



Louisiana Archaeological Society NEWSLETTER

CHARLES E. PEARSON, Newsletter Editor

COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC.,

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

Volume 13 Number 3

Winter 1986

EDITORS NOTE

This issue of the Newsletter normally comes out in December, in order to provide time for ballots to be returned for Society elections. This year, however, no one has been nominated to the single position open—that of Vice President. Actually, one person was nominated but that individual withdrew. In light of this, the election will have to be held at the Business Meeting to be held at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. I urge you to have your Chapter Representative submit names of nominees to Joe Manuel so they can be submitted to the Executive Committee and be placed before the membership in New Orleans.

Everyone should have gotten the mailing providing information on the Annual Meeting. The Delta Chapter has gone all out to make this year's meeting an exceptional event. I urge everyone to attend. A preliminary program of the meeting is provided in this Newsletter. A "Hot Line" has been established for the meetings in case you get lost or need meeting or weather information. That number is (504) 288-6160.

This represents my last issue as editor of the Newsletter. It has been an enjoyable three years and I want to thank all of the membership for your help in providing the news, articles, critiques and arguments which have gone into the Newsletter. It is your input which really makes this Newsletter a viable medium of information. Keep it up for the new editor.

MEETINGS

29th Annual Caddo Conference

March 13-15, 1987, Shreveport, Louisiana. For information contact: David R. Jeane, 305 Hickory, Springhill, Louisiana 71075.

LAS ANNUAL MEETING

"Preserving Louisiana's Archaeological Heritage"

January 23-25, 1987

New Orleans

The Louisiana Archaeological Society is the singular non-profit state organization dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and dispensing of information on Louisiana's archaeological resources. Our responsibility is great. The destruction and loss of these resources is occurring at a growing rate. Much of the general public and many of our officials are unaware of the value of archaeology in the interpretation of Louisiana's rich, varied and unique past. It is our duty to convey this knowledge to them. This will be a major objective at the 13th Annual Meeting to be held on January 24 and 25, 1987 at the Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans.

Grants from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and from Amoco Foundation have enabled registration fees for the meeting to be kept to a minimum. The three sessions will be free for pre-registered members of the LAS and employees of Amoco. For those members who do not pre-register the fee will be \$3.00, and \$5.00 for non-members. In keeping the charges low and having as speakers two nationally known archaeologists, Ivor Noel Hume of Williamsburg, Virginia and Jeffery Brain of Harvard, it is hoped that a sizeable segment of the public will attend.

Those presenting papers are urged to emphasize the meeting's general theme, "Preserving Louisiana's Archaeological Heritage". By enhancing the public's understanding and appreciation of archaeology, we will encourage interest and participation in preserving what lies beneath the ground.

Artifacts from the Tunica Treasure will be on display for registrants at the meeting. This is the first time they have been shown to the public, and they will be exhibited only on January 24 and 25. An exhibit of historical artifacts from Madame John's Legacy and the Pontalba Apartments will be displayed on the second floor of the Cabildo.

Parking: There are metered spaces in the area which are free on Saturdays and Sundays. Southern Parking Lot is located at the corner of Elysian Fields Avenue and Decatur Streets, one block from the Mint, and charges \$3.00 for all day.

Tentative Program Schedule

Friday, January 23

2:30 p.m. For those of you who arrive early you may meet at Le Richelieu Hotel, 1234 Chartres Street, for a free walking tour of the French Quarter.

6 p.m.-8 p.m. Champagne party at the Cabildo, 701 Chartres Street. Enjoy New Orleans music.

Saturday, January 24

Meeting at the Old U.S. Mint, 400 Esplanade Avenue.

8 a.m. Registration and Board Meeting

9 a.m. Meeting Opens

9:10-11:40 a.m. General Sessions: papers by LAS members.

11:40 a.m. Break for lunch

1:30 p.m. Presentation by Ivor Noel Hume on historical archaeology

2:15 p.m. Symposium on historical archaeology in Louisiana. Participants: Hiram Gregory, Charles Pearson, George Castille, R. Christopher Goodwin and Douglas Owsley.

5:00 p.m. Meeting closes

Sunday, January 25

Meeting at the Old U.S. Mint, 400 Esplanade Avenue.

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Presentation by Jeffery Brain on Indians and early explorers. Emphasis will be on the Trudeau Site and its artifacts, the Tunica Treasure.

9:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. General Session: papers by LAS members

A Business Meeting will be held at the end of the General Session.

THE 1986 FIELD SCHOOL: ACTIVITIES AND INITIAL RESULTS

Dave B. Davis
Department of Anthropology
Tulane University

The Society's three-day field school at Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville accomplished considerably more than might have been expected, given the limitations of time and fickle weather which brought sunshine one minute and torrents of rain the next. Although the activities were carried out under a state permit to the Center for Archaeology at Tulane, credit for the field school's success belongs with members of the LAS, and particularly with the energetic efforts of local organizers. The most active of this last group were Society president Joe Manual and Northlake Chapter members Jack Moore and Warren Latshaw. My service as director of the field school was made infinitely easier by the pleasant resilience of some 60 members of the Society who attended all or part of the event, and by the collegiality of several professional archaeologists and graduate students who offered their time and their substantial expertise with all aspects of the work. Among these, it is a pleasure to acknowledge on the Society's behalf the help of president-elect Richard Weinstein, Charles Pearson and David Kelley, all of Coastal Environments, Inc. of Baton Rouge; Jeff Homburg of LSU; Jim Morehead; Richard Beavers of the University of New Orleans; and Ann E. Smith, Marco Giardino, Stuart Speaker, and David Rote, all of, or affiliated with, Tulane. These are the people who truly directed the real work of the field school, making it possible for me to coordinate a diverse set of activities.

The state permit which authorized the work at Fontainebleau entailed research of three kinds, and the field school made significant contributions in each area. One important goal was to complete a limited test excavation at the Tchefuncte type site (16 ST1), with a view toward re-examining the stratigraphy and obtaining material for one or two radiocarbon dates (as most readers will know, the site was originally excavated during the 1930's and has never been directly dated). Although high water in the surrounding marsh limited excavation to the top 30 cm of the site, the field school team did recover a reasonable ceramic sample and material for dating. I might also note that this aspect of the field school's work was featured on New Orleans (WVUE) television news, while broader aspects of the Society's activities at Fontainebleau were covered in the Times-Picayune.

A second goal was a survey of an area of some 1100 acres in the eastern part of the park. Over one-third of this area was covered by field school participants. Shovel-testing by the survey groups located three, previously unknown, small, shell midden sites; test excavations revealed all three to be Mississippian in age. This initial work complements earlier survey data that suggests a pattern of numerous but very small and highly dispersed Mississippian period occupations along the bayous and sloughs immediately north of Lake Pontchartrain. Analysis of the faunal remains from the field school excavations should provide a first indication of the subsistence activities that were connected to this settlement pattern. Northlake and Delta chapter members will work with me as their schedules permit during the next few months to complete the survey.

The third aspect of the permit and of the field school's work focused upon the remains of the Bernard de Marigny sugar plantation that was situated near the center of the park. This goal was completed under the guidance of Tulane graduate student Ann E. Smith. The primary aim was to map the extant remains of the Fontainebleau Plantation; shovel testing to ascertain the extent of archaeological remains was a secondary concern. The site is presently marked by an alley of live oak trees in a cleared area, near which are the standing remains of several of the plantation's buildings.

The mapping was completed through the determination of several of the LAS members under the guidance of Stuart Speaker, graduate student at Tulane. The map includes the environmental attributes of the site, such as the oak alley and the ditches through and around the cleared area, as well as the plantation's standing remains, the surface artifacts, and the modern road. For future reference, it was tied into a benchmark located at the edge of the lake. The mapping project was facilitated by the advance work of Delta Chapter members Linda Church and Dan Shipman, whose preliminary map served as a valuable guide and cross-check.

A walking survey of the oak alley revealed several areas of bricks and artifacts on the surface. Some of the bricks seemed to be in situ and laid in a pattern, but most probably represented surface scatter. Several of the brick features appeared to be chimney foundations and were H-shaped and substantial. At least one of the features looked like a brick pier that might have supported a wooden house (slave quarter?). Probing indicated that there might have been symmetrically located structures along both sides of the oak alley.

A large surface scatter of ceramics, glass, and kaolin pipestem fragments was found on the east side of the northeast end of the oak alley. Probing did not reveal any house foundations near the scatter. Shovel test pits dug along transects across the oak alley failed to locate any substantial subsurface features. An informal magnetometer survey of the most likely location of the main house was also conducted. Again, no subsurface remains were indicated. Thus, the location of the main house remains a mystery. Fontainebleau Plantation offers great prospects for a serious, long-term, well-funded investigation.

In addition to the experience in prehistoric and historic site survey, mapping, and excavation techniques which made up the core of field school activities, field school participants met for an evening of informal conversation and questioning with some of the state's professional archaeologists, including most of those already mentioned along with State Archaeologist Kathleen Byrd, Phillip (Duke) Rivet of the same office, Debra Woodiel of the Office of State Parks, and Robert Neuman of LSU. All of those just named braved an evening's drive in extraordinary thunderstorms in order to attend, and their presence was appreciated. Perhaps the only negative result of that particular evening was Richard Weinstein's discovery that his tent does not float.

Thanks are especially due to all the field school participants for creating by their flexibility and interest, a relaxed, congenial atmosphere that leaves us with pleasant memories as well as with useful new archaeological information.

NOTES FROM THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

by
Kathleen Byrd

I know that a number of LAS members have recently expressed concern about impacts on several important archaeological sites, particularly the Morgan site in Vermilion Parish, the Kleinpeter site in East Baton Rouge Parish, and the Pargoud site in Ouachita Parish. I would like to take this opportunity to explain what our office has done to preserve the information these sites contain.

In the case of the Morgan site, we first spoke with the property owner about fourteen months ago. We discussed with him the importance of the site and the need to preserve it. He stated that he

normally worked offshore and that he was presently out of work and had a large bank note which was coming due that he couldn't pay. He wanted to sell the dirt from the mounds or he would lose his property. I spoke with him again later and he said that his lawyer had told him not to talk to us. He spoke to me anyway. Once again, I explained our concerns, and once again he explained his financial situation.

Ian Brown of Harvard University had also spoken to him and I spoke with Ian about a grant to test the site. (We have matching funds available through the Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service. Through this program we are able to put up 50 percent of the cost of a testing program to determine whether a site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.) The owner agreed in principle to the testing of the site, dependent on a series of conditions. Harvard was able to obtain matching funds from the National Geographic Society. The Vermilion Parish Historical Society also provided funds for the project. With funds from these sources and from our office, the testing of the Morgan site was begun August 15, 1986 and continued for a total of ten weeks. The report on this work will be available in October 1987.

In the case of the Kleinpeter site, we met with the developers more than a year and a half ago and discussed the value and importance of this multiple mound site. The Kleinpeter site is located on a piece of property bought to develop a country club/residential community. We asked the developers if they could redesign the project to protect the site, perhaps creating a green belt and incorporating their commitment to protect the site into their marketing campaign. They said that they couldn't create a green belt but they did agree to move the road so that it wouldn't run through one of the mounds. They also agreed to put restrictive covenants on the properties on which the mounds were located. These covenants were to prevent future landowners from harming the archaeological deposits. Unfortunately, this last measure was not carried out by the developers.

During these discussions, we also pursued another approach to insure proper study of the site. Through a recent grant we were able to get the site fully mapped and we have another grant pending to test the site. We will provide funds through the Historic Preservation Fund if matching funds can be found. The owners of two of the lots on which the mounds are located have expressed interest in putting up some money but more is needed. Malcolm Shuman and Dennis

Jones of LSU and Coastal Environments, Inc. will be working jointly on this project if adequate matching funds can be obtained.

In the case of the Pargoud site, the people in the Monroe area, particularly the members of the local LAS chapter, were more successful than we were in convincing the landowners to redesign the project to protect the site. Although we talked with the landowners on several occasions, it was the local people who finally got results in this instance.

We have always supported and encouraged protection of sites on private property, as in the three cases mentioned above. Unfortunately, there is no law forcing a landowner to protect an archaeological site on his property. A landowner is perfectly within his rights to destroy a site if he so desires as long as there is no federal involvement. If he requires a federal permit, then his request is reviewed by our office pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act and we are able to advise the federal agency involved about what action we think should be taken. In the cases where there is no federal involvement, all we can do is to try to convince the property owner to protect the site. Unfortunately, many property owners have little real appreciation of the value of archaeological sites. Many people in Louisiana, in fact, are unaware that the state even has an archaeological past worthy of preservation.

Recognizing this fact, we instituted an outreach program five years ago. Our aim was to increase awareness among the people in the state of Louisiana's rich archaeological past. A measure of our success is the fact that we have more than 2100 people on our mailing list. We distributed over 15,000 booklets in the last twelve months and had over 36,700 people viewing our exhibits.

I feel that this strong foundation will make preservation efforts in the future even more successful. If the LAS and our office work together we will be able to support the efforts that each makes to protect the state's fragile archaeological heritage. As a way to foster communication, I suggest making the LAS Newsletter a forum to answer questions the membership might have on issues in which our office is involved. Please direct any questions you might have to the Newsletter Editor. If you have a question, there is a good chance someone else is wondering about it as well.

WRAPPING UP THE YEAR

Joe Manuel

The 1986 Field School

Dark forboding skies heralded a continuous light rain on Thursday morning, October 23rd, as the first of the field school participants rolled in to Group Camp 3, at Fontainebleau State Park in St. Tammany Parish. Those undaunted souls went straight to work surveying a portion of the park. This was the first of four days of field work and fun.

I've never had a better time poking holes in the ground. About a hundred people showed up. Most stayed the entire four days and some for only a couple of hours. The project went well under the leadership of the project director, Dr. Dave Davis of Tulane University. Dave was fortunate in having several talented archaeologists heading up portions of the project. Richard Weinstein and Dr. Charlie Pearson of CEI were in charge of "the Tchefuncte Site Revisited," Ann Smith, a Tulane graduate student, headed up the survey of the Bernard de Marigny plantation, Dr. Marco Giardino, a graduate of Tulane, directed excavations on two newly discovered shell midden sites, while Jeff Homburg, an LSU graduate student, organized a survey and excavations in the wooded area north of our camp. Dr. Davis will probably present an overview of these efforts in this letter.

Debbie Woodiel, our state parks archaeologist, handled boat shuttles to the Tchefuncte site and helped photograph profiles in several units. Other graduate students and professionals lent their expertise to the school.

On Friday night, as the rains came down, we partied in the spacious dining room of our camp. There, we enjoyed a time of fellowship during what was the "first ever Louisiana professional archaeologist beer circle," a Dave Davis production. We sang along with Randy Travis to the field school theme song, "Diggin Up Bones." Our state archaeologist, Dr. Kass Byrd and her husband, Bob Neuman of LSU, were available to answer questions concerning the state office, the bulletin, the certification program, etc. We passed a good time.

The weather Saturday was beautiful. Much was accomplished in the field. At 6 p.m. we were called to the dining room to feast on a jambalaya that was out of this world. Over sixty people broke bread at this gathering. After dinner a short executive meeting was called.

Executive Meeting

Our treasurer, bulletin editor, recording secretary, and the certification chairman were absent, so we missed reports by them. It was brought out during the meeting that no one has been nominated this year for the Governor's Award nor for the James Alfred Ford award. We thanked Jack Moore, Warren Latshaw, Duane Lassiter, and the Northlake Chapter for the wonderful job they had done and for being such fine host.

Betty Pendley invited everyone to come to New Orleans on my birthday, January 24th, for the annual meeting. Speaking of birthdays, we sang happy birthday to Jan Delgahausen.

A question of whether to raise the fee for a life membership was raised, but not acted upon. Before the meeting was adjourned, Dr. Davis brought us up-to-date on the field activities. Then we had the drawing for the first ever LAS raffle. First prize was won by Roger Cabiness of Slidell and second prize by one of our members, John Polk. John turned his prize money into a life membership. The next executive committee meeting will be held on Friday night, January 24th, in New Orleans, in conjunction with the annual meeting.

Back to the Field School

Sunday was another beautiful day, allowing us to complete excavation units, and shuttle those who had not yet seen it to the Tchefuncte site. There was a fine demonstration of flint knapping by Buddy Speller at mid-day. By four in the afternoon the camp had been cleaned up and everyone had checked out. Jason, my four-year-old, snapped the lock shut on the gate, closing behind us a very memorable four days.

Our field school was a financial success in that it cost our state society treasury nothing. Much of the success is due to those members who obtained grants for the school. They are Doris Z. Stone who arranged a Zemurray Foundation Grant, Linda Church for an Amoco Grant and Scott Young for a Chevron Grant. I'm sure you all join me thanking these people, the Foundation, and the companies for their interest and their generosity. It would have been impossible to do as much as we did without them.

While we are thanking people, let us remember to thank Dr. Gerard F. Guidroz of the Office of State Parks for letting us have the camp area at no charge. Please show this thanks by continuing to let our politicians know how important our state parks system is to us.

The Wrap-up

It is a strange thing to me that I have nothing to say in wrapping up the year except, thank you. Thank you for giving me the honor and privilege of working for you for the past year.

I owe my wife, Terri, and my children a special thanks for backing me as they did during the year.

I would like for you to know that I have thanked God also, and asked him to bless you all with a joyful holiday season and a prosperous and harmonious 1987.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR TO PERU

An archaeological tour to Peru is being organized. A minimum of ten (10) participants is needed to make this trip a success. All friends, students, family are welcomed to join us at some of the world's most famous archaeological sites.

The following is an itinerary of the tour:

- Day 1: Depart U.S.A. (New Orleans). You arrive in Lima, a fully modern city, rich in history and bustling with excitement.
- Day 2: Lima - Visit the Mujica Gallo Gold Museum, a fabulous assortment of pre-Columbian gold objects and artifacts.
- Day 3: Lima - Visit Pachacamac, just outside Lima, a pre-Inca site with temples built to the gods, and a visit to the Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology will give you a feel for the region and its vast history.
- Day 4-8: Visit Cuzco, one of the world's most fascinating ancient cities and once the capital of a great pre-Columbian empire. Visit Machu-Picchu, the lost Incan city, high in the mountains, and a lesson in ancient architectural construction, Visit Pisac, the colorful market city, and Ollantay-tambo, the ancient Incan fortress and spa.
- Day 9: Lima, a free day to explore, shop, or do as you please.
- Day 10: Return flight.

For further information, please call or write to:

Brian J. Duhe, P.O. Drawer B, Reserve, La. 504-536-2439 (after 6:00 p.m.) or 504-241-2171.

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____

There will be the following in my party: _____

Exact cost will depend on airfares at the time of the trip. The trip is planned for March 1987.