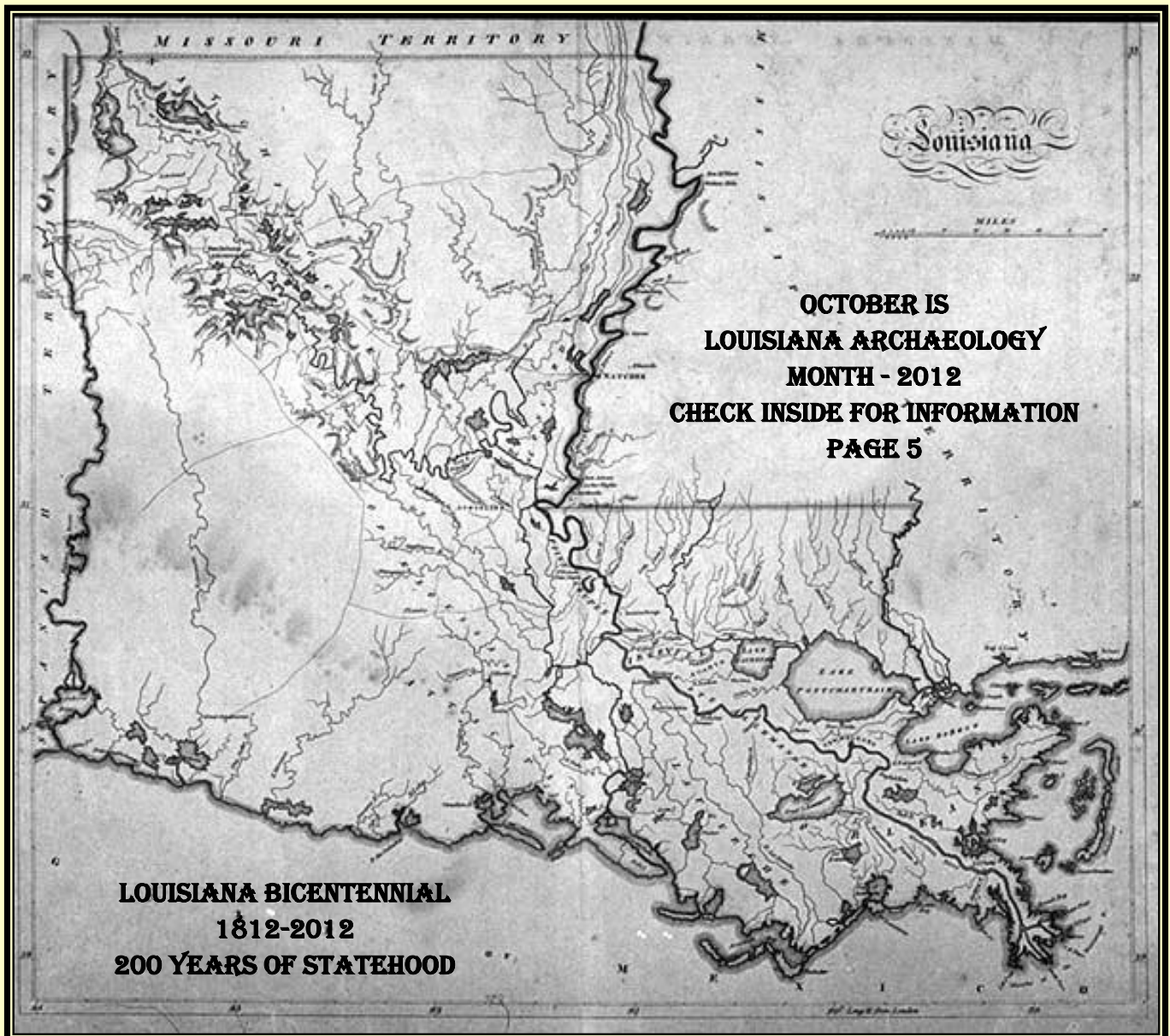




# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2012

Vol. 40, No. 2



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### LAFAYETTE TO BE SITE OF 2013 LAS ANNUAL MEETING

The last issue of the LAS newsletter reported that the 2013 LAS annual meeting would be in Shreveport and would be a joint meeting with the East Texas Archaeological Society. Those plans have changed. The 2013 annual meeting of the LAS will be in Lafayette, La. The dates are February 22-24, 2012, well after Mardi Gras. Mark Rees of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette will be the program chair. Check the LAS website, Facebook page, or the next newsletter for updates and details.

### BATON ROUGE CHAPTER NEWS

The Baton Rouge Chapter of LAS meets the last Wednesday of every month except November & December at the Bluebonnet Branch of the E. Baton Rouge Public Library at 7 pm. Chapter President, Rob Mann, reports that the program so far for 2012 has been:

**January**-Malcolm Shuman - 16ST48: New Information on the Tchefuncte-Marksville Transition.

**February**-Annual LAS meeting in Baton Rouge, no chapter meeting

**March**-Elizabeth Kelley-Adena Smoking Pipes from the Ohio River Valley

**April**-Ryan Seidemann- The Law of Cemeteries and Human Remains in Louisiana

**May**-Andrea White- Recent Archeological Research in the New Orleans French Quarter

**June**-Norm Davis –Archaeoastronomy at Poverty Point

**July**-Nathanael Heller- Three Important Swift Creek Sites in the Panhandle of Florida

**August**-Thurston Hahn- Archaeological and Historical Wanderings, Bordeaux, France

### CENTRAL LOUISIANA (ALEXANDRIA) CHAPTER NEWS

Officers: Nancy Affeltranger-President, Tommy Delrie-Vice President, Charles Affeltranger-Treasurer, Kathleen Adams-Secretary

The chapter meets the second Thursday of the month at Ball Municipal Building on Hwy. 165 north of Ball La. at 7 pm. We have had a variety of interesting speakers. Recent meetings in 2012 have included:

**April** -Jeff Gerard discussed the Middle Woodland period on Bayou Bodcau in Bossier Parish.

**May** - Rob Mann talked about his work at Galveztown where immigrants from the Canary Islands tried to establish a stronghold in 1779, but failed because of diseases and natural disasters.

**June** - James Fogleman spoke on widespread but rare pottery types on the Brooks site in St. Landry Parish.

**July** - Charles Allen gave a talk on edible plants. He brought samples for folks to taste and we made tea from others.

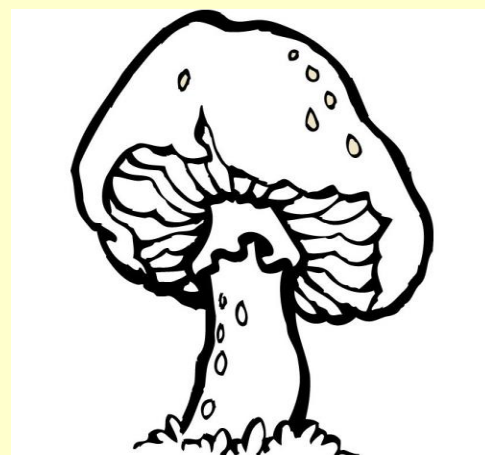
**August** - Nancy Affeltranger-presented a report on one room school houses, books and games.

**Sept. 13** - Gary Stringer, Professor of Geosciences at the University of Louisiana-Monroe (ULM).

### WEST CENTRAL (LEESVILLE) CHAPTER NEWS

The West Central Archaeology club now meets at the Vernon Parish Library on the fourth Monday of each month. In **June** we had David Lewis from Newton, TX give a lecture on Fungi and Mushrooms. After the meeting we had a show and tell on the different types and what was edible and what was poisonous. His wife Patricia gave out some recipes and told how they could be eaten. We highly recommend David as a speaker his email is [dandplewis@gmail.com](mailto:dandplewis@gmail.com). Phone is (409)423-3776. David is associated with the Gulf States Mycological Society ([gsmyc.org](http://gsmyc.org)).

In **July**, Johnny Guy gave a talk about the let down of Anacoco Lake and the sites exposed. The Wildlife and Fishery law enforcement and the Vernon Parish sheriff department are checking for looters and they are giving out tickets. The up-coming Friends of Poverty Point trip to Poverty Point will be in September. If anyone is interested check out the LAS and UPPA Facebook pages.



### ANOTHER LAS BULLETIN IS ON THE WAY!

Work continues on getting the LAS Bulletin caught up to “real time.” The 2008 issue, No. 35, is on its way to the LAS membership for that year. It contains four articles on four sites with time periods spanning over 3000 years of prehistory. Malcolm Shuman et al. report on three somewhat enigmatic Plaquemine culture features at the New Jerusalem site (16WF187) in West Feliciana Parish. Jim Fogleman demonstrates that small prehistoric sites such as the Brooks site (16SL135) in St. Landry Parish can provide important information. Jeff Girard, the Regional Archaeologist for northwest Louisiana, reports on his and earlier investigators’ work at Bossier Parish’s Bellevue Mound site (16BO4). Lastly, Robert Connally, former Station Archaeologist at the Poverty Point State Historic Site, gives a thorough analysis of extensive surface collected artifacts from Louisiana’s premier archaeological site. If unsure about your membership status in 2008, contact the LAS editor: [archaeoman.jones@gmail.com](mailto:archaeoman.jones@gmail.com).

# LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY

No.35

2008



### OBSERVE THE FALL EQUINOX AT POVERTY POINT

The Friends of Poverty Point (formerly UPPA) is planning support activities at the Poverty Point Historic Site during the fall equinox, when night/day hours are equal and the sun rises and sets at its central position on the horizon at the site. The schedule for the weekend is as follows:

#### **Friday, September 21, 2012**

3:00 pm - Dorm Arrival

6:00 pm - Business Meeting & Review Park Rules/ Policies. Supper served

#### **Saturday, September 22, 2012**

Morning-breakfast served-volunteers assist Station Archaeologist with project. Lunch served

2:00 pm - speaker

6:30 pm - supper at the dorms

#### **Sunday, September 23, 2012**

Morning - clean-up of dorm, breakfast served

12:00 noon - dorm departure

The main activity will be clearing root balls from tree falls that contain artifacts from the site. A donation of \$20.00 per person for food costs is requested. Please send donation to Johnny Guy to purchase food for the weekend. Please bring your own drinks. RSVP to Johnny Guy by September 14: [johnnyguy@earthlink.net](mailto:johnnyguy@earthlink.net) or 337-718-2026. Space in the dorm is limited, but camping is available.

**Editor's Note to LAS Members:** The emailed letter below was sent to Johnny Guy, LAS President, July 24, from the President of Archaeology Channel. He is asking for LAS support to provide professional and creditable videos on Archaeology Channel in order to counter cable TV shows like *Diggers* and *American Diggers*. The LAS executive committee thinks that this is an important enough request to let the membership know about it before we make a commitment as an organization. Email Johnny Guy or Dennis Jones if you have questions or concerns.

Mr. Guy:

This message is a request that the **Louisiana Archeological Society** get on board with us as a supporting Organizational Member to help us create an alternative to shows like *Diggers*!

The professional community is in an uproar over new cable TV shows (*American Diggers* and *Diggers*!) that glorify the vandalism of archaeological sites and the search for artifacts purely for profit. Here at ALI, we are disgusted about those shows and we would love to see them go off the air. They send messages directly contrary to the ethics we hold dear about the importance of the archaeological record.

We applaud all of you working to oppose those shows. At the same time, we ask you to put a similar amount of passion and energy into supporting an alternative to those shows. We have made steady progress since we launched The Archaeology Channel ([archaeologychannel.org](http://archaeologychannel.org)) in 2000. Now we have over 200 videos streaming on demand. Our monthly Video News from TAC show (cable TV and Internet) is in its 23rd edition and shown on 20 cable TV stations across the country. We are in contact with the major cable TV systems (AT&T, Comcast, Time Warner) and Internet broadcasters (Hulu, Netflix, Yahoo, YouTube) to set up expansions of our programming on TV and over the Internet. Our in-house film production program, which sends film crews around the world to capture footage of important archaeological sites and excavations, is growing year by year, and later this year, depending on a grant, we may be producing a PBS documentary. We are remaking TAC into a much more useful and up-to-date resource that will deliver programming to all video-capable devices. New programming, both video and audio, is in the plans. TAC Festival (the Tenth Annual installment will be May 7-11, 2013) is one of the leading international film competitions in our genre in the world and now is in its ninth installment.

We are making a difference, but we are seriously limited by a lack of resources. We are poised to take a leap forward and have a much bigger impact on the world of popular media, but our progress is slow because we don't have the wherewithal. We can really use your help!

Please become a supporting Organizational Member of TAC to broaden our support base and fuel an expansion of our services. Other professional groups are on board with us already (see our list at [www.archaeologychannel.org/content/AOM.html](http://www.archaeologychannel.org/content/AOM.html)). Together we can have a really big impact on the public's perception of archaeology and its value to society.

Also, for your convenience, I've attached a membership form. Please get back to me and let us know what your group can do. We will check back with you soon if we don't hear from you.

Rick Pettigrew

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*The Archaeology  
Channel*





The map on the cover of this newsletter reflects what was known about Louisiana when it was admitted into the Union in 1812. This image is from Mathew Carey's 1814 *General Atlas Improved and Enlarged: Being a Collection of Maps of the World and Quarters* and will be featured on the Louisiana Archaeology Month 2012 poster. This is the earliest map of Louisiana as a state and presents information probably compiled by Samuel Lewis, Carey's principal mapmaker.

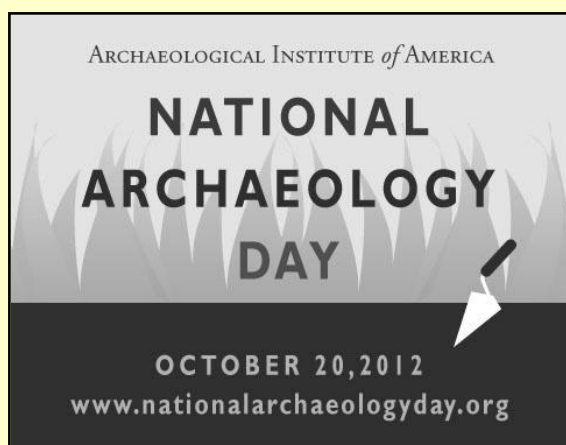
The 1802 Enabling Act required that any U.S. territory must have a population of 60,000 persons to qualify for statehood. In 1804, the newly acquired Louisiana Territory was subdivided, and the portion below the 33rd parallel, which eventually formed the state of Louisiana, was named the Territory of Orleans. With only 35,932 persons in 1804, the Territory did not have the population to qualify for statehood. But with the massive immigration of both free and enslaved Americans into the Territory after 1803, the population surged past the 60,000-person requirement by 1810.

Are you interested in participating by planning, hosting, or leading an activity for Louisiana Archaeology Month 2012? Please complete the application form available from the Division of Archaeology's website: [www.crt.la.gov/archaeology](http://www.crt.la.gov/archaeology) and click on the Archaeology Month tab.

Events should occur in **October** and be open to the public. Louisiana Archaeology Month activities might include a lecture series, special guided tours, exhibits, living history demonstrations, archaeo-logical site visits, a film series, or book displays on Louisiana history or prehistory. **Events will be listed at the Division's website.**

As you plan activities, please consult your local calendar for events that may compete for audience attention. Especially consider high school and college football games, homecoming, and opening dates for hunting season.

All submitted participation forms will be evaluated for the potential to generate an understanding of archaeology and encourage the preservation of archaeological resources. If you have any questions, please contact the Louisiana Archaeology Month Coordinator, **Nancy Hawkins**, by email: [nhawkins@crt.la.gov](mailto:nhawkins@crt.la.gov) or call (225) 342-8164.



The Archaeological Institute of America is pleased to announce that the 2nd Annual celebration of **National Archaeology Day** will be held on **October 20, 2012**. The AIA is actively seeking partners to host events and join in as supporting organizations to celebrate this event throughout the month of October. Last year more than a dozen organizations and 83 local AIA societies joined in to help the AIA host over 100 events that reached approximately 14,000 people. Go to [www.nationalarchaeologyday.org](http://www.nationalarchaeologyday.org) or check out on Facebook @NatlArkyDay.

## Katrina levee breach sites rejected for National Register of Historic Places

*New Orleans Times-Picayune*, June 15, 2012  
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Two sites where levees breached during Hurricane Katrina and led to catastrophic flooding in New Orleans will not be listed on the National Register of Historic Places alongside notable landmarks such as Civil War battlefields and presidential birthplaces, the National Park Service said.

The park service rejected a proposal from the advocacy group Levees.Org, which has been pushing for almost two years to have the sites listed on the register, arguing the breaches reflected the worst civil engineering disaster in the nation's history.

In a letter to the organization, released Friday, the park service said the organization's nomination was "technically and professionally inadequate" to meet requirements for listing on the register. The letter said the nomination can be revised and submitted again, and Levees.Org founder and director Sandy Rosenthal said the organization will do so.

When Katrina struck on Aug. 29, 2005, levee breaches at numerous sites flooded 80 percent of New Orleans. Flood water lifted some houses off foundations and reached the roof lines of others. Close to 2,000 deaths were blamed on the storm. Stories and pictures of the tens of thousands of stranded people dominated media for days.

Levees.Org nominated two breach sites for the register: one on the Industrial Canal at the edge of the Lower 9th Ward, and one on the 17th Street Canal at the Lakeview neighborhood. Both areas were among the worst-hit in the city.

Under normal circumstances, getting a site placed on the register is an arduous bureaucratic task requiring painstaking compilation of technical and historical information and approval from state authorities before it reaches the National Park Service for consideration. The site of an event that is less than 50 years old is especially difficult to get listed.

Complicating the Levees.Org effort was the involvement of the Army Corps of Engineers, which built the levees and floodwalls and owns the Lower 9th Ward site.

Corps approval isn't essential to getting the designation, but owners must be given a voice in the decision. The breaches remain the subject of litigation and the corps, citing the legal complexities, was slow to weigh in on the Levees.Org nomination.



*As part of a bike tour, Sandy Rosenthal discusses the breach of the 17th Street Canal on May 6, 2012.*

*Photo/Hubie Vigreux. (Note the state historic marker.)*

When it did, it came out against the nomination. In letters to the park service that were made public Friday, the corps said one reason was the nomination's reliance on opinions from experts cited by plaintiffs in various lawsuits over the breaches, without consideration of opposing views from other experts.

In a letter explaining the decision, interim keeper of the register Carol Shull cited several reasons for the rejection. One was the lack of an explanation for the nomination of only two sites from among more than 50 breach sites.

Rosenthal has said that her organization hopes to nominate more breach sites. She listed several reasons Friday why the two in the initial nomination are significant, including the diversity of the two neighborhoods affected. "The two locations demonstrate that people of all ages, races and economic status were impacted," she said.

Shull said some of the sources for information used in the nomination are not clear. "In addition, the nomination does not adequately describe the effects of the flood on New Orleans beyond a description of the flooding and the resultant deaths," Shull said. More is needed, she said, on the effects on people, the environment and the economy.

In a news release Friday, Rosenthal and H.J. Bosworth Jr. of Levees.Org said they found some of Shull's findings "somewhat odd" in that the organization had worked with guidance from her staff since October 2010. They also note public statements from corps officials themselves that the corps is responsible for the levee breaches. The statement said Levees.Org will likely seek further clarification from Shull's office.

## 200-year-old shipwreck found in Gulf of Mexico

*Baton Rouge Morning Advocate*, May 19, 2012

By Stacey Plaisance, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An oil company exploration crew's chance discovery of a 200-year-old shipwreck in a little-charted stretch of the Gulf of Mexico is yielding a trove of new information to scientists who say it's one of the most well-preserved old wrecks ever found in the Gulf.

"When we saw it we were all just astonished because it was beautifully preserved, and by that I mean for a 200-year-old shipwreck," said Jack Irion, maritime archaeologist with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in New Orleans. Video shows muskets and gin bottles littering the Gulf bottom, along with sea life mingling in the wreck.

Scientists say the ship is about 200 miles off the northern Gulf coast and about 4,000 feet deep. The depth has kept it largely undisturbed during two centuries of storms and hurricanes. And although most of the ship's wood dissolved long ago, the copper hull and its contents remain in place.

"The wood is deteriorated. It's largely been eaten away by marine organisms, but what is left is a copper shell which would have been the lower part of the hull which was sheathed in copper to protect it," Irion said. Among the wreckage were "a rather astonishing number of bottles," particularly square gin bottles known as case bottles, as well as wine bottles, Irion said.

There were many ceramic cups, plates and bowls that didn't appear to be cargo. Some were green shell-edged pearl ware, a British import popular in the United States between 1800 and 1830. The ship's kitchen stove was found intact. "Very few shipwrecks have been found that still have the stove intact," Irion said. "You can very clearly see the features of the stove. It's in rather good shape."

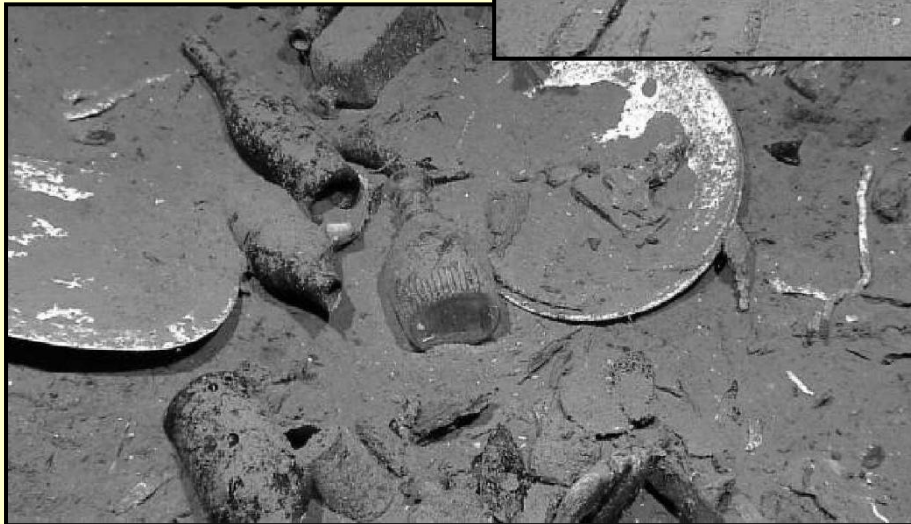
Also discovered were an anchor, cannons and muskets. Irion said researchers have not yet determined whether it was a merchant, military or pirate ship. There was plenty of pirate and military activity in the Gulf at the time, surrounding the War of 1812, the Texas revolution and the Mexican-American War. The buccaneer Jean Lafitte and other pirates sailed the Gulf to smuggle goods into New Orleans, Galveston, Texas, and elsewhere. "It was actually a fairly hazardous place to be if you were a merchant ship, so it was not unlikely that you would be carrying cannon on board to protect yourself," Irion said.

*Photo from NOAA Okeanos Explorer Program showing the hull of a well preserved shipwreck that is over 200 years old and located approximately 200 miles off the coast of Louisiana at a depth of 4000 ft.*



*Photo from NOAA showing an anemone on top of a musket that lies across a group of muskets at the site of the 200 year old shipwreck.*

[www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/oceanos/explorations/ex1202/logs/dailyupdates/media/movies/highlights0426\\_video.html#](http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/oceanos/explorations/ex1202/logs/dailyupdates/media/movies/highlights0426_video.html#)



*Photo of shipwreck showing artifacts that include ceramic plates, platters, and bowls; glass liquor, wine, medicine and storage bottles of varied shapes and colors. Some have contents still sealed inside. A variety of artifacts in the ship's hull reveal the daily life on board or the ship's cargo.*

Researchers believe the ship likely sank during a storm. “We haven’t seen any evidence of burning, or explosions or cannon shot. That’s obvious, so we strongly suspect that it was likely a hurricane or another strong storm and it simply foundered at sea and vanished without a trace and was never reported missing,” Irion said.

The shipwreck site was noticed as an “unknown sonar contact” during an oil and gas survey last year by Shell Oil Co. Shell reported it to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which teamed with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to survey the site. The federal agencies used robots and high-definition cameras during a 56-day expedition by the NOAA ship Okeanos Explorer that ended April 29. The underwater video was transmitted live via satellite to maritime archaeologists, scientists and resource managers from Texas to Rhode Island.

BOEM is protecting and preserving the site until it’s determined what country the vessel is from. So far, none of the wreckage or cargo has been brought up — and it might never be. The authorities want to explore as much as they can before making that decision. Frank Cantelas, a maritime archaeologist for NOAA, said the site was one of four explored in the Gulf last month. He said the agency also intends to study the sea life at the site, because deep sea shipwrecks often serve as habitats for marine life. Researchers wouldn’t disclose the precise location of the wreck, citing concerns over possible plundering or disturbing the site.

“One thing that we want to stress is ships have a monetary value, but they also have to us a historical value that goes way beyond that,” Irion said. “What this can tell us is a very interesting story about our past, about the history of the Gulf of Mexico, about how important the Gulf of Mexico was to the beginnings of the United States.” The wreckage can also give insight to the lives of the crew, where they had been, where they were going and their role in the economy and world history. “It’s as if we get a glimpse into what their lives were like, like a time capsule,” Irion said.



*The boat's captain ran his craft to the bank and all passengers and crew escaped. Obviously more of this steamboat can be seen this summer and, yes, those are wrought iron spikes sticking up from the remains of the steamboat's hull!*

### **REMINDER TO GET THOSE TETANUS SHOTS!!**

*The drought in north Louisiana has meant lower than normal river levels this summer. Thus, some steamboat wrecks are more exposed than usual. This photo was sent to the LAS editor by Wes Helbling, a reporter for the Bastrop Daily Enterprise in July. It shows what is left of the steamboat Big Horn (16MO185) that was reported in the Fall issue of the LAS newsletter one year ago.*

*This steamboat went down on Bayou Bartholomew in Morehouse Parish, near Bastrop, in 1873, probably after its cargo of lime was moistened and caught fire.*



**From Baton Rouge Advocate-  
August 22, 2012**

*Photo provided by Marie Estopinal. Rob Mann, right, featured speaker at the Aug. 4 meeting of the Canary Islanders Heritage Society, discusses the significance of recent archaeological discoveries at the historic Spanish settlement of Galveztown in Ascension Parish with Society President Layne Lindsly. Artifacts were displayed and talked about during the meeting. Mann is the southeast archaeologist and assistant professor of research at LSU's Department of Anthropology. Information about the Canary Islanders can be found on website [www.canaryislanders.org](http://www.canaryislanders.org).*

## “Frogzilla” and Other Amphibians from the Portage Mounds Site

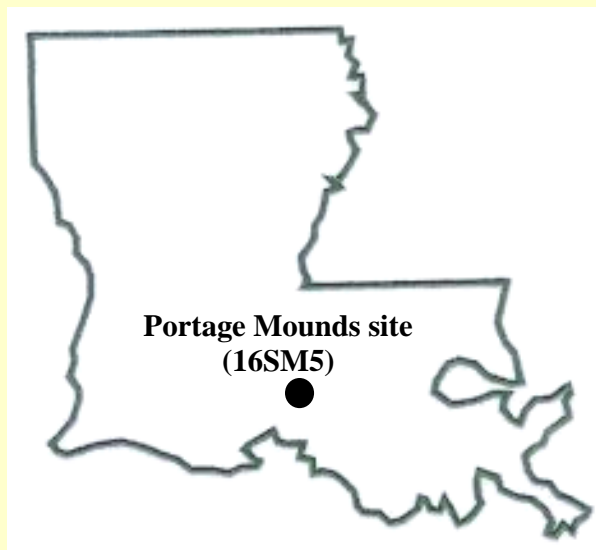
By Brad R. Moon, A. James Delahoussaye, Mark A. Rees, Alexandra P. Alvarado, and Tiffany Arnold - University of Louisiana at Lafayette

In December of 2004, a University of Louisiana at Lafayette archaeology field school conducted excavations at the Portage Mounds site (16SM5) in St. Martin Parish. Three radiometric assays and associated ceramics from two 1x1-meter test units into the midden at the site indicated deposition dated from 1200 to 1300 years ago, or the first century of the Coles Creek period (ca. A.D. 700–1200; Rees 2007:78–82). A later Plaquemine component was also suggested by ceramics from upper levels of the midden and a fourth AMS date. In addition to the ceramics, a sizeable and relatively well-preserved faunal assemblage was recovered from the midden, primarily associated with the Coles Creek component. Analysis of this assemblage is producing surprising and potentially-significant results.

A large number of amphibian and reptile bones have been identified, as well as a diversity of other vertebrate bones. Among the amphibian bones, those from Three-toed Amphiumas (*Amphiuma tridactylum*) and American Bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*; formerly *Rana catesbeiana*) present very large specimens. Analyses are currently focusing on the various species represented based on the number of identified specimens (NISP) and on the maximum sizes of the amphiumas and bullfrogs.

To assess the sizes of the animals represented by midden bones, faunal elements are selected from the assemblage that appear to be larger than those of the reference specimens used for identification. Along with the measurements of bones from the excavated sample, established relationships between bone size and body size in museum skeletal specimens are used to estimate the body size of the midden specimens. The midden specimens of both amphiumas and bullfrogs may have been larger than modern specimens. Preliminary results also suggest that amphibians were considerably more abundant in the midden at Portage Mounds than at contemporary sites in the region. Comparing this site with six other sites located in similar coastal and riverine habitats, there appears to be a significantly larger number of amphibians recovered from Portage Mounds.

Abundant amphibians and large specimens likely constituted an important part of the diet among people at Portage Mounds during early Coles Creek times. With substantially more mass, these larger specimens would have provided more meat than



smaller individuals, and would have offered a significant and readily-available source of protein. While these results are preliminary, the data support an argument for local and sustained subsistence sufficiency among communities in the Atchafalaya Basin. Drawing any connections at this time between the political-ritual setting of the mound precinct and potential feasts on frogs would require an unwarranted *leap* of imagination. Additional zooarchaeological studies will be needed to place these findings in broader context and more fully comprehend the remarkable fauna from Portage Mounds.

### Acknowledgments

Partial support for this work was provided by Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund, Research Competitiveness Subprogram Grant LEQSF (2003-06)-RD-A-36 to Mark Rees, and by NSF IOS-0817647 to B. Moon (support to A. Alvarado as a high school intern). Thanks also to James Albert, Chris Austin and the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, and Chip McGimsey.

### Reference

- Rees, Mark A.  
2007      Plaquemine Mounds of the Western Atchafalaya Basin. In *Plaquemine Archaeology*, edited by M. A. Rees and P. C. Livingood, pp. 66-93. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.



**First You Make a Roux**

*Faunal remains of American Bullfrogs from the midden at the Portage Mounds site (16SM5) indicate they were even larger than Kermit's father (left). Three-toed Amphiumas (above) were apparently on the menu as well. These are salamanders that grow up to three feet long today. The Amphiuma specimens recovered from the midden at 16SM5 seem to have been even larger.*

**Bow Wow Bling?** *The Lower Mississippi Survey from the Peabody Museum at Harvard University excavated the largest remaining mound at the Morgan Site (16VM9) in Vermilion Parish in 1986. A report was written in 1987 detailing the results of those excavations. This report presented only a summary of the faunal remains and a complete faunal analysis is not yet available. Some of the faunal collection recently turned up at the Avery Island archives storage area. Jim Delahoussaye looked through it and found the canine tooth below with a drilled hole through a portion of the tooth's root. A pendant perhaps, to remember your best friend by?*



## LSU Students “Homesteading” in Florida

By Rebecca Saunders-Louisiana State University

Under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Saunders, nine students from LSU’s Department of Geography and Anthropology participated in a field school held at the Harrison Homestead site (8BY1359), on Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City, Florida. Excavations took place between May 14 and June 9; the students then spent two weeks in the Laboratory of Anthropology at the Museum of Natural Science learning about artifact processing, conservation, and curation.

The Harrison Homestead site is comprised of a prehistoric circular earth and shell midden around a central plaza. A small mound, now almost completely destroyed, was present on the eastern edge of what is interpreted as a village of fisher-hunter-gatherers. Pottery from the site is principally Swift Creek, a typical Woodland type of pottery (mostly bowl and jar forms) that was impressed with a carved wooden paddle. The carved designs are distinctive and diagnostic—some motifs have the same elements and structure as were incised on Marksville pottery. However, the Swift Creek culture is poorly dated on the Florida panhandle, but some contemporaneity with Louisiana’s Marksville culture is assumed. One of the main foci of the project is to anchor the site in time and then compare its dates and lifeways with an adjacent shell ring site that is larger and contains a larger mound. That site, the Hare Hammock site, has mostly Weeden Island pottery, which has analogues in the Louisiana types French Fork Incised and Pontchartrain Check Stamp. This field school project is part of a long-term research endeavor by researchers to understand how and when pottery styles moved along the northern Gulf coast.

Students worked in large block excavations in the plaza, as well as smaller units in the ring midden. While we are literally just out of the field and have much analysis ahead, one thing is for sure. Our Swift Creek folks had an amazing amount of stone for coastal dwellers! Much of this stone was associated with deep (up to 120 cmbs) features in the plaza which we still don’t understand. Stone includes small bits of sheet mica, quartzite celts and a *metate*, and the gorget fragment shown to the right. Mike Russo of the National Park Service found a gorget like the Harrison Homestead gorget he found on the web (see figure). That gorget was recovered from the Susquehanna River Valley. We have done a portable xrf analysis of the Florida gorget and are hoping to be able to compare it with its northern cousin soon.



*Top: Harrison Homestead siltstone gorget fragment; Bottom: gorget from the Susquehanna River Valley illustrated in Moorehead (1917) Stone Ornaments used by Indians in the United States and Canada*



*Crew (LSU undergraduates unless otherwise specified): Front row, L-R: Matt Lunn, Ashley Dawsey, Carla Hadden (U of Georgia, grad student); Back row, L-R: Mike Russo (NPS); Jeffrey Shanks (NPS); Brian M. Thibodeaux; Rebecca Saunders (LSU Prof), Christopher Triche, Jules Haigler, Kelly Nodurft, Matthew Chouest, Tajji Abney, Nicholas A. Turner, Craig Dengel (Tyndall AFB Cultural Resources).*

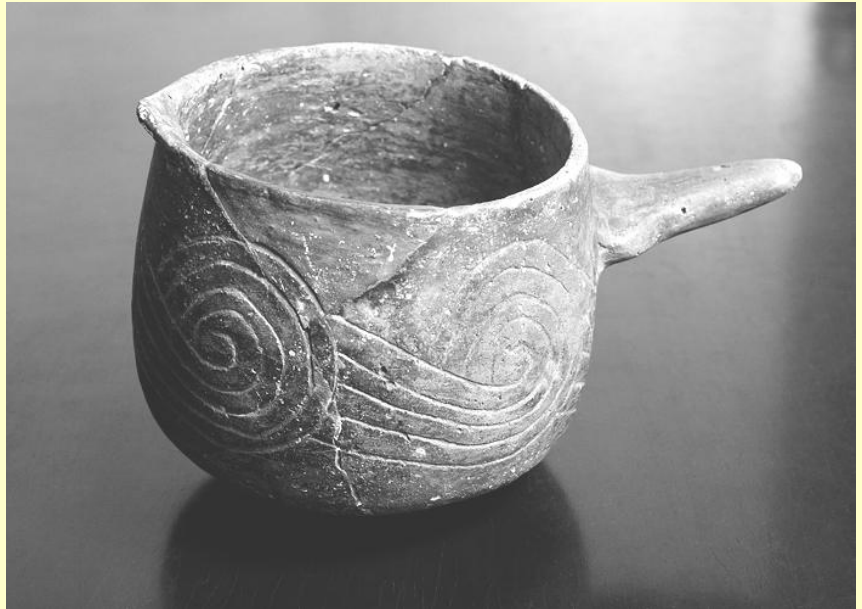
## Pre-Columbian Cahokia Mound Builders Consumed "Black Drink," Say Researchers

*Popular-Archaeology.com*

Monday, Aug 06, 2012

*Residents of Cahokia, a massive pre-Columbian settlement near the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, consumed "Black Drink" from special pottery vessels like this one.*

*Credit: L. Brian Stauffer*



Like other pre-Columbian Native Americans in the southeastern U.S., people living 700 to 900 years ago in Cahokia, a large settlement distinguished by its massive earthen mounds in south-western Illinois, consumed a "black drink", a caffeinated drink made from the leaves of a holly tree that grew hundreds of miles away from the Cahokia site, according to a recent study. Consumption of the brew, according to the researchers, had a ritualistic or religious significance.

The discovery was made as the research team, consisting of scientists at the University of Illinois, the University of New Mexico, Millsaps College in Mississippi and Hershey Technical Center in Pennsylvania, were sampling plant residue found within distinct and relatively rare ancient cylindrical Cahokian beakers. They found key biochemical markers, which included theobromine, caffeine and ursolic acid, proportioned much like that found within drinking vessels at other sites in the southeastern U.S. The beakers, dating from A.D. 1050 to 1250, were found at ritual sites in and around Cahokia.

Anthropologist Patricia Crowan of the University of New Mexico and chemist Jeffrey Hunt of the Hershey Technical Center conducted the chemical analyses. The study was in part an outgrowth of a similar project where they performed tests on ceramic vessels found at the Chaco Canyon archaeological site in New Mexico. In A.D. 1100-1125, the inhabitants of Chaco consumed liquid chocolate from special ceramic vessels found there, as the ancient Maya did in Mexico and Central America centuries before.

Moreover, the findings add to the evidence for a widespread trade network between Cahokia and other settlements throughout the North American continent, particularly with those of the southeast. Says Emerson: "I would argue that it was the first pan-Indian city in North

America, because there are both widespread contacts and emigrants. The evidence from artifacts indicates that people from a broad region (what is now the Midwest and southeast U.S.) were in contact with Cahokia. This is a level of population density, a level of political organization that has not been seen before in North America."

Although the "black drink" appears to represent trade, the Cahokia beakers themselves are considered to be locally made. As cylindrical pots with a handle on one side and a tiny lip on the other, many of them are carved with symbols representing water and the underworld, similar to the whelk shells used in black drink ceremonies recorded by early European explorers in the southeast, where the source of the drink, the Yaupon holly, grows. The Yaupon holly contains very high levels of caffeine, possibly as much as six times that of strong coffee. Rapidly drinking large quantities of it, as described in the early accounts, caused vomiting, an intentional part of a purification ritual practiced before battle or other important events.

Concurrent with the black drink, a series of figurines representing agricultural fertility, the underworld and life-renewal were produced from local pipestone. Most of these figurines were discovered associated with temple sites.

"We postulate that this new pattern of agricultural religious symbolism is tied to the rise of Cahokia – and now we have black drink to wash it down with," Emerson said.

Greater Cahokia, a city with as many as 50,000 residents in its heyday during the 12th and 13th centuries A.D., was the largest prehistoric North American settlement north of Mexico. But its sudden emergence and decline within a 200-year period has remained a mystery among scholars. Despite its short-lived existence, however, its influence on art, religion and architecture is seen at settlements as far away as present-day Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Wisconsin.

## Report from the Kisatchie Ranger District, Natchitoches Parish

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

August 2012. In years past, here on the Kisatchie Ranger District and at my former location on the Calcasieu Ranger District, we have hired anthropology students in the summer to assist me in a dedicated field season of archeological survey. These students have primarily come from LSU and ULL, facilitated by informal arrangements with Dr. Rebecca Saunders and Dr. Mark Rees. This year, however, the Kisatchie Ranger District, LSU and ULL signed participating agreements that formalize this relationship for the next five years, creating two positions at each university. This arrangement satisfies the District's need for a temporary field crew and allows the universities to offer their students the opportunity for hands-on field experience. Although funding will presumably always be a concern to some extent, this arrangement does give us a greater assurance of filling four positions for 10 weeks of archeological survey here in Natchitoches Parish each year.

This year we had Margeaux Murray and Darrell Rivers from LSU and Taylor Coen and Denice Naquin from ULL. They were housed

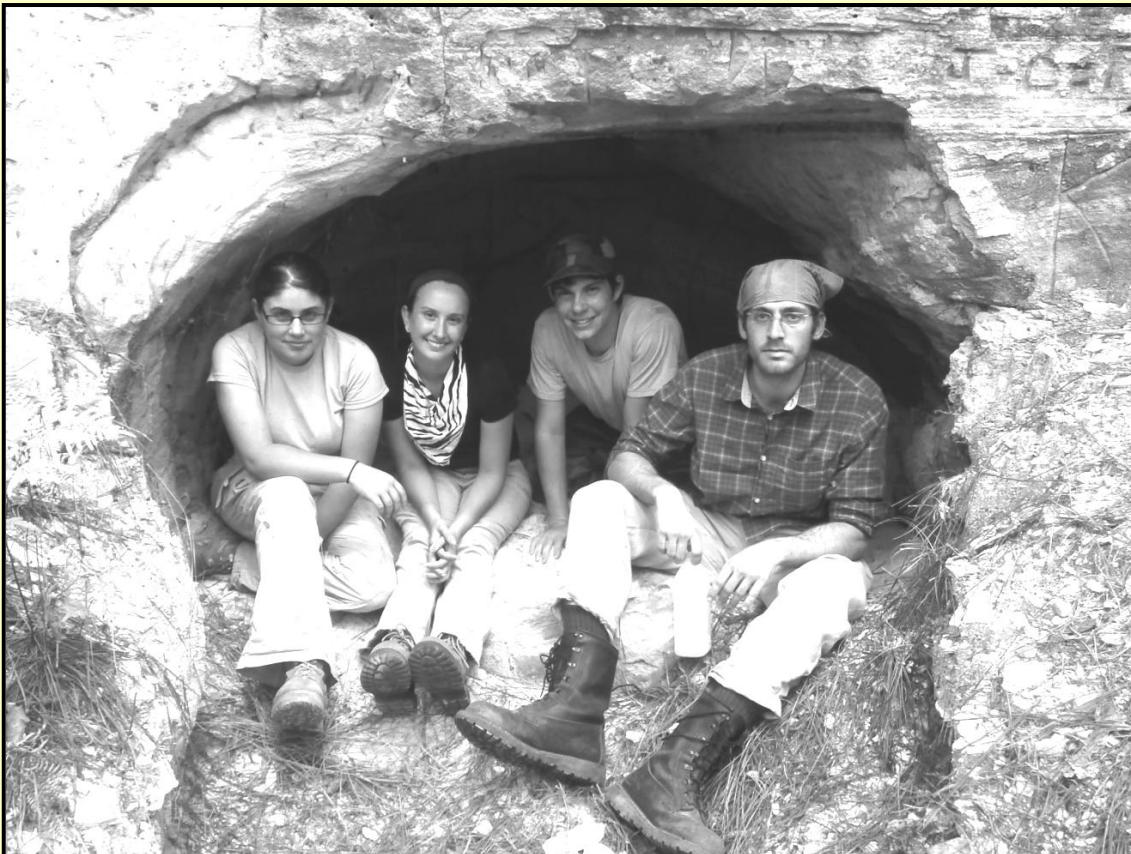
in our luxurious Dogwood Estates (three former FEMA trailers).

Our primary task was surveying some 1076 acres of proposed project area. Work was made easier by a recent growing season controlled burn, dry sandy soils and a break from the record heat of the last three years. This was a mostly upland area with few streams, so it came as no surprise that we located only three new sites.

Our secondary task was surveying 1.8 miles of proposed relocation of the Caroline Dorman Trail, sections of which had been washed away by Kisatchie Bayou following a significant rain event in March of this year. We identified one new prehistoric site and revisited and updated our information on two previously recorded prehistoric sites and one isolated historic grave.

Of the four sites that we re-visited and updated, one was a small Caddo site, one a lithic scatter, one a single historic grave, and one a lithic scatter not considered eligible for the NRHP. The first two may be eligible (I really dislike that

**Continued on next page**



*Left to right, Denice Naquin, Margeaux Murray, Taylor Coen and Darrell Rivers consider a new housing option in one of the Kisatchie Ranger District's "caves".*

**Continued from previous page**

“unevaluated” status) and the third is in protected status. The Caddo site was originally considered destroyed back in 1977, but our current shovel-testing regime indicates the likelihood of undisturbed deposits, though nothing earth-shattering in research potential. Thanks to Darrell, Denice, Margeaux and Taylor for their good work, good attitude, good company and good humor all summer long.



*Tombstone Inscription of solitary burial is now much eroded, but was recorded in “Louisiana’s Kisatchie Hills”, by M.R. Kadleck and M. C. Bullard, 1994 as:*

***Leora Clarinda Sanders  
In Regard to the Memory  
of daughter of Mr. W A Sanders  
born March 26 AD 1902  
died Oct 20 AD 1906  
To the St Rita Kingdom of  
Heaven***

*Tombstone is shaped local stone with inscribed letters atop inscribed ruling lines. The tombstone was reportedly done by the grandfather of local area resident, W. E. Dowden.*

*The summer crew for the Kisatchie Ranger District standing at the tombstone for the historic grave of Leora Sanders.*

*Pete Michaelson, second from the left, is a recreation technician for the National Forest who has also received Heritage Resource Technician (HRT) training.*



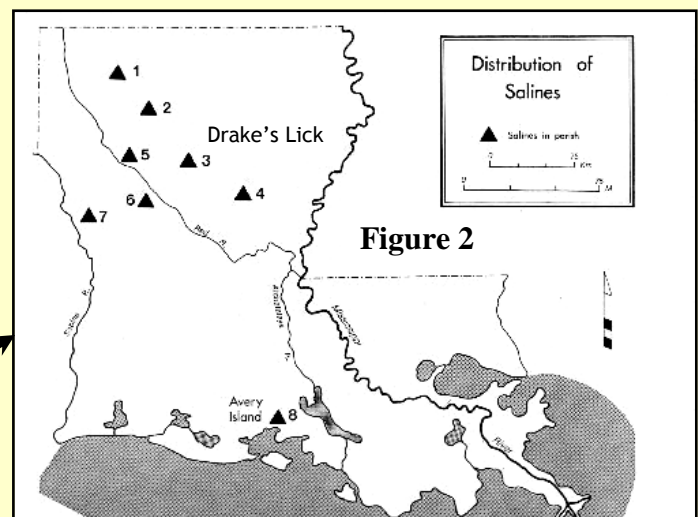
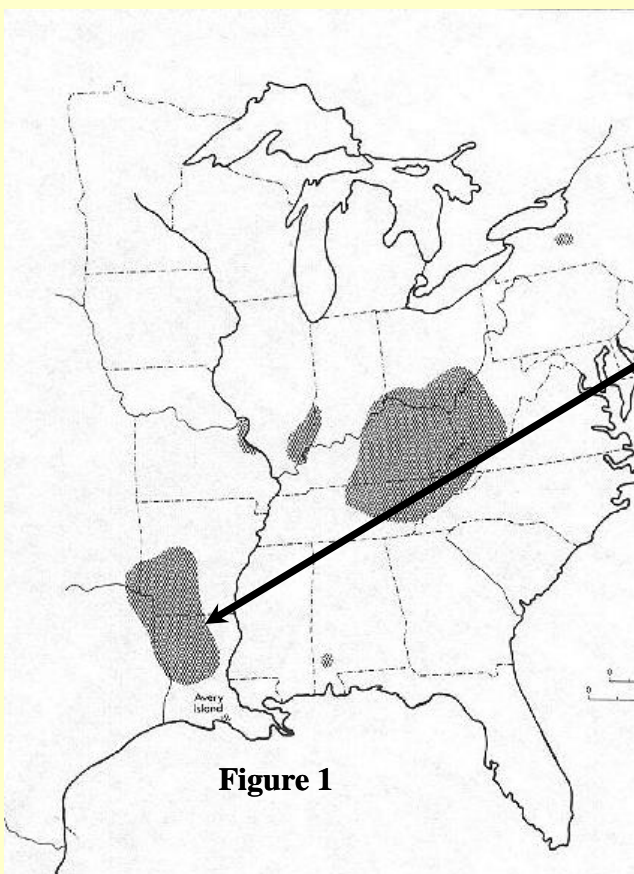
## Drakes Salt Works Exploration: A Continuation September 28 to October 6, 2012

By Velicia Bergstrom, US Forest Service, Kisatchie National Forest

Drake's Salt Works Complex (16NA11/17&16WN30) is located in Natchitoches and Winn Parishes, LA near the town of Goldonna. The salt works consists of multiple historic and prehistoric activity areas of various sizes within the natural surface areas of salt deposits, locally referred to as "licks." A brief history of the salt works includes use from the prehistoric time through the Civil War. By 1890 the area was largely abandoned. The U.S. Forest Service had an internship with Northwestern State University (NSU), initiating research and condition surveys for these significant sites, with the dual goals of increasing our understanding of how the salt works played a significant role through centuries of prehistory and history in central Louisiana, and of ultimately developing a formal nomination for the unique resource to the National Register of Historic Places.

We have since performed some survey and excavations, as well as laboratory projects for some of these areas. These included limited testing in 2008 and more formal testing in 2010. Our research in 2010 revealed the presence of large feature referred to as a briquetage, which consists mainly of a 15 cm thick layer of ash and broken ceramic sherds. While we were not able to determine the boundaries of this large feature, we do know that it is at this spot that 14th century Caddo people were processing salt, which was important not only in local village life, but as a trade item. We now wish to continue our exploration of this significant site. We plan to conduct formal excavations of test units, some survey, and to operate a field laboratory. We will be joined in this adventure by Mr. Paul Eubanks, who is a doctoral student out of the University of Alabama specializing in prehistoric saline sites in the American southeast.

Join us as continue in earnest to understand the past of this unique site! This is a PIT (Passport in Time) project sponsored by the Kisatchie National Forest. To participate, contact Velicia Bergstrom, Forest Heritage Program Manager, 2500 Shreveport Hwy, Pineville, LA 71360, 318-473-7043 ofc, 318 623-2221 cell, [vbergstrom@fs.fed.us](mailto:vbergstrom@fs.fed.us)



*Figures are from **The Role of Salt in North American Prehistory** by Dr. Ian Brown. This is Anthropological Study No. 3, distributed by the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and available for free download at the Division's website.*

*Figure 1 shows the principal saline areas in North America and Figure 2 notes the general locations of salines in Louisiana. Drake's Lick, the site of the historic Drake's Salt Works, is number 3.*

# REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

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## Explorations at the Swayze Lake Mound (16SL9)

By David Palmer-Southwest Regional Archaeologist, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

During late July and August of 2012, the Southwest Regional Archaeology Program worked at Swayze Lake Mound (16SL9). The small mound is in St. Landry Parish that, prior to this investigation, was known only from surface collections. Based on the pottery in these collections, the mound has been associated with Coles Creek and Plaquemine occupations. One of the goals of this project was to refine the chronology of the site through the recovery of diagnostic artifacts in excavation and, ideally, charcoal from the mound that can be radiocarbon dated. Other goals were to examine the construction of the mound and to determine the spatial boundaries of the site.

The site is located on timberland with dense brush, secondary growth trees, and terrain covered by occasional hammocks in the Atchafalaya Floodway. In the heart of summer, this terrain made relocating the site difficult, as it is a relatively small mound. Jim Fogleman's local area knowledge was invaluable in this regard. With the assistance of volunteers, we carried out a survey with shovel test pits and bucket auguring, excavated a 1-x-1 meter unit into the mound, and mapped the site. We were also able to document the destruction of midden along the road by an overzealous St. Landry Parish bulldozer operator on a road crew.

Through excavation of the unit into the mound, we found a buried A horizon (past surface) with sherds, stone flakes, and some charcoal, topped by almost a meter of fill soil. The fill immediately above the buried surface was laminated, perhaps the result of slope wash from rain exposure during a temporary halt in mound construction. Thus far, it would seem that the mound was built relatively quickly. We will know more about the chronology once artifact analysis is complete and charcoal samples have been analyzed.

Volunteers worked in hot, humid conditions, tolerating an abundance of mosquitoes and ticks. Thanks to volunteers Jim Fogleman, Christian Sheumaker, Kelly Reilly, Mikey Chouest, Taylor Coen, and Johnny Tang for the help with the project. Thanks also to Mr. Willy Godchaux of Swayze Lake Plantation for allowing us to work on the timber company's property.



*Taylor Coen (left) and Mikey Chouest urge each other to do their level best at the meter square test unit at the Swayze Lake Mound site.*



*Jim Fogleman (left) and David Palmer, who look disturbed about the disturbed midden at the Swayze Lake Mound site, contemplate their next move.*

**Editor's Note:** Full disclosure. While pursuing a research project at LSU in 1990-91, Dr. Malcolm Shuman and I attempted to find the Swayze Lake Mound site amidst the thick vegetation in the Atchafalaya Basin. Our purpose was to relocate the mound, map it, and make surface collections for an *Archaeological Atlas of Prehistoric Indian Mounds in Acadia, Lafayette, and St. Landry Parishes*. We failed to find the site and decided it had been destroyed. I congratulate Jim Fogleman and David Palmer for bringing this site back into the fold of prehistoric mound sites in Louisiana. - Dennis Jones

## The Bird Cemetery (16EBR87): A Small Family Cemetery in EBR Parish

By Rob Mann, Southeast Regional Archaeologist, Louisiana State University

The Bird Cemetery (16EBR87), a small family cemetery, was first recorded by Susan Wurtzburg, former Regional Archaeologist, as part of a 1992 historic cemeteries survey. The Bird Cemetery is located in East Baton Rouge Parish on property that was once part of Hollywood Plantation (known as Ben Hur Plantation after 1847). Hollywood Plantation was established on the Mississippi River sometime around 1810 by Abraham Bird.

On April 30, 2012 my assistant Katie Baker and I met Mr. Kenny Kleinpeter at the Bird Cemetery located south of Baton Rouge on property owned by Louisiana State University and currently administered by Dr. Patrick Bollich of the LSU Agricultural Center. The cemetery is a small plantation graveyard for the Bird family. There are surface indications that the cemetery contains at least 8 human interments, including a large, brick double tomb with the now fragmented, but still elaborate, marble grave marker of Abraham and Mary Bowie Bird. Abraham's information is carved in one side of the marker and Mary's is on the opposite side (Figure 1).

Abraham was born in 1784 and married Mary Bowie, the sister of Jim Bowie of Alamo and hunting knife fame. They resided at Hollywood Plantation until their deaths. The plantation house is no longer extant and it is difficult to know exactly how the cemetery was situated in relationship to the house. It is known that the cemetery sits upon a small rise. Presumably, this is an artificial mound of soil brought to this location for the purpose of creating the cemetery (Figure 2).

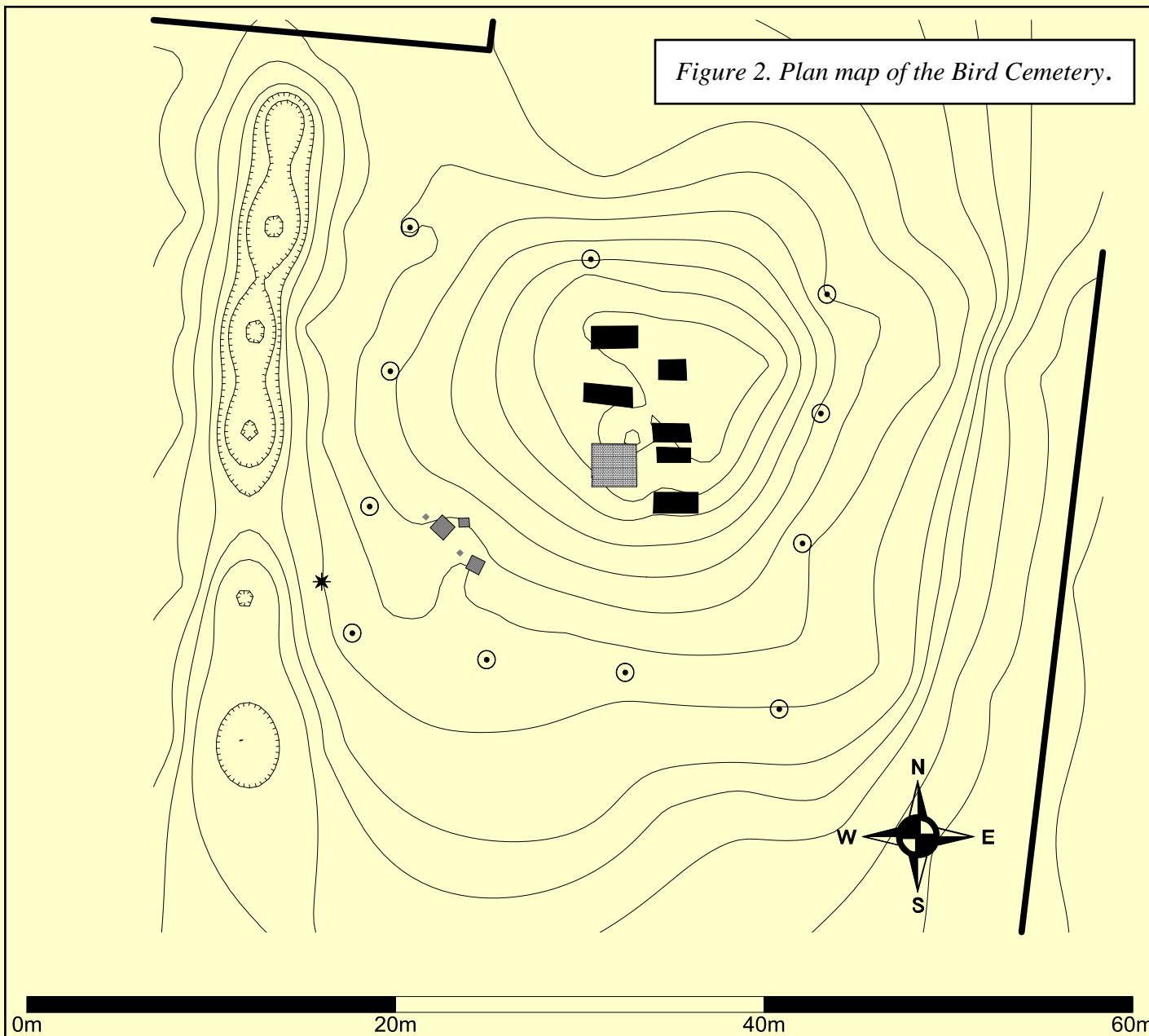
Over the years many of the grave markers have been removed or damaged, possibly by cattle and farm machinery. There are fragments of markers on the surface that do not appear to be *in situ*. Several of these are located at the SW corner of the site, including the marker of Mary C. Bird, a daughter of Abraham and Mary Bowie Bird. The brick structure and marble marker of the large double tomb at the center of the cemetery are also damaged. We mapped this structure and the visible outlines of 6 additional brick tombs (Figure 2).

Through his research Mr. Kleinpeter has determined that there may have been as many as eighteen persons originally buried at the Bird Cemetery. While it appears that some interments were moved from the Bird Cemetery to Magnolia Cemetery in Baton Rouge, it remains likely that additional graves are located at the site and additional research is planned. An intensive solid-rod probing survey of the entire cemetery will be undertaken in the fall of 2012 by Mr. Kleinpeter under a permit from the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. The LSU Agricultural Center plans to erect a chain link fence around the perimeter of the cemetery to protect it from future disturbances.



*Figure 1. Photograph of double-sided tombstone at the Bird Cemetery (16EBR87) showing inscription for Mary Bowie Bird. Mary was born May 4, 1792, in Sumner Co. Tennessee, one of seven siblings that included Jim and Rezin Bowie. She died August 10, 1842, at Hollywood Plantation.*

Figure 2. Plan map of the Bird Cemetery.



\* Site Datum (N100 E 100)

⊙ Crepe Myrtle trees

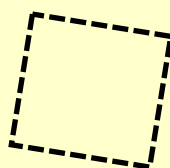
◆ Marble headstone slab fragments

◊ Marble grave marker bases

▣ Brick double tomb

■ Graves 1 - 6

— Chain link fence



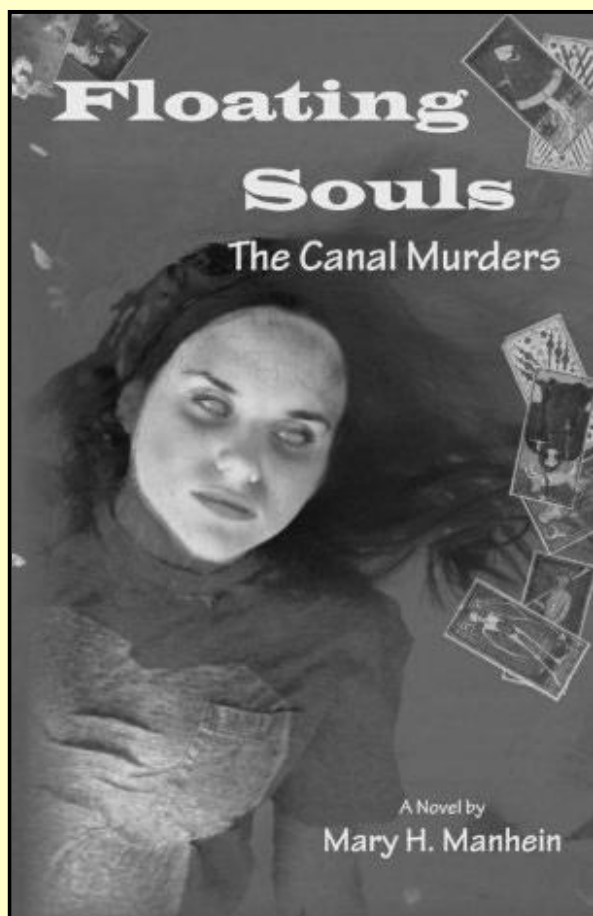
Site limits (of known graves)

## *Toltec Mounds: Archeology of the Mound-and-Plaza Complex*

by Martha A. Rolinson

Available Summer 2012 from The Arkansas Archeological Survey  
Research Series No. 65

**T**oltec Mounds was the most significant place for Plum Bayou culture from AD 700 to 1050. The plaza and surrounding mounds have received the most attention in excavations and investigations at the Toltec Mounds site in the past 33 years. The concept of a formal arrangement of multiple mounds around a rectangular plaza is rare for terminal Woodland cultures. The full plaza was apparently conceptualized early in the occupation with mounds or earthen platforms constructed throughout the period of occupation. The biggest gap in knowledge concerns the significance of the two big mounds; without details about these mounds our understanding of the mound-and-plaza complex is limited. Deposits beneath the mounds resulted from diverse activities, some of which were sacred. Later activities at Toltec were coeval with early Mississippian communities and the architectural design was absorbed into Mississippian culture of the central Mississippi valley. Various aspects of the site—architecture, artifacts, and foodways—indicate that Toltec Mounds occupied a significant position in the Mississippi River valley, both geographically and culturally.



### **Floating Souls: The Canal Murders**

By Mary Manhein, published by Margaret Media, Inc.

Watery graves, iconic tattoos, ancient bones -- they all come together in this nail-biting thriller. Mary H. Manhein, Internationally known head of the FACES Lab at Louisiana State University uses her many years of experience in this her first novel *Floating Souls*.

When bodies of young women are found floating in New Orleans drainage canals, local forensic anthropologist Maggie Andrepont is called in to help find a pattern to the homicides and to profile a perpetrator.

Complicating matters, an old flame from graduate school, now Minister of Antiquities in Rome asks for her immediate assistance to sort out the mystery of ancient bodies found in a famous campanile in Venice, Italy.

Juggling work on corpses on two continents challenges Maggie in ways no one could have predicted. Though confident in her professional expertise, Maggie is not as secure in her personal life. When it turns out that someone is stalking her, the tension ratchets up, leading to a startling conclusion to this taut and compact sleuthing experience.

The book, infused with scenes and references that only someone with extensive forensic experience could provide, has an authentic and gritty feel. Fans of Manhein from her non-fiction book *The Bone Lady* (1999) will be especially pleased with this new novel.

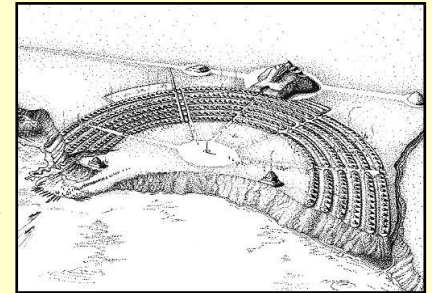


**2012 SCHAC (South Central Historical Archaeology Conference) Annual Meeting. September 14-16, 2012.**

The Archaeology Museum in the Delchamps Archaeology Building, University of South Alabama, **Mobile, AL.**

Contact Bonnie Gums, [bgums@southalabama.edu](mailto:bgums@southalabama.edu)

251-460-6562, for additional information.



The Friends of Poverty Point will be celebrating the Fall Equinox at the Poverty Point site **September 21 to 23**. See page 5 for more information.

\$20 donation sought to pay for food the entire weekend.

Contact Johnny Guy: [johnnyguy@earthlink.net](mailto:johnnyguy@earthlink.net) or 337-718-2026.



Kisatchie National Forest will be hosting Preservation in Time (PIT) Project September 28 – October 6, 2012, At Drakes Salt Works site near Goldonna, LA.

Contact Velicia Bergstrom, Forest Heritage Program Manager, (318) 473-7043 ofc, (318) 623-2221 cell, [vbergstrom@fs.fed.us](mailto:vbergstrom@fs.fed.us).

**September 22-December 2: West Baton Rouge Parish Museum Mardi Gras Shipwreck: Recovered Cache c. 1812.**

An exhibit on loan from the Louisiana Division of Archaeology features a collection of artifacts from the shipwreck that for 200 years the Gulf of Mexico kept secret. The sea guarded the ship's carcass in darkness beneath 4,000 feet of sea water until now. Through a historic archaeological expedition and recovery effort the clues of the Mardi Gras, the working name of this mystery ship, are finally being revealed.



**The Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC)**

will hold its 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, **Baton Rouge, LA, November 7-12, 2012**. Anyone interested in presenting a paper/poster or attending should check the SEAC website for details: <http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org>

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If possible articles should be submitted on computer disk or 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.

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