



# Louisiana Archaeological Society NEWSLETTER

RICHARD A. WEINSTEIN, Newsletter Editor

COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC.,

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Kiwanis camp expedition was not an Indiana Jones adventure, but it sure was fun—and I think we learned a lot.

Jeff Girard started Friday night with a discussion on lithic analysis. This included a review of lithic raw materials and the identification of particular attributes used in determining whether a flake was retouched or not. We also learned how to observe and record the specimens. The study ended with Jeff providing pointers on how to synthesize and interpret the data accumulated.

Dennis Jones then introduced plans for Saturday's activities. This not only included a survey of the Kiwanis camp property, but a surprise visit to a site that he was excavating in the area that contained open excavation units for everyone to examine.

Rich Weinstein then treated us to a well-informed talk on prehistoric ceramics. As Rich had brought a collection of pottery, everyone was allowed to examine many of the types and varieties that he discussed. We could then see the paste, color, temper, and styles of decoration. Rich also brought a

sample of historic ceramics and presented a brief discussion on those items. Joan Exnicios originally was to talk about historic ceramics, but was unable to attend due to other commitments. We hope Joan will consider coming to another field school or training session for us.

Carl Kuttruff then gave us a very nice slide presentation on different approaches to excavating a site. Included were slides from many of Carl's excavations throughout the Southeast, particularly numerous locales in Tennessee.

On Saturday morning we were to begin with a lecture by Glen Greene concerning soil profiles. Unfortunately, Glen was attacked by a virus about halfway between Monroe and Pineville, and was unable to make it to the field school. Glen sends his apology to all those who attended the school. We hope that he will be available for the next field school.

Once it became clear that Glen Greene would not be able to attend the field school, we spent the rest of Saturday morning with Dennis Jones and his "on-site" talk. It was very interesting to look into an excavation unit and see its features and artifacts still in place.

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Those that had never been involved in an excavation before enjoyed viewing an on-going field project. We hope that Dennis will be able to present the results of his excavations at the next field school. Maybe we could also get Dennis to show us how to make a map of a site and to fill out a site form.

Saturday afternoon found us systematically shovel testing and screening an area of the Kiwanis camp that overlooks a man-made lake. This location appeared to be a high-probability area for sites, and we were fortunate enough to have found both aboriginal and historic remains. This aspect of the field school was directed by Carl Kuttruff and Rich Weinstein. Following the fieldwork, Emily Vincent and myself washed and initially identified some of the flakes and historic ceramics recovered.

Bill Day concluded Saturday's activities with an evening slide show on the Trudeau site, and ended his talk with a discussion on the preservation and curation of the Tunica Treasure retrieved from that site. Bill has really worked hard on getting his conservation laboratory ready for the years to come.

The Sunday morning session was a little light in member participation, but it made it nice since we had enough clay for everyone to try the hands-on manufacture of pottery using the coiling technique. This session was directed by the Central Chapter's own Charli Bravinder. Some of the pots that the members made were very well done—but others looked like very, very, early Tchefuncte vessels.

All in all, we had a very good time. I would like to thank all of you who participated in the field school activities or donated money to make the school a big success.

All those present have already requested another field school in the near future. Maybe we ought to start thinking about the place, time, and needs for such an endeavor. We will bring this matter up at the next L. A. S. business meeting at the Annual Meeting in January.

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that the L. A. S. Annual Meeting will take place in

Lafayette on January 15, 16, and 17 at the Hotel Acadiana. Information on the meeting is provided elsewhere in this Newsletter. Carl Kuttruff and the USL Anthropology and Archaeological Society have worked extremely hard on the meeting, and it should be an extremely interesting and enjoyable affair. Please make your reservations now! I hope to see all of you in Lafayette.

Nancy Affeltranger  
L. A. S. President

### 1993 LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The 1993 Louisiana Archaeological Society Annual Meeting will be held at the Hotel Acadiana in Lafayette, Louisiana, and hosted by the USL Anthropology and Archaeology Society. A room rate of \$46.00 for up to four persons per room has been negotiated. The meeting dates are set for January 15, 16, and 17, 1993. Planned sessions will include contributed papers (20 minutes each), research papers (10 minutes each), and a possible symposium of invited papers on a particular topic. At least one session on historic archaeology is also planned. A book room will be available for sales and other displays. There will be a Cajun buffet banquet on Saturday evening, followed by a keynote speaker, and an authentic Cajun band. (See the preliminary program at the back of this Newsletter.)

A pre-registration form and a hotel reservation form are included at the back of this Newsletter. Please return your meeting registration and banquet reservation no later than **January 8, 1993**, to:

USL Anthropology Society  
LAS Meeting  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
USL P.O. Box 40198  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70504-0198

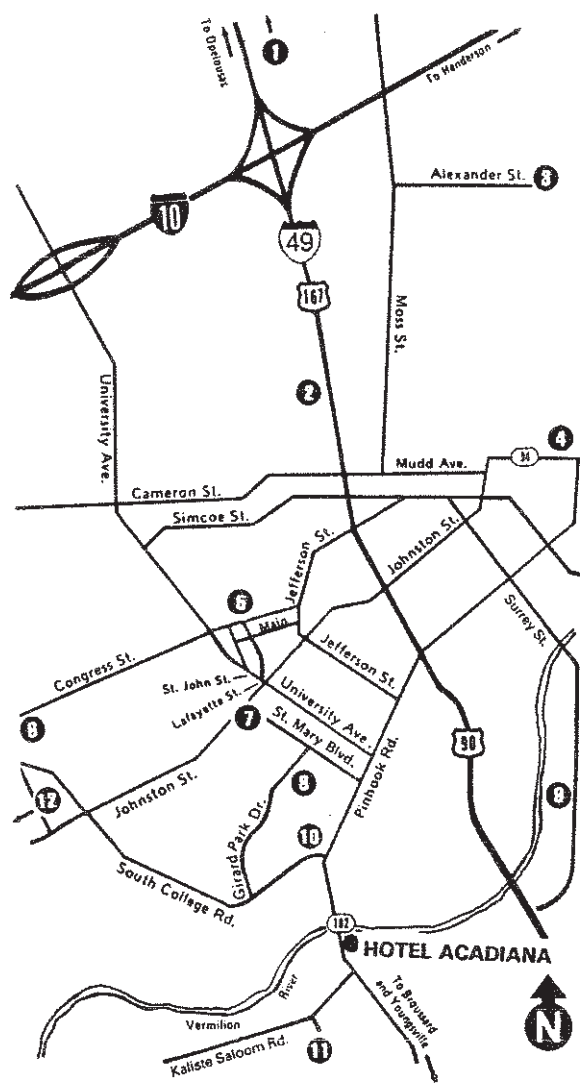
To date, only five paper titles and abstracts have been received. **The deadline for paper submissions has been extended through December 30, 1992.** An abstract form is included in this Newsletter for



your convenience. Any special requests for space for displays, or for special audiovisual equipment for presentations, should be submitted in writing with the abstract. The abstract form should be sent to:

Carl Kuttruff  
621 Albert Hart Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

A map showing the location of the hotel in Lafayette is included below. From Interstate-10 take the Interstate-49/US 167/US 90 exit. Go south on US 90/167 to Pinhook Road. Turn west on Pinhook and cross the Vermilion River. The hotel will be on the left after crossing the river.



Map showing route to the Hotel Acadiana in Lafayette, Louisiana.

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

8425 Fairway Drive  
Pineville, Louisiana  
September 12, 1992

Reported by  
Donita Burton  
L. A. S. Secretary

The L. A. S. Executive Committee Meeting was held at the home of Nancy Affeltranger in Pineville, Louisiana. Members present were:

Nancy Affeltranger — L. A. S. President, Central Chapter  
David Jeane — L. A. S. Treasurer, Northwest Chapter  
Donita Burton — L. A. S. Secretary, Imperial Calcasieu Chapter  
Rich Weinstein — L. A. S. Newsletter Editor, Baton Rouge Chapter  
Bob Neuman — L. A. S. Bulletin Editor  
Dennis Jones — Baton Rouge Chapter Representative  
Charli Bravinder — Central Chapter Representative  
Lisa Coleman — Member, Lafayette

Nancy Affeltranger called the meeting to order.

Donita Burton read the minutes of the previous Executive Committee Meeting. David Jeane made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Rich Weinstein seconded. Motion carried.

### Reports

David Jeane presented the treasury and membership reports. On August 31, 1992, the treasury contained \$13,581.17. This includes \$4,603.45 in checking, and the remainder in savings.

As of this date (September 12, 1992), there are 284 members. There have been 56 new members since the last membership report in May. David seems to think that the dues reminder sent out in June proved to be a



positive catalyst in membership renewals received.

Rich Weinstein interjected that the dues reminders cost the L. A. S. \$90.10. This cost includes printing, mailing, and postage paid on returned flyers.

Charli Bravinder presented a bill to David for the upcoming field school.

David reported that he has sent out publications of the commemorative issue (Special Publication No. 2) to those new members who failed to receive their copies due to a computer error. The publications will be given to all new members in chronological order as long as the supply lasts.

David finally received a letter from the Louisiana Division of Probation and Parole, along with a money order in the amount of \$170.00. This was the first payment received by the L. A. S. as partial restitution of the Society's funds illegally removed from the treasury by former Treasurer, Brian Duhe. David also reported that he received a second money order for the same amount two days prior to the present meeting. The balance owed by Mr. Duhe to the Society is now \$16,660. The Society is scheduled to receive \$170.00 per month for the next 98 months.

Dennis Jones made the motion to accept the treasury and membership reports. Rich Weinstein seconded.

Donita reported that the certified letter sent to Mr. Duhe concerning his expulsion from the Society had been received. Mr. Duhe had 30 days to respond to this action, and he has chosen not to do so. Brian Duhe is effectively no longer a member of the Society.

Dennis Jones has been in contact with Brian's new parole officer, Jacob Reed, of the Lafayette Parish Probation Department. Dennis intends to have continued contact with Officer Reed on any further developments concerning the case. Immediate action will be taken if necessary.

Nancy made a motion that we put a synopsis of the Brian Duhe case in the

L. A. S. Newsletter. Rich seconded. Motion carried.

Rich reported on the L. A. S. Newsletter. He said it should be issued in mid September. Rich also noted that he needs information concerning the Annual Meeting by mid November.

In the absence of Bob Neuman at the May Executive Committee meeting, Rich was asked to contact Bob concerning the printing of the 1988 L. A. S. Bulletin. Rich reported that USL purchased a new photocopy machine and printed the 1988 Bulletin at no extra cost to the Society.

Bob addressed the concerns that were sent to him by letter from the Executive Committee. Bob acknowledged these concerns and expressed his views and actions taken on the subjects presented.

A brief discussion was held concerning problems incurred with the Assistant Bulletin Editors due to miscommunication. Communication will be more direct with those individuals involved, with all working together for the good of the organization.

Bob Neuman then presented the L. A. S. Bulletin report. There will be two more bulletins out this year. The 1988 Bulletin, entitled *Archaeological Investigations at the LSU Campus Mounds*, with articles by Robert Neuman and Jeffrey Homburg, will be issued in October. The 1989 Bulletin, with articles by Debbie Woodiel and Joe Saunders, is at the printers and should be out by the end of the year.

In addition, Special Publication No. 3, by Jon Gibson and devoted to Dr. Clarence Webb, will be published soon. Several other articles have also been received and have been sent out for review.

## **New Business**

Lisa Coleman, one of the co-chairmen hosting the 1993 Annual Meeting, stated that the meeting dates have been set for January 15, 16, and 17 at the Hotel Acadiana ... Lafayette. A banquet is scheduled for Satur-



day evening, with the keynote speaker to be announced later. Rooms are \$46.00 per night.

Lisa also announced that a Native American Commemorative Pow Wow will be held at Blackum Coliseum in Lafayette on October 2, 3, and 4, 1992. It will be sponsored by the USL Anthropological and Archaeological Society and the USL Union Program Council.

Nancy has set the L. A. S. field school dates for October 16, 17, and 18. The field school will be held at the Kiwanis Club campgrounds in Pineville. Nancy has her program itinerary almost complete. A packet will be sent to those who register, and will include a list of activities and speakers. There will also be a list of motels and restaurants in the area for those who will not utilize the camping facilities at the Kiwanis campgrounds.

Donita sent a news release to all major newspapers in Louisiana announcing the awards recognition given to Dr. Francis Thompson and Coastal Environments, Inc., for their outstanding work and contributions to the field of archaeology in the state of Louisiana.

David Jeane reported that he had the plaques made for the recipients of the awards, Dr. Thompson and Coastal Environments, Inc., and that the plaques would be mailed shortly.

With no further business, Dennis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Rich seconded. Motion carried.



## EVIDENCE OF ICE AGE MAN FOUND AT LAFAYETTE

By  
**Thomas A. Marckese**  
**University of**  
**Southwestern Louisiana**

A Clovis point discovered at the home of Ben Mayfield and family, located off Kaliste Saloom Road in Lafayette, attests to the presence of Ice Age man in southwestern Louisiana. Clovis points, often cited as the diagnostic artifact of the first peoples who populated the New World, have been dated to a period between 11,950 and 10,770 years B.P. from several sites in the Southwest (Willig 1991:Table 2a-2b). Contemporaneity of this specimen from Lafayette with these dated finds is assumed here. Clovis points recovered in Louisiana and southern Texas have occurred most often as single, isolated finds (Gagliano and Gregory 1965:62; Hester 1977:172-173). The distribution of these isolated finds may reflect the settlement and subsistence patterns of the Clovis culture who were nomadic in their quests for food and may have not engaged in the patterned behavior that produce sites (Meltzer 1986:27). Therefore, it is imperative that when these finds do occur an accurate description be made and properly recorded.

This Clovis point, hereafter referred to as the Mayfield point, was found where erosion exposed the roots of a tree in the Mayfield's backyard along the Vermilion River. This tree is situated on a slope about 15 feet below the crest of the ridge and 10 feet from the normal level of the river. The Mayfield home is located along the edge of the Vermilion River where it bisects the loess-capped Prairie Terrace. This site lies within the meander belt of the old Mississippi River (Gibson 1976:22).

The Mayfield point (Figure 1) is fashioned from dark blue-grey, opaque, waxy Texas flint, with slightly lighter grey to cream-colored increments. Deep concoidal flake scars occur randomly over the periphery of the point. Several scars on both faces extend over the midline of the point consequently leaving behind a poorly defined median ridge.



Lanceolate shaped, with a concave base, the point is lenticular in cross-section in the hafting area and biconvex in the remaining portion. The lateral edges converge to form a moderately strong distal point that has been snapped or just broken. Toward the proximal end, the lateral edges converge gently, then run roughly parallel, expanding slightly to form rounded ears. This point measures 73 mm in length, 25 mm in width, and 8 mm at maximum thickness. The width-to-thickness ratio is approximately 3:1. However, this ratio would be closer to 5:1 if not for a step fracture that developed on one margin. Fluting occurs on both faces for about one third of the length of the point. Basal and lateral grinding occurs over one third of the total length of the point. Reduction occurring on the margins of the non-hafted portion and the truncated distal portion indicates usage.



Figure 1. The obverse and reverse sides of the Ben Mayfield point (actual size).

The Mayfield point coheres with the model of Paleo-Indian point distribution in northwestern Louisiana proposed by Gagliano and Gregory in 1965; however, this finding extends the range of Clovis finds into southern Louisiana (Gagliano and Gregory 1965:Fig. 1). Seventy-eight percent of the Paleo-Indian points analyzed in this study were made of exotic lithic materials that do not occur naturally in Louisiana, with the preponderance of the lithics originating in Texas (Gagliano and Gregory 1965:68). A survey of the Sabine River drainage system revealed that fifty to eighty percent of Paleo-Indian artifacts dis-

tributed within that area were made from exotic materials deriving from source quarries located within a radius of 300 to 600 km away (Gibson 1982:19). If an analogy can be made from the breadth of known bison migrations + the same Pleistocene herbivores, then these Paleo-Indian catchments appear to be indicative of the hunting strategies of Paleo-Indian groups on the trail of Pleistocene herbivores during the course of their seasonal migrations (Jackson 1961, cited in Gibson 1982:20-21).

The combined environs of the Salt Dome region and the backwater swamp regions, supplied by the tremendous flow of cool glacial outwash from the Mississippi River during the terminal phases of the Pleistocene, no doubt supported a large biotic community that made southern Louisiana an attractive refuge for Pleistocene flora, megafauna, and a later arrival, man. Several isolated Clovis point finds have occurred that affirm this view: a Clovis point found in a talus deposit at the foot of the bluff at West Côte Blanche Island in Iberia Parish in 1972 (Marckese 1990); the proximal fragment of a fluted Clovis point flint found on the grounds of the present Lafayette Airport (Gibson 1976:67); the base of a Clovis point found in the Grand Côteau area (Jol Mayer, personal communication 1991); and an unfluted Clovis point in the Lawtell area (Tommy Johnson, personal communication 1991). All these Clovis points were made from blue-grey Texas flint, with the exception of the Clovis from Côte Blanche Island which was made from local pebble chert. The Mayfield point, as indeed the others mentioned, was probably deposited by a Paleo-Indian band on a hunting foray originating in central Texas that led into south-central Louisiana. The Mayfield point is yet another segment of the growing body of evidence that suggests man was present in south-central Louisiana during the first phases of cultural activity on the North American continent.

## References

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## **TIOGA HIGH SCHOOL ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB**

**Reported by  
Stacey Kohut**

Tioga High School has an archaeology club composed of students with an interest in archaeology. It is the only archaeology club of its kind in the area, and may be the only one of its type in the entire state.

Officers in the club are:

Stacey Kohut — President  
Jodie Jeansonne — Vice-President  
Christine Charrier — Secretary  
Suzan Wiltcher — Treasurer  
Jessica Vanasselberg — Historian

The association participates in various projects and field schools which give the students a chance to learn and have fun. The organization also hosts speakers. If you would like to speak to the club about a subject pertaining to archaeology, please contact Nancy Affeltranger, sponsor of the club, at the following address: 8425 Fairway Drive, Pineville, Louisiana 71360

## **CHAPTER NEWS**

### **Northeast Chapter**

**Reported by  
David Jones**

The Northeast Chapter held its October meeting on the 6th of that month in conjunction with Archaeology Week, and was treated to two lectures. The first was presented by Dr. Glen S. Greene and concerned his recent research at Poverty Point.

The second lecture was by Dr. Joe Saunders and was devoted to his current investigations at the Frenchman's Bend Mound Complex situated just north of Monroe. Radiocarbon dates from these mounds indicate that the site may represent the oldest mound complex in North America, dating back some 1500 years before Poverty Point.

## 1992 LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

### PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Friday, January 15, 1993

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Registration  
Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy  
Meeting  
LAS Executive Committee Meeting  
Reception Sponsored by the Louisiana  
Archaeological Conservancy

Saturday, January 16, 1993

8:00 AM - 12:00 AM  
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
9:00 AM - 12:00 AM  
12:00 AM - 1:30 PM  
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
9:30 PM -

Registration Continued  
Book Sales  
Presented Papers  
Lunch  
Presented Papers  
LAS Business Meeting  
Cash Bar  
1993 LAS Banquet  
Keynote Speaker  
Cash Bar and Authentic Cajun Band

Sunday, January 17, 1993

9:00 AM - 12:00 AM  
9:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Presented Papers  
Book Sales

Note: The keynote presentation will be after the banquet and will be open to all attending the LAS meeting.

REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP FOR  
1993