



# Louisiana Archaeological Society NEWSLETTER

RICHARD A. WEINSTEIN, Newsletter Editor

COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC.,

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

Volume 15, No. 3

Winter 1988

## FROM THE EDITOR

On a happy note, it is almost time for the 1989 Annual Meeting in Lake Charles. As you can see by the contents of this Newsletter, the Imperial Calcasieu Chapter has geared up for a momentous affair. Several paper titles have already been submitted, a wine and cheese party has been arranged, a luncheon featuring a demonstration of Coushatta Indian crafts will take place, and a dance has been slated for Saturday night. I am sure all members will make every effort to come, celebrate, and learn about Louisiana archaeology. If you have not already done so, please send in your hotel and meeting registration forms. The sooner the forms are received, the easier it is for the planners to put the finishing touches on the program.

On a sad note, William S. "Bill" Baker, Jr., of Jonesville, Louisiana, passed away on December 6, 1988, after a long bout with illness. Bill was one of the guiding lights during the early years of the L.A.S., and was instrumental in putting together the Society's 1974 Jonesville reorganizational meeting. Bill served as the Society's second Treasurer, from 1975 through 1981, was L.A.S. Vice-President in 1982, and was President in 1983. Recently, Bill was the recipient of the 1987 Governor's Award, presented by the Louisiana Division of

Archaeology, and currently is being considered for the 1988 Crabtree Award, presented by the Society for American Archaeology. Ann Ramanofsky will be preparing a more detailed obituary, including a review of the fine research that Bill had both conducted and sponsored over the years. The Society and archaeology have lost one the most loyal and closest friends either could ever hope to have.

Richard Weinstein  
Newsletter Editor

## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Cotton Club Restaurant  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
September 30, 1988

Reported by  
Janet Carrigee  
L.A.S. Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the President, Recca Jones. Those in attendance included: Recca Jones, Linda Church Jackson, Bill Edwards, Dan Shipman, Majorie Friedman, Janet Carrigee, Nina Russell, and Brian Davis.

The minutes, as printed in the last issue of the Newsletter, were approved on a

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motion by Dan Shipman, seconded by Recca Jones.

Recca Jones, President, said that the Imperial Calcasieu Chapter is working hard on the 1989 state meeting in Lake Charles. She said there was a request by the Central Chapter in Alexandria to hold the state meeting there in 1990. She said she cannot see any reason why their request should not be granted.

Linda Church Jackson, Treasurer, handed out copies of the fall Treasurer's report, a report on the state of the Treasury for the years 1982 through 1988, and the 1988 membership list. (Copies of the Treasurer's report and the membership list are included in this Newsletter -- Editor.) Because of the possible past problems with the Treasury, Recca offered a motion to have Dan Shipman, Rich Weinstein, Linda Jackson, and the current President, act as a committee to handle affairs of this matter. Motion was seconded by Brian Davis and duly passed. Dan suggested that we should think about passing by-laws to protect the Society against future accounting problems.

Recca noted that a one-day ceramic, lithic, and osteology workshop would be held on Saturday, October 1, 1988, at the Geoscience Complex at Louisiana State University. She hoped that it would be well attended, and asked the Secretary to send letters thanking the people who held the workshop.

Nina Russell submitted a report on Newsletter expenses on behalf of Rich Weinstein who was unable to attend the meeting. The expenses through September 30, 1988, are as follows:

Volume 15, No. 1 -- 400  
copies printed @ \$231.55 at  
Sprint Print in Baton Rouge.  
309 mailed @ \$24.20 for  
bulk-rate postage.

Volume 15, No. 2 -- 350  
copies printed @ \$245.75 at  
Sprint Print. 223 copies  
mailed @ \$25.00

Recca asked Linda if she was going to continue as L.A.S. Treasurer for two more years. Linda said that there is so much work involved that she does not know yet if she wants to continue. She would have to think it over and decide later.

Majorie made the motion for Linda to consider taking out a C.D. in the amount of \$2,000.00. Brian Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed. [Secretary's note -- Since the meeting, Linda has taken out a C.D. for \$2,000.00 at the Amaco Branch of the National Bank of Commerce in New Orleans. The C.D. was taken out on 10/3/88 and will reach maturity on 1/3/89.]

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

## DUES REMINDER

This is the last issue of the Newsletter for 1988. If you have not renewed for 1989, it will be the last issue you will receive. So, please take a moment to check your address label. If it does not say "1989," send your renewal form and dues to Linda Church Jackson. The L.A.S. thanks you.

## 1989 L.A.S. ANNUAL MEETING

Plans for the Louisiana Archaeological Society's annual meeting are well underway. As of now, the following particulars have been set:

**Date**--January 20, 21, 22, 1989.

**Location**--Chateau Charles, Lake Charles

**Wine and Cheese**--Reception set for Friday evening, January 20th.

**Luncheon**--11:30 am to 12:45 pm, Saturday, January 21st, with cultural and craft demonstrations by the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana.

**Dance**--Saturday evening, January 21st.

In addition, the following is a preliminary list of papers to be presented:

Dennis Jones--Prehistoric Occupation of Pimple Mounds in Coastal Louisiana.

Alan W. Dorian--A U.S. Forest Service Perspective on the Treatment of Human Remains.

Donald G. Hunter--Aboriginal Ceramics from Contact Period Sites in Central Louisiana.

James Fogleman--Tchefuncte Settlement patterns of the Upper Atchafalaya Basin.

David R. Jeane--The Search for the Sulphur Fork Factory.

Teche L.A.S. Chapter--Aboriginal Material from Bayou Long in the Atchafalaya Basin.

David B Kelley--Recent Archaeological Survey in the Terrebonne Marsh Area, Louisiana.

Richard A. Weinstein--Recent Investigations by Coastal Environments, Inc., along the Lower Trinity River, Southeast Texas.

As you can see, there is still room for more papers, so please send in your titles, and let the L.A.S. membership know what you have been up to lately.

Similarly, included in this issue of the Newsletter is another registration form for the meeting, along with a registration card for the Chateau Charles. Please send these in as soon as possible, so the Lake Charles members can make their plans accordingly.

The meetings should be a fine event, and a good time will be in store for those who attend. Everybody come!

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP LIST  
JANUARY - SEPTEMBER, 1988

|  | PAID IN<br>88 | NEW OR<br>RENEWED IN 89 |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|
| REGULAR MEMBERS.....                         | 154           | 4                       |
| Annually: \$15.00                            |               |                         |
| ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.....                       | 20            |                         |
| Annually: \$2.00                             |               |                         |
| STUDENT MEMBERS.....                         | 0             |                         |
| Annually: \$5.00                             |               |                         |
| LIFE MEMBERS.....                            | 51            |                         |
| One time contribution: \$100.00 (2 new ones) |               |                         |
| INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS.....               | 15            |                         |
| Annually: \$15.00                            |               |                         |
| SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS.....                  | 1             |                         |
| \$300.00                                     |               |                         |
| <hr/>  |               |                         |
| TOTAL MEMBERS.....                           | 242           |                         |

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
LINDA JACKSON, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
 FALL TREASURER'S REPORT  
 (APRIL 5, 1988 - SEPTEMBER 30, 1988)

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD.....\$3767.45

ASSETS:

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| AMOCO GRANT (1987).....                   | 750.00                  |
| L.A.S. DUES COLLECTED.....                | 622.00                  |
| SALE OF BULLETINS.....                    | 130.00                  |
| SALE OF SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS.....         | 16.00                   |
| STAMPS REIMBURSEMENT (LINDA JACKSON)..... | 25.00                   |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS.....</b>                  | <b><u>\$5310.45</u></b> |

EXPENSES:

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| CHARLIE PEARSON VOL 15 #1 NEWSLETTER (STAMPS)..... | \$24.20 |
| LINDA JACKSON (STAMPS - L.A.S. & MINE).....        | 75.00   |
| REIMBURSEMENTS FOR SP #1 (OUT OF PRINT).....       | 2.00    |
| CEI EXPENSES: BULLETIN #9                          | \$10.00 |
| BULLETIN #10                                       | 10.00   |
| POSTAGE  | 56.92   |
| XEROXING   | 11.20   |
| TELEPHONE  | 129.66  |
| KINKO'S  | 53.50   |
| TOTAL PHOTOGRAPHICS                                | 4.66    |
| PERMIT FEE   | 50.00   |
| BULK MAIL DEPOSIT                                  | 20.32   |
| PERMIT IMPRINT                                     | 32.05   |
| EXPRESS MAIL                                       | 27.65   |
| CLERICAL TIME (1 HR)                               | 7.50    |

|  |                        |        |
|--|------------------------|--------|
| TOTAL:   | <u>413.46</u> .....    | 413.46 |
| RESEARCH - FNJ (NEW ORLEANS).....                              | 2.00                   |        |
| BANK OF ST. JOHN (RESERVE).....                                | 104.96                 |        |
| REIMBURSEMENT TO MALCOLM SHUMAN FOR DAUGHTER'S MEMBERSHIP..... | 13.00                  |        |
| SPRINT PRINT VOL 15 #2 NEWSLETTER.....                         | 243.75                 |        |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>                                     | <b><u>\$878.37</u></b> |        |

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL ASSETS.....   | \$5310.45 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES..... | 878.37    |

NEW BALANCE.....\$4432.08

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
 LINDA CHURCH JACKSON, LAS TREAS

## OPEN LETTER TO L.A.S. MEMBERS

Dear Society Members:

It has become apparent to many of us working in the Caddoan Archaeological Area, which includes northeast Texas, southwest Arkansas, northwest Louisiana, and eastern Oklahoma, that a distinct regional forum beyond that of the annual Caddo Conference would provide definite benefits in advancing research, preservation, and education goals. Problems that we face in implementing such diverse items as State Historic Preservation Plans, federally-mandated historic contexts, reburial questions, the role of avocationalists and professionals, as well as our attempts to answer the host of theoretical, methodological, and substantive questions which comprise the exciting discipline of Caddoan archaeology, all clearly require a regional knowledge and perspective. To that end, a newsletter (quarterly or semi-annually) containing summaries of recent research projects in the four-state area, along with abstracts of research and Cultural Resource Management reports, and an editorial forum designed to explore problems of common interest (i.e., cemetery vandalism), could play a very significant role in maintaining and improving the way Caddoan archaeology is done.

In this context, it is important to ascertain not only the feasibility of producing such a newsletter, but also whether society members and other interested persons would be willing to support, participate, and help maintain the creation of the newsletter. It would be greatly appreciated if society members of Caddo-ologist bent would help by communicating to me their interest (by mail or phone) in participating in the project, and go ahead and provide comments on the content, format, and overall goals of the newsletter, by March, 1989, at the time of the 31st Caddo Conference.

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Denton, Texas 76203-3078  
Phone--(817) 565-2994

## PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE 1987 L.A.S. FIELD SCHOOL INVESTIGATIONS AT FONTAINEBLEAU STATE PARK, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA\*

By  
Bryan L. Guevin  
Richard A. Weinstein  
Sylvia T. Duay

### Introduction

This paper presents a preliminary analysis of the 1987 L.A.S. Field School excavations held at the Cane Slough East site, a small *Rangia cuneata* (clam) shell midden located in Fontainebleau State Park, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Work at the site occurred from October 15 through October 18, 1987. It was directed by Richard Weinstein, with the assistance of Bryan Guevin, Sylvia Duay, Dennis Jones, Joan Exnicios, George Shannon, and Debbie Woodiel. The latter also served as representative of the Louisiana Office of State Parks, which supported the research by supplying camping facilities at the park. The permit to conduct the investigations was approved by the the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission.

The Cane Slough East site initially was identified and marginally tested by the 1986 L.A.S. Field School, directed by Dave Davis of Tulane University. At that time, the site was one of a group of four small *Rangia* shell middens discovered during that year's field school survey. It is situated on the edge of a small gully which drains the Pleistocene Prairie terrace, the landform upon which the site rests (Figure 1). The gully leads to Cane Slough, a small tributary that flows into Cane Bayou immediately to the east. Located approximately 50 m to the northwest is the Cane Slough West site, one of the other small middens tested in 1986.

\*This article is a slightly modified version of a paper originally presented at the 14th annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, Bossier City.

The major goals of the 1987 Field School were: (1) to completely excavate the shell midden, known from the previous year's research to be of the Mississippi period (ca. A.D. 1200 to 1700), (2) to produce a contour map of the site, and (3) to sample contiguous areas of the terrace surrounding the shell midden in the hope of

identifying associated late-prehistoric features, such as post molds, hearths, and possible house patterns, that would have been left behind by the people who presumably created the shell midden as their refuse dump.

This paper is divided into several

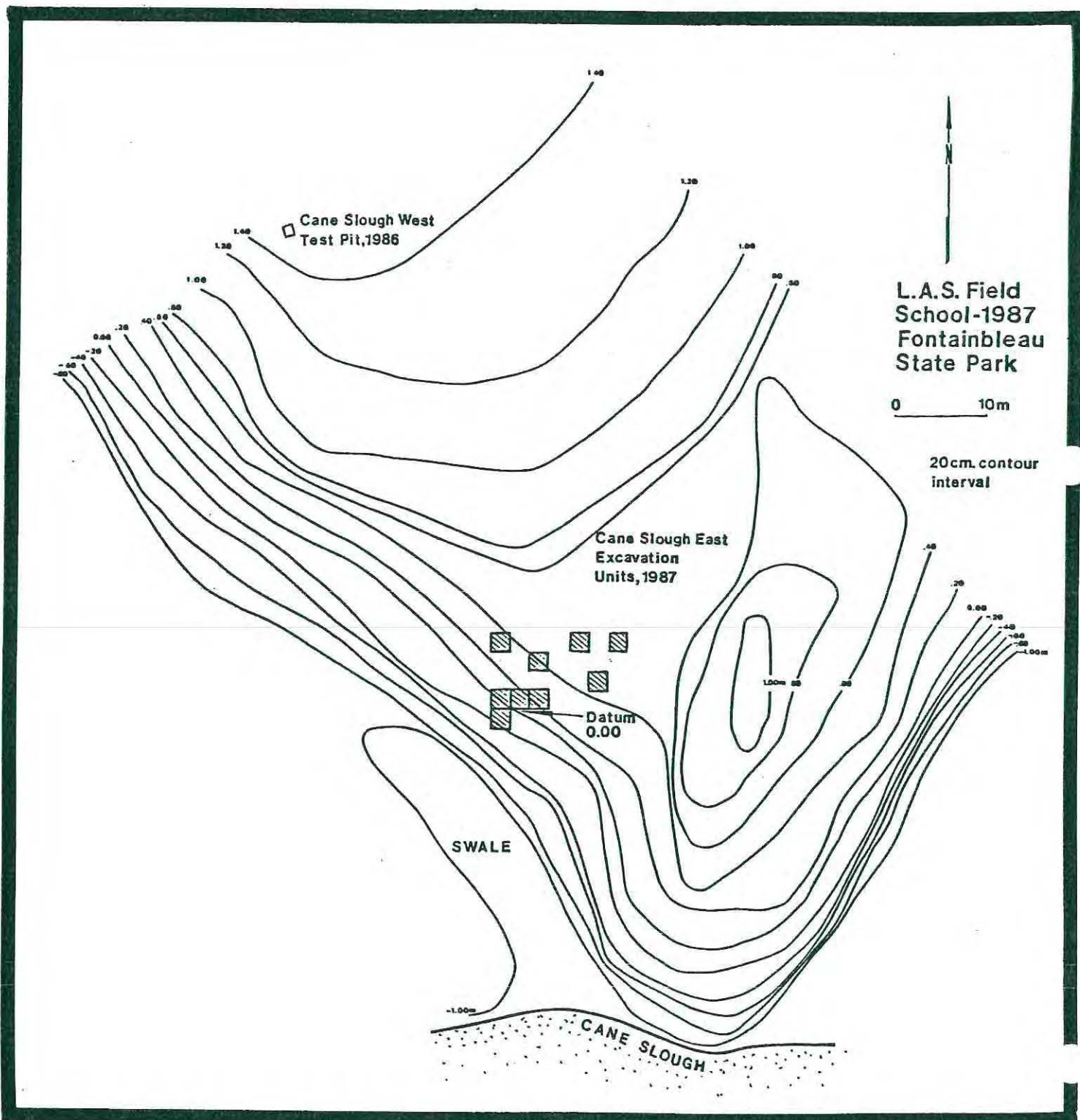


Figure 1. Contour map of the Cane Slough East site, showing excavation units adjacent to the gully.

sections, each detailing a different aspect of the investigations. Initially, a review of the field school activities will be presented, including excavation techniques. This will be followed by a discussion of the recovered artifacts (concentrating on ceramics--the most abundant artifact category found), and what the artifacts might mean in terms of both intrasite and intersite interpretations.

### Field School Activities

On Thursday morning, October 15, L.A.S. members began arriving at the site. There, a two-meter grid was set up over the site using a transit to align the grid with magnetic north. Once this grid was established, a series of auger holes was systematically dug to help define the subsurface extent of the shell midden.

On Friday, actual excavations began, starting with two-meter-square excavation units placed over the shell midden proper. Each unit was identified by the grid coordinates of its northeast corner. Additional exploratory excavation units were then opened in areas adjacent to the midden (Figure 2). Each unit was excavated by natural strata, consisting of (1) a humus layer, (2) the shell midden (when present), and (3) the underlying Prairie terrace. Waterscreens were set up along the edge of Cane Slough, located to the south of the site, and all excavated soil was screened through 1/4-, 1/8-, and 1/16-inch wire mesh. All material was saved, including all shell, and selected soil and pollen samples were taken. The shell will provide the necessary quantity of material for radiocarbon dating. Both sets of society members, those working as excavators and those as waterscreeners, performed exceptionally well. Not a single incorrectly marked bag was found once all of the material was returned to the laboratory for analysis.

Dennis Jones used his plane table and alidade to map the site. With the aid of several volunteers, Dennis was able to complete a contour map of the site in a little over two days. Those members who helped Dennis learned why it is necessary to carefully map a site so that all detailed excavation work can be contextually related to the topographical setting.

Once the excavations were completed in each unit, floor plans and wall profiles were drawn, and the unit was backfilled. By Sunday, when most of the final fieldwork was taking place, the site looked like a giant ant nest, containing many workers scurrying about at their appointed tasks.

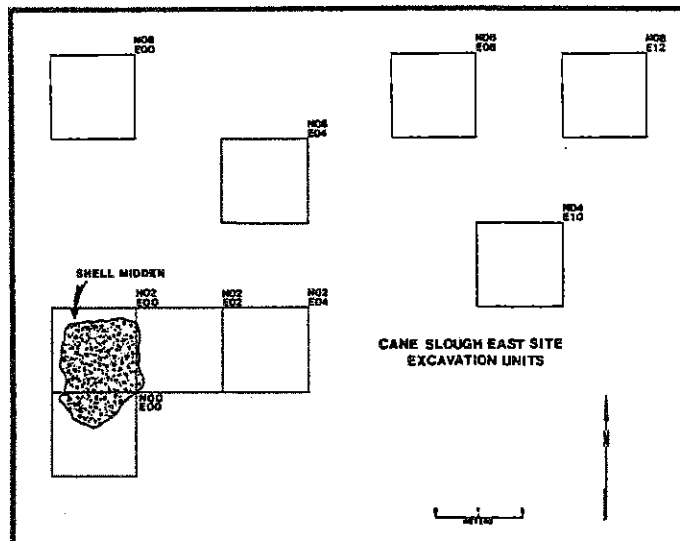


Figure 2. Detail map of the Cane Slough East excavation units, indicating the extent of the shell midden at the site.

### Results

Results of the fieldwork indicate that the Cane Slough East site consisted of a small shell midden with scattered evidence of occupation along the adjacent gully slope and atop the terrace above the midden. Unfortunately, no features relating to this additional occupation could be found, rather, only the sparse scatter of artifacts encountered in the various excavation units were noted. However, it is the belief of the authors that evidence of an aboriginal house or houses probably exists on the terrace, but in an area farther back from the gully edge than where the current investigations occurred. Perhaps additional work at the locale will eventually locate the remains of the suspected structures. Whatever the case, it is important to note that occupational evidence does exist, although in moderate quantities, away from the shell midden proper.

Although it has been over a year since the 1987 field school, analysis of the

recovered artifacts is restricted to the material recovered by hand and in the 1/4-inch screens. The overall analysis is being done by volunteers who can only work on weekends or after normal working hours, resulting in relatively slow progress. Thus, the 1/8- and 1/16-inch material has not yet been sorted or analyzed.

Overall, a total of 16 lithic items was recovered. Of note are several primary and secondary flakes, a few interior flakes, and one bifacial thinning flake. All consist of local chert, of which 19% of the specimens had been heat treated or thermally altered.

Three hundred and eighty-two (382) aboriginal ceramic sherds were recovered during the excavations. Of these, 82.8% was identified as Mississippi Plain, *var. unspecified*. Mississippi Plain is a coarse, shell-tempered ware associated with late prehistoric to historic contact period sites in the Lower Mississippi Valley and adjacent coast of the Gulf of Mexico. In this instance, the *unspecified* examples of Mississippi Plain from Cane Slough East are apparently tempered with freshwater mussel shell. A portion of the remainder of the ceramic assemblage consists of Mississippi Plain, *var. Pomme d'Or* (4.3%), a *Rangia*-tempered ware often associated with the late Mississippi period, Bayou Petre phase of southeast Louisiana (Gagliano and Weinstein 1979). A similar ceramic variety also is present in sites of the Bottle Creek phase of coastal Alabama (Fuller and Stowe 1982). Other plainwares include Bell Plain, *var. unspecified* (1.7%) and Addis Plain, *vars. Addis* (3.0%) and *Greenville* (2.0%). Decorated ceramics include Cracker Road Incised, *var. Cracker Road* (two-line variant, 0.3%), Pensacola Incised, *var. Gasque* (0.3%), Mound Place Incised, *var. unspecified* (on Bell paste, 0.7%), Parkin Punctated, *var. unspecified* (0.3%), D'Olive Incised, *var. Mary Ann* (0.3%), Leland Incised, *var. Russell* or *Bethlehem* (0.3%), Fatherland Incised, *var. Nancy* (0.3%), Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac* (0.3%), and a few unclassified sherds on either Mississippi (1.3%), Bell (0.3%), or *Addis* (0.3%) paste.

## Preliminary Interpretation

Differing artifact frequencies within a site can often reflect distinct intrasite characteristics, such as domestic activity areas, including food-preparation loci, and lithic workshop areas. Additionally, it sometimes is possible to archaeologically identify certain groups of people who may have occupied a site during one or more time intervals. At Cane Slough East, it is the overall ceramic assemblage (the types, varieties, and associated attributes), and the distribution of the assemblage across the site, that lends itself to such research.

In that light, one of the attributes selected for preliminary intrasite analysis was the overall frequency or occurrence of decorated pottery versus nondecorated or plain ceramics across the site. In this regard, the midden portion of the site clearly yielded the highest percentage of both decorated and plain ceramics. In particular, Unit N02E00 (see Figure 2) offered the highest percentage of total ceramics, with 30.0% of all decorated sherds and 32.3% of all plain sherds. Decorated wares included Mound Place Incised, Parkin Punctated, Pensacola Incised, and D'Olive Incised, *var. Mary Ann*. The latter two types are indicative of connections with the Bottle Creek phase of the Mobile Bay region. The predominant plainware was Mississippi Plain, *var. unspecified*, the freshwater mussel shell variety, accounting for 102 sherds. The second highest frequency of ceramics also occurred within the midden proper, in Unit N00E00. There, the percentage of decorated was 25.0%, while the plainwares amounted to only 11.0% of the site total. Examples of Cracker Road Incised, Fatherland Incised, and Pensacola Incised again testify to extraregional influences. In this case, relationships with Lower Mississippi Valley culture groups are noted by the sherds of Fatherland Incised and Cracker Road Incised.

On the whole, lower ceramic frequencies were noted for the remainder of the excavation units. Interestingly, however, percentages for decorated wares increased in Units N06E04 (15.0%) and N08E12 (also 15.0%). What is also interesting, is that

almost all of the decorated specimens from these units consisted of ceramics related to the Plaquemine culture of the Lower Mississippi Valley. Examples included Fatherland Incised, Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac*, and several unclassified incised sherds on *Addis* paste. Such a distribution suggests that this area of the site was the locus for either a distinct Plaquemine occupation or for the use of Plaquemine ceramics by local inhabitants of the area, whether of the Plaquemine culture or not.

In all, our attempts to identify possible cultural patterns represented by the distribution of decorated and plain sherds may be somewhat premature, considering the small amount of overall material recovered by hand and from the 1/4-inch screens. Future analysis of the 1/8- and 1/16-inch screen material may shed more light on this subject. It also should be said here that it was initially hypothesized that decorated sherds might be distributed more outside the midden proper, particularly atop the terrace, and that plainwares would be more concentrated within the midden. This assumption was based on the belief that the decorated wares represented finer, more refined vessels which would be more likely to have been utilized within a house, while the plainwares represented more utilitarian vessels that would have been more likely deposited in a refuse pile, such as the shell midden. As noted above, the moderate amount of decorated ware in Units N06E04 and N08E12 may be indicative of such a possibility, although it is clear that the vast majority of discarded ceramics were deposited within the shell midden refuse pile, thus suggesting that this was the proper place to throw broken vessels.

In terms of the placement of cultural indicators across the site, as touched upon earlier, we can only say with any conviction that the site exhibits some apparent extraregional influences, particularly noted by the ceramic specimens related to the Plaquemine culture (centered to the west and northwest), and to those specimens indicative of the Pensacola variant of the Mississippian culture (located principally to the east around Mobile Bay and the Florida Gulf coast). Considering this fact, plus the relatively small size of the shell midden, it

seems reasonable to assume that the site represents a single-component, presumably semi-permanent or seasonal habitation, perhaps occupied for only one or two seasons. It also is clear that all of the recovered ceramics are temporally homogeneous, dating to late Mississippi and/or protohistoric times (ca. A.D. 1450 to 1700).

In addition, it is possible to compare the Cane Slough East ceramic assemblage to other assemblages recovered from sites along the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. One excellent example is the Quave collection, an interesting assortment of pottery obtained from several localities along Lake Pontchartrain near Madisonville (Riser 1987a, 1987b). Recent analysis of the collection (Weinstein 1987) indicates that the pottery is comprised of a mixed cultural bag, representing Coles Creek (35.6%), Plaquemine (5.4%), and Mississippian (60.0%) cultures. As at Cane Slough East, the Mississippian affiliation is the most pronounced.

In the Quave collection, sherds which could be related to Mississippian cultural influence from the Lower Mississippi Valley included examples of Barton Incised, Cracker Road Incised, Leland Incised, Owens Punctated, Parkin Punctated, and Winterville Incised, while Plaquemine culture sherds included Fatherland Incised, *vars. Fatherland* and *Bayou Goula*. The eastern-Gulf Mississippian tradition could be recognized by sherds of D'Olive Incised and Pensacola Incised. Based on this, both the later elements in the Quave collection and the assemblage from Cane Slough East are probably contemporaneous to some degree.

## SUMMARY

In conclusion, the preliminary analysis of the Cane Slough East site, based primarily on its ceramic assemblage, defines a small, marginal, late prehistoric occupation that presumably dates to late Mississippi and/or protohistoric times. The site is located along the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, at the crossroads, so to speak, between two dominant Mississippian cultural areas, to the east and northwest, and the Plaquemine culture, to the west.

It is our educated guess, therefore, that what we are seeing at Cane Slough East and other similar sites, such as those represented by the Quave collection, is the remains of the late prehistoric and protohistoric Acolapissa Indians. During early historic times, these Indians reportedly had several villages west of the Pearl River and along the major rivers draining the terrace across the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain (Swanton 1911:281-284). It is interesting to note that historically the name "Acolapissa" is of Choctaw or Mobilian derivation, and means "those who see and hear" (Swanton 1911:281). At the time of French contact (ca. 1700), the north shore Acolapissa maintained outlying village outposts, both to the west on the Mississippi River, and to the east towards the Pearl River Basin. With trade and communication between these village groups having been documented during early European contact, it is not entirely unreasonable to assume that this native communication network was founded in the region's prehistory. This, then, helps to explain, the presence of both Lower Mississippi Valley Mississippian and Plaquemine pottery and Pensacola Mississippian ceramics at Cane Slough East. It also indicates the type of ceramic assemblage one should expect in attempting to locate other Acolapissa occupation sites in the region.

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### HISTORY OF LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

Submitted by the Southwest  
Louisiana Convention and  
Visitors Bureau

Lake Charles, which dominates the southwest corner of Louisiana, is a city with a romantic past and promising future. Only thirty miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico, Lake Charles was once a haven for pirates who hid their contraband along the labyrinth of backwaters and bayous.

The city's beginnings can be traced to the 1760s when the first French settlers came to carve homesteads out of the dense pine forests which covered the territory. Among them were Charles and Catherine

Sallier, who built the first home on the shell beach where Lake Charles now stands. The town soon became known as "Charlie's Lake." But the Indian name prevailed for the river and the parish. The Attakapas tribe named the river for a famous chief, Crying Eagle. Rendered in French, the name evolved to "Calcasieu."

The legendary pirate Jean Lafitte made the Calcasieu country his headquarters in the early 1800s. The famous renegade and his band of "privateers" routinely plundered Spanish ships on the high seas.

After the Civil War, Lake Charles became a lumber town, with a healthy schooner trade. The settlement was swamped with orders for lumber to rebuild the war-torn South. The imprint of the city's days as a lumber capital can still be seen in some of the Lake Charles fine old wooden homes, built of cypress and pine a century ago.

In the early 1900s, a series of natural disasters struck the people of Lake Charles. Through fire, flood, and hurricanes, the citizens of Lake Charles proved to be very self-reliant. They rebuilt their businesses and reworked their farms. And in 1922, with the lumber industry on the wane, they voted to finance a deep-water port. The opening of the port in 1926 paved the way for the industrial development of Lake Charles. The port can now accommodate up to 13 ships at one time. It is connected to the Gulf by a ship channel 400 feet wide at the bottom and 40 feet deep.

Today, Lake Charles is a city of nearly 80,000 people of varied backgrounds. It is a center of international commerce--with a bustling deep-water port, abundant oil and gas reserves, and sprawling petrochemical complex.

Lake Charles is an attractive city--set on a scenic lake in the midst of a "Sportsman's Paradise" that abounds in waterfowl, wildlife, and miles of natural waterways.

It has been said that many people come to Lake Charles for their work and stay

for the fun. Newcomers often comment that it is a city with big-town facilities and small-town friendliness.

## **CHAPTER NEWS**

### **Imperial Calcasieu Chapter Reported by Joseph V. Frank III**

Harry Tanner, President of the Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society, was the the October speaker for the chapter. He presented a video-tape program on Moundville, Alabama. Mr. Tanner was fortunate in that he was able to film an ongoing archaeological dig by the University of Alabama at the site.

There also was a speaker from the Southwest Louisiana Convention and Visitors Bureau, which will help with the upcoming L.A.S. conference in Lake Charles on January 20, 21, and 22, 1989.

New officers for the chapter are:  
President--Harry Tanner  
Vice-President--Mark Wentz  
Secretary--Donita Burton  
Treasurer--Gordon Wooster  
Program Director--Buddy Spiller

### **Northeast Chapter Reported by Claire Davis**

The Northeast Chapter has grown in numbers (36 current members), in experience (through the programs we have attended), and in fellowship. It is a viable, active chapter.

In addition to the regular September meeting, members of the chapter met at Poverty Point on September 24th to participate in the Archaeology Week activities taking place there. Park Rangers Dennis La Batt, David Griffing, and Mary Borden had prepared a demonstration on Poverty Point crafts. Debbie Woodiel of the Office of State Parks gave a very informative and interesting lecture about "Poverty Point Area Prehistory." Carl Doney and Glen Greene also conducted craft demonstrations and discussed their current research. The chapter gained several new members and added greatly to its list of friends.

At the October meeting, Carl Doney, a long-time member of the chapter who is presently a graduate assistant at NLU's School of Geoscience, gave a wonderful presentation on his recent trip to Idaho to attend Dr. Jeffery J. Flenniken's Flint Knapping Field School. Carl had us all pop-eyed and speechless. His four weeks at the field school were put to excellent use. He learned to work with different materials, using knapping methods from various cultures around the world. He learned how to flute a Clovis point, and has started to learn the skills necessary to make a Folsom point. Carl is getting ready to put his knowledge to use, and is planning to hold a knapping school for chapter members.

Mark Arrant also participated in the October meeting. He brought his bow, arrows, and skin hunting suit, all made by himself. Members especially liked the apricot-colored agate arrow point.

The meeting in November featured Dr. Glen Greene, who brought us up to date on his newest research at Poverty Point.

The chapter meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:15 pm on the first floor of the Chemistry Building on the NLU campus.

**Northwest Chapter  
Reported by  
David R. Jeane**

The Northwest Chapter, as usual, is having a most productive year conducting archaeological research. In fact, it has been difficult to track down everybody long enough to solicit information for this update. I will attempt to summarize our various activities and hope that I don't leave anyone out.

In January we were very busy making all the last minute arrangements for the L.A.S. Annual Meeting held in Bossier City. It is due to the hard work by all the various committees that the meeting was such a success.

A brief explanation is in order here, as our chapter is in a rather unique position in regard to our field and laboratory activities. Being located in the northwestern section of the state puts most of our members within 75 miles of Magnolia, Arkansas, where the Arkansas Archeological Survey has a research station and laboratory. The

Kadohadacho Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society is also located there. Most of our members hold dual memberships in both the L.A.S. and the A.A.S., so that we are able to work under the direction of Dr. Frank Schambach, and use his laboratory facilities. The Indians had no state line between Arkansas and Louisiana, so we don't recognize one either. Also, we are able to curate all of the artifacts recovered in our various projects into the research collections there. They are accessible to anyone with legitimate research needs, and we thereby avoid the problem of ownership of artifacts obtained in our various projects. I think that this will prove to be a tremendous benefit in years to come, for both the state of Louisiana and the state of Arkansas, in that the material is all in one place.

Several of our members are retired and are able to devote full-time attention to the projects we work on, while others only can work on weekends. In March, we undertook a project to locate the Sulphur Fork Factory, an Indian trading post established by the United States Government on Red River in 1817. Claude McCrocklin headed this project, and, using documentary research, narrowed down the potential site area to a spot about seven miles north of the state line in Arkansas. With his field crew of Ruth Rainey, Jim Hardy, Craig Kennedy, and others, Claude walked the area and located several sites which fit the documentary evidence, and that had surface material which seemed to be of the right age. One site, 3MI266, was selected, and test excavations were begun, with work continuing through April, May, June, and part of July. Several structures were defined, and a tremendous amount of material was excavated, and that is now being processed through the laboratory. A preliminary report will be given at the L.A.S. meeting in Lake Charles.

New member Roger McCoy has located an historic Caddo site south of Shreveport. He, along with Kenneth and Tommy Barr, will work with Dr. Pete Gregory of Northwestern State University in testing this site.

In August, Claude McCrocklin and Ruth Rainey returned to the Coushatta site complex along Red River and began to record additional sites. Working under the

auspices of Dr. Schambach, they are "piece-plotting" artifacts and making a large-scale site map of the area. Two test units were excavated at one site with the recovery of some unusual artifacts. Dr. Schambach has contacted the Division of Archaeology and Northwestern State University in hopes of arriving at some solution to protect and study these important sites.

Donald Duncan, Louis Baker, and David Jeane participated in the Arkansas Archeological Society Dig at the Toltec Mounds site. In addition, Donald and Louis took seminars that will enable them to advance in their certification program.

In October and November, two large excavation projects will begin in Arkansas. One will be an eight-week testing program at a large site on the Buffalo River, and the other will be a two-week testing effort at a site on Red River. Several members will provide volunteer labor on these projects.

Our monthly meetings have included the following programs:

January--Slide program on the Ozette site in Washington.

February--Film on the Yanomamo Indians of South America.

March--Artifact identification session with Dr. Clarence Webb.

April--Video tape "Lost in Time."

May--Video tape on Tunica Indians.

June--Slide program on the Sulphur Fork site.

July--Slide program on Mounds Plantation.

August--Slide program on Crow Canyon site in Colorado.

September--La. Archaeology Week lecture by Dr. Frank Schambach.

October--Slide program on Southern Cult artifacts.

As you can see, we are having a very busy year here in north Louisiana. We meet on the fourth Thursday night of each month at 7:30 pm in Room 114 of the Mickle Science Building, Centenary College, Shreveport.





**REGISTRATION AND CALL FOR PAPERS**

**LOUISIANA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 20, 21, 22, 1989**

**Chateau Charles Hotel, P. O. Box 1381, Lake Charles, La. 70602  
1-800-227-2605**

*Registration Fee, if paid now, will be:* \_\_\_\_\_ **\$ 8.00**  
*Registration Fee at the meeting will be:* \_\_\_\_\_ **\$10.00**

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