



NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2014/15

Vol. 42, No. 3

*The 2015 Meeting of the
Louisiana Archaeological
Society (LAS)
Feb 20-22
Leesville, LA
Details Pages 2-3*

*Also Inside:
Pictures from the World Heritage Inscription Ceremony at Poverty Point
Research News from Kisatchie National Forest and NW Louisiana
Louisiana Archaeology in the Media
AND MUCH MORE!!*

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

**41st Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society
February 20-22, 2015
Leesville, Louisiana**

The 2015 Annual LAS meeting will be held February 20-22, 2015 at the Motel 6 Conference Room in Leesville, Louisiana.

The welcome **reception** is from **6:00 to 8:00 pm** at the hotel conference room on **Friday, February 20**.

Exhibits, book sales, a silent auction and a program of presentations and posters are scheduled from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, February 21** and the **LAS business meeting** is scheduled for **5:00 pm** in the hotel conference room.

The **banquet** is scheduled for **7:00 pm** in the hotel conference room where **Dr. David Anderson** from the University of Tennessee will deliver the Keynote address **“Big Picture Research in North American Archaeology.”**

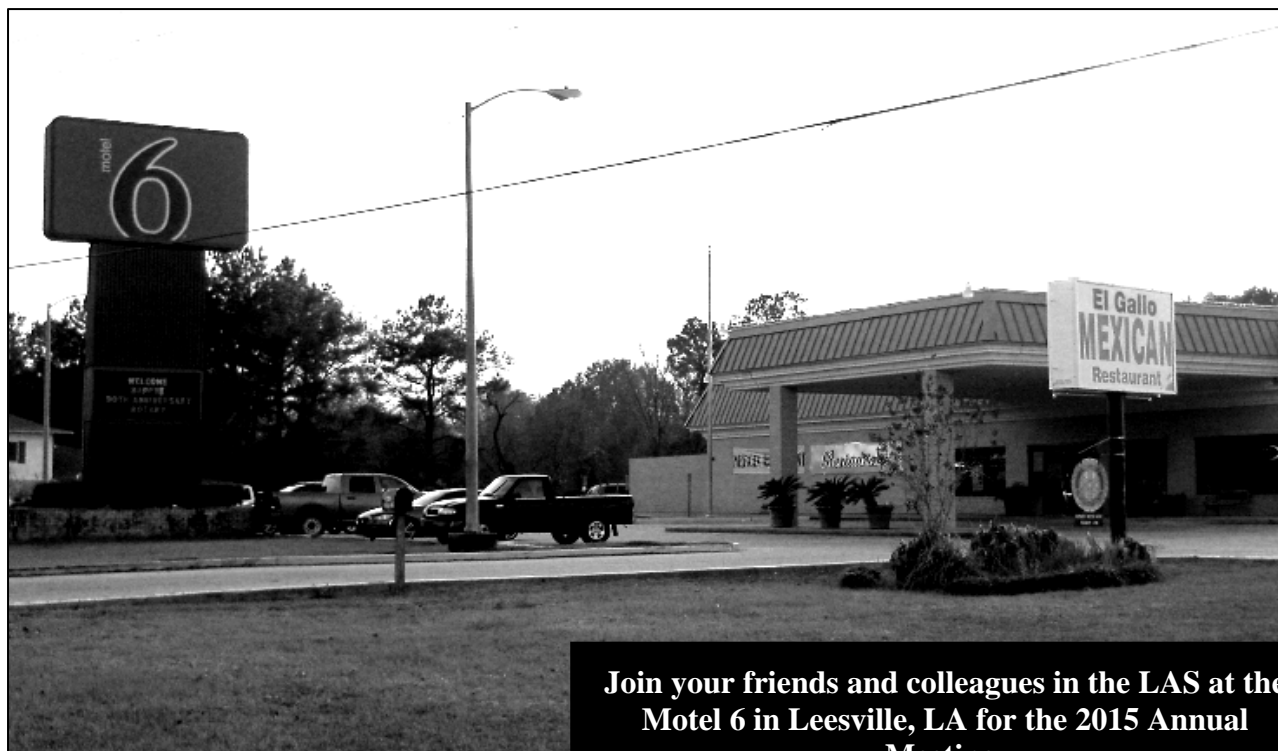
Sunday morning there will be tours of the **Smart Family Plantation House** and the **Museum of the New Llano Colony**.

Pre-Registration: \$20.00. Go to the LAS website: www.laarchaeology.org

Registration (at the meeting): \$25.00

Banquet: \$25.00 (limited to 65 persons), payable on site

The conference hotel is the Motel 6, which has offered rates of \$49.99 (1 occupant) and \$54.99 (2 occupants) for those with our conference. The hotel does not offer a continental breakfast, but the LAS will provide coffee and doughnuts on Saturday morning. A waffle house is located next to the hotel and breakfast can be obtained there as well. The address for the hotel is 3080 Colony Blvd. (Hwy 171),



**Join your friends and colleagues in the LAS at the
Motel 6 in Leesville, LA for the 2015 Annual
Meeting.**

LAS MEETING PAPER SUBMISSIONS AND ABSTRACTS

All members and friends of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) are invited to make a presentation during the annual meetings. Presentations will be limited to 20 minutes. If you would like to present a paper, please email the title and abstract (100 words or less) by **February 1, 2015**, to:

Brad Laffitte, Program Chair for LAS 2015
President, Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS)
E-Mail: bradley.s.laffitte.civ@mail.mil
Telephone: 337-531-6011

SILENT AUCTION!

The membership of the LAS is urged to make contributions to the silent auction that will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting. Books, equipment, paintings, posters, are some of the items auctioned in the past. The auction usually raises well over \$500 for LAS that helps keep our membership dues so low. Clean out your libraries, attics, and store rooms and bring your “valuables” to the meeting. If you have any questions about the auction, contact Chip McGimsey at cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov.

LAS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Brad Laffitte, LAS President

The LAS Executive Committee created a brief survey to ask the membership their opinions on a range of subjects including the use of donation money, possible fee increases, and the future direction of the society. Please take a few moments to access the survey online at <http://www.laarchaeology.org/survey.html> and enter your responses and ideas. The information generated through this survey will help guide future decision making by the Executive Committee. Thank you for your time and input

COMING SOON!

Louisiana Archaeology No. 39 for 2012

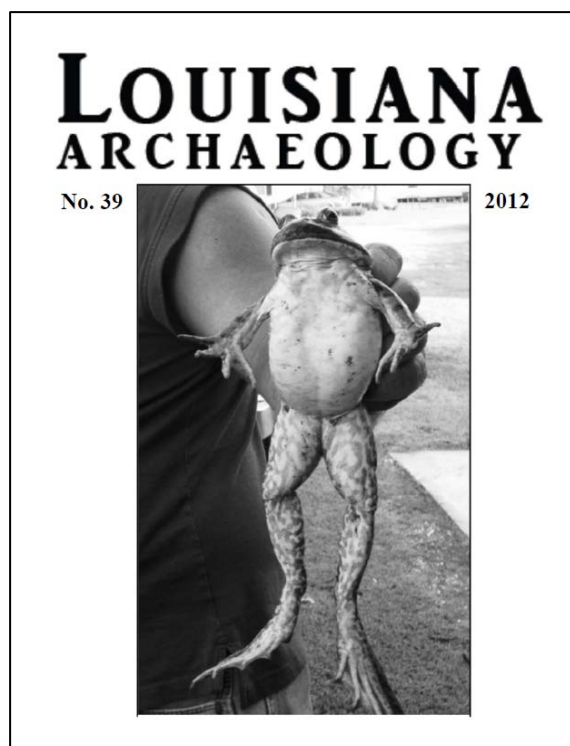
With any luck, this upcoming issue of the LAS Bulletin will be available at the general meeting for distribution to those who were members of the organization in 2012. It will be available for only \$5.00 for those who were not members that year or who wish to purchase additional copies. If events conspire to make it unavailable at the meeting, this issue will be mailed to the 2012 membership.

Contents of the volume include:

Zooarchaeology of the Portage Mounds Site (16SM5) in Southern Louisiana by A. James Delahoussaye, Brad R. Moon, and Mark Rees.

Lithic Artifacts from the Los Adaes Site (16NA16), Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, by George Avery.

Open Vegetation and an Ancient Depression: Pollen and Sediments from the Swamp West of Mound A at the Poverty Point Site (16WC5), by Elizabeth Scharf.



LAS CHAPTER & MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Lieutenant Governor Jay Dardenne (right) presents a plaque to Dr. George M. Riser proclaiming him a Louisiana Ambassador for Poverty Point World Heritage Site.

George Riser Honored as Poverty Point Ambassador

Lieutenant Governor Jay Dardenne designated LAS member Dr. George M. Riser as a Louisiana Ambassador for Poverty Point World Heritage Site in recognition of his special contributions to the Poverty Point World Heritage Initiative. Riser and John Stubbs, who is the director of the Preservation Studies Program at Tulane University, received commemorative plaques on Nov. 6. Both recipients have demonstrated their commitment to Poverty Point through years of volunteer endeavors that supported and expanded the work of state employees involved with Poverty Point.

For example, both Riser and Stubbs participated in the advisory forums at Poverty Point to plan the best approaches to the World Heritage nomination. Riser continued his role in the project by serving as the only volunteer of the Poverty Point

World Heritage Workgroup, which is based in the state Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. He was a founding member of the Advocates for Poverty Point, and he currently is the vice president of that organization. Both honorees have represented Poverty Point at events associated with the U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS) as well as numerous other groups.

Lieutenant Governor Jay Dardenne also presented certificates of appreciation to all of the members of the Poverty Point World Heritage Initiative Workgroup on Nov. 6. Receiving certificates were Raymond Berthelot, Phil Boggan, Pam Breaux, Diana Greenlee, David Griffing, Nancy Hawkins, Stuart Johnson, Chip McGimsey, and George Riser. Dianne Mouton-Allen was unable to attend the meeting, but also received a certificate of appreciation.

2015 Speakers for the Baton Rouge Chapter of LAS

January 25 – Duke Rivet, LAS and LA Division of Archaeology, (Retired): *My Archaeological career and Native American sites in Avoyelles Parish.*

February 25 – No talk due to LAS Annual Meeting (Feb 20-22)

March 25 – Dr. Jay Edwards, LSU Geography and Anthropology (Retired): *The Three Most Important Archaeological Sites You've Never Heard Of.*

April 29 – Joel Zovar, LA Division of Archaeology: *Putting the Poverty Point, Marksville, Tchefuncte, Bayou Jasmine, Los Adaes, El Nuevo Constante, Bailey's Dam sites on the web.*

May 27 – Nathanael Heller, R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates: *Tchefuncte Culture Sites in Louisiana.*
-Julie Doucet, President. BRLAS

IN MEMORIAM

**Barney Scott Wehner, 73, of Lake Charles,
October 30, 2014.**



He lived in Lake Charles most of his life and graduated from Lake Charles High as a National Merit Scholar, McNeese State for an undergraduate degree in Mathematics, University of Houston for his masters degree in Operations Research, and Louisiana State University for “all but dissertation” in Quantitative Methods. He was also a registered Industrial Engineer.

In his earlier years, he worked for some interesting entities, including the Lake Charles Sheriff’s Department, PPG, NASA, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, and as an engineer for various small engineering firms.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Ann Edwards Wehner; mother, Caswell Scott Wehner; and sisters, Patricia Wehner Morrow and Cynthia Wehner Fronczek and their families. He also leaves behind daughters Kristin Wehner Gorton and grandson, Ian Gibson, and Laurie Wehner Wehring, husband Brad Wehring, and granddaughters, Mia and Liesl Wehring.

Scott was a Master Mason, a member of the Scottish rite, and a Shriner. He was passionate about archaeology and geology. He was a member of the Louisiana Archaeological Society and Treasurer of the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy. In recent years, he spent time cataloging artifact collections to ensure preservation for future generations. He also served as an educator on archaeology, presenting to archaeological groups around the state.



**Claude McCrocklin
1921-2014**

Claude McCrocklin, one of the most active and long standing members of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, passed away on October 18, 2014. Claude was born on January 15, 1921 in Fouke, Arkansas. He joined the Army Air Corp in January of 1943 and served as a bombardier for 13 missions in a B24 Liberator in North Africa and Italy. In April of 1944 he was shot down and imprisoned near Barth, Germany for the remainder of the war. He received the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster and THE European, African, Middle Eastern campaign medal with three Bronze Stars.

After returning to Louisiana, Claude became a cattle buyer until his retirement in 1981 when he developed an interest in archaeology and received training from Dr. Clarence Webb of Shreveport as well as Dr. Frank Schambach of the Arkansas Archeological Survey. Claude helped start the northwest chapter of the LAS and, with the assistance of other members, recorded hundreds of sites in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. He had a particular interest in early historic sites, and was the first to discover the salt works on Lake Bistineau and several sites relating to the early 19th century Coushatta occupation on the bluffs east of the Red River floodplain in Bossier Parish. He also located a site above Caddo Lake in East Texas that probably was one of the last Caddo villages prior to the 1835 treaty forcing their removal to the west.

Claude's ability to locate sites was legendary among Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas archaeologists. Although he was fiercely independent and occasionally at odds with the archaeologists that he worked with, he and his assistant Ruth Rainey, always completed site forms, cataloged the artifacts that they collected, and shared information.

Claude's maps and artifact illustrations were of especially high quality. In recent years, Claude provided his notes and manuscripts to be copied and scanned. The original copies eventually will be permanently housed in

the archives at LSU-Shreveport. Many artifacts and photographs pertaining to his fieldwork are in the collections of the Arkansas Archeological Survey and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. Claude's nephew, Mark Armstrong, also a member of the northwest chapter of the LAS, has been providing additional materials resulting from Claude's extensive studies. —*Jeff Girard*

Claude McCrocklin's Bibliography

- 1984 Some Preliminary Observations on Sites and Site Distributions in the Great Bend Region, Southwest Arkansas: Field Report on Projects SAU-29 and SAU-31. *Field Notes* (Arkansas Archeological Society) 201:3-6.
- 1985 An Interim Report (25 March 1985) on a Surface Survey of the Mounds Plantation Site (16CD12). *Field Notes* (Arkansas Archeological Society) 205:13-17.
- 1985 Potter's Pond: A Caddo Salt and Pottery Making Site. *Field Notes* (Arkansas Archeological Society) 202:3-4.
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- 1991 The Search for Crenshaw Mounds Satellite Sites. *Field Notes* (Newsletter of the Arkansas Archeological Society) 242:5-6.
- 1991 The Search for Crenshaw Mounds Satellite Sites: Preliminary Report. *Field Notes* (Newsletter of the Arkansas Archeological Society) 243:9-10.
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- 1992 Test of a Caddo Mound in Northern Louisiana. *Field Notes* (Newsletter of the Arkansas Archeological Society) 247:14.
- 1992 An Intermediate Report on the James Bayou Survey, Marion County, Texas: A Search for Caddo Village. *Caddoan Archeology Newsletter* 3(3):17-20.
- 1998 Preliminary Report on the James Bayou Survey: A Search for Sha-Childni-Ni (1795-1840). *Caddoan Archeology* 9(1):11-19.
- 2002 Finding Timber Hill on the Ground. In *Finding Sha'chahdinnih (Timber Hill), The Last Village of the Kadohadacho in the Caddo Homeland* by Mark L. Parsons, James E. Bruseth, Jacques Bagur, S. Eileen Goldborer, and Claude McCrocklin, p. 15. Texas Historical Commission, Archeological Reports Series No. 3, Austin.

Updating Louisiana's Historic Preservation Plan

Nicole Hobson-Morris

Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

The State Historic Preservation Office is updating Louisiana's Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. The SHPO is composed of the Division of Archaeology and Division of Historic Preservation, both of which are located in the Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism's Office of Cultural Development. These divisions administer programs through funding from the National Park Service.

The Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan plays an important role in the decisions the SHPO makes and helps chart a course conducive to the needs of historic preservation constituents. According to the NPS, the plan provides the framework for guiding effective decision-making on a general level, coordinating statewide preservation activities and communicating statewide preservation policy, goals and values to the preservation constituency, decision makers and interested parties. The plan provides direction and guidance for general-level decision-making, rather than serving as a detailed blueprint for making place-specific or resource-specific decisions.

The current state plan, *Our Places, Our Heritage: A Plan for Historic Preservation and*

Archaeological Conservation in Louisiana 2011 – 2015, has been a valuable tool for many. As part of the updating process, the upcoming plan will address the progress of goals outlined in the existing plan. Through a series of both in-person and web-based planning sessions, individuals and organizations interested in preserving our heritage can help review the current goals and develop new strategies for working together to increase awareness of the state's heritage. There will also be an opportunity to identify and forge new alliances with organizations that share interest in promoting discovery and management of Louisiana's rich cultural resources. The revised plan will reflect the comments and guidance received from all the SHPO's partners and serve to guide preservation efforts in the 2015 – 2023 periods.

The first of two online surveys is ready for comments. It can be found at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LASHPO_PLA_N2015 and will be available through February 28, 2015.

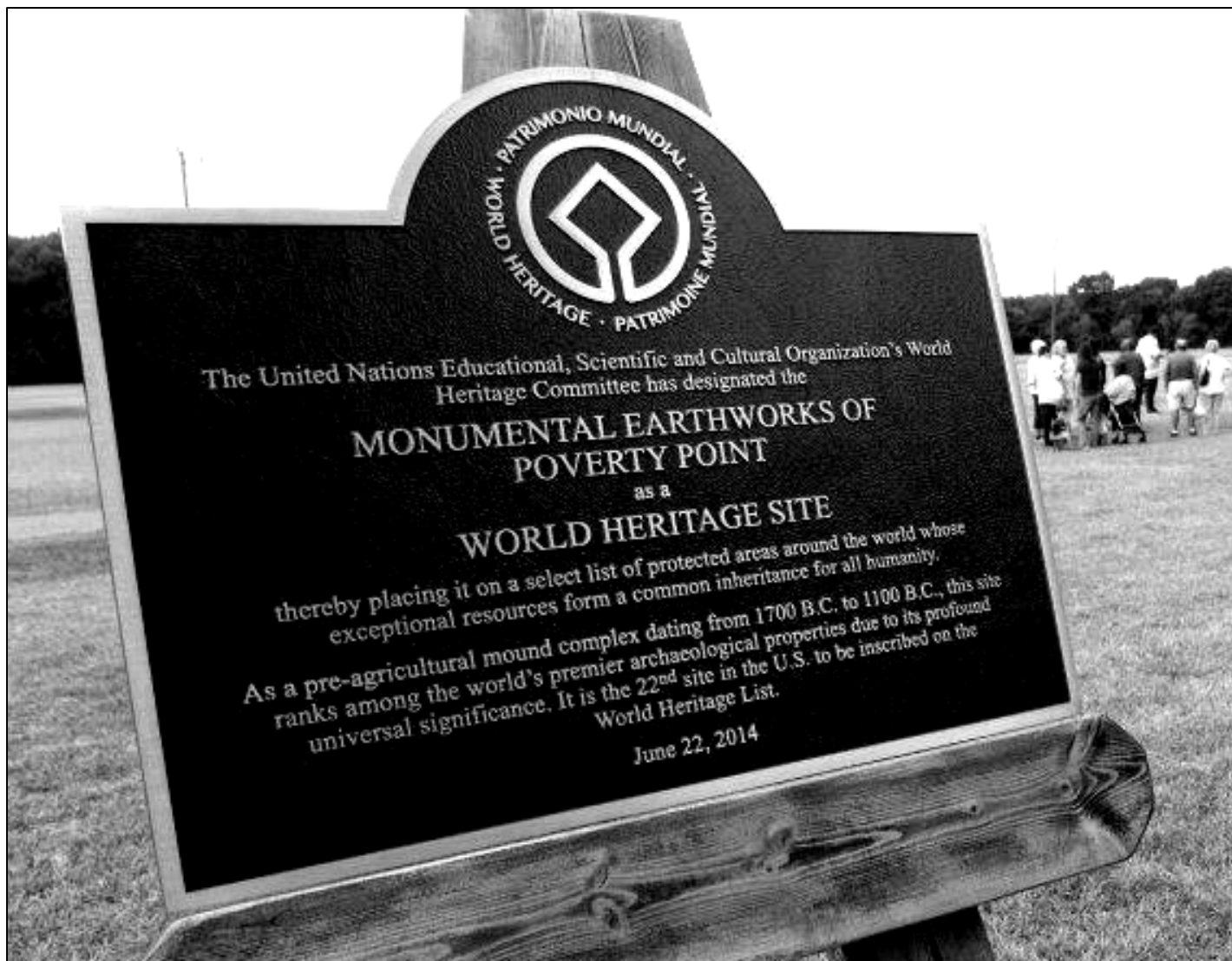
Please take a moment to engage the 12-question survey and share with family, friends, colleagues and anyone else interested in historic preservation. The eventual plan will reflect the ideas and inspiration provided.

Editor's Note: I anonymously participated in this online survey in less than five minutes. Your opinions do matter in the administration of site and structure preservation in Louisiana. One of the questions shown below is an example of how the survey is formatted.

Over the next eight years, what would be the three most effective strategies for preserving and protecting archaeological sites and Indian mounds?

- Increasing publications and online information about Louisiana archaeology
- Establishing a tax credit for preserving sites
- Expanding the Ancient Mounds Heritage Trail
- Promoting Poverty Point as a World Heritage destination
- Increasing educational resources for schools
- Collaborating with Tribes to promote their history and culture

**OCTOBER 11, 2014 - CEREMONY TO INSCRIBE
THE MONUMENTAL EARTHWORKS OF POVERTY POINT
AS A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE**



Archaeologists and others all over the world have heard of the Poverty Point site (16WC5) in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana. They all recognize how unique this site is as a complex and elaborate arrangement of earthen architecture apparently constructed by a hunting and gathering society over 3000 years ago. In addition, archaeological research has shown the inhabitants of this site were involved in a far flung exchange network that brought literally tons of exotic materials from the Appalachians, the Upper Mississippi River Valley, and the Gulf Coast. These and many other features make Poverty Point the premier archaeological site in Louisiana. The membership of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) has contributed financially and personally to the study of this site. They also contributed to the logistics and arrangements of the inscription ceremony on October 11, 2014. We should all be proud to have supported the Louisiana Division of Archaeology the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, the National Park Service, UNESCO, and others who have made such a recognition and honor possible. *-Editor*

SCENES FROM THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE INSCRIPTION CEREMONY



Left to right: Johnathan Jarvis, director of the National Park Service; U. S. Senator Mary Landrieu, and Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne applaud at the unveiling of the plaque recognizing Poverty Point as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Attendees to the ceremony board the Poverty Point tram to tour the site as part of the program.



Some of the 600+ attendees to the October 11 ceremony at Poverty Point listen to one of the speakers address them under the "Big Top."

Come celebrate with us!



Poverty Point
World Heritage Site
Inscription Ceremony

Saturday, October 11

10 A.M. DEDICATION CEREMONY
HOSTED BY LT. GOVERNOR JAY DARDENNE

11 A.M.- 5 P.M. COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
Mounds tours, living history demonstrations
and free lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

POVERTY POINT WORLD HERITAGE SITE
6859 Hwy. 577, Epps | 318.926.5492



Above: Rachel Watson and Gary Stringer (under the tent) greet attendees to the ceremony to celebrate the inscription of the Poverty Point site to the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Right: Flint knapping techniques were on display to those who attended the ceremony at the Poverty Point site.

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

New Acadia Project Receives \$52,000 Grant

Megan Wyatt, posted 8:51 p.m. CDT October 17, 2014
Lafayette Daily Advertiser

The New Acadia Project, or Projet Nouvelle-Acadie, received a \$52,000 grant this week from the Coypu Foundation, founded by the estate of the late John S. McIlhenny.

The money will be used to purchase sensing equipment to identify areas of interest that may lead archaeologists to the original camp sites of the first Acadian settlers.

The grant comes at an opportune time, according to project chair and Loreauville Mayor Al Broussard, who said that archeological work on the project would have been limited this winter because of money constraints to purchase necessary equipment.

"It's very timely," Broussard said. "Plus getting this grant and the necessary equipment will spark new interest in the project."

Organizations, businesses, government entities and area residents have now donated about \$200,000 toward the New Acadia Project, a long-term, multidisciplinary project that could set the record straight about Cajun heritage.

The money has helped the project move forward despite the Louisiana Board of Regents not recommending a different grant request earlier this year.

Mark Rees, a University of Louisiana at Lafayette professor of anthropology and archeology, led two research assistants in field work this summer and research has continued on the project this semester.

"We're just overwhelmed at the response we've gotten from the public and tourism agencies and government agencies," said Acadian historian and local attorney Warren Perrin. "They're really pulling through for us. This grant is the largest, representing a fourth of the money we've gotten. We hope it encourages more donations."

Oral tradition says descendants of Joseph Broussard — the Acadian freedom fighter more commonly known as Beausoleil — are buried along the Bayou Teche near Loreauville.

Al Broussard is not only excited for what the project could mean for tourism in his town, but also for what he could learn about his ancestors because he is a descendant of Beausoleil.

"The cultural tourism is very important not only to our town but also to all of Acadiana and the State of Louisiana," he said. "If we can prove that Acadians first settled here, it's very important."

Next year will be the 250th anniversary of the Acadians settling in the area. Plans are underway for a celebration that will include educational presentations and tours in the Loreauville area.

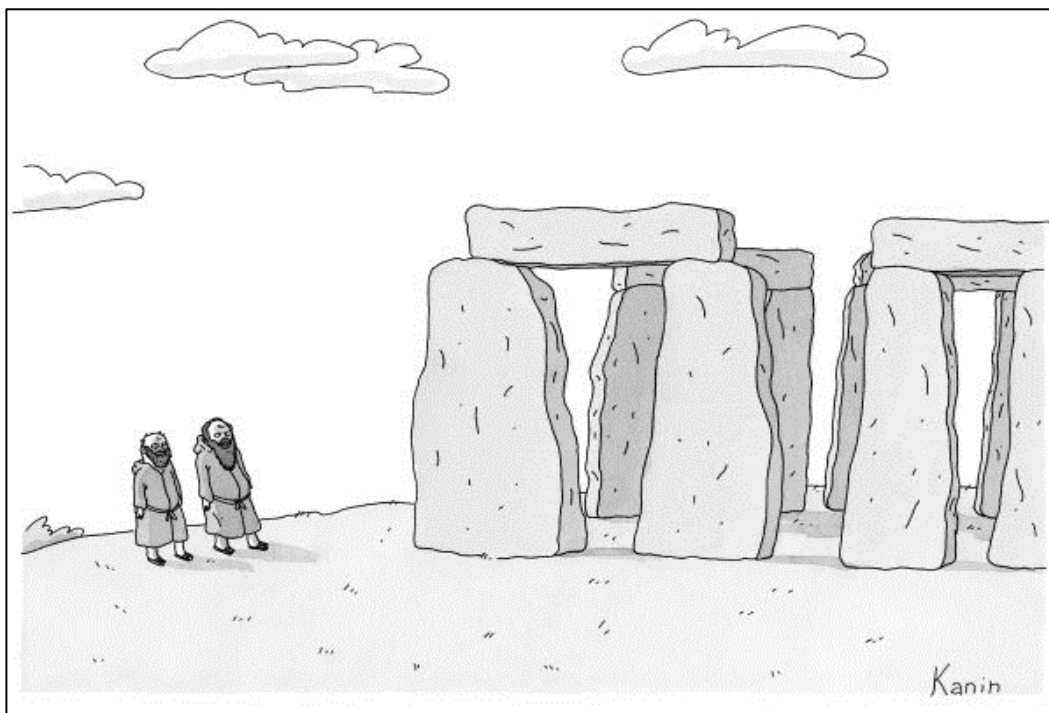
The New Acadia Project — which includes locating the original Acadian camp sites, uncovering artifacts, dating discoveries and determining how the relics fit into the Acadian story — launched more than a year ago and is expected to span three to five years.

"Now that this is properly funded, we'll have a greater chance of being successful in finding the grave site of the first Acadian settlers," Perrin said.





Mark Rees, principal investigator of the New Acadia Project and a professor of archaeology and anthropology for UL, right, chats with Al Broussard, project chairman for the New Acadia Project steering committee and mayor of Loreauville. They talked near an abandoned graveyard located on private property along the Bayou Teche Friday, June 6, 2014, near Loreauville, La. Rees and his team are hoping to uncover evidence of early Acadian camps that were set up along the bayou. (Photo: Leslie Westbrook,



“I just hope people in the future are, like, ‘What the hell are these things?’”

Screaming Eagle mound artifacts, site report presented to Merryville

By Sarah Crawford

scrawford@beauregarddailynews.net

Posted Dec. 1, 2014 @ 2:30 pm

John Guy, president of the West Louisiana Archeology Club, presented a site report and artifacts from the Screaming Eagle mound site located in Merryville to Mayor David Eaves on Friday, Nov. 21.

The site, a relic of the Atakapa Ishak, was donated to Merryville by late historian Velmer Smith, who passed away in May.

"We go in and do the excavations, we do all the data, the artifacts, what type of artifacts they are, how old they are, we do all kinds of tests, and then we turn the information back over to the people that own it," Guy said.

According to a report written by Smith, the Atakapa Ishak are believed to have lived in Southwest Louisiana since 1528. The age of the mound is unknown.

Smith said in her report that she hoped the site could be an asset for Merryville and used as a park, walking trails, a Native American interpretive center or Farmer's Market.

The artifacts presented Friday will be put on display at the Merryville Historical Society and Museum, President Renee Corbett said.

The wide variety of artifacts includes aboriginal ceramics, historic ceramics, stone tools and chipped stone flakes. "We've got artifacts from the 1950s on back about 3,000 years," Guy said.



The Screaming Eagle Site (16BE99) is a pimple mound in Beaufort Parish just outside of Merryville that has revealed a long history of occupation by Native Americans.



John Guy, president of the West Louisiana Archeology Club, presented a site report and artifacts for the Screaming Eagle site located in Merryville to Mayor David Eaves on Friday, Nov. 21. The site was donated to Merryville by late historian Velmer Smith, who passed away in May. The artifacts presented will be put on display at the Merryville Historical Society and Museum. The wide variety of artifacts includes aboriginal ceramics, historic ceramics, stone tools and chipped stone flakes. Pictured from left to right are Merryville Historical Society President Renee Corbett, Guy and Eaves

DRY PRONG MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DAMAGING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST

December 9, 2014 Press Release,
United States Attorney's Office, Western Louisiana District

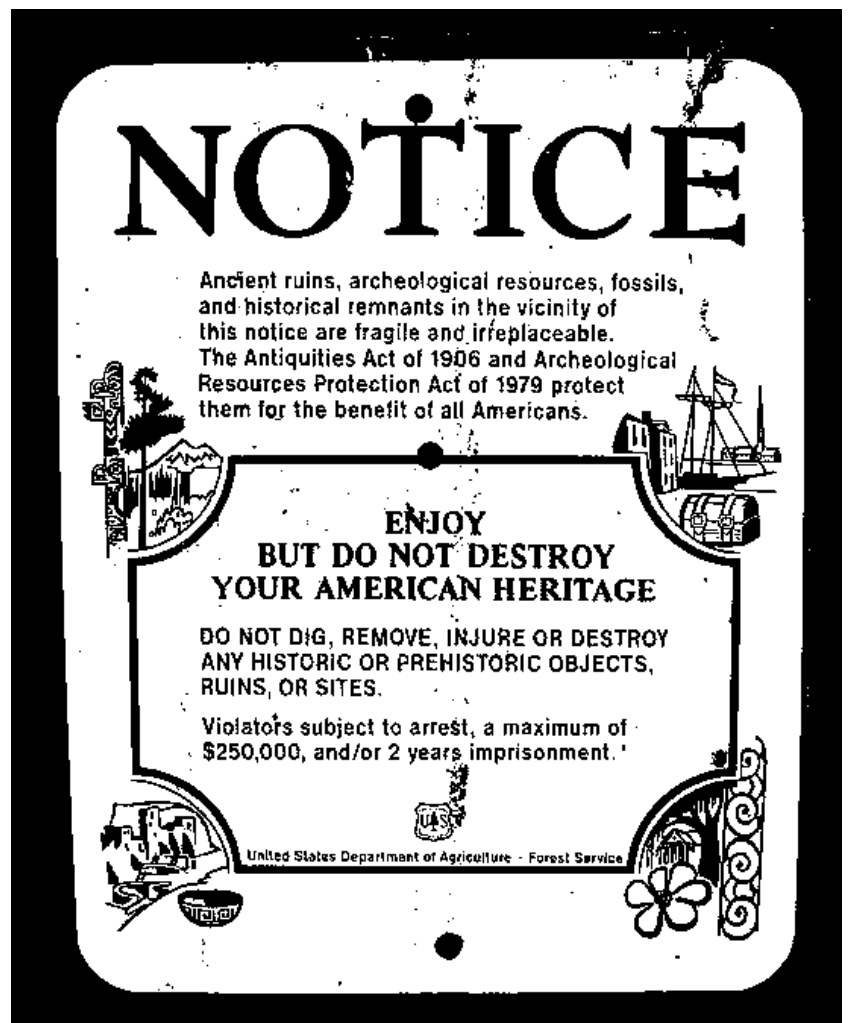
ALEXANDRIA, La. – United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced that a Dry Prong man pleaded guilty Monday to illegally excavating a protected archaeological site in the Kisatchie National Forest.

Robert Edgar Miles Jr., 44, of Dry Prong, La., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James D. Kirk to one count of unauthorized excavation, removal, damage, and alteration of archaeological resources.

According to evidence presented at the guilty plea, U.S. Forest Service officers and archaeologists found a protected archaeological site, which was used as a campsite by native peoples from 2000 B.C. to 700 A.D., in the Kisatchie National Forest that had been heavily excavated leaving deep holes throughout the site.

During the one-year investigation, officers captured images of Miles digging at the site in 2013 and later recovered multiple artifacts from the defendant.

Miles faces one year in prison, one year of supervised release and a \$10,000 fine. Sentencing was set for March 5, 2015. The U.S. Forest Service conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Seth D. Reeg is prosecuting the case.



RESEARCH NEWS**WHAT WE DID THIS SUMMER IN KISATCHIE!**

Geoffrey R. Lehmann, Archaeologist, Kisatchie Ranger District, Kisatchie National Forest

August 2014. This year Jacob Foreman and Kevin Nunnelee from LSU along with Hadley Fuller and Mark Weinzettle from UL Lafayette joined me for 10-weeks of archeological field survey here on the Kisatchie Ranger District (KRD). Participating agreements among the universities and Kisatchie National Forest provide students the opportunity for hands-on field experience as a field crew conducting Phase I archeological surveys of proposed KRD projects.

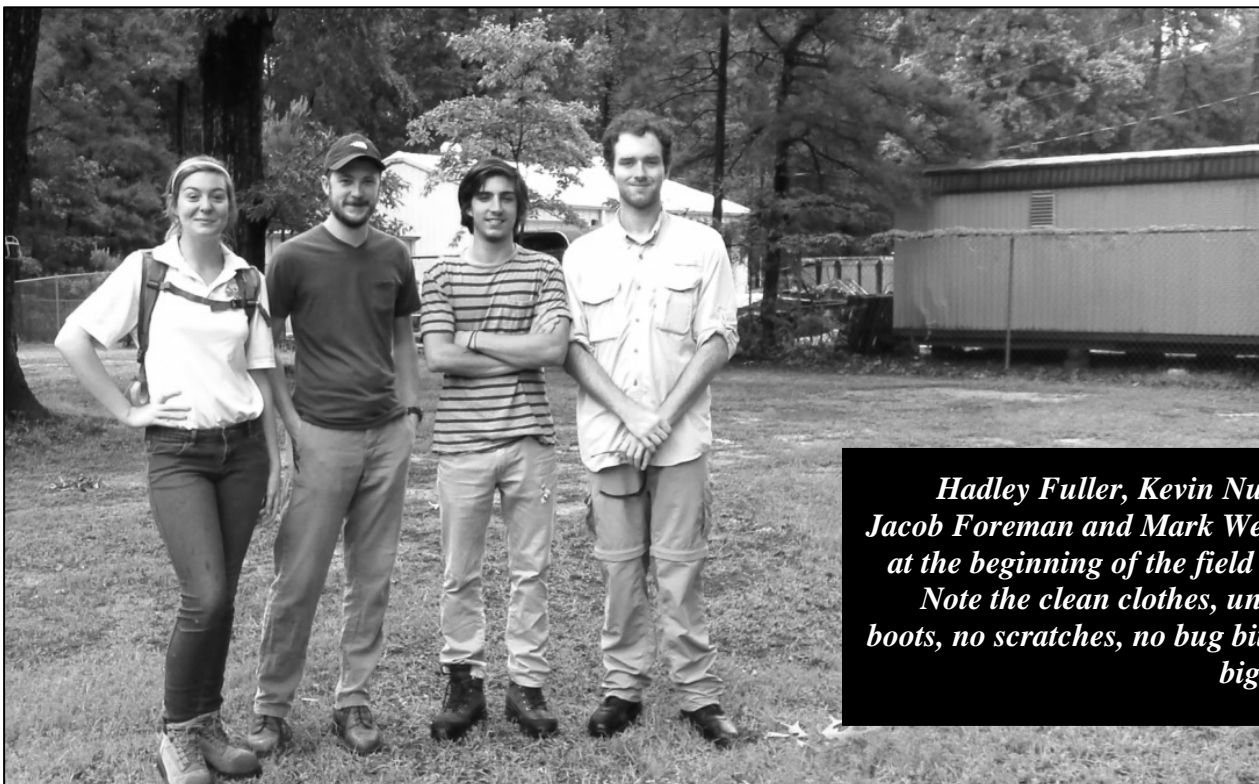
We continued earlier efforts towards a large, multi-year project aimed at restoring the longleaf pine ecosystem within the Sheard Branch drainage, surveying 641 acres (256 ha) of project area. This year we were the beneficiaries of an extremely effective April growing season controlled burn which eliminated much of the understory and in some cases the ground cover, as well. We recorded 3 prehistoric sites along with one Vietnam War-era training site. One of the

former is a compact scatter of debitage at an outcrop of Catahoula sedimentary quartzite.

Next we surveyed 4 miles (6.4 km) of proposed new fireline in the southeast corner of the KRD between Mora and Gorum. This area has not been managed in quite some time, and it was a struggle to even walk through it. We recorded an historic isolated find, and managed to re-locate some long-forgotten boundary markers, as well.

We used a final week of the field season to take advantage of another extremely effective controlled burn within the KRD's designated wilderness area, and began recording the Rosepine Turpentine Company's ca. 1925 distillery operation in the Red Dirt area. Our shovel testing and mapping concentrated on the 1 acre area in which most of the industrial operation took place, but we also surveyed by surface inspection and GPS plotting another 40 acres across which domestic occupations and other work areas occurred. Logistical considerations make this a difficult area to work in, and this year's return to reasonable summer temperatures helped out.

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Hadley Fuller, Kevin Nunnelee, Jacob Foreman and Mark Weinzettle at the beginning of the field season. Note the clean clothes, unscuffed boots, no scratches, no bug bites, and big smiles.

Continued from previous page

There is much more work to be done here just in delineating the site, but it is protected within the Kisatchie Hills Wilderness Area.

Hats off to Hadley, Jacob, Kevin and Mark for getting all of this work done, and for making do after a nearby lightning strike knocked out the air conditioners in two of our Dogwood Estates trailers for a few days.



Another day in paradise! Controlled surface collecting from an outcrop of Catahoula Sedimentary Quartzite (CSQ) where ground cover and underbrush had been removed by a controlled burn (top).

Turpentine cups, aprons and other artifacts visible on the ground surface at the remains of the Rosepine Co. distillery site in the Red Dirt area of the Kisatchie District (left).

Survey along Red Bayou in Northern Caddo Parish

Jeffrey S. Girard, Northwest Regional Archaeologist
Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA

The Red River floodplain was an important landscape for late prehistoric Caddo peoples in northwest Louisiana. A dispersed village existed from the late 12th through the early 15th centuries along an abandoned Red River course known as Willow Chute Bayou. This village developed after the decline in population at the large Mounds Plantation (16CD12) ceremonial center across the river, perhaps as population levels rose and became increasingly reliant on maize agriculture.

The Willow Chute setting was relatively free from the frequent flooding events and bank caving along the active stream, and provided an expanse of contiguous well-drained and fertile natural levee deposits adjacent to a flowing source of water. By the late 15th century, however, the Willow Chute village had been abandoned. Because of the manner in which portions of the Red River floodplain aggrade, the locality eventually became subject to flooding and overbank deposition, resulting in burial of some sites beneath as much as 2 m of alluvium.

The archaeological record of the Willow Chute locality is known from extensive surface surveys carried out by LAS member Louis Baker, and subsequent surveys and test excavations carried out by Baker and me in the 1990s. Other portions of the Red River floodplain in northern Caddo and Bossier parishes have been subject to only sporadic investigations. This fall, with the help of LAS members Jameel Damlouji and David Jeane, I surveyed several tracts along Red Bayou, located

about 20 km (12.5 miles), north of Willow Chute on the west side of the current channel of the Red River. So far, we have recorded three extensive Caddo habitation sites. I found two others during a survey in 2012. One of the sites we recently examined is known as the Gilliam Mound site (16CD207), a site previously studied in 1988 by Jerri Slack and David Horner of Shreveport. Slack and Horner made repeated surface collections over the course of five years after disking of the site by the landowners. They amassed a large artifact collection and are working to get the materials and their notes in order to turn over to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. The current landowner informed me that the property was farmed in the 1960s by Ralph McKinney who excavated a trench through a mound that formerly was present on the site. McKinney reportedly recovered two ceramic pipes from the excavations, but the mound was leveled during subsequent farming operations. We found a substantial scatter of Caddo sherds in the recorded site area. The represented ceramic types appear to relate to the Late Caddo period (ca. AD 1500-1700) and strongly resemble pottery recovered from the Belcher Mound (16CD13) located approximately 12 km (7.5 miles) to the south. The other habitation sites that we encountered appear to be Middle to Late Caddo period in age, and may post-date the Willow Chute locality. It is possible that there was population movement into the Red Bayou area after abandonment of the Willow Chute locality in the middle 15th century.

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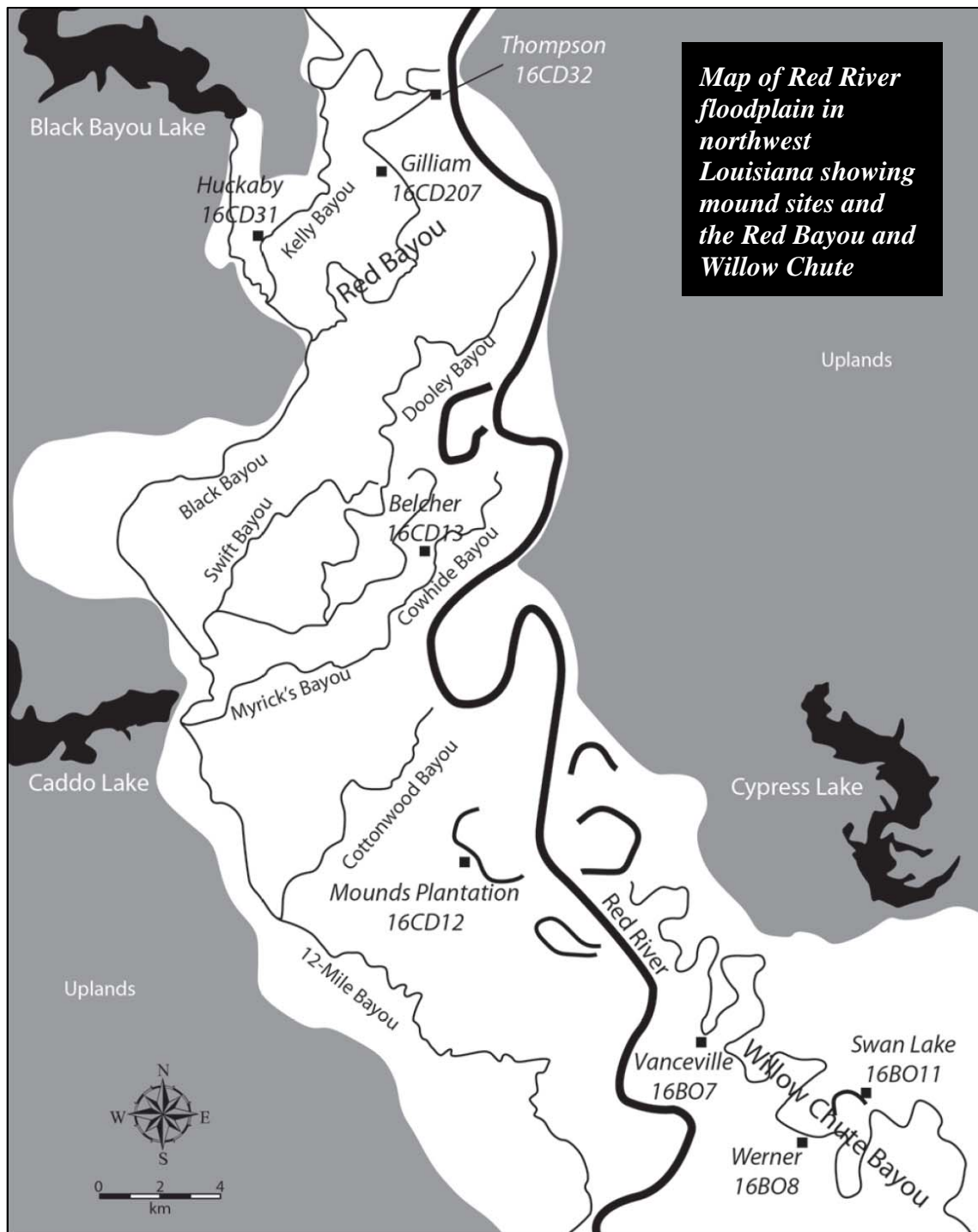
*Two outstanding men in the field.
Jameel Damlouji and David Jeane
flagging artifact locations at the
Gilliam Mound site*

Continued from previous page

It is not certain that a mound actually existed at the Gilliam Mound site. Earlier investigators in the region, such as Clarence Webb, did not mention the site. At the north end of Red Bayou, Clarence B. Moore briefly investigated the Thompson Mound (16CD32) where Webb made a surface collection consisting mostly of Middle Caddo period sherds after the mound had been destroyed. Along nearby Kelly Bayou is the Huckaby Mound Site (16CD31)

that reportedly included two mounds, one of which remains partially intact. This site has been significantly damaged by treasure hunters, and nothing is known about its age.

Continued survey and subsurface testing along Red Bayou should reveal more about Caddo settlement in this area and help us understand the bigger picture of late prehistoric cultural developments in the Red River floodplain.



Developers Donate the Sally Warren Mounds site to the Archaeological Conservancy

Jessica Crawford, The Archaeological Conservancy (TAC)

According to Louisiana state site files, the Sally Warren Mounds in Concordia Parish consist of “a large rectangular shaped mound” known as Mound A, and a “conical shaped burial mound” known as Mound B. Their presumed function was listed as “burial mounds and possibly small village.” The site is located on a natural levee next to Cocodrie Lake.

The site, named for a previous landowner, was last visited by an archaeologist in 1982, when it was discovered that both mounds had been disturbed, and a complete human skeleton had been uncovered in Mound B. The landowner was so rattled by the incident that he denied the archaeologist access to the site shortly after he arrived. After this incident, the owner vigilantly protected the site, and the illicit digging stopped. As there was no time to do any drawings or collect artifacts, the site file simply noted that prehistoric material was observed, and there was a large area of dark soil near one of the mounds with an extensive quantity of ceramics and lithics. “This site should definitely be tested before looters destroy it completely,” the archaeologist wrote. Unfortunately, little more is known about the Sally Warren Mounds.

Monterey Holdings decided to donate Mound B to the Conservancy. And at the behest of the company’s owners, Al Ater, a local land-owner whose holdings included Mound A, agreed

to donate it to the Conservancy as well. The two mounds that disappeared, and were then rediscovered, will now be preserved so that one day the Sally Warren Mounds can reveal their secrets.



Cord marked sherds, Late Woodland stemmed points, as well as engraved pieces of galena (star) were collected by Smokye Joe Franks from the Sally Warren Mounds site (16CO79) several years ago.



With two mounds largely undisturbed and in the hands of the Archaeological Conservancy, the Sally Warren Mounds site (16CO79) presents an opportunity for archaeologists to investigate the prehistory of this portion of Louisiana. Less than 10 miles from the once impressive Troyville site (16CT7) and already providing some evidence of a contemporary occupation, the Sally Warren Mounds site could shed more light on how people live in this part of Louisiana over 1000 years ago. - Editor

Dating Modern Wire Nails

By James A Green, Jr., Services Unlimited

Nelson (1968) says that "modern wire nails" first appeared in the New York area in the 1850s. These nails were made either with European wire nail machines imported into the country or by machines made in the U.S. based on European designs. These early machine-made wire nails (common, finish, brads, & roofing types) have gripper marks (evenly spaced indentations) near the head where the gripper mold held the nail while forming the head. However, some recently produced wire nails also have gripper-like marks near the head. Nelson (1968) goes on to say that the American wire nail machines were not perfected until sometime in the 1860s or 1870s. He states that an 1888 published article on cut nails mentions the "newer" nails. He continues by saying that "[w]ire nails did not really become the dominant type until the 1890s, and many builders preferred using cut nails well into the twentieth century."

Edgerton (1897:246) apparently talks about the same 1888 article that Nelson (1968) mentions. He states that *The American Architect and Building News* wrote in 1888 that "cut nails felt a real competition from wire nails." He also cites the *Report of American Iron and Steel Association* (1889) that "[i]n that year the latter formed less than a fifth of the total product." Edgerton notes that "in 1895 they constituted nearly three-fourths." He also says that the first wire nails with hand-made heads appeared in France around 1800 and the first machine-made wire nail heads were made in France about 1850. He further states that the first wire nail machine used in the U.S. was in the early 1850s. He credits "the first mill for the manufacture of wire nails on this side of the Atlantic" to a Mr. M. Baackes at Covington, Kentucky, in 1875. This was the first mill that was purposely built for manufacturing wire nails. According to Edgerton (1897:246-247), the production of wire nails was 20,000 kegs in 1880 and had risen to 125,000 kegs by 1887. By 1890 this number had more than doubled to 300,000 kegs and by 1895 almost 600,000 kegs of wire nails were being produced in the U.S.

While Nelson's 1968 article is usually referenced in dating nails of all types, there are other sources to consider. The 1865 Russell and

Erwin hardware catalogue has under "Nails and Spikes" on Page 253, "Wire Nails". Listed are wire nails from 1 1/2 to 3 inches in length in 1/4 inch increments, along with the price per pound of each. According to the catalogue, in 1865 Russell and Erwin had warehouses in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and San Francisco. Thus, the new wire nails would have been available at least in those markets by that date.

Charles A. Strelinger and Company's *Illustrated Catalogue of Builders' Hardware No. 3* (1880:286) lists "Steel Wire Nails and Brads" from 3/8 to 5 inches long. They also note to specify brads or finishing nails and further state that a brad "has a small round head" and the finishing nail has a flat head. This company was in business in Detroit, Michigan.

Clarence H. Blackall (1890:16), in his *Builders' Hardware: A Manual for Architects, Builder and House Furnishers* says that,

"Nails of a very different kind, manufactured from steel wire, have been in use for a number of years in America and for a longer period in Europe, and in both places they have been very favorably received and are fast superseding the common cut-nails for many purposes."

One reference to ca. 18th century hand-drawn wire nails says that they principally were being used for crates in which the thin, soft woods were prone to splitting. The arduous task of bradding heads on the early wire nails most likely was the impetus for inventing the wire nail machine in the 19th century in Europe. These European modern wire nails most likely were imported into the U.S. in limited quantities. However, by the 1850s modern wire nails were being produced in New York and by 1865 a major hardware company was advertising them for sale in several markets across the country. By 1889 fewer than one in five nails used for construction were modern wire nails. Of course, this fact does not mean that every fifth nail or so found on an archaeological site dating to this period is a wire nail. A builder of the time could have selected primarily modern wire nails to use in the construction of a structure, thus most of the nails at the site would be the machine wire type.

Another consideration, machine-cut nails continued to be used well into the 1920s and, in fact, can still be bought today in many hardware stores. Machine-cut nails or modern wire nails should not be used as sole indicators of cultural deposit age without other temporal markers for dating the deposits.

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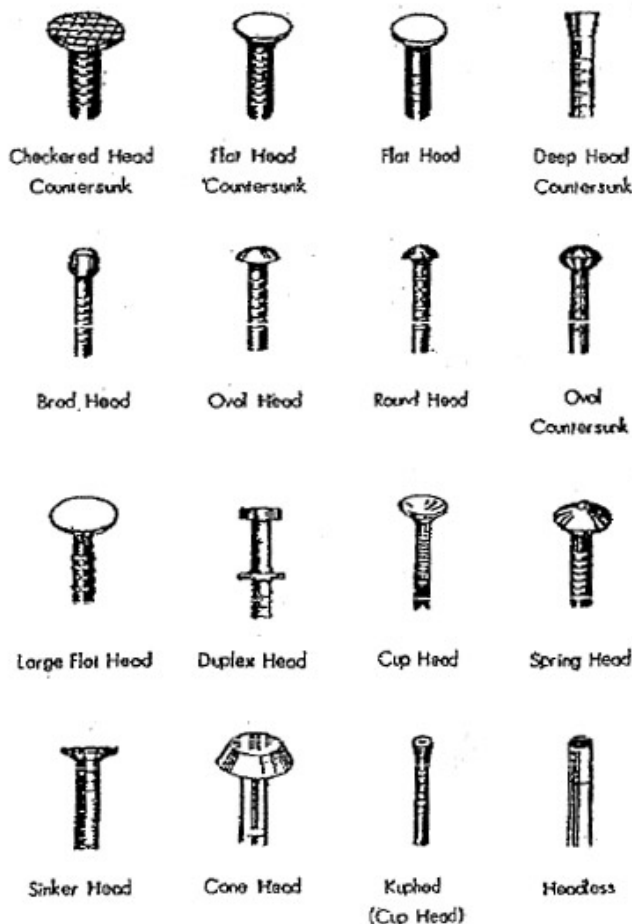
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TYPE OF HEADS



MEETINGS, FIELDWORK, EXHIBITS, WEBSITES, ETC.

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October 29, 2014 - February 14, 2015
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