NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2018 **Vol. 46, No.2**

Celebrating 300 years of New Orleans during Louisiana Archaeology Month 2018

See inside for more information

View of the St. Anthony's Garden and archaeological site behind St. Louis Cathedral in the French Quarter of New Orleans

LAS Newsletter printed courtesy of R. Christopher and Associates, Inc. New Orleans, Louisiana

OCTOBER IS LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH FOR 2018!!

This year, 2018, is the tricentennial of the founding of the unique city of New Orleans. As the cover of this newsletter suggests this is the theme for Louisiana Archaeology Month during October. That does not mean that, of course, that all the activities for this event are limited to the Crescent City. Please check the calendar of events for the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at the website address below to get the complete schedule. Also below is an announcement regarding a special service activity available to LAS members, in cooperation with State Parks, to clean up a prehistoric resource owned by the state of Louisiana during Archaeology Month.
https://www.crt.state.la.us/dataprojects/archaeology/archaeologymonth/2018/calendar.asp

Louisiana Archaeological Society
Archaeology Month
October 2018

Marsden Mound Clean-up of Mound E!

When: October 26-28, 2018

Where: Poverty Point Reservoir
1500 Poverty Point Pkwy
Delhi, LA 70232

Help us preserve Louisiana's archaeological sites by clearing the debris from Mound E! Lodging and food will be provided! Space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible: outreach@laarchaeologicalsociety.org
We will have Halloween decorations and a costume contest!

4th Annual

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

Saturday, September 22, 10-2pm

Activities include:

Caddo Tool, Weapon, & Pottery Replica Artifact Display

Technology in Archaeology Exhibit

Meet an Archaeologist Booth

Presentations by Local Archaeologists

Kids' Mock Dig & Lab

Poverty Point Expedition Exhibit

Artifact Identification by Local Archaeologists

Louisiana State Exhibit Museum
3015 Greenwood Rd. Shreveport, LA 71109
www.caddo.org • (318) 632-2020

LAS CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Northwest LAS Chapter News
By Tad Britt, NW LAS President

Since February 2018 the NW LAS chapter, which meets bi-monthly, has welcomed four speakers to our group:

8 February 2018, **Dr. Carl Drexler**, Arkansas Archaeological Survey's Station Archeologist and Research Assistant Professor with the University of Arkansas, presented findings of his research on eight of nine action sites pertaining to the Camden Expedition Battlefields in SW Arkansas. The 1864 campaign was part of a two-pronged strategy by The Union Army to drive the Confederate resistance from southwestern Arkansas and northern Louisiana, and to penetrate into Confederate Texas.

12 April 2018, **Jay Gray**, Cultural Resources Analyst (CRA) - Principal Investigator, presented on the complexities and challenges of conducting upland archaeology. Gray offered an examination of upland prehistoric archaeological sites, and what can be learned about prehistoric populations from archaeological deposits that resulted from repeated, short-term use of the upland landscape.

14 June 2018, **David Jeane**, past president of Louisiana and Arkansas archaeological societies, presented on the Crenshaw Site in southwest Arkansas. David has wide-ranging interest. He has been on four expeditions to Peru. He served as research assistant to SAU station of the Arkansas Archaeology Survey. There he focused on Caddo archaeology as well as strong interest in historical archaeology of southwest Arkansas. David's presentation was filled with his wry humor and was enjoyed by all.

9 August 2018, **Jay Gray**, NW LAS vice-president, presented for Tad Britt and Amy Broussard, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. Their talk was entitled *Pioneer Settlement along the Red River: an Archeological Examination of a Mid-to-late 18th Century Homestead*. The homestead belonged to Athanase Demeziere, a key historical figure in Louisiana and Texas. The study was a comparative account demonstrating the efficacy of augmenting conventional archaeological survey with metal detecting.

22 July 2018, NW LAS shared the announcement of the release of Jeff Girard's *The Caddos and their Ancestors: Archaeology and the Native People of Northwest Louisiana*. The book signing was held at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum in Shreveport and was well attended.

22 September 2018, NW LAS is proud to be a co-sponsor and participant of the 4th Annual Archaeology Day event. The event will be held from 10:00 am – 2:00pm at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum. Activities include: Caddo tool, weapon, & pottery replica artifact display, technology in archaeology exhibit, meet an archaeologist, presentation by local archaeologists, Kid's mock dig & Lab, the traveling Poverty Point exhibit, and artifact identification.

At a meeting in Baton Rouge on September 8, 2018, the Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) considered changes and updates to the by-laws of the society. The changes include a raise of membership fees and a streamlining of membership categories. [*There has not been a change in membership fees since 1980!-Editor*] LAS members and others are urged to visit the LAS website: www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org to view the proposed by-law changes. These will be considered during the business meeting at the 2019 LAS annual meeting, Feb. 15-17.

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the LAS has had a busy year so far with a variety of activities as one can see looking at the schedule below. Chapter president Val Feathers has done a wonderful job of organizing these events and already has great plans for 2019. Meetings are generally the fourth Wednesday of every month, except November and December, and are at the Bluebonnet Branch of the East Baton Rouge Public Library. Occasionally, special events take place at other venues. The general public and other LAS members are always welcome!

Date	Name	Event	Title	Location
31 Jan 2018	Val Feathers	Lecture	Outreach in Archaeology	Bluebonnet Library
28 Feb 2018	Christopher Grant	Lecture	Building the Creole Faubourgs: History and Archaeology of the Early Tremé	Bluebonnet Library
18 March 2018	Mary Manhein and Jessica Schexnayder	Book Signing	*Fragile Grounds: Louisiana's Endangered Cemeteries*	Goodwood Library
7 April 2018	Julie Doucet	Workshop	Lac Saint Agnes Artifact Workshop	Rural Life Museum
28 April 2018	Julie Doucet	Workshop	Lac Saint Agnes Ceramic Workshop	Rural Life Museum
22 May 2018	Ginny Listi, Teresa Wilson, and Emily Wiegers	Workshop	Skeletal Analysis Workshop	Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex LSU
27 June 2018	Jeff Girard	Lecture	The Discovery and Recovery of a 14th Century Dugout Canoe on the Red River	Bluebonnet Library
25 July 2018	Teresa Wilson	Lecture	A Temple Builder and His Heretic King: A Case Study of Work-Related Trauma from Egypt's Late Eighteenth Dynasty	Bluebonnet Library
3-5 Aug 2018	Mid-South Archaeological Conference	Conference	Volunteered logistics and purchase snacks	Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex LSU
25 Aug 2018	Julie Doucet	Workshop	Lac Saint Agnes Ceramic Workshop	US Forestry Service Ofc, Pineville, LA
29 Aug 2018	Helen Bouzon	Lecture	Interpreting Disaster Response Through Foodways	Bluebonnet Library
26 Sept 2018	Ryan Kennedy	Lecture	TBA	Bluebonnet Library
26-28 Oct 2018	Archaeology Month	Clean-up	Marsden Mound Clean-up	Poverty Point Reservoir State Park
31 Oct 2018	Julie Doucet	Lecture	TBA	

Dinwiddie Hall on the Campus of Tulane in New Orleans.

Brian Ostahowski, current LAS president, would like the membership to know that the Delta Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society is being resurrected. Meetings are held at Room 201 in Dinwiddie Hall on the campus of Tulane University on the last Thursday of each month from August to April. During May, June, and July there will be a hiatus in the meetings and the schedules for November and December may also be subject to change.

LAS Lac Agnes Research Project Continues
By Julie Doucet

The LAS Lac St. Agnes Research Project has met with success in the field and with analysis of the materials recovered. Following the positive field project in October and November of 2017, we have held three workshops to analyze recovered artifacts and materials.

The first two workshops, April 7 and April 28, were held at the LSU Rural Life Museum in Baton Rouge. They focused on processing the materials and analyzing the decorated prehistoric ceramics. The third workshop was held August 25 at the US Forest Service facility in Pineville, LA. Those in attendance (see below) learn analytical techniques for plain body ceramic sherds. A fourth workshop focused on processing flotation samples is planned for the future.

The Lac St. Agnes site (16AV26) is a prehistoric multicomponent site with a mound and village area that has been investigated by several archaeologists since the 1970s. The family of Marc Dupuy Jr., one of the property owners and a long-time patron of Louisiana archaeology, has been especially helpful sponsoring all research efforts at this site.

State archaeologist Chip McGimsey (standing) leads a workshop of the analysis of plan body ceramic sherds at the US Forest Service office in Pineville, LA.

2019 Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society

DATE: February 15-17, 2019

PLACE: Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Caddo Street, Shreveport, LA 71166
www.shreveportcenter.com

HOTEL: Hilton Shreveport, 104 Market Street, Shreveport, LA (connected to Convention Center) www.shreveport.hilton.com; www.facebook.com/hiltonshreveportla

RESERVATIONS: Single or Double $109; Triple $119; Quad $129; plus $8/day parking fee for adjacent parking garage. Reservations must be made by February 1, 2019. Go to **https://book.passkey.com/go/LAArchaeologicalSociety** or call **(318) 698-0515**

MEETING REGISTRATION: $40 ($45 after February 1)

BANQUET: $35

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Friday, February 15: LAS Executive Committee Meeting 4-6 pm;
Registration and Reception 6-8 pm

Saturday, February 16: Presentations 8 am – 4 pm; Banquet 6 pm -9 pm;

Keynote Speaker - DR. T.R. KIDDER-Washington University in St. Louis,
The Tangled Roots of the Anthropocene: Archaeology, Climate Change and History in Ancient China

Sunday, February 17: to be announced

PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS: send abstracts to Program Chair, David Jeane, djeane@centurytel.net or 305 Hickory Street, Springhill, LA 71075

DOWN ON THE BAYOU

• LIFEWAYS IN THE BASIN •

ARCHAIC CONNECTIONS: POVERTY POINT & THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

Diana M. Greenlee, PhD - A presentation considering variation within the Poverty Point adaptation, with particular emphasis on sites from the northeastern and southern parts of the state.

CHITIMACHA HOMELAND, ATTAKAPAS DISTRICT & NOUVELLE ACADIE: REDISCOVERING ENTANGLED PLACES ON THE WESTERN PERIPHERY OF THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

Mark A. Rees, PhD, RPA - A presentation on rediscovery uncovering hidden histories and endangered places down on the bayou, in our own backyard.

ZOOARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PORTAGE MOUNDS SITE (16SM5) IN SOUTHERN LOUISIANA

Jim Delahoussaye, MA - A presentation on 800-year-old findings from the Atchafalaya Basin which point out interesting parallels with harvesting practices of today.

REEXAMINING THE 1941 WPA EXCAVATIONS AT THE LAFAYETTE MOUNDS SITE (16SM17), AND THE DATE OF LAFAYETTE MOUND 1

Nathanael Heller, MA, RPA - A presentation on recent analyses of the WPA materials which examines the questions of the cultural affiliation and function of Lafayette Mound 1.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF INLAND WATERS

Allen Saltus - A presentation providing insight on human activities and needs while working, living and navigating in and through this environment.

This symposium was held at the Vermilionville facility in Lafayette on August 22. It was organized and funded by the LA Division of Archaeology and the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Similar programs are planned for the future.

FIELD NOTES AND CURRENT RESEARCH

2018 Summer Field Work on the Kisatchie Ranger District, Kisatchie National Forest
By Geoff Lehman

This year Kerrigan Meaux and Ryan Dees from LSU, along with Lyla Myers and Lyric Senegal from UL Lafayette joined me for 10-weeks of archeological field survey here on the Kisatchie Ranger District (KRD). Participating agreements between the three institutions provide students the opportunity for hands-on experience as a field crew conducting Phase I archeological survey of proposed KRD projects.

This summer we continued survey of the North Bobs Creek project and, aided by an effective growing season prescribed fire, very little rain, and a large area of low probability, completed about 1090 acres of project area along with non-project areas to fill in the gaps. Bobs Creek is a small watershed draining high, steep hills on the east side of Kisatchie Bayou. For the first time, we did not locate any new sites, but did relocate and update 3 previously known sites, including the home site of early settler Abram Rinkel who purchased his land in 1844.

Along with the primary goal of training the students as we conduct real-world Phase I archeological survey, the KRD exposes them to the variety of operations conducted by a Federal land managing agency. This includes wildlife biology (with a focus on the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker), recreation, controlled burning, and timber management.

We kept up our maintenance of several small, local cemeteries. Forest Archeologist Velicia Bergstrom brought her ground penetrating radar over to examine the Hawkins and Tarver cemeteries for unmarked graves and let the crew have the opportunity to operate the equipment.

Also, a crew from Ft. Polk joined us for a day to try out a new technology in examining a couple of caves for rock art. Javi Vasquez, Scott Faris, Jeff Kotson and Sherry Wagener employed the DStrectch program (http://www.dstretch.com) of rock art digital enhancement. Results of the cave inspections are pending, and they are considering the technology for deciphering eroded tombstone inscriptions, as well. Thanks to Kerrigan, Lyla, Lyric, and Ryan for all your help.

Lyla Myers, Ryan Dees, Lyric Senegal and Kerrigan Meaux in front of an exposure of the Catahoula Formation in the Kisatchie Ranger District.

2018 Mid-South Archaeological Conference: Shell Middens, Shell Mounds, Shell Rings, and Shell Bearing Sites

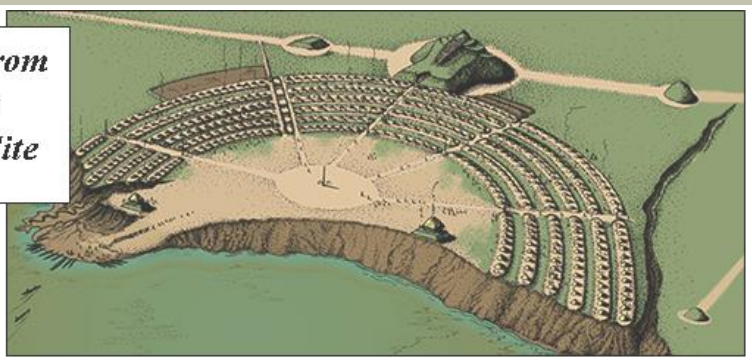
Stretching the geographic boundaries a bit far south, the Mid-South Archaeological Conference was held in Baton Rouge on the campus of Louisiana State University (LSU). Organized by Rich Weinstein of Coastal Environments, Inc. and Rebecca Saunders with the LSU Museum of Natural Science, the conference took place August 3-5.

This small and informal conference has developed into adopted themes for the meeting, although presentations are not limited to that theme. Participants this year came from Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina, as well as Louisiana. Attendees heard about the shell bearing sites in Southeastern prehistory and the variety of analyses and interpretations that archaeologists have provided over the decades. Other activities during the conference included a visit to the LSU Campus Mounds Site (16EBR6) and viewing of artifacts from the Monte Sano site (16EBR17).

Sponsors of the conference included: CEI, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, LSU, and the LAS. Helpful individuals were Julie Doucet, Valerie Feathers, Kelsey Johnson, Brandy Kerr, Sally McMillan, Jake Mendoza, Margeaux Murray, Duke Rivet, Becky Saunders, Steve Treolar, and Rich Weinstein,

Scenes from the 2018 Mid-South Conference: Left top-Becky Saunders mesmerizes the crowd about t the LSU Campus Mounds, Left below, some of the crew adjourns to the Driftwood Cask and Barrel in downtown Baton Rouge after a hard day of listening to presentations. Below: attendees look with rapture at some of the artifacts from the now destroyed Monte Sano Mounds site, possibly the oldest known mound site in North America.

Research News from the Poverty Point World Heritage Site



A Brief Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program Update
By Diana Greenlee, Station Archaeologist,
Poverty Point World Heritage Site

The Poverty Point Compatible Use Zone (PPCUZ) survey has continued through the spring and summer, with at least six new sites documented. We look forward to continuing the project as field conditions and landowners permit. Anybody interested in volunteering should contact Diana Greenlee (greenlee@ulm.edu, 318-926-3314). A project update will be presented at the next LAS annual meeting.

In May, the Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program offered a three-week archaeological field school through the University of Louisiana at Monroe. The field school experience covered a lot of ground: systematic pedestrian survey of agricultural fields, soil coring and description, mapping, digging shovel tests, excavation, screening, flotation, and artifact processing (See photo below).

ULM is planning to offer a similar opportunity during Wintersession 2018 (10-24 December 2018, 2-4 January 2019), although activities may be somewhat constrained by the weather. Anybody interested in participating should contact Diana Greenlee.

Also, Binghamton University is planning to continue their research at the Poverty Point World Heritage Site in January 2019. They will be following up on recent discoveries made through geophysical survey. Anybody interested in participating in that work should contact Tiffany Raymond (traymon2@binghamton.edu).

Three adjacent 1 x 1 m units placed to investigate a magnetic anomaly at the Poverty Point World Heritage Site. From left to right: PPCUZ archaeologist Rebecca Wallace, student Michael Tarpley, PPCUZ archaeologist Matt Radermacher, and intern Simon Sherman III.

Study: Ancient mound builders carefully timed their occupation of a Coastal Louisiana site

By Diana Yates, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 22, 2018
Read more at: https://phys.org/news/2018-05-ancient-mound-builders-carefully-occupation.html#jCp

A study of ancient mound builders who lived hundreds of years ago on the Mississippi River Delta near present-day New Orleans offers new insights into how Native peoples selected the landforms that supported their villages and earthen mounds—and why these sites were later abandoned.

The study, reported in the Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology, also offers a timeline of the natural and human events that shaped one particular site, said University of Illinois anthropology professor Jayur Mehta, who conducted the work with Vanderbilt University postdoctoral researcher Elizabeth Chamberlain while both were at Tulane University in New Orleans.

The site, now known as Grand Caillou, is one of hundreds of mound sites in coastal Louisiana, Mehta said.

"Louisiana is incredibly important in the history of ancient mound-building cultures," he said. "In what is now the United States, earthen monument and mound construction began on the Louisiana coast."

Ancient peoples began building mounds in North America as early as 4,500 B.C., Mehta said. They often situated their mounds near resource-rich waterways, which could support larger human settlements. As many as 500 people lived at Grand Caillou in its heyday. Some mounds also served ceremonial functions.

That so many mound sites have survived in coastal Louisiana is a testament to their careful construction, Mehta said. Neglect, however, and coastal subsidence—the result of engineered changes to the flow of the Mississippi River—are wearing away at the mounds.

"Louisiana loses about two ancient mounds and/or Native American villages a year," Mehta said.

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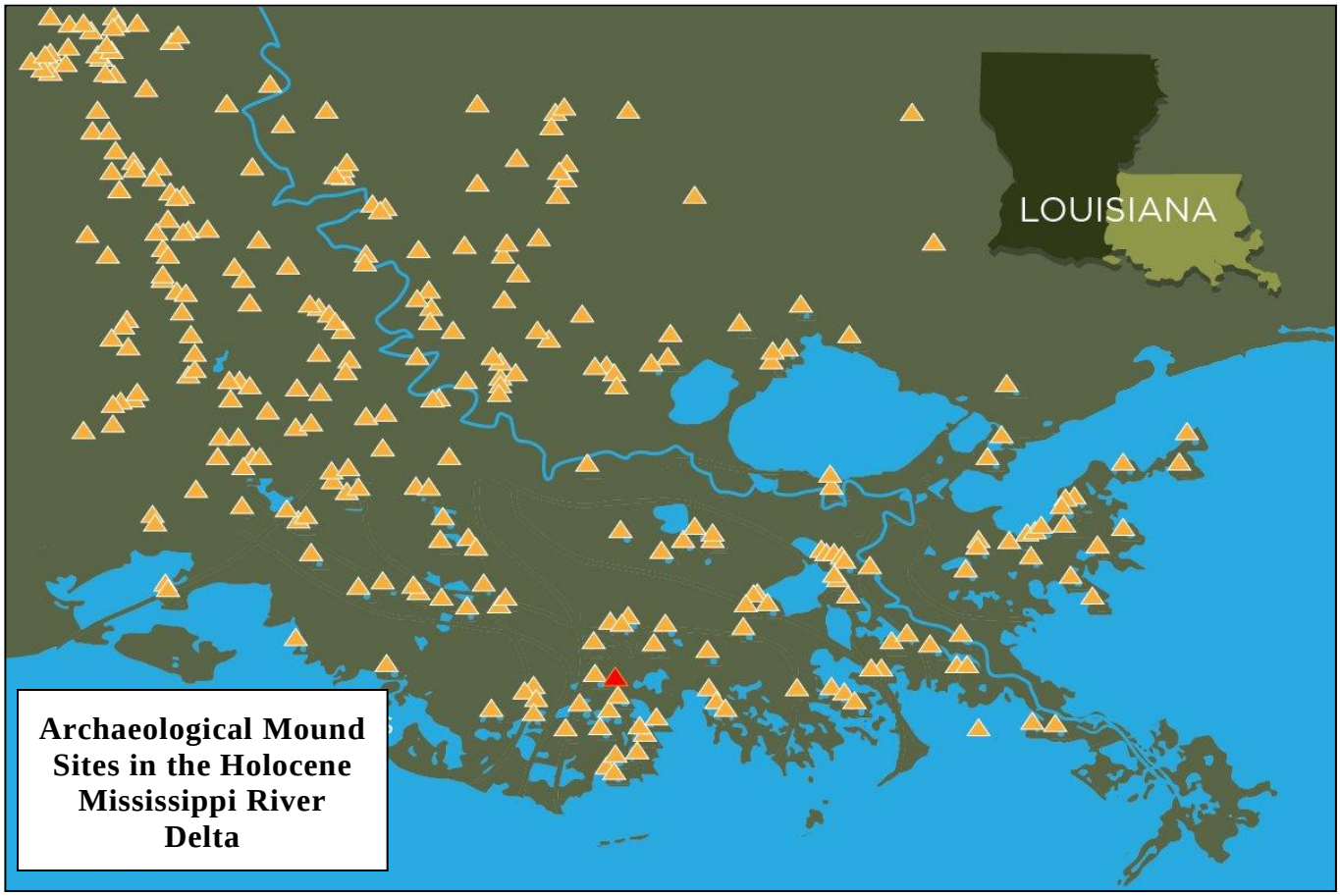
The researchers used a variety of methods—sediment coring, radiocarbon dating, carbon-isotope analysis, the dating of ceramics found onsite and a method called optically stimulated luminescence—to figure out how and when the land underneath the Grand Caillou mound was formed by natural forces and when the mound builders arrived and established their settlement.

"We wanted to understand at a deeper level how Indigenous peoples of the coast were choosing where to build their villages," Mehta said.

Grand Caillou is situated on a natural levee of the Lafourche sub-delta, one of several major lobes of the Mississippi River Delta near New Orleans. Fed by sediments deposited by the river, Lafourche expanded in size over a period of several hundred years, a process that ended at about 800 A.D., the researchers found. The mound builders set up their village around 1200 A.D., long after the site was stable and covered over with vegetation, the team found.



Many ancient mound sites, depicted here with yellow triangles, still survive in coastal Louisiana. A new study teases out the natural and human history of one of these mound-top villages, a site known as Grand Caillou, shown in red.

The mound at Grand Caillou. Photo by Jayur Mehta

The National Park Service's 2018 Archaeological Prospection Workshop

By Steven L. De Vore, National Park Service, Midwest Region

During the week of May 21, 2018, the National Park Service conducted a workshop on the application of archaeological prospection techniques at the Marksville State Historic Site (16AV1) in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. The workshop, in its twenty-eighth year, was designed to provide a practical application of geophysical equipment and aerial photographic techniques available for the identification, evaluation, and ultimately, the conservation and protection of cultural resources.

The workshop consisted of morning lectures devoted to the theory and application of techniques to the archaeological investigations. Topics included basic survey design, geophysical survey techniques (e.g. magnetic, resistance, conductivity, magnetic susceptibility, and ground penetrating radar) along with aerial photography, ground truthing geophysical anomalies, processing geophysical and aerial data, and the interpretation of such data.

Throughout the week field exercises were held at the Marksville site (16AV1). These exercises concentrated on the application of the archaeological prospection techniques to archeological investigations. Evenings were spent on the discussion of downloading the instruments and data processing of the geophysical data.

Geophysical techniques provide a means of non-destructive investigations for archeology. These techniques utilize physical principles to study the earth through indirect interpretation of the earth's physical properties. Geophysicists interpret the Earth's physical characteristics using physical, electrical, and/or chemical measurements. Active geophysical techniques are based on responses from an induced signal used to detect contracts in different material properties. Such techniques include electromagnetic induction (EM) or conductivity, ground penetrating radar (GPR), metal detectors, electrical resistivity, and seismic. Passive techniques are based on responses from the natural conditions. These techniques include magnetics, gravity, and self-potential (SP). The course provided an opportunity to learn about these techniques - including their advantages and disadvantages.

Thirty-five individuals participated in the workshop including two Canadian archaeologists. The students consisted of university graduate and undergraduate students, university professors and staff archaeologists, private contract archaeologists, tribal historic preservation staff, and state archaeological program staff members (see below). The instructors for the workshop represented major practitioners in archaeological prospection in the United States, as well as manufacturing company representatives. In addition to the American instructors, other instructors came from the United Kingdom and The Netherlands. The twenty-ninth annual archaeological prospection workshop is planned for May 2019 in Delaware.

The 2018 National Park Service Archaeological Prospection Workshop participants and instructors at Mound 4 of the Marksville site (16AV1).

Dr. Adam Wiewel demonstrating the use of a multi-sensor magnetic cart system to the participants.

Participants conducting resistance survey over Mound X under the supervision of Dr. Kris Lockyear.

Participants conducting lateral magnetic susceptibility survey under the supervision of Dr. Jarrod Burks.

Participants conducting magnetic susceptibility dowhhole investigations under the supervision of Dr. Rinita Dalan

ADVANCED GROUND PENETRATING RADAR FOR ARCHEOLOGISTS

Monday, November 5, 2018 at 8:00 AM - Thursday, November 8, 2018

This GPR workshop will be held at the Marksville State Historic Site in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. The lectures will be at a meeting room in the Paragon Casino Resort. Field exercises will take place at the Marksville State Historic Site. November 5 through November 8, 2018

The site is the type site for the Marksville Culture, a local variant of the Hopewell Tradition. The site contains numerous earthworks built by the indigenous prehistoric people of southeastern North America. Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, as well as the Marksville State Historic Site and the Office of Cultural Development, Division of Archaeology of the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office.

Ground penetrating radar (GPR) has become the most ubiquitous tool in archaeological geophysics, but its complexity and rapidly developing technology make it challenging for practitioners. Recent advances in hardware and software allow the collection of improved GPR data and advanced visualization and analysis of that data. The need for a workshop focusing on GPR in archaeology is predicated by these recent advances and the proliferation of GPR within the archaeological community.

The workshop will engage professional archaeologists from universities, consulting companies, governmental agencies, and elsewhere. Attendees will collect, process, and analyze data from a site of archaeological significance, although numerous other examples will be also offered. Workshop staff will include representatives from key hardware manufacturers, software engineers, and leading exports in archaeological geophysics.

Topics to be covered are:

- Introduction to the Physics and History
- Hardware Systems
- Data Collection
- GPS-Guided Data Collection
- Software Packages
- Radargram Processing, Visualization
- Time Slice Creation, Processing, Visualization
- Velocity / RDP Estimation and Depth Analysis
- 3D Volume Creation, Processing, Visualization
- Topography Correction
- External Integration with GIS, Mapping Software, and 3D Modeling Packages
- Analysis and Interpretation
- Multi-Technique Surveys
- Native American Sites
- Historic Structures
- Cemeteries
- Ground Truthing
- Cultural Resource Management Usage
- Publications

Instructors will be Bryan Haley, Larry Conyers, Peter Leach (GSSI), Alex Novo (IDS),Steve De Vore and Daniel Bigman.

Lodging will be at the **Paragon Casino Resort**: 711 Paragon Pl, Marksville, Louisiana 71351. Please refer to **The National Park Service Ground Penetrating Radar – NPAN10G** when making your hotel reservations by calling **800-642-7777** for the workshop rate of **$93 per night**. The code to use is **NPAN10G**. Contact Tad Britt at tad_britt@nps.gov with any questions.

This workshop will build on the data collected from the Marksville site during the Archaeological Prospection Workshop held in May of 2018 and described in previous pages of this newsletter.-Editor

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

Bonnet Carré Closure Prompts Cemetery Inspections
By Travis Lux, WWNO, 89.9 FM New Orleans Public Radio

When the Mississippi River flooded this spring, tons of water gushed through the Bonnet Carré Spillway, and into Lake Pontchartrain. The spillway is a big swath of open land, and it relieves the swollen river.

But it also holds some lesser known historic sites, like the Kenner and Kugler Cemeteries. After each opening, officials have to check up on them. Jason Emery and three other men walk across an open, nondescript field inside the Bonnet Carré Spillway, their eyes focused on the ground.

. "I'm scanning back and forth," says Emery. "I'm trying to see under the grass. I'm looking for any divots, ruts, erosions — or bone."

Emery is an archeologist with the Army Corps of Engineers. The field he's pacing used to be a cemetery, one of two in the spillway that used to be part of sugar plantations during the 19 century. The first people buried here were enslaved on those plantations. Later, free people of color — descendants of those slaves — were buried there, too.

"It was active until 1929," he says, "When [the Army Corps of Engineers] took over this land to construct the spillway."

But even after the Corps took control of the land, the cemeteries were never moved. And every time the spillway is opened, archeologists like Emery have to make sure all that rushing water didn't disrupt the bodies they conceal.

"You find anything?" Emery shouts to one of the other men. "Let's swing around and do it again."

The four men turn around for a second pass. Nothing unusual. Emery says that's a good thing. "I would rate [this inspection] as successful," he says. "There are no opening-related concerns associated with this cemetery."

The Army Corps says it is working on a long-term master plan for the Bonnet Carré Spillway which includes a plan make the cemeteries more visible with signage and parking areas so visitors know they're there.

Officials from the Army Corps of Engineers walk across the Kenner Cemetery -- one of two cemeteries inside the Bonnet Carré Spillway where the remains of formerly enslaved people are buried. Photo by Travis Lux, WWNO.

Army Corps of Engineers archeologist Jason Emery led the inspection. Photo by Travis Lux, WWNO.

Support for the Coastal Desk at WWNO comes from the Walton Family Foundation, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, the Foundation for Louisiana, and local listeners.

GROUND-PENETRATING RADAR IN HUNT FOR DEAD IN RACIAL MASSACRE
By Janet McConnaughey, May. 17, 2018
https://www.apnews.com

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Researchers searching for a possible mass grave from a racial massacre in 1887 said they picked up signals Thursday of disturbed earth at a south Louisiana site, but they cautioned they don't know yet what ground-penetrating radar detected.

The signals were detected Thursday, the first day of a survey of a vacant lot in the community of Thibodaux, where locals believe white mobs dumped the bodies of African-Americans killed during a Reconstruction era rampage. The mobs were out to break a month-long strike by sugar plantation field hands, many of them ex-slaves, in the era following the American civil war. The experts were cautious as radar probed for underground disturbances warranting further investigation.

"I'm beginning to think we might have found a prospective site. But it might be from a garbage dump," said Tulane University geophysics professor Cynthia Ebinger, who operated the radar at the location some 65 miles (95 kilometers) west of New Orleans

They received quick disappointment as a man who once lived across the street came to watch and told them a small oil rig once stood in the area they had marked by small orange flags.

Tulane anthropology graduate student Davette Gadison was in charge of the initial survey. Gadison had done past work with a forensic team unearthing remains of 20th century civil war victims in Guatemala — and similar work in the East African region of Somaliland.

Tulane University professor Dr. Cynthia Ebinger holds ground penetrating radar equipment being used on a piece of land that may hold a mass grave from a Reconstruction-era racial massacre in Thibodaux, La., Thursday May 17, 2018. The results could indicate whether digging would likely turn up a mass grave where white mobs are said to have dumped the bodies of African-Americans they killed in 1887. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert).

Ebinger said signals initially indicated a pit about 6 feet deep (2 meters) and 10 feet (3 meters) across in an area where locals believe victims could have been buried. An estimated 30 to 60 African-Americans are believed to have been killed in what became known as the "Thibodaux Massacre."

"This is exciting," said John DeSantis, who wrote a book on the massacre and helped form a committee of the victim's descendants and others. He smiled broadly as Gadison showed him radar images on her cell phone.

But Sylvester Jackson, whose great grandfather survived the rampage, came to watch and told them about the oil rig. It was a bit deflating, Ebinger said. Bones don't show up on radar. The signals might show disturbed earth underground — areas where bodies could have been buried — or anything else, even garbage.

Ebinger operated controls of the radar — an instrument mounted on a pair of metal frames they slowly moved across the ground. Guided by a measuring tape, geophysicist Ryan Gallagher set the radar down every 25 centimeters (10 inches), saying "point, point, point" to indicate when Ebinger should trigger a radar signal. An archaeology professor helped by extracting core samples from the soil with a long, narrow metal cylinder.

The work calls for finding evidence meriting further attention on land now owned by an American Legion chapter, built by African-American veterans during the segregated 1950s. The researchers weren't immediately seeking human remains. If any bones are detected, they must immediately halt work and seek state permission to continue.

But after a full day Thursday, the researchers said they wouldn't be returning Friday since they had to analyze the initial data. Neighborhood residents and the commander of the American Legion post watched the work Thursday. The search was complicated by the fact that the American Legion post building was erected over what had become a city landfill for a time.

Post commander Deborah Winston said she first heard stories of a possible mass grave in the area before DeSantis began researching his book, since published in 2016. She thought at first that people were telling ghost stories. She remembered telling them: 'Y'all trying to scare me? I'm in the building by myself at night. I feel better now, since they're out here trying to find out what's going on," she said.

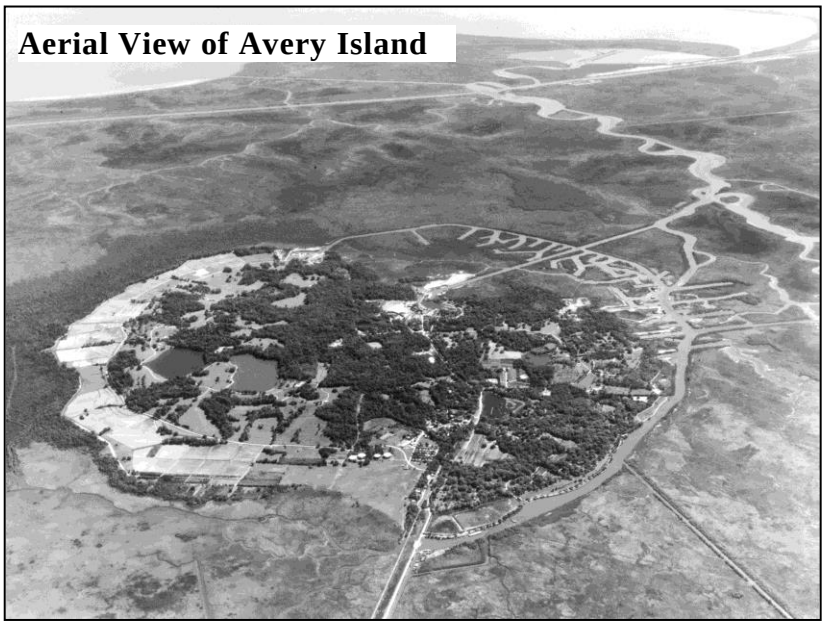
Events in 1887 began with striking sugar workers demanding a raise. According to DeSantis, they also wanted cash payment, instead of the chits they received for use only in a plantation company store. As tensions soared, a judge declared martial law in Thibodaux. When violence finally erupted on Nov. 23, 1887, white mobs went door-to-door for more than two hours shooting unarmed blacks, according to DeSantis.

A committee has been formed of descendants of the massacre's victims, as well as descendants of Confederate and plantation families. If a mass grave is eventually discovered, DeSantis said, the committee would likely ask that remains be exhumed and reburied on consecrated ground. Jackson, 86, said he hopes that eventually the remains will be found and identified. "I want to be here when they dig up something, get the bones up. Do the DNA and we can have closure then," he said.

Neighbors watch as a team of Tulane University researchers use ground penetrating radar equipment on a piece of land that may hold a mass grave from a Reconstruction era racial massacre in Thibodaux, La, Thursday May 17, 2018. The results could indicate whether digging would likely turn up a mass grave where white mobs are said to have dumped the bodies of African-Americans they killed in 1887. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert).

Avery Island to be listed on the National Register

By Shane K. Bernard
Preservation in Print, September 2018


Aerial View of Avery Island

Avery Island is the largest of five salt domes along the Louisiana coast. It is the home of the interrelated Avery and McIlhenny families, as well as the Jungle Gardens, a 170-acre semitropical estate open to the public since 1935, and McIlhenny Company, maker of Tabasco brand products for more than 140 years. A geologic oddity, Avery Island rises dramatically from low, flat wetlands to a height of 163 feet above mean sea level — making it the highest point on the Gulf Coast. The island is approximately 2,200 acres in area and about three miles in diameter at its widest point. The island's primary industries are oil production (since 1942); salt mining (since 1862); the manufacture of Tabasco brand prod-ucts; and tourism, driven by public access to the Tabasco factory and Jungle Gardens. At various times during the early 20th century, the island produced sand, gravel and lumber, as well as canned shrimp, oysters, fruit and vegetables. Fur trapping in the nearby salt marsh once played a vital role in the local economy. Sugarcane production remained a major industry on the island until around 1925, when the Averys no longer found the crop commercially viable.

Avery Island formed over millions of years as a buoyant subterranean plume of solid rock salt pushed up the Earth's surface. Fossil records indicate that about 10,000 years ago the island's briny spring water attracted a variety of now-extinct animal species. These "megafauna" creatures included mastodons, saber-toothed tigers, dire wolves and giant sloths, among others. Although humans may have first visited the island at that time — attracted not only by its salty springs, but by the ample game — radiocarbon dating suggests that Native Americans lived on the island by 2,500 BC. Other "pre-tribal" Native Americans subsequently came to the island to extract salt from its springs through boiling. Thousands of clay pottery shards collected around the island reflects the scope of this industry.

Europeans encountered Avery Island as early as 1779, when French explorers employed by Louisiana's Spanish administrators described a "so-called isle" near Bayou Petite Anse (meaning "Little Cove" in Louisiana French). The island itself soon became known as "Ile Petite Anse" or "Petite Anse Island," though for a short time around 1800 it bore the names "Isla Cuarin" and "Côte de Coiron." These latter names alluded to the island's earliest known owner, Dr. Cuarin or Coiron, who claimed the island in the late 1700s.

In 1818, New Jersey native John Craig Marsh purchased a share of the island and began to plant sugarcane on it. In the early 1850s, Marsh sold his plantation to his son, George Marsh, and to his two sons-in-law, Ashbel Burnham Henshaw and Baton Rouge jurist D.D. Avery, the latter of whom soon came into possession of his brothers-in-law's shares.

During the Civil War, Confederate troops under Gen. Richard Taylor defended the island's mines, which provided salt to several states of the lower South. In November 1862, the Union unsuccessfully attacked the island by water using two gunboats and a transport ship. Federal troops finally captured the island by land in April 1863, destroying some mining equipment and outbuildings. Except for two of Avery's sons who served as Confederate army officers, the Avery and McIlhenny families fled to Texas for the remainder of the conflict.

After the war, the Averys and McIlhennys returned to the island, and in 1868, D.D. Avery bought out the last of the early landholders — making Avery the island's sole owner. On his death in 1879, ownership passed to Avery's five children. In 1903, the surviving Avery siblings organized their plantation into a modern corporation, dubbed the Avery Planting and Improvement Company. In 1924, this entity became the Petit Anse [sic] Company, which in turn became Avery Island Inc. in 1948. Avid conservationists, the McIlhennys' branch of the Avery family adopted the motto, "Man and Environment in Balance," in 1971. Their environmental efforts, however, actually extend back to around 1895, when E.A. McIlhenny founded a private wildfowl refuge on the island. This refuge still exists in Jungle Gardens, and annually it attracts tens of thousands of birds.

LA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION ANNOUNCES 2018 ADDITIONS TO LOUISIANA'S MOST ENDANGERED PLACES LIST

Baton Rouge, LA - Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation (LTHP) announced additions to Louisiana's Most Endangered Places List at a press conference in the lobby of the Old State Capitol. Representatives from many of the 15 locations added to the list were present to discuss the importance of their sites and the circumstances which threaten them.

Since 1999, the Louisiana Trust has highlighted endangered historic sites and advocated for their preservation and protection. Listing these resources acknowledges their importance to Louisiana's history and culture and draws attention to the forces affecting them and similar historic sites statewide. The list is generated from nominations made by the public and aims to attract creative approaches and resources to see the sites saved and rehabilitated.

Challenges faced by properties on this year's list range from demolition by neglect and lack of funding for maintenance to pressures from unsympathetic development and rising sea level. It sheds light on the need for greater resources as well as the need to incorporate history and historic preservation into redevelopment plans around the state.

Historic preservation is a catalytic tool for revitalization and economic development, as shown by the 2017 study by Place Economics titled "The Historic Tax Credit: Building the Future in Louisiana".

The report found that between 2007-2016, nearly $2.7 billion was invested in Louisiana's historic buildings as a direct result of state and federal rehabilitation tax credits. These projects created an average of 1,725 direct jobs and an additional 1, 429 indirect and induced jobs, such as tourism. The credits are a cash-positive investment in the state, with every $1 that the State of Louisiana provides in commercial historic tax credits spurs $8.76 in additional economic activity. Louisiana is fifth in the nation in the value of historic tax credits awarded each year and first in the nation in number of annual historic tax credit projects. This means that more small buildings are being redeveloped and returned to productive uses in communities around the state.

The cast iron fence surrounding the Old State Capitol was added to the Louisiana's Most Endangered Places List in 2004, drawing attention to its deteriorated condition. Designed and cast by John Hill at his Baton Rouge foundry in 1849, the ornate fence was restored in 2008. The Old State Capitol will be the location of the 40th Annual Louisiana Preservation Conference on May 3, 2019.

Selections to the Louisiana's Most Endangered Historic Places List are based on their historic significance; the critical nature of their threat; and the likelihood to bring about a positive resolution to their situation or to those of similar sites. Nominations are collected and reviewed in the first quarter of each year. More information about the program, including nomination form and a complete list of sites may be found at **www.LTHP.org**. One of the places is the Adams Bay archaeological site shown below.

Adams Bay Site (16PL8) (ca. AD1200) - Plaquemines Parish Once part of a complex containing three earthen mounds and a shell midden, only half of one mound remains today. Land subsidence, erosion and rising sea levels will soon erase the last archaeological record of this site. The Adams Bay Site can serve as a model for best practices of addressing the impact of coastal erosion, subsidence and rising sea levels on historic sites around the world.

Tuskegee Airman's Remains Are Identified, Ending Daughter's Quest for Answers
By Melissa Gomez, New York Times, July 31, 2018

Marla Lawrence Dickson Andrews never really got to know her father while he was alive. She was not quite 2 ½ years old when her father, Capt. Lawrence E. Dickson, was killed in World War II after the plane he was flying on a reconnaissance mission crashed somewhere near the border of Austria and Italy. He was 24.

As she grew up, Ms. Andrews said, she sought to learn more about her father, a member of the elite Tuskegee Airmen, the first black military aviators to serve in the United States armed forces. He was declared missing in action, as his body and the fighter plane were not initially found.

But on Friday, Ms. Andrews, got a phone call: A DNA comparison confirmed that remains found last August at a crash site near the border were those of her father's.

"I had given up a long time ago," Ms. Andrews, 76, said on Monday. "Now, I don't have to worry."

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or D.P.A.A., which is tasked with investigating and recovering fallen military personnel, announced the findings on Friday. Captain Dickson is the first of 27 members of the Tuskegee Airmen who were declared missing to be identified.

Joshua Frank, a research analyst with the agency, said Tuesday that there were possible leads on four other missing Tuskegee Airmen, but they still needed to be identified.

On Dec. 23, 1944, Captain Dickson got into a P-51 Mustang fighter plane at Ramitelli Air Base in Italy for a reconnaissance mission. Later, as he piloted the plane during the return flight, it experienced engine failure, the agency said.

Ms. Andrews said she learned from a wingman who flew alongside her father that two other planes flew alongside Captain Dickson's plane as it descended until it disappeared.

Some witnesses told officials that they saw the plane crash and roll over, the canopy jettisoned. Officials from D.P.A.A. said Captain Dickson was not seen ejecting from the plane.

Ms. Andrews, who was born in Harlem, said she doesn't remember her father. What she knew about him was what she had learned growing up from her mother and other relatives. But none of that made her feel as if she knew his true essence.

Determined to learn more about what had happened to him, she tasked a friend who attended the annual Tuskegee Airmen conference to ask others there if they had known her father. That's how she learned about Robert L. Martin, a wingman who flew alongside her father that day in 1944.

In 1997, Mr. Martin wrote Ms. Andrews a four-page letter, detailing the day her father was last seen. He described the mountains and the snow and how he and another wingman flew alongside her father's plane until it disappeared, she said. "I always wanted to know if he died alone," she said.

In 2011, Mr. Frank, who was assigned to investigate cases of military plane crashes in Italy, began to create a database of known cases. He began to piece together information about Captain Dickson's crash, including eyewitness reports and German military forces records that identified a crash site near where Mr. Dickson reportedly went down.

With the help of a local resident who had discovered the crash site as a child, the agency, on April 26, 2012, found a site near the southern border of Hohenthurn, Austria, where it believed Captain Dickson's plane had crashed. "It was actually one of the easier ones," Mr. Frank said.

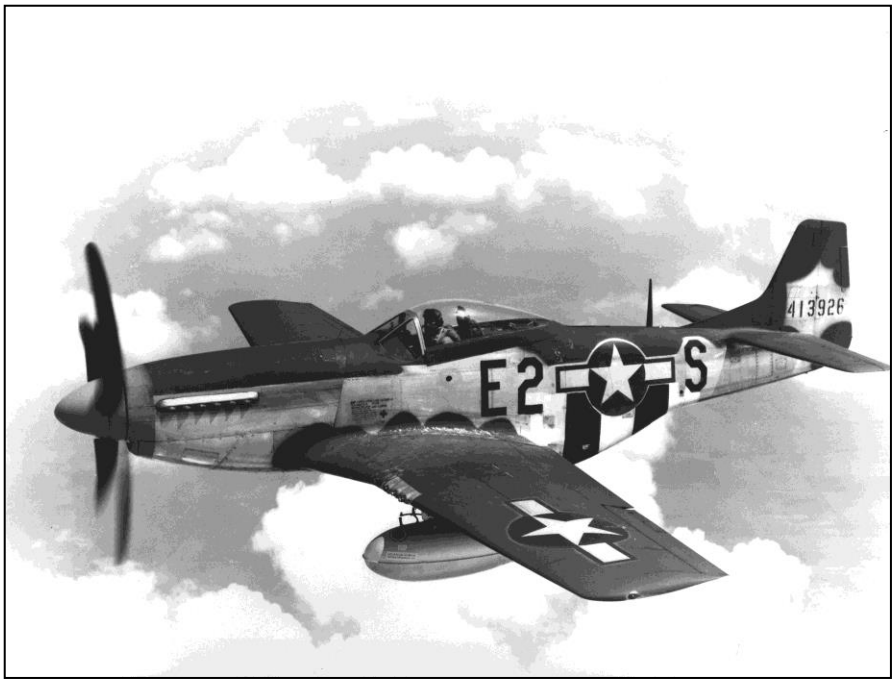
Last summer, students from the University of New Orleans and the University of Innsbruck were part of an excavation team that found what they believed were Captain Dickson's remains, said Ryan Gray, an assistant professor in the department of anthropology at the University of New Orleans.

In August, a Department of Defense official called to tell Ms. Andrews the news. "It was just too much for me, I couldn't take it in," Ms. Andrews said. She said she submitted her DNA for analysis and waited, restless.

But between the letter from Mr. Martin and this new development, Ms. Andrews said she had found some sense of peace about her father's death. She found a close friend in Mr. Martin, who died on Thursday, one day before officials confirmed the remains were her father's, she said. Mr. Martin was 99, one year older than Captain Dickson would be were he still alive.

Ms. Andrews, who lives in East Orange, N.J., said she hoped to bury her father at Arlington National Cemetery. For this, she said, she will wait patiently. "It took me awhile to feel the kind of peace I'm feeling now," she said.

Capt. Lawrence E. Dickson
Credit -Department of Defense



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

Marla Lawrence Dickson Andrews held a photograph of her father, Capt. Lawrence E. Dickson, back row, third from left, with other Tuskegee Airmen. On Friday, Ms. Andrews learned that remains found in Austria belonged to her father, whose plane went down in December 1944. Credit Bryan Anselm for The Washington Post, via Getty Images

Synchrotron Radiation Based Techniques for Applications in Archeology:
A Workshop for Archeologists

CAMD/LSU Facility, 6980 Jefferson Hwy, Baton Rouge, Louisiana,
October 4-5, 2018, 9am-5pm

Louisiana State University's Center for Advanced Microstructures and Devices (CAMD) invites Archeologists to a 2 days' workshop* on the application of synchrotron radiation based spectroscopic and imaging techniques for the characterization of archeological artefacts. The program includes hands-on experiments and a comprehensive introduction into the following techniques: X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (SR.XRF), X-ray Absorption spectroscopy (XAS), and X-ray tomography.

In the presentations a broad range of applications of these techniques on textile fibers, building materials, ceramics, glass, as well as bones and teeth will be discussed. This workshop gives archeologists, forensic scientists, conservation scientists, and students in these areas a once in a lifetime introduction into experimental physics and cutting edge technologies.

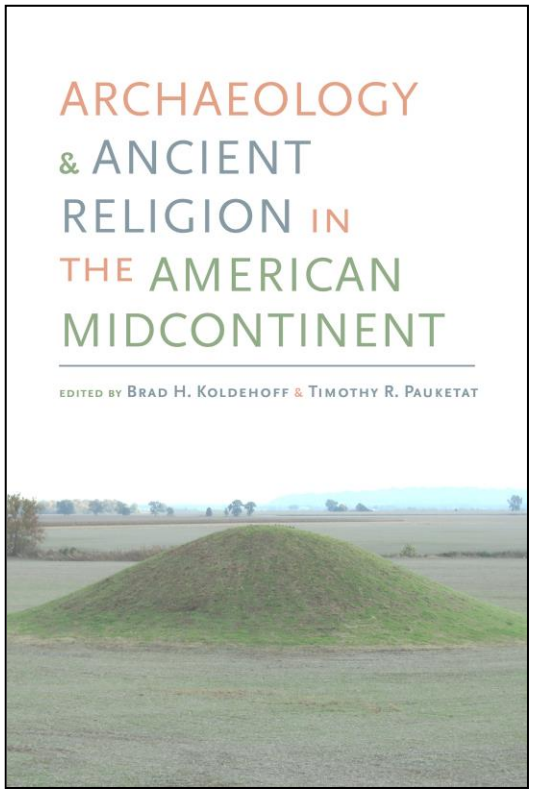
Further, in this workshop, the sample that the participants bring will be investigated for demonstrating the potential of the techniques offered at synchrotron radiation facilities. These techniques help with the characterization of materials on an atomic/molecular level. The determination of the chemistry and material properties of the samples provide information about the provenance of the materials the samples are made from, the fabrication processes, and in many cases also the usage of the samples. The detailed understanding of these factors gives additional information about optimized cleaning and conservation processes.

This workshop is supported by the National Park Service via a grant from the U.S. National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT).

Where: At CAMD in Baton Rouge (6980 Jefferson Hwy.),
Who: Young scientist (also grad-students) and faculty working in archeology wanting to learn new techniques for analyzing their artefacts with a non-destructive technique.
Register: Please send applications with short CV re: archeological questions/objects you are interested in and if you need any financial support no later than September 12 (deadline). The number of participants is limited to 12.
Via mail: Prof. Dr. Josef Hormes, LSU-CAMD, 6980 Jefferson Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 or Via email: Hormes@LSU.edu. The registration fees (that include lunches, coffee breaks and some literature) are: $200 (for faculty), $0 (for students) A few travel grants will be available!

View of the CAMD/LSU facility
6980 Jefferson Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA

BOOKS OF INTEREST FOR LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY



Archaeology and Ancient Religion in the American Midcontinent
Edited by Brad H. Koldehoff and Timothy R. Pauketat
Hardcover in 2018. 368 pp.
53 B&W figures / 12 maps / 9 tables
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Analyses of big datasets signal important directions for the archaeology of religion in the Archaic to Mississippian Native North America

Across North America, huge data accumulations derived from decades of cultural resource management studies, combined with old museum collections, provide archaeologists with unparalleled opportunities to explore new questions about the lives of ancient native peoples. For many years the topics of technology, economy, and political organization have received the most research attention, while ritual, religion, and symbolic expression have largely been ignored. This was often the case because researchers considered such topics beyond reach of their methods and data

.In *Archaeology and Ancient Religion in the American Midcontinent,* editors Brad H. Koldehoff and Timothy R. Pauketat and their contributors demonstrate that this notion is outdated through their analyses of a series of large datasets from the midcontinent, ranging from tiny charred seeds to the cosmic alignments of mounds, to explore new questions about the religious practices and lives of native peoples. At the core of this volume are case studies that explore religious practices from the Cahokia area and surrounding Illinois uplands. Additional chapters explore these topics using data collected from sites and landscapes scattered along the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys.

This innovative work facilitates a greater appreciation for, and understanding of, ancient native religious practices, especially their seamless connections to everyday life and livelihood. The contributors do not advocate for a reduced emphasis on technology, economy, and political organization; rather, they recommend expanding the scope of such studies to include considerations of how religious practices shaped the locations of sites, the character of artifacts, and the content and arrangement of sites and features. They also highlight analytical approaches that are applicable to archaeological datasets from across the Americas and beyond.

Brad H. Koldehoff is the chief archaeologist and cultural resources unit chief at the Illinois Department of Transportation and a research assistant at the Illinois State Archaeological Survey and the Illinois State Museum. Koldehoff has written numerous technical reports about Mississippi Valley archaeological sites, including Cahokia, as well as journal articles and book chapters.

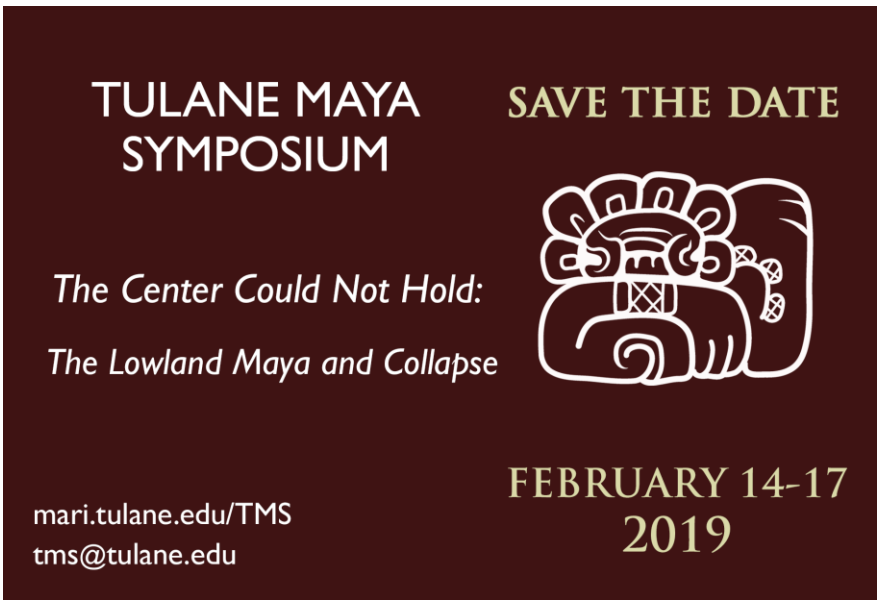
Timothy R. Pauketat is a professor of anthropology and medieval studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and a visiting research scientist at the Illinois State Archaeological Survey. Pauketat is one of the foremost experts on Cahokia and particularly esteemed for theoretical perspectives on early urbanism, religion, and the relational ontologies of Woodland and Mississippian peoples of eastern North America. A prolific author and editor, representative publications include *An Archaeology of the Cosmos: Rethinking Agency and Religion in Ancient America, Cahokia: Ancient America's Great City on the Mississippi, and The Oxford Handbook of North American Archaeology.*

MEETINGS, FIELDWORK, EXHIBITS, WEBSITES, ETC.

The 2018 SCHAC meeting will be held October 26-28 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. SCHAC will be hosted by Doug Heffington of Henderson State University and Mary Beth Trubitt of the Arkansas Archeological Survey. Details are still in development, so info on accommodations will be posted on SCHAC Facebook page when it is available. In the meantime, please submit paper and poster abstracts to Mr. Troy Vance at TV177745@-reddies.hsu.edu. Awards will be presented at the Business Meeting following the conclusion of papers and poster presentations. Best Paper Title winner receives the crown jewels (beautiful, sparkly tiara with matching earrings and a ring) and Most Number of Slides winner receives the rubber goose.

75TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE (SEAC)
November 14 to 17, 2018
Augusta, Georgia
The 2018Annual Meeting of SEAC will be held at the Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center in the heart of historic downtown Augusta, Georgia. Go to https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting for details.

2019 Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society
DATE: February 15-17, 2019
PLACE: Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Caddo Street, Shreveport, LA 71166
HOTEL: Hilton Shreveport, 104 Market Street, Shreveport, LA (connected to Convention Center) **www.shreveport.hilton.com; www.facebook.com/hiltonshreveportla**



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Articles should be submitted by email, preferably in Microsoft Word. Digital images are encouraged. Please send in TIF, JPG, or Word format. Contact editor via email with all questions.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY