



NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2017

Vol. 45, No.1



“Smokye” Joe Frank (left) and Richard Weinstein Show Their Awards at the 2017 LAS Annual Meeting in Marksville, LA. See Page 6!

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New Orleans, Louisiana

If you have a regular membership in the LAS and have not paid your dues for 2017, this will be your last LAS newsletter. Please rejoin now.
Go to the LAS website:
www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org

Editor's Note- The 2017 Annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society was judged a great success by all who attended. The program is presented below for the benefit of those who could not make it.

**Program for the 2017 LAS meeting at the Paragon Casino/Hotel
Marksville, LA, February 10-12**

8:10-8:20 **Welcoming remarks:** Brian Ostahowski, Louisiana Archaeological Society

8:20 - 8:40 James Fogleman (Louisiana Archaeological Society)

They All Axed for You: Celts and Celt Manufacture in Central Louisiana.

8:40 - 9:00 Samuel O. Brookes

Mississippi Treasures: Saved, Missing, and Lost

9:00 - 9:20 Arlice Marionneaux

Research Potential at La Balise: A Submerged Archaeological Frontier La Balise was a French outpost in the Southeast Pass of the Mississippi River.

10:00 - 10:20 Diana M. Greenlee (Poverty Point Station/Univ. Louisiana Monroe), A. James Delahoussaye (Univ. of Louisiana Lafayette), and Karen L. Leone (Gray & Pape)

Aw, Nuts! Fishy Goings-On with Poverty Point Subsistence

10:20 - 10:40 Nathanael Heller (R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.)

Results of the 1975 LSUMNS Excavations at the Bayou Jasmine Site, 16SJB2

10:40 - 11:00 Richard A. Weinstein, Douglas C. Wells, and Joanne Ryan (Coastal Environments, Inc.)

Coles Creek in the Tensas Basin of Louisiana: The Past 20 Years of Research

11:00 - 11:20 Jeffrey S. Girard (Northwestern State) Leslie G. Cecil (Stephen F. Austin State University)

Comparing Caddo and Coles Creek Pottery Using Petrographic Analysis

1:20-1:40 Randall Dupont (Louisiana State University at Alexandria)

An Employment and Wage Analysis of Anthropology and Archaeology Occupations

1:40-2:00 Dean Nones; Alesha Marcum-Heiman; Diana M. Greenlee (Poverty Point Station; Univ.

Louisiana Monroe)

Beyond the Boundaries: Archaeological Investigation and Public Outreach by Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program

2:00-2:20 Mark A. Rees (Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab; University of Louisiana Lafayette)

Ile Copal Survey and the Bayou Vermilion Archaeological Project: A Public Archaeology Primer in Lafayette, Louisiana

3:00-3:20 Christopher M. Grant (University of Chicago)

Found in the Faubourg: Recent Archaeology and the History of Labor in the Early Tremé.

3:20-3:40 James Green (Services Unlimited)

In Sight of Paragon: Survey & Analysis of a Site in Marksville, La.

3:40-4:00 Chip McGimsey (Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism)

A Pictorial History of 90 years of Digging at the Marksville site

4:00-4:20 Dennis Jones and Carl Kuttruff (Louisiana Archaeological Society)

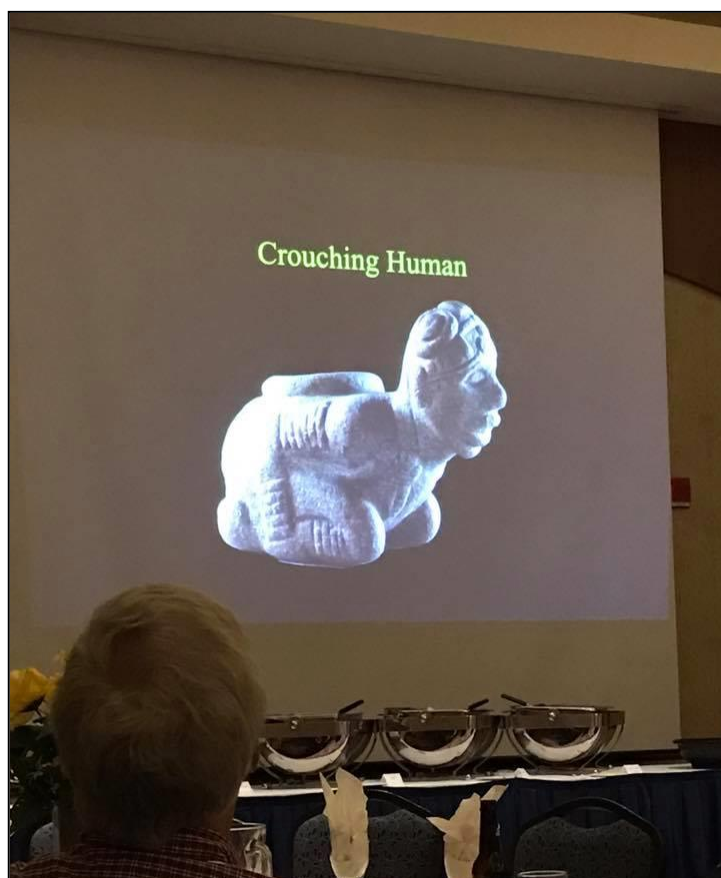
Up Against the Wall (Again): A Review of the 1993 LAS Excavations at Enclosure A, Marksville Site (16AV1)

4:20-4:40 **Video Presentation “Ancient Mound Builders: The Marksville State Historic Site” Closing Remarks and Information regarding Sunday Tours.**

Abstract from LAS Keynote Address by Dr. Vincas Steponaitis, Delivered during the Banquet, February 11, 2017, Paragon Casino, Marksville

Effigy Pipes from The Lower Mississippi Valley: Sources and Styles

Many beautiful effigy pipes are known from late-prehistoric sites in the Lower Mississippi Valley. These pipes depict crouching humans, long-tailed panthers, and monstrous animal composites, among other subjects. Most were made of Glendon Limestone or Catahoula Sandstone, which outcrop along the loess bluffs from Vicksburg to Natchez. The pipes were crafted by master carvers in a distinctive style called Bellaire, and they were probably used in religious ceremonies by shamans or priests who acquired spiritual power through the act of smoking tobacco.



One of the many impressive slides showing prehistoric effigy pipes presented by Vin Steponaitis during his keynote address at the 2017 LAS Annual Meeting.

On Sunday, February 12, attendees of the 2017 LAS annual meeting made a tour of the Tunica-Biloxi Indian Cultural and Education Center.



A-Entrance to the Tunica-Biloxi Indian Museum in Marksville, B - Brent Barbry, Lab Director at the Museum, C – Donna Pierite, Legend Keeper for the Tunica-Biloxi, D-Items in curation facility that include the Tunica Treasure, and E – Vented work station for conservation work on artifacts stored and displayed at the museum.



Attendees of the 2017 LAS Annual meeting also visited the now closed Marksville State Historic Site. The tour was led by Dr. Chip McGimsey, LA State Archaeologist and long-time researcher at the Marksville site. The walking tour included a visit to all the mounds within Enclosure A and a lively discussion of the site's significance in Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley prehistoric archaeology.



A-Chip McGimsey addressing the tour, B- opened door at the museum that is usually closed, C- Mound 4 at the Marksville site, and D- artistic rendering of the Marksville site by Martin Pate.





ROGER T. SAUCIER AWARD
Long-time LAS member, David Jeane (left), presenting the Roger T. Saucier Award to “Smokye” Joe Frank during the banquet at the LAS 2017 Annual Meeting. This award goes to avocational archaeologists selected by the LAS Executive Committee who have made substantial contributions to Louisiana Archaeology. During his presentation, David recalled Smokye’s participation in meetings, surveys, excavations, and other activities over the past 50+ years. Some of his contributions stretched all the way back to his student days at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches where he was mentored by Dr. Pete Gregory. A long-time resident of Natchez, MS, Smokye has also made significant contributions to the archaeology of Mississippi.

JAMES A. FORD AWARD

Duke Rivet made remarks to those assembled at the banquet during the 2017 LAS Annual Meeting for the James A. Ford Award given to Rich Weinstein. This award, named after a pioneering figure in Lower Mississippi Valley archaeology and also given by the LAS Executive Committee, is presented to a professional archaeologist who has made a significant contribution to Louisiana archaeology.

Duke pointed out during his presentation that “the James A. Ford Award recognizes major achievements in five areas: 1) devotion to Louisiana archaeology; 2) performance excellence and adherence to the highest standards in conduct of fieldwork; 3) rapid and high quality presentation of completed fieldwork through publication and oral presentations at meetings; 4) presenting and teaching, formally or informally, the archaeology of Louisiana to the archaeological community and to the general public, and 5) a dedication to the organization and motivation of persons interested in Louisiana archaeology.”

Duke also noted that Rich has worked for Coastal Environments, Inc. as an archaeologist since 1974, the same year he received a M.A. from LSU. He is now a vice-president at CEI. Duke also gave a summary of Rich’s professional achievements: “In the Cultural Resources Management field, Rich has done it all, from Phase I surveys (32), to Phase II site testing (19) to Phase III data recovery projects (10), in five states – Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Florida. His resume lists 10 monographs, 43 articles, 3 web site publications, 74 papers/posters presented, and 108 contract reports. A truly impressive resume! Additionally, he has no less than 18 professional affiliations.”

Rich and Smokye Joe both received standing ovations from the audience at the LAS banquet in recognition of their



LAS CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Northwest Louisiana Archaeological Society ventured out on a field trip to the Poverty Point World Heritage Site on March 4, 2017. Dr. Diana Greenlee led our tour of the site and discussion about the Poverty Point people, their architecture, and lifeways. Following the tour and talk there was an opportunity to screen dirt from a construction project for the recovery of artifacts. Much fun was had by all!

-Tad Britt, NWLAS President



Left: Members of the NWLAS chapter screening construction fill under the supervision of Diana Greenlee during their visit to Poverty Point in March. Above: NWLAS members who went on the trip to the Poverty Point World Heritage Site.

Jeff Girard's presentation, *Archaeology and Ancient Times: A Concise Survey of 14,000 Years in NW Louisiana* at the NWLAS meeting on April 13, 2017 traced what we have learned, and hope to learn, from the study of the material remains of past human activity in northwest Louisiana.

He began with the nomadic hunter-gatherers at the end of the last Ice Age, continued through the settled farming and fishing villages of the Caddo, and concluded with the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution and formation of the modern cultural landscape in the 19th century. Girard's emphasis was on discussing major changes in camps, towns, and villages; tools and technologies; weaponry and fortifications; foods; houses and other buildings; and mounds and earthworks.



Jeff Girard making his presentation at the April meeting of the NWLAS.

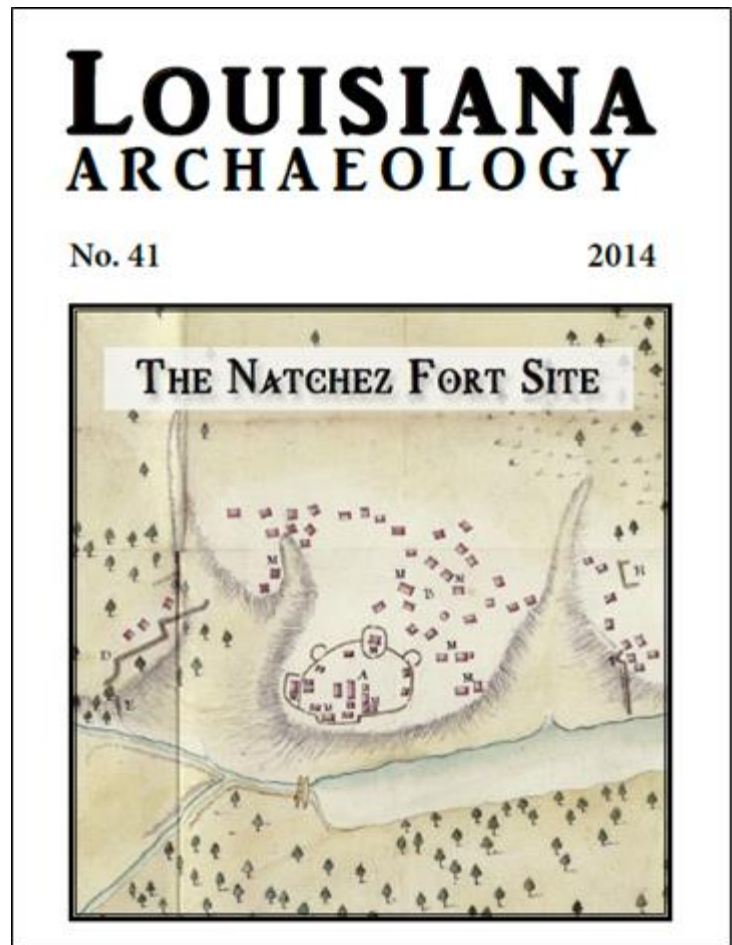
2014 LAS Bulletin now available

This issue is devoted to a single archaeological site: the Natchez Fort site (16CT17) in Catahoula Parish. Located near the modern community of Sicily Island, this site was the scene of a 1731 siege by the French military and their Native American allies upon a fortification built by the remnants of the Natchez Indians who had fled their homeland on the east bank of the Mississippi River. They had hoped to escape further French retribution for the so-called Natchez Massacre of 1729 when the Natchez Indians wiped out the French colony located at what is now the modern city of Natchez, MS.

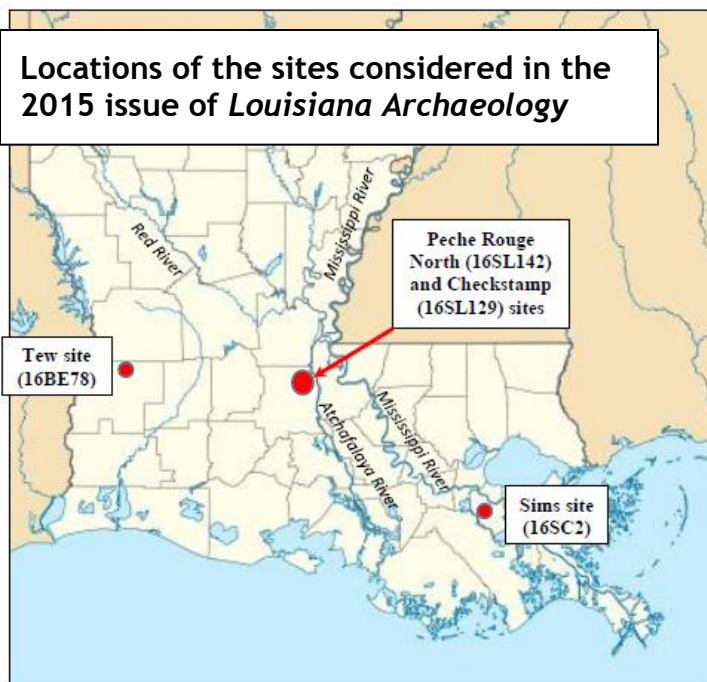
Published in time for the 2017 LAS Annual Meeting in Marksville, this bulletin was distributed there. It also has been mailed to the 2014 LAS membership. If you were a member, but have not received your copy, contact the LAS Editor via email at archaeoman.jones@gmail.com. Additional copies can also be purchased via the LAS website for \$8 per copy. This price includes postage.

In addition to reprints of articles about the history of this site, this volume also includes a description of 10 burials within the fort and an analysis of artifacts recovered from those burials by Dr. Vin Steponaitis and Brandon Prickett. Dr. Ginesse Listi with the LSU FACES Lab also

provided an analysis of teeth recovered from the burials. The thousands of artifacts recovered from the Natchez Fort site were collected by Mr. Jack Shaffer as the site was being destroyed by land-leveling activities carried out the land owner in the 1980s. This material has since been donated to the state of Louisiana and currently resides at the curation facility of the LA Division of Archaeology



Locations of the sites considered in the 2015 issue of *Louisiana Archaeology*



2015 LAS Bulletin coming soon!

The 2015 issue of *Louisiana Archaeology* (No. 42) is to be published soon. Later this year, copies of this bulletin will be mailed to the 2015 membership of the LAS and available for purchase on the LAS website. This issue will contain articles about prehistoric sites from three separate parts of the state. The titles are as follow:

Reconsidering the Sims Site (16SC2), St Charles Parish, Louisiana, by Christopher B. Rodning and Jayur Mehta.

Surprise, Surprise: Two Unexpected Lithic Artifact Types from St. Landry Parish, by James A. Fogleman.

The Tew Site (16BE78): A Multicomponent Prehistoric Site in Beauregard Parish, Louisiana, by James A. Green, Jr.

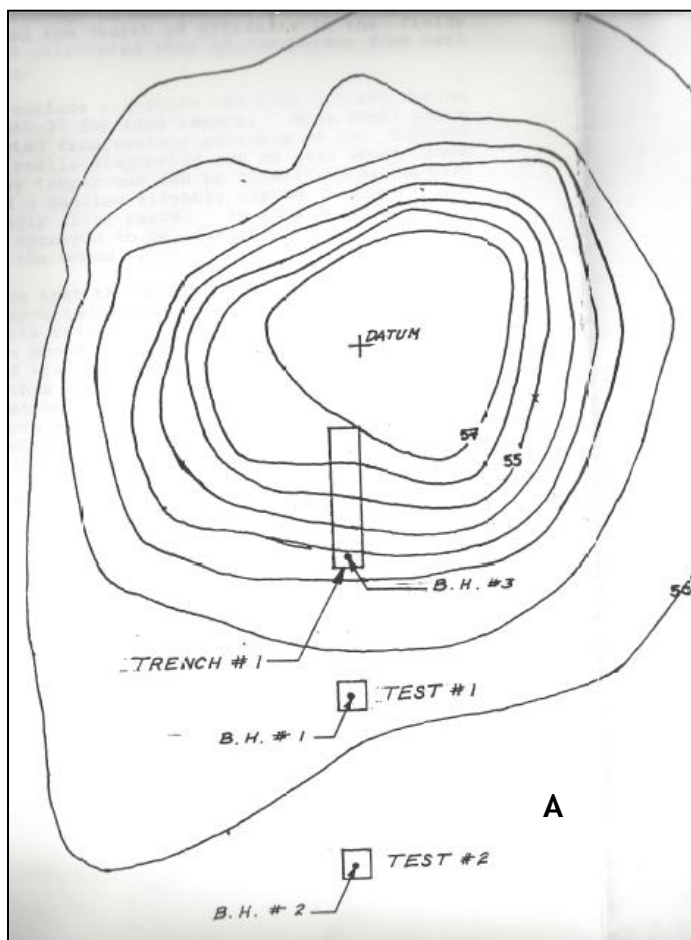
Members of the LAS and others are encouraged to submit articles for the LAS bulletin. Contact the LAS editor via the LAS website with any questions.

PRESERVATION NEWS

The Mayeux brothers, Carlos, Richard, and Mark have donated an archaeological preservation servitude to the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy (LAC) for the Mayeux Mound site (16AV37) near Hamburg, Louisiana in Avoyelles Parish. The pyramidal platform mound near the west bank of Bayou Des Glaises has been well maintained by the Mayeux family for generations. While the family has cultivated the surrounding area, the mound itself has never been damaged by cultivation, vandalism, or looting.

Standing about eight feet above the surrounding surface, this mound has a summit that measures about 40 by 55 ft, while the base is about 90 ft east-west and 84 feet north south. The site was first report in 1939, possibly by Robert S. Neitzel and was tested by Carl Kuttruff in 1966 when he was a graduate student at LSU. Kuttruff placed units in the flank and base of the mound. These excavations and soil probes in the floors of the units led Kuttruff to conclude that mound's original dimensions are obscured by perhaps as much as 12 ft of alluvium from the nearby bayou. The material recovered by Kuttruff suggested it was a Plaquemine period mound dating from ca. AD 1000-1600. The possible original height of the mound as ca. 20 feet would make this mound comparable to the Nick Farm site (16AV22) near Marksville excavated by the WPA in 1940.

LAC members attorney Mark Dupuy of Marksville and former Marksville resident Stu Braud, expedited the donation of this servitude, which puts a stipulation in the property deed that this mound and one acre surrounding it are exempt from any modifications or destruction by future land owners when and if the property is sold. This legal arrangement allows property owners to retain title to the property, but "encumbers" current and future owners not to disturb the site.



A-Kuttruff's 1966 contour map of the Mayeux Mound showing the locations of excavations, B-photo of Mayeux Mound looking west, C- February 2017 photo on the summit of the mound. L-R: Carlos Mayeux, Chip McGimsey, Dennis Jones, and Marc Dupuy.

FIELD NOTES AND CURRENT RESEARCH

News from Kisatchie National Forest: the Latest PIT Project

By Paul French-Caney Ranger District

Kisatchie National Forest recently finished a successful weeklong Passport in Time (PIT) project on its Caney Ranger District. During the week, thirteen PIT volunteers along with Forest Archaeologist Velicia Bergstrom and North Zone Archaeologist Paul French set forth to expand their knowledge of the Muckaduck site (16CL197).

Muckaduck is a multicomponent prehistoric village site that was first discovered in 2015 in advance of planned ground disturbing activities within the Forest (Figure 1). It is situated on a floodplain along the Field Branch of Corney Bayou. This is significant as its location makes it accessible to several major waterways found throughout Louisiana including routes to the Gulf of Mexico.

Diagnostic material uncovered during initial site delineation showed a majority Coles Creek occupation; however, later Mississippian/Plaquemines ceramics are included in the upper stratigraphic layers.

The initial work completed at the site sets forth a good foundation for further study. Going off this groundwork, PIT had two main goals with their field project. The first being to complete delineation of the site. The initial fieldwork was limited by the boundaries of potential effect from the Forest project and as such was cut short by timber stand boundaries. The PIT project went outside these timber stand boundaries to increase the total site size by 5600 square meters to 21,350 square meters. Along with being able to develop more established research goals, fully understanding site size will help with future Forest management.

Past completing the delineation, the PIT project also had the goal of conducting Phase II testing at the site. For this portion of the project, Forest archaeologists implemented a new GIS based in situ predictive model. This modeling used data from the initial delineation to develop datasets for both site artifact density and artifact recovery depth. The visual representation of these two datasets in the form of heat maps (Figures 2 and 3) were then overlaid on top of one another to determine what part of the site had the highest instance of artifacts and deepest deposits (Figure 4). It is believed that this area of overlap will have the highest likelihood for intact cultural deposits.

Using this as a starting point, PIT volunteers were able to place five one square meter units in and adjacent to the high probability area (Figure 5). Each unit was taken down in 10cm arbitrary levels by trowel with soil then being screened through ¼-inch wire

mesh. Artifact analysis is still in progress, but early estimates on recovery are high at several hundred pieces thus far. In addition to the high artifact recovery, three postholes and a small pit were uncovered during excavation (Figure 6).

The 2017 PIT project was considered a success and will hopefully result in further excavations in the future. It should also be noted that while features were uncovered, additional units will need to be opened to test the use of the new GIS predictive model.

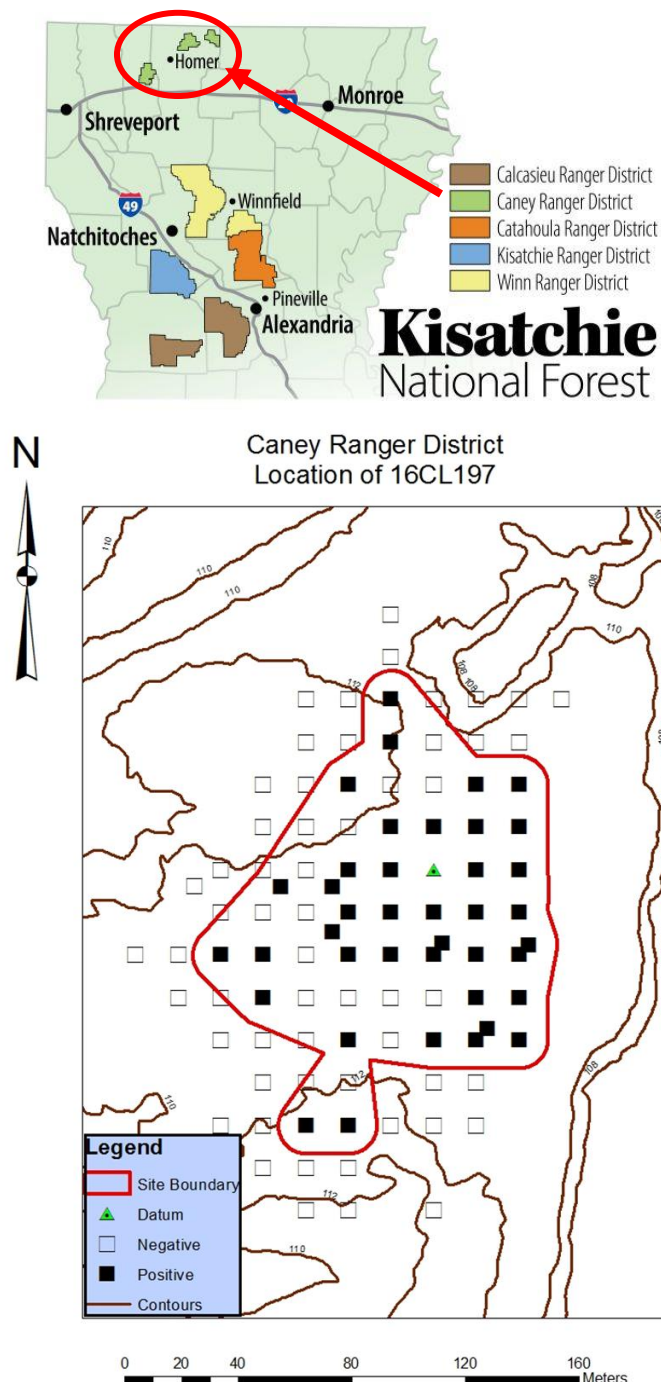
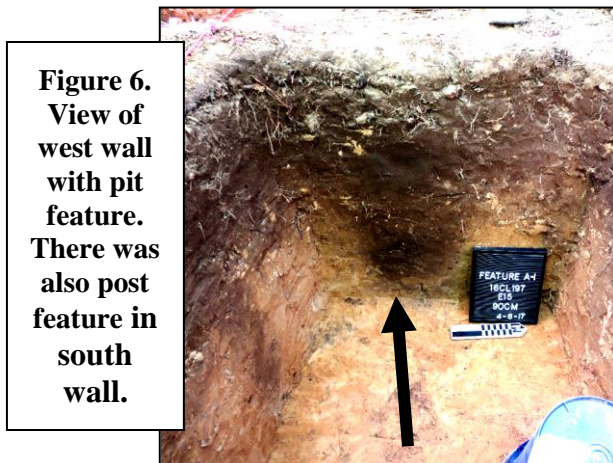
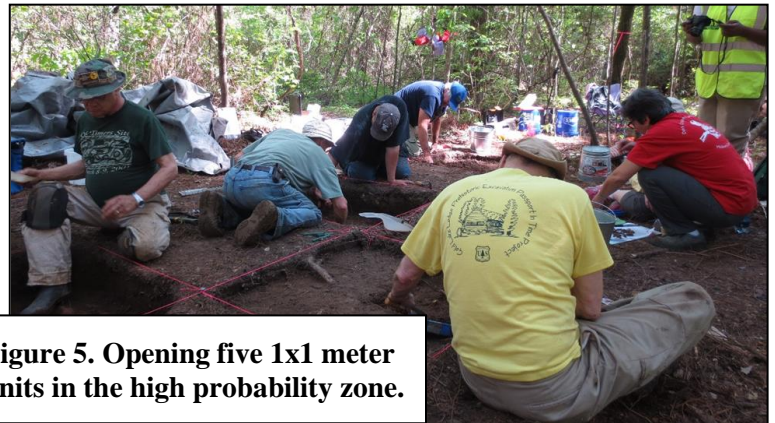
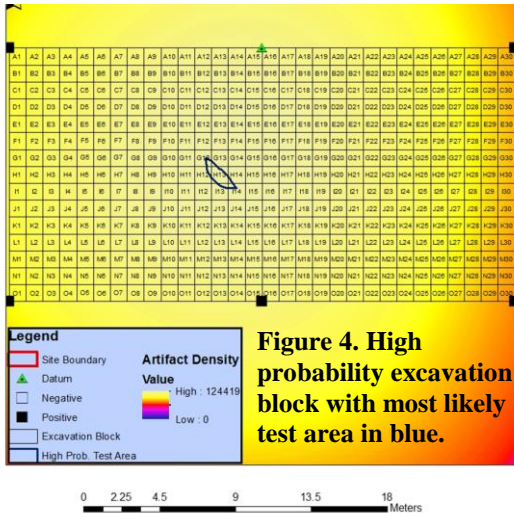
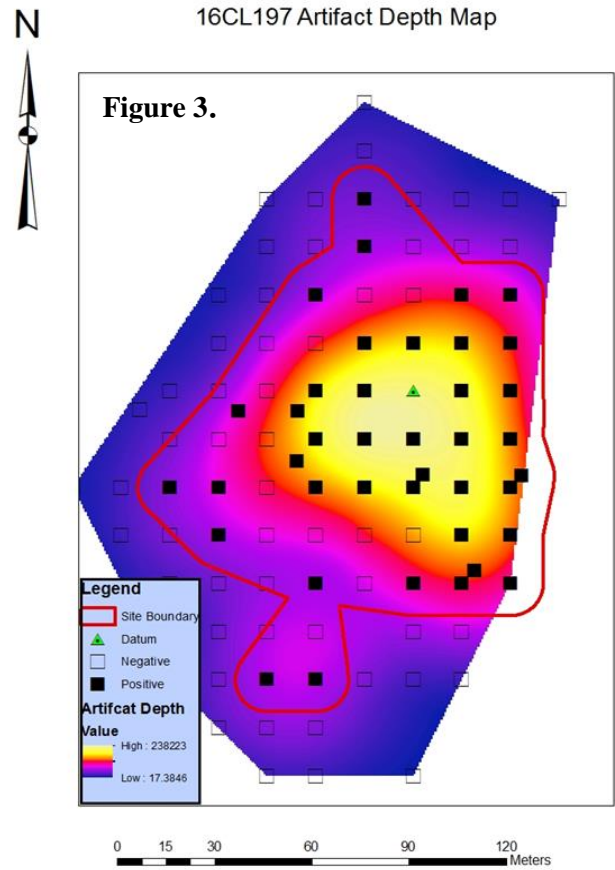
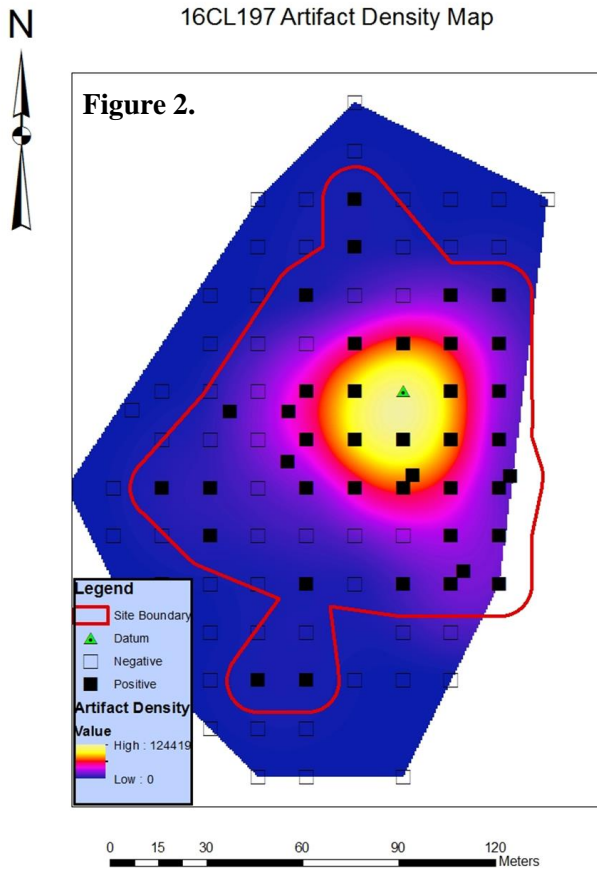
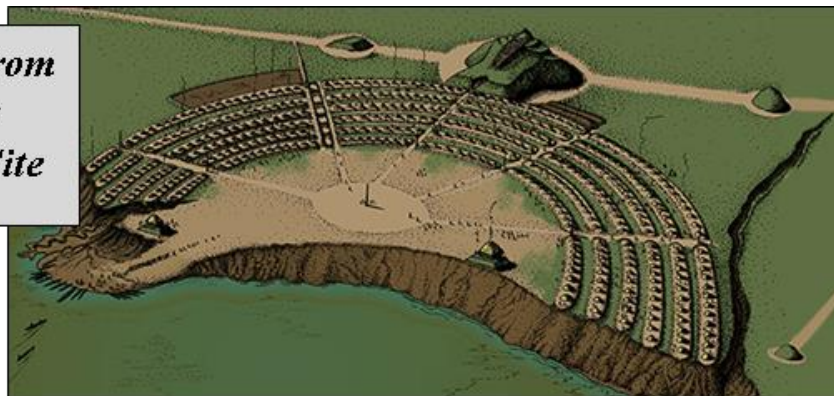


Figure 1. 2015 delineation of the Muckaduck site.



*Research News from
the Poverty Point
World Heritage Site*



Update on Poverty Point Compatible Use Zone (PPCUZ) Project and Other Research

By Diana Greenlee, Poverty Point World Heritage Site

In January 2017, the Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program began investigating the landscape around the Poverty Point World Heritage Site (WHS). We are conducting a “siteless” survey, which assumes that there is a continuous distribution of artifacts across the landscape and that variation in the density and characteristics of artifacts corresponds to different use histories of the land. By documenting the spatial patterning of artifacts, we hope to understand the full range of landscape use through time.

Dean Nones and Alesha Marcum-Heiman have been leading the effort. With permission from property owners and farmers, archaeologists and volunteers (Joe Perkins, Roy Hammett, and UPPA members) have been walking cultivated fields, spaced four rows (approx. 3 m) apart (Figure 1). They flag, acquire locational information for, and collect all prehistoric artifacts, all temporally diagnostic historic artifacts, and a sample of non-diagnostic historic artifacts (e.g., plain white ware, bricks, metal, and glass). Dean and Alesha are also documenting artifact collections belonging to landowners, farmers, and other individuals.

The weather this spring has not allowed as much field work as we would have liked. Thus far, 455.1 acres (184.2 ha) in eleven fields have been surveyed and 4,307 artifacts have been mapped and collected (Figure 2). When field conditions are not suitable, the crew washes and catalogs artifacts and works on site forms. In addition to several historic house sites, the project has documented one previously unknown Poverty Point culture deposit, has expanded significantly the temporal and spatial extent of the Epps Mound site (16EC16), and has produced a systematically collected sample of artifacts adjacent to the Lower Jackson Mound site (16WC10). Other clusters of prehistoric artifacts (for which site forms will likely be submitted) have been observed, but the catalogs and spatial analyses are not yet complete.

Binghamton University brought faculty, graduate students, and participants in their Freshman Research Immersion program to Poverty Point WHS in early April. They used various geophysical methods (magnetometry, resistivity, conductivity, and ground penetrating radar) and drones (with aerial photography, multispectral imaging, and LiDAR capabilities) to examine parts of Poverty Point and the surrounding landscape (Figure 3). As a service to the local community, the visiting researchers surveyed a cemetery with unmarked graves in order to locate those burial plots (Figure 4).

In May and June, the Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program will host archaeological field schools from the University of South Alabama, Mississippi State University, Binghamton University, and the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Because most agricultural fields will be “off-limits” during this time, the focus of their efforts will be on shovel-test and geophysical surveys of areas not in cultivation, primarily grass plots and woodlands. In addition, the unknown Poverty Point site mentioned above will be examined more closely.

*Editor’s Note- See the last LAS newsletter, Vol 44-
No.3, for more information about the PPCUZ survey
around the Poverty Point World Heritage Site.*

Figure 1. UPPA volunteers assisting with pedestrian survey.



Figure 2. Projectile point found during pedestrian survey in vicinity of Lower Jackson Mound. Photo by Alesha Marcum-Heiman.

Figure 3. Binghamton University faculty deploying a remote-controlled drone to acquire aerial images of a locale containing Poverty Point artifacts. Photo by Alesha Marcum-Heiman.

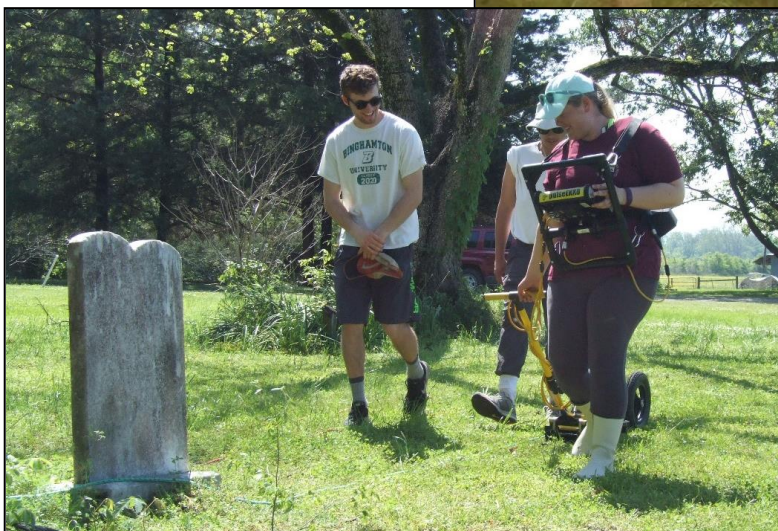


Figure 4. Binghamton University students using ground penetrating radar to locate unmarked graves in the Walnut Grove Cemetery.

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UNO LEADS JOINT EFFORT TO RECOVER MISSING WORLD WAR II AIRMAN IN AUSTRIA

By D. Ryan Gray, University of New Orleans

This summer, the University of New Orleans (UNO) will team with its partners at the University of Innsbruck in Austria to lead a joint effort to excavate the site of a World War II aircraft crash, in the hopes that the excavation will help the [Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency \(DPAA\)](#) to identify and return the remains of an airman missing since the war. The effort includes archaeologists and forensic specialists from the U.S. and Austria, graduate and undergraduate students, historians, and museum professionals, as well as support and expertise from The National World War II Museum in New Orleans.

Dr. D. Ryan Gray from UNO will lead the field team in excavations scheduled to begin in July 2017 as part of a field school in archaeology. It is being coordinated with logistical and administrative support from the UNO Division of International Education and held in cooperation with its 42-year-old flagship program, the UNO-Innsbruck International Summer School. The site to be investigated is located in the southern Austrian state of Carinthia, and it may be the location of the crash of a P-51D "Mustang" from the 332nd Fighter Group, associated with the famed "Tuskegee Airmen." Although attempts were made to locate the crash site after World War II, they were unsuccessful, but new information supplied to the DPAA by Austrian informants led to this effort being launched. The field investigations to be conducted, combining traditional archaeological methods with state-of-the-art investigative techniques, will allow us to identify the crash site with certainty.

This program was developed as a public-private partnership with DPAA, to further the mission to locate, recover, identify, and return American personnel still unaccounted for from previous wars and conflicts. The UNO Department of Anthropology and Sociology has developed an active archaeology program in New Orleans, with an emphasis on urban historical archaeology. This partnership represents a new direction for the program, adding an international component and specialties in personnel recovery and aviation archaeology. While the focus of the field school is undergraduate experience in archaeology, it also provides a unique opportunity for students in the

M.A. program in History, which has a track focusing on military history, and for students enrolled in the Master of Science in Urban Studies program, who can pursue specializations in historic preservation, cultural resource management, urban anthropology, and urban planning.

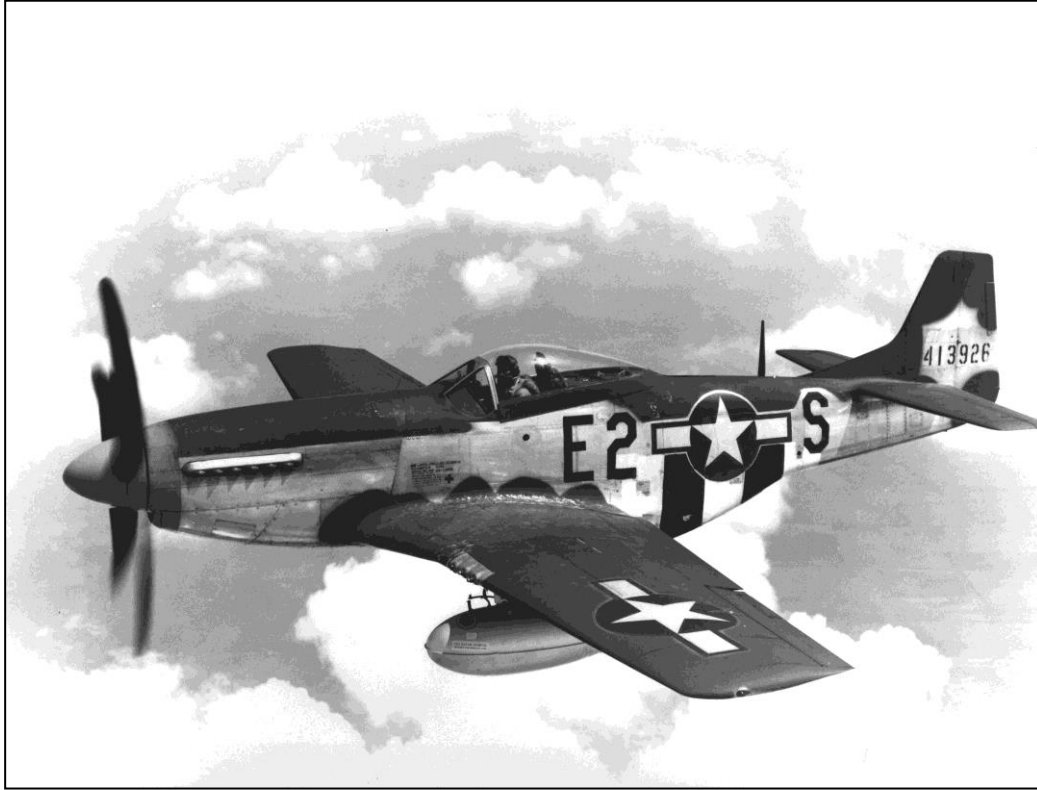
The National World War II Museum is also playing a key role in the program. Many of the students involved have been recipients of Mueller Scholarships (named for the President and CEO of the Museum, Dr. Gordon "Nick" Mueller), to help defray travel costs. In addition, the Museum's Senior Curator, Tom Czekanski, will accompany the team to Innsbruck, to lend technical advice and support on the aircraft.

This program is only possible with the support of all of our partners, both in the U.S. and abroad. All excavations are taking place with the full cooperation of the Austrian authorities, facilitated by UNO's colleagues at the University of Innsbruck and at the Austrian Marshall Plan Center for European Studies at UNO. We are thankful for the generous support of the National World War II Museum in this effort.

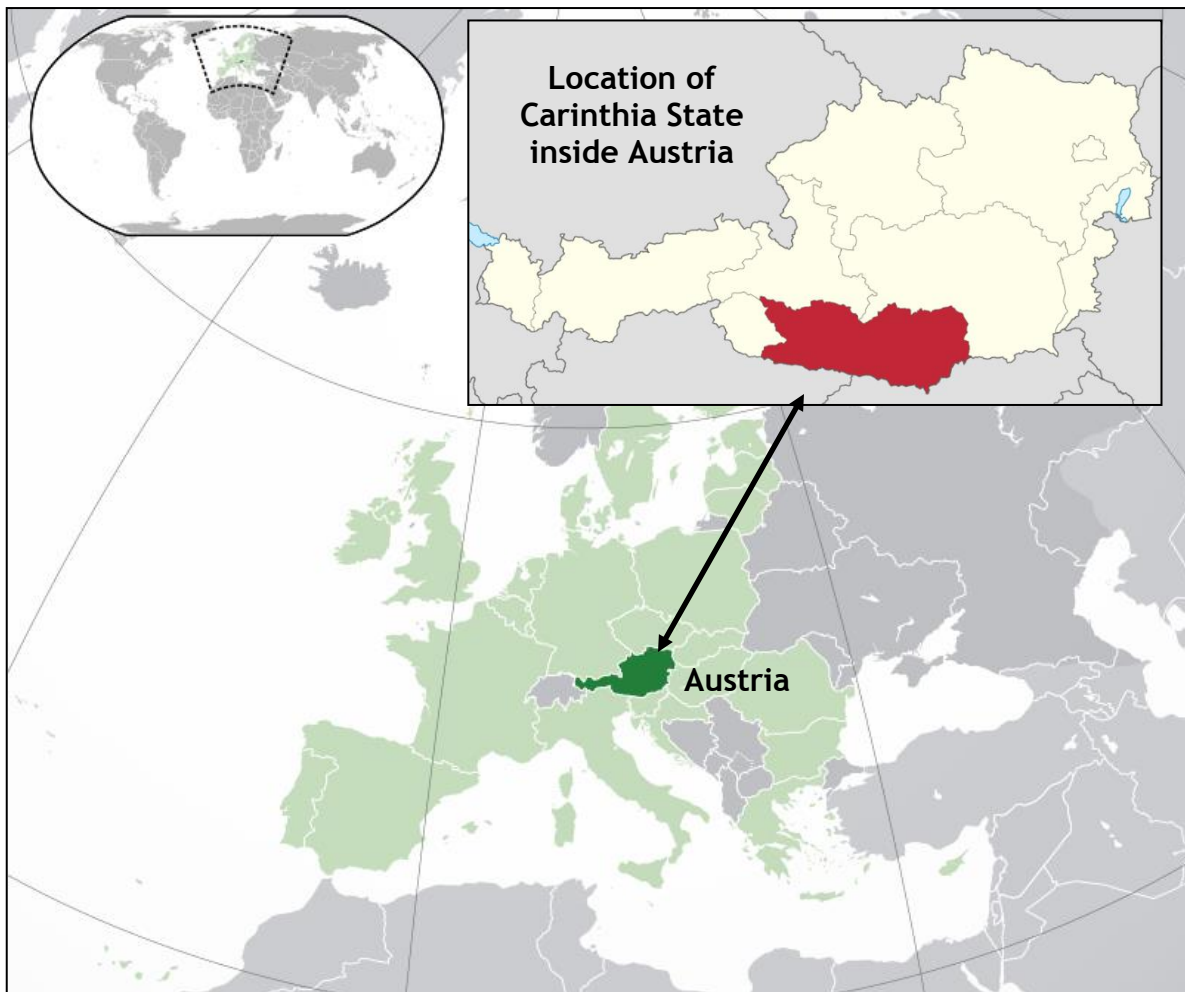
Additional student financial aid for the project is being provided by the Jean Brainard Boebel Chair in Historic Preservation in the UNO Department of Planning and Urban Studies, the Carl Muckley endowment in the UNO Department of History, the Division of International Education, the UNO Student Government Association, and the UNO College of Liberal Arts, Education, and Human Development.

For more information, please contact Dr. D. Ryan Gray in the University of New Orleans Department of Anthropology and Sociology, at drgray1@uno.edu (504-280-1072), or Dr. Irene Ziegler of the UNO Division of International Education, at iziegler@uno.edu (504-280-7318).

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Photograph of the P-51 D “Mustang” Fighter, one of the most versatile combat aircraft used in World War II by the Allies.



LAS Is Victim of 19th Century “Fake News”

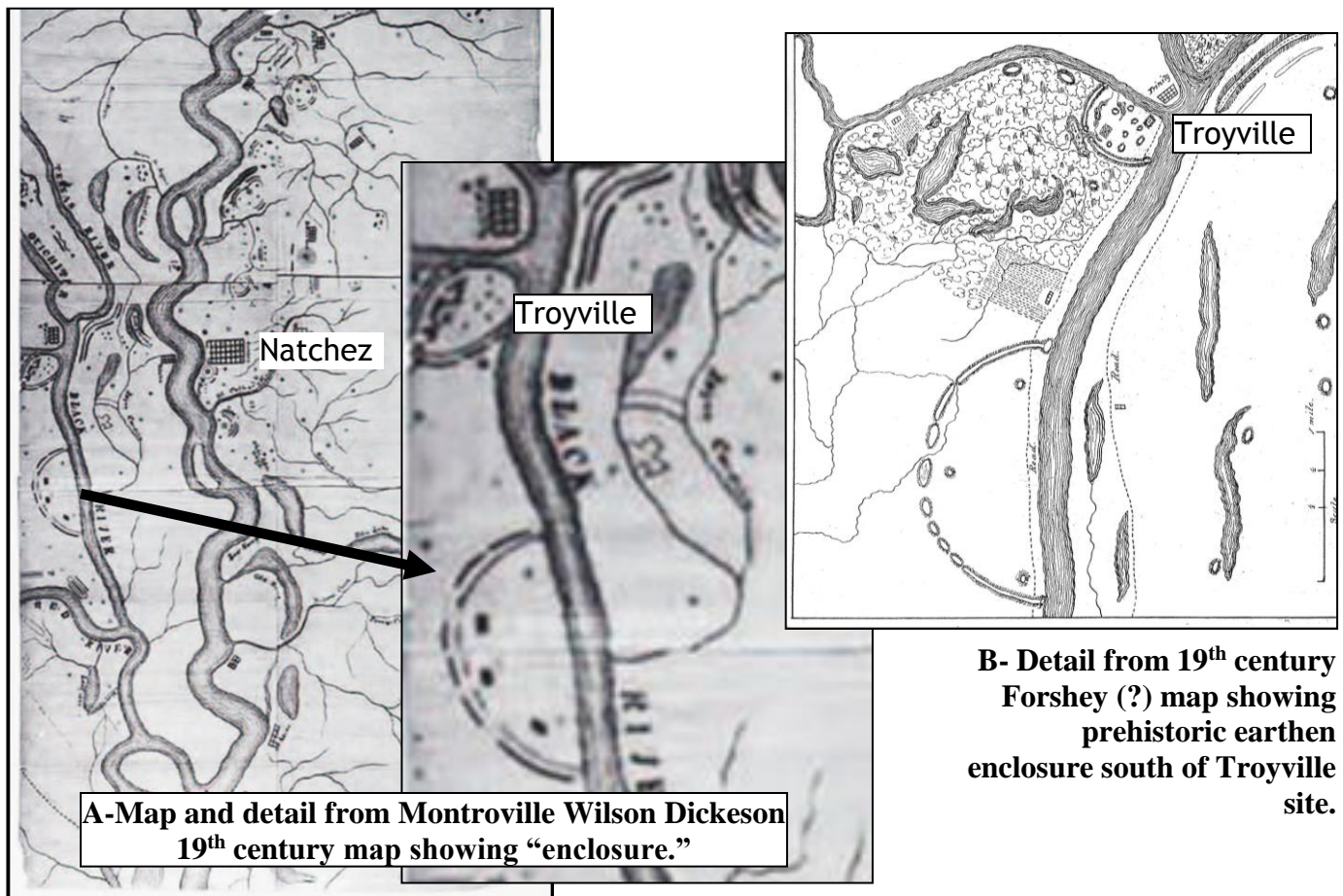
By Dennis Jones

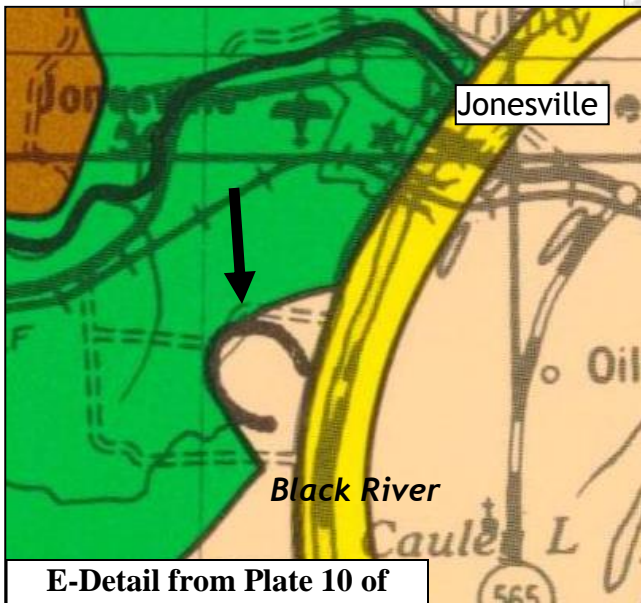
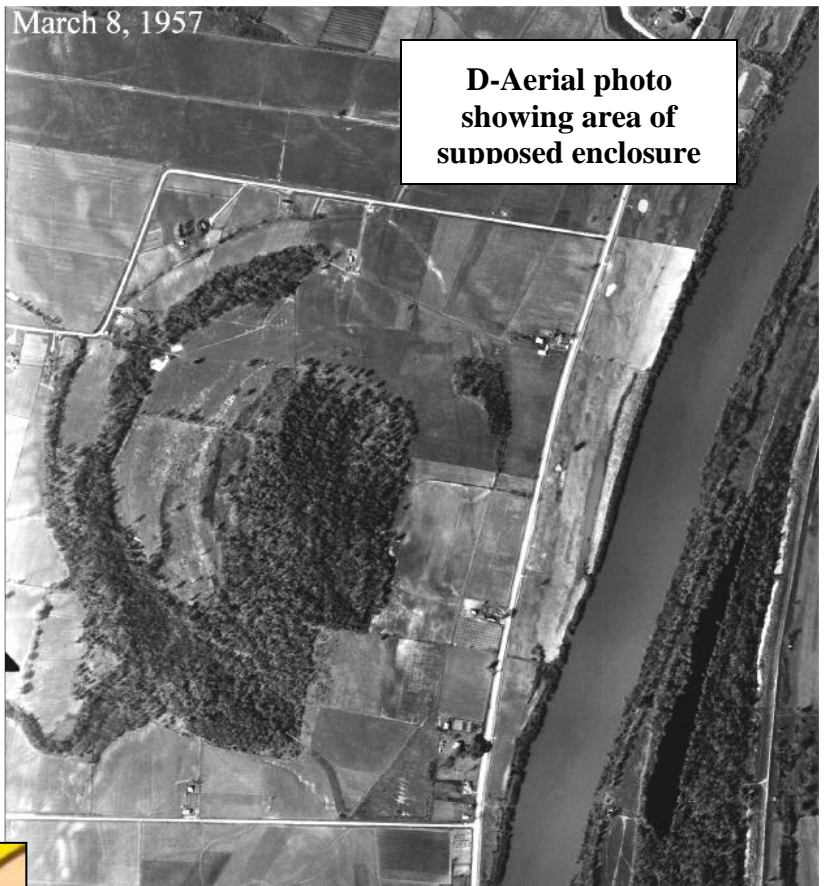
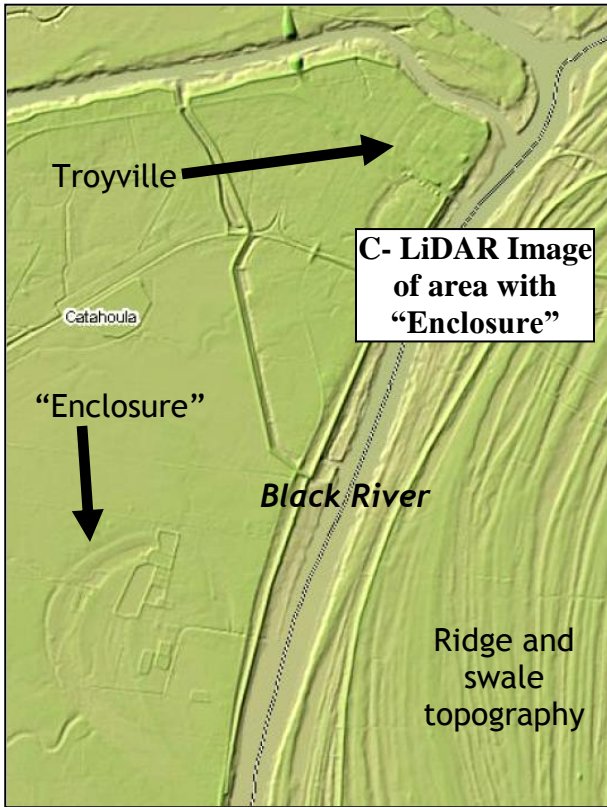
During the 2017 LAS annual meeting in Marksville, I made a presentation about an excavation project I directed, along with Carl Kuttruff, a portion of Enclosure A at the Marksville site (16AV-1). At the close of the presentation, I noted other prehistoric sites that had similar crescent-shaped earthen enclosures, all of which are in Catahoula Parish, north of the Marksville site. These are the Troyville site (16CT5) that has been greatly impacted by the town of Jonesville and the McGuffee Mounds (16CT17) near Harrisonburg, LA.

I went on to mention the possibility of a third crescent shaped enclosure that had not been reported as a prehistoric site on the banks of the Black River, south of the Troyville site. I had been made aware of this “enclosure” while doing research on the Natchez Indians and coming across a map drawn by the antiquarian Montroville Wilson Dickeson during his time in the Natchez area in the late 1830s and early 1840s. This map (A below) shows this crescent embankment around three mounds. Another map, possibly done by Caleb Forshey (B below) who was an engineer and surveyor also living in the Natchez area in the 1830s, shows an enclosure in the same location. Again there are three mounds within the alleged embankment, but arranged somewhat differently,

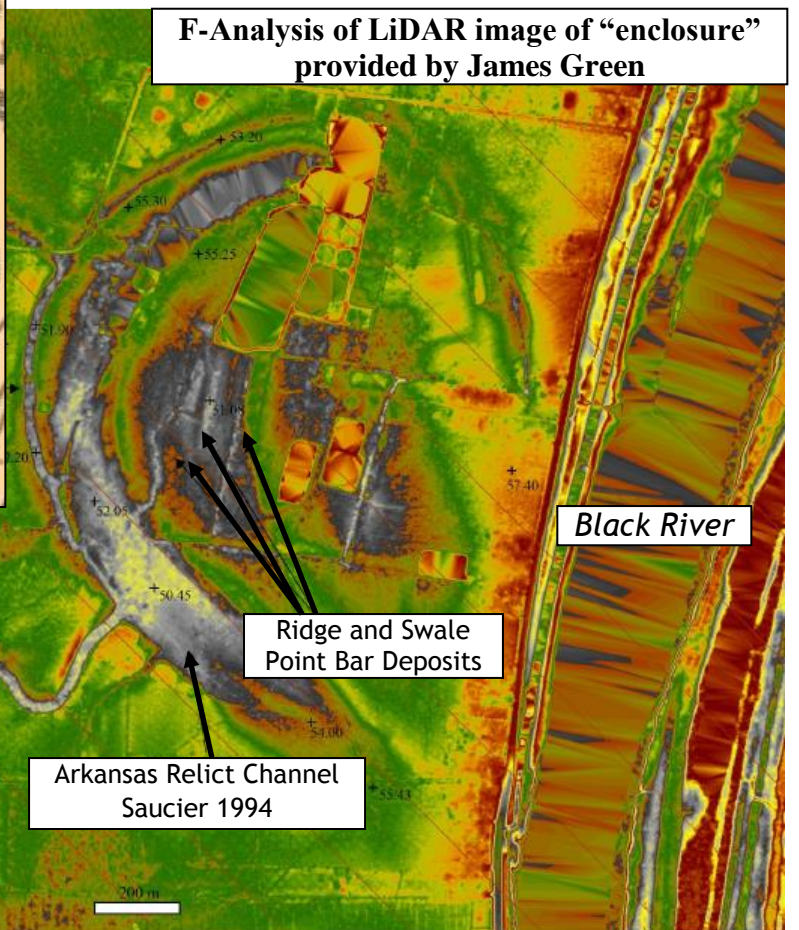
A few days after the LAS meeting, archaeologist James Green and Rachel Watson with the Division of Archaeology, sent me LiDAR images (C) and aerial photographs (D) and other information (E & F) that suggested that this “enclosure” was instead a relict channel of one of the many rivers that have flowed over the millennia through and over the floodplain in this portion of Louisiana. The late Roger Saucier, the renowned geomorphologist (and long-time member of the LAS) had recorded this feature as a relict oxbow (E). James Green’s analysis of LiDAR images (F) noting elevations and other features further suggested that this crescent was a result of natural alluvial actions, rather than prehistorically man-made.

Consequently, I made a visit a few weeks after the LAS meeting to the “enclosure” Dickeson had noted on his map. I saw for myself that this area was indeed a relict channel of a former river and emphatically not a prehistoric earthen enclosure. Nor were there any mounds in any sort of a pattern within this crescent. For whatever reasons, Dickeson and another contemporary had recorded this feature as a prehistoric site that had an earthen enclosure that would have measured ca. 8500 ft in length and almost one mile between its ends, making it an unprecedentedly large site. I was remiss in not doing enough research into this feature before mentioning it in my presentation at the LAS annual meeting and I appreciate Rachel and James for their help in setting the record straight.





E-Detail from Plate 10 of Saucier (1994) showing "enclosure" as a relict channel of former course of the Arkansas River.



Bird Effigy: Not What It Appeared to Be?

By James Green

The "bird effigy" featured in Jim Delahoussaye's article in the last LAS Newsletter (Winter 2016/2017 Vol. 44 No. 3) appears to me to be a white ball clay or bisque (biscuit) pigeon figurine in the English or European style of design, not prehistoric. There are several clues to its origin in the photographs. First, there is a visible ceramic mold line on the base and the bottom of the tail. Second, the hole in the bottom is consistent with the production of small ceramic figurines. Third, the leg and claws with the stepped design is a style seen in other small historic European figurines and relief work. Last, it does not have the typical yellowing of bone or ivory that has been exposed to the elements, but it does exhibit the typical water-wear and coloration of bisque or hard ball clay. Ivor Noel Hume (1969:314-315) notes that these are children toys and briefly discusses them. He also illustrates a white clay lion that is approximately seven centimeters long; about the same size as this figurine. While he says that these occur in the 16th and 17th century, they were produced into the 19th century.

D'Allemagne (1902:48) states that the infant Louis XIII of France was given a virtual "Noah's Ark", including a ceramic horse, lion, and monkey, and a pigeon with canvas wings. Many of the 17th through 19th century pottery companies made simple ceramic figurines. In fact, a record of orders for Sèvres pottery gave the following, "Trois petits quadrupèdes, jouets d'enfants, chèvre, cochon, chat..." (Brongniart and Riocreux 1845:24)" (Translation: Three small quadrupeds, children toys, goat, pig, and cat). Prime (1878:345) says that in the early 1800s John Walton (Burslem, England) made toys, statuettes, and whistles, including those of animals and birds.

While archaeologists originally attributed these small statuettes to children, this has been changing in recent years. We now know that some of these small ceramic figurines were adult mementos or conversation pieces. Many times a person would have someone paint a bisque statuette in the likeness of his or her prize stallion or other cherished animal. Given the 18th and 19th century pigeon culture in south Louisiana, this pigeon figurine could have been either a planter's son's plaything, imagining that it was one of his father's prized birds, or sitting on a desk or mantel in the

family home. Mills (2016) notes that *bric-a-brac* such as this was important to the household for a number of reasons, including novelty, mementos, play, assists for storytelling, etc. He further states that many of these miniatures of people or things often were referred to as "images" in the 19th century. A visual cue to help remember.

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Two views of a "bird effigy" likely recovered from the La Coup site near Lake Palourde in St. Mary Parish and reported upon in last LAS newsletter.

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

Researcher maps hidden graveyards of slaves who once tilled Louisiana sugar cane fields

By Terry L. Jones, TJONES @theadvocate.com
February 5, 2017

Debbie Martin has spent the past six months slogging through overgrown wooded areas near sugar cane fields in West Baton Rouge Parish — something her parents warned her against as a child.

"We were always told, 'Stay out of the woods because there are cemeteries in there,' " she said. "We thought they just told us that to keep us out." But she has discovered the stories were true.

Hidden within the alcoves of trees and thick shrubbery are graveyards filled with African-American bodies. Most were a part of the enslaved population that once tilled the cane fields near where their bodies are now buried, as well as the descendants of many of those slaves.

Plantation owners had a moral obligation to bury the dead, Martin said, but they would do it on the parts of their land that were not farmable.

"These people didn't have a choice," Martin said of where slaves were laid to rest. "This is where they were buried." The state of the cemeteries further underscores how those buried in them over the years have been denied their dignity even in death.

Martin, a local genealogist, has discovered and mapped out more than 3,000 burials of black people in nearly 30 cemeteries, most hidden in secluded woods near sugar cane fields in West Baton Rouge Parish. She suspects there could be many more.

Martin has been on a self-appointed mission to discover exactly who was buried when and where. So far, she's tracked burials dating as far back as 1887. She stumbled across these forgotten cemeteries while helping a family uncover its ties in West Baton Rouge Parish.

Now, her mission is expanding into forming a nonprofit association she intends to use to bring respect to these burial sites and to provide younger generations with knowledge of the past.

"We're really going to need to raise some funds to do what we need to do," she said. "I want to put up signs, fences. Give people a place to visit their ancestors."

Most of the cemeteries Martin has discovered are tucked away on the outskirts of former plantations, amid tangles of trees and bushes and often next to ditches. To scout cemetery locations, she perused death certificates, reviewed old obituaries and drew from a variety of other sources.

An interview with the owner of a black-owned, family-run funeral business proved helpful, as the business handles funeral services for many black families in West Baton Rouge Parish.

The Rev. Arthur Franklin recalled the burial of his infant sister in St. Catherine cemetery, along the ditch line of U.S. 190 near the La. 415 intersection in Port Allen, back when he was a boy. Franklin hasn't been able to access the cemetery in years. It's so overgrown he doesn't even know where his sister's gravesite is anymore.

"Some of these places, you just won't believe it's a graveyard," he said. "Back in the day, you would have to hook a tractor to a hearse just to get the casket back there."

Ownership of the long-neglected cemeteries is a tangled web of various land sales, transfers and trades. A few are owned by small churches with congregations mostly too old and feeble to maintain them properly.

Martin also has identified two cemeteries within the Dow Chemical plant complex. She's hoping to gain access to them for her research and cataloging. There were still burials taking place at some graveyards up until 2003, often because family members wanted to be buried near loved ones who had died years earlier.

But the years of neglect, vandalism and Mother Nature have turned them into ghastly sites. Concrete vaults, some stacked on top of one another, are shrouded in weeds and vines. Some vaults have been shattered by vandals, broken by fallen trees or damaged by farm equipment, exposing the sealed coffins they were meant to protect.

Many graves lack headstones to identify who is buried there, while a few have hand-scribbled markers identifying the dead. A lack of roads or accessible paths leading to the cemeteries has made it nearly impossible for people like Anita Gray to visit the graves of ancestors buried in cemeteries Martin has mapped



*Advocate photo by
Patrick Dennis*

Gravesites in the Poplar Grove cemetery are hidden in the dense woods and vegetation near Port Allen. West Baton Rouge Parish resident Debbie Martin has begun an ambitious effort to restore and clean up the multitude of black cemeteries throughout the parish that have been forgotten for decades. Martin recently asked parish leaders for help with funds and getting legal authority to continue her work for many cemeteries where slaves were buried that are on private property.



The people buried in the cemetery at Poplar Grove Plantation provided the labor that created the wealth to support the Poplar Grove Plantation House. This structure, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was originally built at the as the Banker's Pavilion at the 1884 World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition held in New Orleans. In 1886 it was purchased by the family of the current owners, and moved by barge up the Mississippi River to its present location north of Port Allen, LA where it was renovated and enlarged.

MARKSVILLE CITY OFFICIALS CALL FOR ACTION TO SAVE INDIAN PARK

Historic landmark in 'deplorable' condition

Wed, 01/18/2017 – by Raymond Daye,
Avoyelles Today.com.

Something needs to be done to address the “deplorable” condition of the Prehistoric Indian Park & Museum, Marksville city officials said at the City Council meeting Jan. 11.

The 42-acre site is poorly maintained with high grass covering most of the grounds. Many of the museum’s exhibits have been removed.

“It looks like it has been abandoned,” Mayor John Lemoine said. Lemoine said the city had initially stepped up to take over operating the historic site when the state announced it would be closed in 2015. At that time, the Office of State Parks said the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe had expressed an interest in managing the park and museum. Since then, the state has opened the site on Fridays and for special tour groups. The city is no longer in a feasible financial position to assume operating and maintaining the park and museum.

AVOGEL TRIBE PETITIONS

Mickey Baptiste, chief of the unrecognized Avogel Tribe of Louisiana, told the City Council that the Avogel consider the Marksville Historic Site to be their ancestral home and have also asked the state to allow them to operate and maintain the park. Baptiste said the Avogel organization has the necessary equipment to clean the park if the state names it as the administrator for the site.

“I petitioned the state to let us operate the park,” Baptiste said. “They said they had not made a decision” on an entity to manage the site. Avogel Tribe Secretary Stephanie Webb said the organization holds its quarterly meetings at the historic site.

There are four unrecognized “tribes” and the federally recognized Tunica-Biloxi who claim ancestral ties to the prehistoric people who once occupied the Marksville State Historic Site. The Avogel Tribe, the Avoyel-Taensa Tribe, Avogel Nation and Avoyel-Kaskaskia Tribe all claim to be descendants of the Avoyel Indians for whom this parish is named and who were here when the French explored this area.

None of those groups have been granted federal or state recognition as a Native American tribe. The Tunica-Biloxi claim the Avoyel tribe was absorbed into the larger Tunica and Biloxi tribes, along with the Ofo and other small tribes. French explorers put the number of Avoyel at about 280 in 1698. In an 1805 report, the tribe was said to have been reduced to only two or three women



Photo from Avoyelles Today. Tree fallen across the east side of Mound 4 at the Marksville site. This tree was removed before the LAS tour of the site on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017.

“It is deplorable what has happened to our park,” City Engineer Rene Borrel said. “It is an unbelievably historic site.” Borrel said the site is of such archaeological significance that the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs should probably step in to save it.

The site is located on a bluff overlooking the former river channel. Archaeologists have determined it was a ceremonial center for Native American tribes in this area around 2,000 years ago.

NATIONAL LANDMARK

It was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1964 due to its importance in American history.

The culture of the people using this center was unique enough to have the name “Marksville Culture” attached to any similar groups found since this site was explored in the 1920s and 1930s.

Lemoine and others recalled the park’s “glory days” when it was a major recreational area for the parish. At one time, the site had a small zoo, a public swimming pool and hosted events such as the annual 4th of July activities.

“It is called the Marksville State Historic Site,” Lemoine said. “I hate to see it like this because it has our name attached to it.” Its archaeological significance is

Continued next page

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linked to the six burial mounds within an area enclosed by a semi-circular earthwork wall, about 3,300 feet long and ranging in height between three and seven feet tall. The open side of the enclosure is the edge of the bluff along what was the river. There are more mounds located outside of the enclosure.

There is no entry fee on Fridays, when the museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost for special appointments are \$46 for groups of up to 10 people and \$4 per every person after 10. Appointments can be made by calling 225-342-8111.

NUNGESSER SAYS IT IS “DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP A FEASIBLE PLAN”

021/02/2017 – by Raymond Daye,
Avoyelles Today.com.

While the Marksville Historic Site, also known as the Prehistoric Indian Park & Museum, has fallen on hard financial times of late, Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser says the state is doing what it can until a more permanent solution can be found. Nungesser noted that he read a recent news article in which Marksville officials expressed concern over the “deplorable” condition of the park.

“It is true that the Office of State Parks has been in conversation with both the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe and the City of Marksville regarding the operations of the site,” Nungesser said in a letter to the newspaper. “Unfortunately, it has been difficult to develop a feasible plan, whether through third-party operations or Office of State Parks operation, to have the property available to the public more than through the free Fridays and appointment method.”

Visitor count at the park was always low in the past several years, even when it was open and staffed full time. The reduced operating schedule resulted in no visitors to the site in December, Nungesser said. Nungesser conceded that storms “did knock over a tree and several limbs” at the park, but said State Park employees would be clearing it in late January “for their regularly-scheduled monthly cleanup.”

One thing the public may not be aware of is the fact that “because Marksville State Historic Site is an archaeological site, we have to take great care with the maintenance of the grounds,” Nungesser noted. “Heavy mowing machinery can leave ruts in the ground, especially after a rain event has caused the ground to become especially soft, disturbing the archaeological integrity of the site and possibly damaging artifacts,” he explained. Those who advocate action to keep the park open and restore it to its former status are told that the state is “open to working with the City of Marksville, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe and any other parties interested in assisting with the operations of Marksville State Historic Site -- keeping in mind the state and federal regulations associated with care of a National Historic Landmark site,” Nungesser concluded.

ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

The park’s current state of neglect also prompted attorney Marc Dupuy Jr. to launch a letter campaign to solicit assistance from those involved in archaeology and preservation efforts. In a letter to State Archaeologist Dr. Charles McGimsey, Dupuy asked that McGimsey “do whatever you feel necessary to assess the damage, restoration and recovery problem, but particularly the future preservation and usefulness of this wonderful historic treasure.”

Dupuy also sent a letter to Julie Doucet, treasurer of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS). Doucet responded in a short letter noting that the LAS chose to hold its 2017 annual meeting in Marksville “to focus on the Marksville Site.” The organization’s meeting will be Feb. 10-12 at the Paragon Casino Resort. As part of the meeting, the conventioners will tour the Tunica-Biloxi Museum and the Marksville State Historic Site on Feb. 12. “We hope to have constructive discussions about the present condition of the site and what the LAS and other interested parties can do to help and preserve this unique cultural resource,” Doucet noted. She said the Office of State Parks is not likely to be able to do more than it is currently doing because it “is likely facing more budget cuts.”

OUT-OF-STATE ATTENTION

The park’s plight has also attracted attention from outside the state, due to the article being posted online and reprinted by other news sites. Gerry Depken, an officer in the Fort Oglethorpe Preservation Commission and 6th Cavalry Museum in north Georgia, called the newspaper to ask how she could get more information on the site and efforts to preserve it. Depken, said that while Fort Oglethorpe is special to her, she has a deep love for preservation of all important sites and was concerned about the reported condition of the Marksville Park. She said she would be contacting the Office of State Parks to add her voice calling for the state to preserve Louisiana’s historically significant sites.

A spokesman for the Office of State Parks said the state is still hoping the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe will manage the museum and park “for several reasons -- the tribe is adjacent to the property and they have a vested interest in Native American history and they have expressed an interest in managing the site.”

At this time, however, the spokesman said the state will consider offers from any organization or local government entity interested in operating and managing the site on a full-time basis. Until then, the state will “continue to provide minimal maintenance of the park. We are planning to bush hog the site in a few weeks.”

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