally complex but may include one or more construction episodes (Whitmer 1987:Figures 36, 37). Three burials were found within it. Nearly all of the proveniences from this mound were tabulated for this study, and Plaquemine ceramics are abundant (27.3% of the total). Again, while their stratigraphic context is uncertain, it seems very likely this mound was constructed during this period.

A radiocarbon date obtained from our village site excavation provides an age for the Plaquemine component. An AMS date on diffuse wood and nutshell charcoal from the top of the village midden deposit produced a calibrated median age of 540 B.P. (A.D. 1410) with a two-sigma range of 650-510 B.P. (Beta-140883). Maize is also present in some of the flotation samples (Katherine Roberts, personal communication). This date agrees well with the generally middle to late Plaquemine-occupation ceramic assemblage identified at the site (see Table 1).

Ford (Ford and Willey 1941; Ford 1951) had argued that flat-topped, pyramidal mounds appeared first in cultures after Marksville and before Coles Creek (Troyville or Baytown depending on who you want to follow). It is presumed the presence of Mound A at Baptiste is one of the reasons Ford believed the site belonged to the Troyville period. Later researchers suggest that although this mound form is occasionally present prior to Coles Creek (Williams and Brain 1983; Belmont 1982), classic pyramidal mounds with structures occupying some or all of the intermediate surfaces are not common until Coles Creek times. The information available in Whitmer's study indicates Mounds A and B have numerous intermediate surfaces with structures probably present, a pattern more consistent with known later Coles Creek and Plaquemine mound forms. The ceramic evidence presented here

should lay to rest any lingering ideas that the Baptiste mounds are Late Marksville/Troyville in age and remove this site from discussions concerning the first appearance of pyramidal mounds in the Lower Mississippi Valley. These mounds, or the majority of each at least, were built during the Plaquemine occupation of the site.

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[The two following articles are reprinted from the March 2000 issue of the CTA (Council of Texas Archeologists) Newsletter – ed.]

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

Douglas K. Boyd

CTA Newsletter 24(2):3-4

CTA has long focused attention on proper care of archeological collections and should be proud of its efforts. But sooner or later, Texas archeologists are going to have to address a growing problem in our profession – how do we store massive amounts of archeological data and is digital archiving the answer? I suggest that we begin looking at this problem sooner rather than later. The problem is now at the forefront of discussions nationwide among archeologists, archivists, historians, and others interested in presenting historical data for posterity.

Archiving of digitized data is becoming increasingly common despite the fact that there are many horror stories out there about substantial loss of such data. One such story came out in January in the BBC News and the article, "Old Computers Lose History Record," is available online at: <http://news2.ths.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_1654000/654116.stm>. It provides details of an archeological project that stored all of its data on computer disks with no paper or microfilm copies as backups. The project was done in London, England between 1991 and 1996. When they tried to access the data a few years later, a full 5 percent of the disks had become completely corrupted ("the -magnetic coating on the disks had simply succumbed to the slow erosion of time") and all data they contained were lost. In addition, they ran into tremendous problems accessing the data, because of changes in hardware and software. Sounds a lot like our experience with the Texas Heritage Conservation Plan Computerization Program in which the Texas Historical Commission attempted to computerize all Texas archeological site data from 1979 to 1984. This effort was essentially a precursor to the Texas Historic Sites Atlas project – perhaps one whose time had not yet come. Many thousands of person-hours of effort went into the project (I know because I worked as a data encoder for THC during the summer of 1983), but it ultimately failed for a variety of reasons. The good news is that over 25,000 archeological site files housed at many repositories across the state were microfilmed, thus creating an important backup copy in case of a catastrophe (assuming that the microfilm is still being properly stored and protected). Site data were then encoded and computerized. In 1985, a short summary report was created (*Pre-historic Archeological Sites In Texas: A Statistical Overview*, Office of the State Archeologist Special Report No. 28) using the computerized site data, but the data were never made available to researchers. The project lost its funding, and the computerized data were moth-balled. Many years later when the Historic Sites Atlas project began, people tried to retrieve the data to see if it

might be a useful starting place. The hardware and software were gone and the companies that created them were out of business. The bottom line was that the computerized data were no longer accessible and quite likely would have been so degraded as to be unusable even if they were accessible. End of story.

Not surprisingly, opinions about digital archiving vary widely (see the article by Bill Pugsley [*also in this LAS newsletter – ed.*] for views expressed by many historians and archivists). Many people now realize that there are lots of problems with long-term storage of electronic data on computer disks and other magnetic media. Until these types of storage media are improved and shown to be effective, paper (acid free) or microfilm copies of raw archeological data are the only formats that we know will survive for any length of time. If you are going to store digital data, it has to be done so that it can be transferred periodically to refresh it and migrated to new formats periodically as hardware and software change. Making data accessible to researchers is a different issue than long-term storage, but many people believe the internet will ultimately provide the solution to both problems. In theory (but as yet unproven), data made available on the internet can survive indefinitely because it will constantly be refreshed and updated into new formats as needed. We should be cautious with this approach, but the idea does warrant consideration. Other people will argue that data should be put on the internet only if you want it to be accessible to researchers, but not simply as a mechanism for storage. One information source you might want to check out is the online publication, *Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice*, at: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/>. This document suggests right and wrong ways of acquiring, archiving, and accessing digital data generated by archeological research. It is but one of many sources of information out there, and I certainly don't recommend it as the ultimate authority. It does make the claim that, "the best strategy for long-term pres-

ervation of archaeological data in digital formats is for them to be systematically collected, maintained, and made accessible to users operating in very different computing environments."

Another study, by Cornell University, compares the costs of two different methods of long-term storage of digital data. One method is digital archiving and the other is to convert the digital data to microfilm using Computer Output Microfilm. This study is not conclusive because there is little agreement on the true and total costs of running a digital archive; however, the evidence suggests that it may be much more cost effective to convert digital data to microfilm for long term storage, rather than absorb the costs of constantly maintaining it. There are ways to convert microfilm data back to digital data if needed. It appears that digital archiving would be the preferred option if access by many researchers were important, but one must consider how many people will actually access and use the data before knowing if the cost of digital archiving is warranted. The Cornell study is online at: http://www.library.cornell.edu/preservation/com/comfin.html#_Toc394744822.

Just like proper curation of collections, any form of storing archeological data for the long term will be expensive. We get into trouble when we take the easy way out and create digital data files, shove them into boxes stuck in storage closets, and give no thought to whether someone will be able to access the data in 15 years. Obviously there are lots of issues that warrant discussion here so I propose that CTA begin seriously considering the digital archiving problem this year! CTA can and should take the lead in initiating discussions to inform the Texas archeological community about the pros and cons of digital archiving of archeological data. Hosting such discussions may not be as fun as debating how and when the earliest Native Americans arrived in the New World, but this discourse is critical because our decisions will ultimately impact, for better or worse, tremendous amounts of archeological data for future generations. Every time

we expend lots of effort creating databases to analyze our archeological data, we need to make decisions about how to store it for the long run. We need to be better informed to make the right decisions.

PRESERVING ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA: THE LONG VIEW

By Bill Pugsley,
President Texas Information Network,
Austin

CTA Newsletter 24(2):7-8

Over the last decade, the archival community has grown increasingly vocal about the problems associated with the long-term storage of data using electronic media, particularly floppy disks, CDs, Zip, and Jazz drives. On March 3, 2000, the Society of Southwest Archivists sponsored a joint session at the Texas State Historical Association annual convention to lay those issues before the academic, professional, and avocational historians of Texas. Among the panelists were Mr. Chris LaPlante (head of the Archives Division of the Texas State Archives and Library), Dr. Robert Martin (former head of that facility and now professor of Library Sciences at Texas Women's University), and Dr. David B. Gracy, II (the head of the Archives section of the University of Texas Graduate School of Library and Information Services), and myself.

Mr. LaPlante opened the session with an anecdote about an archeological project gone awry. On February 23, 2000, the BBC online news service reported that 6,000 database, geophysical, and CAD map files that constituted the only records from a comprehensive, five-year archeological investigation of 180 Bronze Age sites in northeast London completed in 1996 were stored on 220 floppy disks. Six years later, 11 of the floppy disks were so completely corrupted that it was impossible to recover any information from them. No one thought to make a backup copy on paper. The data is now lost for all time.

The reported explained that "the magnetic coating on the disks had simply succumbed to the slow erosion of time." Actually, this is bending the truth. It wasn't slow erosion. Archivists have been shouting their lungs out over the last decade, decrying the use of disks as a storage medium because they (i.e., any electronic/magnetic format) erode faster than any other medium yet devised. Archivists stress that disks should never be used as a "storage copy!" Even short-term storage (two to five years) under the best of circumstances risks a certain percentage of decay, as the British archeologists discovered.

For manipulating data, creating databases, accelerating publication schedules, promoting written communications (email), and most importantly, increasing public access via the internet, electronic media is fantastic; indeed, archivists and librarians are among the first to applaud the recent advances in electronic technology. But once the project is complete and the reports are written, every project manager should shift gears and move the final records into a more permanent format. For not at least, that means printing one complete copy of the data on good quality, acid-free paper.

Dr. Martin and Mr. LaPlante assured the audience that computer technologists are rapidly addressing the archivist's worries about electronic storage media. However, the day when we can depend on electronic media for long-term storage has not arrived yet. In the meantime, archivists would urge that you put all project data on paper and store it in several places as insurance against fire and water damage.

Remember, the archeological profession exists today because cultural artifacts have survived for many thousands of years. The archival community would ask that archeologists join them in adopting an equally long view of the future regarding your own artifacts—the archeological data and reports you generate—a future measured in thousands of years instead of decades!

LAS Members

The Division of Archaeology is beginning to make plans for the **Thirteenth Annual Louisiana Archaeology Week in 2000, scheduled for October 1–7**. We are looking forward to having a variety of activities and participants again this year. If you would like to help in planning, hosting, or leading an activity, please complete the information below and return this form to Nathanael Heller at the Division of Archaeology, P.O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, or fax it at (225) 342-4480. If you have any further questions, comments, or suggestions, feel free to contact Nathanael at (225) 342-8170, or e-mail at nheller@crt.state.la.us.

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