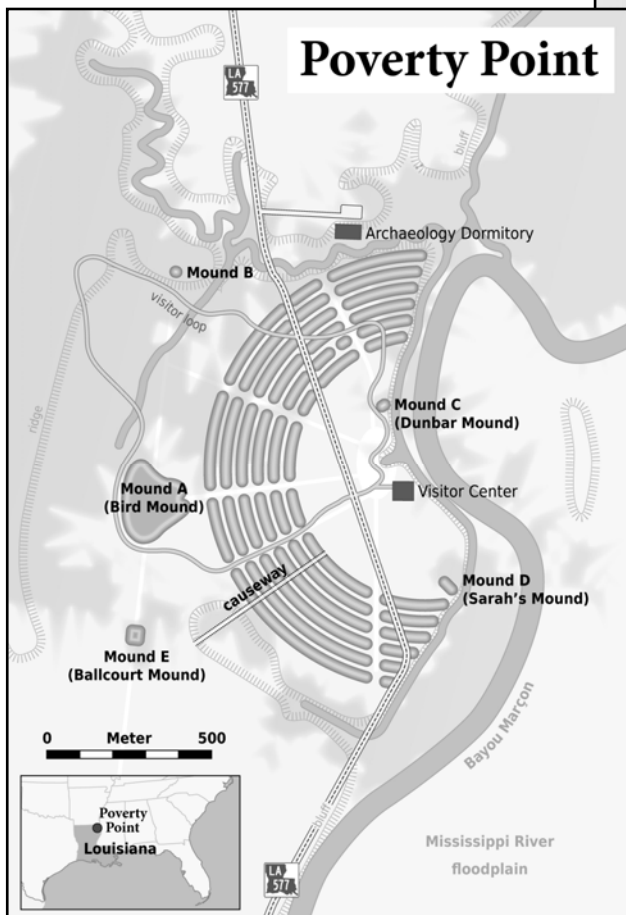




# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2014

Vol. 42, No.1



**Poverty Point Goes  
to Doha, Qatar  
June 2014  
Details on page 16**

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

**SCENES OF THE 2014 LAS ANNUAL MEETING  
NSU, NATCHITOCHESS, LA  
MARCH 7-9**



**Stairway to knowledge for attendees of the 2014 LAS annual meeting at the Friedman Student Union at NSU.**



**Rachel Watson and Julie Doucet, were there to greet attendees, take their registration, and remind them to be good listeners.**



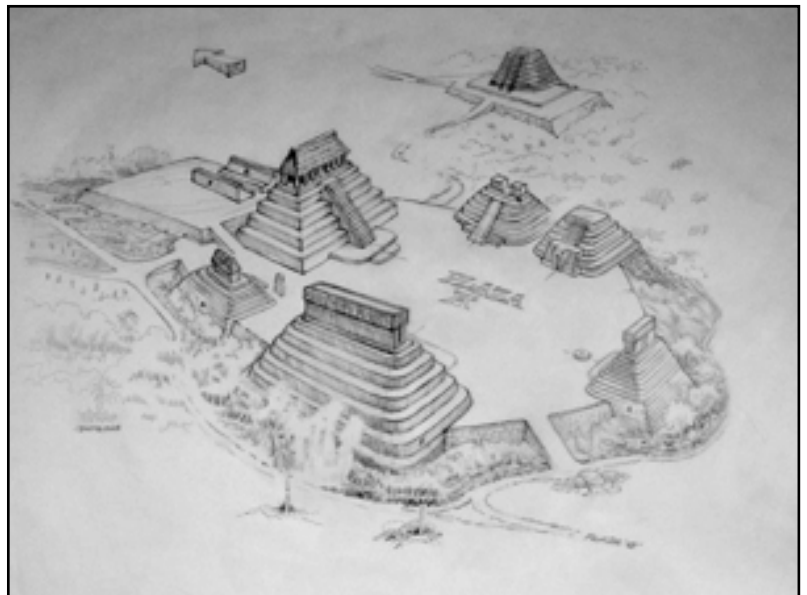
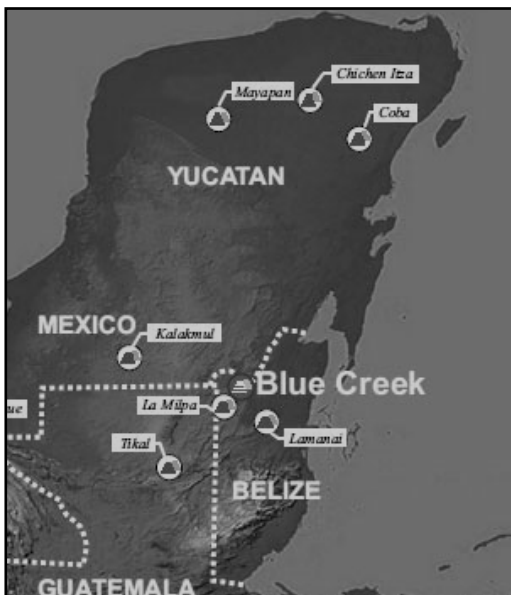
**Brad Laffitte proudly gives Dr. Pete Gregory the LAS James A. Ford Award for outstanding contributions by a professional to Louisiana archaeology. Left is an action shot that shows that Pete certainly paid his dues to get this award.**



Left: Stephanie Perrault, Jason Emery, and others happily get in line at the banquet on Saturday night. Above: the crowd of diners enjoying the fine food provided by the NSU Student Union.



Dr. Tom Guderjan, archaeologist on the faculty at the University of Texas-Tyler, making his keynote address at the banquet: *New Perspectives on Two Decades of Research and the Ancient Maya of Belize*. Below left is the location of the Blue Creek site in Belize where much of Guderjan's research occurred and below right is an artist's reconstruction of the center of the Blue Creek site during its heyday.



## LAS MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTER NEWS

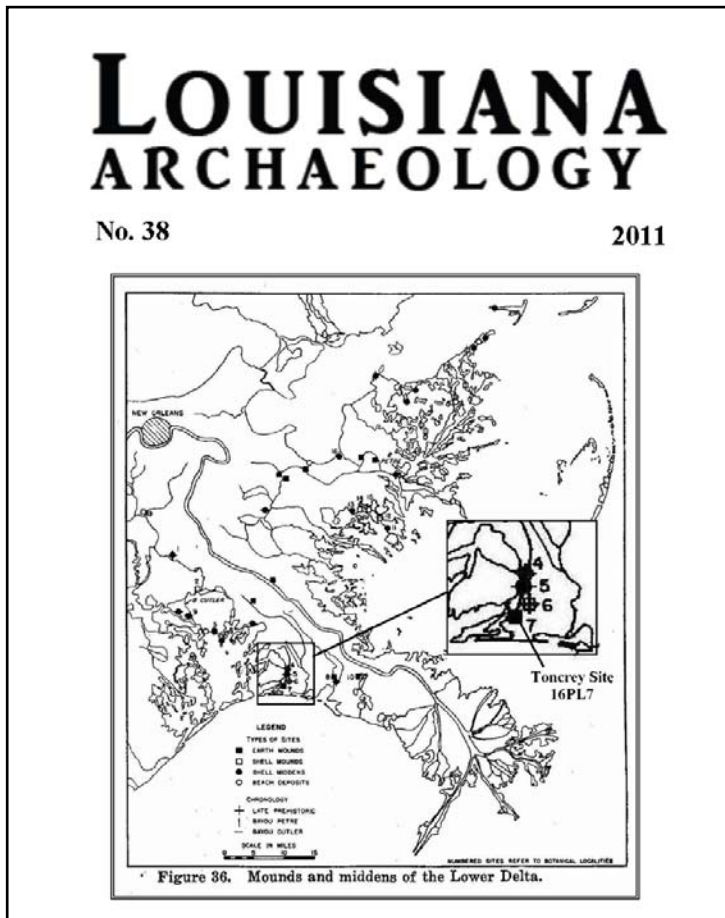
### Next LAS Bulletin Coming Soon!

The 2011 issue of Louisiana Archaeology should be available in the summer of 2014 if everything goes as planned. The first article is by Steve De Vore of the National Park Service reporting his remote sensing work at the Fort Jesup site (16SA 212) in Sabine Parish. Ft. Jesup was established by the U.S. Army in 1822 as a border post when the Sabine River served as the western border for the US. Texas was part of Mexico and then an independent republic in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Another article by Bill Romain and Norman Davis proposes that the geometry of the Poverty Point site represents a commemoration of celestial observations. They claim that this shows the importance of ancient astronomy to that site's construction and overall plan.

Two articles in this issue discuss the Toncrey site (16PL7), located on the west bank of Robinson Bayou about one mile from the Gulf of Mexico. Dennis Jones visited the Toncrey site in 2001 to update information on the site. Jones reported that coastal erosion and subsidence would soon destroy the prehistoric mounds and middens at the site.

The second article on Toncrey is an edited version of Rebecca McClain's M.A. thesis. Under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Saunders at LSU, McClain and volunteers conducted excavations on two of the mounds and performed a controlled surface collection to better date the site's occupation.



### WEST LOUISIANA CHAPTER

The West Louisiana Archaeology club recently began investigations at the Smart House Plantation in Leesville, Louisiana. The Site consists of several historic structures and a portion of surrounding grounds associated with the 19th century Smart Plantation.

The smart house was occupied and constructed by Dr. Edmund Ellison smart, son of John R. Smart, one of the earliest Anglo-American residents in the region. Dr. Smart apparently ran a dry goods store in addition to his profession as a physician. He became a state senator in 1866 for Sabine Parish, and later donated 80 acres for establishment of the parish seat and courthouse for the newly created Vernon Parish in 1871. (Girard 11/12/13)



**Members of LAS, West LA chapter take a break from screening & digging at the Smart House Plantation site.**

## Bettie Pendley, an enthusiastic archaeologist, dies at 85

NOLA.com, Feb. 21, 2014

Bettie Dinkins Stoner Pendley, an archaeologist who participated in digs around the world and used her passion for the subject to help start a citywide archaeology program in New Orleans, died Wednesday (Feb. 19) at Passages Hospice. She was 85.

"I once called Bettie the firebrand of New Orleans archaeology," University of Chicago archaeologist and anthropologist Shannon Dawdy said in presenting Ms. Pendley an award for her work. Ms. Pendley, Dawdy said, was "a human beacon who lights the way with her example, and ... a rabble-rouser who can put a fire under our butts when we need it."

A Greenwood, Miss. native who graduated from Newcomb College, Ms. Pendley became interested in archaeology when she worked as a volunteer on digs in Israel after studying a history of that region at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Ms. Pendley, who also joined excavations in Italy and Majorca, became convinced after a visit to Colonial Williamsburg, Va., that such projects could be done at home. So she worked on Native American sites around Louisiana and, in New Orleans, at sites that included the Cabildo, St. Louis Cathedral and the Hermann-Grima House.

Ms. Pendley was involved in a Warehouse District dig that turned up a 1762 indigo-plantation house, Dawdy said. Because Ms. Pendley made sure the Louisiana State Museum explored the foundation of Madame John's Legacy during a 1987 renovation, charred remains were found of the 1788 fire that destroyed most of the French Quarter.

Ms. Pendley, a charter member of the Louisiana Archaeological Society's Delta chapter, earned a master's degree at UNO. Her thesis, "A Framework for Implementing a Comprehensive Archaeological Program in New Orleans," led to the establishment of the Greater New Orleans Archaeology Program. As a result of her thesis and her enthusiasm about archaeology, Ms. Pendley worked with university developers and private sources to get money to underwrite these initiatives.



In 2009, she received the Roger T. Saucier Award from the Louisiana Archaeological Society in recognition of her work. At the presentation ceremony, Dawdy said Ms. Pendley worked "with evangelical relish (to seize) each opportunity to gain a new convert to archaeology, no matter what their walk of life. ... It is hard to say, 'No,' to Bettie's enthusiasm for archaeology."

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*Ms. Pendley, Dawdy said, was "a human beacon who lights the way with her example, and ... a rabble-rouser who can put a fire under our butts when we need it."*

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Ms. Pendley, who was an archivist and docent for 22 years at the Historic New Orleans Collection, was a former member of the boards of the Friends of the Cabildo and Save Our Cemeteries.

A former president of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, she volunteered at the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Preservation Resource Center and Longue Vue Gardens. She was a historian and curator of Le Petit Salon and a member of the Orleans Club. Survivors include her daughter, Mary Beth Pendley Ray of Washington, D.C., and two grandchildren.



**BATON ROUGE CHAPTER**- Last Wednesday of every month except November and December. Meeting held at Bluebonnet Branch of East Baton Rouge Public Library, 7 pm. Julie Doucet is chapter president.

**April 30, 2014** - Jessica Schexnayder, LSU Sea Grant, on *Mapping South Louisiana Cemeteries*

**May 28, 2014** – Megan Kenny and Barry Gordon, BA Anthropology, LSU Geography and Anthropology, Belize Field School Project

**June 25, 2014** – Margeaux Murray, BA Anthropology, LSU Geography and Anthropology, on her work at a site in Samanco, Peru, on a project funded in part by the National Geographic Society

**July 30, 2014** – Beverly Clement, MA Anthropology, LSU Geography and Anthropology, on *Early Horizon Plant Use and Diet at Caylan (Peru) as seen through the Analysis of Macrobotanical Remains and Human Feces*, Master's thesis

**August 27, 2014** – Amanda Evans, Senior Scientist at Tesla Offshore LLC, and PhD, LSU Geography and Anthropology, on *Archaeological Analysis of Submerged Sites on the Gulf of Mexico Continental Shelf* including WWII wreck sites, OCS Study BOEM 2013-011110. A. Evans, M. Keith, E. Voisin, P. Hesp, G. Cook, M., Allison, G. de Silva, E. Swanson (2013).

**THE DELTA CHAPTER**-Delta Chapter of the LAS is back! After a short hiatus, the chapter has reorganized and will be hosting an archaeological lecture series for the Greater New Orleans area. Delta meets the last Thursday of each month at 7 pm in Room # 305 in Dinwiddie Hall at Tulane University, Department of Anthropology (<http://anthropology.tulane.edu/>). Please follow our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/DeltaChapterLAS](http://www.facebook.com/DeltaChapterLAS) to see updates about upcoming lectures and archaeological events in and around New Orleans. Delta Chapter board members are:

**Brian Ostahowski**, archaeologist at HDR, Inc., President

**Nathaniel Heller**, archaeologist at Goodwin and Associates, Vice President.

**Ralph Hosch**, archaeologist at Goodwin and Associates, Secretary.

**Juana Ibanez**, archaeologist at UNO, Treasurer,.

**Courtney Cloy**, archaeologist at HDR, Inc., Board Member 3 year rotation.

**Alexandra Johnson**, archaeologist at HDR, Inc., Board Member 2 year rotation.

**Jason Emery**, FEMA Lead Archaeologist. Board Member 1 year rotation.

**Jayur Mehta**, archaeologist at Tulane University, LAS Representative.

**Andrea White**, SHPO, Newsletter/Outreach.



If you were a Regular Member of LAS in 2013, but have not yet renewed your membership for 2014, **this will be the last LAS newsletter you receive.** According to Julie Doucet, LAS Treasurer, there are 57 of you out there. Membership is still only \$20/year, so don't delay and renew today. Go to [www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org) and use PayPal.



## Comparing Ourselves to Other Archaeological Societies in the Southeast

By Brad Laffitte, LAS President

The idea of “collective intelligence” is very apparent in archaeology as we often have to consult with other archaeological specialists to identify artifacts and conduct special analyses. This same concept can be applied to archaeological organizations. Many state archaeological societies have good ideas and I believe it is important to look at other societies in the Southeast to gather ideas and make the LAS a stronger organization. Therefore, I looked at websites of archaeological societies throughout the Southeast and compared services offered to the membership fees. An overview of this compare and contrast effort can be found in the table below.

Organization	Fees/ year	Bulletin/ Newsletter	Grants/Scholarships	Training/Field School
LAS	\$20	Yes	No	No
Texas Archaeological Society	\$60	Yes	Yes, grants and scholarships	Yes, field school provided
Mississippi Archaeological Association	\$15	Yes	Not apparent on website	Volunteer digs take place
Alabama Archaeological Society	\$25	Yes	Yes, 3 types (Research \$1000 /yr; Public Ed \$500/yr; Scholarships up to two \$500/yr)	Not apparent on website
Georgia Archaeological Society	\$25	Yes	Not apparent on website	Not apparent on website
Florida Anthropological Society	\$30	Yes	Not apparent on website	Not apparent on website
Arkansas Archaeological Society	\$25	Yes	Yes, research funds generated through silent auction and raffle at annual meeting	Members can participate in an archaeological training and certification program (assisted by Arkansas Archaeological Survey)
Missouri Archaeological Society	\$25	Yes	Yes, \$1000 in scholarships/yr	Not apparent on website
Oklahoma Archaeological Society	\$20	Yes	Not apparent on website	Certification program: series of seminars, workshops, and “real-world” experiences with professionals
South Carolina Archaeological Society	\$20	Yes	Yes, up to \$1000 provided by donors such as Diachronic Research Foundation, AF Consultants, New South Associates, and Council of S.C. Professional Archaeologists	Field school provided
North Carolina Archaeological Society	\$15	Yes	Yes (\$500 grants every year)	Not apparent on website

## Donation Money from the Texas Friends of Passport in Time (PIT)

By Brad Laffitte, LAS President

LAS recently received a generous donation in the amount of \$9,580.78 from the Texas Friends of Passport in Time (PIT) in honor of Roger Bergstrom and Jackye Plummer. The donation was received with “no strings attached”, but since it was connected to the betterment of amateur archaeology, the LAS Executive Committee felt it best to spend the money in a way that involves amateur archaeologists. Therefore, we have developed several options. Please review them thoroughly and consider offering ideas of your own. We plan on setting up a survey for the membership on this topic so the Executive Committee can make a better informed decision. By all means, relay any of your ideas to any member of the LAS Executive Committee.

### Option 1: LAS Outreach Initiative

This option would allow the money to be spent on a booklet published with the LAS logo located on the front cover. The booklet would provide an overview of why archaeology is important and attempt to connect to individuals with varying interests within the state. The booklet might include images of timber industry-related artifacts, food vessels, prehistoric fish hooks, and other objects in an attempt to garner interest amongst readers. These pictures would be placed within the context of archaeology and the contributions it makes.

In addition to highlighting the importance of archaeology, the booklet will talk about what happens to site forms and why they are important. There will also be an overview of cooperation between landowners and the state in an attempt to dispel fears and rumors about submitting data to the government.

I am currently working on this myself at no charge to the LAS. Therefore, this booklet can be completed and dispersed digitally at no cost. However, printing the booklet and mailing it to libraries throughout the state and other high traffic venues will ensure greater visibility locally among school children, parents, and other interested individuals. Ensuring the greatest visibility throughout the state will incur printing and mailing costs, but the exposure will likely pay off in the long run. The booklet may also help increase LAS membership.

### Option 2: Field School/Contract Archaeological Project

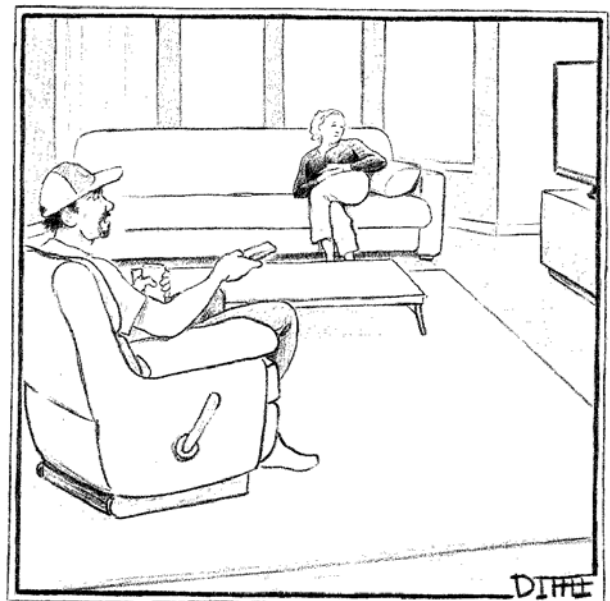
This option would involve the implementation of a LAS Field School at the Lake St. Agnes Site in Avoyelles Parish. Although associated with LAS, working with a contract company will better ensure that

a report and curation work are completed. The main “con” is that all the money is used in one place and at one time. However, the idea of a LAS Field School is a worthy one and I hope it is feasible to set up such a regular field school every few years. The main “pro” of this option is that LAS is giving something back to the membership and training amateur archaeologists associated with LAS in excavation techniques, GPS use, soil profiles, and other skills.

### Option 3: PROVIDE GRANT FUNDS

This option would result in the creation of a Grant Review Committee of at least two members of the LAS Executive Committee and one professional archaeologist. This committee would present their recommendation for grant awards to the entire LAS Executive Committee for a vote to release the funds. The money could be granted to one entity or multiple parties based on the perceived importance of the project(s) to Louisiana Archaeology. A stipulation in receiving the grant monies would be that amateur archaeologists be involved in some way.

Implementing this option would allow the money to be used to support graduate students, radiocarbon dating, studies of old collections, and other projects. The option provides more flexibility in distributing the money and has the potential to spread the money throughout the state. This may also help kick-start the idea of an annual grant program discussed in the article above.



**You wanna watch the Hunting Channel or the Gathering Network?**

## RESEARCH NEWS

**Unkempt Cemeteries on the Kisatchie Ranger District, Natchitoches Parish**

By Geoffrey R. Lehmann, Kisatchie Ranger District [glehmann@fs.fed.us](mailto:glehmann@fs.fed.us)

Among the known cemeteries on Federal property within the Kisatchie Ranger District (KRD), four are not maintained by area residents and descendants. These are the Airhart (16NA95), Hawkins (16NA96), Sanders (16NA98) and Tarver (16NA47) cemeteries. These have been protected from impact, but have not been kept clean. Records for these cemeteries date to the 1980's.

The Sanders Grave was revisited and records for it were updated in 2012 as part of a proposed reroute of the Caroline Dormon Trail (see LAS Newsletter 40(2):14-15). The remote grave can be accessed by a spur off of the main trail, and when funds are available, it will be fenced.

Over the weekend of 28 February through 2 March 2014, the Airhart, Hawkins and Tarver cemeteries were revisited by volunteers Natasha Overell and Christian Sheumaker. Natasha is a 2013 ULL graduate and Christian is a current ULL student. Both had worked with me during the 2013 summer field season. They requested an opportunity for additional fieldwork with an emphasis on using GPS equipment. As someone who achieved maturity prior to the widespread adoption of the VCR, I assured them that if I could use GPS equipment that they would have no problem. We decided that updating the records of these cemeteries would satisfy their interests and meet a District need as well.

Prior to their visit, all three cemeteries were subjected to a controlled burn to reduce downed vegetation and leaf litter/pine needles. Tombstones were cleared prior to the burn to eliminate direct flame damage. The Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office Detention Center crew under Deputy Derrick Booker and KRD recreation technician Harold Braden spent several hours clearing heavy brush from the Airhart Cemetery. Deputy Booker's crew often provides skilled and manual labor to conduct District operations. Further removal of leaf litter and pine needles at the time of our visit was accomplished with a backpack style leaf blower.

For all three cemeteries, GPS points and photographs were taken of all headstones and footstones. The perimeters were GPS recorded, and sketch maps were drawn. For the Airhart Cemetery, previous investigations provided locations not

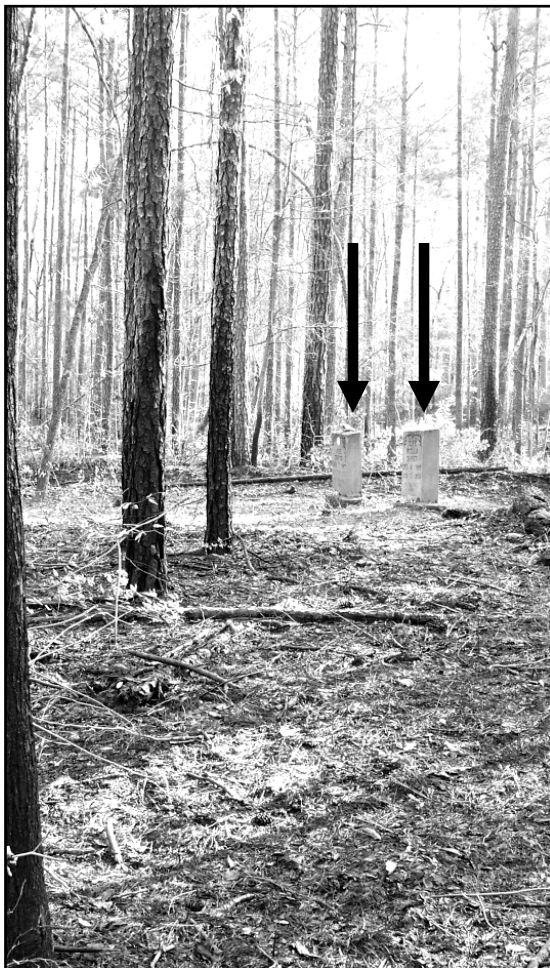
congruent with our own, and we tracked down these errant coordinates to ensure there was not more than one cemetery.

For the Hawkins Cemetery, hand-inscribed Catahoula Formation sandstone tombstones were difficult to read and we made rubbings to aid our interpretation (crayons worked better than charcoal for us). This same technique was useful on a hand-inscribed concrete memorial at the Tarver Cemetery. For all of these, photographs could sometimes provide surprisingly clear views of writing we could not otherwise decipher.

The Airhart Cemetery contains 4 marked graves, including that of Alexander Airhart, 1821-1900; Narcissus M. Airhart, ca. 1833-1923; and two Catahoula formation headstones inscribed with "A." Natasha and Christian are preparing site update forms and LACADs for submission to the Division of Archaeology. The KRD has plans to purchase fencing to enclose these cemeteries and regularly maintain them. Last year the KRD signed all the cemeteries lacking them, and produced a map indicating all cemetery locations. We receive more public inquiries about cemeteries than any other "heritage" topic, so we are devoting more attention to them. Thanks to Natasha Overell and Christian Sheumaker for volunteering your time and effort as well as for providing the impetus for the KRD to address the care these resources need.



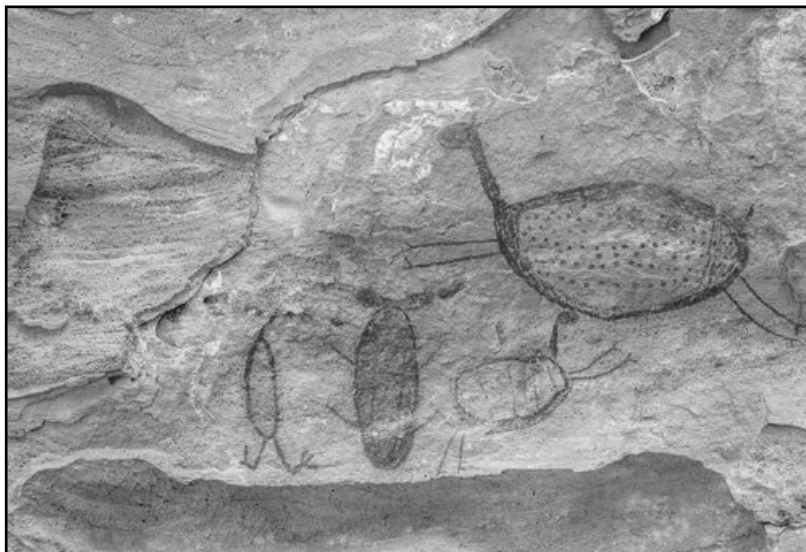
**Christian Sheumaker prepares a sketch map of the Airhart Cemetery (16NA95) during a project to conduct site updates on cemeteries in Kisatchie Ranger District in Kisatchie National Forest.**



**Above:** The Hawkins Cemetery contains 3 marked graves, including that of B. Hawkins, 1837-1860; R. Bishop 1816-1861; and E. A. Greer, 1839-1859. There are 2 other slabs of Catahoula formation stone, one plain and one yielding the disappointing transcription of "DAN 81". **Left:** The Tarver cemetery contains 3 marked graves, including that of Jobe Tarver, 1857-1933; Olive Rozilla Tarver, 1866-1899; and Callie Addison Edwards, 1862-1899.

*Editor's note: While it is obvious this story does not directly concern Louisiana, its analysis of the various scenarios proposed about the arrival of humans in the Western Hemisphere ultimately impacts interpretations about the appearance of people in the Bayou State.*

## Humans' First Appearance in the Americas



Hidden in the rock shelters near where the tools were found, paintings number in the thousands. Some are thought to be more than 9,000 years old and perhaps even far more ancient. Painted in red ochre, they rank among the most revealing testaments anywhere in the Americas to what life was like millennia before the European conquest began a mere five centuries ago. Photo by Daniel Berehulak for The New York Times. Check out the complete article at [www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/)

**By Simon Romero, New York Times, March 27, 2013 Serra Da Capivara Nation Park, Brazil**

In Piauí, Brazil, archaeologists say stone tools prove that humans reached what is now Brazil as early as 22,000 years ago, upending a belief that people first arrived about 13,000 years ago.

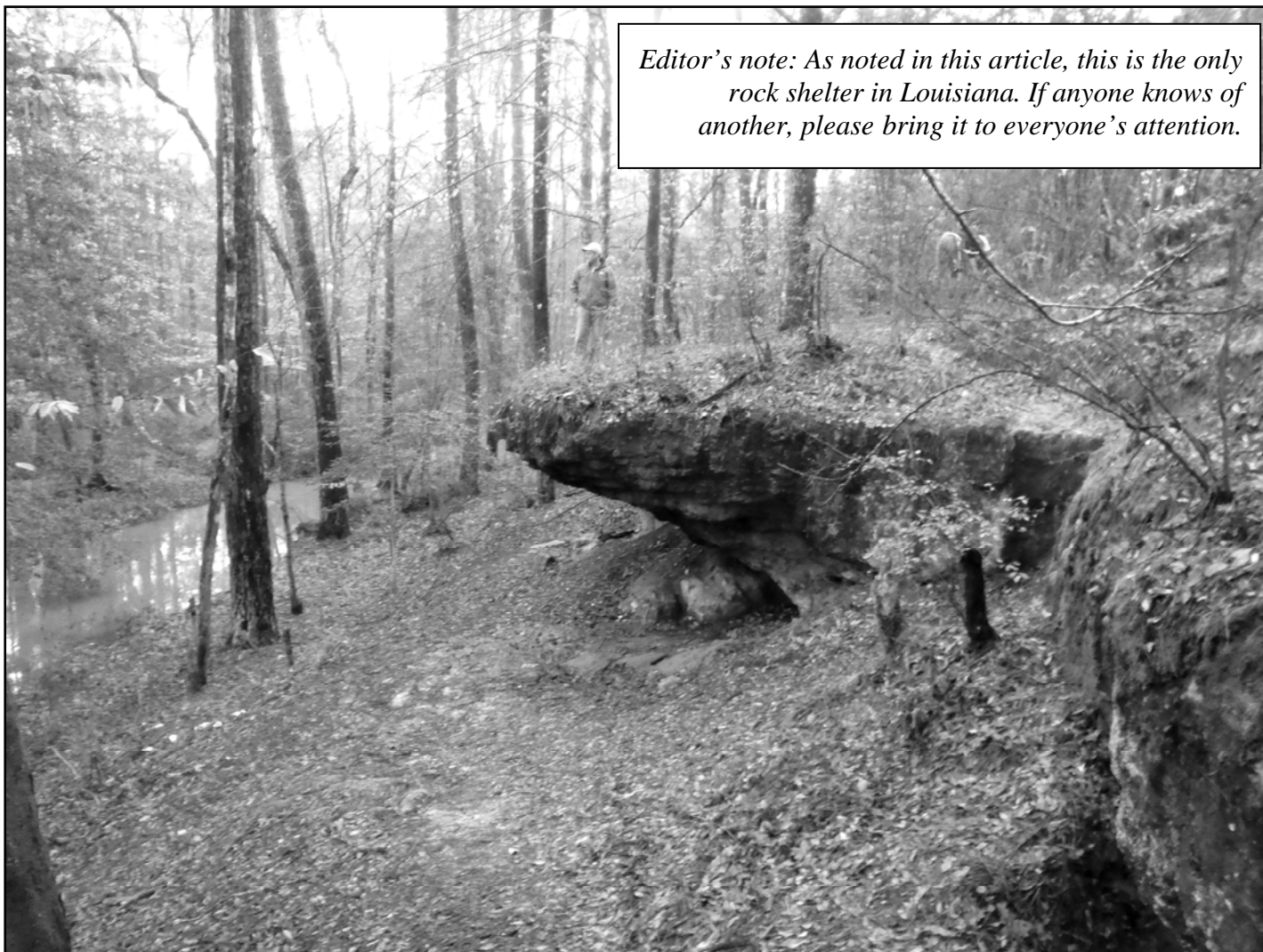
Researchers here say they have unearthed stone tools proving that humans reached what is now northeast Brazil as early as 22,000 years ago. Their discovery adds to the growing body of research upending a prevailing belief of 20th-century archaeology in the United States known as the Clovis model, which holds that people first arrived in the Americas from Asia about 13,000 years ago.

“If they’re right, and there’s a great possibility that they are, that will change everything we know about the settlement of the Americas,” said Walter Neves, an evolutionary anthropologist at the University of São Paulo whose own analysis of an 11,000-year-old skull in Brazil implies that some ancient Americans resembled aboriginal Australians more than they did Asians.

Up and down the Americas, scholars say that the peopling of lands empty of humankind may have been far more complex than long believed. The radiocarbon dating of spear points found in the 1920s near Clovis, N.M., placed the arrival of big-game hunters across the Bering Strait about 13,000 years ago, long forming the basis of when humans were believed to have arrived in the Americas.

More recently, numerous findings have challenged that narrative. In Texas, archaeologists said in 2011 that they had found projectile points showing that hunter-gatherers had reached another site, known as Buttermilk Creek, as early as 15,500 years ago. Similarly, analysis of human DNA found at an Oregon cave determined that humans were there 14,000 years ago.

But it is in South America, thousands of miles from the New Mexico site where the Clovis spear points were discovered, where archaeologists are putting forward some of the most profound challenges to the Clovis-first theory.



*Editor's note: As noted in this article, this is the only rock shelter in Louisiana. If anyone knows of another, please bring it to everyone's attention.*

**The Wolf Rock site, view east, with Bundick Creek on the left.**

### **Wolf Rock site (16VN1610) Testing**

By C Andrew Buchner

Panamerican Consultants, Inc.

The Wolf Rock site (16VN1610) is an extensive lithic scatter that is unique for being located around two small rock overhangs overlooking Bundick Creek in the Limited Use Area of Fort Polk (part of the Kisatchie National Forest, Calcasieu Ranger District). Anderson and Smith (2003:102) note that this is the only known rock shelter in Louisiana, and as such it is a significant site.

Forest Service archaeologist Geoffrey Lehmann initially recorded the Wolf Rock site in 1995, and characterized it as a 30-x-60 m lithic scatter around a pair of rock overhangs overlooking Bundick Creek (Lehmann 1995). Panamerican Consultants, Inc. revisited the site during a 2003 survey under contract with the National Park Service (NPS), and greatly expanded the site boundaries to 460-x-580 m (Saatkamp et al. 2004:409-423). During the Panamerican survey 1,144 lithic artifacts, principally debitage, were recovered from 182 positive shovel tests. Importantly, a Delhi point was recovered from one shovel test (some distance from the rock shelter); thus the site has a Late Archaic Leander phase (2500-1000 BC) component.

**Continued from previous page**

In February 2014, the Wolf Rock shelter was tested for NRHP eligibility. This investigation was conducted as a part of a multi-site testing program administered by the NPS. Work conducted at the Wolf Rock site included the excavation of eight 1-x-1 m test units, including two units within the rock overhangs. Unfortunately intact deposits were not identified within the rock overhang area, but this portion of the site will likely be recommended as eligible due to its uniqueness. Data analysis is on-going and a full report on the Wolf Rock site testing is under preparation.

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2003 *Archaeology, History, and Predictive Modeling: Research at Fort Polk, 1972-2002*. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa

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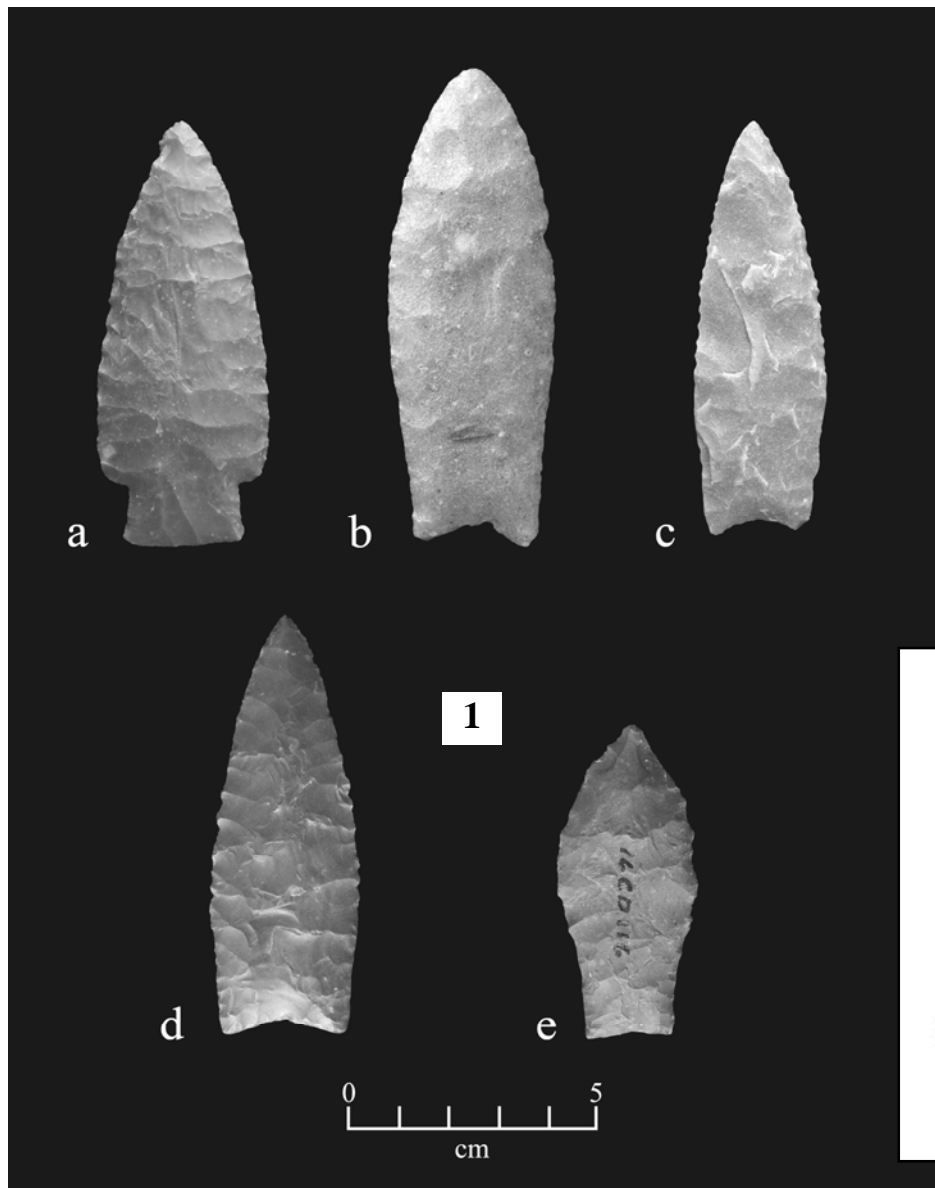
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Saatkamp, Andrew, C. Andrew Buchner, and N.C. Kaplan

2004 *The Last Survey: A Cultural Resource Survey of 3,682 Acres on the Fort Polk Limited Use Area (Kisatchie National Forest), Vernon Parish, Louisiana*. Panamerican Consultants, Inc. Report No. 22228. Final report submitted to the National Park Service, Southeastern Region.



**National Parks Service Archaeologist, Jeffrey H. Shanks inside the Wolf Rock site.**



**Figure 1. Paleolithic projectile points from northwest Louisiana: a) Scottsbluff, 16WE106; b) Clovis, 16WE136; c) Lanceolate, 16WE135; d) Dalton, 16CD120; and e) Thrall, 16CD116.**

**Figure 2. Possible Paleolithic perforator or graver recovered from Site 16WE135. Note the similarity in shape and size to the obsidian tool recently reported in LAS Bulletin 37 for 2010. This tool, however, is made from chert.**



## At Last, Paleolithic Artifacts Abound

By Charlotte D. Pevny - R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc.

Thanks to the persistence and perseverance of LAS member David Jeane, we have access to nearly 90 Paleolithic and Early Archaic points and other tools from 28 sites in Bossier, Caddo and Webster Parishes! Analysis of these materials, conducted by Charlotte Pevny and Emily Meaden of R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, is underway and includes point types usually found in Louisiana, as well as types more common to neighboring states like Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Point types identified so far include Clovis, Plainview, Dalton, San Patrice (a number of varieties), Pelican, Thrall, and Early Side-notched. A number of Albany scrapers (and a possible Albany scraper preform) also have been identified, as well as Dalton and Side-notched points recycled into drills and scrapers. These artifacts are made from a variety of local and nonlocal lithic raw materials.



**Friends of Poverty Point Hold Events to Celebrate the Spring Equinox**

The twice yearly activities at the Poverty Point happened most recently March 21-23, 2014. Thirty one people attended, with a large contingent of students from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

The people who attended screened the fill excavated from the rootball of a fallen tree, as well as cleaned portions of Northeast Ridges (see the bottom two photos). The keynote speaker was Mark Richard who provided information about the instances of solstice and equinox alignments of prehistoric mound sites in northeast Louisiana.

An atlatl throwing contest was held (note the form in the upper photo) and the winners were Christian Sheumaker and Justin Knight. They are shown below delighting in the rewards (Poverty Point T-shirts) for their athletic prowess.



## Upcoming Vote for the Poverty Point

The 38th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (15 - 25 June, 2014) will be held at the Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha, State of Qatar. The Committee's task is to highlight the world's most outstanding cultural and natural properties by inscribing important sites onto the World Heritage List. Since the Lists inception in 1978, all 981 properties from 160 countries are deemed to have universal value and are worthy of human appreciation and stewardship. Iconic cultural and natural locations like Stonehenge, Macchu Picchu, the Pyramids of Giza, the Great Barrier Reef, and Yosemite National Park are on the World Heritage List.

As most LAS members know, the U.S. Government nominated the Poverty Point site in West Carroll Parish to be added to the List. Many people have worked hard over recent years to bring the site this far. Dr. Diana Greenlee, the Station Archaeologist at Poverty Point site will be attending the meeting to further support the site's nomination, as will three members of the National Park Service Office of International Affairs. Other officials from Louisiana may attend as well.

There are four possible outcomes from this meeting: 1) inscribe the Poverty Point site to the World Heritage List, 2) refer the nomination for additional information and resubmission, 3) defer the nomination for more study or revision, or 4) decline to inscribe the site. Keep your fingers crossed!



**Photograph of Downtown Doha, Qatar, which is a long way from Epps, LA.  
Average high temperature for June is 106<sup>0</sup> F.**

## LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

### Archaeologists Search Bayou Teche for Early Acadian Roots

By Richard Burgess [rburgess@theadvocate.com](mailto:rburgess@theadvocate.com)  
Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, Jan. 02, 2014

LAFAYETTE — Fieldwork could begin as early as June on an archaeology project to find some of the earliest settlements of the Acadian exiles who made their way to Louisiana.

The current focus is along Bayou Teche near Loreauville in Iberia Parish, where Cajun folk hero Joseph “Beausoleil” Broussard helped lead a group in 1765 after unsuccessfully battling British efforts to remove the French Acadians from what is now Nova Scotia.

More than 30 of them died within months of their arrival, likely from disease, leaving few clues about where or how they lived or even where they were buried. “Very little is known about them. We don’t know what kind of material culture they brought with them,” said Mark Rees, a University of Louisiana at Lafayette archaeologist and anthropologist.

A fundraising effort began this year to raise money for the research effort, dubbed The New Acadia Project.

The project got a boost this month with a \$25,000 donation from the Gustaf Westfeldt McIlhenny Family Foundation of New Orleans, which comes on top of about \$10,000 in other donations, said Cheryl Broussard Perret, a descendant of the early Broussard settlers who is helping to seek private funds for the research.

She said the goal is to raise at least \$90,000 through donations — money that could be used to match additional funding being sought from other sources, including a request for \$290,000 from the Louisiana Board of Regents.

While the fundraising continues, Rees said preparations are being made for preliminary archaeology work in June. “We have identified several places of interest. We have some leads,” he said. The work planned for this summer is digging at promising sites to see if any objects can be found from the time period when the early Acadians arrived, such as bits of pottery or other ceramic items, Rees said.

Researchers might also use ground-penetrating radar and other sensing techniques to look for changes in the soil that might indicate an old chimney, a fire pit, post holes or a grave — indications of a settlement.

Rees said similar archaeology work has already been done on Acadian settlements in other areas, notably Nova Scotia and states along the eastern seaboard where some Acadians settled. “A lot of research has been done on Acadians in other areas,” he said. “We haven’t done much here, but we are hoping to change that.”

Perret said the long-term goal, assuming the early settlements can be found, is to capitalize on the historical significance of the sites to boost cultural tourism in an area of the state where Cajun culture is already a big draw. “This will be an asset to Acadiana,” she said. For more information on the project, visit [www.AcadianMuseum.com/NewAcadiaProject.html](http://www.AcadianMuseum.com/NewAcadiaProject.html)



Advocate map

*Location of Loreauville on Bayou Teche in Iberia Parish. Graphic from Baton Rouge Morning Advocate.*

## Gibson Remains Reburial Imminent

By John DeSantis, Senior Staff Writer,  
September 17, 2013, HoumaToday.com

Human remains believed to be those of Chitimacha people, possibly pre-dating European contact in North America, found inside a Terrebonne Parish home four years ago will be re-buried on the property they were removed from, a tribal spokeswoman confirms.

“The Chitimacha have been consulting with the state over that site,” said Kim Walden, the tribe’s cultural director and tribal historic preservation officer, based in Charenton. “That area is within the Chitimacha aboriginal lands.”

The Archaeological Conservancy, a national organization that preserves historic sites, has purchased the property from its owner. Work on demolition, a painstaking task being done by hand, has already begun. The reburial of bones on the property could take place before the end of this year; when that happens, the Chitimacha will employ traditional customs consistent with the culture of the people at that time.

A total of 157 human bones and fragments were found inside a box in an ersatz basement built into the side of a mound on the private lot in Gibson by a real estate agent showing the adjoining house in November 2009. Animal bones were also found, but were separated by scientists from the human remains. Suspecting that the human bones could be Native American, scientists at the Louisiana Division of Archeology limited their testing to what are called non-invasive procedures, leaving them intact. But state archaeologist Chip McGimsey said a report that followed, based on what tests could be performed as well as comparisons with pottery from the site, indicated they could be as much as 700 years old.

The bones are those of at least four individuals, likely three or more adults and at least one child, according to a state archaeological report. “The site is likely to yield significant data concerning the pre-colonial history of southeast Louisiana,” state regional archaeologist Rob Mann reported to the Louisiana Archaeological Society in their newsletter. “It contains intact stratified deposits, well preserved ... remains, intact features and burials that may provide information about chronology, subsistence, settlement and trade.”

Jessica Crawford, southeast regional director of the Archeological Conservancy, said the Gibson site is important from a cultural and historic point of view.



**Pictured is a mannequin of a Chitimacha tribesman dating back nearly 700 years. Archeologists say the human bones found in Gibson are consistent with this tribesman.**

“That site is extremely significant because there are not a lot of mounds remaining in that area,” she said. “The preservation appears to be quite good. All of these sites have their own page of history to write.”

The history of the Chitimacha, like that of so many other native peoples in the Americas, is filled with tales of difficulty posed by contact with Europeans. A war with French settlers raged across the Gulf Coast and surrounding areas for 12 years. Some Chitimacha people were taken prisoner and brought to France as slaves, according to official tribal histories.

“Others were brought to French forts in Natchitoches and other places,” said Walden. The Chitimacha are believed to have settled in the Bayou Region of Louisiana around 500 AD and possibly well before that, perhaps even more than 1,000 years ago. They are believed to have lived in villages built of cane, wood and palmetto leaves or branches, according to a state historic report.

**Continued from previous page**

They hunted and fished – with a diet heavily comprised of shellfish – but also raised corn. Chitimacha settlements were common in prehistory along the Bayou Teche, a waterway that plays a significant role in the legends of the people.

There is evidence that the Chitimacha had distinctive music, employing leg-rattles made of turtle shells, as well as drums made of deer hide. There were gourd rattles and also rub-boards – not unlike the current washboard-style zydeco – made of alligator hide.

The Chitimacha were not close to the Houma and other local tribes; the Houma, with close ties to the French, are believed to have provided information on the whereabouts of fleeing Chitimacha to the French, Walden said.

The Chitimacha are one of four federally recognized tribes in Louisiana. The others are the Coushatta, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians and the Tunica-Biloxi.

For Chitimacha people, the ordeal of bones disinterred over time, kept in a box in a dank cellar and then subjected to travel for inventorying and examination is a difficult pill.

The significance of the find is more than mere archeology or science; it is deeply involved with ancestral ties. “The discovery and opportunity to rebury these remains is not strange to the Chitimacha,” Walden said. “It has happened on a number of occasions. Our main goal is to return our ancestors to the place where they were buried, which should have been their final resting place. When people are removed from the ground our goal is to treat them with the respect they deserve as human beings. These people are people, they are not just bones.”



**The Louisiana Department of Justice  
Seeks a Research Associate  
Baton Rouge, LA**



The Louisiana Department of Justice, Civil Division, is looking to fill a full-time permanent position to begin in August 2014 for a research associate in archaeology and physical anthropology. The candidate would be responsible for conducting bioarchaeological skeletal analyses of seized (non-forensic) human remains, documentary research on historical topics relevant to property ownership, and field investigations of allegations of cemetery desecration. Original research in bioarchaeology, archaeology, and history is encouraged. Candidates must have (by the time of hire) an M.A. in anthropology with a focus on physical anthropology or archaeology and a working knowledge of bioarchaeology and forensic anthropology methods and principles.

Submit a letter of interest, resume, and at least three references when applying. All applications and inquiries should be directed to (e-mail preferred):

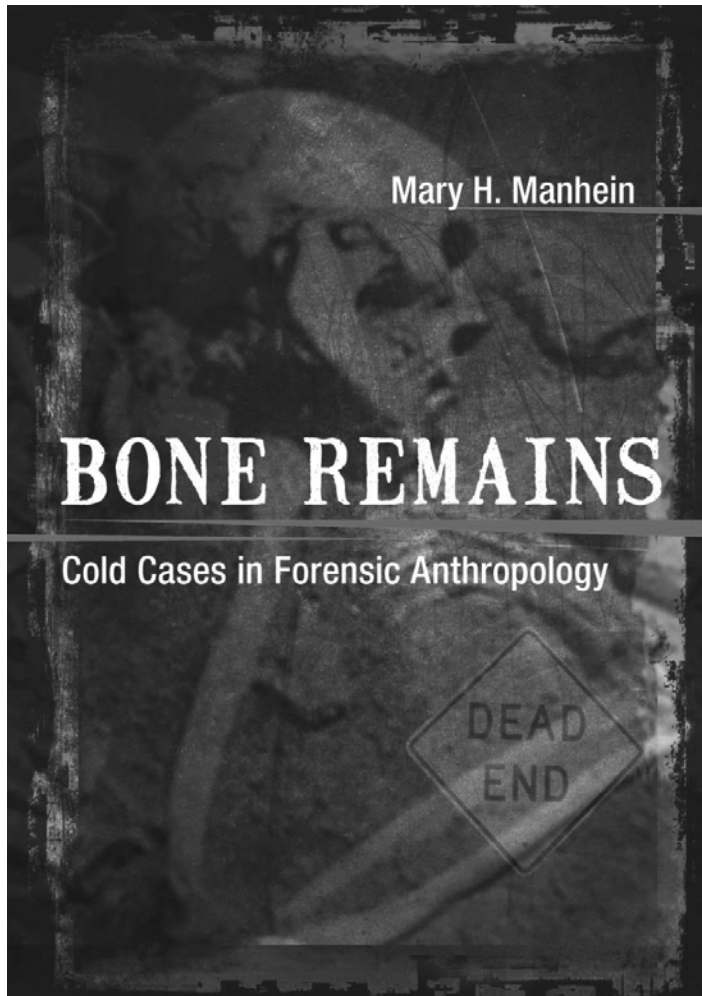
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## BOOKS OF INTEREST FOR LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGISTS

### *Bone Remains: Cold Cases in Forensic Anthropology*

by Mary Manhein

LSU Press, [www.lsupress.org](http://www.lsupress.org)



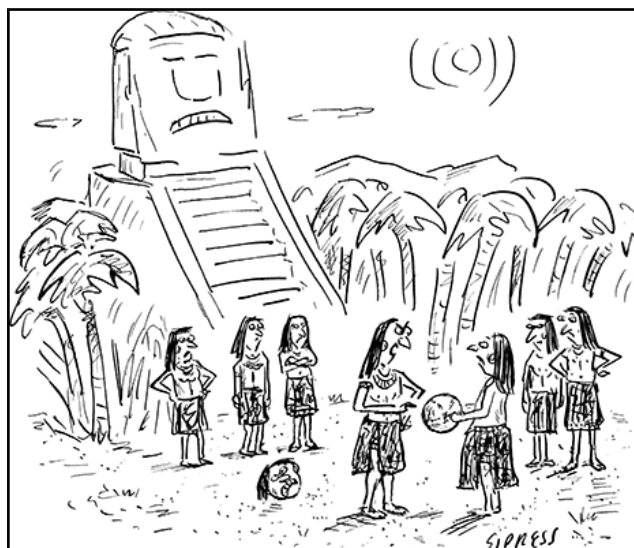
Over the past thirty years, forensic anthropologist Mary H. Manhein has helped authorities to identify hundreds of deceased persons throughout Louisiana and beyond. In *Bone Remains*, she offers details of fifteen riveting cases from her files—many of them involving facial reconstructions where only bones offered clues to an individual's story.

Manhein takes readers into the field, inside her lab, and through DNA databases and government bureaucracies as she and her team tirelessly work to identify and seek justice for those who can no longer speak for themselves. From a two-thousand-year-old mummy, to Civil War sailors, to graves disturbed by Hurricane Isaac, Manhein presents both modern and historic cases. Her conversational accounts provide a fascinating look into the stories behind the headlines as well as sometimes heart-wrenching details of people lost and found.

Manhein shows how each case came to her team, how they used scientific analysis to unravel the secrets the bones had to tell, and how facial reconstructions and a special database for missing and unidentified people assisted in closing cold cases long believed to be unsolvable. She also discusses several unsolved mysteries, further reflecting the determination and passion central to her career for over three decades.

Mary H. Manhein is the author of *The Bone Lady: Life as a Forensic Anthropologist*; *Trail of Bones: More Cases from the Files of a Forensic Anthropologist*; and the mystery novel *Floating Souls: The Canal Murders*. She is director of the Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services (FACES) Laboratory at Louisiana State University.

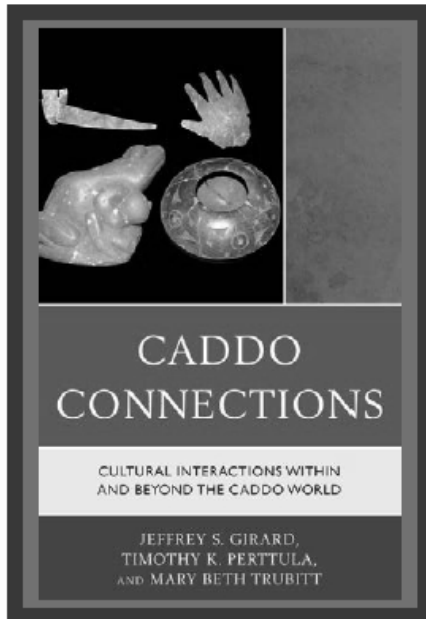
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## CADDO CONNECTIONS: Cultural Interactions within and Beyond the Caddo World



BY JEFFREY S. GIRARD,  
TIMOTHY K. PERTTULA,  
AND MARY BETH TRUBITT

Drawing on the latest archaeological fieldwork, *Caddo Connections* looks at the highly dynamic cultural landscape of the Caddo Area and its complex interconnections and exchanges with surrounding regions.

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### PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

*"This book will be an essential reference for North American archeologists for many years to come. The authors bring together old and new research from throughout the Caddo area to explore what makes this region distinct from the greater Southeast while also highlighting the history of intra-regional diversity from the 11<sup>th</sup> century appearance of the Caddo tradition to the 19<sup>th</sup> century consolidation of a scattered people into the modern Caddo Nation. Throughout, they consider the evidence for Caddo relationships with people elsewhere in North America, thereby situating Caddo studies in the mainstream of North American archeology. An extensive and up to date bibliography is a welcome bonus."* —Ann M. Early, Arkansas Archeological Survey

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Jeffrey S. Girard** is a regional archaeologist for the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and assistant professor at Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

**Timothy K. Perttula** is the owner and cultural resources director of Archaeological & Environmental Consultants, LLC, a Texas-based cultural resource management firm established in 1996.

**Mary Beth Trubitt** is an archaeologist for the Arkansas Archeological Survey and research professor of anthropology at University of Arkansas.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT AND INVITATION TO AUTHORS

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