



# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2006

Vol. 34, No.1

## LAS Remembers John Polk

*The Louisiana Archaeological Society mourns the passing of long-time member and President, John Polk, Sr. of Luling, La. The following was an obituary that appeared in the **New Orleans Times Picayune** on April 4, 2006. John will be missed (Dennis Jones).*



John Polk, Sr., on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, age 75, left this life for his eternal reward. He was born in Bogalusa, LA on June 10, 1930 and lived in Luling for the past 46 years. Preceded in death by Parents James Knox and Beulah Nobles Polk; sisters: Margie Snow and Helen Estes; brothers: JW Polk, and Charles Ray Polk, survived by bother Jimmy Polk. He is survived by his loving wife of almost 48 years, Lena Pulizzano Polk, their sons Johnny and Jim Polk, daughter Patricia Polk Brou, son-in-law Robert Brou, daughter-in-law Aida Polk. Also survived by grandchildren: Jai Polk, Fernando Mattey, Robie Brou, Allison Brou, and Phillip Brou.

Retired from American Cyanamid after 38 years of employment. Life member and former president of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, Delta Chapter. Received an award in 2006 for appreciation and outstanding service to the Louisiana Archaeological Society. He discovered a site, Orange Grove Plantation, which brought archaeology to students, of St. Charles Parish and the surrounding Parishes every year during Archaeology Week for 10 years. The site is currently located on the grounds of Cytec Chemical Facility.

He was a member of the St. Charles Historical Society, River Road Historical Society, LA Senior Olympic Games, Friends of the St. Charles Parish Library, Knights of Columbus #9933-Holy Family Church, The World Atlatl Association, St. Charles Computer Club, and belonged to the St. Charles Parish and Swinging Seniors Bowling League. He is credited with bringing the Atlatl competition to the Senior Olympics for the River Parishes. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a memorial service Thursday April 6, 2006 with visitation starting at 9:00 am. Followed by 11:00 am Mass at Holy Family Catholic Church, 151 Holy Family Lane, Luling, LA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in the memory of John Polk to the Louisiana Archaeological Society, 9364 Rainford Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70810; to further the study and discovery of prehistoric and historic Louisiana

### Also in this issue

- LAS chapter news
- Regional Archaeologist reports
- Report from the Archaeological Conservancy
- Report on LAS meeting in Monroe
- And much, much more!!

## LAS Chapter News and Membership Activities

*It's my intention as newsletter editor to try to communicate the activities of the LAS membership. One of these activities is the meetings held by each of the LAS chapters. Reports for three of the five existing chapters follow. I hope to hear from other chapters in time for the next newsletter (Dennis Jones)*

### Central Louisiana Archaeological Chapter Alexandria

Nancy Affeltranger of the Central Louisiana Archaeological Chapter (CLAC) writes: CLAC has had some great speakers so far this year:

January - Charles Neal who works for KALB and who works hard to save the Mansfield Battlefield talked on Forts Buhlow and Randolph,  
February, Jeff Girard talked on Mounds Plantation.  
In March Rabbi Task talked about Middle Eastern archaeology, and  
April Charles Affeltranger spoke on the Battle of Savo Island.

Upcoming speakers include

May 11 *Comparative Skull Studies*, George Avery, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches.

June 8 – *Remote Sensing and Test Excavations at a 15<sup>th</sup> Century Caddo Ceremonial Center*, Frank Schambach, Arkansas Archeological Survey, Magnolia, AR.

July 13, *A Study of Salt works near Natchitoches*, Chelsea Klein, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches.

August 10, *History of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), an Update*. Tim Phillips. Contract Archaeologist, Natchitoches.

September 14, *A History of the Smithsonian Institution*, Robert Neuman, formerly of the Smithsonian Institution.

October 12, *A History of the Caddo Nation in Louisiana* –Hiram F. Gregory, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches

### Baton Rouge Louisiana Archaeological Society Baton Rouge

Stephanie Perrault reports that the BRLAS has had wonderful speakers thus far this year. They have been:

January 25, Dr. Brooks Ellwood  
LSU Dept. of Geology and Geophysics  
"The Wild Bill Longly Excavations–Mystery Solved!"

February 22, Liz Davoli, LADOTD  
"What's Within the Right-if-Way? DOTD and Archaeology."

March 29, Rob Mann LA Southeastern Regional Archaeologist, "Looking for the French in French Colonial Louisiana: Preliminary Results of the Pointe Coupee Survey Project."

April 26, Stephanie Perrault, LSU Museum of Natural Science, "Oxbow Lake Prehistoric Settlement Patterns and Geomorphology"

BRLAS members spent a night washing artifacts from the Sims site (16SC2) recovered by Chip McGimsey, Rob Mann, and volunteers. BRLAS members also participated in the Angola Archaeology Symposium with Josetta LeBoeuf constructing a prehistoric hut, Lloyd Pine demonstration of atlatl throwing and Duke Rivet acting as the Master of Ceremonies

Josetta LeBoeuf of BRLAS and the Division of Archaeology also wanted to recognize the members of the Baton Rouge Chapter, and others, who volunteered at Earth Day Baton Rouge - April 23, 2006. They provided exhibits and children's activities highlighting Louisiana archaeology. Special thanks to Chip McGimsey and Rob Mann (Regional Archaeology program) for manning and explaining artifact displays, Lloyd Pine and Bill Tarleton (BR Chapter) for collecting materials and building a palmetto hut, and Jenny Poulter (BREC Magnolia Mound Plantation), Rachel Watson and Alisha Duhon for their excellent skills in making corn husk dolls with the kids.

## LAS Chapter News and Membership Activities (continued)

West Louisiana Archaeology Club  
Leesville

Ellen Ibert of Leesville writes:

The West Louisiana Archaeology Club (WLAC) met Thursday, April 20, 2006 at the Museum of West Louisiana in Leesville, Louisiana for their regular monthly meeting. Approximately fifteen people attended and, we are happy to report, that several of these were new participants.

Jeff Girard, Northwest Regional Archaeologist for the Division of Archaeology, presented data for the Mounds Plantation in Webster Parish. Following Jeff's talk, one participant showed the club approximately ten wicker cases of prehistoric artifacts found in Vernon Parish. Numerous chipped stone points and decorated pottery were included in his collection; which dated from ca. 8000 BP to 400 BP. Once again, more data is unrecorded and more information lost to un-disciplined excavations.

The WLAC meets the third Thursday of each month – contrary to the LAS Webpage – at 6:00 P.M. at the Museum of West Louisiana, 803 Third Street, Leesville, Louisiana. The meetings are opened to the general public and no fees are charged. For more information about meetings and the WLAC, please contact club president, John Guy, Jr., (337) 238-3277.

There are currently five chapters of LAS. They are in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Leesville, Monroe, and New Orleans. There has also been talk of one in Natchitoches. Contact information and meeting times for these chapters can be found at the Division of Archaeology web site:  
<http://www.crt.state.la.us/archaeology/LAS/LAS.htm>

## Current DOTD Sponsored Cultural Resource Projects

By Liz Davoli

Louisiana Department of Transportation And Development (DOTD) is required by Federal and State law to deal with cultural resources, usually archaeological sites and historic structures whenever they plan and construct highways in the state. Liz Davoli, Environmental Impact Specialist for DOTD, reports on the following projects.

Earth Search has begun monitoring of the new Black River Bridge construction in Jonesville. So far, they have identified the embankment midden in an area close to the Black River where trenches were being excavated for test piles. Butch had some photos to send to me, but he has been having computer problems so I have no graphics for you.

Data Recovery will begin at the Star Hill Sugar Refinery site (16WF 39) adjacent to US 61 in West Feliciana Parish this year. Coastal Environments identified the brick remains of the sugar refinery during Phase I investigations of the project corridor in 1994. The site's eligibility for the NRHP was undetermined at that time. Phase II testing was undertaken at this site in 2000 and the site was determined eligible for the NRHP. Shortly afterwards, the property owner requested that CEI cover the excavations and leave the property. These ruins are within the required right-of-way for the widening of US 61. Now that DOTD owns the property, Data Recovery excavations will be conducted.

## Marksville Site Receives \$\$ from SEAC

(From SEAC April 2006 newsletter, originally submitted by Mary Kwas, but edited here)

The Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) awarded \$2000 to the Marksville State Historic Site for the preparation and installation of new exhibits. The Louisiana Division of Archaeology commissioned artist Martin Pate to create three illustrations of the Marksville prehistoric archaeological site. These illustrations will provide the first visual interpretation of what the site looked like when it was the center of Hopewell ceremonialism in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The grant funds will help pay for photographic reproduction, lamination, and mounting of the prints. Other improvements to the exhibits or the printing of a trail guide will also be undertaken with the grant funds.

SEAC encourages applications for SEAC Public Outreach Grants. Applications for the 2007 grants can be found on the SEAC web site: <http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/>

## Report from the Louisiana Division of Archaeology

By Rachel Watson

In 2005, 28,248 acres were surveyed for cultural resources, resulting in the recordation of 294 new archaeological sites. This brings the total number of archaeological sites recorded in the State of Louisiana to 16,668. The Division reviews approximately 4,000 projects a year related to Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act.

In addition, the Division has partnered with DOTD to create a GIS system for all of our archaeological data. GEC, Inc. was awarded a contract by DOTD to digitize all the site information, create the geodatabases, and create a web interface for the project. The digitizing portion of the project has been completed and currently GEC, Inc. is in the process of converting all of the Division's paper records into an electronic format that will be available through the GIS system. The Division hopes to launch this web base system sometime in the fall.

## UPPA News

The University of Poverty Point Alumni (UPPA) had its annual spring pilgrimage to the Poverty Point State Historic Site (SHS) this year March 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. UPPA is an organization that has grown out of former ULL professor Dr. Jon Gibson's annual spring trek with students to the site. UPPA was established in 2001 primarily to 1) coordinate and organize annual social gatherings for students, advocational and professional archaeologists, and other persons who have an interest in Louisiana archaeology, specifically the Poverty Point State Historic Site, and 2) to coordinate volunteer services to assist with the Poverty Point State Historic Site education programs and preservation efforts through public lectures/presentations, curatorial assistance, public outreach and grounds maintenance. The organization provides a service project and guest speaker for Poverty Point SHS in exchange for room, board, and unique opportunity to explore the site. The service projects have included general cleaning of debris from Mound A and around the ridges of the site dubbed "Operation Pickup Sticks" by members.

This year's UPPA speaker was Norm Davis, newly elected president of UPPA, who gave an excellent and informative talk concerning the McGuffee Mound Site (16CT17) and its potential astronomical alignments. It's a five mound complex site surrounded by a semi-circular embankment on the banks of the Ouachita River in Catahoula Parish. If you are interested in joining UPPA, please contact Norm Davis at [normdavisfldtec@aol.com](mailto:normdavisfldtec@aol.com)

## Angola Archaeology Symposium

By Stephanie Perrault

The Angola Archaeology Symposium took place on March 25, 2006. The Louisiana State Prison Museum Foundation and the LSU Museum of Natural Science sponsored the event. The Louisiana Endowment provided funding for the Humanities. I'd like to thank everyone that attended and participated in this event. The symposium was well attended and has received rave reviews. Not only did the symposium bring together all the archaeologists that have worked at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, but it also helped to bring attention to archaeology in Louisiana. This event was comprised of five facets: a conference with presentations by professional archaeologists; exhibits of artifacts from the prison; historic maps and photographs; tours of archaeological sites within the prison grounds; and hands on demonstrations.

Speakers included: Warden Burl Cain, Duke Rivet, Dr. Ian Brown, Dr. Vincus Steponaitis, Dr. Rebecca Saunders, Joanne Ryan, Sara Hahn, Dr. Malcolm Shuman, and Stephanie Perrault.

Demonstrators included: Thurston Hahn, Dr. Chip McGimsey, Josetta LaBoeuf, Lloyd Pine, Jerry Hutchinson, Allen Green, Vickie Butler, Terrey Perrault, and Steven Fullen

This event could not have been possible without the cooperation and coordination skills of key people at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. I'd like to acknowledge Jenny Borders, Dora Rabalais, Cathy Fontenot, and Gary Young.

Research News from the LSU  
Museum of Natural Science  
By Steve Fullen

**Development and Regional Diversity in  
Tchefuncte Pottery: Comparison of Pottery  
from the Bayou Jasmine and  
Sarah Peralta sites**

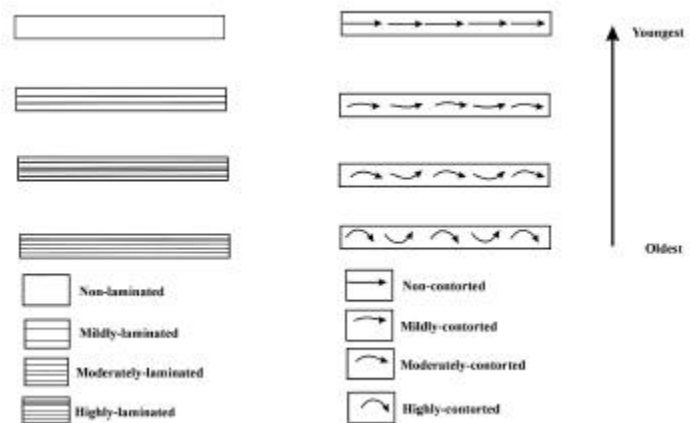
Tchula period pottery (Tchefuncte culture, 3000-2000 BP) in Louisiana is characterized by highly contorted and laminated pastes. These diagnostic traits have led investigators to suggest hypotheses concerning manufacturing techniques, but there has been relatively little focus on temporal trends associated with these characteristics. The first step in redressing this problem was to identify a site likely to contain archaeological assemblages that would span the Tchula period.

Excavations began at the Sarah Peralta site (16EBR67) in the fall of 2001 and were concluded in the spring of 2002. Artifacts from the Sarah Peralta site were characterized according to standard identification procedures. A secondary site, the Bayou Jasmine site (16SJB2), was chosen for comparative purpose to isolate temporal or geographic variation in Tchefuncte pottery. Pottery from the two sites was analyzed to test the hypothesis that the quality of Tchula pottery improves temporally when frequency of contortions and laminations are calculated and compared.

Sherds were categorized into four groups: non-laminated, mildly laminated (sherds having 1 to 2 separate layers), moderately laminated (sherds having 3 to 4 laminations), and severely laminated (over 4 layers) (Figure 1). Contortions were then ranked similarly to laminations. The paste of non-contorted sherds showed no significant variation from a horizontal path, mildly contorted pastes varied up to 10 degrees at any given point from a horizontal path, moderately contorted sherds varied up to 20 degrees from the horizontal path, highly contorted sherds varied over 20 degrees from the horizontal path (Figure 1).

Using the degree and frequency of laminations and contortions, as measures of paste quality, it was found that at the Sarah Peralta site there is a trend towards less contorted/laminar pastes later in the period, while at the Bayou Jasmine site there was higher variability in paste types throughout the deposits. Though higher frequencies of less laminated and contorted sherds were seen at the site in comparison to the Sarah Peralta site. These results could help to further categorize Tchula period sites geographically and temporally.

Although gross stylistic types and technology of pottery production were shared throughout the culture, limited contact between Gulf tradition cultures outside of Louisiana may have led to variation in methods of paste preparation. In other words, at sites that were more fully integrated into the Gulf tradition, paste production technology was being transferred along with decorative motifs. At sites in more interior locations, such as the Sarah Peralta site, it may be that decorative motifs associated with the Gulf tradition were adopted without the underlying production technology. However, as the Tchefuncte at Sarah Peralta site became more experienced in making pottery, production improved. This research is discussed in more detail along with detailed descriptions of site stratigraphy and radiographic information in Fullen 2005 with additional supportive information found in Perrault et al. 1994 and Hays and Weinstein 1999.



**Figure 1: Hypothesized Progression of  
Paste Quality**

## Tchefuncte Pottery (continued)

### Works Cited

Fullen, Steven R.

2005 *Temporal Trends in Tchula Period Pottery in Louisiana*. Unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

Hays, Christopher T., and Richard A. Weinstein

1999 Perspectives on Tchefuncte Cultural Chronology from the Bayou Jasmine Site. *Louisiana Archaeology* 23:49-89.

Perrault, Stephanie L., Richard Weinstein, and Kambiu Liu

1994 *National Register Eligibility Testing at the Sarah Peralta Site, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana*. Report on file, Division of Archaeology, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Baton Rouge.

## Archaeology in Kisatchie National Forest

By Geoffrey R. Lehmann

Calcasieu Ranger District Archeologist

Last summer archeological field survey was conducted on about 2500 acres of the Evangeline Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District in Rapides Parish. Lee Couvillion, Jessica Donley, Adam Fuselier and Andrea McCarthy, all current or graduating LSU Anthropology students, were hired as archeological aides to assist in this endeavor and proved invaluable (despite being a bunch of college know-it-all hippies). Most of this survey area was in the longleaf pine upland headwaters of small creeks flowing northeast into Bayou Beouf, and was in the vicinity surrounding the current Air Force Claiborne Air-to-Ground Weapons Range. We located 41 new archeological sites, primarily small lithic scatters.

A couple of months prior to our work, the Air Force contracted with e2M to survey 3188 acres within the actual Claiborne Range (Hokanson, Jeffrey H. and Kimberley A. Fariello, 2005, "*Phase I Archaeological Survey within the Composite Weapons Safety Footprint on the Claiborne Range, Kisatchie National Forest, Rapides Parish, Louisiana*." Engineering-environmental Management, Inc., Englewood, CO.) Their inventory recorded 55 new archeological sites. Eight of these sites, along with three previously

recorded sites may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and two of them are scheduled for further testing and evaluation this summer due to impact from strafing overshots.

To further the martial theme of accomplishments on the Calcasieu, the Ft. Worth District Corps of Engineers has continued pursuit of its responsibilities under the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program, established by Congress in 1986, to clean up properties previously in use by the military. Former Camp Claiborne (16RA373) structural remains were inventoried and categorized according to the hazard they represent: drowning, falling, tripping and impaling hazards. Reduction of these hazards is underway through a Corps of Engineers contract (nearing 80% completion) and will allow safe visitation of these ruins by the public. The emphasis is on eliminating hazards while preserving ruins.

Among the structural remains are 3 water storage structures that may be the largest known roost sites of Southeastern Myotis bats. Mitigation of the drowning and falling hazards represented by these structures has also safeguarded the habitat of these mammals.

Inventory of the former camp also characterized the nature and extent of ordnance contamination, providing a risk-based analysis for future management activities. Roughly 10,000 acres of the former weapons ranges will require administrative control over entry and/or use until a satisfactory level of clearance can be affected. Overseas requirements for explosive ordnance trained personnel have delayed completion of this work.

For those unfamiliar with former Camp Claiborne: war in Europe in the late 1930's caused the US military to search for suitable ground on which to conduct large-scale training maneuvers, and the cut-over lands in central Louisiana under control of the newly created Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) provided an ideal location. From 1940 through 1945, Camp Claiborne trained over 500,000 soldiers for service in World War II, and for those six years represented the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in Louisiana. By 1947 all salvageable material had been sold for scrap and the land reverted to control of the KNF.

LOUISIANA DIVISION OF  
**ARCHAEOLOGY**



Presents

Louisiana  
Archaeology Week  
October 1-7, 2006

Volunteers are needed to:

Host and/or organize events

Present slide shows/lectures

CONDUCT DEMONSTRATIONS

Have an idea for an Archaeology Week event?

Want to sign up to volunteer?

contact:

The Division of Archaeology

225-342-8170

archaeology@crt.state.la.us

33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of  
The Louisiana Archaeological Society  
Monroe, Louisiana  
March 3-5, 2006

Joe Saunders, ably assisted by many, organized the LAS's annual meeting in Monroe that was held at the Atrium Hotel and Suites, 2001 Louisville Ave. He reports that over 110 people registered and that about 40 participated in Mounds Trail excursions on both Friday and Sunday (see photos). He also reports that there were no "major" problems and that there were many compliments on the theme of meetings and the Sunday morning workshop on Troyville ceramics. The Silent auction brought in around \$700, which covered keynote speaker Dr. Milner's air ticket. Dr. Milner declined the honorarium offered for his time and presentation.

A special presentation from Governor Blanco, via Rep. Francis Thompson, was given to Dr. Tom Eubanks for his contributions to Louisiana Archaeology (see photos). Mr. Thurman Allen received the second Roger Saucier Award for his contributions in soils analysis to the field of archaeology (see below).

Presentations by members were as follows:

**Saturday, March 4, 2006**

*Report of State Division of Archaeology*-Tom Eubanks

*Louisiana Archaeology: An Overview Summary*- Bob Newman

*Of Mounds, Crawfish, Cypress Trees, and Wetlands*- George Riser

*Using American Indian Pottery to Identify Historic Period Sites*- George Avery and Pete Gregory

*Relocating the Architectural Roots of a Dynasty: 2005 Fieldwork at the Plantation Home of Marie-Therese Coincoin*- David Morgan, Kevin C. McDonald, and Fiona Handley.

*New Orleans and the Archaeology of Disaster: Past and Future*- Shannon Dawdy

*Last Mounds Trail Update*- Recca Jones

*Preliminary Analysis of Aboriginal Ceramics from the Filhiol Mound Site (16OU2)* - Malcolm Shuman

*The General Orientation and Dimensions of the McGuffee Site (16CT17)* – Norm Davis

*The Bobbie Alexander Site (donated to the Archaeological Conservancy)*-Bobbie Alexander

*The Mangum Site in Southwest Mississippi: Resurrecting a Plaquemine 'Necropolis' with 'Southern Cult' Connections*- Marvin Jeter

*Mounds Plantation and Artifacts from the McKinney Collection* Jeff Girard

*Caddo House Construction from Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum)*-Charles Allen

*Coles Creek Period Seed Use in the Tensas Basin*-Rich Weinstein

*Middle to Late Archaic Burned Rock Middens in Central Texas: Were Some Really Mounds?*- Boyd Dixon

*(16BE99) Screaming Eagle Site Evaluation*- John Guy

*Importance and Techniques of Fishing in the Louisiana Archaic*- Gary Stringer

The highlight of the meeting was the keynote address by Dr. George Milner – *The Moundbuilders: Ancient Peoples of Eastern North America* (see photos). Dr. Milner also signed copies of his 2004 book of the same title.

**Sunday, March 5, 2006, Troyville Symposium**

Troyville culture pottery exhibit was on display at 8:00 am and the program began at 9:00 am followed by audience discussion.

*Data Recovery at the Troyville Site-DOTD's Recent Archaeological Work at Jonesville, Louisiana* – Liz Davoli

*Gregory, Gibson, and Hunter: Batting Clean Up Is Not So Bad* – Aubra (Butch) Lee

*Feature 1, Mound 4 at the Troyville Site* – Joe Saunders

*A Brief Overview of the Fredericks Site (16NA2)* – Jeff Girard

*Overview of the Morton Shell Mound and Gold Mine site* – Chip McGimsey

Presentations were followed by discussions among presenters and attendees.

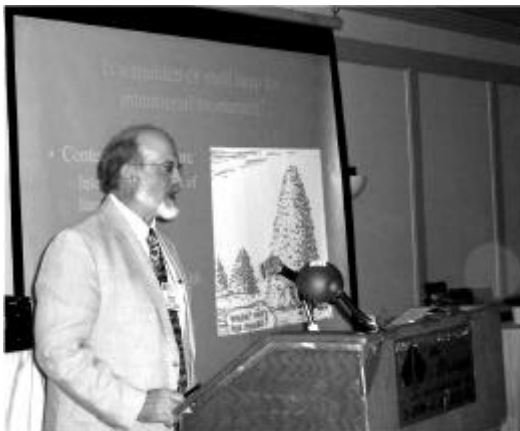
## Scenes from the 2006 LAS Meeting in Monroe, LA



Rep. Francis Thompson presenting State Archaeologist, Dr. Tom Eubanks, with plaque of appreciation from Gov. Kathleen Blanco.



John Guy, Kathleen Bergeron, Jon Gibson, and Clair Davis between presentations



Dr. George Milner delivers the keynote address at the meeting



LAS members enjoying a tour of the Insley Mounds site, one of the sites on the Louisiana Mounds Trail.



Jim Fogelman and Dennis Jones admire each other's hats



Reca Jones, far right, tells LAS members about the Watson Brake site.

*The following are notes for the presentation at the last LAS meeting that John Polk was unable to present. His wife, Lena, provided them. (Dennis Jones).*

## **The Rebirth of Orange Grove Plantation By John Polk**

For those of you who don't know this old relic, my name is John Polk. On June the 6<sup>th</sup>, 1956 I went to work for American Cyanamid Company for what I thought would be a summer job, 38 years later I retired. Many exciting things happened to me during those years, but, to me, the most thrilling thing happened on a stormy night in 1987. Cyanamid had decided to shutdown the Prichard Ammonia Plant and I was one of four people left there to insure safety. It was a very boring job that unexpectedly got to be very exciting.

On the way to work, a few weeks after the shutdown, it started to rain very hard. By the time I got to work, the water level in the dike area around the ammonia storage tank was high and needed to be emptied. As I opened the drain valve the water started rushing out of the dike area against the wall of the ditch with a lot of pressure. As I was turning to leave, I noticed something being washed out of the side of the ditch. As I reached down to pick it up I realized it was part of an old shotgun and being an avid amateur archaeologist, I knew it could be an important find. For most of the rest of my shift I looked in the ditch for artifacts. I collected over 50 objects that I thought were significant.

I sought and was granted permission to show the collection to State Archaeologist, Dr. Katherine Byrd. We agreed that they were remains from the old Orange Grove Plantation. My exploration would have ended then had I not been transferred to another job.

After the ammonia plant was secured, I transferred to another job that allowed me to roam all over the plant area. Part of the job was taking samples from all the ditches in and around the plant. Needless to say, I took advantage of this to look for more artifacts.

Then one day while exploring the ditch in front of the plant, I found Indian pottery mixed with early French ceramics. Since this was only about 200 yards from the river, I decided to check down by the water. It was late summer, and the river was lower than it had been in years. As I walked along I noticed clamshells along the bank and extending out into the river. From past experience I knew that this may indicate an Indian occupation, and upon closer inspection I found pieces of very old pottery and an awesome bone awl. I then realized I was standing on a very old Indian shell midden. I was very excited because I thought there would be a rare chance to dig the midden before the water came up again. Coming back over the levee that day I had heard some noises coming from downstream.

It was three days before I could get back to the site and I'm sorry to say, I found out exactly what was making the noise... it was the sound of concrete slabs being dropped off of barges by the Corps of Engineers and they had just finished covering the shell midden with tons of concrete. It was a sad day, but I still had the mixture of pottery and ceramics I had found in the picnic area.

When I brought these to Dr. Byrd, she got excited. She said this could be a site of early trade between the French and Indians. I reported this to the plant personnel manager, Joe Marosits, who thought they merited more investigation by professional archaeologists.

Cyanamid donated money to hire Dr. Goodwin of Goodwin and Associates to perform an archaeological survey. The end result of their survey was that the site was of no real archaeological significance. I could not live with the result of these findings, and one of Goodwin's workers agreed with me. He suggested I get in touch with a new company coming on the scene by the name of Earth Search. I did...best move I ever made.

The rest you might say is history. The co-owners of Earth Search, Dr. Herschel Franks and Dr. Jill Yacubik, volunteered to put down a test pit near where I had found the mixture of artifacts. The results were fantastic. We found hundreds of artifacts.

We then met with Cyanamid (now Cytec) who hired Earth Search to open a dig during Archaeology Week of 1990. After three long years, I could finally say mission accomplished. It was agreed that the best way to go would be an outreach program, where students from local schools could come and experience hands-on archaeology. It was decided that the best place for the dig would be at the great house and slave cabin area, leaving the aboriginal area safe and undisturbed.

The program was so successful that Cyanamid (Cytec) generously hired Earth Search to reopen this site every year in conjunction with Archaeology Week for ten years.

In 1997 Cytec won the prestigious American Cultural Resources Association Industry Award. This award is given annually to the industrial company that has made a real contribution to making the public aware of our cultural resources.

I am very proud to have had a small part in the rebirth of Orange Grove Plantation through the decade of archaeological digs that took place at Cyanamid (Cytec). About 25,000 students had a chance to do hands-on archaeology and hopefully they have learned to help save the past for the future.



## The Archaeological Conservancy in Louisiana

By Jessica Crawford

Since many people who are interested in archaeology are not aware of The Archaeological Conservancy and what we've been doing in Louisiana, I'd like to take this opportunity to explain a little about our group and what we've been doing in your state. We are like The Nature Conservancy in that we purchase land for preservation, except we purchase archaeological sites. We are a private, nation-wide, nonprofit organization that receives funding from membership dues, grants from foundations, and corporate and individual donations. We also offer archaeological tours that visit our sites and sites that are public parks. The Conservancy has five regional offices: Southwest (Albuquerque, NM), Western (Sacramento, CA), Midwest (Columbus, OH), Eastern (Frederick, MD) and my office, the Southeast Regional Office in Lambert, Mississippi. I'm currently in the process of moving my office from my home to a location in the nearby town of Marks.

The Archaeological Conservancy was founded in the early 1980's by a group of Southwestern archaeologists, historians and preservationists. Our home office is in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and many of the original founders still serve on our board of directors along with several other distinguished archaeologists and business people. The philosophy behind The Archaeological Conservancy is that the only way to ensure permanent preservation of a site is to own it. Contrary to what many believe, being on the National Register does not mean a site is permanently protected. In many cases, the presence of human burials does not necessarily protect a site.

As our President, Mark Michel puts it; we protect archaeological sites the American way: by owning them. We do this by purchasing them or through owner donation. The donation of a site is eligible for a tax deduction, and often landowners decide to do a bargain sale to charity, which is when they sell a site to us for less than its appraised value. The difference between the appraised value and the sale price is considered a donation to charity. We prefer not to hold archaeological easements because they are hard to enforce, and if we have to buy them, they cost almost as much as land. We only accept easement donations if a site is extremely significant, and if it comes with a right of first refusal, should the owner ever decide to sell.

Although prearranged visits to our sites are possible, we do not keep them open as parks. This would put a whole strain on our finances and involve all kinds of new management and liability issues. We do allow new professional archaeologists to conduct research on our sites with the stipulation that they first submit a research proposal that we have evaluated by at least three archaeologists not connected with the proposed project. The way we maintain sites varies from site to site. In the Southeast, this usually means we just plant grass and possibly fence a site. If any kind of stabilization or erosion control is needed, we take care of that as well. We'll often contract with someone local to take care of periodic mowing of sites. Other than that, once we acquire a site, very little changes, except the fact that the site will never be destroyed.

Often people don't understand why we want to acquire a site that is not in danger of being destroyed, and I try to point out to them that when we acquire a site, this means it is permanently preserved- not only for this generation, but for future generations. It is impossible to know what may happen to an Indian mound or village site 50 or 75 years from now. If you wait until bulldozers or land levelers are coming, it's usually too late or very expensive. The Conservancy does not acquire a site unless we are prepared to manage it indefinitely. In a few cases, we turn sites over to individual states or the Park Service. We will stop acquiring sites if our finances become so strained that we cannot manage the sites we already own.

When selecting sites for possible acquisition, we do have selection criteria. The most important consideration is good research potential. It may seem that we concentrate on Indian Mounds, but that is because if a mound is there, then we know there's something to research. It's a little harder to tell about sites that aren't mounds. I'm always afraid that we'll spend a lot of money on nothing but disturbed plow zone. Another consideration is how difficult a site may be to maintain once we do get it, and of course, we must consider how much it may cost us if we have to purchase a site.

Currently, we own and manage over 300 sites all over the country. So what have we been doing in Louisiana? We have 9 sites there: Reno Brake (Tensas Parish), Osceola (Tensas Parish), Mott (Franklin Parish), Hedgepeth Mounds (Lincoln Parish), Bayou Portage Guidry (St. Martin Parish), Alexander (West Carroll Parish) Caney Bayou (Morehouse Parish), Caney Mounds (Catahoula Parish) and DePrato (Concordia Parish)

I hope members of the LAS will consider joining The Archaeological Conservancy. Membership is \$25 and includes a subscription to our magazine *American Archaeology*, which features articles about sites we own, work we're doing and archaeology in general. It's the only magazine devoted solely to American Archaeology. You can be sure your dues will go to the preservation of sites in the Southeast, specifically Louisiana.

**(Archaeological Conservancy (continued))**

To join, you can visit our website [www.americanarchaeology.org](http://www.americanarchaeology.org) or get in touch with me. I can probably arrange for you to receive a "sample" magazine. I want to ask LAS members to be my eyes and ears. After all, no one knows the sites and the archaeology better than you. Let me know when a good archaeological site is for sale or talk to people who own sites and ask them to consider permanently preserving their sites with us. Half the battle is convincing someone to sell or donate a few acres from a larger tract of land that isn't for sale. It's even better if the site is currently for sale. I look forward to meeting and working with more LAS members.

Jessica Crawford, Delta Field Representative  
SE Regional Director  
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## Nomination of Thurman Allen for the Second Saucier Award

By Joe Saunders and T.R. Kidder

We are nominating Thurman Allen for the second Saucier Award. The award is in recognition of significant contributions in interdisciplinary research by a specialist other than in archaeology. Thurman is the leading authority on the interpretation of mound profiles in at least a four-state area: Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Mississippi. He is renowned for his vanguard research on soil development in mound fill, and its application for estimating the relative age of earthworks. His collaboration with professional archaeologists, students, avocational archaeologists, and the public has enhanced the interpretations of archaeological sites at all levels.

Trained as a soil scientist (MS from LSU), Thurman has worked for the Soil Conservation Service (S.C.S., now the N.R.C.S.) for 33 years. His introduction to archaeology was with Arville Touchette and Dr. Jon Gibson at Poverty Point and, appropriately, Roger Saucier and T.R. Kidder at the Jordan Site. His publication on Poverty Point soils in *Louisiana Archaeology* in 1990 marked the beginning of his written contributions to archaeology. He also authored a number of SCS Parish soil surveys, many of which are standard citations for archaeological research in northeast Louisiana.

His colleagues are many, including: Roger Saucier, Robert Neuman, Jon Gibson, T.R. Kidder, Mike Russo, Jim Fogleman, Tom Eubanks, Jeff Girard, Chip McGimsey, Robert Connolly, Tony Ortman, David Kelley, Rich Weinstein, Dennis Jones, and Joe Saunders.

Folks from Arkansas and Mississippi include: Marvin Jeter, Sam McGahey, John Connoway, Ed Jackson, Jay Johnson, Jessica Crawford, and many others.

Thurman has contributed to a better understanding of Poverty Point, Motley, Lower Jackson, Raffman, Browning Mound, Osceola, Stevenson, Belvue Mound, Fish Hatchery Site, Hedgepeth Mounds, Frenchman's Bend Mounds, Caney Mounds, St. Mary's Mound, Stelly Mounds, Bush Mounds, Belmont Mound, Jaketown, Winterville, Hollywood Mounds, Caney Mound, McGuffee Mounds, Insley, Marksville, and many others we are sure.

Thurman's contributions extend beyond soil coring and its interpretation. Thurman has been a patient and kind teacher of archaeologists and students alike. His work on soils in and around the southern LMV has contributed to the growing use of soil science as a basic aid to understanding and interpreting archaeological remains. Indeed, one could argue that without Thurman and his willingness to work with and teach archaeologists, the field would be considerably farther behind than it is today. Thurman has been gracious and unstinting in his efforts on behalf of archaeology and archaeologists. He goes out of his way to accommodate our needs and interests and is humble and quick to deflect the credit due him.

Besides his article on the soils of Poverty Point, he has coauthored publications in *Louisiana Archaeology*, *Southeastern Archaeology*, *American Antiquity*, and *Science*. Thurman is retiring from the NRCS in January. Then, he can really get to work on these Louisiana Mounds.



**Joe Saunders presenting the Saucier Award to Thurman Allen (right) at the 2006 LAS meeting in Monroe.**

# Regional Archaeology News

Many of us in LAS take for granted that we have four dedicated professional archaeologists who conduct research, do public outreach, and help in the preservation of archaeological sites. I hope to make their accomplishments and activities, as well as those of the people that help them, a regular feature in the LAS Newsletter. Below is a map of the various regions: Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast in which they work. (Dennis Jones).



## Northwest Region

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## Northeast Region

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## Southwest Region

### Dr. Charles R. "Chip" McGimsey

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## Southeast Region

### Rob Mann

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## Winter 2006 Activities of the Southwest Regional Archaeologist By Chip McGimsey

Several years ago, I decided to take on the responsibility of writing up the Gold Mine site (16RI13), located in Richland Parish in northeast Louisiana. This site was excavated 25 years ago by a dedicated group of avocational archaeologists, including Reca Jones, Nina Helfert and the Dwain Kirkham, with the assistance of various professional archaeologists, including John Belmont. The site is a low mound situated on a terrace overlooking an abandoned channel of Big Creek. The mound is an ossuary – a cemetery where hundreds of Native Americans were interred approximately A.D. 825.

The report on the archaeology of this site was completed two years ago and anyone interested in a copy can contact Chip McGimsey. The landowners have agreed to donate the entire collection to the State and since that time, my research assistants and I have been struggling to get the collection organized and curated. This includes not only the abundant artifact collection, but also the extensive set of human remains. Earlier this year, I made a trip to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where they were on loan for study, and brought the remains home. As of this writing, we have finally finished the initial sorting and organization of the human remains and a brief overview of the burial population is given here.

The site was excavated over three years and human remains were found during each year's work. The most extensive excavation occurred in the first year (1978): the excavators identified at least 98 burials based upon distinct skulls. The recent inventory of the 1978 human remains suggests that at least 200 individuals are present, over 25% of which are infants and juveniles. Although most of the individuals are adults, each typically has at least some bones from a child or infant included with them. It is not clear whether these are children of the adults or simply miscellaneous bones that were accidentally included with the adult bones.

In 1979, only a few units were excavated with at least 15 more individuals recovered. They include infants, juveniles and adults. The final season of excavation produced another 52 individuals of all ages. In all three years of excavation, there were also very abundant remains that could not be associated with a specific burial. The archaeology of the mound indicates that while some people were placed in shallow pits, many others were secondary bundle burials placed on mound surfaces, and the remains of many people were simply scattered across the mound surface. In addition, piles of long bones only represent some burials, while only isolated skulls represent others. These varying methods of interment make it vary difficult to determine the actual number of individuals buried in this mound. But the present inventory suggests that within the excavated area of the mound, an area only 8 x 10 m in size, at least 250-260 people were interred.

Although I am not a physical anthropologist, it is clear that this was a generally healthy population. There is very little evidence of extensive disease evident on the bones, and relatively few broken bones. Some older people had lost most of their teeth, but had lived long enough for the bone to remodel over the tooth sockets. At least a few individuals were very tall, much taller than the average Native American height of 5'7" for men (5'4" for women).

The Gold Mine population exhibits remarkable preservation, with even some of the tiny bones of the ear (malleus, incus and stapes; each only 2-4 mm long) recovered during the excavation. It offers an incredible opportunity to examine the health, diet and overall condition of people during this time. Now that the collection is finally organized, I am hoping to interest physical anthropologists in studying this collection. Perhaps in the future, we will have more information about the people buried at the Gold Mine site.

## Recent Investigations at the Sims Site (16SC2)

By Rob Mann

Southeast Regional Archaeologist

In February 2006 the LSU Museum of Natural Science (LSUMNS) Regional Archaeology Program undertook archaeological field investigations at the Sims site (16SC2) near Paradis in St. Charles Parish. The Sims site, also known as the Sim's Place site, is a multi-component mound complex with associated midden deposits located along both banks of Bayou Saut d'ours. Previous investigations in 1978, 1979 and 1980 at the site by Dave Davis, then of Tulane University, concentrated primarily on the midden areas of the site and documented the presence of cultural components dating to the late Coles Creek (ca. A.D. 800-1100) and Mississippian/ protohistoric periods (ca. A.D. 1100-1800) (Davis 1981, 1984, 1987; Davis and Giardino 1980).

Radiocarbon assays submitted by Chris Hays, former Southeast Regional Archaeologist, helped to clarify the temporal relationships between these components (Hays 1995). Though the site originally consisted of at least five earthen mounds, only two mounds and possibly the remnants of a third mound are extant today. A historic period cemetery sits atop and adjacent to Mound A, as designated by Davis. This mound is labeled "Mound C" on some maps of the site.

During visits to the site in January 2006 by Southwest Regional Archaeologist Dr. Chip McGimsey, members of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, and myself, human remains were observed in the soil clinging to the root ball of a large tree on Mound A felled by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Artifacts were also observed in the hole created by the tree fall. The tree fall has disturbed a large area on the flank of Mound A, near the base and well away from the historic period burials on top of the mound (Figure 1). Thus, the exposed human remains are assumed to be Native American and not African-American or Euro-American in origin. Because the Sims site lies within the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana's aboriginal homeland, the exposed human remains were assumed to be affiliated with the Chitimacha Tribe.

In order to protect these ancestral remains from further destruction and loss through erosion and/or pothunting, an Unmarked Human Burials Permit was secured from the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and the documentation, excavation and stabilization of the disturbed portions of Mound A at the Sims site was undertaken. Dr. Chip McGimsey and myself in consultation with the Chitimacha Tribe and the property owner, Mrs. Sara Sims. Several volunteers facilitated our work at the site, including Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) members David Bishop, Mike Comardelle, Richard Gartley, Mike Mathern, Lloyd Pine, and Rodgers Serpas. Other volunteer workers included Jim Delahoussaye, Adam Fusilier, Aaron Patterson, Erik Beadle, Damian Tatum, and Jacques Doucet. Aaron and Erik are Jr. High School students from Denham Springs and Paradis respectively. Both have an interest in pursuing archaeology as a career.



**Figure 1. Tree fall on Mound A at the Sims site**

Our first task was to remove and screen the soil (mound fill) clinging to the root ball of the fallen tree. We recovered over 100 pottery sherds from the root ball, including a partially reconstructed Winterville Incised vessel (Figure 2). Other diagnostic pottery types include Anna Incised, Cole Creek Incised, Mazique Incised, L'eau Noir Incised, and French Fork Incised. We also recovered several fragmentary human skeletal remains. These are currently being analyzed by LSU Anthropology graduate student Lucinda Freeman and Mrs. Mary Manhein, Director of the LSU FACES Laboratory.

## Sims site (continued)



**Figure 2. Partially reconstructed Winterville Incised vessel.**

Additional work at the site included cleaning off three one-meter sections of the exposed mound fill in order to obtain profiles of the mound and sub-mound stratigraphy. All profiles clearly revealed a single stage of basket loaded mound fill and the presence of an artifact and ecofact rich sub-mound midden was documented in Profile Area 2. Pottery types recovered from the profile areas and loose mound fill include an unidentified ridge pinched rim sherd, Baytown Plain, Winterville Incised and Anna Incised.

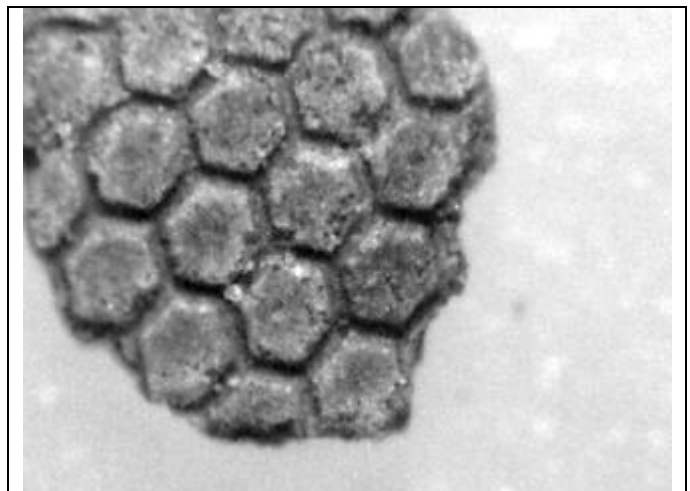
Following our field work all screened soil was backfilled into the hole in the mound created by the tree fall and a load of clean fill dirt was later brought in to further stabilize the mound and prevent further erosion. Washing and initial processing of the artifacts recovered from the Sims site was accomplished with assistance from LAS members Lloyd and Pat Pine, Stephanie Perrault, and Bill Tarlington as well as LSU student Adam Fusilier, and Dr. Chip McGimsey. Once our documentation and analyses of the artifacts and human remains recovered from the mound fill is complete they will be returned to the Chitimacha Tribe for reburial at the site.

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 1980 Some Notes on Mississippian Period Ceramics in the Mississippi River Delta. *Louisiana Archaeology* 7:53-66.

Hays, Christopher

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**Do you know what this archaeological specimen is? Send your ideas to the Newsletter Editor for fabulous prize and the admiration of all!! Answer in the next newsletter.**

## Northwest Regional Archaeologist Report By Jeff Girard

Information on prehistoric and historic archaeological sites recently was recorded in the Webster Parish portions of Lake Bistineau. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries drew down the lake in the late summers of 2004 and 2005 in an effort to control exotic plant growth. Lowering of the lake pool level approximately 7 feet below normal exposed approximately 10,000 acres of normally inundated land. At the north end, water was confined to the former channel and small tributaries of Bayou Dorcheat as well as a few low ponded areas such as Crane Lake.

Members of the Northwest Chapter of the LAS, led by Claude McCrocklin, recorded many sites in 1983 when a similar drawdown occurred. Last fall, we were able to update information on several of these sites and record more. The northern portion of the lake lies over a salt dome, and some sites were associated with salt production—both in prehistoric and historic times.

One of the most interesting is the Potters Pond site (16WE76), initially investigated by McCrocklin, David Jeane, and other LAS members during their 1983 work. The site consists of numerous circular depressions representing middle 19<sup>th</sup> century salt wells. An extensive, and very dense, scatter of prehistoric pottery also is present. Most of the prehistoric pottery is shell tempered. Decorated types include Foster Trailed Incised and Fatherland Incised suggesting use of the area in the 17<sup>th</sup> century or later. Much of the historic salt production took place during the Civil War after the Union blockade of the mouth of the Mississippi River limited import of salt to Louisiana.

Another drawdown of the lake is scheduled for late next summer and we plan to do additional survey. Volunteers are welcome to help.



*Circular depression representing 19<sup>th</sup> century salt well on Lake Bistineau*



*Reconstructed Foster Trailed Incised jar from the Potters Pond site in the collections of the Arkansas Archeological Survey*

## Northeast Louisiana Regional Archaeology

By Joe Saunders

Over the past quarter, we have been working on Mound 4, Troyville. This mound is virtually intact. A 1 x 1 m test unit was excavated in the mound to verify an older than expected radiocarbon date recovered by coring the mound a few years back. At approximately 40 centimeters below surface we uncovered a cache of pottery sherds in a ca. 40 x 40 x 40 cm pit. Only pottery, some charcoal, two bone fragments were recovered from the pit. We shot in over 1300 sherds with total station to look at the distribution of pottery types and parts. I hoped this information would allow us to determine if cache = broken pots, or = trash from site area. We have completed labeling and cataloging the material and I am starting to look at the distribution of sherds. It does not look too promising, as it appears to be a trash pit. Should know which hypothesis better explains the contents in about a month.



Density of sherds in pit feature at Mound 4

### Editor's Corner

I have taken on the job of editing the LAS newsletter with enthusiasm combined with some trepidation. I hope to make the newsletter a bulletin board for our organization to let folks know what's going on in as timely a fashion as possible. I also want to the LAS newsletter to be a clearinghouse for announcements, conference notices, etc. However, I am not, nor do I claim to be, omniscient. I would like the membership of LAS to help me out as much as possible. Please feel free to send me notices, meetings, reviews, just about anything pertaining to archaeology in and around Louisiana.

That being said, I know similar calls from former editors have often gone unheeded in the past. I don't plan to let membership apathy stop me from putting out a quality newsletter! Rather, everyone that provided a contribution for this newsletter can expect calls and/or emails from me in the future. If I haven't contacted you yet, please don't feel slighted. If you are in LAS or are doing archaeology in Louisiana, I consider notice of your activities is the sort of thing that should be in the LAS newsletter.

Specifically, I hope to have reports from our Regional Archaeologists, no matter how brief, in every newsletter. Also, I plan to continue with membership chapter reports from throughout the state, with reports from the northeastern Louisiana/Monroe area and New Orleans in the future. Also, I want to report on the projects of the various contract archaeology companies in Louisiana. I hope to have all this, and notice of Archaeology Week activities, in the next newsletter in September.

So how do you contact me? You can go to the LAS website: <http://www.laarchaeology.org/>, click on 'officers', find my photograph and email me from there. I also have another email address that is more direct: [archaeoman2003@yahoo.com](mailto:archaeoman2003@yahoo.com). Either way, I should receive your information. I hope to hear from all of you!!

On a more personal note, I want to express my personal condolences to the family of John Polk. He was a wonderful man who made a series of significant contributions to LAS. Besides his work at the Orange Grove Plantations site described above, he also provided a real service to LAS by videotaping the presentations at the LAS annual meetings for many years. This simple act may ultimately prove to be of great service to LAS and archaeology in Louisiana.

-Dennis Jones  
LAS Newsletter Editor

## From the Desk of the LAS President- Ellen Ibert

It is with our deepest regrets to inform our members about loss of the former president, John Polk. He was an active participant of the Louisiana Archaeological Society since the early 80's, a positive member of the executive board and a very excellent president. His passion for the LAS and its success were evident in the products that he produced on behalf of the society. In his tenure, he encouraged new membership and was working hard to create an archaeological field school. I hope the executive board will strive to continue his work by assisting to increase membership and finalize the development of the LAS Field Project.

John Polk is also remembered for his dedication to recording LAS Conferences. Many of us remember him sitting and standing behind the camcorder throughout the speaking portions of the annual conference. It is from his efforts and dedication that LAS is able to possess a complete library of past LAS speakers. John Guy, Jr. and Joe Saunders commented their services to carrying on this task to him prior to his illness. LAS hopes to take the past and present recordings and convert them into DVDs for future viewing.

We hope that his wife Lena, and family, will accept our deepest sympathy and call upon us for any assistance or comfort they may need. Mrs. Polk let us know that John and her wanted donation given to LAS in lieu of flowers. Still, to his dying day, John's expressions and actions expressed his passions to this society. President Polk has left us, but he will not be forgotten. His friends with LAS will remember him as he leaves us with not only with fond memories of a wonderful man, but also as the one who challenged us to meet his goals and expectations – to strive for higher things. I will miss him dearly at every future conference; as well as our executive board meetings.

### MEMBERSHIP'S OFFICIAL NOTICE

So much is happening so fast. If you were fortunate enough to attend this year's annual conference in Monroe, Louisiana, then you are aware that we did not have anyone accept the vice president/president elect nomination for the annual business meeting election. After the business meeting, Dr. George Riser expressed, to a member of the nomination committee, his willingness to serve LAS in the capacity as vice-president/president elect. No one else has stepped up to the plate. Therefore, notification is given to all LAS members that the LAS Executive Board Meeting will meet at the USDA, Forest Service Conference Room in Pineville, Louisiana on 10 Jun 2006 at 10:30 A.M. If the LAS Executive Board does not have any other nominations for this open necessary position or any objections to Dr. Riser's appointment to this position, then the LAS Executive Board will accept Dr. Riser into the vice-presidential seat without an electoral vote.

All members are welcome to attend the Executive Board Meeting in Pineville to express their concerns. However, if you are not able to attend this meeting and would like the Executive Board to consider your issues, please send your comments and concerns to the LAS President, Ellen Ibert, by mail; P. O. Box 145, Anacoco, Louisiana 71403 or email; [eiparker@bellsouth.net](mailto:eiparker@bellsouth.net).

### GRANT WRITING COMMITTEE

My goal for LAS is to have a LAS Grant Writing Committee in place by the end of my tenure. Ms. Ann Wiehner has stepped up to the plate on this task. She has a background in grant writing and banking. I will be challenging her to assist with the development of the grant committee and hope that she will be able to serve as its director.

## **LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY Minutes of Board of Directors' Meeting Monroe, LA, March 3, 2006**

The LAC Board of Directors met at 7:40 p.m., Friday, March 3, 2006. President Ellen Ibert presided. Members present were Ellen Ibert, President; Kathleen Bergeron, Vice President; Maureen Downey, Secretary; Stu Braud; Marc Dupuy; and Scott Wehner.

Scott Wehner, the nominee for LAC treasurer was introduced.

The minutes of the November 5, 2005 LAC meeting held in Amite, Louisiana were approved. All four motions voted on by email were approved.

Kathleen Bergeron suggested the LAC publish a newsletter as well as placing information in other publications.

Carl Kuttruff provided the Division of Archaeology with 100 copies of the present LAC brochure for distribution during Archaeology Week. It was agreed that the brochure would need to be updated to reflect 2006 officers.

Marc Dupuy reported the donation of the archaeological conservation servitude by Mr. Kurt Feigley has not yet been finalized. Research suggests that it was the location of "McGehee's Camp" during the Civil War. Marc will request Robb Mann to visit the site and confirm that it is a historically significant site.

Carl Kuttruff submitted the March 1, 2006 LAC Treasurer's Report by mail. The LAC has a checking account balance of \$499.09. Carl is retiring as treasurer. The LAC appreciates all his hard work for the Conservancy. Scott Wehner will now collect membership dues.

Kathleen Bergeron will contact the national organization of the Archaeological Conservancy to establish communications with them.

After review of the present Standard Operating Procedures for Servitudes, it was agreed that the present procedures are sufficient.

The LAC officers nominated for 2006 were elected by acclamation. 2006 officers are Kathleen Bergeron, President; Stu Baud, Vice President; Scott Wehner, Treasurer; and Maureen Downey, Secretary.

The next meeting of the LAC will be held after the LAS meeting on June 10, 2006. The location will be announced later. President Ellen Ibert adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes reported by Maureen Downey, Secretary.

## **LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Monroe, LA, March 3, 2006**

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society met 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 3, 2006 at The Atrium, Monroe, Louisiana. Ellen Ibert presided.

Members present were Ellen Ibert, Vice President/President-Elect; Josetta LeBoeuf, Treasurer; Maureen Downey, Secretary; Chip McGimsey, Bulletin Editor; Cherie Schwab, Newsletter Editor; Rogers Serpas, Representative at Large; John Guy, Representative at Large; Stephanie Perrault, Baton Rouge Chapter; Nancy Affeltranger, CLAC President; Dennis Jones; and Marc Dupuy.

Minutes of the November 5, 2005 meeting held in Amite, LA were approved.

Ellen Ibert explained that President John Polk was ill and unable to attend the meeting. She introduced her Guidelines for Formation of New Chapters that will be provided to all members of the Executive Committee and to persons wishing to start new chapters.

Treasurer Josetta LeBoeuf submitted the 2005 LAS Financial Report. Income for 2005 was \$7,003.57; expenses were \$4,372.59; and assets as of December 31, 2005 were \$9,517.63. In 2005 the LAS had 233 members.

Cherie Schwab announced her retirement as Newsletter Editor. Dennis Jones was appointed to replace her. Submissions to the Newsletter were requested. The Executive Committee thanked Cherie for the excellent work she has done.

Cherie Schwab will continue as production editor, providing the layout for the Bulletin. Bulletin Editor Chip McGimsey stated that Bulletin 27 is expected to be completed shortly. Chip emphasized that submissions to the Bulletin were needed.

The LAS web site is averaging 159 hits a day.

Stephanie Perrault is the newly named program chairperson for the Baton Rouge Chapter. She plans to continue the exciting speaker program. Baton Rouge Chapter recently held an artifact washing party for artifacts from the recent Sims Site excavations.

Nancy Affeltranger, president of the Central Louisiana Archaeology Club, reported that recent Civil War programs held by the Chapter were well attended.

John Guy reported the finalization of financial paperwork for the West Louisiana Archaeology Club. The Chapter has 19 members; all but three are LAS members.

## LAS executive committee meeting (continued)

Rogers Serpas reported that Delta Chapter members participated in recent excavations at the Sims Site. The latest Delta Chapter meeting held at the Westbank Library in St. Charles Parish was extremely well attended. Josetta LeBoeuf and Chip McGimsey gave presentations on Louisiana mound sites.

Josetta LeBoeuf will create a standardized form for chapters seeking to operate under the LAS' tax-exempt status. Chapters wishing to do so must provide financial information to the LAS Treasurer.

The 2006 LAS Field School has been cancelled because the Orange Grove Plantation site is now being used for housing of Cytex employees.

The Executive Committee adopted a resolution approving the donation of LAS archival materials to the Division of Archaeology.

The Executive Committee approved the awards to be presented at the Business Meeting. The Committee, at its next meeting, will consider formalizing criteria for LAS awards.

The selection of a digital video camera for the Society will be made at the next Executive Committee meeting.

A nominating committee composed of John Guy, Josetta LeBoeuf and Dennis Jones was formed to select candidates for LAS Vice President/President Elect.

Location for the 2007 Annual Meeting will be selected at the Business Meeting.

Stephanie Perrault announced the Angola Archaeological Symposium to be held on March 25, 2006.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be June 10, 2007, location to be announced.

Ellen Ibert adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Reported by Maureen Downey, Secretary

## LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Minutes March 4, 2006 Monroe, Louisiana

The 31<sup>ST</sup> Annual Business Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society was held Saturday, March 4, 2006 at The Atrium, Monroe, Louisiana. Ellen Ibert presided.

The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting were approved as published in the Spring 2004 LAS Newsletter, Volume 31, No. 1.

Treasurer Josetta LeBoeuf presented the 2005 Financial Report. Total LAS assets as of December 31, 2005 were \$9,517.63. There were 233 LAS members in 2005.

Bulletin Editor Chip McGimsey reported that Bulletin 27 would be completed shortly. Submissions are needed for future Bulletins.

Because of time restraints, Cherie Schwab has retired as Newsletter Editor. Dennis Jones has been appointed to replace her. Ellen Ibert thanked Cherie for all her excellent work.

The LAS web site averages 159 hits a day.

**Central Louisiana Archaeology Chapter:** Nancy Affeltranger reported. They have several new members and have had interesting meetings centered on the Civil War. The CLAC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Ball Municipal Building in Alexandria.

**Baton Rouge Chapter:** Stephanie Perrault reported for the Baton Rouge Chapter. There have had excellent speakers. Recently there was an artifact washing party for artifacts for recent Sims Site excavations. The Chapter actively supports Archaeology Week and Earth Day, Baton Rouge. The Chapter meets the last Wednesday of the month in the library on Bluebonnet.

**Delta Chapter:** Skip Newfield reported for Delta Chapter. There was very good attendance at the latest meeting at the Westbank Library in St. Charles Parish. Josetta LeBoeuf and Chip McGimsey spoke on Louisiana mound sites.

**West Louisiana Archaeology Club:** John Guy said the final report on WLAC fieldwork would be presented at next year's meeting. Boy Scouts, earning their Archaeology Merit Badge, helped with the fieldwork. The club now has 19 members. The Club meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the museum in Leesville.

## LAS Business meeting minutes (continued)

**Northeast Chapter:** Joe Saunders reported that everyone was very tired. Northeast Chapter was thanked for hosting a very successful meeting.

The Nomination Committee is seeking candidates for Vice President/President Elect. Contact Josetta LeBoeuf, Dennis Jones, or Chip McGimsey with nominations.

Thurman Allen was presented the Second Saucier Award that is given by the LAS in recognition of significant contributions in interdisciplinary research by a specialist other than in archaeology. Thurman is known as the leading authority on the interpretation of mound profiles in at least a four-state area and is renown for his vanguard research on soil development in mound fill, and its application for estimating the relative age of earthworks. Thurman has been a patient and kind teacher of archaeologists and students alike and has been unstinting in his efforts on behalf of archaeology.

John Polk is the recipient of the LAS Special Award that recognizes individuals for having a substantial record of supporting archaeology and the LAS. John was a charter member of the LAS and has served as Vice President and President of the LAS. He has tirelessly participated in Society activities and has been pivotal in organizing many Archaeology Week events in Southeast Louisiana. John has ensured the preservation of the LAS archival materials by arranging to house them with the Division of Archaeology. John has always been eager to explore new ways to bring the excitement of archaeology to people of all ages. John Polk was very ill and unable to attend the meeting.

Location for the 2007 Meeting will be announced in the Newsletter.

Stephanie Perrault announced the Angola Archaeological Symposium to be held on March 25, 2006.

Ellen Ibert urged all to join the LAC.

UPPA will hold its spring meeting on March 17-19, 2006.

Silent auction ends after the meeting.

Ellen Ibert adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Reported by Maureen Downey, Secretary

## Upcoming Archaeological Conferences, Meetings, etc.

### Mid South Archaeological Conference.

**June 3-4, 2006.** Conference hotel is the Cabot Lodge, Millsaps, 2375 North State St. Jackson, MS 39202. Phone for reservations is (601) 948-3961. For more information contact Sam Brookes: (601) 965-4391, ext 124 or sbrookes@fs.fed.us

### Prospection in Depth: Developing Advanced GPS, GIS, and Geophysical Skills Through Plantation Archaeology. June 6-23, 2006.

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, (NCPTT), Natchitoches, LA. Register at [www.ncptt.nps.gov/summerinstitute](http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/summerinstitute)

### Freeman & Custis Red River Expedition of 1806: A Symposium. June 14-17, 2006.

Louisiana State University Shreveport (LSUS). Dr. Dan Flores is keynote speaker. Also includes post symposium barge trip on Red River. For more information contact Museum of Life Sciences at LSUS.

### Volunteer opportunity at Winterville

**Mounds** in Greenville, MS in June and early July. Field sessions are scheduled for **June 5-14, 19-27, and July 3-12**. Contact Ed Jackson at 601-266-6887 or [Ed.Jackson@usm.edu](mailto:Ed.Jackson@usm.edu).

### Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC), November 8-11, 2006,

Double Tree Hotel, Little Rock, AR. Claudine Payne, Arkansas Archeological Survey is program chair. Contact her at 870-532-9104 or [Cpayne2@bcglobal.net](mailto:Cpayne2@bcglobal.net).

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Back Issues of LAS Bulletins, \$15.00 each. Orders of 10 to 14 copies, \$13.50 each; orders of 15 or more copies, \$12.75 each. Available Bulletins are:  
 #1(1974), #3(1976), #7(1980), #8 (1981), #9 (1982), #10 (1983), #11 (1984), #12 (1985), #13 (1986), #14 (1987), #15 (1988), #16 (1989), #17(1990), #18(1991), #19(1992), #20(1993), #21(1994), #22(1995), #23(1996), #24(1997), #25(1998), #26 (1999).

Back Issues of LAS Special Publications:  
 SP #1 Stone Points and Tools of Northwestern Louisiana (1981, Reprinted 2000) \$4.00  
 SP #2 LAS 10th Anniversary Issue (1984) (out of print)  
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### Information for Subscribers

The Newsletter of the Louisiana Archeological Society is published three times a year for the society. Subscription is by membership in the Louisiana Archeological Society (LAS). Annual membership dues are \$20 for individuals, libraries, and institutions. \$5.00 for associates (relatives of individual members) and \$12 for students. Life membership dues are \$200 for individuals. Sustaining membership dues for individuals or institutions are \$300. In addition to the newsletter, members receive one issue per year of the bulletin Louisiana Archaeology. Membership requests, subscription dues, changes of address, and back issue orders should be directed to the Treasurer. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the Newsletter Editor and do not necessarily reflect society policy

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If possible articles should be submitted on computer disk or by email, preferably in Microsoft Word. Digital images are encouraged. Please send in JPG or TIFF format. Contact editor via email with all questions.

### LAS Web Site

[www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org)

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