Louisiana Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER

RICHARD A. WEINSTEIN, Newsletter Editor
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC. BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

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FROM THE INTERIM EDITOR

This issue is coming out a little later than expected since, like Rich has done in the past, I waited about as long as I could before going to press, with the hope that I would receive a few articles and short notes. Again, please consider publishing your LAS or other conference papers or notes in the newsletter. The article in this issue by Jim Morehead of Prentice Thomas and Associates Inc. is a copy of the paper he gave at last year's LAS Annual Meeting. It is that easy to get published. Speaking of the LAS Annual Meeting, you should have already received a special announcement - reminder in the mail about the upcoming (January 30-February 1 1998) LAS Annual Meeting in Baton Rouge. This was done in case you either misplaced or for some reason did not receive the Summer issue of the newsletter with the conference announcement. Also note in the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes that we are seeking someone to design a web page for the LAS. See you at the meetings.

Chris Hays
Interim Newsletter Editor

MINUTES OF THE L.A.S. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20, 1997 MORROW, LOUISIANA

Reported by
Maureen Downey
L.A.S. Secretary

The L.A.S. Executive Committee met Saturday, September 20, 1997 in Morrow, Louisiana. President James Fogleman called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Members present at the meeting were,

James Fogleman -- L.A.S. President, Morrow
David Jeane -- L.A.S. Treasurer

Nancy Affeltranger -- Central LA Archaeological Chapter President
Mildred Peevy - Central Louisiana Archaeological Chapter Representative

Maureen Downey -- L.A.S. Secretary, Delta Chapter Representative

Reports

Maureen Downey distributed copies of the minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting held March 17, 1997. The minutes were also published in the latest L.A.S. Newsletter. David Jeane made a motion which was seconded by Nancy Affeltranger that the minutes be accepted as written and published. The motion was passed by the Committee.

The Treasurer's Report was given by David Jeane. There have been expenditures totaling $2,017.00 leaving a balance of $9,337.25 in the L.A.S. checking account at this time. This does not include expenses for the upcoming Bulletin. Nor does it include approximately $500.00 which has not yet been deposited. The two L.A.S. savings accounts have a combined balance of $18,815.25. David reported that Brian Duhe has repaid $9,520.00 to the L.A.S. this year, making all but two of his scheduled payments for this year. David also said that he keeps close track of Duhe's payments and does not allow him to miss more than two payments without action by David. David remarked that everything looked great and that he could foresee no future financial problems. Jim thanked David for the Treasurer's Report.

David Jeane reported that the L.A.S. membership totaled 250 at the beginning of September. He stated that he had sent out dues' reminders to members who had not sent in their 1997 dues yet and that he was receiving renewals. He added that he expected to receive 15 to 20 new members as a result of Archaeology Week. Nancy Affeltranger asked David if members of the Board could receive copies of the membership list to aid in increasing local chapter membership. David referred her to the Division of Archaeology which compiles the computer list for the L.A.S. **Please send the names, addresses and telephone numbers of your new officers and representatives to the L.A.S. secretary.**

Chris Hays, Interim Newsletter Editor, was unable to attend the meeting but had contacted the Committee previously via telephone to report that the Newsletter would be mailed very soon. Everyone agreed that Chris has done an excellent job so far and that each eagerly awaited the next Newsletter. The Bulletin Editor, T. R. Kidder, was also unable to attend the meeting so no information was available regarding the next Bulletin.

Nancy Affeltranger reported on the 1997 Annual Meeting. She submitted to the Committee paperwork including a list of income and expenses. Income totaled $2,710.00. Expenses were in the amount of $2,661.00 leaving a balance of $49.00. Nancy stated that there are still a few problems that should be addressed. Treasurer David Jeane will help with the resolution of these problems. A final report will then

be submitted. Nancy also made suggestions on more efficient methods for future meetings. President Jim Fogleman commented on how everyone enjoyed the 1997 meeting.

Old Business

David Jeane inquired about the status of the Archival Committee. He said that he had four boxes of materials that need to be stored. President Jim Fogleman will contact Carl Kuttruff who has volunteered to help in the process whereby L.A.S. archival material will be prepared for placement in the State Archives.

The need for a new L.A.S. brochure was again discussed. Jim Fogleman said that the brochure should be available for next Archaeology Week.

New Business

David Jeane stated that he had been in contact with Julie Doucet regarding the upcoming Annual Meeting to be held in Baton Rouge. Jim Fogleman suggested that she contact Nancy Affeltranger and together they could find ways to avoid problems encountered with past meetings. Jim will also be contacting Julie regarding the progress of the planning for the meeting.

Roger Saucier, Vice President and President-Elect, had contact President Jim Fogleman with a suggestion that the L.A.S. launch a web page. The Committee agreed that this was an excellent idea but that a volunteer would be needed to design the web page. As an incentive, David Jeane suggested a year's free membership for anyone volunteering for the job. A call for a volunteer will be placed in the next newsletter.

President Fogleman submitted a proposal for a L.A.S./Regional Archaeologist Co-Project. He stated that although there exists a great deal of interest for some type of archaeological project involving the L.A.S., recent attempts to have an L.A.S. Field School have been unsuccessful. His proposal is an attempt to address these concerns. He suggests that one of the Regional Archaeologists would select and direct an archaeological dig in which the members could participate. The proposal will be published in the next Newsletter and voted on at the next L.A.S. General Business Meeting. Jim will be glad of any comments regarding the proposal.

President Fogleman announced that the next meeting of the Executive Committee would be held during the 1998 Annual Meeting in Baton Rouge. He then asked if there was any further business. There was no further business so after a motion to adjourn by Maureen Downey, seconded by David Jeane, and passed by the Committee, President Fogleman adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Everyone was invited to enjoy a **delicious** lunch at President Fogleman's parents home. Again thanks to the Foglemans for their gracious hospitality.

hammerstones and pieces of abraded hematite. In a recent project, abraders and a small mortar and pestle were recovered from a San Patrice component (Campbell et al. 1997).

The technologies employed include flake, blade and bifacial elements, while bipolar reduction is very rare. Bifacial reduction is less important than in Archaic and Woodland complexes. Controlled reduction as evidenced by discoidal, pyramidal, and bifacial cores seem more important than *ad-hoc* techniques like blocky (amorphous) strategies. This may reflect the absence of permanent or long term occupations which may be implicit in amorphous schemes, which seem correlated with easy access to raw materials (Johnson 1987). Cores seem to have been carefully conserved: only fragments and trimming flakes have been found on Peason Ridge.

Site Types. A wide variety of locations were exploited, ranging from summits to terrace margin and small ridgenoses overlooking stream bottoms. Several types of sites have been identified, including short term camps, hunting base camps, special purpose work stations and procurement-oriented occupations. Procurement seems embedded with other activities and is largely confined to a series of workshop sites near the Citronelle outcrops on the Main Post. Although high quality, potentially exotic raw materials have been found, the vast majority is Citronelle gravel or locally available silicified woods.

Time. San Patrice has been suggested to have directly developed directly out of Clovis or another early fluted type (Story 1990) and to be Late Paleoindian. Story's position is based on the presence of flutes on the *Hope* and *St. Johns* varieties and a western variety (*Brazos*) found in stratified above Folsom and below Plainview and Dalton. The early varieties and an Albany have been found in levels below Plainview and Midland points at Fort Polk. The *Keithville* variety has appeared stratified above Plainview and Midland points, which suggests a long duration for the San Patrice culture. The overall character of the tools and technology indicates much more continuity with Paleoindian than the Archaic (Mathews et al 1995). The total range is likely to be in the vicinity of 8300-6300 B.C. based on dates obtained on charcoal associated with similar points in Texas at Horn Shelter 2 (Story 1990) and Dust Cave in Alabama (Driskell 1994).

Relationships. San Patrice is almost certainly related to Dalton, which we like to think of as a northern and eastern variant of San Patrice. The Hardaway points found in the Carolina Piedmont and Bolen Points of Florida and Georgia are also likely to be related. The *Brazos* variety is primarily found in Texas, where it was in association with extinct bison near the Llano Estacado.

Archaic

The division of the Archaic at Fort Polk into early, middle, and late periods may need revision. The situation has clarified for the Middle and Late Archaic, but the Early Archaic is still unsettled, although we believe we

have a good candidate in the Kisatchie Phase at Fort Polk. One of the most pressing questions is what to look for in terms of diagnostics.

In nearby East Texas *Keithville* is considered Early Archaic (Story 1990). Yet we have found no compelling reason to consider *Keithville* components as other than Late Paleoindian. Story (1990) had also suggested that Kirk points may be Early Archaic markers in Northeast Texas. Kirk is an eastern type which succeeds Hardaway and Palmer in the Carolina Piedmont (Coe 1964). The main distinguishing characteristic of most Kirk points is deep serration. It is our position that the occurrence of Kirk-like points at Fort Polk is diagnostic of an Early Archaic occupation in this area.

Kisatchie Phase: Early Archaic?

The Kisatchie Phase is named after the Kisatchie Wold, which runs from central Louisiana into East Texas. There is also a small locality of that name near Peason Ridge, to say nothing of the National Forest. We have examined seven components with a total of 53 formal tools.

Diagnostics. Kirk-like, deep serration is found on only one local type: Sinner, and it is the primary diagnostic of the Kisatchie Phase, which is represented by seven components at this time. Sinner notches are probably better described as deep serrations on most of the specimens we have recovered. There is fine retouch above the serrated portion of the blade which is reminiscent of the retouch found on San Patrice points.

As will be seen, there are non-typological resemblances between the Anacoco and Kisatchie Phases, such as very well-rounded tool kits with few bifaces which are not reworked points, embedded procurement, and primary reliance on local gravels. These characteristics are suspected to reflect adaptive similarities. The typological similarity between Sinner and Kirk Serrated points is so strong that it is difficult to conceive it is mere coincidence. While these lines of evidence are circumstantial and do not allow a categorical assertion that Sinner is the same age as Kirk, they are highly suggestive. If we are correct, a range of about 6500-5000 B.C. seems right, based on oldest dates for Evans components associated with mounds (Saunders 1994) and the latest dates on Kirk Serrated (Driskel 1994); DeJarnette et al. 1962; cf. Coe 1964; Justice 1987).

Tools and Technology. Formal tools are dominated by points, mostly Sinner and some otherwise nondescript expanded stem forms. Formal bifaces are limited to reworked points as was largely the case for the Anacoco phase. Also present in quantity are endscrapers and perforators, but there are few *pièces esquillées* and serrated pieces, while sidescrapers, burins, notches, and multiple tools are rare. Groundstone is present, including one piece of site furniture, a pitted stone from 16VN734.

Most Kisatchie Phase components have a tendency towards diverse tool assemblages despite tool kits which are moderate sized at best. In this they are not unlike San Patrice components, particularly those on

Peason Ridge. Another striking characteristic is the absolute dominance of unifaces among formal tools.

The debitage includes evidence of both core-flake and bifacial reduction. Amorphous and controlled reduction are evident in about equal numbers. Only one component (16VN675) (Meyer 1995) seem to be a quarry workshop which had bifacial and core-flake trajectories. This seems to indicate that lithic procurement is embedded in the Kisatchie Phase adaptive strategy.

Time. We do not have absolute dates on these components. They appear to postdate San Patrice and are suspected to predates Evans, the earliest C14 assay of which predate 5000 B.C. (Saunders 1994). The age of Sinner is an unsettled question, but it and Evans were suggested by Webb (1981) to be Late Archaic. But Evans has been found to be Middle Archaic in origin. Gregory (1995) has suggested that Sinner is an Evans variety peculiar to Northwest Louisiana. Obviously, we believe that the lines of evidence discussed above: the form of the point, the apparent adaptive and technological similarities with San Patrice and so on, imply an Early Archaic date, about 6500-5000 B.C. as noted above.

Relationships. The parallels with Kirk, which extends as far as the Carolinas, if not further, have already been drawn. In East Texas, similar types are Wesley, which was found deep in the best preserved deposits of the Yarbough site (Johnson 1962), and Neches River, which Jelks (1965) believed to be earlier than all other local types save San Patrice in the Angelina River drainage of East Texas.

Sixmile Phase: Middle Archaic

The Sixmile Phase is named after Sixmile Creek, the East and West Branches of which transect the Main Post. Sixmile Phase components have been investigated on both parts of Fort Polk. As of the twenty-second project, there were eight components with a total of 32 formal tools.

Diagnostics. The Evans point is the only diagnostic as of now.

Tools and Technology. Formal tools are dominated by points, which are followed closely by perforators. Also present are *pièces esquillées*, notches, and multiple tools. Sidescrapers and burins are represented by one specimen each. Denticulated and serrated pieces have not yet been found. We suspect that the Evans point itself may have served such functions. The multiple tools are limited to endscrapers with a "spur" at the corner. Both bifacial and unifacial tools are represented in about equal numbers. There are seldom many tools in Sixmile components.

The debitage from these components is singularly unimpressive, and reinforces the impression of short-term camps. Only two components, both on the Main Post, had debitage collections of over 100 flakes and only on of the rest had more than 50 flakes. The flake categories are dominated by tertiary and biface trimming flakes, and seem to reflect maintenance. Cores are too few in number to reliably characterize in terms of controlled

versus amorphous strategies. Procurement-oriented sites have yet to be investigated.

Site Types. Most Sixmile Phase components look like short term even ephemeral hunting camps, in some cases hunter's stands. Only one (16VN1068) looks substantial enough to be considered a seasonal base camp. Given this inventory, (Morehead et al. 1996) it seems likely that these components are the fringe of an Evans-using (Big Creek?) culture whose core area is distant from Fort Polk. The relative impoverishment of the tool kits may be appreciated best by noting that Sixmile components outnumber Kisatchie components but have less than half the tools.

Time. The Big Creek Culture of south Arkansas and north Louisiana is also identified by Evans points. Jeter et al. (1989:98) suggest that Big Creek was likely to be Late Archaic, but note the possibility of a Middle-Late Archaic position. Investigations at Archaic mound sites from which Evans points have been recovered have yielded radiocarbon assays in the 5000-2500 B.C. range.

Relationship. The only other complex which is identified by Evans points of which we are aware is the Mid-Late Archaic Big Creek Culture of northern Louisiana and Southern Arkansas. The Evans point is found from East Texas into Mississippi and Arkansas.

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CURRENT RESEARCH IN LOUISIANA

This issue highlights the anthropological and archaeological research being undertaken by

undergraduate and graduate students.

For his Master's thesis project, L.S.U. anthropology student David Palmer has been excavating a slave and tenant cabin at Blythewood plantation. Located north of White Castle, Blythewood is a former sugar plantation that was built sometime in the early 19th c. and in operation into the early decades of this century. African-American plantation workers lived at the site from at least the mid-19th c. until the middle of this century. Excavations were conducted in the cabin and also in the yard area around the cabin. The research focus of the project revolves around the question of whether or not changes in the lives of Blythewood's African-American plantation workers from the pre- to the post-emancipation eras would be visible in the archaeological record, and how these changes would be manifested.

Ms. Viola Moore is examining the cemeteries of East Baton Rouge Parish for her dissertation in the department of Geography and Anthropology at L.S.U. East Baton Rouge Parish reflects the long and interesting history of those early Europeans who came to this region and established what would become modern communities. Through the cemeteries built during the different eras in East Baton Rouge, scholars are able to trace the building of communities, the growth of these communities and the many changes - economic, ethnic, and materialistic - which occurred in the society. The frequency of cemeteries combined with the wide range of affiliations creates a fertile study area. Remnants of the early community around the fort, plantations, times of conflict between classes and the building of today's landscape are shown in the graveyards throughout the Parish.

Studying the East Baton Rouge cemeteries provides a link to the past community, but it also challenges the observer to participate in the preservation and conservation of those burial grounds which still exist from an earlier time while also maintaining those of the extant society. In this way the history of the landscape will be available to scholars of the future who wish to glean information from their forebears.

For her Master's thesis topic, L.S.U. graduate student Julie Doucet is working with Dr. Rebecca Saunders of L.S.U. to come up with an alternative method for analyzing seasonality of *Rangia cuneata*, a brackish water clam found along the Gulf Coast. Currently known methods of determining seasonality in *Rangia cuneata* yield questionable results. Ms. Doucet and Dr. Sanders are harvesting live samples for the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, and taking temperature and salinity readings. They plan to section the samples to compare internal and external morphology in order to determine seasonality. They will also attempt to determine if temperature or salinity has an effect on the growth of these clams. If their new methodology is successful, it will be applied to the Cane Slough site, which is a shell midden located on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. A portion of the site was excavated in 1987 during an LAS field school run by Coastal Environments, Inc. Ms. Doucet will

analyze the excavated material and will write a site report. It is hoped that the new seasonality method will lend information on the site's function.

Ms. Jodi B. Pracht is conducting paleoecological research in the area of the Pearl River for her M.S. in Geography at L.S.U. under the direction of Dr. Kim-biu Liu and Dr. Rebecca Saunders. The Pearl River Paleoecology Project was initiated to test the hypothesis that during the Late Archaic Period (4000 to 1000 B.C.), the hydrology and/or geomorphology of the lower Pearl River Marsh was altered. Preliminary indication of this hypothesized change is provided by the mollusc assemblages of three archaeological sites located in the lower Pearl River Marsh; the Cedarland, the Drill, and the Claiborne sites. The shift from oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) to brackish water clam (*Rangia cuneata*) documented at these sites could reflect a decrease in marsh salinity through time. Possible causes of a decreasing salinity range from local to regional phenomenon. The Pearl River Paleoecology Project is analyzing the pollen dispersed from local marsh vegetation during the proposed period of decreasing salinities to test this hypothesis. If a reduction in marsh salinities occurred, the pollen record should display a trend from the pollen of saline-adapted vegetation to the pollen of brackish water-adapted vegetation during the Late Archaic Period.

Diana Loren is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Binghamton University in Binghamton, New York. For her dissertation, Diana is examining the process of creole identity formation that took place along the eighteenth-century Louisiana/Texas border. Archaeological data from two sites in Natchitoches Parish, Los Adaes (excavated by Dr. Hiram Gregory) and Chamard (excavated by Dr. Hiram Gregory and Commonwealth Associates), are being used along with French and Spanish ethnohistoric material to examine how the process of creolization took place in frontier households and communities along this colonial border. By focussing on the process of creolization at the level of the household, Diana plans to contrast what occurred in the household to what French and Spanish colonial policy dictated for these people. What Diana hopes to tease out from her investigations are the ways in which colonial policy and colonial practice intersected and how a creole population emerged in the eighteenth-century as a result of this intersection. Presently, using census data, Diana is writing on how people along this border negotiated their creole identity during the eighteenth-century.

U.S.L . undergraduate student Mrs. Roanna Carriere is documenting Moundville Cemetery (16SL191) for an independent study project. This neglected cemetery is located outside of Washington, St. Landry Parish and it was established by Amos Webb, founder of Arlington Plantation (1836). Although the cemetery continues to be used by a few families, most of it has been abandoned for the last 75 years with collapsing tombs and overgrowing vegetation. Documentation and mapping of the cemetery identified at least 71 graves within a one hectare

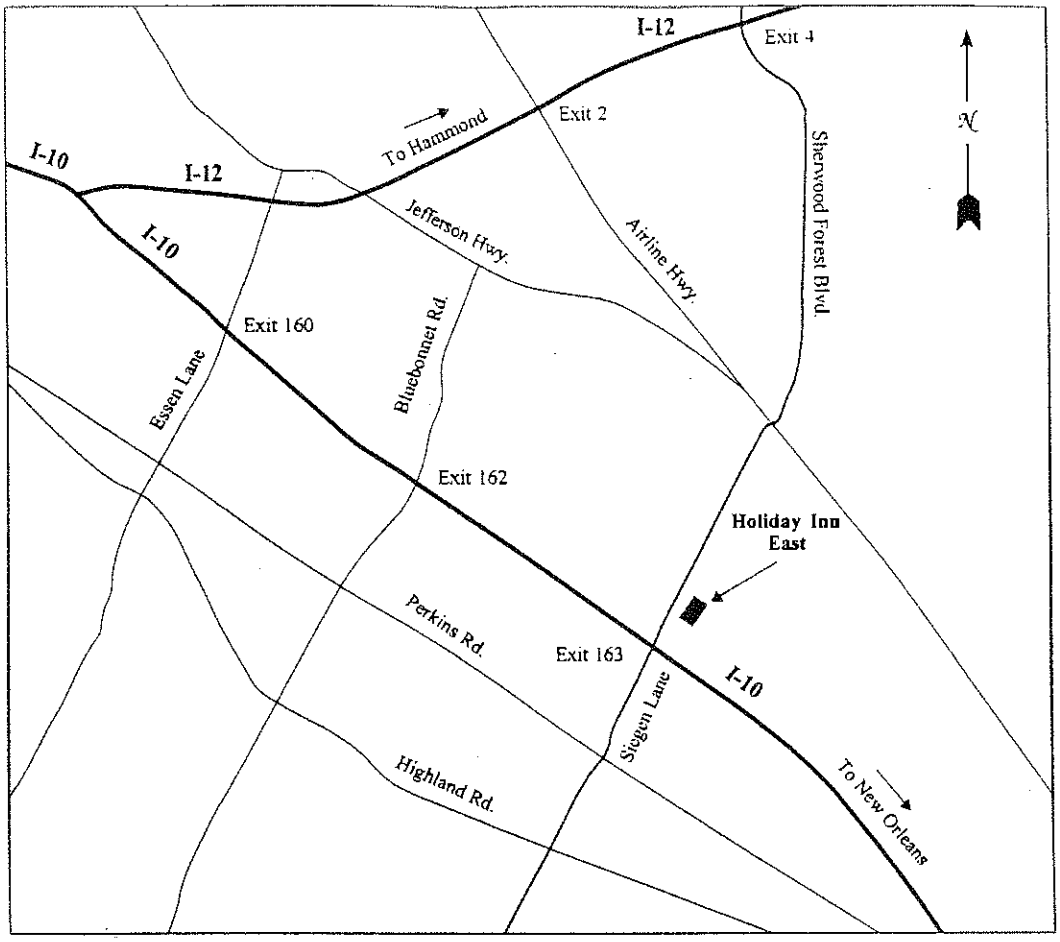
area. Amos Webb and his immediate family lie within a striking wrought-iron fence plot with several other family clusters also identifiable. The older graves are red brick tombs, most of which have severely deteriorated, with post-1950 graves marked by concrete tombs. Only 22 graves have legible markers, most dating to the mid-late 1800s. Informant interviews are being undertaken in an effort to determine the identity of the unmarked graves.

Ms. Christie Hardy, U.S.L. Anthropology student, and Ms. Nora Fredericks, graduate student in History at U.S.L., are investigating an archaeological site on a portion of Live Oak Plantation in Vermillion Parish. An 1836 map of the lower Vermilion River identifies a small "island" as "Bowie's Island." Local legend has it that Mr. Jim Bowie had a cabin on the island where he may have been involved in slave trading, and other stories suggest the famous Bowie knife may have originally been manufactured at a nearby blacksmith's forge. The current landowner, Mr. Charles Godchaux, is interested in determining whether these stories were true and offered to fund archaeological and historical research to ascertain their validity. This project would expand upon an earlier limited survey conducted by Dr. Rebecca Saunders, the Southeast Regional Archaeologist, in 1994. Ms. Hardy conducted the archaeological survey to look for remains of the cabin and Ms. Fredricks conducted the background historical research.

Ms. Hardy conducted systematic shovel testing at 30 m intervals across the southern 300 m of the island where the cabin site was thought to have been located. In addition, systematic metal detector transects were conducted across the same area. No evidence of a historic cabin was found, although two prehistoric sherds and one flake were recovered. Very unexpectedly, substantial evidence of a Civil War skirmish was found at the island. Several cannon shell fragments and numerous canister balls were located by the metal detector survey. Although no record of such a skirmish has been found in the Official Records of the War, it appears that a Union gunboat fired at least one round of canister and one round of grape across the island at some point during the War.

UPCOMING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The 1998 Caddo Conference will be held March 13 and 14th in Arkadelphia, AR. Program chairs are the Ouachita National Forest archaeologists, and arrangements chair is Ann M. Early. We welcome suggestions, ideas, and recommendations for program activities and events. Contact: Meeks Etchieson, USFS, PO Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902; 501-321-5252 (ph); 501-321-5382 (fax); /s=m.etchieson/ou1=r08f09a@mhs-fswa.attmail.com. Ann M. Early, PO Box 7841, Arkadelphia, AR 71999-0001; 870-246-7311 (ph); 870-230-5144 (fax); amarie@iocc.com.



This map shows you the location of the Holiday Inn East where the LAS Annual Meeting will be held January 30-February 1 1998.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL

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Regular Membership	( )	Annually $15.00
Associate Membership	( )	Annually $2.00
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* All memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Regardless of the time of year during which you join the society, you will receive all publications for the year specified.

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