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HIDDEN SECRETS OF THE POVERTY POINT PLAZA

New Discoveries Revealed!

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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What *HIDDEN SECRETS* might be revealed in this issue of the *Newsletter*? Archaeology has always seemed to hold hidden secrets, mysterious discoveries, and astonishing finds. Even before Howard Carter peered into Tutankhamun's tomb and uttered those famous words, "wonderful things!", or Hiram Bingham was led to gaze in amazement on the "wonderful ruins" of Machu Picchu, archaeology has embodied contrasting perspectives of the scientific method and astounding discoveries of the so-called mysterious, ancient world. Many are drawn to the discipline by the excitement of exploration and discovery. Those who make it a career learn about archaeological methods, systematic research, the need for material evidence, and importance of calculated restraint informed by a healthy skepticism. Yet every once in a while, when a surprising discovery is made …

Louisiana archaeology is no different. Discoveries (or rediscoveries) of the immensity and antiquity of Poverty Point once rattled American archaeology. A century later, new findings on the complexity of that extraordinary World Heritage site are shaking things up again (see p. 16). Lingering controversy over Middle Archaic earthworks, two millennia older than Poverty Point, was settled with the systematic recovery of evidence. Another discovery, more recently in the news, suggests the LSU mounds are 11,300 years old, pre-dating even the Archaic Period.

Whether such astonishing finds are borne out by the necessary scrutiny and multiple lines of evidence, Louisiana archaeology is filled with hidden secrets and unanswered questions waiting to be discovered and answered. The previously farfetched now seems plausible, such as the presence of pre-Clovis sites on Pleistocene landforms providing evidence that indigenous people took a coastal route into the continent. But who will make the discoveries if there is no one to ask the questions and collect the evidence? There is no archaeology as we know it without archaeologists. Behold the unbelievable news of a 12,000 year-old underwater city with electromagnetic pyramids submerged on a no more than 4,000 year-old Mississippi River deltaic lobe. Some hidden secrets will just never be revealed.

More archaeologists are needed to ask cogent, answerable questions and to conduct innovative, compelling research in Louisiana. Public archaeology should engage community interest and the passion of avocationalists in research that matters, as seen at Civil War battlefields (p. 19). Native Americans built earthen mounds 1,300 years ago that have only recently been rediscovered in the deltaic plain, but are subsiding beneath rising and intensifying storm surges of the Gulf. Not Egyptian pyramids or sunken Ice Age cities, but the disappearing monumental architecture of Native American societies worth knowing about. Without action, Louisiana residents will never know what places and heritage were lost. The contrast between astonishing discoveries and the difficult work of scientific archaeology that must be done has never been so urgent.

Another contrast is evident in this *Newsletter.* Reminiscence on CRM archaeology by Rich Weinstein, an archaeologist in the 47th year of his career, is followed by the perspectives of a recent graduate and an undergraduate student, just at the start of theirs. If you missed the first two parts of Weinstein's account of CRM archaeology, these are well worth reading (and downloading) on the LAS website (*Newsletters* 49:2 & 50:1). Future generations of Louisiana archaeologists will hopefully find these and other *Newsletter* articles edifying, and perhaps even inspirational in their disciplined pursuit of new discoveries.

IN THIS ISSUE

CRM AND PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY IN LOUISIANA

Editor's Note: this is the third and final installment of a three-part series by Richard Weinstein for the LAS *Newsletter* column, CRM AND PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY IN LOUISIANA. To read parts one and two, check out the Fall 2021 (49:2) and Winter 2022 (50:1) issues of the LAS *Newsletter* online.

CRM Archaeology in Louisiana (and a Few Other Places): It's Been an Interesting Forty-Six Years

Richard A. Weinstein
Coastal Environments, Inc.

Part Three: The "Rewarding"

One rarely knows what one will find when conducting an archaeological survey of a specific project area. Often nothing is found, or nothing of significance is discovered. On a few occasions, however, surveys yield surprising results. At least four such surveys stand out in my mind for leading to unexpected discoveries and/or subsequent research that, to me at least, made important contributions to a region's archaeology, geology, and/or history.

Rena Lara Levee Survey

In 1985, the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), contracted with Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI) to conduct a survey on behalf of the Memphis District of a short stretch of Mississippi River levee near the community of Rena Lara, Coahoma County, Mississippi. Rena Lara itself is located near Sunflower Landing, the location identified in the original report by the 1939 De Soto Expedition Commission (Swanton 1939, 1985) as the likely Mississippi River crossing point for De Soto and his army of Spanish explorers in June 1541. According to the Spanish chroniclers of the expedition, De Soto and his army came upon three villages of the province of Quizquiz after spending several days passing through uninhabited territory while traveling to the Mississippi River from the province of Chicasa, likely located somewhere near Starkville, Mississippi. The first village was the "capital" of Quizquiz where the chief resided, while the second village was situated about halfway to the Mississippi River from there, and the third village was adjacent to the river. The Commission's theory that the third village was situated near Sunflower Landing suffered, in part, from the fact that no archaeological site of the proper age was known from the area, although an 1889 account mentioned the presence of a site with at least three mounds somewhere in the vicinity. Thus, subsequent research by many scholars, too numerous to mention here, placed the crossing at other locations up and down river. Although we knew at the beginning of our survey that we would be investigating the area of a possible De Soto crossing point, we did not expect much to come of that.

After arriving in Clarksdale, Mississippi, which was the closest city with overnight accommodations, the CEI survey crew (which initially included Jamie Whelan and I, but later added Susan deFrance from CEI, and Jay Johnson and Van France from the University of Mississippi) met with John Connaway, then an archaeologist with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) stationed in Clarksdale. Connaway informed us of a possible mound in our survey area that local individuals had reported, but which had not been recorded by any professional archaeologist. The mound was in an interesting location, near Sunflower Landing but out of view for most people visiting the area since it was situated in a small field sandwiched between portions of two early Mississippi River levees, one dating to 1854-1858 and the other to 1897-1899.

It took us a while to find the mound, but, once we did, we were able to confirm that the site, which we dubbed the Sunflower Landing site (22Co713), likely once consisted of between three and four mounds (Figure 1), and that it contained pottery indicative of both pre-Mississippian and Mississippian occupations. Since, as noted, the Sunflower Landing theory had previously been rejected by many researchers, partly due to the lack of a confirmed archaeological site near the landing, discovery of the unreported mound site naturally prompted me to reanalyze the potential of Sunflower Landing as the De Soto crossing point, and the possibility that the Sunflower Landing site represented the third village of the province of Quizquiz, the village near the Mississippi

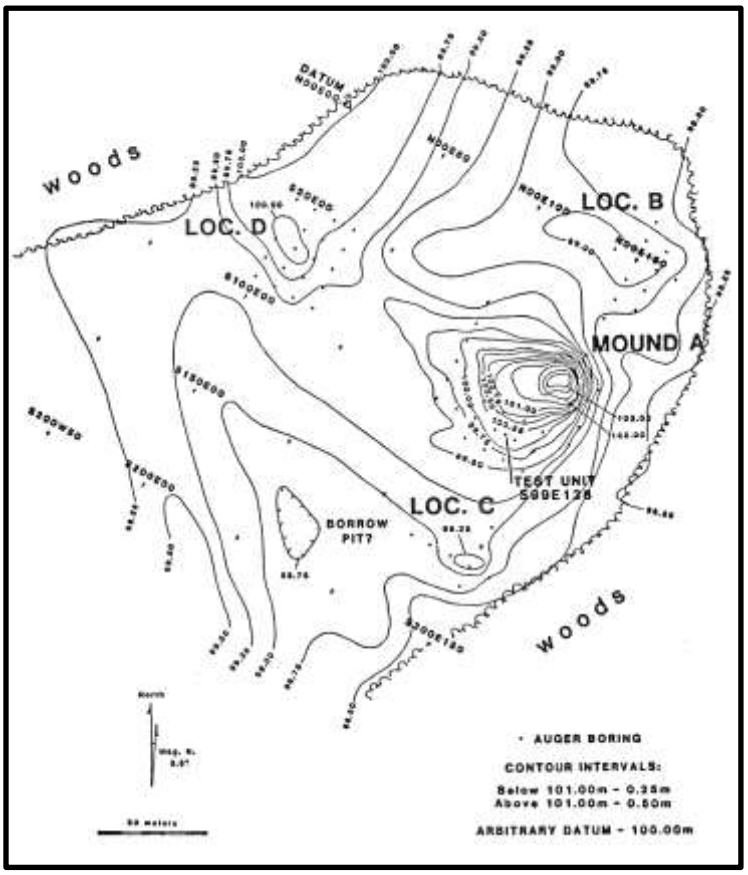

Figure 1. Contour map of the Sunflower Landing site (22Co713) showing the locations of CEI's auger borings and test unit. (After Weinstein 1985:Figure 2.)

River where the Spaniards spent several weeks building barges to cross to the other side. As such, a portion of the final survey report was devoted to a re-examination of Sunflower Landing as the possible crossing point, and a re-evaluation of the route from Chicasa to the Mississippi River (Weinstein et al. 1985).

Once other archaeologists learned of my reassessment of the Sunflower Landing hypothesis and my revised interpretation of the route from Chicasa to Quizquiz, I was asked to present my research in a keynote address at the Mississippi Archaeological Association's 21st annual meeting in Starkville (which later was published in Mississippi Archaeology [Weinstein 1985]). I then was appointed by Governor Buddy Roemer to the new De Soto Trail Commission as one of Louisiana's two representatives (the other was Kass Byrd, then State Archaeologist). That commission had been tasked with re-evaluating the entire route of the expedition as part of the 550th anniversary of the army's landing in Tampa Bay in 1539. Along with Kass, I attended several meetings of the commission, met many interesting De Soto scholars, and learned a tremendous amount about early Spanish explorations in the southeastern U.S. Perhaps most rewarding of all, however, was the fact that Kenneth Styer, one of Jay Johnson's graduate students at Ole Miss, decided to test my revised route hypothesis as part of his Master's thesis (Styer 1990). That subsequently led to an article published in Mississippi Archaeology wherein Styer (1994) argued against my interpretation. Which was fine by me, as that is what archaeological research is all about. So, that little survey adjacent to the levee at Rena Lara led to research I had never expected to undertake, to a multi-year involvement with De Soto studies and the new DeSoto Trail Commission, and to a graduate thesis from a student at Ole Miss.

Terrebonne Marsh Backwater Complex

In 1986, CEI was awarded a contract by the New Orleans District, USACE, to survey a vast area of marsh and swamp in Terrebonne, St. Mary, and Assumption parishes to identify archaeological sites that could be affected by changes in freshwater input into that part of the region situated between the lower Atchafalaya River and Bayou du Large through a Gulfward extension of the existing Avoca Island Levee (identified as the Avoca Island Levee Extension, or AILE). Several months were spent traversing the rivers, bayous, and lakes of the region by me and other members of CEI, including David Kelley, Dennis Jones, and David Willis, searching for new archaeological sites and visiting several previously recorded sites, including many that had not been seen since the 1950s. While information obtained from all those sites was important and allowed us to acquire a much better idea of the relationship between prehistoric settlement and the various distributary channels emanating from the ancient Teche and Lafourche courses of the Mississippi River, one set of sites proved particularly noteworthy.

While surveying along a portion of Turtle Bayou, a distributary channel thought to be related to the Lafourche course of the Mississippi River, myself and Jing-Xuan Xu (of "Flags for my Turkey" fame – see Part One: The "Comical" in LAS *Newsletter* 49:2) noticed a recently excavated well slip on the west side of the

bayou and fresh piles of spoil dirt along the margins of the slip. Aside from the marsh and natural-levee deposits present in the spoil, we could see clumps of *Rangia cuneata* and oyster shells, clues that a subsided archaeological site likely had been hit during dredging of the well slip (Figure 2).

We pulled our boat up to the bank and began examining the spoil piles. Sure enough, there were numerous aboriginal sherds among the shells, including a large quantity of Tchefuncte ceramics and a few late-looking Poverty Point objects (PPOs). This was strange, as the initial age of the Lafourche course of the Mississippi River had been dated by numerous geological studies to only ca. 2,000 years ago, and here was potential evidence of a site older than 2,000 years. A radiocarbon date on a sample of *Rangia* from the site eventually produced an age of 2120 ± 60 years before present (BP), or 170 BC, suggesting occupation possibly associated with the very beginning of the Lafourche Mississippi. We identified the locale as the Bois d'Arc #1 site (16TR211), after the Bois d'Arc Operating Corporation which had excavated the well slip for the placement of Tenneco C, Well No. 1.

Although Bois d'Arc #1 raised the possibility that the Turtle Bayou channel was earlier than the Lafourche-Mississippi from which it was thought to have originated, that possibility was unequivocally confirmed by discovery of Bois d'Arc #2 (16TR112), situated only about 0.1 mile up the bayou from Bois d'Arc #1. That site also consisted of a new well slip with fringing spoil piles and associated artifacts, all excavated for the placement of Tenneco C, Well No. 2. Unlike Bois d'Arc #1, however, Bois d'Arc #2 was virtually void of any shell, indicating that dredging had impacted a site consisting almost entirely of an earth midden. What was even more interesting was the fact that Bois d'Arc #2 was almost the exact opposite of Bois d'Arc #1 regarding its artifactual remains. Whereas Bois d'Arc #1 contained mainly Tchefuncte ceramics with a few PPOs present, Bois d'Arc #2 consisted almost entirely of Poverty Point objects with only two sherds of Tchefuncte pottery (Figure 3). And, whereas Bois d'Arc #1 had only yielded one Melon-shaped PPO with longitudinal incisions plus one Biconical Plain PPO, the latter known to be late in the Poverty Point sequence and to also occur as a minor element in Tchefuncte components, Bois d'Arc #2 yielded a much more diverse assemblage: Biconical Plain, Biconical Grooved, Biscuit-shaped Plain, Melon-shaped Grooved, Spheroidal Plain, and Spheroidal Plain with longitudinal incisions. Although no radiocarbon dates were obtained from Bois d'Arc #2, it was clear that the site was earlier than Bois d'Arc #1, likely by hundreds of years.

Figure 2. View of the well cut and the surrounding spoil deposits at the Bois d'Arc #2 site (16TR212), March 27, 1987.

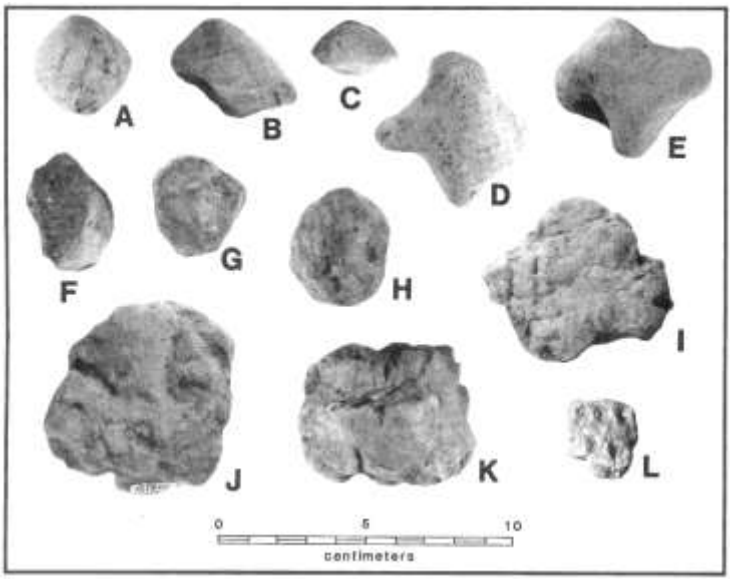

Figure 3. Artifacts collected from the surface of the spoil piles at the Bois d'Arc #2 site. (A-C) Whole and fragmented Biconical Plain Poverty Point objects; (D-E) Biconical Grooved Poverty Point objects; (F-G) Biscuit-shaped Poverty Point objects; (H) Spheroidal Plain Poverty Point object; (I-K) Amorphous Poverty Point objects; (L) sherd of Tammany Punctated, *var. Tammany*.

That pretty much clinched the notion that Turtle Bayou could not be part of the Lafourche-Mississippi but had to be related to an unknown channel emanating from the much earlier Teche-Mississippi, perhaps 1,000 years or so earlier than the Lafourche-Mississippi. This also implied that there likely were other subsided Teche-age distributary channels in the eastern part of Terrebonne Parish that had been buried by later Lafourche-Mississippi deposits. Geologists and geomorphologists then working at the USACE were intrigued by this discovery, so much so, in fact, that David Kelley, Charlie Pearson, and I visited with Roger Saucier and Lawson Smith at the USACE's Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi, to discuss our findings in person. Thus, what began as a simple survey of the Terrebonne Marsh area led to a discovery of two sites that allowed us to reinterpret the geology of the region. If the reader is interested, further information regarding this survey and the two Bois d'Arc sites can be found in the final report stemming from that project (i.e., Weinstein and Kelley 1992).

Beulah Levee Survey

Another unassuming survey that eventually led to some important research occurred in 1987 when CEI was contracted by the Vicksburg District, USACE, to conduct a small survey along the Mississippi River near the town of Beulah, Bolivar County, Mississippi. The survey, conducted by me and Sylvia Duay, examined ca. 3.3 miles of a narrow area (between 400 and 600 ft in width) on the landside of the existing levee where the Vicksburg District intended to place a berm to prevent seepage during periods of high water on the river (Weinstein and Hahn 1992). As usual for such a survey, our first course of action was to examine the various Mississippi River Commission maps of the project area, which provided very detailed information on former buildings, cemeteries, and other features from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We also visited the local levee board in Greenville, Mississippi, to examine many of the even-more-detailed levee set-back maps that had been created prior to the construction of new levees in the area, and we obtained a tremendous amount of historical information from the late Sammy Cranford, professor and archivist at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi.

This research told us that the remains of certain structures related to Doro Plantation might be present in our survey area. Doro, it turned out, had been established in the 1840s by Charles Clark, a lawyer, Confederate general, and Governor of Mississippi. Remains of the Doro Plantation big house, its cotton gin, and the plantation store were all located within our survey area. So, with that knowledge, Sylvia and I began the survey. Sure enough, although the areas for each of those plantation-related structures had been damaged by the modern borrow pit used to build the existing levee, we did find enough artifactual evidence to suggest subsequent archaeological investigations should be conducted. The Vicksburg District agreed with that recommendation and another contract was issued for that work, eventually leading to a separate publication on the findings (Hahn et al. 1994).

But that was not all. Our survey also uncovered the remains of a former prehistoric mound site, a portion of which was within the area of the proposed berm. This was recorded as the Rock Levee site (22Bo637), named after a portion of the existing levee that ran adjacent to the site and which had been created as an emergency levee following the Beulah Crevasse of 1912. A railroad trestle had been built across the crevasse and trainloads of rock and soil were then dumped off the trestle onto the ground below to create the new levee, the so-called "Rock Levee." Although the site's mounds had been leveled decades earlier, and part of the site lay beneath the Rock Levee and in the adjacent cotton fields, enough material was present within the survey area for the berm to suggest that intact features still were present. Accordingly, CEI was provided with another contract to conduct data-recovery excavations at the Rock Levee site. These excavations took place in 1988 and uncovered post molds, trash pits, storage pits, and the remains of at least one wall-trench structure, with most dating to the early Baytown period (ca. A.D. 350 to 500), although lesser occupations related to late Marksville (ca. A.D. 200 to 350), late Coles Creek (ca. A.D. 900 to 1000), and late Mississippi period (ca. A.D. 1550 to 1600) components were also present (Weinstein et al. 1995) (Figure 4). As was mentioned

earlier, the Rock Levee site also was the scene of "Flags for my Turkey."

Perhaps most interesting were two of the late Coles Creek storage pits, which produced several kernels of corn, one of which was AMS dated to between A.D. 897 and 1018, plus a Cahokia arrow point and some crude shell-tempered pottery. This suggested the presence of initial influences of Mississippian culture then beginning to spread southward from the American Bottom region of Illinois and the site of Cahokia. Rock Levee later was chosen as one of six sites examined by students and faculty of the Center for Engineering Geosciences at Texas A&M University to determine the effects of man-induced burial on cultural deposits. One student, Tania Gonzalez, wrote her Master's thesis on the project (Gonzalez 1989), while the overall study was published by the USACE's Waterways Experiment Station (Mathewson et al. 1992). So, once again, what began as a humble, simple survey of a few miles adjacent to the modern Mississippi River levee resulted in two major data-recovery investigations, a Master's thesis, and a university's engineering publication.

Channel to Victoria Survey and Testing

The final survey took place in 1989 along three separate sections of the Victoria Barge Canal (also known as the Channel to Victoria), in Victoria and Calhoun counties, Texas, for the Galveston District, USACE (Weinstein 1992). The Corps was planning to conduct maintenance dredging along the barge canal, which connected the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway with the man-made turning basin at the Port of Victoria, about 35 miles inland from the coast. Since the canal had cut through several sites when it first was constructed in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Corps needed to know the condition of those sites, plus it needed to know if any other sites would be affected by the dredging operation. About 10 miles of the canal were selected by the Corps to be surveyed, while seven sites were chosen for testing.

CEI was selected to conduct the survey and testing, and I was chosen to lead the survey. I was aided by CEI employees Bryan Guevin, Sylvia Duay, Shelby Duay, Jan Delgehausen, and Paul Baker, plus several avocational archaeologists from the Victoria area,

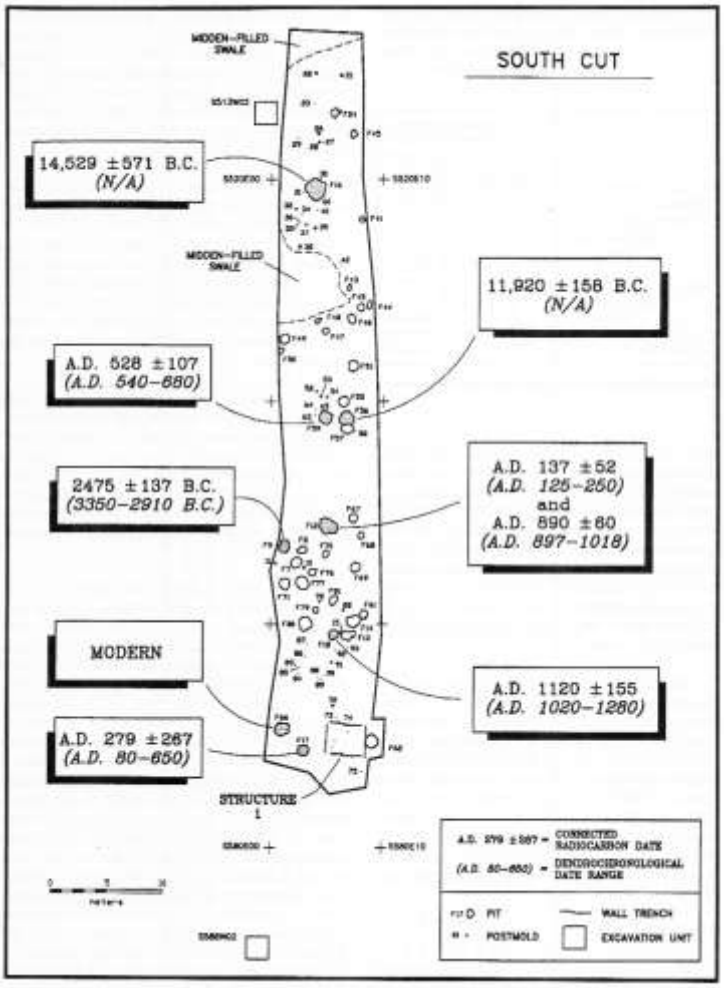

Figure 4. Features uncovered within the narrow, mechanically stripped area at the Rock Levee site (22Bo637), along with associated radiocarbon dates. Note the date from Feature 12, which was run on a charred kernel of corn. (After Weinstein et al. 1995: Figure 4-3.)

including Bill Birmingham, E. H. "Smitty" Schmiedlin, L. G. "Sonny" Timme, Ed Vogt, Bob Baker, and Cecil Calhoun. As noted, the survey party tested seven previously recorded sites as part of the overall project. Included in the latter group were the Guadalupe Bay site (41CL2), situated on the eastern shore of Guadalupe Bay (a small branch of the larger San Antonio Bay), site 41CL59, overlooking Green Lake, and what became known as the Buckeye Knoll site (41VT98), located on the Guadalupe River in the northern part of the survey area. Testing showed that layers of stratified, intact shell midden were present at Guadalupe Bay and 41CL59, while a relatively deeply buried earth midden and a possible prehistoric cemetery were present at Buckeye Knoll. All three

sites were recommended as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and all three eventually were subjected to major data-recovery investigations, again sponsored by the Galveston District. The results of the investigations at Guadalupe Bay and Buckeye Knoll were published in Weinstein (1992, 2002) and Ricklis et al. (2012), respectively, while the report on the investigations at 41CL59 is still pending.

Without getting into too much detail, the investigations at Guadalupe Bay revealed several distinct aboriginal occupations related to the Late Archaic period (ca. 500 B.C. to A.D. 700) (Figure 5), a brief, but intense occupation of the Late Prehistoric period (ca. A.D. 1300 to 1400), and an even briefer Historic period occupation (ca. A.D. 1790 to 1820). Of particular importance was evidence at the site of a higher-than-normal sea level, likely equivalent to the Wulfert high-sea stand of ca. A.D. 200 to 500, and recognized on the west coast of Florida by a number of researchers (Stapor et al. 1991; Stapor and Tanner 1977; Tanner 1991; Walker et al. 1994, 1995), plus a major Rockport phase occupation associated with the prehistoric Karankawa, dating mainly between A.D. 1300 and 1400.

Excavations at Buckeye Knoll were even more revealing, as they led to the discovery of a major Archaic cemetery, with most burials dating between ca. 5350 and 4250 B.C. (Figure 6), plus a few later

Figure 5. View of the most recent Late Archaic oyster deposit uncovered in several of the excavation units at the Guadalupe Bay site (41CL2), April 29, 1992. This deposit dated between ca. A.D. 400 and 700 and provided much of the evidence for a higher-than-present sea level at that time.

interments dating to ca. 200 to 100 B.C. Grave goods found with many of the earlier burials indicated that people at that time had access to artifacts and other materials from regions across North America hitherto unimagined (Figure 7). Bannerstones akin to those found in the midwestern U.S., chert from areas in central and west Texas, and a huge biface suggestive of point types from Central and South America, all were found at the site (Figures 8 and 9).

Overall, this 1989 relatively small-scale survey and modest testing project eventually led to several large-

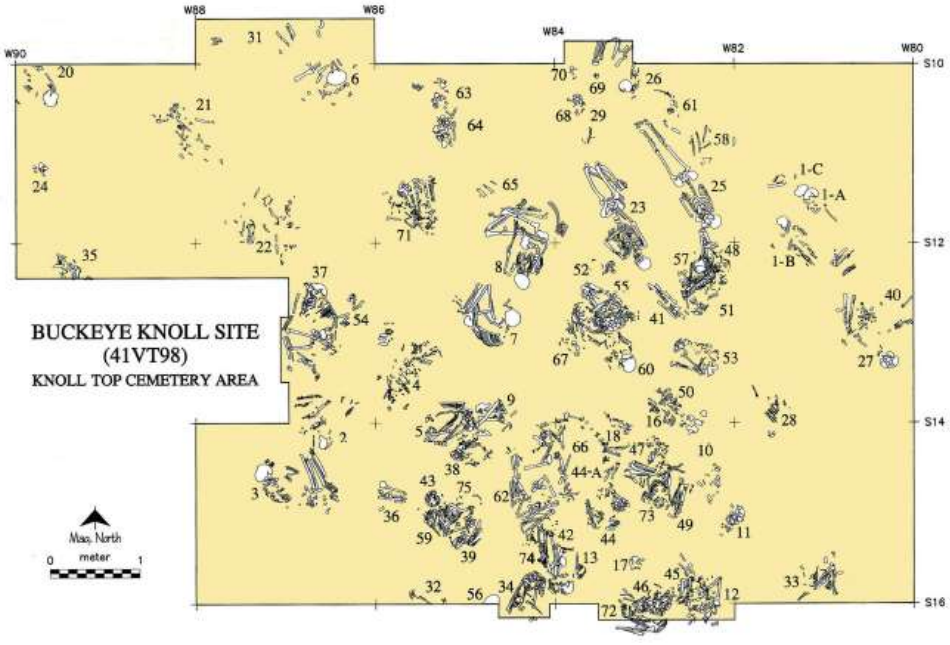

Figure 6. The main area of the Archaic cemetery uncovered at the Buckeye Knoll site (41VT98). Most of the burials illustrated in this figure dated between ca. 5350 and 4250 B.C. Note the location of Burial 74 in the south-central part of the cemetery. (After Ricklis et al. 2012: Figure 10-1.)

scale data-recovery investigations that provided archaeologists with important new insights into the lifeways of the prehistoric inhabitants of the central Texas coast. For that reason, the 1989 Channel to Victoria survey, along with those surveys mentioned earlier, can be considered one of the most rewarding projects that I have had the pleasure of directing over my past 46+ years at CEI.

Summary

This completes my review of those "Comical," "Frightening," and "Rewarding" episodes that stick out in my mind as the most intriguing during my long career at CEI, a career, by the way, that still seems to be going (I'm now in my 47th year). Many, if not most, of the experiences and projects that I discussed are likely no different from what other CRM archaeologists have encountered during their careers. Thus, it would be interesting to hear from a few other archaeologists who have had similar experiences conducting CRM research. I enjoyed writing about my experiences and I hope the LAS membership enjoyed reading about them. If the latter is case, then I think the LAS membership would appreciate similar contributions from other folks. I know the LAS *Newsletter* editor would appreciate it.

[*Editor's Note*: Anyone interested in contributing to this column, CRM and Public Archaeology in Louisiana can email the editor at laarchaeology@gmail.com. See the *Newsletter* 49(1):3-4 for more information.]

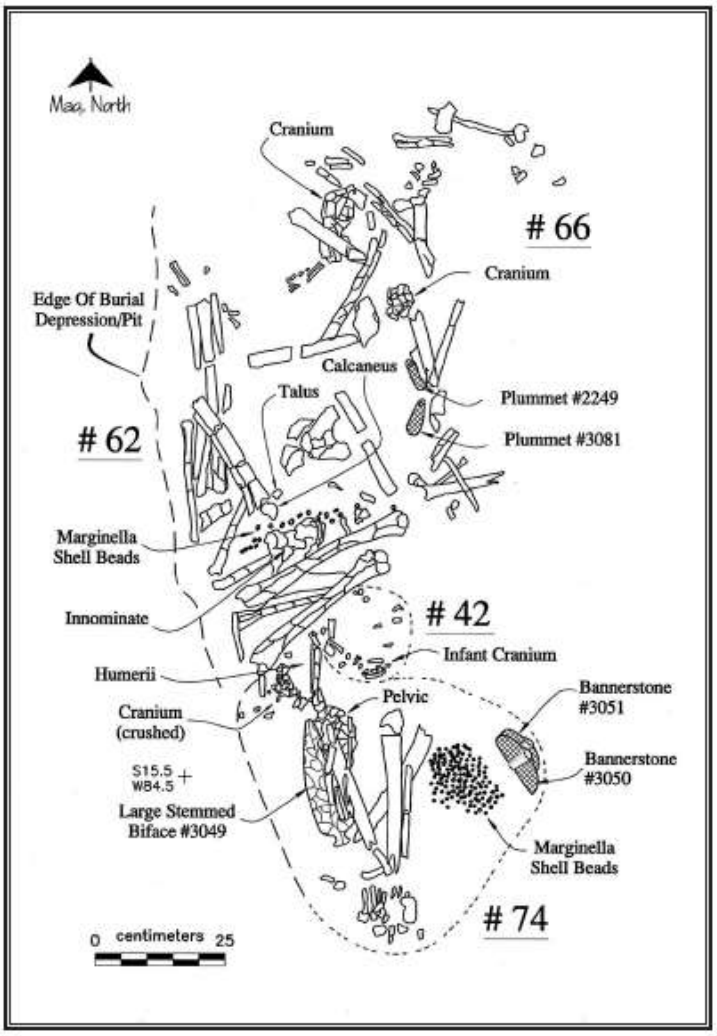

Figure 7. Plan view of Burial 74 at the Buckeye Knoll site, showing the exotic artifacts associated with that individual. Especially note Biface #3049 and Bannerstones #3050 and #3051. Burials 42, 62, and 66 also are shown, as their remains were intermingled with Burial 74. Artifacts related to those burials also can be seen. (After Ricklis et al. 2012: Figure 10-8.)

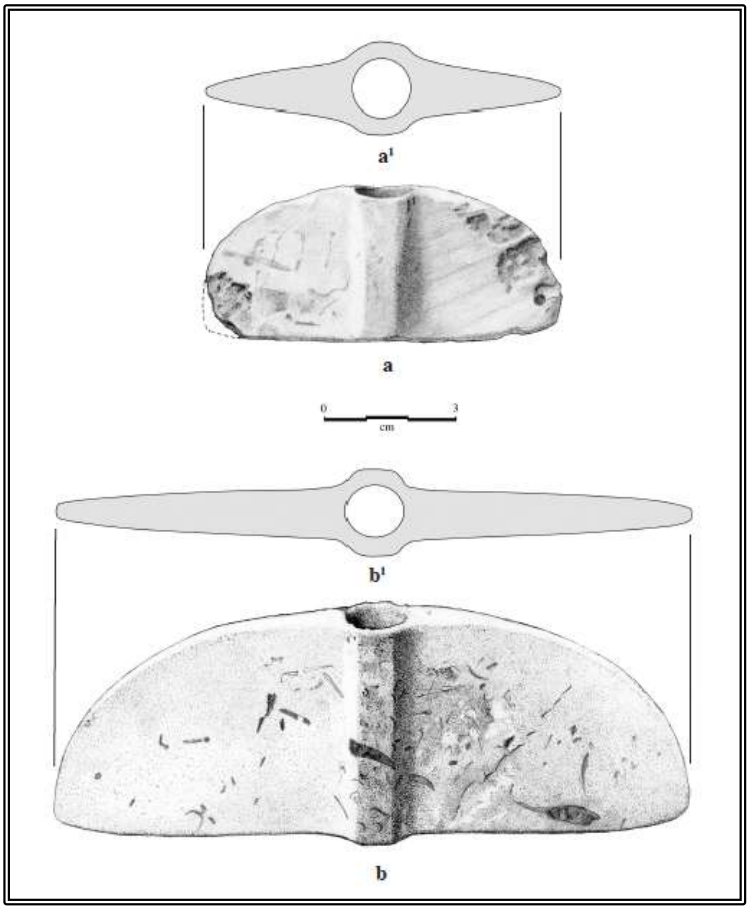

Figure 8. Illustration of the two winged bannerstones found with Burial 74 at Buckeye Knoll. Both were made of limestone, with the bottom example crafted from fossiliferous limestone. (After Ricklis et al. 2012: Figure 17-12.)

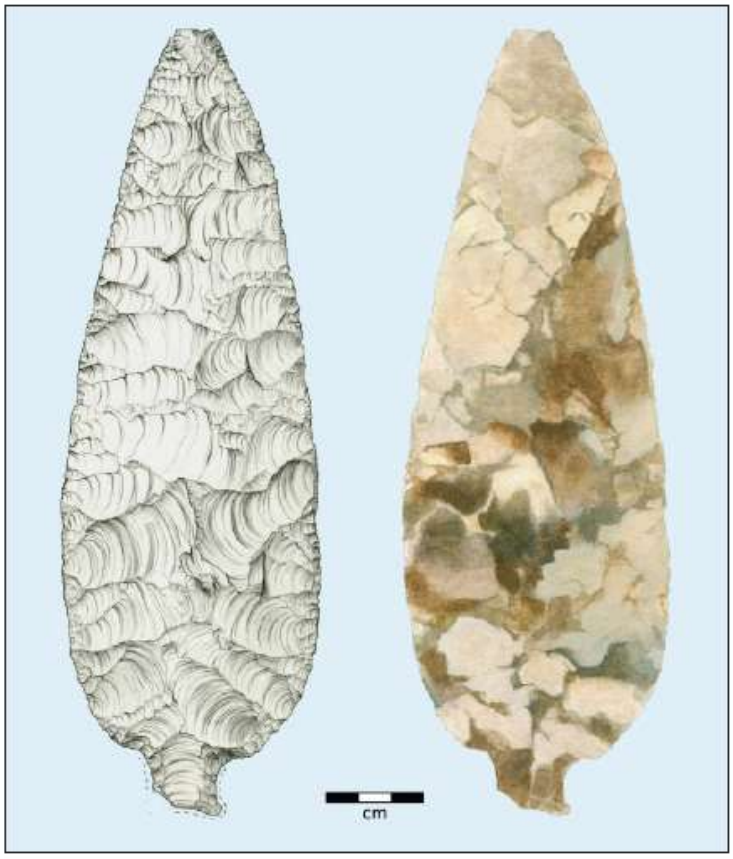

Figure 9. Perhaps the most impressive artifact recovered with Burial 74 was this large biface with a fluted fish-tail base. Points with similar bases are known from Central and South America, although the item itself had been created out of resilicified brecciated chert possibly from the Edward Plateau region of central Texas. (After Ricklis 2009: Figure 9.)

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FIELD NOTES AND RECENT RESEARCH

From Rice Bags to Riches

Sadie M. Schoeffler and Karla Oesch

Since deciding to study archaeology following my undergraduate studies, I found numerous opportunities in Louisiana to prepare me for a career in cultural resources. The latest endeavor was working as a student in the Louisiana Division of Archaeology's Curation Facility. Curation standards have evolved over the last 50+ years. The Division supported a student work position for the 2021-2022 school year to go through these early collections that had yet to be accessioned and update their bags and catalog forms to the 2020 Curation Standards. I am the lucky student that assisted Curation Manager Karla Oesch with these collections. We found several museum quality artifacts in these extensive collections yet to be photographed that have the potential for education through their discussion. A few of these artifacts and collections are presented in this submission.

The collections discussed in this article were recovered from extensive Phase I, II, and III cultural resource surveys, most of which were completed in the early 1980s and curated not long after fieldwork. Over 50 sites from five projects were assessed during my appointment at the Division. Each of these collections had different needs including updating catalogs, stabilizing artifacts, or simply reorganizing material and updating the inventory for long term storage. While analyzed, the bulk of the artifacts remained in paper bags or empty rice bags, and require reassessment to be brought to current standards (Figure 1). Some of the collections examined during this time were: Bayou Goula Landing (16IV131), the New Orleans Bridge No. 2 project, Wilton and Helvetia Plantations (16SJ20;

16SJ21), the Good Land Sawmill (16TR114), and various sites from the 1982 investigations at East Feliciana and St. Helena parishes. Many of these collections contain artifacts with the potential for education that have not been previously displayed and/or photographed.

Figure 1. Rice bag.

Bayou Goula Landing (16IV131)

In 1983, the phase I of the Bayou Goula Landing was conducted, and the material was curated in 1984 (Pearson and Guevin 1984). This collection is nearly 2,000 artifacts. The majority of the collection is European ceramics and glass, but some pottery is also present in the collection. Several types of prehistoric and historic ceramics were found at this site. This collection was previously accessioned, but required re-bagging and boxing up to present standards.

Greater New Orleans Bridge No. 2

The Greater New Orleans Bridge project is one of the largest un-accessioned collections at the curation facility. A number of sites were excavated during the project including the range of sites from 16OR76 to 16OR86, 16OR88, and 16OR89 (Castille et al. 1986). Over 200,000 artifacts were recovered encompassing at least 500 cubic feet. This project is a large undertaking and has only just begun, though a number of interesting artifacts have been noted and stabilized for future use. Much of the extensive collection is of display quality, such as the Civil War era sword handle and cartridge box decorative plate in (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Cartridge box plate (left) and sword handle (right).

Wilton and Helvetia Plantations (16SJ20, 16SJ21)

A number of excavations have been completed at the Wilton and Helvetia Plantations. Both Wilton and Helvetia were sugar plantations along the Mississippi River established in the early nineteenth century. In 1979, a modest collection was made, primarily from the surface and shovel tests (Pearson et al. 1979). Unique finds are a billiard ball and complete ginger beer bottles. The artifacts from this collection are primarily glass and European ceramics.

Good Land Cypress Sawmill and Black Residential Area (16TR114).

The Goodland Cypress Sawmill was in operation from 1903 to 1916. The artifacts in this collection are from the residential area of the black sawmill employees and their families. The collection was curated in the early 1980s prior to the completion of the report (Whelan and Pearson 1999). Assessment of this collection allowed us to match up paperwork and better describe some of the artifacts at the site. The project includes a number of whole bottles and ceramics as well as personal items like cologne bottles, combs, and a harmonica (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Harmonica, Hoyt's Nickel Cologne, comb.

Figure 4. Stone points and tools from various sites.

Multiple Sites in East Feliciana and St. Helena Parishes.

In 1982, a collection was made from an inventory of cultural resources in East Feliciana and St. Helena parish (Coastal Environments, Inc. 1982). Over 40 sites were investigated and the material includes lithics, pottery, and European ceramics. One of the more interesting aspects of this collection were the Middle Archaic pendants, drills, and projectile points found at various sites in both parishes (Figure 4).

Going through the collections at the Division and updating curation standards are beneficial for the State and for students. Gaining familiarity with material culture is best done by sitting and studying with the artifacts from collections that span time periods and landscapes.

Furthermore, the collections can be used for educating the general public if requested for exhibit or teaching purposes. The Division of Archaeology teaches students to handle and recognized Louisiana material culture with opportunities such as the one I participated in at the Curation Facility. Thank you to Dr. McGimsey, Karla Oesch, and all of my colleagues at the Division for helping me to grow as an archaeologist.

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My Spring Break in the Field

Gloria Church
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Over the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's 2022 spring break (April 18th – 22nd), I adventured to Iberia Parish to perform survey fieldwork for the New Acadia Project. Instead of going to the beach, I took up a shovel and a screen to search for part of the 1765 settlement of *Nouvelle Acadie* (Figure 1).

The area we worked in was within Claude Broussard's original Spanish land patent, which the Acadian had received after his arrival from Nova Scotia. The land is currently split among different owners. We surveyed a large sugarcane field and three residential properties. The weeklong fieldwork consisted of a controlled surface collection, systematic shovel testing, and gradiometer survey (Figures 2 and 3).

Gradiometer survey was performed in a 20-by-6 meter grid between the Berard Cemetery and the sugarcane field. The gradiometer survey yielded a 4-meter long anomaly adjacent to the wooded lot where the cemetery is located and in line with burials (Figure 4). We used a 2-cm diameter hand core to probe the anomalous area. We discovered a sandy soil with a different Munsell color and texture than the soil in the surrounding field. The anomaly was most likely a later disturbance unrelated to the cemetery, but excavation would be needed to be sure.

Another skill I learned during the week of spring break was mapping data points with a Trimble GPS. I shot points for every shovel test and significant landmark in order to build a digital map of precisely placed locations. In addition to GPS mapping, I learned how

Figure 1. UL Lafayette crew at the historical marker for *Nouvelle Acadie* in Loreauville. From left to right: Reyna Houston, Madison Castille, Antoine Landry, Gloria Church, Mark Rees, and Garrett Crunkleton (photo by Donny Bourgeois).

Figure 2. Controlled surface collection, view to the east.

Figure 3. Author with the Bartington gradiometer at the survey grid, view to the southeast.

to sketch a field map of shovel tests. The controlled surface collection across the sugarcane field and shovel test units across residential yards resulted in two concentrations of artifacts that are about 40 meters apart. Based on the positive shovel tests, there appears to be a clear distinction between two sites. Neither site has been fully delineated or recorded yet, and more research will need to be done on the artifacts collected during the survey.

We concluded our week of fieldwork by washing the artifacts. Due to the short amount of time we had, I will be cataloging the collection at a later date. I plan on continuing the research for the New Acadia Project, by looking closer at the artifacts collected and the survey results from sites we explored.

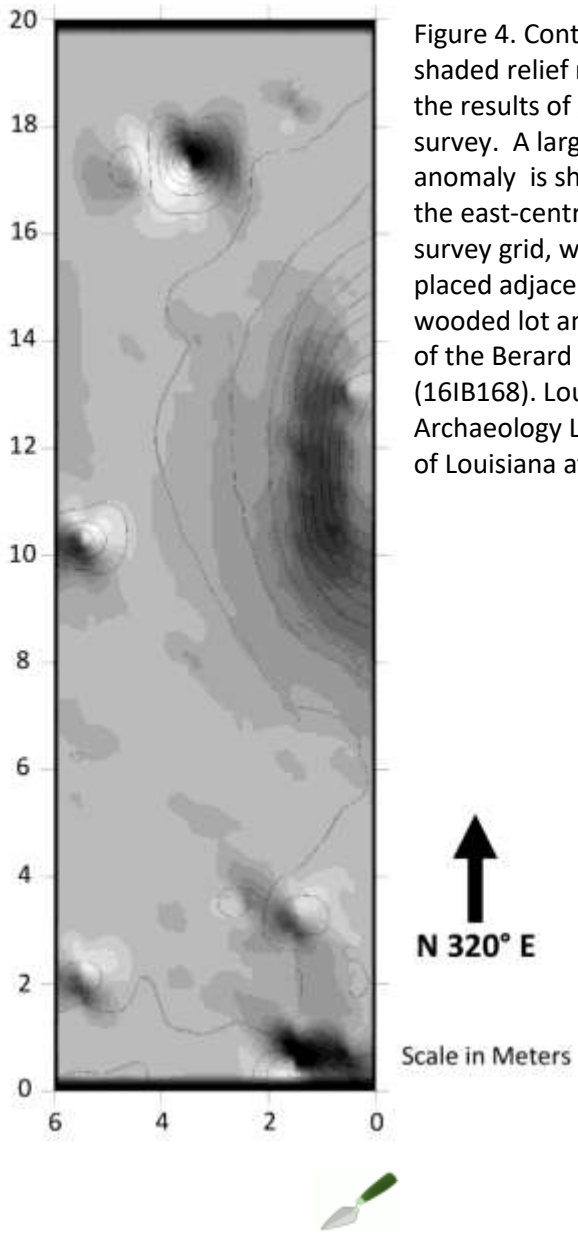

Figure 4. Contour and shaded relief map showing the results of gradiometer survey. A large subsurface anomaly is shown along the east-central edge of the survey grid, which was placed adjacent to a wooded lot and to the west of the Berard Cemetery (16IB168). Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Editor's Note: The New Acadia Project is a community supported effort to find and investigate the 1765 homesites and associated graves of *Nouvelle Acadie*. Donations to support student research can be made through the Acadian Heritage and Culture Foundation at The Acadian Museum, 203 South Broadway, Erath, Louisiana 70533, or to the New Acadia Project Fund at University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation, 705 East St. Mary Blvd, Lafayette, LA 70503. Donations can be made online at The Acadian Museum web site or University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation web site, care of the New Acadia Project Fund.

Hidden Secrets of the Poverty Point Plaza

Diana M. Greenlee and Rinita A. Dalan

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The Poverty Point World Heritage Site (WHS), located in West Carroll Parish in northeastern Louisiana, is renowned for its earthworks and unique material culture (Figure 1). American Indians built and occupied the site from about 1700 to 1100 BCE. During that time, they constructed five earthen mounds and six large, C-shaped earthen ridges. Another culture added a sixth mound more than 1500 years later.

Because stone for making tools and ornaments was not locally available, people brought many tons of rock and ore to the site from sources across the mid-South. Residents also made numerous fired artifacts from the local soil. Astoundingly, the community that built these earthworks subsisted, not by farming, but by hunting wild game, fishing, and gathering wild plants. While archaeologists have studied this remarkable site for decades, there is still much to learn.

Poverty Point's C-shaped ridges encircle a 43-acre (17.4-hectare) area known as the plaza (Figure 2). Compared to the earthen architecture that surrounds it, the relatively flat plaza is not impressive, except for its size. Beneath the surface, though, lies evidence that it is a complex and remarkable feature, an extraordinary construction for its time and place.

Archaeologists used to think of plazas as "empty ground," places for social activities but with few artifacts and little evidence of construction. Previous research at Poverty Point, however, has found that large areas of the original ground surface in the plaza are missing—stripped away, purposely and/or

Figure 1. Artist's reconstruction of Poverty Point ca. 1200 BCE. Credit: Martin Pate; used with permission of the LA Office of State Parks.

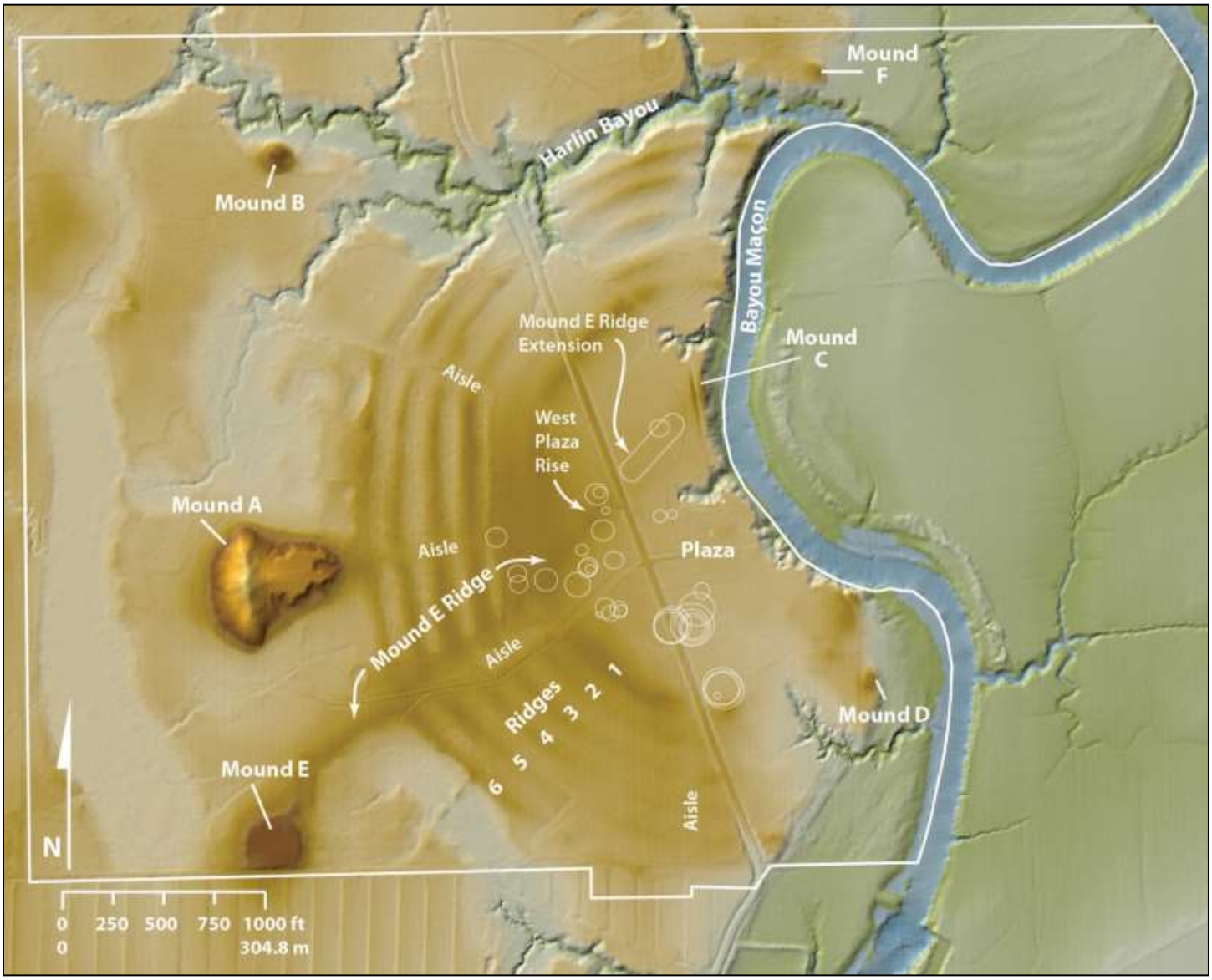

Figure 2. Map of Poverty Point WHS, showing the locations of earthworks, timber circles, and the buried extension of the Mound E Ridge. Timber circle data provided by Michael Hargrave and Berle Clay.

through erosion. Gullies formed along the eastern edge of the site. People then added up to 3.3 feet (1 m) of dirt, and more in the gullies, to level and raise the ground surface. The plaza isn't a recognizable earthwork like the mounds and ridges, but creating it clearly required immense effort.

Our research team of archaeologists and soil scientists (Thurman Allen, Berle Clay, Rinita Dalan, Rachel Stout Evans, Diana Greenlee, Michael Hargrave, and Arne Anderson Stamnes) is using a combination of geophysical survey techniques, targeted excavations, and soil cores to further reveal the hidden secrets of the Poverty Point plaza (Figures 3 and 4).

The geophysical surveys have mapped traces of timber circles beneath and within the plaza fill. People placed large, probably cypress, posts in circles, which ranged in size from 16 to 203 feet (5 to 62 m) in diameter. Our excavations show that these posts were removed, and the holes were refilled with soil before new posts were placed, often in the same area. We have identified thirty-six of these timber circles so far. Radiocarbon dates suggest the construction and deconstruction of timber circles was a long-standing tradition, spanning hundreds of years. We do not yet know their purpose.

The West Plaza Rise is a subtle high spot near the center of the plaza. It is about 3.3 feet (1 m) higher

Figure 3. Arne Anderson Stamnes (left) and Diana Greenlee (right) check out data recorded by the multi-channel ground penetrating radar. This survey was supported by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.

than the surrounding ground and about 165 feet (50 m) in diameter. We found that it is not a natural rise, nor is it a distinct mound. The West Plaza Rise is part of the larger earthmoving effort that created the relatively level plaza. It stands taller because the builders purposely piled more fill dirt there. It is near timber circles, and it is at the junction of two other features: an aisle that goes through the ridges to Mound A and an elevated ridge (the "Mound E Ridge") that extends into the plaza from Mound E. We believe that location was a place of importance.

Our research has also revealed an underground extension of the Mound E Ridge that stretches across the eastern plaza toward Mound C. This ridge is not obvious at the current ground surface. People created it by removing more soil from both sides, leaving a higher "spine" of ground. Later, the builders masked the ridge when they covered the area with fill.

Particularly intriguing are two buried mound-like features that do not rise above the current plaza surface. The larger one measures about 72 x 56 feet (22 x 17 m) in diameter and about 2 feet (60 cm) in height. It lies under about 2.3 feet (70 cm) of plaza fill. Our analyses confirm that its soil differs greatly from the adjacent plaza soil. Like the West Plaza Rise, it is in close association with timber circles.

The smaller feature is about 30 x 36 feet (9 x 11 m) in diameter and about 1.3 feet (40 cm) in height, buried under about 1.65 feet (50 cm) of plaza fill.

Together our findings point to a much more complex history for the plaza than simply raising and levelling a uniform surface. They provide a window into previously hidden uses of a very public space. They also show the value of using multiple complimentary methods to explore sometimes subtle, but significant, traces of past activity at Poverty Point.

Figure 4. Left to right: Alisha Wright, Rachel Stout Evans, and Thurman Allen with a soil core taken from the plaza.

The Failed Texan Charge at the Battle of Lafourche Crossing: New Archaeological Evidence – Louisiana's Bloody but Forgotten Battle

Robert F. Westrick

Just south of Thibodaux, Louisiana lies a rusted spider-work of an old railroad trestle spanning Bayou Lafourche, near a quiet neighborhood of graceful old homes with well-manicured expansive lawns.

The only indication that anything of any significance ever occurred nearby is a small historical marker alongside State Highway 308. If you are traveling south on the highway, the marker is on the righthand side of the road, about a tenth of a mile north of Bartley Lane. Blink and you'll probably never see it. Such signs are often easily overlooked or simply ignored.

If you take the time to stop and read the sign, however, you will quickly learn that something historically significant indeed occurred here 169 years ago. The weathered black lettering reads:

On the east side of Bayou Lafourche was fought the most important battle in Lafourche Parish during the War Between the States. One June 20 and June 21, 1863, units of the 23rd Connecticut Volunteers and the 25th New York Battery, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Albert Stickney, which were guarding the crossing of the New Orleans, Opelousas & Great Western Railroad, repulsed two major attacks by the Second Texas Mounted Rangers, Colonel Charles L. Pyron, Commanding.

This brief account only tells a small part of the story. It is a story that continues to be written.

The Battle of Lafourche Crossing was a victory for occupying Union troops, but cast no decisive shadow on the overall outcome of the American Civil War. While hundreds of books have been written about Gettysburg, Antietam, Shiloh, and other Civil War battles and campaigns, very little information exists in the published literature regarding the relatively obscure Battle of Lafourche Crossing. Of course, the sizes of the armies involved, and relatively low number of casualties sustained on both sides made it clear that this was no Gettysburg or Shiloh, but it was nonetheless of major importance to the people living in Lafourche District at the time.

JMB Companies, Inc. finalized the purchase of a tract of land in Lafourche Parish to develop the Jo Blanche Mitigation Bank in September of 2021. The purpose of the Mitigation Bank is to reestablish, rehabilitate, and preserve up to 226.1 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and cypress-tupelo swamp in the Barataria Basin of the Louisiana Coastal Zone.

JMB staff archaeologists conducted a desktop study of the project area as part of their due diligence during the land acquisition process. The Louisiana Office of Cultural Development's Cultural Resources Map indicated there were 18 known archaeological sites within a five-mile buffer zone around the Jo Blanche Mitigation Bank project area. Five of these sites were located within the boundary of the Jo Blanche Mitigation Bank property.

According to the record for Site 16LF288, "The association of the site with a larger plantation that probably predates 1890 and could be associated with the Civil War Battle of Lafourche Crossing (as evidenced by the recovery of the lead shot), indicates the site has significant research potential."

JMB senior archaeologist Robert Westrick arranged a meeting with Dr. Charles "Chip" McGimsey, State Archaeologist and Director of the Division of Archaeology, to discuss the best course of action to properly record those sites. Mr. Westrick suggested bringing in a group of volunteer metal detector hobbyists to assist recording Site 16LF288 and determine the boundaries. Due to the unique nature of the site, including likely remnants of a historic battlefield and the potential for widely dispersed artifacts, Dr. McGimsey agreed. He noted that a volunteer metal detector team had proven to be very beneficial in the recent documentation of the Chalmette National Historical Park (Battle of New Orleans).

Mr. Westrick contacted Sal Guttuso of History Hunts, LLC, an adventure tourism company. Guttuso founded History Hunts after several years in the corporate world, trying to squeeze in time for his love

of history and his passion of metal detecting. He changed his lifestyle and committed himself to sharing his hobby with others. Guttuso takes small groups of metal detecting enthusiasts to England, rural Virginia, the Deep South, Texas, and the American West. Together, we formulated a methodology to utilize the History Hunts club to document and delineate the sites within the JMB mitigation bank property.

On December 11, 2021, metal detector hobbyists from around the country converged at a freshly cut cane field near Thibodaux, Louisiana (Figure 1). They came from as far away as Georgia and California. Altogether, History Hunts had assembled a team of 19 volunteers. After a brief orientation meeting, they dispersed and went about their duties.

The team spent the next two days metal detecting the property under the direction of principal investigator Robert Westrick and Sal Guttuso. In addition, History Hunts provided three experienced assistants to assist with survey and data recording. Artifacts were photographed *in situ* and recorded by location using GPS before retrieval. The team also documented and recovered non-metallic surface artifacts, including ceramics and glassware. A wash station was set up on site at a central location to clean, tag, bag, and record artifacts.

Altogether, nearly 2,000 artifacts were recorded during the two-day metal detector survey (Figures 2-4). The artifacts were transported to JMB's office in Lafayette where they were weighed, measured, and photographed. Artifacts were categorized by type,

Figure 1. History Hunts Metal Detector Club volunteers recording Site 16LF288.

and diagnostic data were entered into Excel spreadsheets. The coordinates for each artifact were plotted onto a master map. Research is ongoing for unique and notable artifacts.

The artifacts included more than 250 Civil War era bullets, mute testimony to the intensity of the battle. This clash included multiple failed Confederate charges, the final of which morphed into fierce hand-to-hand combat. Other items included Civil War uniform buttons, buckles, and the remnants of weapons. The survey team also documented many post-Civil War artifacts, including ceramics, glassware, and coinage. The first coin recovered was a silver Seated Liberty quarter, minted in Cardon City, Nevada in 1877. Coincidentally, that was the same year JMB company was founded.

In conclusion, the project was highly successful. The collaboration between professional archaeologists and volunteer metal detector hobbyists was beneficial to everyone involved and the amount of cultural material that was encountered and properly documented exceeded everyone's expectations. The project yielded a wealth of important archaeological data. The methodology enabled archaeologists to pinpoint the metal detector hits, associate them with individual artifacts, plot their locations, and ultimately, to view their contexts in relation to each other on a battlefield landscape.

Eagle Breast Plate:

Eagle Breast Plate was fixed to the cartridge box sling and went over the shoulder and was worn on the chest of Union soldiers.

Right: Unidentified Union soldier with eagle breast plate, cartridge box, and cap box holding musket with bayonet in scabbard.
(Source: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540)
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print

Figure 2. Eagle Breast Plate.

Figure 3. A small sampling of the 262 bullets recovered during the metal detector survey.

Figure 4. Post-American Civil War Seated Liberty Quarter – Dated 1877.

LAS CHAPTERS AND MEMBERSHIP

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LAS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING IN BATON ROUGE

February 11 – 13, 2022

Diana Greenlee disclosed some of the "Hidden Secrets of the Poverty Point Plaza."

Rachel Watson (left) and Chip McGimsey (right) discuss issues of importance to the LAS.

Ian Brown spoke about the Morgan Site (16VM9) in Vermilion Parish (see *Louisiana Archaeology* No. 47).

Maegan Smith, LAS Treasurer, greeted conference attendees at the registration table.

Conference attendees visit beside the book auction table.

Jim Fogleman discussed pottery and C14 dates from the Mildred Jackson site (16AV155) in Avoyelles Parish.

Ryan Gray discussed recent investigations by the UNO Department of Anthropology.

Mark Rees (ULL), Ryan Gray (UNO), and Chris Rodning (Tulane) unmasked.

LAS 2022 CONFERENCE AGENDA AND ABSTRACTS
HILTON BATON ROUGE CAPITOL CENTER
February 11 – 13, 2022

AGENDA

Friday - February 11, 2022

3:00 to 5:00 pm: REGISTRATION (Outside of the Heidelberg Ballroom)

5:00 to 6:00 pm: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING (Hunt Room)

Saturday – February 12, 2022

8:00 – 9:00 am: REGISTRATION (Outside of the Heidelberg Ballroom)

Heidelberg Ballroom

9:00 – 9:10 am: Opening remarks

9:10 – 9:30 am: Chip McGimsey – Where We Are Now – Louisiana Archaeology in 2022

9:30 – 9:50 am: Sadie M. Schoeffler and Ginesse A. Listi – Collaborative Archaeology in Louisiana: Unmarked Human Burial Site Policy and Community Perspectives

9:50 – 10:10 am: Dwayne N. Hinton – Drone Photography of the LSU Campus Mounds

10:10 – 10:30 am: BREAK

10:30 – 10:50 am: Sally McMillian and Dr. Malcolm Shuman – The Hillman Cemetery Site: A multicomponent site on Bayou Manchac, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

10:50 – 11:10 am: Ian W. Brown – The Morgan Site (16VM9) on Pecan Island, Vermilion Parish Louisiana: A Glance at LAS Bulletin No. 47

11:10 – 11:30 am: Paul D. Jackson and Kevin A. Rolph – Current Archaeological Mitigations in Southern Louisiana

11:30 am – 1:30 pm: LUNCH

1:30 – 1:50 pm: Diana M. Greenlee, Rinita A. Dalan, Michael L. Hargrave, R. Berle Clay, and Arne Anderson Stamnes – Hidden Secrets of the Poverty Point Plaza

1:50 – 2:10 pm: Marsha M. Holley and Frank McMains – Gorgets Galore: Preliminary Results of Technological and Functional Analyses of Stone Gorgets from Poverty Point WHS

2:10 – 2:30 pm: Shannon Torrens – Drilling Down: Bead Production at Poverty Point

2:30 – 2:50 pm: James Fogleman – Waiting for Goudeau Data

2:50 – 3:10 pm: BREAK & POSTER – Marsha M. Holley, Maddie M. Hammer, and Diana M. Greenlee – “House” It Going? New Investigations of Possible Structure Floors at Poverty Point WHS

3:10 – 3:30 pm: J. Javi Vasquez, Brad Laffitte, Caitlin Wamser, Jeff Kotson, and Scott Faris – A Three-Stage Approach to Reviewing and Correcting Archaeological Site Boundaries at Fort Polk-Managed Lands

3:30 – 3:50 pm: Samuel Huey, Mark A. Rees, Raynella Fontenot, Linda Langley – The Coushatta Historical Archaeology Project: An Update on Recent Research

3:50 – 4:10 pm: D. Ryan Gray – New Partnerships, Old Collections: Recent Archaeological Investigations by the UNO Department of Anthropology

4:15 – 4:45 pm: BUSINESS MEETING

5:00 – 7:00 pm: RECEPTION & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jayur Mehta – Archaeological Heritage of the Mississippi River Delta

Sunday – February 13, 2022

9:00 – 11:00 am: TOUR – Louisiana Division of Archaeology Curation Facility Open House

PAPER ABSTRACTS

Chip McGimsey (Louisiana Division of Archaeology)
Where We Are Now – Louisiana Archaeology in 2022

This paper presents an update on the state of Louisiana archaeology, including staff changes at the Division, new Outreach products and exhibits, and efforts to develop a digital site form. What is happening across the state will be briefly reviewed, including a significant collections issue, and ongoing talks with the US Coast Guard. The use of HRD (cadaver) dogs in searching for cemeteries will also be discussed.

Sadie M. Schoeffler (LSU) and Ginesse A. Listi (LSU)
Collaborative Archaeology in Louisiana: Unmarked Human Burial Site Policy and Community Perspectives

Since the passing of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA), state governments have implemented similar policies that allow for Native American tribes without federal recognition to petition for the repatriation of human remains and objects significant to their culture (Seidemann, 2010). Per La. R.S. 8:671-681, which is the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act of 1992 (UBA), the Division of Archaeology in the Louisiana State Office of Cultural Development is responsible for overseeing the protection and preservation of unmarked burials. These burials are often of Pre-Columbian or historical context and warrant consultation and collaboration with associated descendant communities regarding their disposition. Previous literature shows that collaboration with Native American communities in archaeological investigations ensures ethical research practice and fosters a more holistic repatriation process and treatment of human remains regardless of ethnicity, culture, or date of interment (Colwell-Chanthaphonh & Ferguson, 2004; Colwell-Chanthaphonh et al., 2010). The present research documents perspectives on the UBA of two Native American communities in Louisiana to evaluate its effectiveness in preserving unmarked burials in Pre-Columbian context, and to provide opportunity for critical feedback for the UBA regulatory process.

Qualitative data analysis of semi-structured interviews with tribal representatives was employed to document these perspectives. Supplemental data, including records of permits issued in accordance with the UBA, also were analyzed to assess permit usage of the UBA since 2010. Results showed that Native American communities who participated in interviews were overall content with consultation and collaboration regarding unmarked burial sites. However, their outlook for long-term protection and preservation was dim due to the lack of control tribes have over sites situated on private property. Concerning the permits, only 2 out of 18 permits issued since 2010 involve burials in Pre-Columbian context, demonstrating that the UBA has been applied more frequently in historical context. The participating tribes informed this research to conclude that they need more legal control over associated unmarked burials to preserve sacred sites properly.

Dwayne N. Hinton (LSU)
Drone Photography of the LSU Campus Mounds

LSU is home to the oldest, artificially created, earthen mounds in North America. Known as the LSU Campus Mounds, they are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Efforts to preserve this protected site from damage have included fencing off the mounds during home football games, to protect them from large groups

of people gathering on top, and from people sliding down the mounds and damaging them. In this paper, the mounds are described along with their prehistoric and historic uses. A drone survey with a camera mount captured images in a systemic, pre-programmed flight. These photos formed the basis for creating a 3D digital record of the mounds. A Phantom 4 drone was used to perform this non-intrusive survey of the mounds. This paper covers the value of drone photography in archaeology, as well as the project to image the LSU Campus Mounds. The photogrammetry picture created by these 3D images serve as baseline observations of the size and shape of the mounds. Future imaging compared to these orthographic, 3D images will enable the determination of any creeping and slumping of the mounds. This information can inform the conservation efforts of this protected site.

Sally McMillian (SURA) and Malcolm Shuman (SURA)
The Hillman Cemetery Site: A Multicomponent site on Bayou Manchac, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

In 2021, as part of the due diligence for a proposed new residential development between Hoo Shoo Too Road and the Amite River, in East Baton Rouge Parish, SURA conducted a Phase I survey of some 60 acres. During this survey, they relocated site 16EBR60, known as the Hillman Cemetery site. This site was last visited by Saltus, in 1986, and its nature and location were somewhat in doubt. Haag had described it as a predominantly Marksville site. SURA, aided by the excellent collection of the owner, Dr. Sam Menefee, was able to corroborate this attribution, but a later, Plaquemine component, was also present. In addition, a single headstone, dating to 1892, was discovered. Though the site has been depleted by previous collection activities, it still contains sufficient material to make more work advisable, particularly considering its proximity to the confluence of the Amite River and Bayou Manchac, and its nearness to the Kleinpeter Site (16WEBR5).

Ian W. Brown (Univ. of Alabama)
The Morgan Site (16VM9) on Pecan Island, Vermilion Parish Louisiana: A Glance at LAS Bulletin No. 47

Abstract: In 1986 the Lower Mississippi Survey of the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, conducted excavations at the Morgan site, a multi-mound Coles Creek site located on Pecan Island in Vermilion Parish. The salvage excavations of Mound 1 at Morgan were led and reported on by Richard S. Fuller and Diane Silvia. The report itself, as part of the gray literature, unfortunately never received wide distribution. LAS Bulletin No. 47, titled When Salvage is the Only Option, is edited by Ian W. Brown and Dennis Jones. It provides a summary of these important excavations and reveals the important role that this site had in Louisiana prehistory. The annual meeting presentation offers a brief glance at the contents of Bulletin No. 47 so as to whet readers' appetites.

Paul D. Jackson (TerraX) and Kevin A. Rolph (TerraX)
Current Archaeological Mitigations in Southern Louisiana

In the past few years, several plant expansions and infrastructure improvement projects along the Mississippi River have led to archaeological surveys, testing projects, and eventual mitigations of numerous sites. TerraXplorations, Inc. (TerraX) has had the opportunity to work on a number of these sites in the last three years. The occupation and usage vary widely from a massive Coles Creek village, the Civil War Fort Butler, the Amelia Plantation main house complex, and the Dunboyne Sugar Mill. Each of the mitigated sites, the level of effort, and the results will briefly be discussed.

Diana M. Greenlee (ULM), Rinita A. Dalan (MSUM, Emerita), Michael L. Hargrave (CERL, retired), R. Berle Clay (CRA, Inc., retired), and Arne Anderson Stamnes (NTNU Museum)
Hidden Secrets of the Poverty Point Plaza

Standing on the surface of the large, nearly flat plaza at Poverty Point, one might not think it is all that exceptional. It appears to be just natural ground defined by the immense C-shaped earthen ridges, with the monumental Mound A in the background. Under the surface, though, it is a complex and remarkable feature, an

extraordinary construction for its time and place. Previous research has provided evidence for widespread stripping of much of the original natural ground surface, with subsequent addition of up to 1 m of cultural fill. Through a combination of geophysical survey techniques (magnetic gradiometry, resistivity, magnetic susceptibility, and ground penetrating radar), targeted excavations, and soil cores, the hidden secrets of the plaza are being revealed. The West Plaza Rise stands out as an island rising above the sea of earthmoving activities that formed the plaza. Beneath and within the fill, there are traces of timber circles, a buried ridge sculpted from the original ground, mound-like deposits, and other features. These findings point to a complex construction history that is simply not visible from the surface.

Marsha M. Holley (UAB) and Frank McMains (Independent Researcher)
Gorgets Galore: Preliminary Results of Technological and Functional Analyses of Stone Gorgets from Poverty Point WHS

Gorgets, previously described as a lithic object "having two ends which may be rounded, pointed or squared, two sides which may be concave, straight, or convex, and two faces which may be concave, straight or convex" (Peabody and Moorehead 1906:6), are one of those so-called "problematic" artifact types. They were so named because of their "fancied resemblance" to pieces of armor of the same name that were worn to protect the neck in the "old world" (Peabody and Moorehead 1906:5). From this, the assumption has generally been that they were decorative items attached to clothing or worn around the neck; other assumptions have ranged from gorgets functioning as atlatl weights and even as potters' ribs for shaping ceramics. However, there has been little research geared toward understanding how they were actually utilized. Some 250 lithic gorgets and gorget fragments associated with the Poverty Point site are being analyzed in order to gain a better understanding of both the manufacture and the use of these objects during the Late Archaic period. Use-wear analysis, experimental archaeology, and high resolution photogrammetry modeling are applied to gain better insights into the enigma that is the lithic gorget. We will present our preliminary findings, as well as share the process and results of the photogrammetric modeling of a selection of the gorgets in this collection.

Shannon Torrens (Tulane)
Drilling Down: Bead Production at Poverty Point

Poverty Point was a major mound center built by archaic hunter gatherers. Its lapidary artefacts stand to elucidate much on early craft industries among hunter-gatherers. To this end, I analyzed 73 stone beads from the site to evaluate the relationship between drilling method, bead shape, and material type. My results show that inhabitants drilled straight, thin-walled beads using hollow canes and thicker, shorter beads using stone drills. This pattern suggests they possessed an organized tool kit used to mass produce specific bead shapes.

James Fogleman (Independent Researcher)
Waiting for Goudeau Data

Following a heavy rain during the summer of 2021, a large well fired prepared feature was exposed at the Mildred Jackson site 16AV155 in southern Avoyelles Parish. It was very similar to Feature 1 at the same site exposed under similar circumstances and excavated in 2017. This fall under the direction of State Archaeologist Charles 'Chip' McGimsey, students from ULL and LSU excavated Feature 2. Similarities between the two pits include pottery and C-14 dates which strongly suggests a late Tchefuncte/early Marksville construction date. Of particular interest is the change from typical unkneeded, untempered Tchefuncte paste to kneeded, untempered paste with typical Tchefuncte designs, to kneeded, tempered near classic Marksville plainware. The Mildred Jackson site may well be a window into a major ceramic technological advance.

J. Javi Vasquez (CSU-CEMML), Brad Laffitte (Fort Polk), Caitlin Wamser (CSU-CEMML), Jeff Kotson (CSU-CEMML), and Scott Faris (CSU-CEMML)

A Three-State Approach to Reviewing and Correcting Archaeological Site Boundaries at Fort Polk-Managed Lands

Archaeological investigations at Fort Polk span nearly 50 years. In sum, a total of 85 Phase I, 78 Phase II, and four Phase III projects have been completed. Currently, the Fort Polk CRM team (FP-CRM) is protecting 350 sites carrying a NRHP Eligible or Undetermined status. Locating and mapping archaeological resources has changed dramatically over the last 50 years. Many of the 4000+ sites recorded at Fort Polk over the past several decades have boundary issues. The FP-CRM team began the process of correcting site boundaries. The process involves three phases of work. First, the FP-CRM team created digital folders for each site and began digitizing field maps. This involved verifying and converting datum coordinates. The FP-CRM team identified and listed landmarks or features on these maps that could be used during the subsequent georeferencing effort. The Phase II georeferencing work created a new layer, using ArcGIS Pro tools, and overlaid the new boundaries on the old boundaries. Phase III involved ground-truthing and reposting. The ground-truthing was carried out in tandem with the post-placing team. This post-placing team included three summer hires (2021). In total, 158 site boundaries have been corrected, and 50 of those sites have been reposted with orange fiberglass (Carsonite) posts. As a result, Fort Polk has improved its ability to protect the full site extent of NRHP eligible and undetermined sites. Ineligible sites, receiving less priority, remain to be assessed. The project started when teleworking began in March of 2020 (Covid-19) and will continue to completion.

Samuel Huey (ULL), Mark A. Rees (ULL), Raynella Fontenot (Coushatta Tribe of La), and Linda Langley (McNeese)

The Coushatta Historical Archaeology Project: An Update on Recent Research

Beginning in the winter of 2019 the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab at UL Lafayette embarked on a collaborative research partnership to investigate Coushatta sites in Louisiana. The Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana is a federally recognized sovereign nation, having relocated from Alabama in the 1790s and from eastern Tennessee during the previous century. Among our objectives are to record historically significant places associated with Coushatta settlement. Despite starting just as a global pandemic began, we have been able to conduct fieldwork in areas where Coushatta are known to have established villages, including surveys along the Red, Sabine, and Calcasieu rivers. Our work draws on oral histories and documentary sources, as well as previous archaeological investigations, culminating in a field school during the summer of 2021. Members of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and students from UL Lafayette, Louisiana State University, Northwestern State University, and Tulane University have participated in this unique research partnership. While research is ongoing and much remains to be done, our preliminary findings are already contributing to a more complete understanding of Coushatta history. The project is exemplary of how university-based tribal partnerships can advance public archaeology and education in the State.

D. Ryan Gray (UNO)

New Partnerships, Old Collections: Recent Archaeological Investigations by the UNO Department of Anthropology

Over the last five years, the UNO Department of Anthropology has continued to expand its program of archaeological research, both in New Orleans and as far afield as Central Europe, through partnerships with cultural and educational institutions, grant-funded work with federal agencies, and a reassessment of curated and legacy collections in the UNO archaeology lab. This paper will detail recent investigations on the campus of the New Orleans African American Museum in the Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans, including at the Passebon Cottage, a ca. 1843 Creole cottage once owned by a free woman of color named Marie Glapion as an example of UNO's collaborative work. It will also provide an overview of other ongoing UNO projects and partnerships in the area.

POSTER ABSTRACT

Marsha M. Holley (UAB), Maddie M. Hammer (ULL), and Diana M. Greenlee (ULM)
"House" It Going? New Investigations of Possible Structure Floors at Poverty Point WHS

The constructed earthen ridges at Poverty Point World Heritage Site (16WC5) have long been considered the habitation area of this monumental site. Yet, conclusive evidence of houses or other structures on or in the ridges has proved elusive. We consider why that might be and review previous research relevant to identifying structural remains at Poverty Point. Finally, we present our current efforts to evaluate the likelihood of possible floors in Ridge 2 Northwest. Excavated in 1991 but never fully reported, we are examining the legacy collection of artifacts and records and re-excavating units to expose the profiles for new analyses.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jayur Madhusudan Mehta (Florida State University)
Archaeological Heritage of the Mississippi River Delta

The Mississippi River Delta is an expansive and dynamic coastal delta that has attracted human settlement for thousands of years. Over this time frame, hundreds of monumental complexes were constructed amidst the marshes, bayous, and river levees. These complexes fundamentally reworked the ecology of the deltaic plain, creating topography and enhancing biodiversity, whilst also creating novel viewsheds from which to see and be seen. These monumental places were engineered to last and they were emplaced to reflect the anthropogenic and natural worlds. In the French colonial era, the river delta became the seat of a new empire, an entrepot from which massive wealth was generated, and which rested on the backs of enslaved Africans and rapidly disappearing Indigenous communities. My most recent excavations are a community-directed effort to highlight the daily, material, and religious lives of enslaved Africans and free people of color. Herein, I review the archaeological history of the Mississippi River Delta, showcase my excavations, and articulate a path forward for a reciprocal archaeology that reaches as far forward into the future as it does into the past.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2022 annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society was sponsored by the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, Division of Archaeology, and The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

Jayur Mehta of Florida State University delivered the Keynote Address, "Archaeological Heritage of the Mississippi River Delta." Photo credit: Florida State University.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. R. Christopher "Chris" Goodwin

It is with a heavy heart that we report that Dr. R. Christopher "Chris" Goodwin passed away on February 18, 2022. Dr. Goodwin was a dedicated scholar and practitioner of anthropology and archaeology, having graduated from Tulane University (B.A. Honors 1971), Florida State University (M.S. 1973), and Arizona State University (Ph.D. 1979). As one of the nation's leading experts in cultural resources management, he was passionate about preserving the past, making it relevant for today, and shaping a better future.

After serving as a Research Associate at the Yale Peabody Museum and a Research Fellow at the United States National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Goodwin established R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. As its President and Chief Executive Officer for more than 40 years, he led hundreds of major cultural resource and archaeological investigations, including underwater projects along the Atlantic Coast, the Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf of Mexico, and in rivers ranging from the Connecticut to the Mississippi, as well as a multitude of land-based projects across various regions, including the Gulf Coast, the Mid Atlantic, the Great Plains, and the Northeast.

Over his distinguished career, Dr. Goodwin received numerous awards, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Preservation Honor Award, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Administrators Award of Excellence "in recognition of outstanding service to the nation," Louisiana's Professional Archaeologist of the Year Award, and Preservation Connecticut's 2020 Award of Merit for his work on Hurricane Sandy resiliency planning studies on land and offshore. He was a respected author of more than 500 monographs and technical reports, including his first monograph, *Villa Taino de Borqueron: The Excavation of an Early Taino Site in Puerto Rico*, published in 1975. His scholarly articles were featured in *American Anthropologist*, *American Scientist*, *American Antiquity, Florida Anthropologist*, and *Revista Interamericana*.

Chris shaped the careers of hundreds of archaeologists and preservation professionals who affectionately referred to him as "Doc". He also forged long lasting relationships with other preservation-minded people throughout America and abroad, many of whom became close personal friends with Chris. He instilled in all of his colleagues at R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., that these relationships are crucial to successful historic preservation, as it takes a network of dedicated individuals to foster and grow the preservation movement. Ever the forward thinker, Chris strategized and put into place a robust transition plan to ensure that his company will continue to emphasize his mission to preserve the nation's past.

George Riser (left) and then Lieutenant Governor, Jay Dardenne (right), presented Dr. Goodwin with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Professional Archaeologist of the Year Award in 2014.

IN THE NEWS

Plantations, Unmarked Graves, and Cultural Resources Management in Louisiana

The Associated Press, NOLA.com, and other news outlets are reporting on controversial plans by Greenfield Louisiana, LLC, to build a 400-million-dollar grain elevator facility beside the Mississippi River in St. John the Baptist Parish. The dispute is described in a recent ProPublica report as involving adverse effects on historic properties, including the Whitney Plantation and African American cemeteries. UNO archaeologist Ryan Gray is quoted in the ProPublica article as advocating for community consultation and input.

This is not the first time Louisiana plantations and cultural resources management (CRM) along the Mississippi River have made national news. As reported in Popular Science in 2020 and by the Washington Post in 2021, the proposed plans of a Taiwanese-based company, Formosa Plastics Group, to build a 9.4-billion-dollar industrial complex in St. James Parish also required CRM investigations as part of the regulatory permitting process. The discovery of unmarked graves by TerraXplorations, Inc. in 2019 and a subsequent study by Coastal Environments, Inc., indicating the potential presence of additional unmarked graves, resulted in lawsuits involving the planned Formosa project. According to The Advocate, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rescinded the permits and called for a more comprehensive study, known as an environmental impact statement (EIS). Historic properties and cultural resources, specifically plantations and the unmarked graves of enslaved and post-emancipation African Americans, are included among the potential environmental impacts.

Now Greenfield's proposed project in St. John the Baptist Parish is raising questions about unmarked graves on plantations, potential adverse effects on historic properties, and regulatory compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. Unlike Formosa Plastics, Greenfield is an agricultural company and the proposed facility will involve the transport and global export of grain. On their website, Greenfield Louisiana, LLC describes the steps taken for a cultural resources survey of the proposed project area, in compliance with the permitting process. A list of 10 previous archaeological investigations is provided, along with assurances that all necessary historic preservation permitting requirements are being met. According to Greenfield, "In these past investigations and a currently ongoing investigation, no ancestral burial sites have been identified in the area that could be affected by this project." [Greenfield Louisiana, LLC]

So what's the problem? Many of the environmental issues associated with the Formosa Plastics project do not apply to the transport of grain. Besides, people need to eat and work. In contrast to other industries in that corridor of the Mississippi River known as "Cancer Alley," Greenfield (a name surely intended to evoke verdant fields of wheat) claims to be offering residents of St. John the Baptist Parish "safe, healthy jobs."

In the ProPublica article, the difficulty of locating unmarked graves is raised, notably those of enslaved and emancipated African Americans, whose labor in green fields of sugarcane generated the wealth of the stately plantations that once lined the Mississippi. Whitney Plantation was one such place, and it can now be visited as a museum and memorial. The Whitney Plantation Museum, nonprofit Descendants Project, which advocates for descendants of the formerly enslaved, and many residents of the nearby community of Wallace are opposed to the proposed facility. They contend the industrial development will adversely affect Whitney Plantation Historic District and the nearby Evergreen Plantation, also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to the challenges of finding unmarked graves that might be impacted, at issue are the potential *indirect* adverse effects and need for community consultation in applying the criteria of adverse effects (36 CFR 800.5). Is it true, as Tom King suggests, that CRM is more about providing clearance for construction than finding sites? Isn't CRM supposed to be done in the public interest? Replies are invited for the *Newsletter* column, "CRM and Public Archaeology in Louisiana." – *The Editor*

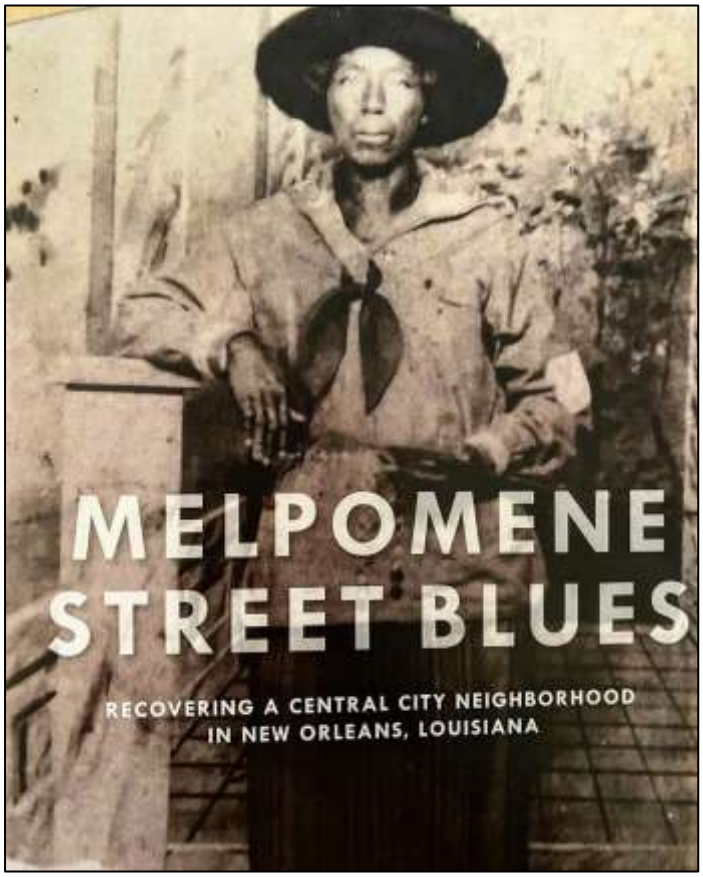
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MEETINGS

MELPOMENE STREET BLUES

In April, the UNO Department of Anthropology and Sociology, in coordination with the Housing Authority of New Orleans and in consultation with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, celebrated the release of Melpomene Street Blues, a booklet on the archaeology and history of the Central City neighborhood where the Guste Homes public housing development was located. The area was the subject of an archaeological testing and data recovery effort involving local firms R.C. Goodwin and Associates and Earth Search, Inc., and the booklet was produced as one of the public outreach measures stipulated for the project in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The birthplace of jazz legend Buddy Bolden, the Central City neighborhood was home to a racially diverse working class population. Archaeologists recovered thousands of artifacts during excavations there, all of which are being curated at UNO. Many of these artifacts could be associated with specific households and families in the past, and the booklet recounts the history of the neighborhood through a series of four assemblages dating from the 1870s to the 1930s. The cover of the booklet features one of the people identified as associated with those collections: Minnie Puckett, an African American laundress and homeowner, whose descendants shared her photograph (and came out to the event!).

The booklet is a collaboration with University of New Orleans archaeologist and Midlo Center Assoc. Director Ryan Gray, the Neighborhood Story Project, and artist and sociologist Shana M. griffin (PUNCTUATE). The release was hosted by The Blue House - Civic Studio at the Albert & Tina Small Center for Collaborative Design, where an exhibit on the history of Central City has been on display. It featured free copies of the booklet, previews of educational materials and wall panels also being produced for HANO, music by Gregg Stafford and the Jazz Hounds, and interactive displays on historical archaeology in New Orleans. It was a lovely evening, and we thank everyone who came out! Another event will be held in association with the installation of on-site wall panels at the Guste Homes. Keep an eye out for information on that event for an opportunity to get a hard copy of the booklet. Copies of the PDF and of educational materials developed as part of this project will eventually be available on the website of the LDOA!



Book cover featuring Minnie Puckett in the 1920s, from a photograph supplied by her great-great granddaughter. The privy of the home that Puckett owned, apparently filled at the time her family moved out of the house, was excavated as part of the data recovery at Guste.

The Midlo Center has also been developing a web-based tour of the archaeology of the Guste Homes. You can check it out here: https://neworleanshistorical.org/tours/show/129

Artifacts from UNO's type collection among visitors at the Small Center event. Photograph courtesy of the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies.

Gregg Stafford and his Jazz Hounds kick off the Melpomene Street Blues release event with music inspired by the legacy of Buddy Bolden. Photograph courtesy of the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies.

LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY
Office of Cultural Development
Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism

The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation's 42nd Annual Louisiana Preservation Conference this April. Louisiana SHPO staff presented and attended conference sessions in Monroe, highlighting the importance of preserving our historical and archaeological resources across the state. The Division of Archaeology shared an outreach table at the awards ceremony with other Louisiana SHPO and Office of Cultural Development staff at Alley Park in West Monroe, alongside Poverty Point World Heritage Site's table.

Maegan Smith, Education & Outreach Coordinator with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, and Caroline Byrne with the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area at Alley Park in West Monroe.

DISCOVER LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY

The Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, Division of Archaeology is online and on social media.

Discover Louisiana Archaeology on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaOfficeofCulturalDevelopment/ and on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/louisianaarchaeology/ or Twitter: https://twitter.com/lastateculture

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

2023 Annual Meeting in New Orleans

The upcoming annual meeting of the AIA will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 5 – 8, 2023.

The AIA annual meeting committee is calling for organized sessions, papers, and posters on "Archaeologies in Dialogue: Thinking Across Boundaries" – involving the archaeology of the Mediterranean, the Americas, and other regions of the world. The AIA is planning in person and virtual participation options. Updates will be posted on the AIA website.

SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The 78th annual SEAC meeting will be held at Little Rock, Arkansas on November 9 – 12, 2022.

See the SEAC website for more information.

SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

2023 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon

The 88th annual meeting of the SAA will be held March 29–April 2, 2023, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon.

The advance registration deadline is March 1, 2023. All submissions, both session and individual, must be completed by September 8, 2022. Additional information is available on the SAA website.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The 93rd annual meeting of the Texas Archeological Society and the East Texas Archeological Conference will be held on October 21-23, 2022, at the University of Texas at Tyler.

The deadline for submission of paper abstracts is September 1, 2022. Check out the TAS website for more information and updates.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL – LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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