



# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2007/2008

Vol. 35, No. 3

**2008 ANNUAL MEETING  
LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
MARRIOTT LAKEWAY HOTEL  
METAIRIE, LOUISIANA  
FEBRUARY 8-10**



This is not the conference hotel !!

**THEME OF MEETING IS  
DISASTER  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
SEE PAGES 2-5  
FOR DETAILS**

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

**2008 Louisiana Archaeological Society's Annual Conference  
February 8, 9 and 10, 2008  
Marriott Lakeway Hotel, Metairie, Louisiana**

The 34th annual LAS Conference will be held at the Marriott Lakeway Hotel in Metairie, Louisiana. Early registration will open Friday, February 8 at noon.

The Marriott Lakeway has reserved a block of rooms that will be held until **January 18** at a special conference rate of **\$99.00 plus tax** per night. The hotel can easily be reached either from I-10 by heading north on Causeway Boulevard or from I-12 by heading south to travel across the Causeway. An attached parking garage will be available at a minimal charge. Anyone who wishes to visit the New Orleans area within two days before the meeting—or to stay to visit the New Orleans area within two days after the meeting—will be offered the same reduced rate at the Marriott Lakeway.

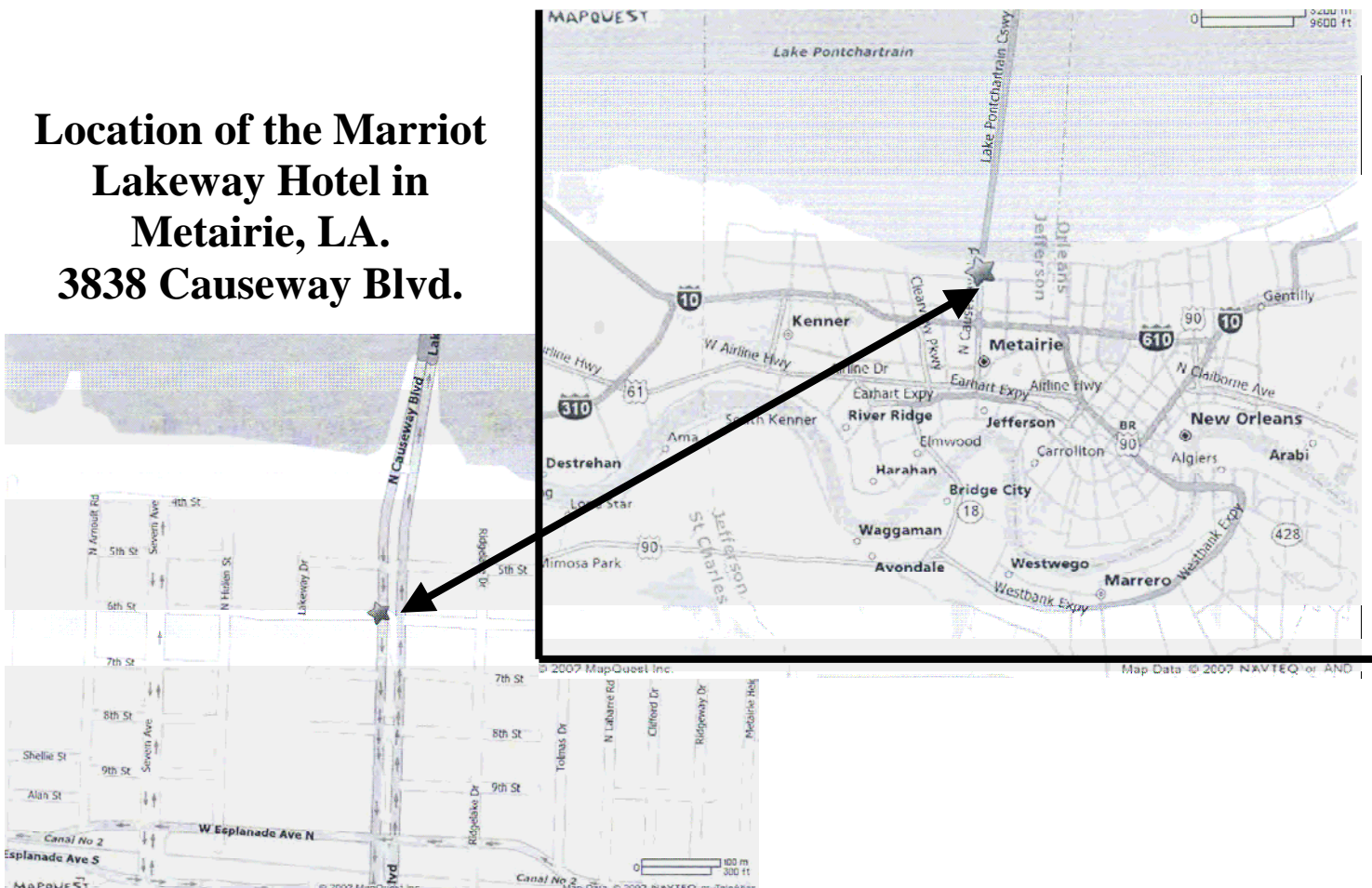
You can make your reservation now (1) by calling (504) 836-5253 or (2) by visiting the Marriott web site: <http://www.marriott.com>. Alternatively, the following link will take you directly to the Marriott Lakeway page where you can make your reservation: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/msymm-new-orleans-marriott-metairie-at-lakeway/?groupCode=laslasa&app=resvlink>



**This is the conference hotel !!**

**Directions to Marriott parking garage-**  
Turn west at intersection of Causeway & 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Turn right (north) onto Lakeway Dr.  
Turn right (east) onto Fifth St. for garage entrance.

**Location of the Marriot  
Lakeway Hotel in  
Metairie, LA.  
3838 Causeway Blvd.**



## CALLS FOR PAPERS !!!

If you are a professional archaeologist, historian, or related researcher please consider participating in this year's LAS meeting in Metairie, Feb. 8-10, 2008. If you are an avocational archaeologist, please share your interests, experiences, or knowledge with the membership as well. The theme of this year's meeting is "Disaster Archaeology," highlighting archaeological research conducted in south Louisiana in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Papers relevant to the theme of "Disaster Archaeology" are particularly encouraged, although any paper pertaining to the archaeology of Louisiana would be welcomed. Contact Program Chairman Nathanael Heller at [nheller@rcgoodwin.com](mailto:nheller@rcgoodwin.com) or at (504) 837-1940. **Deadline for submissions is January 25, 2008.**

### LAS ANNOUNCES STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION FOR THE MARIE STANDIFER AWARD

In order to support and encourage student research in Louisiana archaeology, the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) is pleased to announce the 2008 LAS Student Paper Competition to be held at its 2008 annual meetings in Metairie, Louisiana, February 8-10. The competition is open to all undergraduate students, as well as to graduate students who have not yet received a Master's degree. To enter, students must submit a copy of their paper to the competition committee no later than **January 16, 2008** and make a twenty-minute presentation based on their findings at the 2008 LAS meeting on February 9.

Papers submitted to the competition should be typewritten, double-spaced, with appropriate citations of references and a complete bibliography. Paper topics may include any subject related to the archaeology of prehistoric or historic Louisiana. This may include examination of sites or artifacts from neighboring states, as long as the overall topic of the paper clearly relates to the cultures found within Louisiana. A maximum of five papers will be accepted into the competition, and the winning paper will be chosen based on relevance to the theme of Louisiana archaeology, excellence of scholarship, and overall quality of both the written paper and the oral presentation.

This year, the Marie Standifer Award for the winner of the competition will be co-sponsored by the cultural resource management firm R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., and will consist of a cash award of \$200. In addition, all accepted participants in the student paper competition would receive free registration at the meetings and attendance to the LAS banquet, courtesy of the LAS. The winner of the 2008 LAS Student Paper Competition will be announced at the LAS banquet on the night of February 9.

The Marie Standifer Award was established in 2007 to honor the late Marie S. Standifer, in recognition of her dedication and contributions to archaeology and the LAS. Marie was a research associate in the Department of Biological Sciences at Louisiana State University, and was a recognized authority in the field of archaeobotany. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. is proud to co-sponsor this award in order to support the next generation of archaeologists working in Louisiana.

Papers entered into the 2008 LAS Student Paper Competition must be received no later than January 16, 2008. Paper submissions may be printed (2 copies) or sent in digital format by e-mail or on compact disc. Please include a one-paragraph abstract, as well as a short cover letter introducing the entrant to the competition committee. Send entries to: Nathanael Heller, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., 309 Jefferson Highway, Suite A, New Orleans, LA 70121; (504) 837-1940; [nheller@rcgoodwin.com](mailto:nheller@rcgoodwin.com).

#### Tentative 2008 Meeting Schedule

(subject to change-contact Nathanael Heller at [nheller@rcgoodwin.com](mailto:nheller@rcgoodwin.com) for updates)

Friday, Feb. 8, 5 pm-8 pm - Registration and greetings to arriving members.

Saturday, Feb. 9, 8:45am - Greetings and Introduction

9-12 am - Presentations

1- 4 pm - Presentations

5-6 pm -LAS general meeting

6:30-8 pm - LAS Banquet

8 pm - Keynote Address-Dr. Gould

Sunday, Feb. 10, 8:30 Assembly @ Hotel for Tour

9 am - 12 pm New Orleans/Katrina bus tour

### LAS Members Invited to Tour Katrina Disaster Areas of New Orleans During 2008 Meeting

We are currently looking into arrangements for a bus tour of New Orleans neighborhoods most affected by Hurricane Katrina. If you think you would be interested in participating in this tour, please indicate on your registration form, or by sending email to George Riser at [Geomriser@aol.com](mailto:Geomriser@aol.com).

The bus tour will assemble at 8:30 am at the Marriott and will be from 9-12 am, February 10, 2008. Advance notice is needed in order to know how many buses to schedule. No pre-payment is needed, but is expected upon boarding. A nominal fee (ca. \$10/person) may be charged for the tour depending on the number signing up. Please circle "yes" in form below if you intend to go or clearly state your intention in an email.

Pre-registration is encouraged for the conference and required for the banquet. Pre-registration fees must be received no later than January 25, 2008.

#### PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Fee: Pre-registration # \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Door Registration# \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00

Banquet Fee: # \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00

Tours: Hurricane Katrina bus tour Sunday: yes/no

Make Checks Payable to "LAS 2008" & mail to:

c/o George Riser

2 Magnolia Gardens Drive

Covington, Louisiana 70435

## LEH Grants \$\$\$ to the LAS!!



The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) has granted \$2245 to the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) to fund the 2008 annual meeting. This funding will be spent primarily to support the cost for the keynote speaker, Dr. Richard A. Gould.

## LAS SILENT AUCTION

Once again, the LAS will hold a Silent Auction at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Metairie. Over the last three years, LAS members have been very generous, raising almost \$3,000 for the LAS with their purchases. This money has enabled the Society to remain financially stable, produce the Newsletter and Bulletin, and helped us dodge the specter of increased membership dues. We hope the members will continue to support the Society by contributing items for the auction and bidding aggressively on the items put up for bid. Items for the auction can be sent to Chip McGimsey, or brought to the annual meeting. Please let Chip know what you are bringing so that we can have the proper number of tables and tags available. We would love to have anything remotely dealing with anthropology and archaeology, Louisiana history, artwork, and other materials that you think would be of interest to the membership. Contact Chip McGimsey at 225-342-8170 or [cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us](mailto:cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us).

## 2008 LAS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### DR. RICHARD A. GOULD -AUTHOR OF *DISASTER ARCHAEOLOGY*

The LAS is honored to announce that Dr. Richard A. Gould will be the keynote speaker at the 2008 annual meeting. Dr. Gould is a Professor of Anthropology at Brown University, and a forensic anthropologist with the federal Disaster Mortuary Operations Recovery Team (DMORT). He also serves as director of Forensic Archaeology Recovery (FAR), a volunteer organization that assists local authorities to locate, record, and recover human remains and associated personal effects and other materials at mass-fatality disaster scenes (<http://forensicarch.org/>).

Dr. Gould assisted in recovery efforts in Mississippi and Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He also worked at the site of the World Trade Center in New York after September 11, and at “The Station” nightclub fire scene in West Warwick, Rhode Island in 2003. Dr. Gould recently authored the book *Disaster Archaeology* (2007, University of Utah Press), which looks at how trained field archaeologists apply their skills to locate, record, and recover remains of disaster victims and collect evidence in the aftermath of a disaster event. More information on Dr. Gould’s latest book can be viewed at <http://www.disasterarch.com/index.html>.

Since completing his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1965, Dr. Gould studied human cultural and behavioral adaptations to stress, risk, and uncertainty. Initially these studies looked at living societies: in NW California, in Australia's Western Desert, and in subarctic Finland - and related the findings to archaeological remains. This interest later extended to the study of shipwrecks and losses at sea, with underwater fieldwork in Bermuda and in the Dry Tortugas, FL.

He was Assistant Curator of North American Archaeology at the American Museum of Natural History, NY, (1965-71) and Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu (1971-81). He came to Brown University as Professor of Anthropology in 1981. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and is a past-Chair of Section H (Anthropology) of the AAAS. He was also a Fellow of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and past-Chair of the AAA Committee on Ethics. He also serves as a forensic anthropologist with DMORT and is Director of Forensic Archaeology Recovery (FAR), a volunteer team based in Rhode Island.



Dr. Gould at work  
in the field.

***DISASTER ARCHAEOLOGY***,  
by Richard A. Gould  
(Professor of Anthropology, Brown University,  
Providence, RI),  
University of Utah Press, 2007.  
ISBN 978-0-87480-894-0  
288 pp

A major, mass-fatality disaster will occur somewhere in the foreseeable future. What happens after first responders like firefighters, rescue teams, and medical personnel have done their best to preserve lives and property? *Disaster Archaeology* addresses this question head-on by looking at how trained field archaeologists apply their skills to locate, record, and recover remains of disaster victims and collect evidence during the aftermath of a disaster event.

## LAS CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SULPHUR -- Donita Lane Gray Burton, 59, passed away Saturday, September 8, 2007 in the Sulphur hospital.

Donita was a member of DAR (Daughter's of the American Revolution) where she served as the Good Citizenship Chairperson for fifteen years. She was actively involved in the Artists Civic Theatre Group where she participated in plays, costume and stage design as well as make up. Donita was instrumental in the coordination of the Acadia Parish After School Acting Classes. In addition to being involved in many community and civic organizations she was an Archaeologist for eight years serving as the past secretary for the Louisiana State Archaeological Society. Donita enjoyed photography, gardening and shopping but most of all, she cherished her time with family especially her grandchildren.

Her loving family includes her husband of forty years, Tom Burton; daughter Kayla Gibson and her husband Bo; son, Jeremy Burton and his wife Mary Ellen; grandchildren, Jack, Joseph and Judson Gibson, Cullen, Timothy, Daniel, Lane and Julianna Burton; father, Clark Gray, Sr. and step mother Gloria Gray; sister, Cathy Gray Richard; brothers, Clark Gray, Jr. and Earl Gray. Her mother Thelma Jeffers Gray preceded her in death.

Tuesday.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1:30 pm, Tuesday, September 11, 2007 from Our Lady Prompt Succor Catholic Church of Sulphur under direction of Johnson Funeral Home of Lake Charles. Celebrants will be The Monsignor Charles Dubois and Father Ernie Courville. Burial will be in Mimosa Pines Cemetery in Carlyss. Visitation will be in the funeral home Monday from 5 until 9 pm with a 7 pm scriptural rosary service led by Deacon Jack Reynolds and from 9 am until 12:30 pm on Tuesday. Pallbearers will be her grandsons with assistance from her son, son-in-law, nephews and brothers - in-law.

The family wishes to express a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Grimbball and Dr. Gonzales for their faithful and attentive care to Donita as well as to West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital's ICU Team, Emergency Room Staff and Ambulance / EMT Crews for their compassion and dedicated service. Memorials may be made in Donita's memory to the Ronald McDonald House Houston, ATTN: Vickki Keane, 1907 Holcombe Blvd. Houston, Texas, TX 77030 (713)795-3500, of which she was an avid supporter for many years.

*Editor's Note-This is a copy of an obituary posted on the website for Johnson Funeral Home in Lake Charles, LA. Long-time LAS members will recall Donita's enthusiasm, style, and consistent graciousness.*



**Roger Bergstrom in the field**

*Editor's Note - Roger Bergstrom, husband to Velicia Bergstrom, archaeologist for Kisatchie National Forest, passed away suddenly in December 2007. The following remembrance was provided by John Ippolito, archaeologist for the Forest Service in Texas and a good friend to both Roger and Velicia.*

After a successful career in pharmaceutical research, Roger Bergstrom retired early and pursued his interests in archaeology. He began attending U.S. Forest Service sponsored Passport in Time (PIT) projects in the early 1990s in the upper Midwest. In 1995, he attended his first project sponsored by the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas, and from that point on he became an integral part of the Forest Heritage Resource Management Program. After moving to Texas in 1997, his volunteer efforts in support of the Forest expanded to include active participation in the Texas Archeological Society. He eventually became an Archaeological Steward for the Texas Historical Commission and was a charter member of the resurrected East Texas Archeological Society. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Texas Friends of Passport in Time, and was that group's immediate past president.

*Roger Bergstrom continued*

After moving to Louisiana in 2002, Roger continued his involvement in local avocational societies as well as in the Passport in Time program. He supplemented his volunteer work with occasional professional employment in Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana. In 2005, following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Roger continued his service with FEMA, and eventually back in Texas with the Forest Hurricane Rita recovery project. During the Hurricane Rita recovery project, Roger single handedly documented damage to over 100 archeological sites on the Angelina National Forest.

Roger's passion for archeology and his willingness to do whatever he was asked were his hallmarks. In addition to being quite the handyman, he had a great knack for figuring out simple solutions to complex problems. His passing leaves a void in the hearts of all who knew and worked alongside him. He will be sorely missed. Donations in his memory are requested to be made to Texas Friends of PIT, 6310 Rock Prairie Road, College Station, Texas 77840.

### **West Louisiana Archaeology Club - Leesville** From Johnny Guy-President

I will see everyone in February at the state LAS meeting. As for the WLAC we did not have a meeting in December but will have a meeting on January 17, 2008, which is the third Thursday, at 6PM at the Museum of West Louisiana in Leesville. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope to see everybody at the meeting in Metairie.

### **Northeast LAS Chapter** From Claire Davis-President

The November Meeting was held Thursday Nov. 8. The proceedings involved *Armchair Archaeology*: books that got us started in archaeology and the books and bulletins that recorded our archaeological adventures. The Jan 17 and Feb. 21 meetings are "Points and Pots: What They Tells Us About the People Who Made and Used Them". All meetings are held at 6:30 pm, in Natural History Museum, Sandel Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. University of Louisiana-Monroe (ULM).

### **Pottery Identification Workshop-SWLAS Chapter**

On Saturday, Nov. 17th, Charles Bollich, Volunteer Archaeological Steward for the Texas Historical Commission (THC), generously gave a workshop on Pottery Identification in Lake Charles, LA at the McNeese State University Library. The Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Society (SW-LAS) hosted the event, which was free and open to the public. The workshop attracted attendance by a dozen archaeology enthusiasts, many of who brought examples of local pottery. Bollich, who prefers to be called Charlie, currently resides in Beaumont, TX and has been a member of the Texas Archeology Society for over 50 years, serving a term as President. He said the volunteer stewardship program with the THC started 20 years ago and he has served in a stewardship position for 12 years. He considers pottery identification, in particular the techniques for classifying and identifying pre-historic pottery, as his area of specialty. The event in Lake Charles was a positive learning experience enjoyed by participants.

### **Baton Rouge Chapter-BRLAS** From Dennis Jones-President

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the LAS meets at the Bluebonnet Branch of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library at 7 pm the last Wednesday of every month, except November and December. The next speaker on Jan. 30 will be Lindsey Caldwell, a bioarchaeology graduate student at LSU who has done some work on the human remains at the Gold Mine site (16RI13).

New officers for the BRLAS are:  
Dennis Jones-President,  
Rob Mann-Program Chair  
Stephanie Perrault-Secretary/Treasurer.

### **LAS Bulletin 27**

Bulletin 27 was mailed out in May 2007. We suspect there were some problems with the mailing list; so if you were a member in 2000 and did not get a copy, please contact Josetta LeBoeuf ([josieaz@bellsouth.net](mailto:josieaz@bellsouth.net)) or Chip McGimsey ([cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us](mailto:cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us)). We apologize for any confusion and hope everyone got their copy and is enjoying it.



Charlie Bollich explaining ceramic ID to audience in Lake Charles.

LOUISIANA DIVISION OF  
**ARCHAEOLOGY**

### Notes and News from the State Archaeologist

Most people know by now that in June I stepped into the State Archaeologist's position. This position had been vacant for almost a year following the untimely death of Tom Eubanks. Many people may be surprised by my decision as I had (almost) always said I had no desire to be a bureaucratic archaeologist and give up the fieldwork that we all enjoy. When I did finally seriously consider the opportunity, however, it seemed like this was the best time to make the leap from the field to the office. One important factor was that I knew many of the people in Louisiana archaeology, and felt that I could work with everyone to improve archaeology's position within the state.

After six months as State Archaeologist, I am still trying desperately to catch up on all the things I need to know. While I have been involved with bureaucratic issues, the application of state and federal laws, government rules and practices, and hurricane recovery matters on various levels over the 35 years I've been doing archaeology, it has always been from the outside looking in. As anyone who has made the shift from outside government to inside government can tell you, it is an entirely different world on the inside. The amount of things to learn, such as new acronyms, policies on how I can spend my time, how to specifically apply each and every law, how FEMA operates and how we interact with them, how to go about hiring new people, and designing and spending budgets way larger than any I've ever dreamed of, is simply staggering. There are times when I feel like I'm back in grade school again, as all my years in field archaeology have given me little training or experience for the government side of the business. But, with the help and guidance of all the wonderful people here at the Division, I'm learning how to swim in these waters.

The Division of Archaeology is undergoing some changes as well. Meta Pike joined us in June as the new Outreach coordinator. She put together this year's Archaeology Week events and helped to finish the Mounds Trail booklet and other public opportunities. In addition, the Division is bringing several people to help us deal with the amount of projects and reports arising from the hurricane recovery efforts. Dennis Jones is helping to review Section 106 reports, while Jill Andrews and Kellye Cummings are assisting Cheraki Williams and Rachel Watson with site forms, report logins and other matters.

Planning for Archaeology Week got off to a late start this year due to the late arrivals of Meta Pike and myself. But Meta worked very hard to pull this year's schedule together, and has arranged numerous talks and presentations across the state. Duke Rivet, Rachel Watson and Jason Emery are continuing with the enormous effort to deal with all of the ongoing hurricane recovery work, as well as all of the other projects that normally occur across the state. We will have an update on the year's activities at the Annual Meeting to let everyone know the state of archaeology in Louisiana.

It has been a very interesting transition from being one of the Regional Archaeologists to the State Archaeologist, and thanks to everyone inside and outside the Division that has helped me, and will continue to help me, make this transition. I have enjoyed working with everyone and look forward to working with everyone in the LAS to bring archaeology forward in Louisiana.  
*-Chip McGimsey*

## Louisiana Enjoys Another Successful Archaeology Week in 2007

Across the state, over 1500 people attended events celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Louisiana Archaeology Week (September 30-October 6). Audience members enjoyed a variety of events: guest speakers, walking tours, traveling exhibits, and demonstrations. With over 50 events scheduled in 40 cities and towns throughout Louisiana, there was a great selection of appealing activities.

Each region of the state offered a variety of exciting events. Visitors to the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum in Shreveport learned about the early Caddo Indians from regional archaeologist Jeff Girard. In Monroe, Dr. T. R. Kidder from Washington University, St. Louis, gave a presentation on the architecture and engineering of mounds in the Mississippi Valley. Families in Lake Charles enjoyed a day of stone tool making demonstrations and spear throwing at CampFire USA. The Cabildo Museum in New Orleans hosted a lecture by Dr. Jack Irion on the Mardi Gras Shipwreck, an early 19<sup>th</sup> century ship recovered off the Louisiana coast. Parish libraries, museums, state historic sites, state parks, the LAS, and the LSU Dept. of Geography and Anthropology sponsored many of these events.

The Division of Archaeology appreciates all of the support in making this an exciting year to commemorate Louisiana archaeology. We look forward to having an entire month of celebrations and activities in October 2008!

*-Meta Pike*

Cidney Whitman learns to use the pump drill during 2007 Archaeology Week event at the Biedenharn Museum & Gardens in Monroe. Photo by Angela Whitman.



## Get Ready for Archaeology Month 2008

For the past twenty years, the Louisiana Archaeology Week program has helped raise public awareness of archaeological discoveries throughout the state. Due to the growing success of this annual celebration, the Louisiana Division of Archaeology has recently developed Archaeology Month in order to provide a broader selection of activities. In addition, the Division of Archaeology hopes to offer more flexibility for participants and fewer scheduling conflicts.

If you are interested in volunteering for Louisiana Archaeology Month as a host venue or participant, please contact the schedule coordinator Meta Pike at (225) 342-8179 or mpik@crt.state.la.us.

*Editor's note-The following is an abstract provided by Archaeology Magazine for an article by noted writer and National Public Radio commentator Andrei Codrescu. The complete article appeared in the November/December issue about the Mounds Trail in NE Louisiana.*

### Letter from Louisiana: Mound Safari

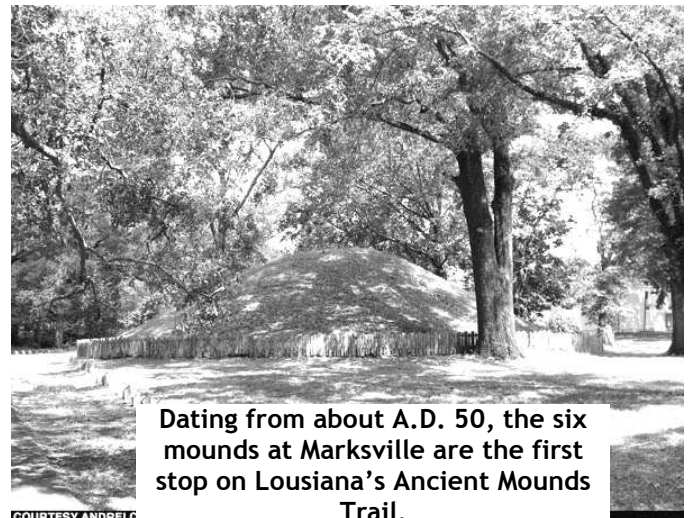
by Andrei Codrescu

*Taking a prehistoric road trip through the Bayou State*

My wife Laura is a native Louisianan who spent a good deal of her childhood searching for Indian mounds. Directly across the Mississippi River from her home in West Baton Rouge Parish, there are two round-topped Native American earthworks on the campus of Louisiana State University. I have passed them hundreds of times walking to my office in the English Department, wondering what ritual purposes they might have served. Of course, students have their own ritual use for them. Day and night, they are favorite places for making out. (In my own youth, in Romania, we found the same use for Roman ruins.)

Native American mounds are the state's most vivid connection to its ancient past. There are nearly 700 mound sites in Louisiana, with an especially dense cluster of them in the northeastern part of the state, near the Mississippi River. "We've got the full range here, from 5,000 years ago up to the proto-historic period [ca. A.D. 1540]," says archaeologist Joe Saunders of the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Saunders and his colleague Recca Jones were instrumental in creating the Ancient Mounds Trail, a driving route intended to link privately owned mounds that can be seen from the road and are identified by historical markers. The trail also features larger state-owned mounds, including Louisiana's preeminent site, Poverty Point. Jones's recent discovery of the Archaic mound site of Watson Brake--dating to 3500 b.c. and far older than any other known mound in the country--inspired the creation of the trail, which is now two years old and includes 41 mounds. "There's no place in the country that has the same number of mounds that date to so many different periods," says Saunders. "Northeastern Louisiana is really unique."

**Andrei Codrescu** - poet & professor of English at LSU at Baton Rouge. His latest book is *New Orleans, Mon Amour: 20 Years of Writing from the City*



Dating from about A.D. 50, the six mounds at Marksville are the first stop on Louisiana's Ancient Mounds Trail.

COURTESY ANDREI C



COURTESY ANDREI CODRESCU

The Ancient Mounds Trail sign at Mound Plantation marks a site occupied by the ancient Coles Creek people (A.D. 400-1200). (Courtesy Andrei Codrescu)

### PHASE III DATA-RECOVERY EXCAVATIONS AT 16IV94 AND 16IV109, IBERVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA

By Joanne Ryan, Douglas C. Wells, and Justine Woodard McKnight  
Coastal Environments, Inc., Baton Rouge

In the fall of 2005, Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI), under contract to Providence Engineering of Baton Rouge, conducted archaeological data recovery at 16IV94 and 16IV109 in Iberville Parish (Ryan and Wells 2007). These two prehistoric sites were threatened by the construction of the Shintech Louisiana, LLC, Plaquemine PVC Plant located south of Plaquemine.

The Phase III investigations at 16IV94 included the hand excavation of 11 m<sup>2</sup> of intact deposits, plus the mechanical stripping of circa 8,195 m<sup>2</sup> (1,434 m<sup>3</sup>) of soil from the entire site. At 16IV109, 16 m<sup>2</sup> of intact deposits were hand excavated and circa 11,206 m<sup>2</sup> (2,521 m<sup>3</sup>) of soil mechanically stripped. The midden deposits preserved at 16IV94 occurred in a small prehistoric channel bed along a crevasse-splay ridge, while those at 16IV109 occurred on a crevasse-splay ridge adjacent to a former swamp environment.

Ceramic analysis suggests that the major component identified at 16IV94 dates to the late Coles Creek period St. Gabriel phase (AD 1000 to 1200), while 16IV109 was occupied primarily during the St. Gabriel phase (AD 1000 to 1200) and early Mississippi period Medora phase (AD 1200 to 1500). However, very minor late-Tchula-to-early-Marksville period (250 BC to AD 200) and possible middle-Coles-Creek period (AD 900-1000) components are likewise reflected in the artifact assemblages from both sites. In addition, both sites also produced materials dating to the Delta Natchezan Phase of the Late Mississippi to early historic period (AD 1450 to 1800).

The Medora Phase occupation at 16IV109 was confirmed by two radiocarbon dates. Both samples were subjected to accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) and corrected by stable isotope (C13/C12) analysis. The apparent radiocarbon age was calibrated to a dendro-chronological scale using the calibration curves of Stuiver and Reimer (2000). Soot from the interior of one ceramic vessel produced a calibrated date of A.D. 1290, while a charcoal sample from the midden deposits dated to A.D. 1406.

Bone preservation at both sites was extremely poor and floral remains abnormally rare in the numerous flotation samples collected from the sites. The midden deposits at 16IV109 yielded no comestible plant remains of any kind. As fragments of partially carbonized cane were preserved in these deposits, the lack of edible plant remains does not appear to be solely a question of poor preservation. The midden deposits at 16IV94 likewise yielded nothing but a single possible corn kernel fragment. Conversely, one pit feature at 16IV94 produced a remarkable quantity of corn (Figure 1) plus one unidentified carbonized seed.

Two radiocarbon dates from 16IV94 confirm occupation there in the Delta Natchezan Phase and early historic period. Charcoal from a midden deposit produced calibrated intercepts of A.D. 1519, 1594, and 1622, while corn cupules from the pit feature mentioned above yielded calibrated intercepts of A.D. 1673, 1777, and 1800. The dates reflected by the corn sample strongly suggest that 16IV94 (and probably also 16IV109) represent the Chitimacha settlement depicted on maps of this area from at least the 1720s through the 1760s (Figure 2). Occupation at both sites must have ended in the very early historic period, as no European artifacts other than a single glass bead were recovered from either site.

#### References

Ryan, Joanne and Douglas C. Wells

2007 *Phase III Data-Recovery Excavations at 16IV94 and 16IV109, Iberville Parish, Louisiana*. Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Providence Engineering, Baton Rouge.

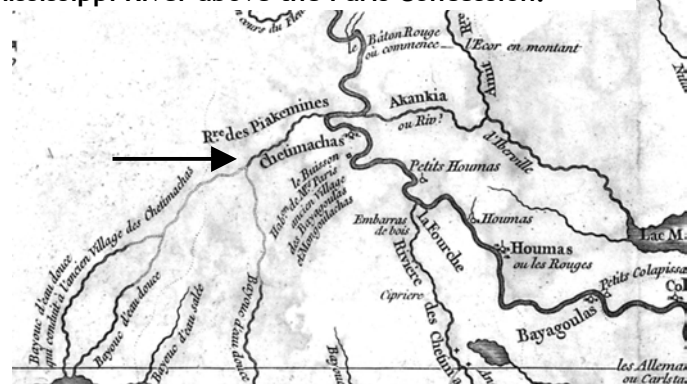
Stuiver, Minze, and Paula J. Reimer

2000 CALIB 4.3 Radiocarbon Calibration Program. <[www.radiocarbon.pa.qub.ac.uk/calib/](http://www.radiocarbon.pa.qub.ac.uk/calib/)>



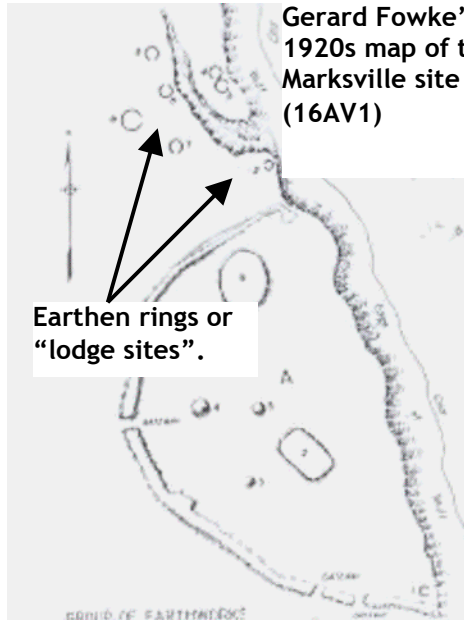
Figure 1. *Zea mays* cupules recovered from the west half of Feature 9 at 16IV94. Scale on left in one-mm increments

Figure 2. A portion of d'Anville's 1752 *Carte Particulière d'une partie de la Louisiane* showing a Chitimacha settlement on the west bank of the Mississippi River above the Paris Concession.



## The Archaeological Conservancy Saves Portions of the Marksville Site

Gerard Fowke's  
1920s map of the  
Marksville site  
(16AV1)



Earthen rings or  
"lodge sites".

Jessica Crawford of the Archaeological Conservancy reported in the Fall 2007 issue of *American Archaeology* that the Conservancy had purchased 16 acres of the Roy family tract near Marksville, LA that contained at least three features dubbed 'lodge sites' by Gerard Fowke, one of the early archaeological investigators at the Marksville site (16AV1).

Fowke recorded eight of these earthen rings, but aerial photographs from the 1930s suggest that as many as 60 of these rings may have been once present in the field surrounding the surviving earthen enclosures at the site. While the function of these earthen rings is unknown, they may be areas used for ceremonial activities. Chip McGimsey, as SW Regional Archaeologist, tested two of these rings and found that each had a sunken floor with a deep central fire pit. Chip is quoted in the article, saying "[t]he rings are unique earthworks that presently are known to exist only at the Marksville site and it is very important to preserve as many examples of them as possible for study."

*Editor's Note-The following is edited from an Associated Press report for December 17, 2007. Michael Collins was the keynote speaker at the 2002 LAS annual meeting in Baton Rouge. His presentation involved the Gault site and its importance in the archaeology of North America.*

### UT professor cashes out savings to buy, donate dig site

AUSTIN – After trying to raise the money to buy an archaeological dig site north of Austin, a University of Texas professor cashed out his personal savings to purchase the land and then donated it to the Archaeological Conservancy.

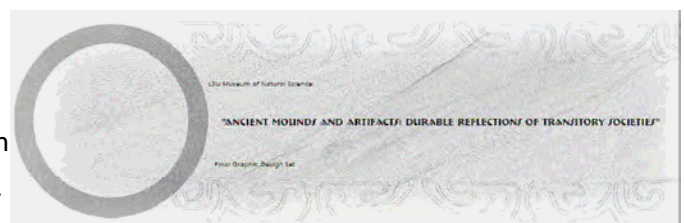
The 33-acre Gault site in southwestern Bell County was one of the major areas of activity for the Clovis people in North America and contains relics that are as many as 13,500 years old, said Michael Collins, associate researcher at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at UT's J.J. Pickle Research Campus.

Collins, who declined to specify how much he paid, said the conservancy would manage the site and preserve it for future research as new technologies allow for new archaeological theories and breakthroughs. "It's a good idea to have important sites preserved to take advantage of those new techniques," he said. "This is the best place to place this property for its long-term conservation."

In 2002, Collins said, the team uncovered artifacts that predate the Clovis. "This one site could tell us more about the Clovis than we had learned and not learned from other sites up until then, and it also had evidence of people being there before the Clovis," he said. "Those two things combined make it of extraordinary scientific interest and importance." The UT System leased the Gault site for university use from 1999 to 2002. After the lease was up, Collins led an effort to raise money to purchase the land, but was unable to meet the owner's asking price. So earlier this year, he said he decided to use his savings to purchase the land. He finished paying for the land last month.

### Exhibit on Prehistoric Louisiana Indians on Display at the LSU Museum of Natural Science

An exhibit entitled "Ancient Mounds and Artifacts: Durable Reflections of Transitory Societies" is on permanent display in Foster Hall on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Organized by Dr. Rebecca Saunders, Curator of Anthropology, funding for this exhibit was provided by the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Pennington Foundation.



*The following is an edited version of an article run in an October issue of the Houma Courier and written by staff writer Naomi King. The mound in question is site 16TR38. Submitted by Kathleen Bergeron.*

## Indian mound likely center of ancient community

HOUMA -- In Terrebonne Parish's flat landscape, the sight of a large mound of dirt piques curiosity, and while the exact purpose of these mounds is not always known, the significance is unwavering.

They are sacred formations, hundreds or thousands of years old, once used by the American Indian people who lived here before us. For decades, members of the United Houma Nation have wanted to protect a mound in Bobtown by buying the land it's on. The turning point now, Houma Nation members say, is that money is finally available, in the form of a \$45,800 state grant. On Thursday, landowners, parish government officials and members of the United Houma Nation met to discuss the possibility.

But at least two people say they still have questions about the parish government's plans, the land's selling price and the fate of possible burial sites at a second, nearby mound. "I hope people realize there's something going on here bigger than a pile of dirt. There's a history," said Kirby Verret, a Houma Nation tribal council member. "We need to try to convey it's bigger than all of us. And we can look back and say we preserved what could have been lost."

Some mounds were used in ceremonies, while some hold human remains, said James Sothern, a geologist and professor at L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College. Still other mounds are found in flood-prone areas, leaving scientists like Sothern to believe they also served as high ground when the bayous flooded their banks. Artifacts found in and around the mounds may prove theories about the movement of the Mississippi River Delta, he added.

The mound in question is toward the front of a 5-acre plot of land on Shrimpers Row. Multiple people own it, including developers Carl Heck and S.P. LaRussa. In 1982, the land was appraised at \$225,000, according to landowner documents.

The mound was likely the center of an agricultural village, with small homes built around it. It dates back to between 1000 and 1600, according to a 1982 letter written by state archaeologist Kathleen Byrd. A 1978 study by archaeologist Jeff Altschul says the mound may have been used for ceremonies, as evidenced by layers of burnt logs. Next to it is a second, smaller mound. Altschul's study says modern graves surround the mound. A third mound is now gone, after a previous landowner bulldozed it and took the artifacts, according to the study.

To keep bikers from further damaging the mounds, the current landowners erected a fence and have refrained from building on the land. Lucretia McBride, a forensic scientist

who's running for the Parish Council seat covering Upper Bayou Blue, Coteau and parts of Schriever, said she's in favor of preserving the mound. But, she said, she wants the artifacts from the third burial mound returned. She said she also wants to make sure the smaller mound and the graves around it are protected.

After Thursday's meeting, Verret said the Houma Nation would also like to preserve the second mound and its surroundings. "In all due respect of all living persons, we would definitely give honor to all buried there," Verret said.

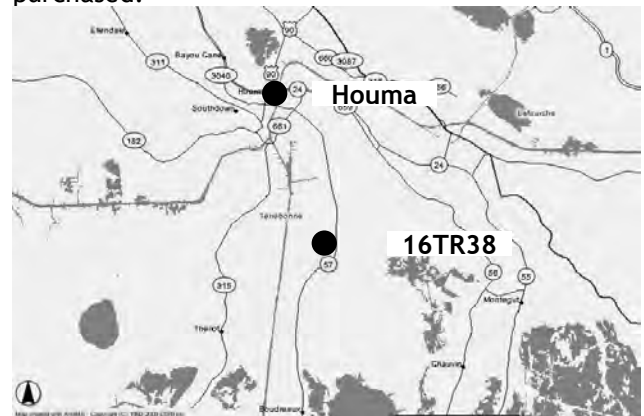
Nathan Trosclair, who's running for the Parish Council spot covering Dulac and Dularge, said he's concerned that the land deal is being pushed through too quickly. The mound should be preserved, Trosclair said, but he's worried about the steep price.

Terrebonne Parish Council Chairman Alvin Tillman organized Thursday's meeting, and agreed that he'll support the council's plans to share ownership and contribute a possible \$45,800 grant from the state to buy the land.

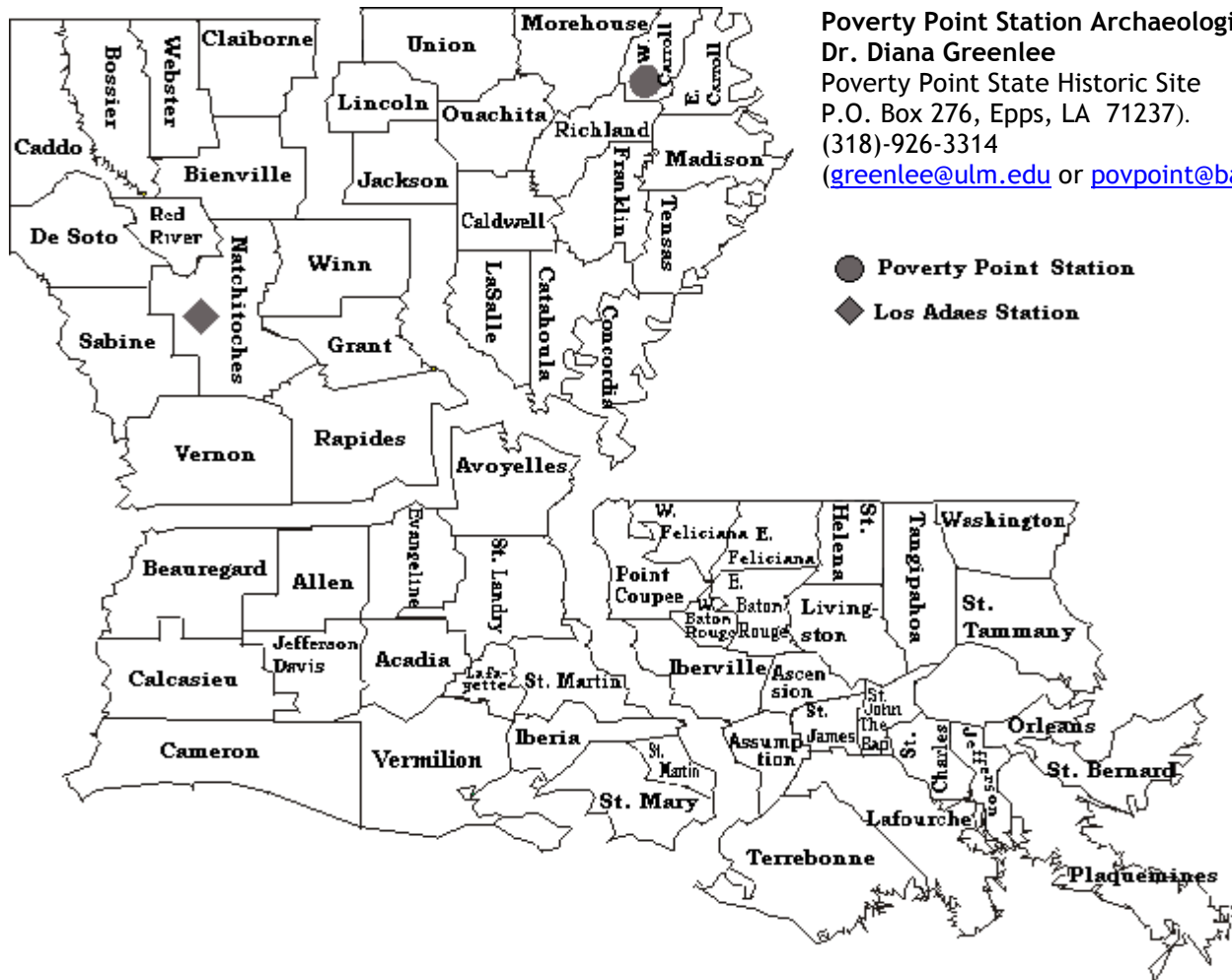
The parish would likely sign a cooperative-endeavor agreement with the United Houma Nation or another group but would retain ownership of the land.

Councilman Clayton Voisin, who represents Dulac and Dularge, said council members want to get the application to the state as soon as possible.

The council must approve the grant application before it's forwarded to the state, said Council Clerk Paul Labat. Sept. 14 was the original deadline, Labat said, but the state Office of Community Development extended the deadline after for the Regional Military Museum's grant request was turned down. The Houma museum couldn't get the grant because it's housed in a privately owned building. State money can't be spent to improve private property. Taxpayers, on the other hand, would own the Indian mound, once it's purchased.



# Regional Archaeology News



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***Recent Investigations at the Bayou Sorrel Mound (16IV4), Rob Mann, Southeast Regional Archaeologist, Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803***

On November 29, 2006 Dr. Chip McGimsey, Jim Delahoussaye and I went to the Bayou Sorrel Mound site (16IV4) in order to follow up on a previous inspection of the site. During this visit we used the Giddings Soil Coring Rig to systematically pull three soil cores; one from the flank of Mound A and two from just off the southwest flank of Mound A. I returned with Lucinda Freeman in January 2007 to map Mound A and shoot in the location of the cores.

The site is located near the town of Bayou Sorrel in Iberville Parish. More specifically, it is located on the left descending bank of the Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee borrow canal at its juncture with Bayou Sorrel. As defined by Gibson (1980), the site consists of two mounds and possibly an associated midden (Figure 1). Mound A is a conical mound with a basal diameter of approximately 35 meters (115 ft.) and is 3.44 meters (11.3 ft.) high (Jones and Shuman 1987:71). A historic period cemetery is located on the summit of the Mound A. Mound B, reported by Gibson (1980:360) to be a “badly mutilated pyramidal truncate, measuring about 70m along its north-south axis, 60m east west, and averages between 3.0 and 4.0m high,” is likely a post-1933 dredged spoil pile (see Jones and Shuman 1987:70). Researchers with the Corps of Engineers have determined that the site, as currently defined, would originally have been bisected by Bayou Sorrel, with Mound A on the south bank and Mound B on the north bank (Jon Gibson Papers). As Figure 2 shows the site has also been impacted by a ca. 1933-34 borrow canal that has since filled in with sediment. Currently, the site is situated between the Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee and Floodwall and the Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee borrow canal. Mound A has likely been disturbed by the construction of the protection levee and floodwall.

The Bayou Sorrel Mound site has a long and storied history in the annals of Louisiana archaeology. Pioneering archaeologist C.B. Moore (1913) first reported the site and conducted excavations in what he called a rectangular platform on the northern side of Mound A in 1912-1913, avoiding the historic cemetery on the summit. It is significant to report that Moore did not report seeing a second mound at the site. Moore’s excavations indicate that Mound A was constructed of secondarily deposited midden soils, which contained pottery, faunal bone and shell, bone and stone tools and three baked clay objects (PPOs?). Moore also found human burials scattered throughout the mound fill. Moore recovered a total of 268 human crania, representing two infants, five children and 261 adults. These were later studied by physical anthropologist Ales Hrdlicka (1913).

Subsequent research at the Bayou Sorrel Mound site was undertaken by Kniffen in ca. 1938, McIntire in 1954, Percy in 1968 as part of Neuman’s Atchafalaya Basin

Survey, Weinstein and Burden in 1975, Gibson in 1979, Manning et al. in 1987, and Jones and Shuman in 1987. Analyses of the Archaeological Bayou Sorrel Mound site also appear in Phillips (1970) and Weinstein and Rivet (1978). These investigations are summarized in Gibson (1980), Jones and Shuman (1987), and Weinstein et al. (2003:132-133).

Despite research over the course of nearly a century very little is actually known about the age, chronology, extent and cultural affiliations of the archaeological features and deposits at the Bayou Sorrel Mound site. Phillips (1970), for example, attempted to work out the culture history of the site using the ceramic data collected from the site by Kniffen and McIntire, as well as Moore’s findings. Phillips proposed that the site contained components from the Poverty Point period (Rabbit Island phase), Tchula period (Lafayette phase), Coles Creek period (Bayou Cutler phase), and Mississippi period (Medora phase). Gibson (1980:364-365), however, noted that Phillips’s “characterization of Bayou Sorrel prehistory is untenable,” arguing that the baked clay objects described by Moore could be later than Poverty Point (e.g., Tchefuncte) and that Phillips ignored evidence from McIntire that indicated a Baytown/Troyville period (Whitehall phase) component.

Gibson (1980:359-374) conducted the most extensive study since Moore’s early work at the site but he was unable to precisely determine the “age, or span, of mound construction” at the site. In addition to several auger holes and STPs, Gibson also excavated a small test unit (60cm by 60 cm square) into the southern toe of Mound A. Here Gibson encountered basket-loaded mound fill overlying stratified midden deposits. Unfortunately, no diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the sub-mound midden deposits and although he reports that three radiocarbon samples were recovered from these contexts, there is no discussion of radiocarbon dates in Gibson’s (1980) report. Based on his and earlier findings (especially Moore’s), Gibson suggests that the sherds of Larto Red and Pontchartrain Check Stamped recovered by Moore indicate that Mound A (or at least the “platform” that Moore partially excavated) was build after the Late Baytown/Troyville or Early Coles Creek Period. Information compiled by Corps of Engineers researchers indicate that Gibson’s study was hampered by the fact that he was unaware of the filled ca. 1933-1934 borrow canal that cut across the site and of the exact location of the pre-1933 channel of Bayou Sorrel. As Figure 2 shows, several of Gibson’s auger holes and shovel test units were in these previously disturbed areas. Still, Gibson (1980:580) concluded that the site is potentially significant and “surely ranks as one of the most important archaeological sites in the Atchafalaya Basin.”

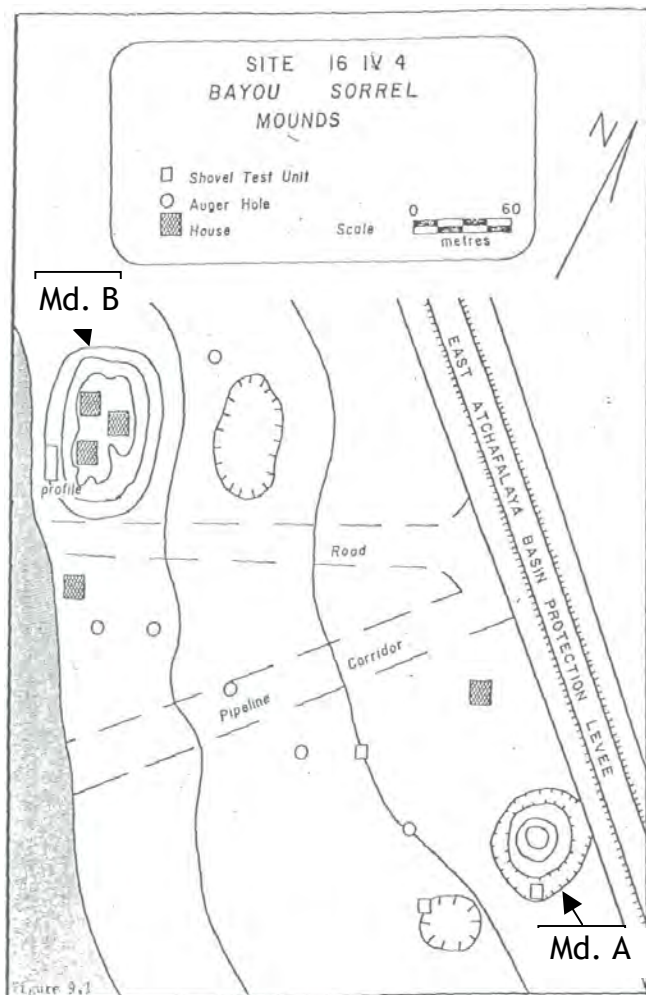


Figure 1. Bayou Sorrel Mound (16IV4) site map (adapted from Gibson 1980:361, Figure 9.1).

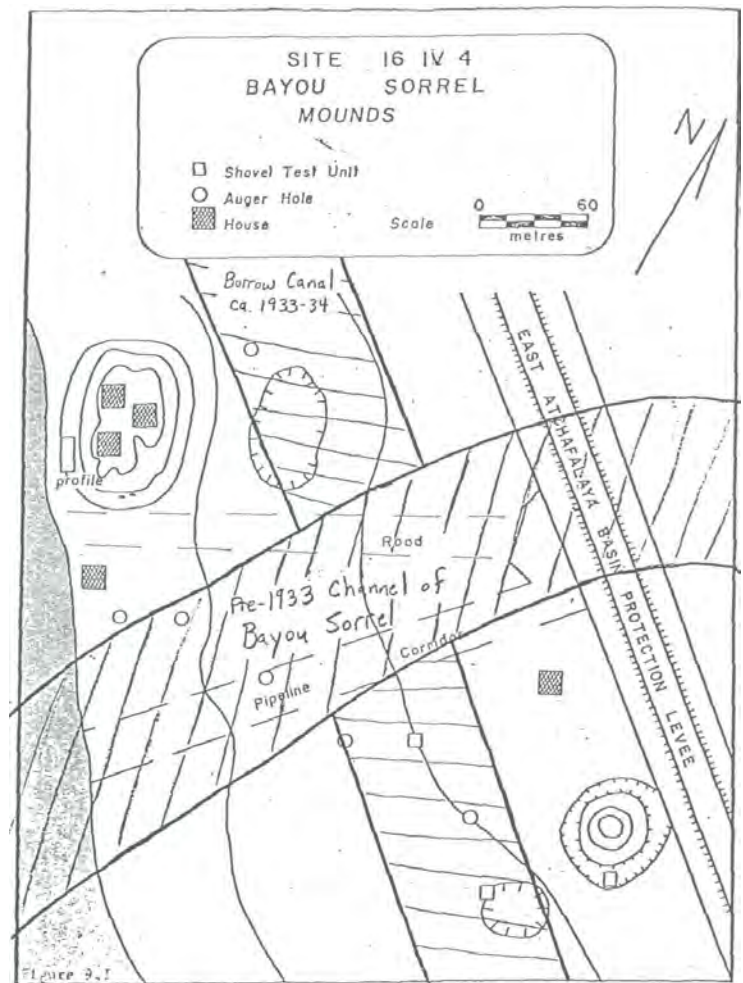


Figure 2. Map of Bayou Sorrel Mound (16IV4) showing location of pre-1933 channel of Bayou Sorrel and ca. 1933-34 borrow canal (Jon Gibson Papers, adapted from Gibson 1980:361, Figure 9.1).

The 2006 coring project was designed to further our understanding of the chronology and construction history of the site, particularly as it pertains to Mound A. There were, however, some constraints to our efforts to core, both on Mound A and off the mound. As mentioned above, there is a historic period cemetery on the top and sides of Mound A. While many of the graves have extant markers, there are undoubtedly unmarked graves on the mound as well. To avoid the possibility of damaging the known cemetery, we chose to stay on the lower flanks of Mound A. We also wanted to avoid the problem that plagued Gibson's earlier testing at the site. That is, we wanted to be sure that our cores did not fall in the now filled ca. 1933-1934 borrow canal. Our goal for the coring project was to inspect the construction history of Mound A, to determine if there was a sub-mound midden or middens, and to check for midden deposits off the mound.

We also hoped to extract materials from the cores suitable for radiocarbon dating. Core 1 was pulled from the southwest flank of Mound A (Figure 3). Core 1 shows clear evidence of basket loading and it is further clear that many of the basket-loads consisted of borrowed midden deposits. Between 2.01 m and 2.08 m below surface (b.s.) the core hit what may be part of a post or pit feature, possibly indicating structures and/or activities on the mound. At 2.73 m b.s. we encountered what appears to be the base of the mound. Below that (2.73-2.81 m b.s.) there appears to be an intact sub-mound midden. This unit was removed from the core and submitted to Beta Analytic, Inc. for a radiocarbon assay. The sample returned a date with a 2-sigma range of BP 1540 to 1360 (AD 410 to 590), providing a potential *terminus post quem* date for the construction of Mound A. This indicates that the most recent pre-mound

occupation at the site occurred during the Baytown/Troyville Period (AD 400-700). This corresponds with Gibson's (1980) assessment of the site. Of course, Mound A could have been built much later than that, even as late as the Plaquemine/Mississippi period (AD 1200-1700). Cores 2A and 2B were taken just off of the southwest flank of Mound A (Figure 3). Core 2A was halted when we discovered that the coring rig was slightly off-center and was having difficulty keeping a vertical trajectory. We reset the rig and pulled Core 2B. Core 2B definitively shows that there is a midden or middens associated with Mound A, though the nature of that association remains unclear. In fact, Core 2B reveals a series of midden deposits separated by sterile flood deposits. Midden deposits are marked by charcoal inclusions and small bone fragments. No artifacts were seen or recovered from any of cores pulled on the site.

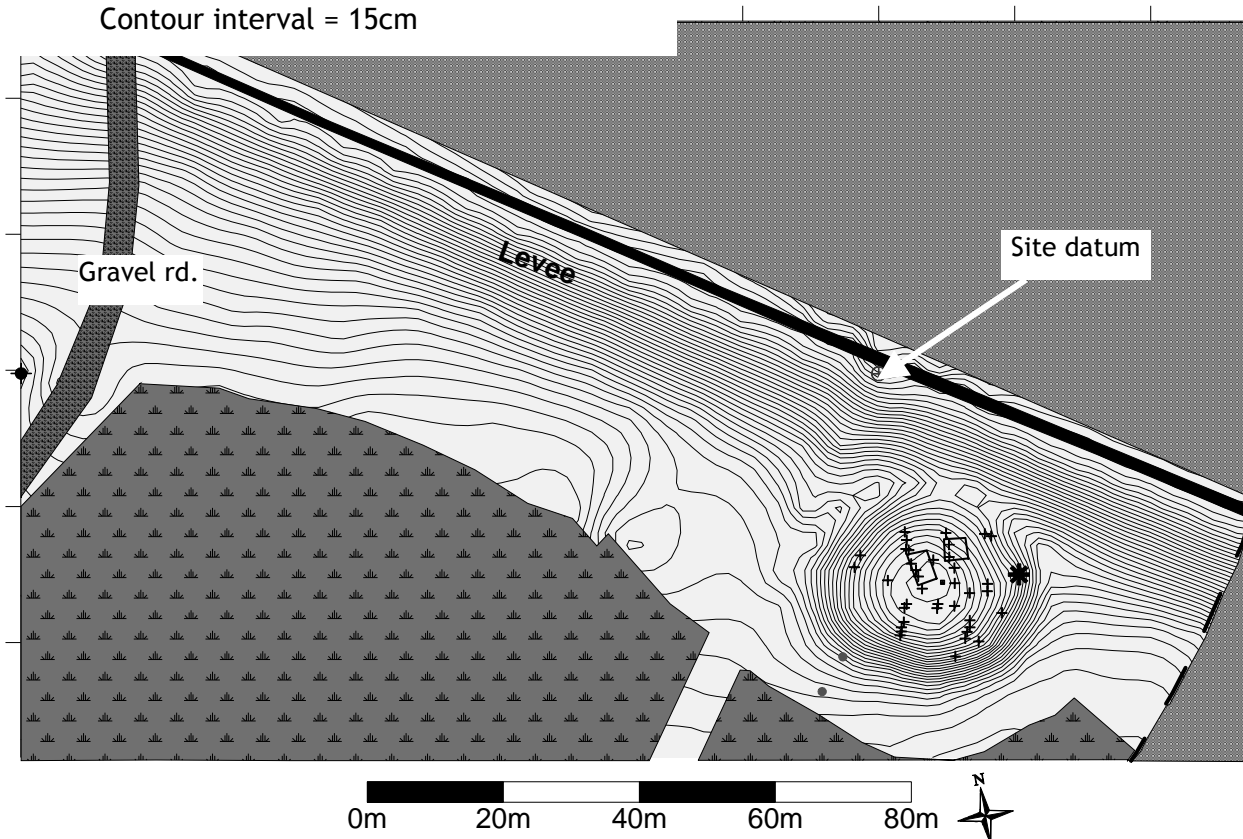
Both Mound A and the off-mound midden deposits of the Bayou Sorrel Mound site (16IV4) are significant cultural resources that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Efforts are underway to pursue a National Register Nomination for the site. Much of this effort is being spearheaded by the local preservation community, particularly Sue Herbert, who recognizes the significance of sites like the Bayou Sorrel Mound site for promoting the history and heritage of Iberville Parish and the Atchafalaya Basin.

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**Fig. 3 Bayou Sorrel Mound (16IV4) Site Map**

\* Live oak + Grave markers  
Contour interval = 15cm



*Editor's Note-This article was submitted to the newsletter by Chip McGimsey while he was SW Regional Archaeologist.*

***What is that plant on the Marksville pots?***

***Chip McGimsey, SW Regional Archaeologist, ULL***

***Charles Allen, Colorado State University, Fort Polk, Leesville***

***Dennis Bell, Dept of Biology, ULM***

***Kitty Roberts, Louis Berger Inc., Richmond, Va.***

Two vessels found in Mound 4 at the Marksville site (16AV1) appear to have images of a plant drawn on their upper bodies (Figures 1 and 2). A rollout of the complete design on one of the vessels can be found in Setzler 1933:Figure 3. Following an Archaeology Week talk at the Museum of Natural History at ULM, Dennis Bell expressed interest in trying to identify the plant. An initial search of the plant literature suggested one intriguing possibility and led to numerous emails between the four authors as we pursued ideas through the available literature. In the end, we have been unable to develop meaningful criteria by which the various possible plants can be evaluated and we are not comfortable suggesting a specific plant. However, this exploration has yielded some interesting results that we thought would be of interest to the archaeological community.

Inspection of the images on the two pots provides two clues to the plant's possible identity: an apparent heart-shaped leaf (a cordate-based leaf in botanical terms) and what may be teardrop shaped seeds (Figure 1 and 2). Using these two clues, the following story can be told.

Charles Allen provided a list of plants known to be present today in Avoyelles Parish (Thomas and Allen 1996), denoting those with cordate-based leaves (Table 1; n=27, including two plants suggested by Gayle Fritz, paleo-ethnobotanist at Washington University). That list was checked against a publicly available database (<http://herb.umd.umich.edu>) that lists all known uses of plants by historic period American Indian communities (see Moerman 1998 and references cited therein). This correlation yielded a list of 17 plants known to have been used in one way or another by historic American Indians. Of those 17, seven have uses that could be considered ritual or ceremonial (underlined in Table 1). Vomiting (emetic) was included as a possible ritual/ceremonial use because purification of the body is often an important element of ritual preparation. These seven plants were then checked against the U.S. Department of Agriculture plant database (<http://plants.usda>) to ascertain their known ranges, leaf shapes and seed shapes. A brief summary of the evidence for each plant follows.

*Cercis canadensis* (eastern redbud) – it is widely distributed throughout the southeastern U.S. The leaves look fairly similar to that shown on the plant pots, and the seeds are also a good match with what we assume are seed images on the pots. It's only relevant use is recorded among the Delaware and related Algonkian Indians where an infusion of bark was used as a cold drink for vomiting (Moerman 1998).

**Plant images**



**Figure 1. Vessel from Mound 4 at Marksville; Smithsonian Cat. No. 331689. Photograph by Don Hurlberd and Meghan Murphy, Smithsonian Institution.**

**Figure 2. Vessel from Mound 4 at Marksville; Smithsonian Cat. No. 331697. Photograph by Don Hurlberd and Meghan Murphy, Smithsonian Institution.**

*Morus rubra* (red mulberry) – it is widely distributed throughout the southeastern U.S. The leaves are somewhat similar to the pot image and the seeds are a very good match for the pot images. The roots were used as an emetic by the Creek (Moerman 1998), and an infusion of bark used as a purgative by the Cherokee (Hamel and Chiltoskey 1975). *Sagittaria latifolia* (broadleaf arrowhead) – it is widely distributed throughout the southeastern U.S. The leaves are deeply bilobed at the base and don't look at all like what are on the pot. Similarly, the seeds have a very different shape. The one reference to its use as a love charm and for witchcraft comes from people of British Columbia (Moerman 1998), although it could have other uses for people in the southeast.

*Saururus cernuus* (Lizard's tail) – it is widely distributed throughout the southeastern U.S. Its leaves are very similar to those on the pots, but the seeds are less similar. The Seminole used it as an emetic during religious ceremonies (Moerman 1998).

*Vitis rotundifolia* (Munson's grape) – the USDA database has it mapped only in Georgia, Florida and Alabama. Its leaves are strongly and deeply serrated and are very unlike the images on the vessels. It was used as an emetic during religious ceremonies by the Seminole; it was also added to food after a recent death (Moerman 1998).

*Asarum canadense* (wild ginger) – it is present throughout the southeastern U.S. but in Louisiana, it has only been reported from West Feliciana parish (Thomas and Allen 1996). The leaves are appropriately shaped, and the seeds are tear-drop in shape and very similar to the pot images. It was used for a wide diversity of ailments (Moerman 1998), but among the Iroquois (Herrick 1977), a tea made of wild ginger prevents bad dreams caused by the dead, and is to be drunk when you are not fit to visit a sick person, such as after a funeral or during menses. Moerman (1998:105) also cites Herrick for the use of wild ginger to detect or protect people from witchcraft, but this specific use is not found in Herrick (1977:308-311).

*Ipomoea pandurata* (wild manroot) - Timme (1989:124-127) and Brown (1972:147-149) illustrate several members of *Ipomoea* and *Jacquemontia* within the Convolvulaceae that have bilobed, somewhat heart-shaped leaves. Many species of *Ipomoea* were used by various American Indian tribes across the Americas (Moerman 1998), but *I. pandurata* is the only one thought to be native to central Louisiana. Brown (1972:147) notes that it is “widely distributed, usually on upland soils”, while Dormon (1934:96) indicates it occurs in dry, sandy soils. However, some, but not all of the USDA drawings of the seeds indicate they have distinctive hairy “feathers” along both margins; these seed varieties are very unlike the images on the pots. *I. pandurata* has a long list of known uses by historic American Indian communities across the southeastern U.S. (Moerman 1998; Table 1). For the Iroquois, Herrick (1977:419) notes the plant “Has much magical potency. Not

to be touched by children. If you touch it and strike someone, you will kill them”.

Of related interest is that the Aztec of central Mexico used the seeds of a related species, *Ipomoea violacea*, to induce delirium during which visions and hallucinations appeared (Lewis and Elvin-Lewis 1977:416). The effects are similar to those of peyote and are derived from an LSD-like chemical (Marderosian 1967). Marderosian tested six other species of *Ipomoea* and found none had hallucinatory chemicals but his study did not test *I. pandurata*. Based upon its presence in archaeological assemblages from Mississippian period (AD 900-1500) sites in Alabama, Tennessee and Illinois, Williams (2000:208-213, 274) identifies *Ipomoea* as having a primarily ritual/medicinal use.

This review of the physical characteristics and known uses of these seven plants suggests several conclusions. Two plants (*Sagittaria* and *Vitis*) can be eliminated from consideration as the plant on the Marksville pots based upon their dissimilar shaped leaves and/or seeds. The remaining five plants are all possibilities, although they can be segregated into two groups. The first group contains the three plants that appear to us to be the most likely correlates; this group includes *Cercis*, *Morus* and *Asarum*. Each of these plants has nicely heart-shaped leaves with seeds that look quite similar to the pot images. Two of these plants are trees (*Cercis* and *Morus*), while *Asarum* is a perennial herb – depending on how the image is interpreted, either plant form can be seen on the vessels. Of these three plants, *Asarum* has most interesting known uses and its association with magic and the dead would be relevant to its portrayal on a pot in Mound 4.

The final two plants, *Saururus* and *Ipomoea*, seem to be less likely correlates, largely because their seeds appear rather different from the pot images, although their leaves have the appropriate shape. However, if *Ipomoea pandurata* could be shown to have hallucinogenic properties, it would have enormous potential as a ritually valuable plant. It is interesting to speculate that the plant on the pot was the means by which the shaman transformed into the bird on the same pot and flew to the Upper World or Under World on the vision quest and speak with the spirits and ancestors.



**Table 1. Plants occurring in Avoyelles Parish today with cordate base (somewhat heart-shaped) leaves - list courtesy of Charles Allen**

Plant	Range	Number of uses in herb database	General uses
Ampelopsis cordata - Heartleaf peppervine		1	urinary troubles
Catalpa bignonioides -		0	
Centella erecta		0	
Cercis Canadensis - Eastern redbud	throughout SE US	33	vomiting, fever, congestion, cough, food, fuel, basketry,
Cocculus carolinus - Carolina coralbead		1	blood clarifier
Dichondra carolinensis		0	
Dioscorea villosa - wild yam		2	childbirth pain
Ipomoea cordatotriloba		0	
Ipomoea lacunose		0	
Ipomoea turbinata		0	
Ipomoea pandurata	throughout SE US	26	rheumatism, cough, diuretic, expectorant, kidneys, laxative, cholera, asthma, consumption, urinary/kidney, headaches, blood, abdominal, liver, tuberculosis, food, <u>magical potency</u>
Limnobiium spongia		0	
Matelea gonocarpus		0	
Melothria pendula - Guadeloupe cucumber		1	snake bite
Mikania scandens - southern hempvine		2	snake bite, itchy skin
Morus rubra - red mulberry	throughout SE US	25	urinary, worms, dysentery, <u>purgative</u> , laxative, <u>emetic</u> , food, bows
Sagittaria latifolia - broadleaf arrowhead	throughout SE US	34	fever, indigestion, rheumatism, constipation, boils, worms, <u>love charm/witchcraft</u> , food
Saururus cernuus - Lizards tail	throughout SE US	13	poultice, wounds, rheumatism, fever, bites, <u>emetic during religious ceremonies</u>
Scutellaria ovata		0	
Sicyos angulatus - Oneseed burr cucumber		1	venereal disease
Viola sororia - common blue violet		9	headache, dysentery, blood, colds, cough, boils, tonic
Vitis cinerea - Graybark grape		17	food
Vitis palmate		0	
Vitis riparia - riverbank grape		2	food
Vitis rotundifolia - Munson's grape	only GA, FL, and AL	8	food, snakebite, <u>emetic during religious ceremonies</u> , added to food after a recent <u>death</u>
Asarum canadense - wild ginger	throughout SE US, but in LA, only in WF parish	94	used for most ailments; <u>prevents bad dreams</u> ; protect sick people after a funeral
Hexastylis arifolia - little brownjugs	throughout SE US but in LA, only in SH, TA, WA and ST parishes	13	stomach, heart, fever, cough, asthma

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## Notes on Current Research in NE Louisiana

By Dr. Joe Saunders, NE Regional Archaeologist, ULM

Dr. Hargrave et al conducted thirty plus cores/probes at Poverty Point as part of the on-going research. The purpose of the coring was to collect magnetic susceptibility data and to experiment with using a Giddings coring rig to help take borehole susceptibility readings on the site. The experiment worked and it will be possible to take direct magnetic susceptibility readings from boreholes of 5-6 m in depth.

Four magnetic susceptibility cores were collected from a possible embankment at Hedgepeth (16LI7). The samples have been submitted to Dr. Rinita Dalan for analysis.

Two sites were cored as work on documenting a proposed hiatus in mound building between ca. 2700 BC and 1700 BC. The first site was Hays Mound (16FR183). It is a single conical mound from which Poverty Point style artifacts have been recovered, including the pendant in Figure 1. Pedogenesis in the mound fill supports the antiquity of the mound. A core was pulled from the top of the mound, well into the Maçon Ridge subsoil. A possible buried A horizon was encountered at 25-26 cmbs. It appears to be the bottom of a disturbance (pot hole?) in the mound. The submound surface (3Ab) occurs at 224-264 cmbs. Flecks of charcoal from the 3Ab horizon have been submitted for AMS dating.

The Bush Mounds (16FR163) was the second mound group cored. The site has seven mounds that form a complete oval ca. 180 m in diameter. Limited testing of the site in 2000 documented an Archaic occupation beneath Mound A. However, the fieldwork indicated that the Mounds B and C are early Woodland in age. Previously inaccessible Mounds E, F, and G were cored this year and each appears to date the early Woodland period. The buried Archaic component was detected under Mounds G and E.

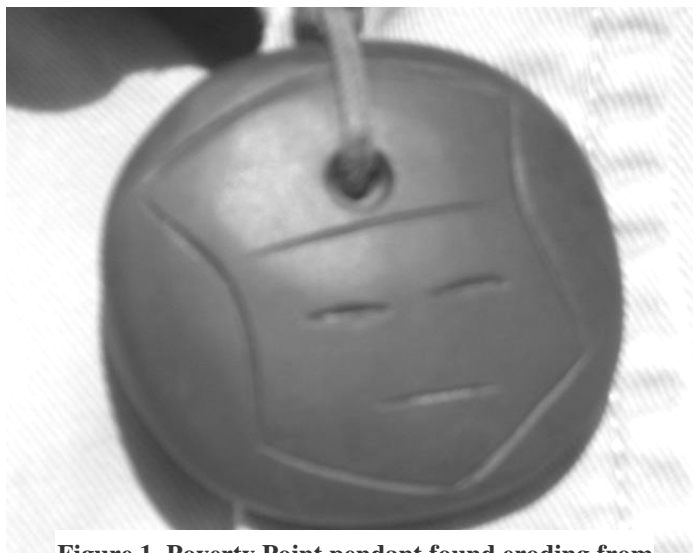


Figure 1 Poverty Point pendant found eroding from Hays Mound. Found by site owner Mr. Z. Hays

**Poverty Point Update**  
**By Diana M. Greenlee**  
**Station Archaeology Program**  
**Poverty Point State Historic Site**

In October 2007, Drs. Michael Hargrave (ERDC CERL) and Berle Clay (Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.) returned to Poverty Point State Historic Site, extending the coverage of their surface geophysical research to the northern sector of the site. This latest effort involved a magnetic field gradient survey (Figure 1) of Ridges 1 and 2 north and southward into the adjacent plaza. Information about the subsurface structure of the ridge deposits in the survey area was acquired; unfortunately, the magnetic properties of the prehistoric deposits were obscured in some places by historic activities.

Coincident with the work of Drs. Hargrave and Clay, Dr. Rinita Dalan and two undergraduate students, Ms. Jess Beard and Ms. Alissa Blaha (all from Minnesota State University Moorhead), conducted coring and down-hole magnetic susceptibility studies at the site (Figure 2). They sought to better understand the cultural deposits and underlying natural soils in two areas identified in previous geophysical studies as being areas of interest. They examined a transect crossing Ridges 1 and 2 in the western sector of the site and an area with several circular magnetic anomalies in the southwestern part of the plaza. Their results will add both a vertical dimension to and information about the source of the geophysical signatures documented by Drs. Hargrave and Clay. Dr. Joe Saunders assisted with the coring operation.

The process to get Poverty Point State Historic Site on the US World Heritage Tentative List (*LAS Newsletter* 35(1):12 and 35(2): 21) continues. Two different agencies, the Office of International Affairs of the National Park Service and the US National Commission for UNESCO, have reviewed all of the applications and both have recommended that Poverty Point be placed on the List. The final decision regarding Poverty Point's inclusion on the US World Heritage Tentative List will be made by the Secretary of the Interior sometime prior to the List's submission to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre by 1 February 2008.

Efforts are ongoing to document past habitat types and possible anthropogenic alterations of the vegetative landscape in the Poverty Point area. Ms. Jennifer Seltzer (Mississippi State University) is describing charred wood assemblages recovered from a variety of archaeological contexts at the site in terms of their taxonomic composition and other dendrological attributes. These data will be integrated with previous charred wood analyses and other sources of environmental information (including notes from land surveys conducted 1840-1848, pollen records and soils maps) to produce a vegetative history for the area.

Ms. Melissa Mariano, an artifact conservator currently based in Boston, volunteered to assess and conserve copper objects (Figure 3) stored in the artifact curation facility at Poverty Point. She spent nearly three weeks documenting, assessing, cleaning and configuring a stable storage environment for about half of our copper. We hope to bring her back to finish conserving the copper in the curation facility and to assist with the museum specimens currently on display.

Mr. John Guy, Mr. Dick Rockhold and Ms. Barbara Nolde from the West Louisiana Archaeology Club (Leesville chapter of the LAS) assisted in August with screening dirt and organizing collections in the curation facility (*LAS Newsletter* 35(2):4). Any groups or individuals interested in volunteering at the site are invited to contact Diana Greenlee ([greenlee@ulm.edu](mailto:greenlee@ulm.edu) or 318-926-3314) to make arrangements.



**Figure 1. Mike Hargrave using dual fluxgate gradiometers to collect magnetic field gradient data in the plaza south of Ridge 1 North.**

**Figure 2. Collecting downhole magnetic susceptibility data.**

Jess Beard is operating the probe and Alissa Blaha is using the laptop, while Mike Hargrave observes. Photo by Rinita Dalan.



**Figure 3. Copper bead (8.2 mm outer diameter) after cleaning. Photo by Melissa Mariano.**

# Official Business

## Louisiana Archaeological and Antiquities Commission Meeting- September 11, 2007

The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in the Capitol Annex Building, 1051 North Third Street, Conference Room 238A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Members Present:** Dr. Heather McKillop, Mr. Gregory DuCote, Mr. Marc Dupuy, Jr., Mr. James Fogleman, Dr. Chip McGimsey, Dr. George Riser

**Members Absent:** Ms. Paige Ashby, Ms. Pam Breaux, Dr. Mark Rees, and LTC Michael Tarpley

**Others Present:** Ms. Jill Andrew, Ms. Jessica Dixon, Dr. Diana Greenlee, Ms. Nancy Hawkins, Mr. Dennis Jones, Ms. Meta Pike, Ms. Karen Richardson, Mr. Duke Rivet, Mr. Ryan Seidemann, Ms. Rachel Watson, Ms. Cheraki Williams

### Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Heather McKillop called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Ms. Paige Ashby, Ms. Pam Breaux, Dr. Mark Rees, and LTC Michael Tarpley were unable to attend the meeting.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the Commission Meeting held June 12, 2007. Dr. Heather McKillop requested a correction be made in the first motion under New Business from "A motion was made by Mr. Marc Dupuy and seconded by Dr. Heather McKillop, to formally recognize Dr. McGimsey as an adjunct professor at LSU." to "A motion was made by Mr. Marc Dupuy and seconded by Dr. Heather McKillop to formally recognize the nomination of Dr. McGimsey as an adjunct professor at LSU."

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. Marc Dupuy and seconded by Dr. George Riser, to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2007, Antiquities Commission Meeting as written including the above correction. The motion carried unanimously.

### Old Business

#### Introduction of New Staff in the Division of Archaeology

Dr. Chip McGimsey introduced Ms. Meta Pike who will be working with Ms. Nancy Hawkins with the Outreach

Program, Mr. Dennis Jones who be working with Mr. Duke Rivet with Section 106 reports, and Ms. Jill Andrew who will be working with Ms. Rachel Watson and Ms. Cheraki Williams with the site files and the site file database.

#### Update on Filling the Greater New Orleans Regional Archaeologist Position

Ms. Nancy Hawkins reported to the Commission that the Division of Archaeology has been interested in creating the Greater New Orleans Regional Archaeologist position since 1989. The Southeast Regional Archaeologist Program has overseen the Greater New Orleans area; however, the extensive archaeology of the region and the damaging effects of Hurricane Katrina to the area emphasize the need for a full-time on-site archaeologist. Federal hurricane recovery funds are available to fund such a position through December 2008. A grant agreement has been drawn up with the University of New Orleans and the position has been announced. Applications have been received and the review process will begin shortly.

#### Update on the Poverty Point World Heritage Site Tentative List

Dr. Greenlee stated that in March 2007, she submitted an application for Poverty Point to be on the U.S. World Heritage Site Tentative List. Thirty-six cultural and natural site applications were submitted from around the country. Dr. Greenlee was contacted in May 2007 by the Office of International Affairs for the National Park Service and was informed that her submission of the Poverty Point Site had been recommended for their draft tentative list. Nineteen sites nationwide had been selected. Fifteen sites were cultural, and of those fifteen, five were archaeological. The five sites are Poverty Point, Hopewell, Pipestone, Serpent Mound, and Moundville. Nominations will be prepared for all nineteen sites. Those nominations will be submitted to the World Heritage List Subcommittee of the U.S. National Committee for UNESCO. The list will be forwarded to the Department of the Interior and then released for public comment. The U.S. Secretary of the Interior will make the final decision by February 2008 and the new tentative list will be sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. A maximum of two nominations per year may be submitted for the next ten years beginning in February 2009. Dr. McKillop congratulated Dr. Greenlee for her submission acceptance by the NPS World Heritage Site Tentative List Committee.

*LASAC minutes (continued)*Update on Harlin Bayou Bankline Stabilization Permit at Poverty Point

Ms. Rachel Watson reported on the permit that the Commission had approved for John Peukert to perform archaeological investigations for the bankline stabilization along certain portions of Harlin Bayou at Poverty Point. No artifacts were found, which might indicate that Harlin Bayou is the natural boundary for Poverty Point.

Section 106 Update

Mr. Dennis Jones updated the Commission on the Highway 165 widening project adjacent to the Filhiol Mound site (16OU2) in Ouachita Parish. There are historic marked burials on a portion of the site. Surveys Unlimited Research Associates (SURA) found, during a data recovery project, a total of nineteen unmarked historic burials that remote sensing did not detect. The burials were excavated in October 2006 with the exception of three that were located outside of the right-of-way and were left in place. Every effort was made to determine the identity of the individuals, but no one came forward with pertinent information. The LSU FACES Laboratory worked to determine the origins of the people. Six individuals were men and ten were women. Eight of the individuals were children. Seven were determined to be Caucasian. Analysis of the burial furniture and the coffin hardware indicated that the burials occurred between 1900 and 1920. Analysis of the remains and the associated burial materials continued until the reburial on August 2, 2007. The reburial took place at Riverside Cemetery in Monroe, Louisiana. It was a common burial for sixteen individuals. The ceremony was conducted by a Catholic priest from Monroe and attended by those involved with the data recovery project and staff from State agencies connected with the reburial process.

**New Business**Update on Filling the Southwest Regional Archaeologist Position

Dr. McGimsey accepted eleven applications for the Southwest Regional Archaeologist position that was vacated when he became the State Archaeologist. Three of the applicants were interviewed and an offer of employment was made. Dr. McKillop emphasized the importance of the Regional Archaeologist Program that provides outreach programs to the citizens of Louisiana and provides significant research into the cultural heritage of the State.

Katrina Memorial Project

Mr. Ryan Seidemann with the Department of Justice in the Attorney General's Office and a representative of the State

Cemetery Board spoke to the commission regarding the New Orleans Katrina Memorial project. The property that the nonprofit New Orleans Katrina Memorial Corporation has selected is the Charity Memorial Hospital Cemetery #1 (16OR175) located on Canal Street, is State-owned, and has known archaeological significance. Law would require a permit from the Commission before any work could begin on the memorial. The Attorney General's Office and the Division of Archaeology have agreed that the ground should be raised to prevent an adverse effect to the site and a letter was sent to the New Orleans Katrina Memorial Corporation stating such. The specific area for the memorial is a known unmarked burial site at which University of New Orleans archaeologists have found cultural materials present at extremely shallow levels. In addition to concerns of the committee to preserve the State's cultural resources, Dr. McKillop questioned the ethics of disturbing a known burial site. Dr. McGimsey suggested that perhaps it would be appropriate for the commission to pass a resolution based on the evidence available to date stating that the commission has concerns about this project as it is currently being developed. The commission would hope that the parties would be amenable to other alternatives rather than impact a historic cemetery and would encourage all parties to work together to find an alternative solution to this issue.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Mr. Greg DuCote and seconded by Dr. Heather McKillop, to pass a resolution stating that the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission has strong concerns about the New Orleans Katrina Memorial Project as it is currently being developed. The motion carried unanimously.*

Dr. McKillop reasserted that the commission is in complete agreement with the Division of Archaeology and the State Archaeologist in recommending that the project be located elsewhere. If that is not possible, then sufficient soil should be brought in to protect the site from adverse effects before the memorial is built on top of it.

Louisiana Archaeology Week.

Ms. Meta Pike addressed the commission about the upcoming 2007 Archaeology Week activities. Archaeology Week in Louisiana is scheduled for the first full week in October. This year's poster highlights the State Capitol Complex dig overseen by Dr. Rob Mann. The scheduled events include discussions of prehistoric and historic sites, underwater archaeology, shipwrecks, children's programs at two different children's museums, and several library events throughout the state.

*LASAC minutes (continued)*  
Permit Request for Down-Hole Susceptibility Studies at Poverty Point

Ms. Rachel Watson spoke to the commission requesting a permit for Dr. Rinita Dalan from Minnesota State University to perform down-hole susceptibility studies of magnetic anomalies at Poverty Point. Dr. Dalan has worked previously with Drs. Greenlee and Clay on soil analysis from core samples taken from the plaza and Ridges 1 and 2. The purpose of the study is to distinguish between different fill in the core samples, highly organic fill verses burn layers, natural soil verses cultural fill, and to find the original ground beneath the site. The process involves a one-inch diameter core at the site of the anomaly. A sensor is lowered down the hole to record continuous readings of magnetic susceptibility to determine where in that profile the largest part of the signal is being generated. Her findings will be presented in a published paper.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Mr. Marc Dupuy and seconded by Mr. James Fogleman, to issue a permit to Dr. Rinita Dalan to perform down-hole susceptibility studies at Poverty Point. The motion carried unanimously.*

Annual Update Southwest Regional Program

Dr. McGimsey reported on three projects in which he was involved over the past year. The first was at Lake Anacoco in Vernon Parish. The Wildlife & Fisheries Department had drained Lake Anacoco for the fourth time in Dr. McGimsey's tenure as the SW Regional Archaeologist. He had previously surveyed the entire 1250-acre lake bottom. His primary goal was to record precise GPS locations for 207 known sites. Dr. McGimsey was able to revisit 146 sites and identify 7 new sites. Dr. McGimsey brought a number of ceramic sherds from the lake bottom for the commission to examine. His second project involved the examination of a private collection from New Iberia (sites 16IB63 and 16IB101) from which he was able to tabulate a very large collection from each of those sites. The collection contained a large number of beads and points. A pipeline was cut through a portion of 16IB101 several years ago and tested by a contract archaeology firm. Few artifacts were found at that time. His third project was working with the Charlie Bollich collection that was donated to the State several years ago. The collection is from approximately 85 to 86 sites located across southern Louisiana. Dr. McGimsey has slowly been working through this collection to identify the artifacts and correlate them with known sites. He has an additional 12 sites to revisit with Mr. Bollich to finish his work with this collection.

**Other Business**

There being no further questions, comments, or other business to bring before the commission, Dr. McKillop entertained a motion to adjourn at 4:20 p.m.

**Executive Committee Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society at Kisatchie National Forest Supervisors Office Pineville, Louisiana, Saturday, August 4, 2007**

Attendees:

Rachel Watson, *Secretary*, Junior Doughty, *Web Site Editor*, Chip McGimsey, *Bulletin Editor*, Recca B. Jones, *Northeast Chapter representative* Jameel Damlouji, *Northwest chapter representative* Scott Wehner, Ann Wehner, Velicia Bergstrom, George Riser, *Vice President/President Elect* Roy Bergstrom, Joesetta LeBoeuf, *Treasurer*

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m. by VP George Riser.

**Minutes:** George Riser made a motion, seconded by Velicia Bergstrom to accept the Executive Board Meeting minutes from May 19, 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

**Officer Reports**

**President:** Ellen Ibert was not able to attend. On her behalf, Velicia Bergstrom reported that an inventory of the VHS tapes of the past speakers had been completed.

**Vice President:** George Riser discussed the origination of the annual meeting. The meeting dates have been set for February 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> at the Marriot Lakeview. Nathaniel Heller is the program chairperson. George Riser discussed the possibility of speakers including the possibility of Richard Gould at Brown University. He is currently researching disaster archaeology. The committee will meet in September.

Sam Brooks has proposed holding a joint Louisiana and Mississippi meeting to be held in Greenville, Mississippi. He is forwarding an email to the organizer in MS. Sam has indicated that he would be the keynote speaker.

**Secretary:** Rachel Watson asked for an explanation of the duties involved with the position. Duties of the Secretary include: taking and distributing the minutes of the LAS executive meeting, sending out the meeting agenda for LAS executive meeting, and filing the incorporation fee.

**Treasurer & Membership:** Joesetta LeBoeuf sent out post card reminders to the members from 2003-2005 at a cost of \$.26 per card. Thirty people responded to the reminder with a membership renewal. The returned post cards will help to remove invalid addresses. Furthermore, she was able to update some members address info.

*LAS Executive Comm. Meeting (continued)*

Account Balance: \$ 8,965.32. R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates is printing the newsletter free. There were no major expenses this period. LAS is moving to an online banking system and we will have to change passwords once George Riser becomes President.

Current membership is at 225. The new NW chapter has 16 paid members and 37 potential members. Jason Emery became a lifetime member.

**Website:** The website is averaging 147 hits per day. Junior Doughty discussed the possibility of moving the website from our current host in Boca Raton, FL to a new host in Santa Barbara, CA. The Santa Barbara host will increase our bandwidth 80 times compared to what it is currently. We would need to transfer everything from FL to CA and then shut the FL site down. This will cost \$50 less a year. There could be a possible web outage and the change needs to be done this fall.

Chip McGimsey made a motion to approve movement of the host website to CA. Velicia seconded. Unanimously passed.

**Bulletin:** Chip McGimsey will remain as bulletin editor.

**Newsletter:** Dennis Jones was unable to attend.

### Chapter Reports

**Northeast Chapter:** Recca Jones reported that the chapter is meeting on the second Sunday of each month. They have combined their meeting with a local genealogy group.

**Central Louisiana Chapter:** Velicia Bergstrom had nothing to report.

**Delta Chapter:** George Riser reported that Lucretia McBride would help with the annual meeting.

**Baton Rouge Chapter:** Meets last Wednesday of every month.

**Southwest Chapter:** Scott Wehner reported that there are currently 16 members. They are planning to have a joint meeting with the southeast Texas group. It was also suggested that they contact Charlie Bollich.

**Northwest Chapter:** Jameel Damlouji reported that this reactivated chapter has 32 active members and 24 potential new members. They meet on the third Wednesday of every month in Shreveport. David Jeane has already given a presentation to the group. Further activities include: bead sorting & cataloguing with Nita Colen LA State Museum, and excavations and survey at Mound Plantation and the surrounding area.

### Old Business

There was a discussion of grant sources relating to the proposed archiving of the old LAS annual meeting VHS tapes. Possible grant sources including the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities or a Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy Grant, which was suggested by Ann Wehner. The committee agreed that an LEH Grant would be inappropriate for this project and Ann was advised not to pursue it.

There was also a discussion of how much it would cost to contract out the media transfer. Ellen, from a previous meeting, had an estimate of \$3000.00. During this discussion, Scott Wehner mentioned that he had the equipment to do this himself.

Chip McGimsey suggested that we see the quality of work Scott Wehner can produce before we make a decision about putting this out on contract. Josetta seconded. Unanimously passed.

### New Business

Date for the next Executive meeting was set November 10, 2007 at 12:00 pm.

Velicia Bergstrom made a motion to adjourn and Chip McGimsey seconded with a unanimous passing.



# Meetings, Fieldwork, Exhibits, Etc.

## 2008 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (LAS)

February 8-10, 2008, Metairie, LA at the Marriott Lakeway Hotel. Details can be found on pages 2-5 of this newsletter and at the LAS web site: [www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org).

## 2008 MISSISSIPPI ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (MAA) ANNUAL MEETING

February 22 – 24, Percy Quinn State Park, McComb, Mississippi. Preliminary Schedule of Events: Friday night reception, Saturday papers and artifact displays, Saturday night dinner, Sunday MAPA workshop on Woodland projectile points. To submit a paper for presentation at the annual meeting please contact [Ed Jackson](mailto:Ed.Jackson@usm.edu) at [ed.jackson@usm.edu](mailto:ed.jackson@usm.edu). Any questions may be directed to MAA President Jessica Crawford at [tacsoutheast@cablone.net](mailto:tacsoutheast@cablone.net) or 662.326.6465.

## 2008 EAST TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The 2008 East Texas Archeological Conference will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 8:30AM to 4:00PM at the Robert M. Muntz Library (Room 401) at the University of Texas at Tyler. This is the 15th meeting of this conference sponsored by the Texas Archeological Society – Region 4, the Friends of Northeast Texas Archeology, the Deep East Texas Archeological Society and other regional organizations. The conference brings together avocational and professional archeologists as well as the general public to discuss recent archeological discoveries and research in East Texas. If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster, or for more information contact Tom Middlebrook, [TMDlbrk@aol.com](mailto:TMDlbrk@aol.com), cell 936-556-0854.

## 50<sup>TH</sup> CADDO CONFERENCE

March 6-8, 2008, Northwestern State University (NSU), Natchitoches, Louisiana. Early registration: \$20 non-students [\$25 at the conference] \$10 students [\$15 at the conference] **Make checks payable to:** Caddo Conference-NSU Anthro. Club, **Submit registration to:** Caddo Conference LRFP Box 3663 NSU Natchitoches, LA 71497. Check conference website for details at <http://www.nsula.edu/regionalfolklife/2008CaddoConf/2008CaddoConf.html> or “google” Caddo conference.

## HOUSTON MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE HOSTING LUCY FOSSIL EXHIBIT



Dig those old bones? Lucy, one of the oldest fossils of a hominid, will be on display at the Houston Museum of Natural Science until April 20, 2008. "Lucy's Legacy: The Hidden Treasures of Ethiopia" will include more than 100 artifacts from museums and private collections from the African nation considered to be the cradle of humankind. Among them: tools, baskets, vessels, and illuminated manuscripts from early Islam and Christianity used in the 1st millennium and earlier. But the exhibit's showcase piece is Lucy, the 3.2-million-year-old skeleton of a woman discovered in Ethiopia in the 1970s. Tickets are \$12 to \$20. Info: (713) 639-4629, [www.hmns.org](http://www.hmns.org).

**LAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL**

Regular Membership	Annually \$20.00
Associate Membership	Annually \$5.00
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All memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Regardless of the time of year during which you join the society, you will receive all publications for the year specified.

Back Issues of LAS Bulletins, \$15.00 each. Orders of 10 to 14 copies, \$13.50 each; orders of 15 or more copies, \$12.75 each. Available Bulletins are:

#1(1974), #3(1976), #7(1980), #8 (1981), #9 (1982), #10 (1983), #11 (1984), #12 (1985), #13 (1986), #14 (1987), #15 (1988), #16 (1989), #17(1990), #18(1991), #19(1992), #20(1993), #21(1994), #22(1995), #23(1996), #24(1997), #25(1998), #26 (1999).

Back Issues of LAS Special Publications:

SP #1 Stone Points and Tools of Northwestern Louisiana (1981, Reprinted 2000)	\$4.00
SP #2 LAS 10th Anniversary Issue (1984)	(out of print)
SP #3 Louisiana's Archaeological Radiometric Database	\$4.00

Optional Donation: Roger T Saucier Memorial Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ -

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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 JPG or TIFF format. Contact editor via email with all questions.

### LAS Web Site

[www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org)

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