



# Louisiana Archaeological Society

## NEWSLETTER

CHERIE A. SCHWAB, NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC. BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

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### FROM THE EDITOR

I hope that the year so far has been a good one for all of you. It is important to let everyone know that submissions are down considerably since Sept. 11 – as people's attention and priorities, understandably, have been elsewhere. This was evident in the number of submissions for the Winter issue as well as for this one. I am confident that I can get the newsletter back on track, but I need your help. Let everyone know what's going on in your neck-of-the-woods by sending something in. Submissions can be as short as a few sentences, so don't feel you have to write a full-blown article to contribute. Anything informative is welcome! Thanks for your help.

Cherie Schwab  
Newsletter Editor

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year the LAS community suffered the loss of one of its most active avocational archaeologists, John Guy. I did not know John well, but I did have the opportunity to visit with him at his home a few years ago. He told me many delightful stories about archaeological surveys at Fort Polk and the early years of the Society. I know I speak for many when I say, "Thank you John."

It appears that the LAS will have another productive year. Junior Doughty has agreed to design and maintain a new web page for the Society (see p. 2, this newsletter). Due to the manifold difficulties in obtaining the authority to update the existing web page, it has been decided by the Board to start from scratch. The new address and web page should be on line by mid-summer. Concerning the LAS Bulletin, Dr. Kidder believes that two back issues will be printed this year, with plans for three additional volumes well in hand.

As President, my goals are pretty simple: increase Society membership and encourage the participation of avocational archaeologists in Society activities. With the web page and publication of back issues of the Bulletin, we hope to demonstrate that the LAS is an active society that provides the nonprofessional archaeologist with

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the opportunity to share their work and information about their collections with other members—professional and nonprofessionals alike. Dr. Kidder welcomes papers from avocationalists and the web page will provide the means for collectors to show artifacts of interest.

To increase communication among the members, for those with email access, please submit a message with "member" in the subject box to the Editor of the Newsletter Cherie Schwab (chereeba@cox.net), so we can compile your email addresses for notification of site visits, volunteer opportunities, and the new web page address. I can be contacted at gesaunders@ulm.edu if you have a question or site information you wish to share.

Finally, I would like to extend thanks to Carl Kuttruff for his service as President of the LAS and the advice he has provided to me over the past few years.

Joe Saunders  
LAS President

#### **FROM THE WEBMASTER**

I'm Junior Doughty, a 1995 NSU anthropology graduate, the webmaster for the award-winning and very popular web site "Junior's Juke Joint" at [www.deltablues.net](http://www.deltablues.net), and now the new LAS webmaster. In the months to come the LAS web site will take on a new look and will also have a new and easier-to-remember address. Some of the features planned for the new site include articles written by any LAS member and credit card payment of membership dues and for purchase of publications.

Watch the newsletter for article submission guidelines. Website articles will contain digital photographs from which clickable thumbnail photos will be made. A web page visitor will be able to click the thumbnail image and a pop-up window will open containing the full-size photo. The new site will include simple instructions for

digital photo submissions.

I am open to suggestions about the look and the contents of the new site. I think the site could become a great archaeological resource. Email me your ideas at [junior@deltablues.net](mailto:junior@deltablues.net).

Junior Doughty  
LAS Webmaster

#### **MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

February 1, 2002  
Landmark Hotel  
Leesville, LA

Reported by  
Maureen Downey  
LAS Secretary

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society met Friday, February 1, 2002 at the Landmark Hotel, Leesville, Louisiana. Joe Saunders, Vice President/President Elect, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Members present were:

Joe Saunders - LAS President  
James Fogleman - LAS Past President  
Maureen Downey - LAS Secretary, Delta Chapter Representative  
David Jeane - LAS Treasurer  
T. R. Kidder - LAS Bulletin Editor  
Chip McGimsey - LAS Bulletin Managing Editor  
Margarette Cheramie - CLAC Representative  
John Polk - Delta Chapter Representative  
Nancy Affeltranger - President, Central LA Archaeological Chapter  
Virginia Bommer - Delta Chapter  
Rich Weinstein - Baton Rouge Chapter  
Josetta LeBoeuf - Baton Rouge Chapter Treasurer/  
Program Chair  
Marie Standifer - Baton Rouge Chapter

## MINUTES

The minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting held July 21, 2001 at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette were approved as published in the Fall 2001 LAS Newsletter Volume 28, No. 2. David Jeane made the motion, seconded by T. R. Kidder, to approve the minutes.

## REPORTS

### Treasurer's and Membership Report

Treasurer David Jeane submitted the 2001 Financial Statement, dated January 31, 2002. LAS assets as of 1/31/2002 totaled \$18,146.00. (A copy of the Statement will be included in the next LAS Newsletter.) David reported that membership was down. LAS membership in 2001 totaled 249. Membership dues were increased beginning 2002. Dues are now \$20.00 regular membership, \$5.00 associate membership, \$12.00 student membership and \$200.00 life membership. David remarked that although much work has been done to correct the mailing list, it appears there are still some mistakes. He asked that anyone having a problem receiving mailings to please contact him. Joe Saunders suggested members also submit their e-mail addresses in order to help with distribution of information. T.R. Kidder made a motion to accept Chip McGimsey's offer to have his students help revise the mailing list. Josetta LeBoeuf seconded the motion that was unanimously passed. David Jeane stated that a reminder letter would soon be mailed to those persons who have not renewed their membership.

### Bulletin Report

Bulletin Editor T.R. Kidder reported that Bulletin No. 25 (1998) should be ready very soon. It is to be in the new 8.5" x 11" format. Bulletin No. 26 (1999), Robert Connolly's report on the 1982 Goad Excavations at Poverty Point, is expected to be completed soon after. A motion was made by T. R. Kidder, and seconded by Virginia

Bommer, to investigate the feasibility of the LAS publishing Ian Brown's manuscript, *In the Land of Salt and Tabasco: Archaeology of Coastal Louisiana*. Joe Saunders suggested the possibility of a matching LEH grant to help with publishing expenses. David Jeane reminded the Committee that Marathon has offered to help with LAS activities and that this area should be investigated. Joe Saunders asked T.R. to compile information so that proposals to LEH and Marathon could be made. After discussion, the Executive Committee passed the motion unanimously. Jeff Homburg has asked to use one of the figures from his *Archaeological Investigations at the LSU Campus Mounds Site*, LAS Bulletin No. 15 (1988) in an upcoming publication. The Executive Committee had no objection. Vice President Saunders thanked Bulletin Editor Kidder and Bulletin Managing Editor McGimsey for the quality of the publications and for their efforts to bring the publications up-to-date.

## ONGOING BUSINESS

### LAS Web Site

The Committee discussed the ongoing search for a webmaster to update and maintain the LAS web site. Joe Saunders suggested that help with the web site might be obtained through one of the state universities. He would check at University of Louisiana, Monroe and Chip McGimsey would check at University of Louisiana, Lafayette. Rich Weinstein volunteered to investigate other sources.

### LAS Archives

John Polk asked about the status of the archives. David Jeane reported that the Division of Archaeology has approved space and that Carl Kuttruff has been working on the archives. John Polk has been recording the Annual Meetings for numerous years and these recordings would be a valuable addition to the LAS archives. Anyone with materials should contact Carl (225) 767-6605.

### **Greater New Orleans Archaeologist**

In response to a query from Virginia Bommer, Joe Saunders reported that funding for the Greater New Orleans Archaeologist position has been approved, but that the position has not been filled yet.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Haag Symposium**

The Executive Committee approved a \$200.00 contribution to the symposium honoring Dr. Haag at LSU March 7-9, 2002. Vice President Saunders encouraged all to attend.

#### **Roger Saucier Award**

Discussion was held regarding the creation of an award to honor Roger Saucier. The award would be given to a non-professional member who has made a significant contribution to archaeology. This will be discussed further at a future meeting where additional information will be presented.

#### **Vice President/President Elect for 2002**

Vice President Saunders appointed a nominating committee for the election of the new Vice President/President Elect. The committee was comprised of David Jeane, Rich Weinstein, Jim Fogleman, and Nancy Affeltranger. The committee was to present a slate of nominees to the members at the General Business Meeting. Nominations were also to be taken from the floor.

#### **2003 Annual Meeting**

Josetta LeBoeuf reported that the Baton Rouge Chapter has volunteered to host the 2003 Annual Meeting. Vice President Saunders and the Executive Committee thanked the Baton Rouge Chapter.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Marksville on April 20, 2002. After the meeting, Chip McGimsey will conduct a tour of his latest work at the site. Vice President

Saunders suggested that all LAS members be invited to participate in this tour as well as future events held in conjunction with the meetings. He observed that this was an area where e-mail addresses would be extremely helpful and he again encouraged members to submit their e-mail addresses.

There being no further business, T.R. Kidder made a motion to adjourn. Josetta LeBoeuf seconded the motion. The motion passed and President Saunders adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

### **MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 28TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

**February 2, 2002**

**Landmark Hotel**

**Leesville, LA**

**Reported by  
Maureen Downey  
LAS Secretary**

The 28th Annual Business Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society was called to order at 4:50 p.m. by President Joe Saunders. President Saunders welcomed everyone. He requested that each chapter submit to the secretary information on any new officers or changes in the chapter.

David Jeane, seconded by Jim Fogleman, introduced a resolution to formally thank Ellen Ibert and the West Louisiana Archaeology Club, the Museum of West Louisiana, the Vernon Greater Chamber of Commerce, Fort Polk, and everyone else who helped make the 28th Annual Meeting such a success. This resolution was enthusiastically approved.

After a report that John Guy was in the hospital, John Polk, seconded by Nancy Affeltranger, made a motion to send him a book. The motion passed.

Nancy Affeltranger introduced a resolution formally thanking Carl Kuttruff for all his great work as President and for holding us together for another two years. The resolution was seconded by Charlie Leutze. The resolution was approved unanimously.

## MINUTES

The minutes of the 27th Annual Business Meeting were published in the Spring 2001 LAS Newsletter, Volume 28, No. 1. There being no corrections to the minutes, a motion was made by David Jeane and seconded by John Polk to approve the minutes as published in the Newsletter. The motion was passed unanimously.

## REPORTS

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David Jeane distributed copies of the 2001 Financial Statement, details of which will be published in the Newsletter (*see p. 23, this issue - ed.*). Total assets on 1/31/01 were \$18,146.00. David reminded the membership that because of increasing expenses, membership dues have been increased, beginning January 2002. They are as follows: regular membership - \$20.00, associate membership - \$5.00, student membership - \$12.00, and lifetime membership - \$200.00. David explained that despite much work there were still problems with the mailing list. He asked any problems be reported to him. President Saunders thanked Treasurer Jeane for his report.

### Membership Report

David Jeane announced that membership was down again. It has dropped for the last three years. The total 2001 membership was 249. He emphasized that more effort needs to be made to retain old members and to recruit new ones. David will mail a reminder letter to those members who have not renewed their membership. He asked that members submit their e-mail addresses to help in distribution of information. A

motion to accept the membership report was made by T. R. Kidder and seconded by Jeff Girard. The motion passed unanimously.

### Bulletin Report

Bulletin Editor T.R. Kidder reiterated the problem of receiving submissions for the Bulletin. He said that the Bulletin was becoming increasingly dependent upon the professional archaeologists. T.R. explained that the Bulletin should be the voice of all members and urged everyone to consider submitting. He said that he would help in any way he could. He announced that starting with Bulletin No. 25, a 8.5" x 11" format will be employed. Bulletin No. 26 will consist of Robert Connolly's report on the 1982 Goad excavations at Poverty Point. Despite continued problems with publication, the Bulletins are being caught-up. T.R. announced that the Executive Committee had agreed to investigate the feasibility of publishing Ian Brown's manuscript, *In the Land of Salt and Tabasco: Archaeology of Coastal Louisiana*, perhaps in three volumes. Sources to help fund the publication are to be investigated. President Saunders stressed the importance of submitting to the Bulletin. He then congratulated T.R. Kidder and Chip McGimsey on the excellent work they are doing.

## ONGOING BUSINESS

### LAS Web Site

Jeff Girard raised the issue of updating the web site. Joe Saunders answered that the search for a web master was ongoing. The possibility of a graduate student from one of the universities is being considered as well as commercial services.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Haag Symposium

President Saunders announced that because of the great contribution that Dr. Haag made to

archaeology and to the LAS, the Executive Committee has approved a \$200.00 donation to help with expenses of the symposium honoring Dr. Haag. The symposium will be held at LSU, March 7-9, 2002.

#### **Vice President/President Elect for 2002**

A nominating committee comprised of four past presidents was appointed by President Joe Saunders during the Executive Committee meeting. The members of the committee were David Jeane, Rich Weinstein, Jim Fogleman, and Nancy Affeltranger. They presented John Polk as nominee for 2002 Vice President/President Elect. There being no nominations from the floor, the nomination were closed. John Polk was elected as 2002 Vice President/President Elect by acclamation. John Polk thanked everyone and said that he considered the election to be a great honor and that he would do the best job he could.

#### **2003 Annual Meeting**

Josetta LeBoeuf announced that the Baton Rouge Chapter has volunteered to host the 2003 Annual Meeting. President Saunders accepted the offer and thanked the Baton Rouge Chapter. He remarked that he knew that they would be able to do a great job.

President Saunders announced that the next Executive Committee meeting would be held in Marksville on April 20. He invited all members to attend the tour which Chip McGimsey would conduct of his latest work at the site. He said that having e-mail addresses would make notifying all members an easier job and asked again that members submit their e-mail addresses.

During the meeting, many great door prizes were distributed by the hosts of the meeting.

There being no further business, Ellen Ibert made a motion to adjourn. David Jeane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. President Joe Saunders adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

## CHAPTER NEWS

#### **Northeast Chapter**

In April, the NELAS welcomed Charles "Chip" McGimsey who spoke about "The Marksville Mounds Site and Culture" and current research going on at the Marksville site. On the 16th of May, Dr. Terry Jones presented a talk on the "Civil War Battle at Millikin's Bend." (Millikin's Bend is located in East Carroll Parish in the northeastern part of the state). NELAS meetings are usually held at 7:00 pm in Room 145 of the Chemistry Building (corner of Northeast Drive and University), ULM, Monroe. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Claire Davis  
NELAS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **LAS Annual Meeting 2003 Baton Rouge**

The 29th meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society will be held on Feb. 7th and 8th of 2003 at the Cook Conference Center on LSU campus in Baton Rouge. The banquet will be at the LSU Faculty Club on Saturday night. Josetta LeBoeuf and Fiona Vasbinder are still working on the guest speaker. The hotel rooms, which are part of the conference center, are \$79 including a free full breakfast. The hotel is new and very nice. For more information contact Josetta or Fiona at (225) 383-7455.

#### **Help with Louisiana Archaeology Week September 29 - October 5, 2002**

Your help in planning, hosting, or leading an activity for Louisiana Archaeology Week 2002 is welcome. If you would like to participate in one of these ways, let Anna Lenhart at the Division of Archaeology know **before June 1**. Telephone (225) 342-8170 or e-mail [Alenhart@crt.state.la.us](mailto:Alenhart@crt.state.la.us).

## 2002 Arkansas Archeological Training Program

The program will be held at the Rick Evans/Grandview Prairie Conservation Education Center, June 8th through the 23rd. The field excavation and survey portion of the program will be under the direction of Dr. Frank Schambach, Station Archeologist at Southern Arkansas University, and David Jeane, Research Assistant at SAU.

The Grandview Prairie is a patch of native blackland prairie which has survived centuries of human use. The fieldwork this year will be partly at the Tom Jones site, a large, well-preserved, late Caddo mound group, and partly at the suspected site of the antebellum Grandview Plantation house and headquarters. For the program, you can come for as long or short as time as you want, but you must have an Orientation

the first morning of your participation. There will be a limited number of dorm beds available on a first come, first served basis, at \$4 per person, per night. Camping and RV hookups are also available as well as motels in the area. For more information, contact Gil Verser (479) 575-3557 or Ann Early (479) 575-3556.

## 22nd Mid-South Archaeological Conference

The Mid South Archaeological Conference will be held June 15th at the C.H. Nash Museum, Chucalissa Indian Village, Memphis. This year's topic is "Current Research in the Mid South." Send abstracts to Drew Buchner at datum994@aol.com or to Sam Brookes at sbrookes@fs.fed.us, (901) 278-4100 FAX (901) 312-4237. The conference hotel is the Ramada Midtown, 1837 Union Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

## DATING BAYOU PORTAGE GUIDRY MOUNDS (16SM38), ST. MARTIN PARISH, SOUTH CENTRAL LOUISIANA

BY

NICOLE D. EVERETT, JON L. GIBSON, DANNY M. GUILLORY, AND THOMAS J. JOHNSON

### Location and Layout

We announce two radiocarbon dates obtained on samples from the Bayou Portage Guidry Mounds (16SM38). The site is located on the south bank of Bayou Portage Guidry, near the point where it discharges into Bayou Amy, on the western edge of the Atchafalaya swamp at Henderson, St. Martin Parish, South Central Louisiana. The Bayou Portage Guidry Mound group consists of five or six mounds enclosing a plaza and encircled by borrow pits (Figure 1). The complex covers about one and a quarter hectares. Four of the mounds on opposite sides of the plaza are pair-bonded. Big Mound, the largest, a 4.5 m-high truncated cone, 45 m in diameter, is linked with Trail Mound, a 70-cm high oval structure, via an apron descending from the northwest side of the large structure. Mirrored on the western side of the plaza are the other two joined mounds—Squirrel Trap Mound, the larger, a 1.5 m truncated conical, and Locust Bean Mound, a 60 cm-high oval extension, which connects with its northeastern side. One or possibly two small, free-standing mounds lie between the Siamese mound sets—Black Crow Mound, the western, and Broken Arrow Mound, the eastern. Broken Arrow Mound only stands 20-30 cm high and may be a natural bump. The mounds rise atop an old buried Teche-Mississippi natural levee and Bayou Portage Guidry, which runs laterally from the swamp westward to the broad Teche Ridge—which has long served Cajun settlers (and earlier peoples) as a portage between Bayou Teche and Atchafalaya River.

Thomas Marckese showed the mounds to Gibson in the 1970s, and surface collecting and test excavations have been conducted under Gibson since the late 1980s, primarily to ascertain the mounds' origin, although digging also afforded enrichment for archaeology students at a local university (Gibson 1990:Table 2).

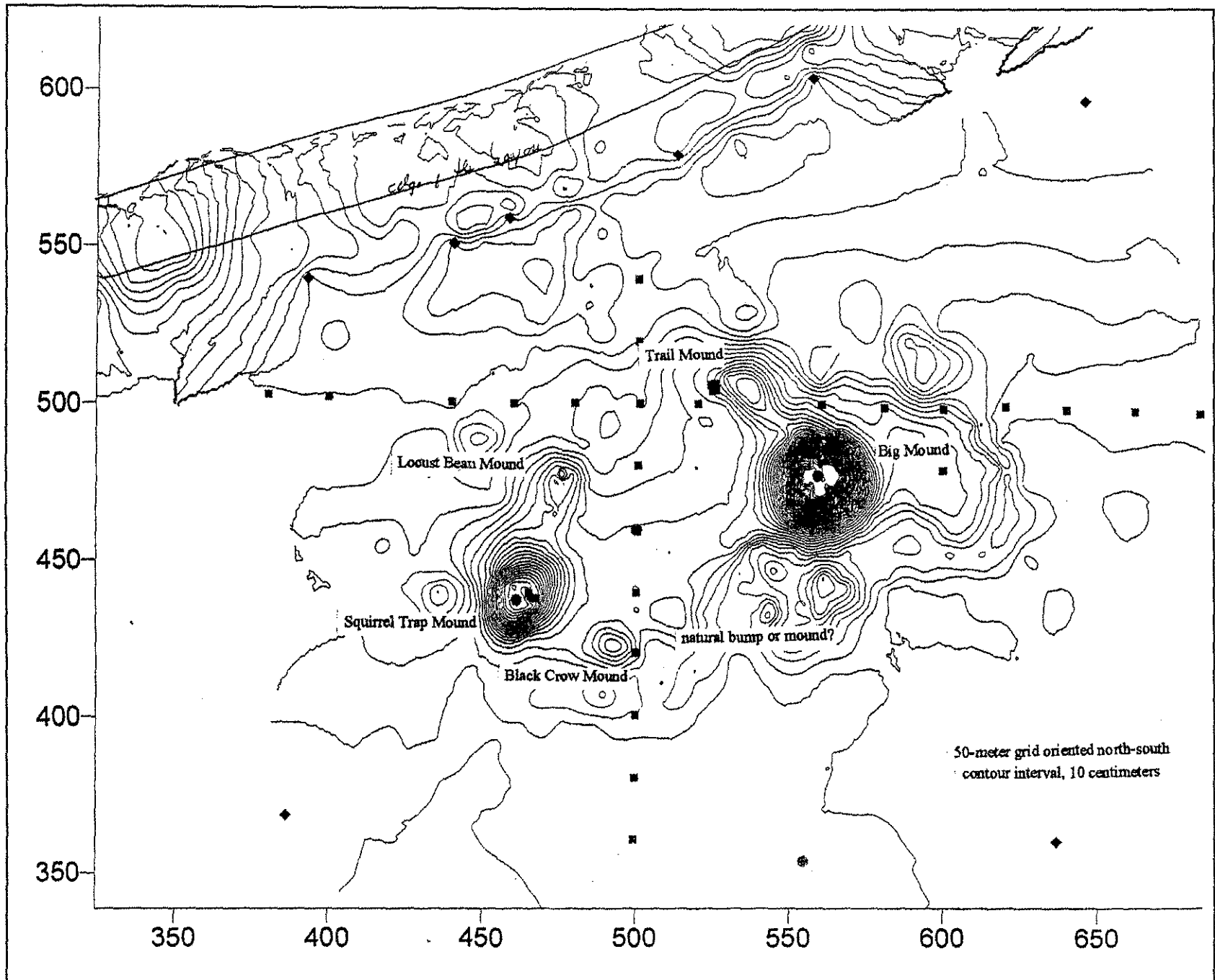


Figure 1. Bayou Portage Guidry Mounds, near Henderson, Louisiana. Total station-engineered map made by Mark Rees and his 2001 field school students at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. (Courtesy of Mark Rees and Chip McGimsey).

Years ago, Faye Stouff, wife of Emile, then Chitimacha chief, told Gibson that the principal conical mound in a mound group near Coteau Holmes was used for burial well into the late nineteenth century. Another site on Bayou Sorrel on the eastern side of the Atchafalaya swamp also sported a single bonded pair of mounds (Gibson 1982; Moore 1913). The large mounds at all three sites were basically conicals (with ells), and geometry alone makes look-alikes out of conical mounds of similar size. Still, shape underscores the issue of when mounds were made and used. Why? Long-held archaeological wisdom tells us that conical mounds were early or middle Woodland constructions. Could it be that mound-building Atchafalaya natives, almost certainly the ancestors of Chitimacha people, continued to make mounds in the likeness of their conical forebearers long after their kind had disappeared elsewhere? Or did traditional Chitimacha simply add to already old sepulchers continuously (interruptedly), eventually making big ones out of small? We wanted to know. But archaeological reconstruction is the lesser moment. Inquiring after old tradition is the heart of the issue.

### Radiocarbon Dates

Two radiocarbon dates were assayed by Beta Analytic Inc., on samples collected from two nearby in-line 1 by 1-m squares dug into the western flank of Trail Mound. Charcoal was floated from the general matrix of the lowest fill layer (not a feature, unless the entire stratum is considered a feature)—the bottom of the artificial mound just above the old original soil. Charcoal consisted of burned sticks and twigs and some charred hickorynut shell fragments. Root hairs and bone bits were picked out by hand. The results are as follows:

Sample 450/386/5/Louie (Beta-132764), radiometric-standard; conventional radiocarbon age, 560+/-70 BP; 13C/12C ratio, -26.4 ‰; 2 Sigma calibrated result (95 percent probability), cal AD

1290 to 1450 (cal BP 660 to 500); intercept of radiocarbon age with calibration curve, cal AD 1405 (cal BP 545); 1 sigma calibrated result (68 percent probability), cal AD 1310 to 1365 (cal BP 640 to 585) and cal AD 1380 to 1425 (cal BP 570 to 525).

Sample 449/386/5 (Beta-127975), radiometric, standard; conventional radiocarbon age, 850+/-70 BP; C13/C12 ratio, -25.0 ‰; 2 sigma calibrated result (95 percent probability), cal AD 1025 to 1285 (Cal BP 925 to 665); intercept of radiocarbon age with calibration curve, cal AD 1205 (cal BP 745); 1 sigma calibrated results (68 percent probability), cal AD 1055 to 1085 (cal BP 895 to 865) and cal AD 1150 to 1260 (cal BP 800 to 690).

There is not one age that best represents the actual date, only several possibilities with greater and lesser degrees of likelihood. Still, we are confident that at least one stratum of Trail Mound was put down sometime around cal AD 1200 to 1400. Culturally, this “moment” transpired during Plaquemine times, and from the character of the pottery collection, it happened earlier rather than later.

### Associated Bits and Pieces

The two samples were recovered from the lowest, or basal, basket-loaded stratum (40 to 50 cm below surface) piled over the original ground surface (2Ab horizon). Robert Neuman (1984) and others have made us cautious about using mound samples to date mounds because older, pre-mound materials could have been incorporated in mound fill. Although neither sample came from features, which would allay such fears, we still believe both dates pertain to mound origin because no earlier (pre-Plaquemine) materials have come to light in “sealed” superincumbent strata.

Decorated pottery from the basal layer in the two test units included: Plaquemine Brushed, 28 percent; Pontchartrain Check Stamped (shallowly impressed paddle stamping), 27 percent; Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac*, 14 percent; and

Coles Creek Incised, *var. Hardy*, 12 percent. Among stone artifacts were a few flakes from all stages of tool making but mainly flakes with simple platforms and some residual cortex—middle-range production. About a third of the stonework showed evidence of thermal alteration. Only two dart points were found, and one was a barb fragment only. All stone was local gravel, and no exotics were identified. Several small cane cores (one highly oxidized) were recovered, along with several burned pieces of hard clay/dirt, probably daub used in house construction.

These folks ate well. Faunal remains include abundant deer (horn to hoof), catfish, choupique, turtle, squirrel, and various birds. Sorry, no detailed inventory is yet available, as the rest of the collection awaits analysis, but we think it safe to say that Bayou Portage Guidry residents were not vegetarians, although hickorynut and switch cane (young shoots?) were eaten (or at least, their residue was recognized among charred floral material).

Bits and pieces all reflect humble origin. Nothing among them suggests that they are anything other than domestic trash, which got scraped up and incidentally incorporated in dirt used to build Trail Mound. Nothing in the inventory points to sacred or ceremonial exclusivity, but then site-wide comparisons and refined analyses designed to disclose such activities are incomplete. Materials are not grave goods. No human interments have been found, despite word from native informants that mounds were burying places and a note in state records claiming that human bones have been found. (We know not by whom or where). We have not seen a single human bone in three decades-worth of visits. Neither does the pottery represent special feasting dishes smashed during some long-forgotten gathering. Why not? Because they look like all the rest of the pottery scattered across the site. If they are unusual or special, it comes from their presence in the mound or from their conse-

cration by events or personages, not from something intrinsic or distinctive about the vessels themselves.

### Conclusions

Charles McGimsey and Josette van der Koogh's compilation of Louisiana radiometric dates includes more than 600 absolute dates (McGimsey and van der Koogh 2001). They give us a general idea of the course of major cultural changes over the last six millennia, but there are still many poorly dated moments and even outright discrepancies. But no matter how extensive, radiometric chronology alone cannot shoulder the full weight of the comprehensive history we need to pinpoint village spans, chiefly tenures, regional and local events, and specific technological innovations and changes—the substantive details that must be forthcoming if archaeology is to make real progress toward understanding the past, rather than merely continue charting the crests of time's wake. Radiometric dates will never be more than statistical probabilities with built-in statistical errors—double whammies that leave us with error ranges too sizeable to reconcile day-to-day or even generation-to-generation histories, especially without redundancy and more redundancy.

Two dates from one small Early Plaquemine mound sitting on the edge of the Atchafalaya swamp only suggest a possible age for one building stage in one mound at one site. Dozens of dates are needed to disclose the mound's building and use spans, and there are four or five other mounds in the Bayou Portage Guidry complex, including the principal structure, Big Mound. Dozens of dates will be needed just to fashion an outline of mound chronology, and that span may or may not bracket the duration of the village. There are countless similar situations all over the Lower Mississippi Valley. Can there be any question that archaeology still has a long way to go? We would like to offer these two dates as down

payment on a refined chronology and a fuller history – gestures toward a more mature archaeology and historical understanding of a proud people – the Chitimacha of the Atchafalaya.

### Acknowledgements

Atlatl Enterprises Inc. of Arnaudville, Louisiana, paid for the radiocarbon dates, and we owe Tommy Johnson big-time for making the necessary arrangements. We also thank Jean Kreamer for permitting us to dig on property her family now owns. Mark Rees and his field school class at University of Louisiana, Lafayette engineered the total station map of the mounds and kindly permitted me to include it here.

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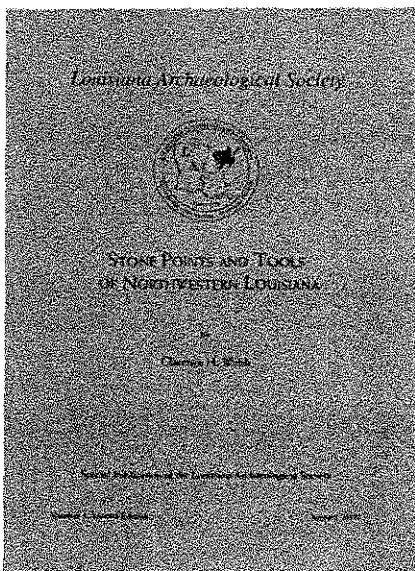
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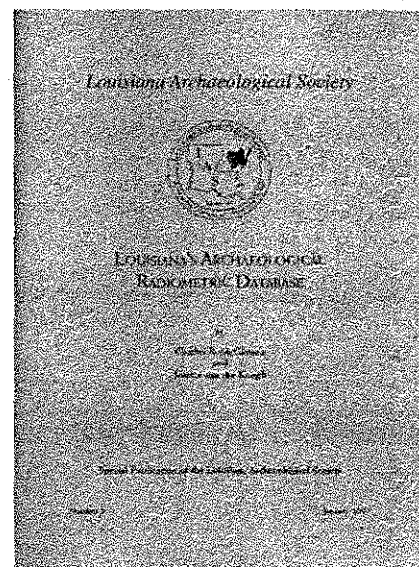
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by Charles R. McGimsey  
and  
Josette van der Koogh**

# LAS ANNUAL MEETING



Guest speaker, David G. Anderson, giving his presentation.



Chip McGinsey and David Jeane at the banquet. (David is using a new form of archaeological sign language to communicate with his neighbor).



Charlie Bollich and friends enjoying the banquet festivities.



Rob Mann, Jeff Girard and (meeting co-host) Ellen Ibert.

# MEETING 2002 E, LA

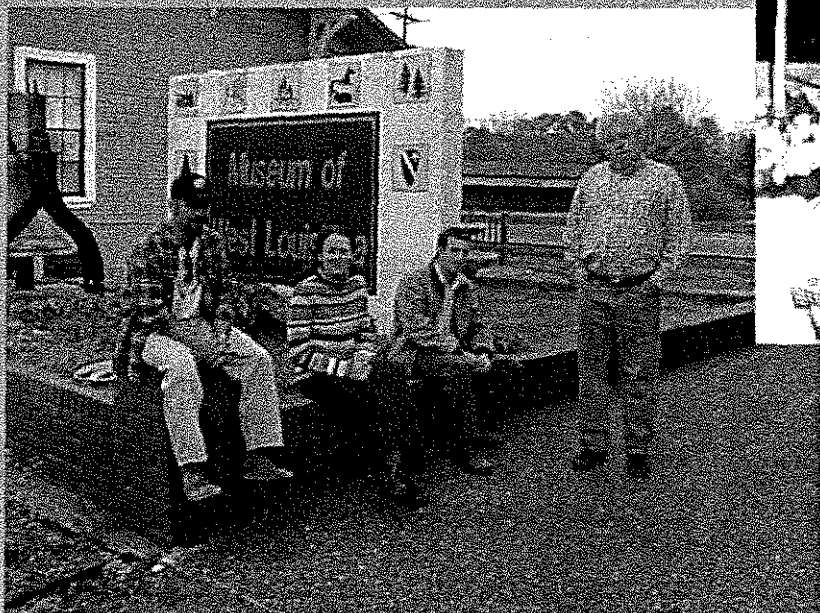
Josetta LeBoeuf, Fiona Vasbinder, and Mark Melancon enjoying their banquet meal.



Look familiar? Rich Weinstein, Mark Melancon, and Louis Courville "discussing archaeological theory" over beer.



Duke and Linda Rivet strike a pose for the camera.



Mark Melancon, Fiona Vasbinder, Louis Courville, and David Jeane after breakfast at the Museum of West Louisiana.

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The Archaeology of the Confederate Gunboat *Arrow*, by Charles E. Pearson.



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## Help with Louisiana Archaeology Week September 29 – October 5, 2002

Your help in planning, hosting, or leading an activity for Louisiana Archaeology Week 2002 is welcome. If you would like to participate in one of these ways, let Anna Lenhart at the Division of Archaeology know **before June 1**. Telephone (225) 342-8170, send this form to the Division of Archaeology, P.O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, or fax it to (225) 342-4480.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

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### Proposed Activity

*Please fill out the parts you can; just leave blank any section about which you are unsure.*

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How would you like to participate in the proposed activity? *(Please select all that apply)*

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***Please return this form before June 1, 2002 to:***

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P.O. Box 44247  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804  
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# LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## 2001 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JANUARY 31, 2002

*Period covered by this report—1/31/2001 thru 1/31/2002*

### ACCOUNT REPORTS JANUARY 31, 2001

Louisiana Archaeological Society Savings "A"	7,797.00
Louisiana Archaeological Society Savings "B"	5,263.00
Checking Account Balance	705.00
Petty Cash	235.00

**TOTAL ASSETS – 1/31/2001** **19,424.00**

### 2001 TRANSACTIONS

#### INCOME

Membership Fees and Publication Sales	4,205.00
Checking Account Interest	78.00
Savings Account Interest	730.00
Cashed Savings "C"	5,418.00

**TOTAL 2001 INCOME** **10,432.00**

#### EXPENSES

Treasurer Expenses(postage, printing, phone,etc)	562.00
Newsletter Expenses	3,777.00
President Expenses	951.00
La. Archaeology Week Grant	200.00
Coastal Environments	176.00
Hotel (Annual Meeting deposit)	100.00
Misc (postage, ISF check, Speakers Bureau, etc.)	317.00

**TOTAL 2001 EXPENSES** **6,082.00**

**BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT 1/31/2002** 4,325.00

### TOTAL ASSETS LAS - 1/31/2002

LAS SAVINGS "A"	8,175.00
LAS SAVINGS "B"	5,516.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT	4,325.00
PETTY CASH	130.00

**TOTAL** **18,146.00**

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For year\* \_\_\_\_\_

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|--------------------------|-----|------------------|
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Send all notes, news, and other communications to: Cherie A. Schwab, Newsletter Editor, 7325 Meadowbrook, Ave., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810. If possible, articles should be submitted on computer disk or via email, preferably in Microsoft Word or Word Perfect, although most other word processing programs can be translated. Digital figures can be submitted on disk or via email in a TIFF or PICT format or in hard-copy format, if necessary. Questions regarding format should be directed to the editor (225) 767-2090, email: chereeba@cox.net. Style should conform to the guidelines published in *American Antiquity*, Vol. 57, No. 4 (Oct. 1992).

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