

DARBONNE DIGGERS

AN AFFILIATE OF THE UNION MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART
IN SUPPORT OF THE EXPLORERS CLUB OF NEW YORK AND TEXAS

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

The year 2024 was a monumental year for the Museum, the Archeological Research Center and the D'arBonne Diggers. The Research Center made an historical step forward. The Center continued to bring attention and awareness to the science of Archeology through its speaker series and the periodic News Paper Article, the Archeologist Corner. At mid year the Center shifted gears and made some dramatic moves forward.

In June several members of the team accompanied by the Louisiana Department of Archeology surveyed a site. Training was established for those that wanted to dig and in August 12 diggers went to site and in 9 half-day digs the team extracted fifty-five pounds of artifacts. This has built the center into a true research center with much growth to come.

In August the D'arbonne Digger, an Ad Hoc Club that is affiliated with the Research Center and supplied the diggers for the first expedition petitioned the Louisiana Archeological Society for membership as a stand-alone chapter. The Diggers will know in February at the annual meeting if it will be granted membership..



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year

HAPPY NEW YEAR
LAS PETITION
2025 SPEAKERS
ARCHEOLOGIST CORNER

DIGGERS ANNOUNCE THE TENTATIVE 2025 SPEAKER SERIES.

This is tentative as we are adding additional speakers for the 2025 season. All speakers will be at the Union Museum of History and Art, 211 North Main Street, Farmerville at 5:30.

February 20th. - Tunica Biloxi Tribe will talk about the culture

March 27th - Jameel Dimeji will present the Archeology of Bottle Collecting

April 17th - Dr. Gary Stringer will return to the speaker series and talk about Watson Brake—

Mound complex that pre-dates Poverty Point

June 26th.- (tentative) Allen Tuten will speak

July 24th - Dr Stringer will present a new site, Plum Creek.

October 23 Recap of the Diggers year in the field

Several other speakers will present at the museum and will be announced at a later time.

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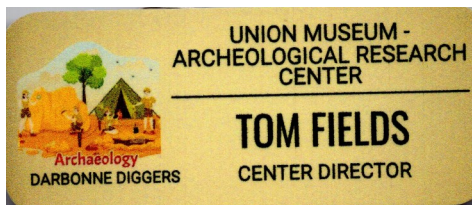
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D'ARBONNE DIGGERS LAUNCHES NAME TAGS FOR MEMBERS



Members of the Diggers were presented with tags that show membership in the Archeological Research Center and provides position within the organization.

RESEARCH CENTER IS BECOMING A PASS THROUGH FOR BURIAL GOODS

Over the decades numerous burial sites have been unearthed and artifacts or remains have been taken.

The Union Museum's Archeological Research Center is a pass through location for anyone that would like to get these goods back to an Indian Tribe for burial.

The center will have the material transmitted to the State Archeologist for forwarding to a Louisiana Tribe.

TOM FIELDS SPOKE AT THE MARION GARDEN CLUB

On January 23, Tom Fields spoke to the Marion Garden Club about the Archeology of Union Parish and what the D'arBonne Diggers mission is. He also discussed the 16UN153 Dig Site. While at the meeting he was met with enthusiasm and numerous stories of what has been found by many of the members. One member brought in a jar full of pottery shards. Several were Coles Creek and were found on the banks of the Ouachita River. This identifies the wide range of the culture in this area.

When the speaking was concluded one to the members invited the Diggers to go to his property and survey the site. This will be added to list of sites to investigate.

VISIT THE CENTER'S WEB SITE

YOU CAN GOOGLE THE SITE AT "FARMERVILLE
ARCHEOLOGY"

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DarBONNE DIGGERS HAS FILED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHEOLOGY SOCIETY

The D'arBonne Diggers has officially filed a request with the Louisiana Archeology Society to become member of the Society.

This is a major step forward for the Diggers and the Union Museum of History and Art. This action will provide support for the local group while also providing support to the state organization. This is a win-win for both organizations.

There will be NO changes to the programs that are currently held at the museum and the speaker series will continue. You will not have to be member to attend. The step up for the group is that we will now go to the field to perform field research and share it with others that are piecing together the puzzle of ancient man in Louisiana. For us in Union Parish we will also share knowledge with the people of Southern Arkansas.

If you would like to become a member of the Louisiana Archeology Society, please contact Tom Fields at NLAARCHEOLOGY@yahoo.com and he will provide an application.

2025 FIELD WORK SCHEDULED AND HAS NOW BEEN PUBLISHED

Training—each week in March

Optional Photogrammetry- Mid March

Optional two-day field school- Mid March—Moore site

16UN153—Return for season 2. - Begin April 4th and complete April 28

16UN158 and UN16159 -

Survey and layout - April

Excavation - Mid May through the end of May

Middlefork Historical Survey—Mid June

Excavation work will continue if warranted

FIELDS TO PRESENT REPORT AT THE

LAS/MAS YEARLY MEETING

Tom Fields is scheduled to present the finding of the first dig site February 21st at the LAS/MAS yearly meeting.

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ARCHEOLOGY TRAINING CURRICULUM BEING DEVELOPED FOR 2025

The Union Museum's Archeology Research Center will host Archeology Classes this spring prior to field work. The training is geared around individuals that are going to perform field research in 2025; however, it is open to any of the D'arBonne Diggers or visitors.

The activity schedule is as follows:

Day 1: —Introduction to Archeological Methods and Practices.

Introduction to Shovel Testing

Day 2: —Power Point of our site.

Shovel Test Pits

Archeological excavations

Day 3: - Field Note Taking and Excavation Beyond the Shovel Test

Day 4: Inside the Archeology Lab.

Taking field notes

Shovel test notes

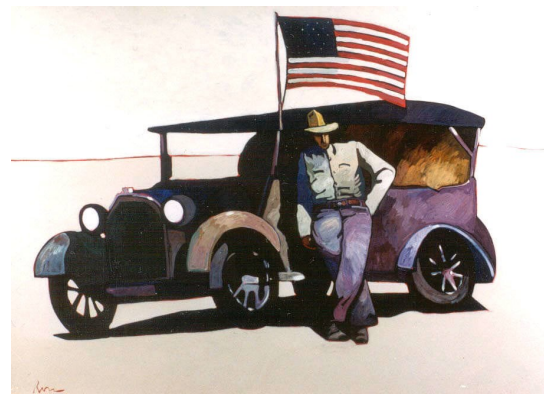
Identifying color using the Munsell Soil Color Chart Book.

OPTIONAL CLASSES FOR TRAINING MONTH:

The Archeological Research Center's field school will offer two courses during the month of March that are in addition to the 4 training days.

The first course is Photogrammetry and covers the class provided by the Explorer's Club Texas Chapter.

The second will be site investigation of the Moore site in Evergreen. This will consist of site layout, surface investigation and shovel testing.



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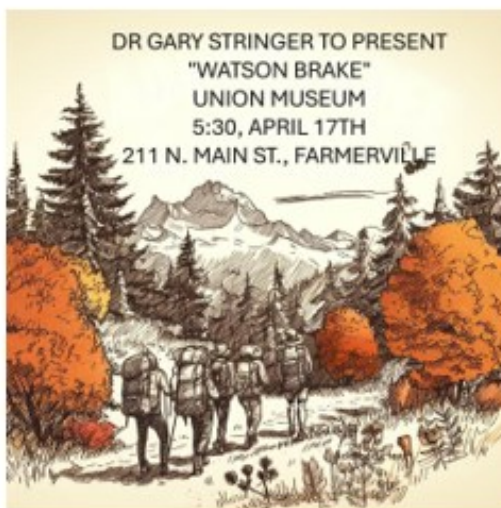
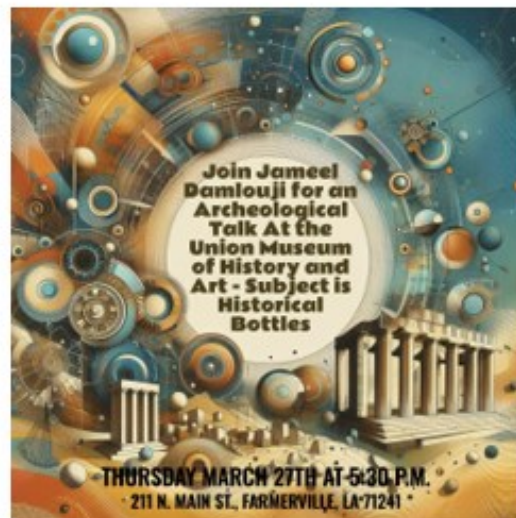
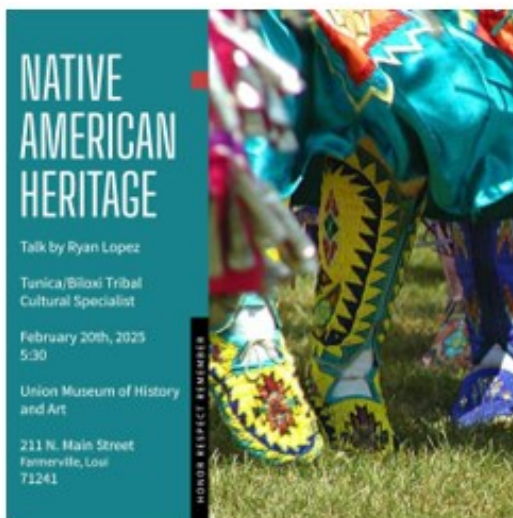
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2025 ARCHEOLOGY SPEAKER SERIES



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THE ARCHEOLOGIST CORNER – COLES CREEK

Produced for the Farmerville Gazette, Bernice Banner and Ruston Daily Leader by the James Hardy Archeological Research Center, an Affiliate of the Union Museum of History and Art and in support of the Explorer's Club of New York

Tom Fields, Farmerville

When a piece of pottery or a projectile point is found lying in a field many think that this was left by the Caddo Tribe of Western Louisiana, Eastern Texas and Southwest Arkansas. Though the Caddo Tribe was prevalent in the Union Parish area there was an earlier culture that roamed the hills and waterways of our area. This Culture was the Coles Creek.

The Coles Creek culture was a Late Woodland archaeological culture that thrived in the Lower Mississippi valley within the Southeastern Woodlands. Here are some key features:

Time Period: Coles Creek culture emerged between the terminal Woodland period and the later Plaquemine culture period (approximately 700–1200 CE).

Geographic Range: Coles Creek sites are found in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, as well as parts of Oklahoma and Texas.

Characteristics:

- o **Platform Mounds:** Coles Creek people built flat-topped platform mounds arranged around central plazas. These mounds served various functions beyond burial, including supporting temples and civic structures.
- o **Political Complexity:** Although not fully developed into chiefdom societies, there is evidence of growing cultural and political hierarchization by the end of the Coles Creek sequence.
- o **Subsistence Strategy:** Coles Creek culture relied on hunting and the Eastern Agricultural Complex, rather than maize (corn), which became more prominent in the succeeding Plaquemine Mississippian period.

Unique Decoration: The culture was initially defined based on the unique decoration on grog-tempered ceramic ware discovered at sites like the Mazique Archeological Site.

Subdivisions: Coles Creek proper existed in the interior Mississippi Valley, while Coastal Coles Creek was found along the Gulf coast south of modern Baton Rouge, Louisiana¹²

COLE CREEK POTTERY

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COLES CREEK POTTERY

Coles Creek pottery is a fascinating aspect of the Coles Creek culture, which was a Late Woodland archaeological culture in the Lower Mississippi valley. Here are some key points about it:

1. **Decoration:** Coles Creek pottery is known for its unique decoration. It was originally defined based on the distinctive patterns found on grog-tempered ceramic ware discovered at sites like the Mazique Archeological Site. These patterns were identified by archaeologist James A. Ford.
2. **Geographic Range:** Coles Creek sites are found in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The culture covered most of modern-day Louisiana and had interactions with other cultures along the northern Gulf Coast¹².
3. **Function:** Coles Creek pottery served both practical and ceremonial purposes. It was used for cooking, storage, and as vessels for various activities. The pottery surface decorations are similar to those found in the Weeden Island culture pottery from northern Florida.
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5. **Techniques:** Coles Creek potters employed various techniques, including check-stamping. This involved carving a grid pattern into a wooden paddle and stamping the still-malleable surface of an unfired pot with the paddle/

1 en.wikipedia.org 2 en.wikipedia.org 3 64parishes.org

