NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2018 Vol. 46, No.1

LAS vice-president Jeff Girard looks on as longtime LAS member Julie Doucet is awarded with a LAS Fellow Membership in the Louisiana Archaeological Society for her outstanding contributions to archaeology in Louisiana. The award took place at the LAS annual meeting in Metairie, February 16-18, 2018

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

If you have a regular membership to LAS, please remember to rejoin for 2018. Otherwise, this will be your last LAS newsletter!

LAS CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Below is the Saturday, Feb. 17 program for the 2018 LAS Annual Meeting at the Comfort Inn and Suites, Metairie, LA. for those who were unable to attend. Nathanael Heller of R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates was the 2018 meeting's program chair. The 2019 LAS Annual Meeting will be in Shreveport, LA. Details to follow in the LAS newsletter, LAS website, and LAS Facebook page as the meeting approaches.

8-8:10, **Welcoming Remarks**, Brian Ostahowski, LAS President.

8:10-8:30, **The Louisiana Paleoindian and Early Archaic Projectile Point Database: An Update**, Charlotte Pevny (SEARCH, Inc.).

8:30-8:50, **This is Not and Emergency, It IS only a Drill**, James Fogleman (LAS).

8:50-9:10, **Middle Archaic Zoomorphic Bead Breakage**, Samuel O. Brooks III (US Forest Service, retired).

9:10-9:30, **Preliminary Report on Surface Survey of Vernon Lake Bed**, John Guy (LAS).

9:50-10:10, **Archaeological Investigations at the Adams Bay Site (16PL8), Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana: Assessing Natural and Anthropogenic Effects to a Louisiana Coastal Archaeological Site**, Ryan A. Hale (R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates).

10:10-10:30, **The Piston Corer: A Tool for Cultural Resources Survey in Nearshore Environments**, Joost Morsink, Charlotte Pevny, Barry D. Bleichner, Michael Faught, and Abigail C. Bleichner (SEARCH Inc.).

10:30-10:50**, Mississippi River Delta Archaeological Mitigation (MRDAM) Project**, Tad Britt (NCPTT), Mark Rees (ULL), Dave Watt (Tulane), Marian Feinberg (ULL).

10:50-11:10, **LAS Research Project at the Lac St. Agnes Site (16AV26)**, Julie Doucet (LAS), Velicia Bergstrom (US Forest Service), Paul French (US Forest Service), and Valerie Feathers (Division of Archaeology).

11:10-11:30, **Continuing Investigations at the Natchez Fort Site: Mapping the Battlefield of Fort Valeur**, Dave J. Watt (Tulane).

11:30-11:50, **Application of Archaeological Approaches to Disaster-Related Damages in Plainview Cemetery, Denham Springs, Louisiana**, Christine L Halling and Ryan M. Seidemann (Louisiana Department of Justice).

1:00-1:20, **The State of the State and a Canoe Update Too,** Chip McGimsey, Louisiana State Archaeologist

1:20-1:40, **The Discovery and Recovery of a 14th Century Dugout Canoe on the Red River**, Jeffrey S. Girard, (NSU).

1:40- 2:00, **New Investigations of Mound E at the Poverty Point World Heritage Site**, Diana Greenlee, Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program.

2:00-2:20, **Poverty Point Settlement History and Construction Chronology: Evidence from the 2017 Excavations on Ridge Three West**., Kelly Ervin, (Washington University, St. Louis).

2:20-2:40, (**Re)discovering Archaeological Features through LiDAR Prospection in the Poverty Point Compatible Use Zone**, Matthew Radermacher (ULM).

3:00-3:20, **The Road so Far: Current Investigations in the Poverty Point Compatible Use Zone**, Rebecca Wallace (Poverty Point World Heritage Site).

3:20-3:40, **What Synchrotron Radiation Based Experiments Can Tell About Poverty Point Objects (PPOs)**, Josef Hormes (CAMD-LSU), Gudrun-Lisa Bovenkamp-Langlois (CAMD-LSU), Wantana Klysubun (Synchrotron Light Research Institute, Thailand), Diana Greenlee (ULM), and Rebecca Saunders (LSU).

3:40-4:00, **French Colonial Ceramic Production in New Orleans, Louisiana**, Thurston Hahn III (Coastal Environments, Inc.).

4:00-4:20, **Archaeological Evidence of Household Craft Production and Hide Tanning from a Mid-19th Century Privy in New Orleans**, Helen Bouzon, J. Ryan Kennedy, and D. Ryan Gray (UNO).

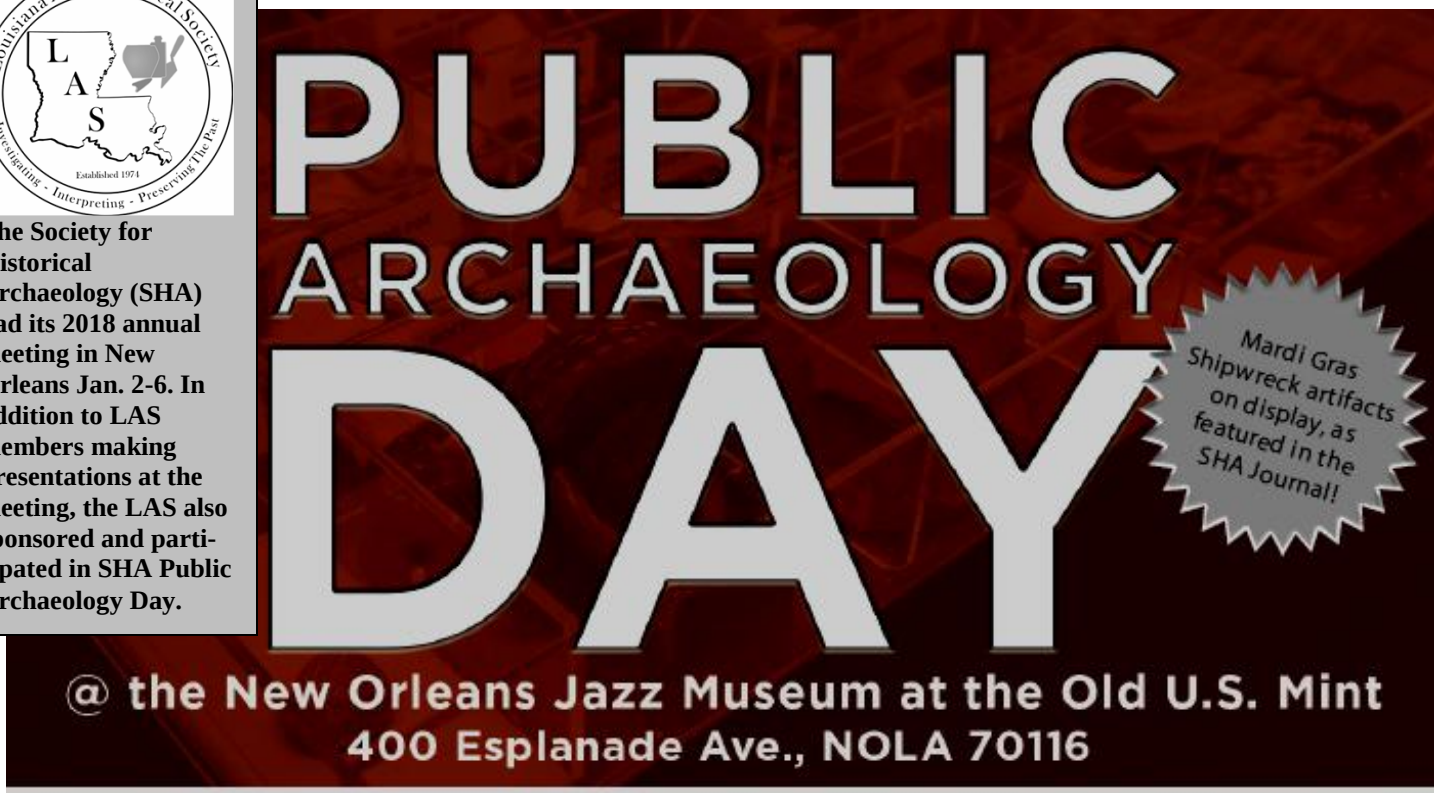
4:20-4:40, **Working the Woodyards: Race and Labor in Early Twentieth Century Tremé**, Christopher Grant (University of Chicago).

4:40-5:00, **Immigration, Exclusion, and Race: Archaeology of Overseas Chinese in New Orleans**, D. Ryan Gray (UNO)

SCENES FROM TOUR OF SITES IN FRENCH QUARTER 2/18 AT 2018 LAS ANNUAL MEETING

A-Unit excavation in progress at 810 Royal St., B- D. Ryan Gray describes the progress of archaeological investigations he has directed at 810 Royal St., C- Part of the attendees of tour listen as Gray describes recent work at the nearby St. Peter Street cemetery, D- Shannon Dawdy describes her past work at St. Antoine's Garden behind St. Louis Cathedral (E) in New Orleans.

The Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) had its 2018 annual meeting in New Orleans Jan. 2-6. In addition to LAS members making presentations at the meeting, the LAS also sponsored and participated in SHA Public Archaeology Day.



Saturday, January 6th | 12-4 pm

FREE ADMISSION to family-friendly exhibits, activities, lectures, artifacts, and more from over 15 firms, universities, agencies, organizations, and artists!

12:15 pm **Exploring Louisiana's Archaeology: 10,000 Years of History**
Dr. Chip McGimsey, State Archaeologist, Louisiana Division of Archaeology

1:00pm **The Mardi Gras Shipwreck: Investigation of an Armed Sailing Vessel of the Early 19th-Century**
Amy Borgens, State Marine Archeologist, Texas Historical Commission

1:45pm **Archaeology's Role Within the Larger Conversation About Louisiana's Coastal Crisis**
Brian Ostahowski, President, Louisiana Archaeological Society

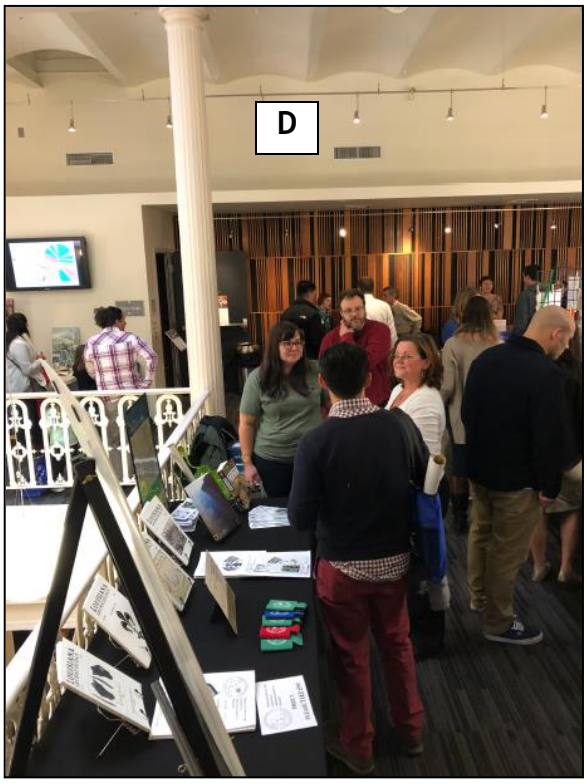
2:30pm **The Archaeological Expedition of Rediscovery: Community Engagement and the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab**
Dr. Mark Rees, Professor of Anthropology and Director, Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab

3:15pm **Introduction to Archaeology for Kids**
Nicole Grinnan, Public Archaeologist, Florida Public Archaeology Network

SOCIETY for HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

THE NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM

Scenes from the SHA Public Archaeology Day, January 6, 2018 at the Old US Mint on Esplanade St. in New Orleans. A-Beverly Clement and Julie Doucet arrange the display of LAS publications at the event, B-The special logo for the 2018 SHA meeting, C- View of the Old US Mint in New Orleans, D-View of some of the hundreds of visitors to the event, E- l-r, Chip McGimsey, Valerie Feathers, and Ashley Federoff with the Mardi Gras shipwreck display.



Lab Work Begins on Materials recovered from the LAS project at Lac St. Agnes Site
By Julie Doucet

The LAS Lac St. Agnes artifact workshop was a big success! We had 12 participants, seven were LAS state and local chapter officers and five were volunteers. This event could not have been the success it was without the effort of the LAS officers and enthusiasm of the volunteers. Valerie wrapped up the workshop by getting valuable feedback from the participants which will improve our events going forward. The LSU Rural Life Museum was a good venue in which to host this workshop, as well as the upcoming prehistoric ceramic analysis workshop on April 28.

All of the artifacts from the 2017 field work were sorted, counted, weighed, and recorded on a catalog. We bagged and tagged the collection according to La Division of Archaeology standards. It was a bit ambitious to consider labeling during the allotted timeframe, so we didn't get to that task. I will spearhead an effort to get the diagnostic ceramics labeled before the next workshop to maintain provenience.

These next two weeks will also find me working to put together reference materials for the next workshop on prehistoric ceramic analysis. Rich Weinstein graciously provided notes from John Belmont on type/variety which will help us tremendously, and I took Jay's suggestion of purchasing Phillips, Ford and Griffin's Mississippi Alluvial Valley book, reprinted in 2003.

We anticipate one more workshop to complete the processing of cultural remains from the 2017 fieldwork at the site which will focus on flotation, but we'll wait for consistently warmer weather to schedule that. We may hold that workshop at Velicia Bergstroms's Forest Service facility in Pineville as she has a flotation tank; I'll keep you posted on that event.

I hope some of you will make it to the next workshop, and I already have a fair number of young archaeologists eager to know more about Mississippi River Valley prehistoric ceramics. I expect an equally good turnout for this workshop.

We posted photos of the workshop on the LAS and Baton Rouge LAS Facebook pages so please check those out if you haven't already done so. If you are interested in participating in the April 28 program contact me at juliedoucet2@gmail.com.

Some of the 12 participants in the artifact workshop for the materials recovered in 2017 at the Lac St. Agnes site.

An especially small lithic projectile point recovered from the Lac St. Agnes site.

IN MEMORIUM

Gary Blake DeMarcay, a native and resident of the city of New Orleans, passed away peacefully at age 66 on December 2, 2017 after a brief illness, surrounded by family and close friends.

Gary was born on August 30, 1951, the son of the late Earl J. DeMarcay and Audrey H. DeMarcay of New Orleans. He attended East Jefferson High School and received his undergraduate degree from the University of New Orleans and his Master's degree from Texas A&M University. Gary worked as an archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Forestry Service, and the Navajo nation. His work took him to many places, including Rawlins and Laramie, Wyoming, Las Cruces and Gallup, New Mexico, Galveston and Fort Worth, Texas, before finally returning to his beloved New Orleans.

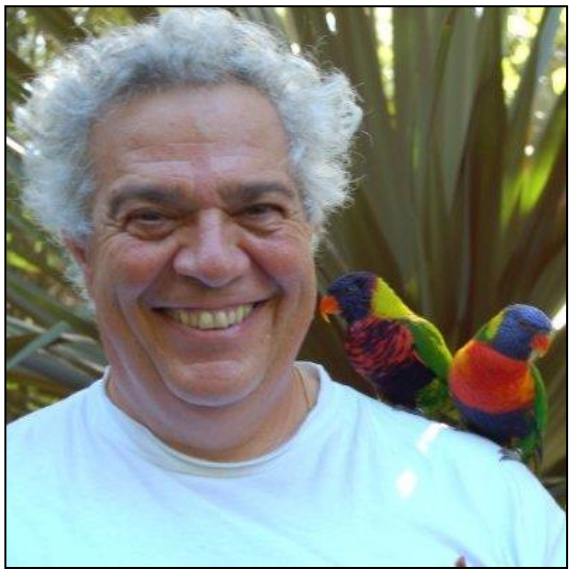
Gary is survived by his loving wife, Kathryn Reese-Taylor, his mother, Audrey H. DeMarcay, siblings, Susan Copping (Russ), David DeMarcay (Jayne nee Chernetz), and Melanie DeMarcay. Gary also deeply touched the lives of his many nieces and nephews, Stefan DeMarcay, Megan Moore (Jeremy), Thais Copping, Peter Copping (Dixie nee Kimball), Audrey Mire

(Stephen) and Emily Richardson (Carter Bordelon), his three step-children, Elizabeth Reese Baloutine, Schuyler Reese-Taylor, and Benjamin Reese-Taylor, his close cousins, and a multitude of dear friends, who will all cherish his memory.

A memorial service was held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Christ Church Episcopal Covington Chapel, Covington, LA 70433

Published in The Times-Picayune from Feb. 4 to Feb. 11, 2018

IN MEMORIUM



Marco Joseph Giardino, aged 67, passed away on Tuesday March 13th in the city of his birth, Rome, Italy.

He was born on November 23, 1950, immigrating to the United States in 1961. He graduated from SUNY Oswego where he was a member of the Sigma Tau fraternity. He obtained his MS and PhD from Tulane University in the field of Southeastern Archeology. He worked at Martin Marietta in New Orleans for five years before he moved to Bay Saint Louis, MS to join NASA as a research scientist and archeologist. During his time in Bay Saint Louis, he was a youth soccer coach, an active member of the Hancock County Historical Society, and an instructor at multiple universities. Retiring in 2014, after 23 years at Stennis Space Center, he fulfilled his lifelong dream of returning to the country of his birth.

Marco was preceded in death by his mother Livia Giardino née Meschini. He leaves behind his father, Joseph; his younger sister, Joanne; his three children Michael, Luca, and Annie; and two grandsons, Eli and the second on the way. Marco will be remembered as a loving son, a giving father, a gifted scientist and educator, dedicated coach, and a joyful presence to everyone he met. He will be greatly missed.

Published March 16, 2018, The Seacoast Echo (Bay St. Louis, MS)

FIELD NOTES AND CURRENT RESEARCH

Recent Research at Mound A at Poverty Point
By Matthew C. Sanger, Timothy de Smet, and Carl Lipo, Binghamton University

Over the last year, a crew from Binghamton University conducted geophysical surveys and aerial mapping at Poverty Point, with much of our focus on Mound A – the largest construction at the site. Made up of 238,000 cubic meters of soil, Mound A consists of three parts – a conical mound, a platform, and a ramp that connects them together (Figure 1). Based on prior excavations, researchers believe that Mound A was not used to hold burials, nor did it have any buildings on top of it. As such, the purpose of Mound A remains enigmatic: some have suggested it is in the shape of a bird in flight and that it relates to an origin story; others think it was a raised stage where ritual or ceremonial activities took place and were made highly visible to onlookers below; others still think the mound was a symbol of a newly formed community and acted as a point of communal cohesion.

T.R. Kidder and Anthony Ortmann have argued from geological data that Mound A might have been built in less than a year, perhaps over a period of only a few months. If true, the creation of such a massive construction in such a short period of time would mean that hundreds, perhaps thousands of people would be needed for its construction: a scale of organization well beyond what is known for Louisiana more than three thousand years ago. The scale of Mound A challenges not only our preconceived notions of what ancient peoples were capable but given its size, the mound is also difficult to study: even extensive excavations would reflect just a tiny sample of such a massive monument. This fact presents a conundrum to archaeologists: how might we best investigate such a massive and important deposit. Our approach was to take advantage of new technology as a means for generating information about the subsurface features of the mounds. In our field studies, we used drone-based aerial imagery and multiple geophysics instruments to see if we could learn about patterns of constructions at Poverty Point, including Mound A. We offer an outline of our research below, all of which was conducted over three trips to Poverty Point in 2016-17.

Aerial photography

While Mound A is one of the largest pre-contact earthen constructions in the United States, our understanding of its shape and size is relatively limited as it has only recently been mapped using modern methods. To better estimate its shape and size, we built three-dimensional models of Mound A using photos taken from a small commercially available quadcopter drone.

The process of making 3D models from aerial photographs is relatively simple. We began by programming a drone, in this case a Phantom 4, to fly systematically over the mound in a series of transects to provide overlapping coverage of the entire surface (Figure 2). In total, we collected over 7000 photos (21 gigabytes) that captured every angle of the mound. We then uploaded the photos into a program, Pix4D, which automatically stitched them together to form a 3D model. This model is a highly accurate representation of the mound that offers excellent information about the size and shape of Mound A.

Geophysics on Mound A

In addition to creating a model of Mound A, we also conducted geophysical surveys across the surface of the mound to investigate its internal structure. Our goal in this area was examine how the platform of Mound A was built and used. To do this, we used ground penetrating radar, electrical resistivity, magnetometic gradiometry, and electromagnetic-induction across a broad region on the platform. While our results are preliminary and require more detailed analysis, they appear to show that a great deal of variation exists within the platform deposits. This variation is most visible in our resistivity data where we see area of high resistance in the middle portion of the mound and lower resistance closer to the ramp (Figure 3). Electrical resistivity measures the level to which underlying soils conduct electricity, so is in large part influenced by how much moisture is in the deposit. While it is unclear what is causing the variability in electrical resistance, it is possible that the resistivity data is revealing to us that the platform was built in stages, or perhaps included specialty-use areas, such as dance floors. The variability could also be caused by different sorts of soils being used in the construction of the platform or it could reflect modern impacts caused by erosion, construction, or tree removal. Further research is required.

In addition to the platform, we examined the tall, conical portion of the mound. Because of its height and steepness, we used a geophysical technique rarely applied in archaeology – seismic studies. Seismic instruments detect the reflection of energy put into the earth to understand the makeup of buried deposits. The speed and intensity of the returned energy provides a view into the various structures that might exist beneath the ground. In our work, we created a seismic wave by smashing a sledgehammer onto a metal square located on the ground surface (Figure 4). A string of detectors (geophones) laid out along the ridge of the mound measured the strength and speed of this wave as it bounced back. Seismic data (Figure 5) is still being processed and analyzed, but our preliminary analysis is already pro-viding critical information about the inner structure of the mound.

Future research

Although preliminary, our findings suggest that there is still a great deal that we do not know about Mound A and the overall construction of Poverty Point. Additional analyses are currently being conducted to better understand the geophysical data we generated over the last year and further fieldwork is needed to survey more of Mound A and the other mounds at Poverty Point. Nonetheless, our results to date are intriguing and show that geophysical surveys and aerial imaging are useful tools for better understanding this important site.

Our work could not have been done without the support of the staff at Poverty Point, particularly Diana Greenlee, who helped make this project possible. We are very thankful for the opportunity to work at Poverty Point and look forward to future field visits.

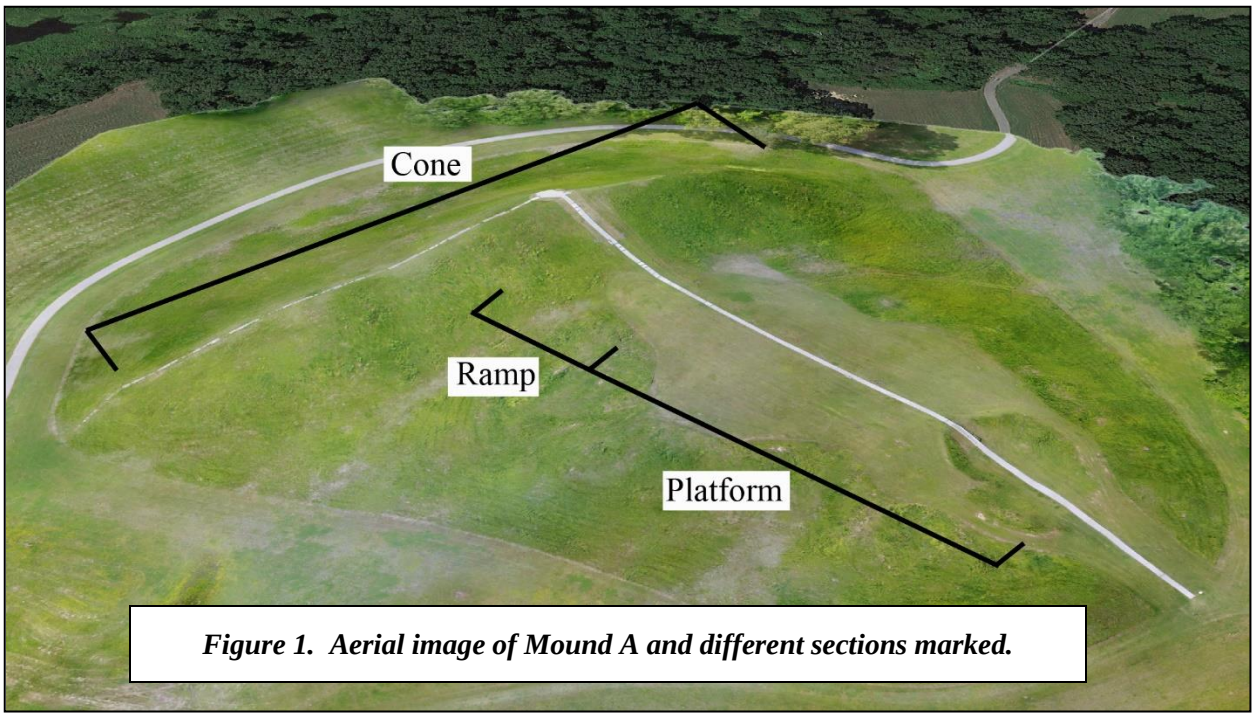


Figure 1. Aerial image of Mound A and different sections marked.

Figure 2. Flying a 3DR Solo with thermal infrared camera at sunset.

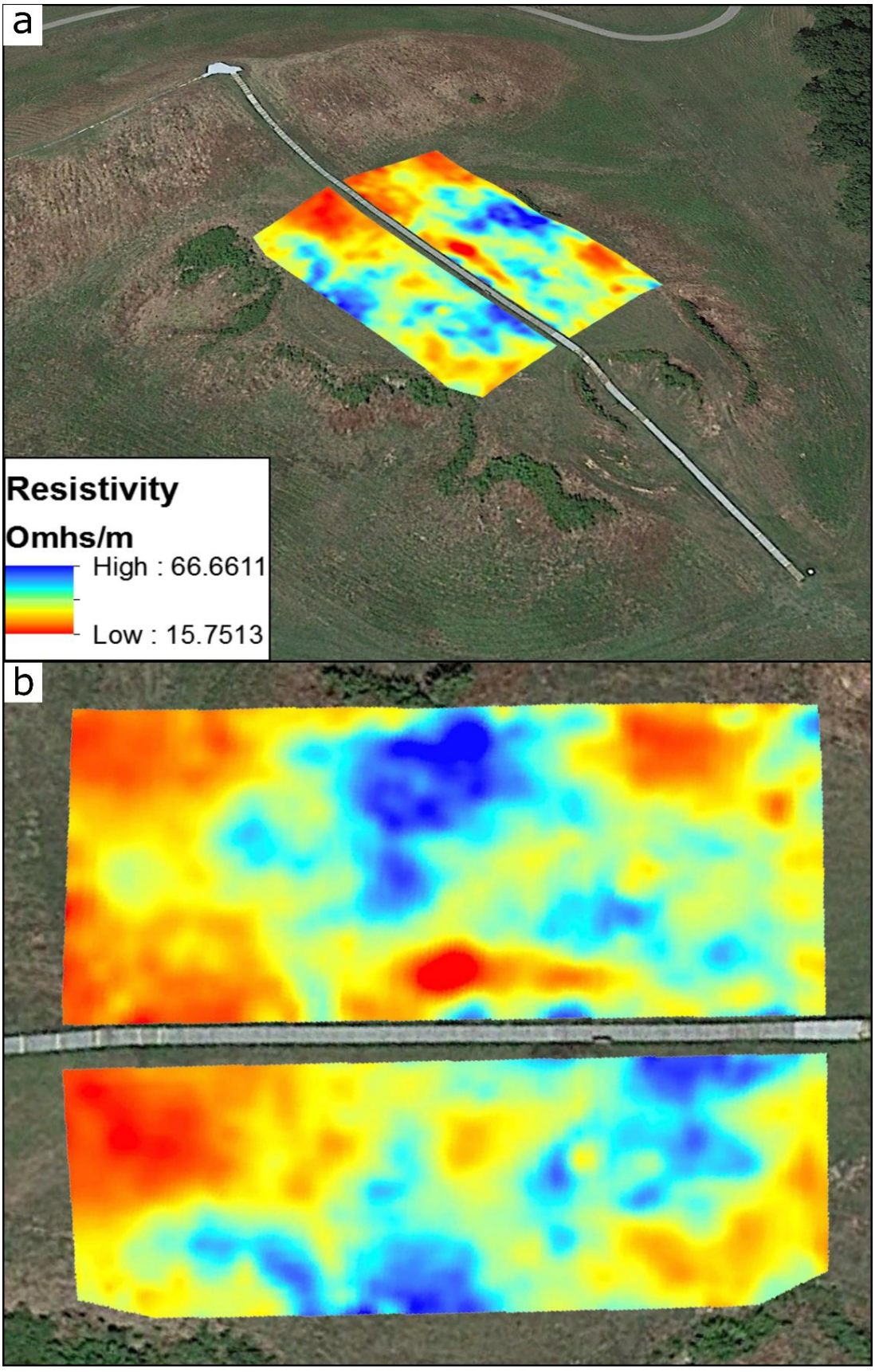


Figure 3. Resistivity on Mound A: (a) aerial; (b) plan view.

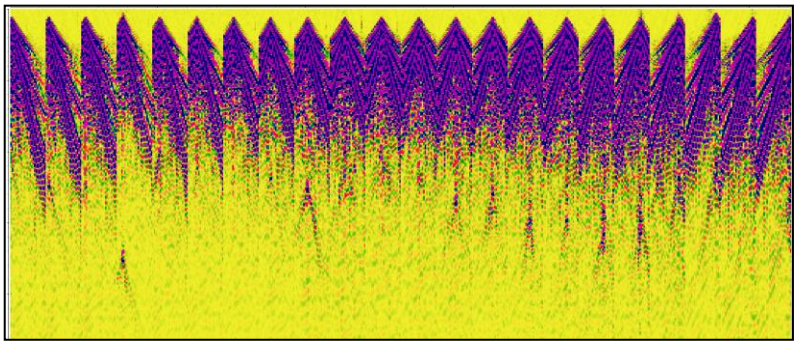


Figure 4 (left). Executing seismic studies on Mound A.

Figure 5(above). Raw seismic data from Mound A.

A Brief Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program Update
By Diana Greenlee

The Poverty Point Compatible Use Zone (PPCUZ) survey project continues to be the primary focus of the Station Archaeology Program. (See previous newsletters for a description of the project.) Pedestrian survey of agricultural fields and shovel testing of areas with poor surface visibility are conducted as weather allows. In March, UPPA volunteers assisted with survey and water-screening of soil from shovel tests (Figures 1-2), and with removing soil from roots of a fallen tree.

To further the PPCUZ project and give students an opportunity to participate in archaeological research, we are offering a three-week field school through the University of Louisiana at Monroe. From 14 May to 1 June 2018, students will have the opportunity to learn pedestrian survey (if field conditions permit), mapping, shovel-testing, excavation, and artifact processing. Anybody interested in participating should contact Diana Greenlee (greenlee@ulm.edu, 318-926-3314).

Binghamton University will also bring an archaeological field school to Poverty Point World Heritage Site this summer. They will be following up on discoveries made at the park last year through additional geophysical survey, controlled surface collection, and excavation. In addition, Kelly Ervin from Washington University, St. Louis will return to Poverty Point World Heritage Site this summer to re-open several old excavation units spread across the earthen ridge system. By applying geoarchaeological methods and high-resolution radiocarbon dating to the stratigraphic profiles, she will investigate the timing and duration of ridge construction and occupation.

Figure 1. UPPA volunteers flagging artifacts in a field east of Bayou Maçon. Photo: Matt Radermacher.

Figure 2. UPPA volunteers screening soil from PPCUZ shovel tests. Photo: Joanna Hunter.

A "Bathtub" feature at the Mildred Jackson site, Avoyelles Parish

By Jim Fogleman and Chip McGimsey

The Mildred Jackson site (16AV155) lies in southern Avoyelles Parish on the lower slope between Goudeau Hill, an isolated remnant of the Avoyelles Prairie terrace and the surrounding Red River floodplain.

Jim Fogleman has surface collected this site for many years. His collection includes numerous Tchefuncte sherds, a dozen or so Kent points, and a handful of flakes. There are a small number of later Marksville sherds as well. Over the years, Jim has noted concentrations of burnt soil when the farmer plows the field. In the spring of 2018, one of these concentrations appeared and close inspection revealed a ring of burnt earth visible in several small erosional gullies.

On March 3-4, a small crew of volunteers gathered to examine this possible feature. The volunteers included Jim Fogleman, James Fogleman, Chip McGimsey, Mackenzie Billeaudeux, Nathan Mountjoy, Steve Sierszchula, Joshua Logan, Jett Smith, and Owen Riemer.

A 1x2 m unit was laid out over the western half of the feature. After the plow zone was removed, an obvious pit with fired walls was visible (Figure 1). Probing with a soil core indicated the internal stratigraphy was not complex. Therefore the feature fill was removed in three 20 cm thick levels with all sediment screened through ¼ inch mesh.

The excavation revealed an oval pit approximately 1.6 m in diameter and 0.6 m deep (although plowing had removed the top of the feature and its original depth is unknown). Clay that was 2-4 cm thick had been applied to the walls. It seems likely that the clay extended across the floor as well, but repeated cleanings had removed it.

After application of the clay, substantial fires were held in the pit. The clay walls are fired brick-hard, and reddening of the surrounding soil extends 4-6 cm beyond the clay (Figure 2). That the pit was cleaned out is evident in the thin band of burned soil across the floor (in some places it is missing almost entirely), and the lack of any clearly in situ deposits. The entire feature fill appears to be redeposited, and the lower strata look very much like refuse cleaned out from a similar pit. The upper levels of fill include some large pockets of clay along with general surface midden. The clay is unusual in that it is not the subsoil surrounding the pit, but rather Red River alluvial clay obtained somewhere off-site. Red River clays do outcrop a few 10's of meters to the west and north of the site.

Bathtub pits were first identified at the Greenhouse site (16AV2), located some 30 km to the north, during the WPA excavation there in the 1930s.

Ten pits ranging in size from 3 to 12 feet long and up to 6 feet wide were excavated at Greenhouse.. Each is described as filled with a layer of ash overlain by general midden. Somewhat similar pits have also been excavated at the Gold Mine site (16RI13) in Richland Parish. At both of these sites, the pits are associated with mortuary activities around and under mounds. These sites date to the A.D. 400-800 interval.

The age, purpose, and function of the feature at the Mildred Jackson site are unknown. Tchefuncte ceramics dominate the diagnostic artifact collection, and were the only sherds recovered from the redeposited fill in the feature. Although a few Marksville sherds are present in Fogleman's collection, types typical of the Greenhouse and Gold Mine collections are not present. Hopefully we will be able to get a radiocarbon date in the future and resolve the age of this feature. We are also hoping that one or two more features will appear at the site so that we can examine a larger sample.

Figure 1. Plan view of Feature 1 at the base of the plow zone at the Mildred Jackson site.

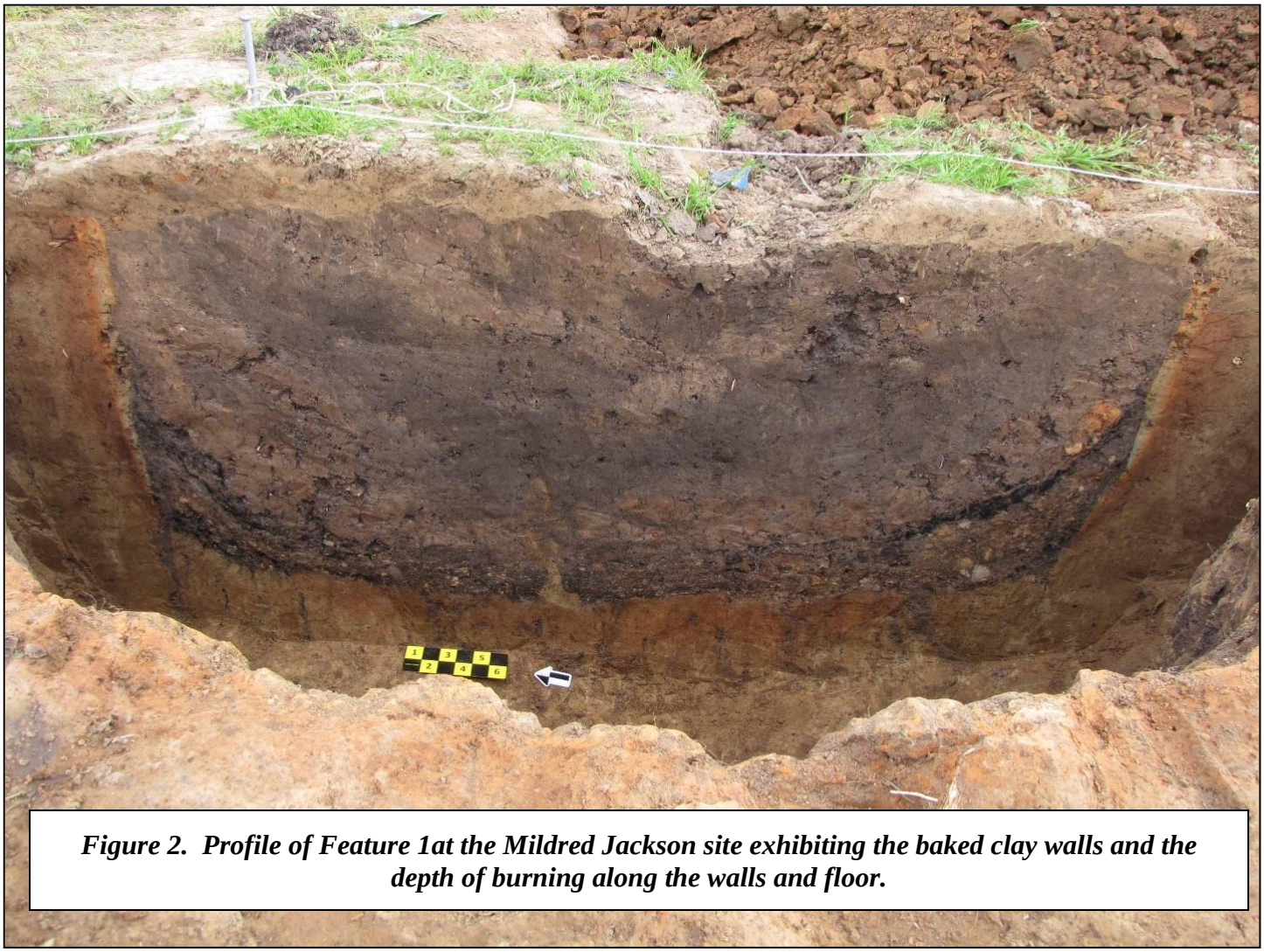


Figure 2. Profile of Feature 1at the Mildred Jackson site exhibiting the baked clay walls and the depth of burning along the walls and floor.

BATHTUB-SHAPED FIRE PITS

A few round or irregularly shaped pits, varying in depth from 1 to 4 feet, were found at different points in the excavations. Their forms were not similar enough to lead us to suspect that they represent a cultural element such as do the cache pits of some of the Mississippian culture sites. The contents of these random pits were saved separately from the arbitrary strata collections and, although each pit is completely described in Neitzel's field notes, it does not seem that they are worthy of further attention here.

However, eight remarkable pits that did conform to a pattern and that warrant description were found. These were the oblong, bathtubshaped [sic] *pits with heavily fired walls that are mentioned several times in the description of the excavations.*

...these pits are remarkably similar. They are from 6 to 10 feet long, 2 to 3 feet wide, usually with straight sides and rounded ends, and vary from slightly under 2 to over 3 feet in depth. The bottoms are rounded and always had a layer of ash and charcoal. The side walls were baked, ranging from lightly fired to well-burned clay 2 to 3 inches thick. These latter pits must have been subjected to very intense heat. Re-use, with second and third beds of ash above the bottom of the excavation, was observed in most pits. In two instances later pits had been re-dug on the sites of earlier ones. None are on mound surfaces, but all are arranged around the edges of the plaza adjacent to mounds. Nor do they appear to be associated with buildings.

Description of similar pits from *Greenhouse: a Troyville-Coles Creek period site in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana.* James A. Ford, 1951.

Excavations at Mound B of the LSU Campus Mounds site (16EBR6)
By Rebecca Saunders and Brooks Ellwood

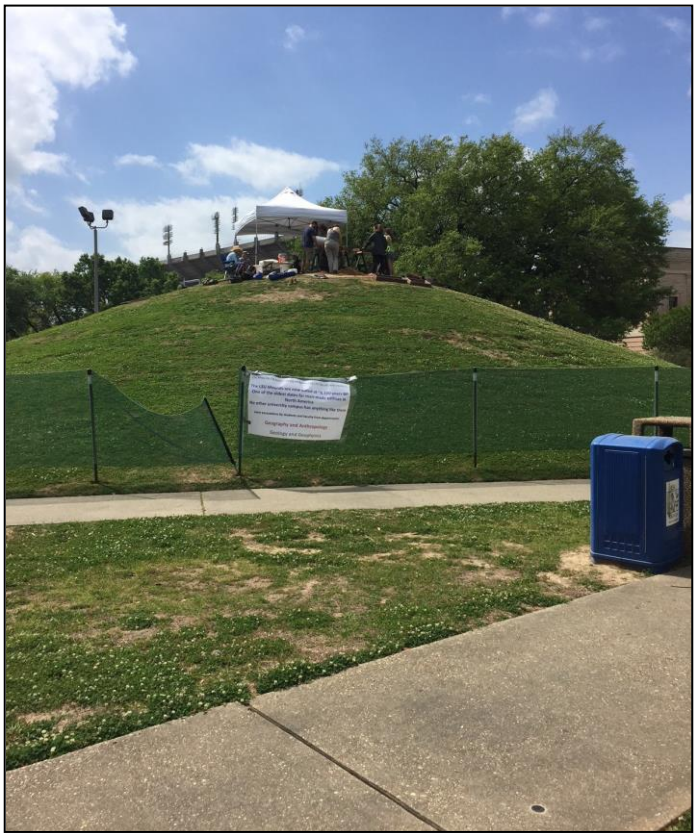
Over the 2018 Spring Break (March 24 – 31), Dr. Rebecca Saunders (LSU Department of Geography and Anthropology and Museum of Natural Science) and Dr. Brooks Ellwood (LSU Department of Geology and Geophysics) conducted excavations on Mound B at the LSU Mounds site. Students from both departments volunteered their precious break time; and number of professional archaeologists also dropped by.

Like the excavations on Mound A in 2012 (by Dr. Robbie Mann and Saunders), one of the goals of the excavation was to determine what was responsible for the cycles in the magnetic susceptibility readings that Dr. Ellwood obtained from sediment samples recovered from a core taken in 2009 (Figure 1). A 1-x-2-m unit was placed on the top of Mound B, located so that it intercepted the 2009 core. The researchers were successful in associating an area of organically enriched sediment and a small area of oxidized clay with high returns (Figure 2)
The researchers also hoped to recover some suitable organic materials for radiocarbon (RC) dating of Mound B, which has never been dated. Mound A, however, has four RC dates. Three were obtained during research conducted on the mounds during the mid-1980s. These dates suggested the LSU Mounds could be over 5000 years old—a result that was very controversial at the time. (Most researchers thought the mounds could be no earlier than ca. 2000 years old.)

Charcoal taken from the 2009 core not only substantiated a very early date, but, with a better sample and more sophisticated dating techniques, the radiocarbon result pushed the date for Mound A to over 6000 years old!

Unlike Mound A, which was built of river silt and mud, Mound B was built of loess, a very fine-grained, wind-blown clay/silt mix that covers much of the higher ground around Baton Rouge. Situated and undisturbed in Mound B for some 6000 years, the loess has become VERY compact, and extremely hard. Thus, while the earlier Mound A excavations reached 1.8 meters below surface, by the end of the 2018 Spring Break, weary excavators had only reached between 0.8 and 1.0 m below surface in Mound B. Not one single artifact was recovered. One 'feature' (a circumscribed area that has been altered by human activity) was encountered; it contained a good deal of charcoal (Figure 3). A sample of that has been sent for RC dating; however, by the end of the excavation, it appeared that the feature might be a modern disturbance. If the feature is contemporaneous with the mound, it may be the remains of a large post set into the mound to a depth of about 1 m. Charcoal was also found in light colored sediment below Feature 1. This will also be RC dated, and the result will help the researchers interpret the Feature 1 date.

Many thanks to all our volunteers (Figure 4)—this was pretty tough duty. Thanks also to LSU Facility Services for their help and pine bales, and Strategic Communications for their photographic advice and interest.



Excavations underway at Mound B of the LSU Campus Mounds in March 2018. Photo by Dennis Jones

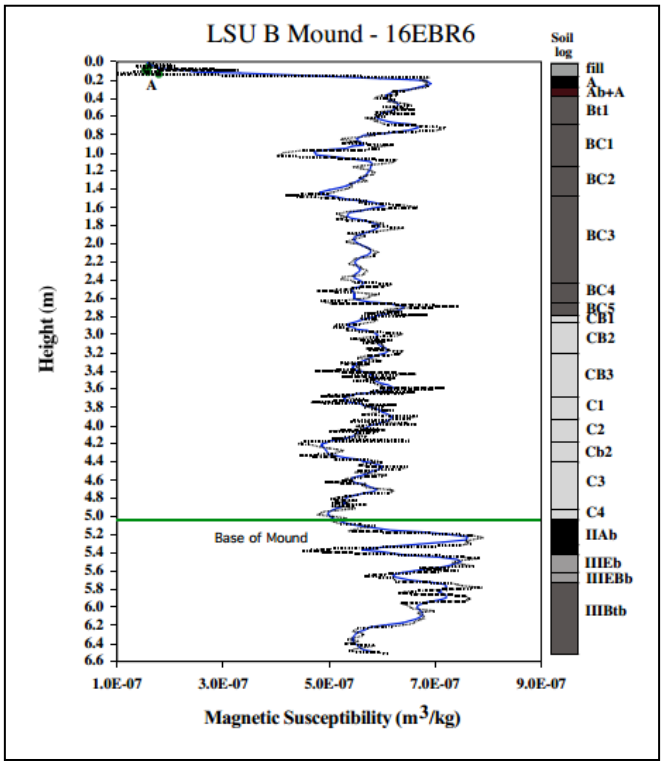


Figure 1(left). Magnetic susceptibility and core log data from the sediment core recovered from Mound B in 2009. The low values at the top of the core represent LSU fill material. Most of the core, above the base of the mound shows simple cyclicity, now being analyzed. Below the base of the mound, the loess on which the mound was built shows unusual values that are currently being evaluated. Figure 2(above). Dr. Robbie Mann, now at St. Cloud State, examines a sediment core from Mound B pulled in 2009.

Fig. 3: Feature 1 identified in the Mound B excavation unit. Note 2009 core (arrow) filled with clean sand, on left side of feature.

Figure 4. Most of the crew, L-R: Front row, Irene Martí, Molly Jones, Eli Cruzado, Jacob Warner; Second row, Dwayne Hinton, Ryan Dees, Sally McMillian, Rebecca Saunders, Ashlee Taylor, Sophie Reck, Michel Pujazón; Back row, Brooks Ellwood, Jacob Mendoza, Michelle Hanks.

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

What lies beneath the French Quarter? Historic New Orleans Collection talk offered clues

By Keith Spera, KSPERA@THEADOCATE.COM
March 22, 2018

Centuries before the advent of fluorescent green plastic "hand grenade" receptacles, New Orleanians discarded different debris in the French Quarter. Porcelain plates and cups. Clay smoking pipes. And, in one courtyard at least, dozens of goat skulls.

As a Tuesday presentation by the Historic New Orleans Collection made clear, one generation's trash is a later generation's archaeological treasure.

"What Lies Beneath: Archaeology in the French Quarter" was part of a lecture series related to the Historic Collection's exhibit, "New Orleans, the Founding Era."

A trio of archaeologists focused on four main dig sites in the French Quarter: the 800 block of Royal Street, the 900 block of St. Peter Street, a massive underground cemetery near Toulouse and North Rampart streets, and a property fronting the 500 block of Royal that, conveniently enough, the collection is developing as an expansion of its campus.

Telling the story of New Orleans "from its underside" mostly depends on the good graces of interested private property owners, said Ryan Gray, an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of New Orleans.

Archaeological opportunities and discoveries often result from "happenstance and luck. Sometimes that luck is bad. And sometimes it is downright catastrophic," he said.

Case in point: the sudden collapse and subsequent demolition in October 2014 of a three-story building that had stood at 810 Royal since the early 1800s. The owner of the still-vacant lot has allowed Gray and a team from the University of New Orleans to conduct a series of digs there.

Because the same building had stood there for more than 200 years, the ground below was largely undisturbed since the colonial era. Excavations have turned up pieces of Native American pottery, Chinese porcelain (a popular import in the city's infancy), French gun flints, clay smoking pipes and a coin dated 1722.

In this 2011 file photo, UNO assistant anthropology professor Ryan Gray, left, helps stabilize a St. Peter Cemetery coffin from the 1700s, removed to make way for a pool being built near the corner of North Rampart and Toulouse in the French Quarter.

Such sites, Gray said, allow for a fuller appreciation of the early Native American and African influences on the city.

Another property owner allowed archaeologists to excavate a courtyard at 936 St. Peter Street. They discovered an old privy, a shaft used as a toilet and for waste disposal. Privies "are one of the basic things that archaeologists love," Gray said. "They're like little time capsules."

This particular outhouse turned up hundreds of goat bones. The goats appeared to have been slaughtered "messily" in a quest to extract their brains, Gray said. Tanning skins, he continued, "is one of the handy things you can do with animal brains."

Much of the city's first cemetery, St. Peter Cemetery, lies near the former home of Mama Rosa's pizzeria, 616 N. Rampart. Thousands of the city's inhabitants were buried there from 1723 until the 1780s.

Over the decades, graves there are periodically rediscovered. In 2010, Gray was hired to explore the ground where a swimming pool was to be installed near Toulouse and Rampart. Fifteen coffins and skeletons from the 1700s were removed for study and reburial. As many as 12,000 bodies may be buried there, Gray said, "white, black, Native American or sometimes all three."

In 2013, the Historic Collection contracted with Earth Search Inc. to explore the grounds of the Seignouret-Brulatour House, a sprawling property that cuts through the block bounded by Royal, St. Louis, Chartres and Toulouse streets. Once home to the WDSU-TV studios, the redeveloped property is slated to reopen later this year as a new exhibition space.

At Tuesday's presentation, Earth Search's Michael Godzinski and Elizabeth Williams narrated a history of the extensive Brulatour project.

Digging down 7 feet exposed strata corresponding with every era of New Orleans' development. A layer of ash from the devastating 1788 fire still smelled smoky, Williams said. Below that was the "French Colonial" stratum, dated via tableware shards to 1720-60, followed by the "French Horizon" layer, the oldest.

One ancient glass bottle, she said, was filled with 300 small lead pellets, which made for "a really exciting day at the lab." Wine bottles and drinking glasses, Williams noted to laughs from the audience, were "disproportionately represented," an indication that letting the good times roll is not a recent innovation in New Orleans.

Gray would like to see at least minimal archaeological protections instituted for historic areas of the city. Development along the edges of the French Quarter and in the South Market District has permanently altered the archaeological record, he said. Artifacts are of diminished historical value once removed from their original context, which can reveal as much as the object itself.

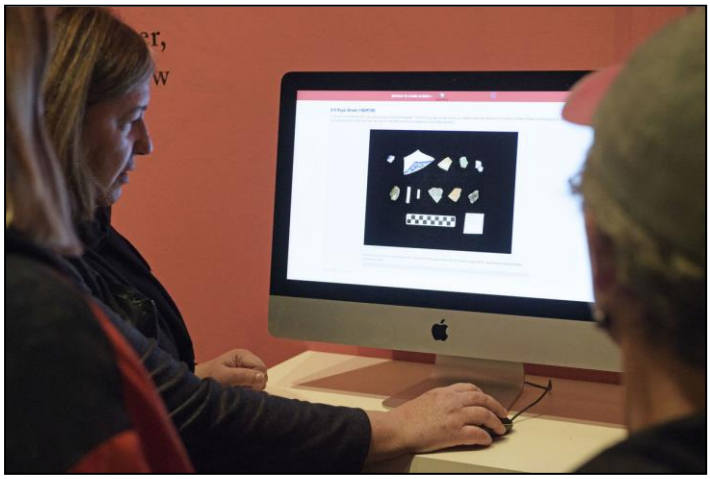
He credits private property owners who have voluntarily granted archaeologists permission to dig on their land with advancing an understanding of New Orleans' colorful past. "People don't like being told what they can do with their property," he said. "But historic resources should be taken into account."

Historical resources make up much of the "New Orleans, the Founding Era" exhibit. Inspired by New Orleans' tricentennial, the exhibit examines the various cultures that interacted in and around a young New Orleans in the early colonial era. It includes artifacts, early maps, archaeological finds and art from the Historic Collection's own holding as well as items loaned by other institutions.

Artifacts range from a pair of Native American moccasins fashioned from bear paws to baptismal records of enslaved people to an early 1700s French wine bottle dug up at 400 Chartres.

Housed at 533 Royal, the exhibit runs through May 27. Admission is free. The collection has also published a companion book, "New Orleans, the Founding Era," in English and French.

Free blown French wine bottle between 1725 and 1750; glass, manufactured in France recovered from 400 Chartres St. The item is part of the Historic New Orleans collection exhibit "New Orleans, the Founding Era," on display through May 27, 2018. Photo courtesy of The Historic New Orleans Collection.



Volunteer with The Historic New Orleans Collection, Angela Diez, center, guides Wendy Mae Chambers, left and Janet Schigner, right, through an interactive program about artifacts unearthed in the French Quarter by archaeologists that is part of the "New Orleans, The Founding Era" exhibit. Inspired by the New Orleans tricentennial, the exhibit examines the various cultures that interacted in and around a young New Orleans in the early colonial era. Photo by Max Becherer

.

Investigating Artifacts in a Drained Louisiana Lake

BY STACY PRATT, JANUARY 7, 2018
First American Arts Magazine
http://firstamericanartmagazine.com

Epiphany is a big day in Louisiana. It's the official start of Mardi Gras season, and parties abound. But this year, I spent Epiphany walking the surreal landscape of drained Vernon Lake in west-central Louisiana.

The lake was drained in late 2017 to examine damage that may have been caused by Hurricane Harvey. I was there with archaeologists Johnny Guy, president of the West Louisiana Archaeology Club; Dr. Joseph B. Mountjoy of Universidad de Guadalajara (Mexico); and his son, Nate Mountjoy, principal investigator, staff archaeologist, and field director with Prentice Thomas & Associates, Inc., the company contracted to investigate historical and archaeological sites on and around nearby Fort Polk.

Guy had visited the site several weeks earlier to locate areas of interest, and right away, he found pottery sherds, arrowheads, pieces of stone tools, and burnt clay that indicated areas where a fire had been built thousands of years before a dam was built at Anacoco Creek to create the lake in 1963.

This day, Nate Mountjoy brought the Schonstedt Magnetic Locator to test the "hearth" areas that Guy had found. The locator, a long yellow pole with a small monitor near the handle, is similar to a metal detector, and its eerie hum contributed to the science fiction atmosphere of the drained lake. While two of the sites showed potential, a third had been too damaged by someone doing "donuts" in a four-wheeler – a real problem for the archaeologists who are investigating this site. Looters are also a problem, as the word is out that the lake has been drained. It is against state law to trespass or loot on the property, but that doesn't stop people from trying.

While working on another Louisiana archaeology story for the print issue of First American Art Magazine, I learned that the best archaeologists are able to see things the untrained eye passes over. In that way, they remind me of artists, who are able to detect meaning, pattern, and beauty in what seems mundane. I got another example of that vision walking the lake with these three, who could spot the difference between a tiny flake leftover from making an arrowhead and the million little flakes of rock, shell, and bone that were all over the ground.

Also like artists, archaeologists recognize the skill that goes into the creation of the ancient artifacts they find. A small arrowhead we found on this trip was photographed and documented, discussed and handled with great interest even though all agreed it was the most common type of arrowhead found in the area. As we passed it around, Guy marveled at how long ago it was that anyone had seen it – and I've noticed that about archaeologists too: They don't seem to lose their sense of awed respect for the people who created the artifacts they find, even when they have been doing their job for many years.

Archaeological history shows that it hasn't always been that way, and of course not every archaeologist is the same. But perhaps greater involvement by tribal nations, laws like the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and a different type of archaeological education and mentorship has led to a change in attitude.

Guy speculates that some of the artifacts he has found at the bottom of Vernon Lake are from as far back as the Clovis period, which occurred around 13,500 years ago. The tools, arrowheads, and pottery sherds will be analyzed in the coming months, but Nate Mountjoy says there is enough evidence of intact sites to begin the process of protecting them from further industrial development once the lake is filled again. In the meantime, Guy has planned more excursions to find sites and document them before looters take artifacts or joyriders destroy them.

Like many archaeological sites, those at Vernon Lake are small, but the lives of the people who created the artifacts were full and important. As we walked back across the lake to our trucks, the archaeologists discussed what might be found later, as well as other sites they had visited. As a Mvskoke citizen, I hope the archaeologists who investigate my own ancestors' sites speak of them – and treat them – with as much respect.

Joseph Mountjoy expressed concern about the current administration's removal of federal protection for sites like Bears Ears and Grand Staircase. He said it is important that we learn what we can while we can. In Louisiana, where even recently state parks have closed, that means archaeologists work with the funding they have to learn all they can about the people who came before them. These trips to the bottom of Vernon Lake are part of that.

The dry Vernon Lake bed. Photo by Stacy Pratt

Johnny Guy, Joseph B. Mountjoy, and Nate Mountjoy. Photo by Stacy Pratt

Arrowhead on dry bed of Vernon Lake. Photo by Stacy Pratt

Incised potsherds from dry bed of Lake Vernon. Photo courtesy of West Louisiana Archaeology Club.

Stone projectile points and other lithic artifacts on the bottom row. Courtesy of West Louisiana Archaeology Club.

A "hearth" site with burned clay in bed of Lake Vernon. Photo by Stacy Pratt

What was the Poverty Point UNESCO site used for?

-An LSU physicist wants to play a little Indiana Jones on the university's hi-tech machinery.

BY MARK BALLARD | MBALLARD@THEADVOCATE.COM
MAR 18, 2018

Adjunct professor Franz-Josef Hormes wants to turn LSU's CAMD synchrotron, normally used for physics research, on 3,000-year-old, hand-formed objects scattered by the millions over the Poverty Point UNESCO World Heritage Site in northeast Louisiana.

He hopes to focus the synchrotron's intense magnification — its X-rays are a million times stronger than those from machines in hospitals — on the minutest traces of elements and learn the purpose of the Poverty Point objects.

Like one of those shows on the Smithsonian Channel, the high-tech findings could disrupt or prove a lot of theories, which could help archaeologists unravel the mystery of just what went on at the 910-acre West Carroll Parish site with several earthworks and mounds built during the Archaic period between 1,650 and 700 BC.

Was Poverty Point a huge settlement, a religious ceremonial center or a designated marketplace? "You can see all the elements in very low concentrations," said Hormes, who has set up a March 26-27 symposium to demonstrate for archaeologists what CAMD can do for them. Some of the attendees will be able to use the machine on some of their own objects. One is bringing an ancient tooth in hopes of finding out what the person ate, Hormes said.

The event is funded by a $50,000 grant from the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.

The millions of Poverty Point objects have only about dozen designs. Clearly, the objects were hand-formed from river silt — no stones are found nearby.

CAMD's electron storage ring, put simply, accelerates electrons. When the electron's trajectory is bent by a magnetic field, it emits a bright light that can be focused to X-ray an object's chemistry on a molecular level.

By detailing the types and amounts of minerals — iron, for instance — archaeologists can determine if the Poverty Point objects were made in northeast Louisiana, southern Illinois, east Florida or anywhere else where evidence of prehistoric civilizations exists.

LSU physicist Franz-Josef Hormes shows on Friday March 17, 2018 where the Poverty Point object would go into the LSU CAMD synchrotron when x-rayed. Photo by Mark Ballard

Analysis on four Poverty Point objects found that three were made from the same soil as is found about 18 feet below the surface of Poverty Point, Hormes said. The fourth object had a different elemental distribution, meaning it was made with different soil, suggesting that this object came from a different settlement.

So, now the question becomes: How did it get there?" Hormes said.

But scientists can already perform those tests with existing technology, although CAMD can do it far quicker without marring the object and can calculate much smaller traces of elements, Hormes said.

What archaeologists can't do now, he said, is identify chemical states of the elements, which would show if the objects had been on fire and for how long.

The leading theory is that the silt balls were used like briquettes in present-day outdoor barbecues. Fires were built in pits, the rocks were thrown in, and they retained an even heat for cooking when the fire burned down to embers.

"If we can show that the objects were in the fire, at extremely hot temperatures, for a long time, that would support those theories," Hormes said. If not, "well, that would mean they should start looking for other theories."

Archaeology is a new application for a scientific facility that almost from the very moment of its inception had to look for new uses for the high-tech machinery.

Built in the early 1990s with a $25 million federal grant acquired by U.S. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston Jr. — the facility is named after his father, the J. Bennett Johnston Sr. Center for Advanced Microstructures and Devices, or CAMD — it never reached its initial claims of anchoring a research park that would support more than a thousand high-tech jobs.

The original idea was to refine existing technology to make a better microchip for computers. But manufacturers found a cheaper way to make the item that runs laptops and smartphones, leaving LSU wondering just what it was going to do with the facility that then sat on the edge of a horse farm off what is now a busy and upscale development on Jefferson Highway in Baton Rouge.

Finding pure science uses didn't prove that difficult for the electron storage ring used for synchrotron radiation.

The energy industry books time at the center to research new materials for fuels. Environmentalists look at pollution, and CAMD helped determine that the lead levels in the university lakes came primarily from the exhaust of vehicles on Interstate 10.

One day last week, as Hormes oversaw the setup for his experiment, medical researchers were charting the edges of biological elements in search of triggers that could make a virus less virulent. One of only seven synchrotrons in the world, CAMD is the only one supported by state funding, about $3 million annually. Its money was cut almost in half during the past decade when higher education appropriations were slashed to help balance the state's budget. The facility supports about $50 million in research grants.

Archaeology research and artistic restoration are a coming use of synchrotron technology, if the growing number of scientific journal papers on the subject is an indicator.

Hormes stumbled into the field while director of the Canadian Light Source, a synchrotron run by the Canadian government in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

He came across a German stained glass specialist who needed to know how to slow the disintegration of thousand-year-old windows. The synchrotron identified the elements that made up the glass and created the colors, giving the restorers a glimpse at what was making the windows weaker. "It was a starting point for me down the road to archaeology," Hormes said.

More than a million of these 3,000-year-old, hand-molded objects are scattered around the Poverty Point UNESCO World Heritage Site. LSU CAMD hopes its high-tech synchrotron can verify how the objects were used. Photo by Mark Ballard.

Graves of 1,000 enslaved people found near Ascension refinery; Shell, preservationists to honor them

BY TERRY L. JONES | THEADVOCATE.COM
MAR 18, 2018 - 1:45 PM

DARROW — The unmarked graves of as many as 1,000 slaves who toiled in the agricultural fields of two Ascension Parish plantations were uncovered five years ago by an archaeologist working for the Shell Convent refinery, a finding that one state expert said is among the largest unknown burial grounds discovered in Louisiana.

Now, the company is moving forward with a plan to remember those enslaved people, working with the River Road African American Museum to mark the two cemeteries and allow descendants onto the property to pay their respects.

"I always knew there were cemeteries out there somewhere," said Kathe Hambrick, founder of the River Road African American Museum in Donaldsonville. "Having the plantation map in the museum and understanding there were as many as 100 plantations in Ascension Parish, I've always wondered, 'Where were all those cemeteries for all those plantations?' It has been brought to my attention that many of these cemeteries are now on property owned by industry."

The Shell Convent Refinery is set to host a memorial service and marker dedication on March 24 for enslaved people buried in the Bruslie and Monroe plantations located to the northwest of the plant. Historical records show there were at least two more plantations on the more than 4,000 acres of property Shell owns in Ascension.

Hambrick, through a burial coalition she formed, has been working behind the scenes with Shell since the graves were discovered in 2013. The company had commissioned a survey when it was considering expanding its refinery, a project that has since been scrapped. They ended up discovering the unmarked cemeteries.

Shell's spokesman Jordan Tremblay said the company's response to the finding was shelved for a few years as the company went through changes in upper management. But after the dust settled, Shell revisited its partnership with the museum to figure how best to proceed in the wake of the discovery. "It became apparent that the project was the perfect fit and the appropriate thing to do based on our core value of respect for people," Tremblay said.

Thurston Hahn, an archaeologist project manager with Coastal Environments Inc. in Baton Rouge, first suspected there could be a graveyard beneath the land outlined for the expansion during the preliminary phase of his company's survey work for Shell. Hahn spotted a particular symbol on an 1877 map near the spot where the Bruslie cemetery was later located.

"It wasn't a cross or labeled or anything, but the symbol was similar to the ones they used to mark some of the ones that we knew were cemeteries," Hahn said. "So we had a (ground penetrating radar) survey done back there that showed some anomalies that we couldn't figure out what they were." The Bruslie Plantation cemetery was located in the middle of a sugarcane field.

Coastal Environments informed Shell about the early findings and received permission to bring in heavy machinery that allowed Hahn and his crew to peel off approximately 1½ feet from the top layer of soil in the area. Hahn said they found burial shafts beneath the surface, confirming their suspicions.

Burial shafts are the holes into which the undertaker digs to lower a coffin. Hahn said ground surface that had not been disturbed would be one monotone color. The ground beneath the surface at the Bruslie cemetery had spots were the soil had been disturbed, or rather, holes had been dug and then filled back in with dirt.

Hahn said there was a little more certainty surrounding the Monroe cemetery. "We knew that was there because it shows up on several different maps," he said. "We just didn't know how big it was."

The area was heavily overgrown and shrouded by trees. Hahn suspects farmers knew it might have been a burial site so they didn't farm that portion of the land. As they were clearing the shrubbery to peel back the top soil like they had at the Bruslie cemetery site, Hahn and his crew stumbled across a tombstone shrouded in leaves and dirt.

The name on the grave marker was M.K. Mitchell. Hambrick's research claims he was a black man who died at the age of 25. "That's the only one we found, and it was out of place," Hahn said. "At some point it had been pushed down. So we don't know where it came from originally."

After pulling back the top soil, Hahn said they were able to define the boundaries of both cemeteries and estimate how many enslaved people were buried there by the number of burial shafts they discovered. They believe it could be as many as 1,000 people.

Chip McGimsey, director for the state's Division of Archaeology, calls the discovery a rare find, saying it is among the bigger burial grounds that have been found. "Typically what you find are the small family plots where a family lived for a generation or two," he said. "It was important for Shell to know where the boundaries were because that defined where they were going to be able to develop and where they couldn't." McGimsey said there are state laws that apply to cemeteries defining how Shell could use the property on top of and immediately adjacent to the discoveries.

Shell has now cleared the land within the perceived boundaries of both cemeteries and installed markers that briefly explain their history, along with protective bollards and sitting benches.

Tremblay said Shell will allow descendants to visit the cemeteries through scheduled visits. "It's currently still agricultural land and adjacent to the refinery," he said. "It's not ideal for them to just drive back there any time they want."

New York retiree A.P. Tureaud Jr. is flying in to attend the March 24 dedication ceremony, which is being held on the lawn of the former Tezcuco Plantation near the refinery.

Tureaud's father, the New Orleans civil rights attorney A.P. Tureaud Sr., led the legal fight that forced the desegregation of New Orleans public schools. His white ancestors owned several of the other plantations that were once located on Shell's property. His black ancestors worked at those plantations.

"I think everyone has got to face up to the fact that we're all in this together, and we need to collaborate and work together," Tureaud said. "If this were 1,200 white people buried somewhere, there would have been a cemetery there a long time ago."

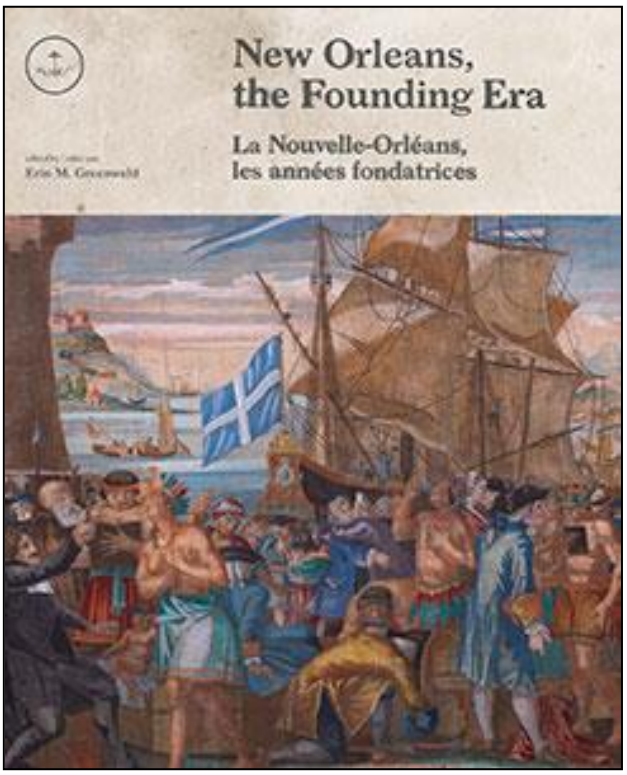
"I think this is the beginning to show the collaboration between community activists and historical preservationists to really honor, celebrate, explore, preserve and educate about the true history of the development of the River Road and Gulf South," he said.

Hambrick and others in her coalition hope Shell's response will inspire similar actions by others within the industrial community and show the need for congressional action as well. "I hope that there will one day be congressional legislation on a national level that will protect the African burial grounds of the formerly enslaved to the same level that there is protection for Native American burial grounds," she said.

Benches for reflection and bollards have been installed around a stand of trees with the remnants of the Monroe Plantation Cemetery near the Shell Convent Refinery, background right. The River Road African Burial Grounds Coalition, Shell and the Burial Grounds Committee of the River Road African American Museum (RRAAM) co-hosted a commemorative program honoring the lives of the enslaved people buried in the Bruslie Plantation Cemetery and the Monroe Plantation Cemetery on Saturday, March 24, 2018. These cemeteries were discovered during a 2013 survey of Shell's property in Ascension parish.

Advocate Staff Photo by Travis Spradling

BOOKS OF INTEREST FOR LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY



NEW ORLEANS, THE FOUNDING ERA

LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS, LES ANNÉES FONDATRICES

edited by / édité par Erin M. Greenwald; translated by / traduit par Henry Colomer

The Historic New Orleans Collection 2018
hardcover • 8.25" x 10.25" • 176 pp.
70 color images
ISBN 978-0-917860-74-4
Available from The Shop at The Collection for $50

On the occasion of the tricentennial of the founding of New Orleans, this exhibition catalog celebrates the diversity of the city's earliest populations.

New Orleans, the Founding Era gathers contributions from eight leading scholars of the French Atlantic World and features an illustrated checklist of artifacts from public and private collections across France, Spain, Canada, and the United States. This dual-language French/English publication from The Historic New Orleans Collection explores the ideas, peoples, and material cultures that shaped one of the most complex and challenging colonization projects in the Americas.

Louisiana in the early eighteenth century experienced an intense period of immigration as nearly six thousand French- and German-speaking Europeans and a roughly equal number of enslaved captives taken from Africa arrived in the French territory. Those who survived first the crossing, and then exposure to New World diseases, established the roots of a blended, Creole culture that persists to this day. The newcomers mingled with, learned from, and clashed with the native people who had long occupied the riverfront site chosen for New Orleans.

As a cultural, economic, and diplomatic crossroads both of the lower Mississippi valley and of the broader Atlantic World, New Orleans was shaped by influences that stretched south from Nouvelle France and the Illinois Country, north from the Caribbean, and west from the Bight of Benin and the Breton coast. This landmark publication, edited by Erin M. Greenwald and translated by Henry Colomer, reflects the kaleidoscopic array of cultures that gave rise to this most cosmopolitan of North American cities.

Erin M. Greenwald curated *New Orleans, the Founding Era* in honor of the city's tricentennial. As curator at The Historic New Orleans Collection, she was project director of the National Endowment for the Humanities-funded traveling exhibition *Purchased Lives: The American Slave Trade from 1808 to 1865*. Greenwald holds a PhD in history from the Ohio State University. She is currently curator of programs at the New Orleans Museum of Art.

Henry Colomer is a French documentary filmmaker and translator. He has directed some thirty films, including various portraits of artists and writers (L'exilé, Iddu, Ricercar, Vies métalliques), as well as a number of documentaries about the upheavals of the twentieth century (Monte Verità, Sous les drapeaux). Colomer has won several awards (Best Historic Documentary, Festival of History Films, Pessac, 1998, 2008; Focal International Award, London, 2010).

This book has been made possible with support from the 2018 NOLA Foundation, Air Liquide, Alliance Française de la Nouvelle-Orléans, L'Union Française, Les Causeries du Lundi, France-Louisiane Franco Américaine Association, Consulate General of France in New Orleans, IBERIABANK, French American Chamber of Commerce—Gulf Coast Chapter, Dr. Phillip D. Mollère, E. Alexandra Stafford, and Council of French Societies of New Orleans.

MEETINGS, FIELDWORK, EXHIBITS, WEBSITES, ETC.

POVERTY POINT STATION ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

MAY 14 – JUNE 1, 2018

This three-week course in archaeological field methods will investigate cultural resources in the landscape around Poverty Point World Heritage Site.

Gain practical experience in survey, testing, mapping, and artifact processing. Learn about the amazing culture history of northeast Louisiana.

Free lodging is available in the Poverty Point research dormitory; students are responsible for transportation to/from Poverty Point and meals during the course.

Enrollment is limited and permission is required prior to registration. Contact Dr. Diana Greenlee (greenlee@ulm.edu; 318-926-3314) for more information.

GEOS 4023 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES, 4 CREDITS

MEETINGS, FIELDWORK, EXHIBITS, WEBSITES, ETC.

New Orleans, the Founding Era
February 27, 2018 to May 27, 2018
Tuesday–Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
The Historic New Orleans Collection
533 Royal Street in the French Quarter
In commemoration of the city's 300th anniversary in 2018, The Historic New Orleans Collection will provide a multifaceted exploration of the city's first few decades and its earliest inhabitants with New Orleans, the Founding Era, an original exhibition and bilingual companion catalog. Admission is free

The next **Mid-South Archaeological Conference** will take place in Baton Rouge, **August 3 to 5, 2018**. The theme of the conference will simply be "Shell Middens." Although not all papers need to be related to work at shell middens, or research based on previous work at shell middens, this is a topic worthy of discussion. Since there are salt-water, brackish-water, and freshwater shell middens, the geographical range of the topic can be vast. Thus, folks working in the interior of the U.S. can discuss their research on freshwater shell middens, while others working along the coast can talk about brackish and saline shell middens.

There's even room for drowned shell middens out on the continental shelf, if anyone has one that they'd like to discuss. Or shell middens outside the U.S., for that matter. Since shell middens come in all shapes and sizes, the topic is also open to discussions on small, one-meal middens, such as some of those found on the Texas coast, or huge freshwater middens like those of the Tennessee River valley. Intentionally constructed shell mounds also would seem to be a worthy topic.

Rich Weinstein and Becky Saunders are organizing the conference and have arranged for a Friday-night, pre-conference gathering at the LSU Museum of Natural Science, with papers to be presented all day Saturday and half a day on Sunday (if needed) at the Howe-Russell Geoscience Complex on the LSU campus.

Lodging arrangements have not been finalized, but we are hoping to obtain a block of rooms at a reduced rate, at the Lod Cook Hotel on LSU's campus. So, if all goes well, most everything will be at LSU. In any case, please start thinking about attending the conference and possibly presenting a paper. Contact Rich Weinstein at rweinstein@coastalenv.com for more information.

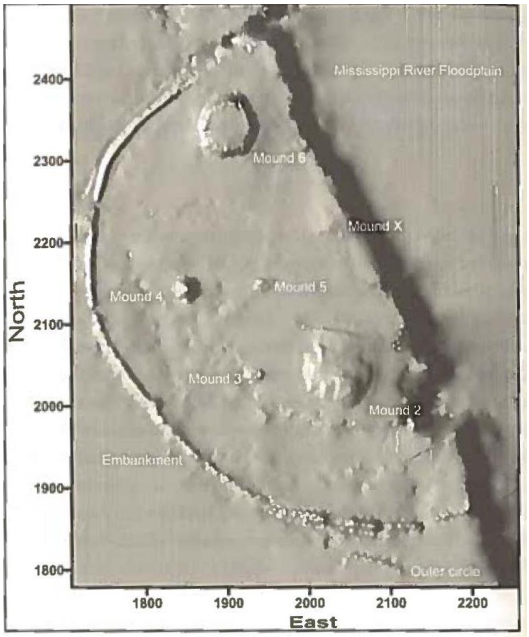


Fig. 7.1. Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) image of the Marksville site (16AV1).

The National Park Service's 2018 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled C*urrent Archeological Prospection Advances for Non-destructive Investigations of the Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site (16AV1), Louisiana,* will be held May 21--15, 2018, at the Marksville State Historic Site in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana.

The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with on-hands use of the equipment in the field. There is a registration charge of $475.00. Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center's web page at <http://www.nps.gov/mwac/

For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873: tel: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; fax: (402) 437-5098; email: <steve_de_vore@nps.gov>.

Louisiana Archaeological Society
Membership Application and Dues Renewal
For Year _____
Membership Category

Regular……	$20.00	_____
Associate……	$5.00	_____
Student……	$12.00	_____
Life……	$200.00	_____
Sustaining……	$300.00	_____
Institutional (Museums, Libraries, Agencies (etc.) ……..	$20.00	_____
	Subtotal	_____

Member Information
Name_____

Organization/Affiliation _____

Address_____

City_____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Associate Member Name(s): _____

Back Issues of LAS Bulletins are $8.00, but discounts are available for large orders. Out of print bulletins are available at the LAS website for free download.

#1- 1974 - out of print
#2 - 1975 - out of print
#3 - 1976 - out of print
#4 - 1977 - out of print
#5 - 1978 - out of print
#6 - 1979 - out of print
#7 - 1980 ( )
#8 - 1981 ( )
#9 - 1982 ( )
#10 - 1983 - out of print
#11 - 1984 ( )
#12 - 1985 - out of print
#13 - 1986 ( )
#14 - 1987 ( )
#15 - 1988 ( )
#16 - 1989 ( )
#17 - 1990 ( )
#18 - 1991 ( )
#19 - 1992 ( )
#20 - 1993 ( )
#21 - 1994 ( )
#22 - 1995 ( )
#23 - 1996 ( )
#24 - 1997 ( )
#25 - 1998 ( )
#26 - 1999 ( )
#27 - 2000 ( )
#28 - 2001 ( )
#29 - 2002 ( )
#30 - 2003 ( )
#31 - 2004 ( )
#32 - 2005 ( )
#33 - 2006 ( )
#34 - 2007 ( )
#35 - 2008 ( )
#36 - 2009 ( )
#37 - 2010 ( )
#38 - 2011 ( )
#39 - 2012 ( )
#40 - 2013 ( )

Special Publications
#1 Stone Points of NW LA $4 ( )
#3 Radiocarbon Dates $4 ( )
#4 Petit Anse Project $40 ( )

Subtotal _____

Optional Tax Free Donation: Roger T. Saucier Memorial Fund _____

Send to:
Beverly Clement, LAS Treasurer
215 N. Glady's St. Apt. 416
Leesville, LA 71446
www. laarchaeologicalsociety.org

Membership,
Publications, and Donation
Total: _____
Make Checks Payable to:
Louisiana Archaeological Society

Information for Subscribers

The Newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society is published three times a year for the society. Subscription is by membership in the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS). Annual membership dues are $20 for individuals, libraries, and institutions, $5.00 for associates (relatives of individual members), and $12 for students. Life membership dues are $200 for individuals. Sustaining membership dues for individuals or institutions are $300. In addition to the newsletter, members receive on issue per year of the LAS bulletin *Louisiana Archaeology*. Membership requests, subscription dues, changes of address, and back issue orders should be directed to the Treasurer. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the editor or authors and do not necessarily reflect society policy.

If you have a regular membership to LAS, please remember to rejoin for 2018. Otherwise, this will be your last LAS newsletter!

Information for Contributors

Send all notes, news, graphics and other communication to:
Dennis Jones, LAS Editor
1801 Ormandy Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70808
archaeoman.jones@gmail.com
Articles should be submitted by email, preferably in Microsoft Word. Digital images are encouraged. Please send in TIF, JPG, or Word format. Contact editor via email with all questions.

LAS OFFICERS

President-Brian Ostahowski, New Orleans
Vice President-Jeff Girard, Shreveport
Secretary-Megan Kenney, Baton Rouge
Treasurer-Beverly Clement, Leesville
Editor-Dennis Jones, Baton Rouge
Webmaster-Paul French, Natchitoches

Editor – Louisiana Archaeological Society
1801 Ormandy Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY