

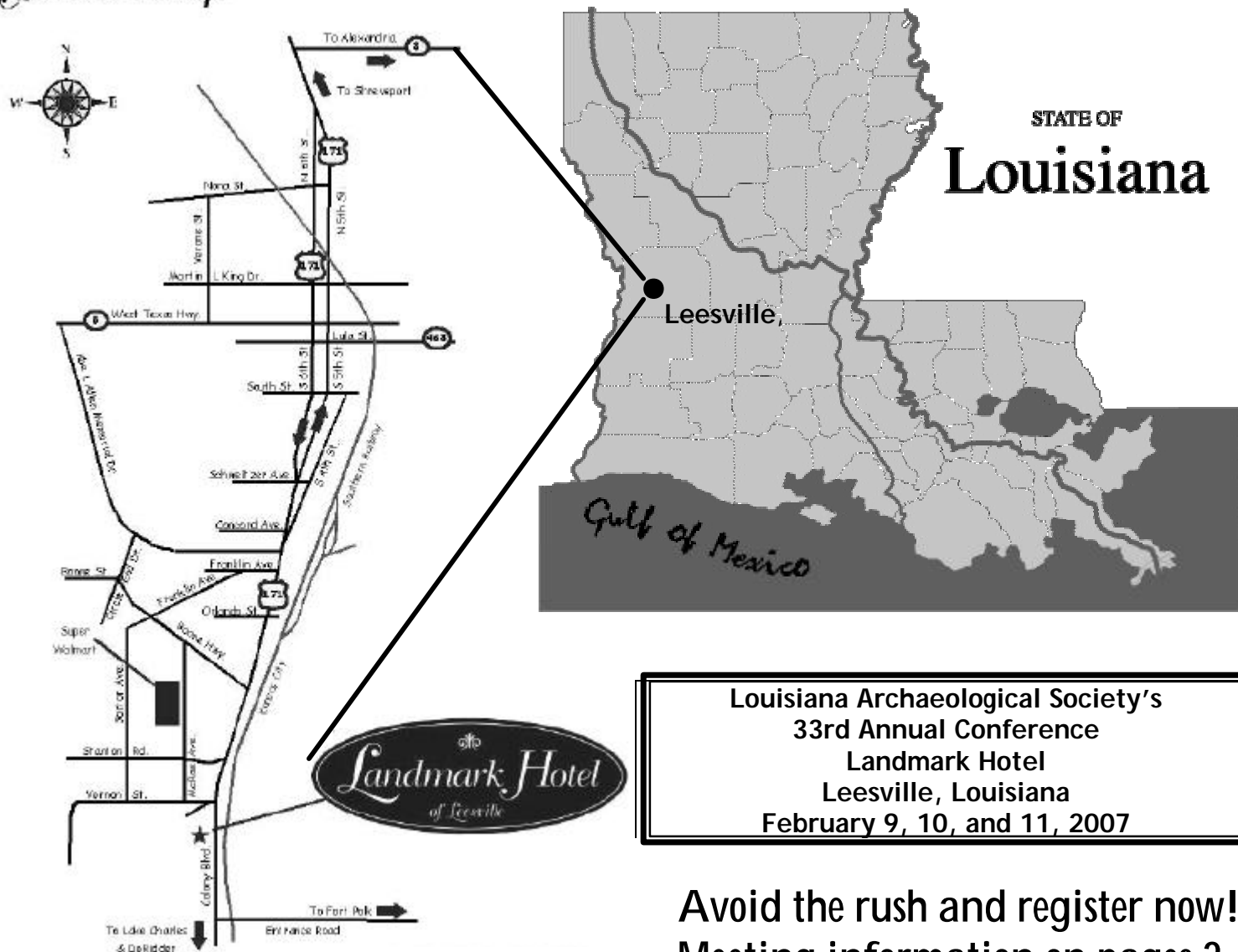


NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2006/2007

Vol. 34, No.3

Area Map



Louisiana Archaeological Society's
33rd Annual Conference
Landmark Hotel
Leesville, Louisiana
February 9, 10, and 11, 2007

Avoid the rush and register now!!
Meeting information on pages 2-4
inside.

**Louisiana Archaeological Society's Conference
Landmark Hotel
Leesville, Louisiana
February 9, 10, and 11, 2007**

Tentative Agenda

Friday –Feb 9, 2007

- *Archaeological Site Tours starting at 2:00 P.M. –meeting place TBD**
- Museum of West Louisiana Tour from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at
803 S. Third Street, Leesville, Louisiana**
- *Meetings – 4:00 P.M. - Division of Archaeology meeting**
- 5:00 P.M. –Early Registration Table Opens**
- 5:00 P.M. –LAS Executive Board Meeting**
- 6:00 P.M. - Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy Meeting**
- This meeting is opened to all interested persons. Attendance is encouraged.**
- 7:00 to 11:00 P.M. –Hospitality Room Opens**
- All registered participants are welcome.**

Saturday –Feb. 10, 2007

- *Registration table opens from 7:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon.**
- *Book Room opens from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**
- *Silent Auction opens from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**
- *Hospitality Room opens from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.**
- *Meeting –**
- 8:00 -Welcomes and Introduction**
- 8:15 to 12:00 –Presentations**
- 12:00 to 1:30 P.M –Lunch Break**
- 1:30 to 4:00 P.M. –Presentations**
- 4:00 to 5:00 P.M. –LAS Annual Business Meeting**
- *Banquet –7:00 P.M. with key note speaker
Dr. Jay K. Johnson, University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)
*Remote Sensing, Geophysical Survey, and
Ground Truth Archaeology
in the Lower Mississippi Valley.***
- *Hospitality Room –8:30 P.M. to 12:00 Midnight**

Sunday –Tours

- *Archaeological Site Tours - 8:00 –11:00**
- *Fort Polk Curation Facility - 8:30 –10:00**
- *Museum of West Louisiana - 8:30 –11:00**

**LAS Banquet Menu
February 10, 2007
Subject to Change**

Buffet style: Main entrees –
Smothered Pork Roast; Southern
Fried Chicken; Fried Catfish
Sides – Garden salad; stir fried
string beans; glazed carrots; black-
eyed peas; mashed potatoes with
gravy and a bread roll.
Dessert – Boston Cream Pie, Peach
Cobbler; Lemon Meringue Pie
Drinks – Iced Tea; Water and
Coffee

This schedule is subject to change. Persons who RSVP will be given details as they become available. Please check you registration packet for updates.

2007 Louisiana Archaeological Society's Annual Conference February 9, 10 and 11, 2007 Landmark Hotel Leesville, Louisiana

The 33rd annual LAS Conference will be held at the Landmark Hotel in Leesville, Louisiana. Early registration will open Friday afternoon at 5 p.m.

Limited **guest rooms** are blocked at a special conference rate of **\$60.00 plus tax**. You must reserve your room directly with the Landmark Hotel and request the LAS Conference rate by telephone (337) 239-7571 or online www.landmark-hotel.com.

Tours: Two archaeological site tours will be offered through the USDA, Forest Service on Friday afternoon; and possibly Sunday morning. One tour will be at the old Fullerton Mill Site and the other will be at a prehistoric rock shelter site called the Wolf Rock Site. Persons interested in these tours should RSVP to Velicia Bergstrom at vbergstrom@fs.fed.us or on your pre-registration form prior to January 26, 2007.

The Museum of West Louisiana will be opened Friday afternoon and will offer an exhibit of miniature models of old mill towns that no longer exist. The museum tour will also be available on Sunday, if there is an interest. Persons interested in touring this facility should RSVP to Ellen Ibert at Ellen.Ibert@us.army.mil or on your pre-registration form prior to January 26, 2007. Pre-registration is encouraged for the conference and required for the banquet. Pre-registration fees must be received no later than February 2, 2007.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

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

Banquet Fee: # _____ 25.00

Mailing fees:

Payable to WLAC & send to:

WLAC
803 S. Third Street
Leesville, Louisiana 71446

Tours: Archaeological Sites

Friday: yes/no

Sunday: yes/no

Museum of West Louisiana

Friday: yes/no

Sunday: yes/no

Fort Polk Curation Facility:

Sunday: yes/no

CALL FOR PAPERS!!!

If you are a professional archaeologist, historian, or related researcher please consider participating in this year's LAS meeting in Leesville, Feb. 9-11, 2007. If you are an avocational archaeologist, please share your interests, experiences, or knowledge with the membership as well. Contact Program Chairman Chip McGimsey at mcgimsey@louisiana.edu or at (337) 482-5198.

2007 LAS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Jay K Johnson will be the keynote speaker at the 2007 LAS meeting. Dr. Johnson's presentation is entitled **Remote Sensing, Geophysical Survey, and Ground Truth Archaeology in the Lower Mississippi Valley**. Dr. Johnson is on the faculty of the Sociology and Anthropology Department at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) and he is the director of The Center for Archaeological Research located on campus. In addition to more traditional archaeological methods, the Center has been applying remote sensing and GIS technology to archaeological research for the past 15 years with a major emphasis on geophysical prospection since the late 1990s. Recent project have included sites such as the Hollywood Mounds and the Parchman Place Mounds. More information on the interesting work that has been done at those two sites can be seen at the Center's website: <http://www.olemiss.edu/research/anthropology/archaeology/>

LAS SILENT AUCTION

Once again, the LAS will hold a Silent Auction at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Lake Charles. Over the last two years, LAS members have been very generous, raising over \$1,600 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 337-482-5198 or mcgimsey@louisiana.edu.

MARIE SANDIFER AWARD

The Louisiana Archaeological Society, in honor of the late Marie Standifer and her dedication and contributions to archaeology and the LAS, will sponsor an outstanding graduate student at the 2007 LAS Conference in Leesville, Louisiana. Registration, room charge, and mileage will be paid to the selected student with the stipulation that the student present a paper at the LAS Conference in Leesville, Louisiana on February 10, 2007.

The LAS Executive Board requests that all nominations be submitted to Chip McGimsey at mcgimsey@louisiana.edu no later than January 17, 2007. Qualified undergraduate and graduate students should be seeking a degree in history, archaeology, anthropology, or relevant related field and have demonstrated an interest in understanding and preserving Louisiana's archaeological and historical record.

Please submit the student's name, contact information, presentation topic, and the reasons why you believe the student should be considered for this award. The LAS Executive Committee will contact all nominees with our decision no later than January 24, 2007. We strongly encourage all students, whether nominated for this award or not, to present a paper on their current research at the meeting.

The Troyville Site: Embankment and River Bank Excavations.

By Aubra “Butch” Lee
Earth Search Inc.

For nearly two years Earth Search, Inc. (ESI), has been engaged in research at the Troyville Mound site (16CT7). Our initial efforts during 2005 focused on collecting data to corroborate evidence that a portion of the earthen embankment within the construction right-of-way was intact rather than destroyed by urban development. Research shifted to the west bank of the Black River in 2006 to explore and document cultural deposits discovered in this portion of the site. Analyses of embankment contexts are nearly complete, while those from the riverbank are just beginning; therefore, this short discussion is weighted toward the embankment at the expense of the bank line contexts.

Excavations provided unequivocal evidence that the lower portion of the embankment was intact. In addition to construction details, ESI's efforts recorded two horizontally and vertically distinct midden deposits (Strata IIa and III) along the east flank of the embankment, another midden deposit filling either a borrow area or ditch paralleling the west side of the embankment, and a deposit (Stratum IVa) beneath the embankment. Quite unexpectedly, 132 prehistoric features were also discovered on the truncated surface of the embankment (Figure 1).

The vast majority of features (n=103) discovered during the 2005 field investigations were post molds. Four circular structures were identified from the array of posts. Structure 1 is seven meters in diameter with an outer wall constructed of small individually set posts with larger posts on the interior. Structure 2 is eight meters in diameter, also with an outer wall of individually set posts. Structures 3 and 4 are 11 and 12 m in diameter respectively. The outer walls of the last two buildings are different, in that they are formed with pairs of individually set posts.

Twenty-nine pit features of varying sizes were sectioned and their contents removed. Three large, deep pits exhibited signs of extensive use, such as multiple charcoal lenses, excavation and refilling, and capping of discreet fill episodes with clay. Similarly, five pits believed to be associated with Structure 1 also exhibit complex internal morphology, with some containing at least three fill episodes separated by thin layers of clay. Conversely, pits associated with Structure 2 are shallow, usually with a single fill deposit. This pattern is repeated in a u-shaped cluster of five pits located in the southwest corner of the excavation area. These pits are relatively small, shallow, with a single fill deposit.

Of great interest are nine pits that contained cane (Figure 2). Inspection revealed that the cane had been cut and split into sections but not stripped to provide weavers the raw material for baskets, mats, etc. Furthermore, the cane was layered but not woven, suggesting these are not the remnants of roofing material or wall covering.

Our first impression was that these pits were designed to produce smoke to prevent or at least retard insects from entering living spaces. However, there would be no need to layer the cane or line a pit if smoke production was the end product. An alternative hypothesis is that these pits were used for storage. The layered cane would not only provide an elevated surface to prevent water and insect infiltration, but allow air to circulate to inhibit rotting and/or mildewing depending on the item(s) stored.

Ceramics are hands down the most numerous artifact class recovered from the embankment. Forms include square/rectangular vessels, beakers, plates/platters, simple bowls, subglobular pots, and miniature pots. Effigies or adornos include the representation of a turkey vulture and a human-like form. Decorated types are predominately late varieties of Marksville Incised such as *vars. Anglim* and *Scott*; Marksville Stamped, *vars. Cummins*, *Troyville*, *Bayou Rouge*; Churupa Punctated, *vars Thornton* and *Watson*; Alligator Incised; Mulberry Creek Cord Marked; Larto Red; and early varieties of French Fork Incised and Coles Creek Incised.

Radiocarbon assays completed by Beta Analytic, Inc thus far from embankment contexts are presented in Table 1. Nine of thirteen intercepts fall between AD 670-700, indicating a late Baytown Period affiliation for Stratum III (Beta 214628) as well as contexts associated with Structure 1 (Beta 214626-214627) and Structure 2 (Beta 214637). Two of the large pits (Beta 214631 and 214633) and two smaller cane lined pits also date to this era (Beta 214629-214630). Stratum IIa and the third large pit intercepts fall at AD 770 (Beta 214625 and 214634). The date returned for Stratum IIa is much later than expected since it occupies a stratigraphically lower position than Stratum III along the embankment flank. Review of field notes revealed that the Stratum IIa sample was collected from a portion of the midden exhibiting extensive fire ant disturbance suggesting the integrity of the sample had been compromised. A cane lined pit returned intercepts of AD 720, 740, and 760 (Beta 214632), while a small shallow pit from the U-shaped cluster returned the latest date with its intercept falling at AD 880 (Beta 214635). These later dates suggest either a transitional Baytown/ Coles Creek or an Early Coles Creek affiliation for a portion of the features discovered at the embankment. Coles Creek ceramics have been recovered from a deposit at the extreme eastern edge of the embankment occupying a position above both Strata IIa and III.

Archaeological investigations on the west bank of the Black River identified intact midden and 52 features. Features were almost evenly divided between posts (n=27) and pits (n=25). Two large circular pits were located in the southwest quadrant of the right-of-way. Both features contained a wide range of artifacts, both had posts within their respective matrices, and both were disturbed by a third circular pit placed between them. Smaller pits, some cane lined, with no formal arrangement, surround the three large pits. It has not been determined with any certainty at this point if the pits are of the

Table I: Radiocarbon Dates Obtained from ESI's Investigations at the Troyville Site

BETA No.	Unit	Stratum	Level	Feature	Material	C14 Age	Calibrated A.D. Date	1 Sigma	2 Sigma	C13/C12 Ratio
214625	N494 W480	IIA	n/a	n/a	wood charcoal	1270 +/-40 BP	A.D. 770	A.D. 690-790	A.D. 670-880	-25.7
214626	N488 W486	IIA	4	n/a	wood charcoal	1370 +/-40 BP	A.D. 670	A.D. 650-690	A.D. 640-720	-26.4
214627	N489 W486	IIA	2	12	wood charcoal	1360 +/-40 BP	A.D. 670	A.D. 660-690	A.D. 640-770	-26
214628	N489 W475	III	n/a	29	wood charcoal	1310 +/-40 BP	A.D. 690	A.D. 670-760	A.D. 650-780	-25.1
214629	MSA	n/a	n/a	47	cane	1350 +/-40 BP	A.D. 680	A.D. 660-710	A.D. 650-780	-27.1
214630	MSA	n/a	n/a	53	cane	1330 +/-40 BP	A.D. 700	A.D. 680-770	A.D. 660-790	-27.7
214631	MSA	n/a	n/a	56	wood charcoal	1350 +/-40 BP	A.D. 680	A.D. 660-710	A.D. 650-780	-26.7
214632	MSA	n/a	n/a	87	cane	1310 +/-40 BP	A.D. 720, 740, 760	A.D. 690-780	A.D. 670-870	-27.5
214633	MSA	n/a	n/a	112	wood charcoal	1370 +/-40 BP	A.D. 670	A.D. 660-690	A.D. 640-770	-26.8
214634	MSA	n/a	n/a	131	wood charcoal	1250 +/-40 BP	A.D. 770	A.D. 690--790	A.D. 670-880	-24.1
214635	MSA	n/a	n/a	134	cane	1170 +/-40 BP	A.D. 880	A.D. 790-900	A.D. 770-980	-25.2
214636	MSA	n/a	n/a	153	wood charcoal	1370 +/-40 BP	A.D. 680	A.D. 660-710	A.D. 650-780	-28.2
214637	MSA	n/a	n/a	178	wood/cane	1320 +/-40 BP	A.D. 700	A.D. 680-770	A.D. 660-790	-26.7

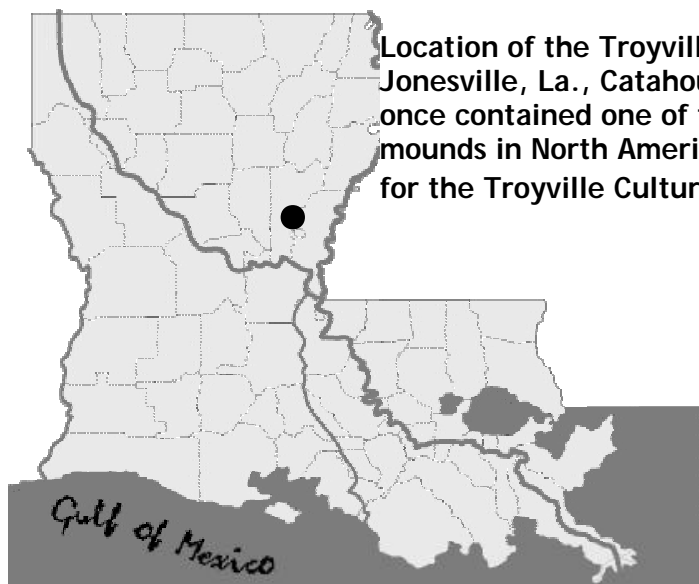
associated with a series of posts that form an incomplete circular arrangement. Several large, barely decayed tree roots have obscured a portion of the circular outline.

An oval-shaped hearth, several trash pits, and two bell-shaped pits were among the features located in the west-central portion of the right-of-way. The bell-shaped pits were filled with midden debris but their form suggests their primary function was storage (Figure 3). A large rectangular-shaped pit measuring 2 x 1.5 m is difficult to interpret (Figure 4). This pit was very shallow, only 15 cm deep, and contained very little in the way of artifacts. A concentration of burned earth was noted in the central area of the pit, but no artifacts showed signs of burning. Finally, cane was layered across the entire bottom of the pit. No plausible function has been formulated for this feature. Complete analysis of all material collected from this feature may provide additional information to determine its use.

Numerous lithic artifacts were recovered from riverbank contexts, a noticeable departure from the embankment where stone material was negligible. Raw material includes locally available Citronelle gravel as well

as novaculite from Arkansas. Catahoula Sandstone was extensively used for abraders and other grinding implements. Hematite, limonite, and ocher were collected from several contexts. Two grinding stones were encrusted with hematite, suggesting pigment production was an important activity. These pigments and others were more than likely used in the production of slipped and/or painted ceramics such as Landon Red-on-buff, Goldmine Polychrome, Hewitt White-filmed, Omega Red and Black, and Quafalorma Red and White, all recovered from river bank contexts.

Slipped and/or painted ceramics from the riverbank suggest an initial early Baytown occupation if our current cultural historical reconstructions are valid. Other ceramic types and varieties indicate a hiatus or break until the early Coles Creek Period when activities resumed along the river. It should be noted that these are projections based upon our current knowledge and are subject to change when ESI completes all analysis and additional radiocarbon dates are obtained.



Location of the Troyville Site in present day Jonesville, La., Catahoula Parish. This site once contained one of the largest prehistoric mounds in North America and is the type-site for the Troyville Culture- ca. A.D. 400-800.

Stylized view of the Troyville site with mounds and earthen enclosure from Morgan's *Prehistoric Architecture in the Eastern United States* (1980)

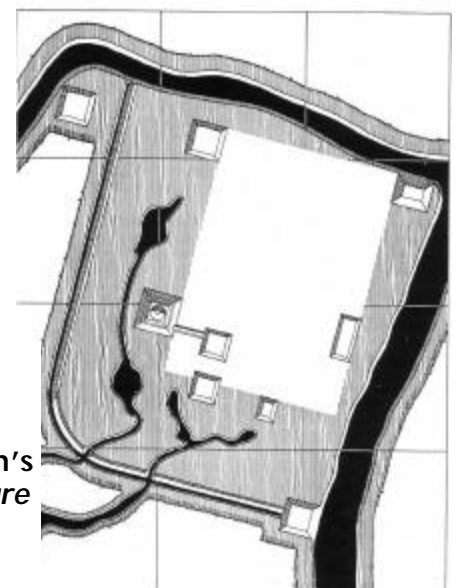




Figure 1: Some of the 132 features discovered by Earth Search, Inc. at the Troyville site.



Figure 2: One of the nine pit features excavated at the Troyville site by ESI

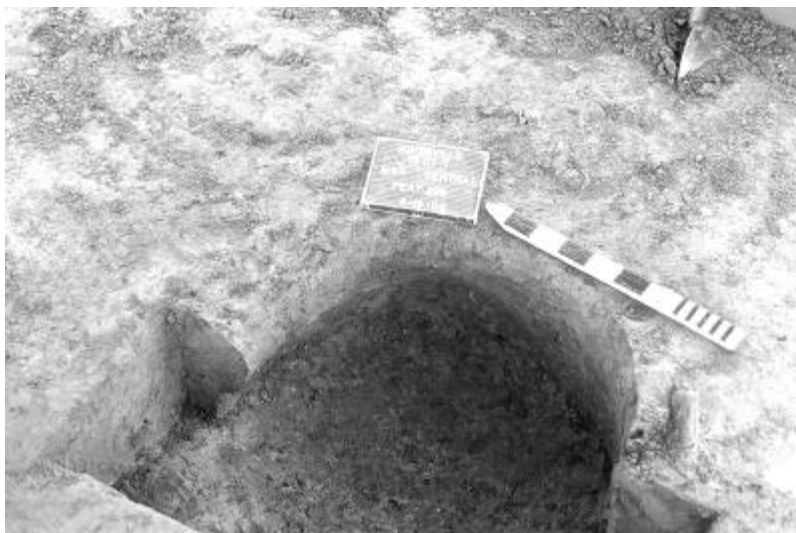


Figure 3: Excavated storage pit feature at the Troyville site.



Partially reconstructed vessel from ESI's excavations at the Troyville site.



Figure 4: Rectangular pit feature at the Troyville site.

Archaeology at the Mott Mounds

By: Timothy Schilling

Washington University in St. Louis

The Mott Mounds is one of the largest mound sites in Louisiana, but the site has received little attention from archaeologists. In the summer of 2005 with the help of Joe Saunders, I undertook a limited soil coring project to develop some basic information about prehistoric activities at the site. Even though soil coring only produces a small window under the ground surface, we were able to discover important data about when and how quickly the mounds were constructed. The project served as preliminary for a larger project which will commence in 2007 and form the basis of my Ph. D. dissertation.

The Mott Mounds (Figure 1) was built on the eastern edge of the Macon Ridge overlooking Bayou Macon and the Tensas Basin. The Macon Ridge, one of the oldest landforms in Louisiana, is a late Pleistocene aged loess bluff overlying earlier Pleistocene aged outwash deposits (Saucier 1994). Various researchers have defined 8, 12, or 14 mounds at the site, depending upon how one views some of the smaller rises that are present (Figure 2; Beyer 1900; Moore 1913; Gibson 1996). All of the mounds, with the exception of a small outlier to the south, surround a central plaza which is aligned along an east/west axis. Phillips (n.d.) also suggested that a small earthen ridge bisects the plaza.

In terms of scale, Mott is an unusual site. Mound A, a flat-topped pyramidal structure that sits at the western side of the plaza, is the largest mound and measures over 8 meters tall. Mound A is not unusual because of its height, there are several mounds both contemporaneous and much older mounds in the Tensas Basin which are taller. Mound A, however, has an extremely large footprint with basal dimensions of almost 90 meters by 100 meters. The summit measure approximately 45 meters by 60 meters. Gibson (1996:64) suggests that Mound A at Mott is the largest mound of its time in the Tensas Basin. Two other large mounds, Mound F and Mound I, define the eastern and southern limits of the plaza. Four smaller dome shaped mounds that overlook a meander scar of Bayou Macon enclose the northern side of the plaza.

Although the mounds at Mott are impressive, the most notable aspect of the site may be the exceptionally large plaza. The plaza measure almost 280 meters east to west and 175 meters north to south. To put this into perspective, the Raffman, Winterville, or Lake George sites (one at a time of course), could comfortably fit into to the plaza at Mott. The plaza at Mott is about $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of the Grand Plaza at Cahokia.

In the past, Mott was farmed with the summits of the Mound A and Mound I heavily plowed. However, the site has not been farmed since at least the early 1970's and a dense incipient forest covers the mounds. Pine trees have been planted in the plaza and surrounding non-mound areas. Mott is currently owned by The Archaeological Conservancy who is preserving the site for future researchers.

Past Research

There is a long history of investigation at Mott, but little beyond a very basic culture-historical framework is known about the site. Early researchers, George Beyer (1900) and C. B. Moore (1913) mapped and excavated at the site. These early researchers had very different methods and objectives from modern archaeologists, but Beyer did note an absence of discernable stratigraphy within the mounds that he sampled, suggesting that the mounds were constructed as single episodes (Beyer 1900:30). His crews excavated large pits into seven mounds (Beyer's Mounds 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 12 later renamed I, H, G, E, F, C, and D by Moore). In Mound C (8) excavators encountered the remains of one individual, who was missing skull, right arm, and shoulder.

In 1913 C. B. Moore excavated at the Mott Mounds. Moore's crews investigated all of the mounds. Although he does not detail his method, he placed test holes into each mound as he does note that all of the mounds were constructed with clay or sand and clay (Moore 1913:55-56). Excavations into Mound F yielded the remains of at least 26 burials. He also noted the recovery of three whole vessels from Mound F, two, which were undecorated, and one, which had series of notches extending around the orifice (Moore 1913:57). Moore also noted the recovery of many stone tools, both points and blades. As previously noted, he assigned letters to designate mounds; his labels are the ones in current use.

During the middle 1960's researchers from Lower Mississippi Survey (LMS) from Harvard University briefly visited the site (Phillips 1970). LMS crews, led by Stephen Williams, sampled the small mounds at the site with a series of posthole tests and larger test pits. The LMS efforts placed the site within a relative chronological sequence and the analysis indicated that Marksville, Coles Creek, and Plaquemine period components were present with the Coles Creek component being the most prevalent. In 1976, Woodiel, Fulgham, and Spencer, conducted a surface collection at the site. Their collection, by and large, confirmed the conclusions reached by the LMS investigators. Most recently, Alex Barker conducted surface collections in the vicinity of Mott as part of the Tensas River Archaeological Program (Barker 1992). Barker visited a small portion of the site but did not excavate. He also located a large and probably contemporaneous village site approximately 700 meters south of the mound group.

The 2005 Mott Project

Based on size alone, the Mott was obviously an important place in prehistoric society, yet the site is almost unknown archaeologically. Nevertheless, Mott has figured prominently in interpretations of Coles Creek period political geography in Northeast Louisiana (most recently Barker 1999; Gibson 1996:66; Kidder 2002:89). The 2005 Mott Project was designed to test competing hypotheses about when Mott was occupied. One idea forwarded by Gibson



Figure 1: Location of Mott Mounds

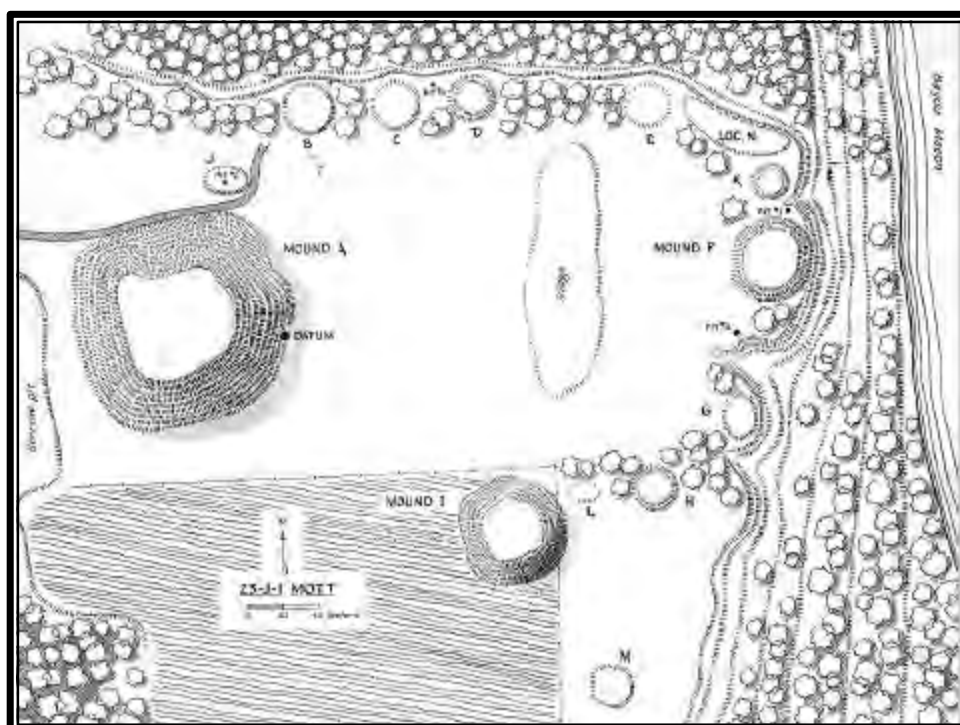


Figure 2: Lower Mississippi Survey map of the Mott Mounds site.
Source: Phillips 1970.

(1996) is that Mott was the largest center of its time. Mott continued the tradition of large centers which started with the Troyville site. According to Gibson, Mott was the most influential town after Pritchard Landing but before Raffman. Kidder (2002) offers a differing picture, where numerous polities existed in the Tensas Basin at the same time. One of the goals of the 2005 project was to recover materials that would more securely date activities at Mott.

The second goal was to investigate construction activities at the site. Phillips (n.d.) noted a possible ridge feature bisecting the plaza. Early aerial photographs confirm the existence of a discolored area of soil in the plaza in the same place that Phillips mapped the ridge. It was hoped that soil coring would be able to detect the remains of this feature. Additionally, Moore (1913) noted an absence of mound building layers at Mott. When compared to other similar mound sites across the Southeast, the absence of mound stages is unusual. Soil cores placed into various mounds were used to recover stratigraphic profiles which then would display either the presence or absence of mound construction stages. Assuming that mound stages were built relatively quickly, a 5 meter tall mound built in three stages requires less concentrated activity than an equal size single stage mound. When compared to multiple stage mound construction, the presence of numerous single stage mounds can suggest more intense periods of activity. Soil coring which addressed the second goal was designed to understand the scale of construction at the site.

The final goal was to identify mound occupation deposits for later sampling. At many mound sites across the Lower Mississippi Valley, midden deposits accumulated around the base of the mounds. Researchers believe that these toe midden deposits resulted from use activity at the mound sites. Identifying the location of these deposits would prove an invaluable guide for future research.

Field Methods

The 2005 Mott Project was conducted from May 10, 2005 through May 18, 2005. Crews included Timothy Schilling of Washington University in St. Louis and Joe Saunders. Additional assistance was provided by Thurman Allen of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Rachel Bielitz, and Katie Adelsberger from Washington University in St. Louis.

Field crews took 23 solid soil cores using an ATV mounted Giddings Soil rig (Figure 3). Two-inch (5.08 cm) soil cores were the standard size recovered. In certain cases, 1.5 inch (3.81 cm) and 4 inch (10.16 cm) core tubes were used. The smaller tube was used to penetrate resistant soils whereas the larger tube was used to recover large volumes of soil for in-depth laboratory analysis. All soil cores were field described according to methods published by Vogel (2002).

Initial plans called for the establishment of a site wide grid system with cores located at grid points. Due to the amount and density of vegetation covering the site we were unable to place cores at regular locations. Initial plans



Figure 3: Saunders (left) and Schilling coring Mound I at the Mott Mounds site

called for the establishment of a site wide grid system with cores located at grid points. Due to the amount and density of vegetation covering the site we were unable to place cores at regular locations. Workers judgmentally chose core locations by weighing expected return versus ease and safety of access. In the plaza however, investigators attempted to utilize 40-meter spacing whenever possible. Core locations were recorded with a Trimble Differential GPS using the Universal Transmercator System (Zone 15 north; WGS1984 Datum) that provides sub-meter accuracy. Taking cores first and then recording their locations provided the best compromise between accuracy, speed, and efficiency.

Several cores from mounded locations were recovered for laboratory analysis, the results of which are not reported here. In an effort to preserve site integrity, all core holes were refilled. At mound locations culturally sterile river sand was placed into core holes. The coring program was divided into three phases: offsite cores, plaza cores, and mound cores. Three cores were taken from offsite locations and used as control cores. Nine cores were taken from the plaza. The remaining 11 cores were taken from various mound locales.

Results

The following section presents generalized stratigraphic interpretations of the soil cores.

Offsite Cores

Three cores were taken starting approximately 300 meters west of Mound A. Cores followed a general East to West transect that paralleled a service road. The cores were spaced approximately 150 meters apart. Although there is slight variation between cores, the same general sequence was seen in each sample. The sequence of soil horizons is: A-E/B-Bt-C. There is an organically rich A-horizon that overlies an almost 1 meter thick elluviated B-horizon. The Bt horizon grades into a lighter colored C-horizon. This

sequence matches well with the published soil descriptions and is assumed to be a natural soil sequence for the Macon Ridge (USDA 1989). In Core 3, ground water was encountered approximately 130 cm. below surface. This core was within 10 meters of the a water filled borrow pit that lies directly to the west of Mound A. Ground water at this shallow depth most probably indicates a local perched water table as ground water is normally found at much deeper depths.

Plaza Cores

Nine cores, spaced at 40 meters apart, were taken from the Plaza area. Cores from the plaza compared favorably with the offsite cores; a similar stratigraphic sequence was seen in both locations. Phillips noted a ridge running north to south in the eastern side of the plaza. No surface expression of the ridge was discernable but core 8 did show a possible subsurface feature. The soil in core 8 did not appear anthropogenic, suggesting a natural rather than a cultural origin for the ridge. If there was a feature that rose above the surface of the plaza it has likely been plowed away. Although Coles Creek period plazas are generally thought of as vacant, with research demonstrating that at times a great amount of activity was put into constructing plazas (Kidder 2004). The limited testing did not discover any evidence of buried anthropogenic surfaces or major construction within the plaza. Although the plaza at Mott was most certainly planned, construction efforts were probably directed toward leveling the surface by removing high spots rather than filling lows. From this limited coring, the plaza area at Mott can be considered a vacant area in the sense that the plaza activities did not leave any archaeologically detectable remains.

Mound Cores

Eleven cores were placed into mounded locations. Cores were either taken through the mound from top to bottom or from the toe areas adjacent to the mounds. Mounds E, H, and I were cored from top to bottom and the toe areas surrounding Mounds H, K, and I were tested. Samples from Mounds E and I show that both mounds were built in a relatively short period of time, most probably as single events. Soil cores from Mound E show the presence of a Bw (Cambic) horizon overlying a basket loaded moundfill stratum. A similar sequence was found in Mound I. On the other hand, moundfill from Mound E overlies a buried A-horizon that contained shell and charcoal. The buried A-horizon is interpreted as a midden context. Underneath Mound I a buried A-horizon was also found. This stratum differs markedly in color, texture, and inclusions from the characteristic black midden type soils encountered at the base of Mound E. The buried A horizon below Mound I is most likely naturally occurring A-horizon rather than a midden deposit.

Cores from Mound H yielded a differing stratigraphic sequence. The mound, which measures approximately 2 meters tall, was constructed in a single stage, utilized, and then capped by a clay layer. The clay stratum overlies a buried A-horizon interpreted as a use surface. A Baytown Plain var. *Percy Creek* sherd was recovered from the buried A-horizon. Variety *Percy Creek* is thought to be a middle to late Coles Creek (ca. 900 A.D.–1100 A.D.) variety suggesting that the surface was used and the mound constructed sometime during or after this period.

Cores were also placed into the aprons of Mound H and Mound I in an effort to locate toe midden deposits. Mound H yielded a thin stratum that is interpreted as a slope wash or possible a buried midden deposit. Surprisingly, there was no evidence of a toe midden around the base of Mound I. The most extensive midden deposits were found on the northeastern edge of the site between Mound E and Mound K, near the area that Phillips designated Location N. Location N appears to be a small ridge constructed largely of mussel shells. Location N appears to be the most promising area for future research.

Radiocarbon Assay

A 5g. sample of charcoal was recovered from a buried A (ca. 290 cmbs) horizon beneath Mound E (Core 17). The Ab horizon contained shell, bone, charcoal, and roots, and is interpreted as a submound midden deposit. Mound E is located on the northern edge of the site and overlooks an abandoned meander scar that lies to the north. The mound measures approximately 3 meters tall and the core was placed at highest point of the mound. Radiocarbon assay (Beta-212907) yielded a date of 1040 A. D. (calibrated). The sample falls into the range of 1010 A. D. to 1190 A.D. This date corresponds well with the most intensive period of occupation at the site, which was inferred from the pottery chronology from other parts of the site. The date establishes a *terminus post quem* for Mound E and is the first date from the Mott site.

Discussion

The 2005 project set out with three goals. To address the first goal, results from the fieldwork supports Kidder's (2002) settlement pattern. Based on the currently available data in the Upper Tensas Basin during the late Coles Creek period (ca 1000 A.D. – 1200 A.D.) there were likely at least two large polities in existence, one centered at Mott and the other at Raffman. Although both of these sites have long occupational histories, activity seems to increase dramatically after 1000 A. D. In the immediate vicinity of Mott there are several large late Troyville/early Coles Creek (e.g. Insley, Indian Bayou, Marsden) however, the late Coles Creek period is poorly represented at these places (Bitgood 1989). After 1000 A.D. there may be a trend towards a consolidation of resources and politics at a small number of large mound sites.

Current research suggests that the political geography of the Coles Creek period was made up of many competing political organizations (Fritz 2005). But, Kidder (2002) has noted that in the Coles Creek period there is little evidence of violence or competition in the material record. However,

mound construction is a labor intensive activity with measurable results. If we view mound construction as a competitive activity then Coles Creek people may have been fighting with dirt. One aspect of mound building can be seen in mounds as signaling the strength and the political cohesiveness of a given social group. Mound building then was a way to ameliorate outright violence by warning all potential challengers. Whether this was the case or not, remains to be proven. Future fieldwork will detail the timing and chronology of construction at Mott. During the Coles Creek period, we can see that the northern Tensas Basin was clearly a center of political development. More research is needed to clarify the relationship between events in the Tensas Basin and the rest of the Southeast.

The second goal of the project was to investigate construction activities at Mott. Although we obtained only a small sample, the results are intriguing. Mound construction was certainly a very labor intensive activity. All the mounds that were sampled yielded single stages. But, more data is needed to address the scale of construction activities at Mott. These data should be designed to create a fine grained chronology of construction which can then be used to estimate the demographic consequences of mound building. More simply put: how many people did it take to build the mound and plaza complex? Currently we have only a tenuous picture.

The third goal was to discover midden locations for future sampling. Although we were able to find areas that will likely yield materials, the more compelling discovery was a lack of thick toe midden deposits. Drawing on published accounts from Greenhouse (Ford 1951), Osceola (Kidder and Fritz 1993), or any number of similar archaeological sites, it was expected that thick midden deposits would be found surrounding the platform mounds. Although midden deposits were encountered the quantity of materials was underwhelming when compared to the size of the site. In some ways, Mott appears as the most vacant of vacant ceremonial centers. The dearth of material may be the result of inadequate survey. More work is needed to identify occupation debris deposits.

The 2005 Mott Project provided the impetus a larger and more extensive project that is planned for the summer of 2007. Currently, we only have a crude temporal understanding of the Mott Mounds. Future plans call for mapping the site during the winter of 2006 and more sampling to develop a better understanding of mound building and mound use. Additionally, during the summer of 2007, I will test the Mottville site, currently believed to be a large village site located just to the south of the mound complex.

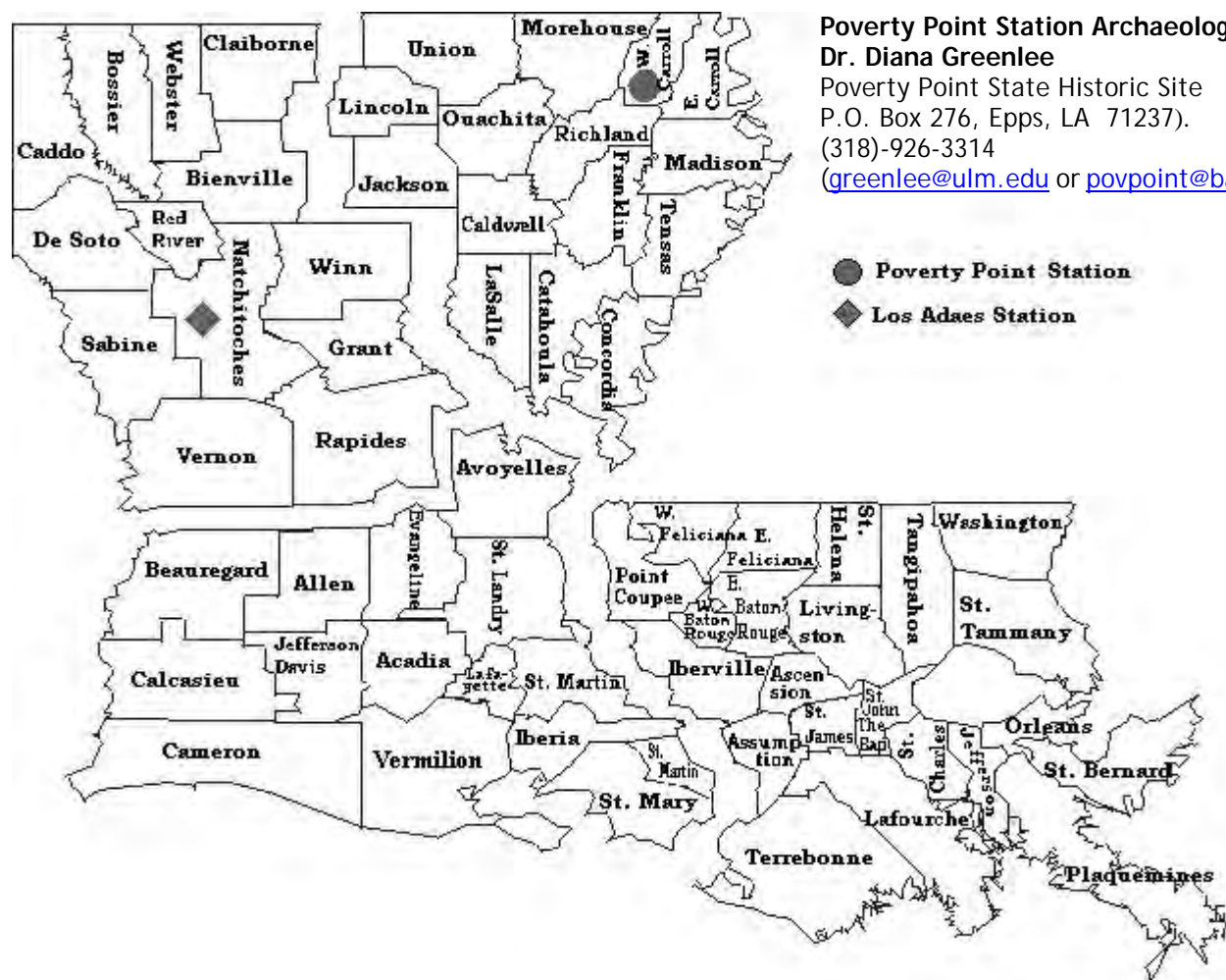
Acknowledgements I would like to personally express my gratitude to the numerous individuals and institutions that made this research possible. They are: Dennis LaBatt, Katie Adelsberger, Rachel Bielitz, Washington University in St. Louis, The Archaeological Conservancy, Louisiana State Parks, and Louisiana Division of Archaeology. Several

people need to be singled out for their extraordinary help with this project. T. R. Kidder deserves an especially large "thank you" without his inspiration and advice I would not have even been in a position to undertake the project. Joe Saunders deserves special praise for his gracious donation of time, equipment and advice - Thanks Joe. Finally, to Stephen Williams, I extend my deepest gratitude for helping secure funds for a radiocarbon date from Mott.

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Regional Archaeology News



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Sites Exposed at Toledo Bend Reservoir

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Record low lake levels on Toledo Bend Reservoir during the late summer of 2006 exposed large areas along former tributary creeks of the Sabine River. Before levels ascended in mid-October, we recorded 19 new sites near the DeSoto-Sabine parish line.

Some of the sites are quite large, with artifacts scattered for 200 m or more on natural levees bordering the remnant lake. Two sites contained large amounts of thick, undecorated, grog-tempered pottery that probably dates to the Woodland period. Also present were several sherds of very distinctive, sandy paste pottery (called Bear Creek Plain in the Lake Sam Rayburn area in East Texas, and Goose Creek Plain along the Gulf Coast). The sandy paste pottery is often found on Woodland period sites in the Neches-Angelina river valleys in East Texas, but is rare in Louisiana.

Not surprisingly, the sites were heavily collected during the low lake levels. The Sabine River Authority is working with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and the Texas Historical

Commission to inform people that removal of artifacts from state property is against the law on both sides of the reservoir. Fortunately, no disturbances were found to human burials or other significant cultural features.

Toledo Bend Reservoir is the fifth largest artificial lake in the United States and the largest in the South. The lake is approximately 65 miles long and contains over 1200 miles of shoreline. Construction began in 1964 with completion of the power plant and subsequent filling of the lake in 1969. Archaeological surveys were conducted by the University of Texas and Southern Methodist University during the 1960s. Although numerous sites were identified, they constitute only a small fraction of those likely to have existed. Less than a dozen sites were subjected to test excavations, and some of the excavations were of a very limited nature. Consequently, our knowledge of the prehistory and early history of this portion of the Sabine River drainage is severely limited.

The normal pool level of the lake is 172' above sea level. When we conducted our survey, the level was just over 160'. A recurrence of low summer rainfall will result in low lake levels again next year, and we plan to conduct additional investigations.



Photograph of Toledo Bend Reservoir with lower levels in summer of 2006. View is facing west and trees in the distance are on the Texas side of the lake.

The Allen Darby Collection from 16IB63

Chip McGimsey

Regional Archaeologist

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

16IB63 is situated on the edge of the Late Pleistocene Prairie Terrace overlooking the Mississippi river floodplain and Bayou Teche just south of Lake Martin. The site was recorded and tested during a pipeline survey by R. Christopher Goodwin (Goodwin et al. 1990). A series of 42 shovel tests and two test units recovered numerous prehistoric and historic artifacts. All of the recovered materials are found in the plow zone and there is no evidence for intact sub-plow zone deposits. The prehistoric assemblage is dominated by ceramic sherds as lithic material is limited to four flakes and two points. Most of the temporally diagnostic prehistoric materials reflect a late Marksville period occupation, as evidenced by Marksville Incised, *var. Manny* and *Newsome*, Marksville Incised, *var. Yokena*, *Steele Bayou* and *Leist*, and Churupa Punctated, *var. Churupa* sherds. Minimal later occupation was indicated by two sherds of Larto Red, *var. Larto*, one sherd of L'eau Noire Incised, *var. Anna*, and one Talco arrow point. An earlier occupation may be suggested by the one unfinished contracting stem dart point. There is also a significant historic occupation dating from the late nineteenth into the twentieth century. A more recent house was mapped at the site in the 1970s, although it was gone by 1990.

The Goodwin investigation defined a completely disturbed site with a modest prehistoric occupation confined to the last 2,000 years. A very different view of this site is obtained through examination of the Allen Darby collection.

Allen Darby lived in New Iberia and collected this site for many years during the 1960s and 1970s. He passed away in the mid-1990s and the family has maintained his collection since then. In the spring of 2006, they contacted the author and allowed him to borrow the 16IB63 assemblage for analysis. Mr. Darby also collected at 16IB101 (the subject of a future article) and it is possible that some artifacts from that site are included in this collection. However, the Darby family members believe this collection was obtained primarily from IB63.

The Darby collection consists of 510 lithic items and three Kaolin pipe stems. The historic pipe stems probably relate to the nineteenth century occupation of the site and are not further discussed. The prehistoric lithic assemblage is dominated by shaped pieces, including 501 chipped stone items and 5 non-chert shaped items (Table 1).

The size of the collection represents quite a contrast with the Goodwin collection. Although both share a paucity of flakes, the abundance of chipped stone items in the Darby collection makes it appear that Mr. Darby may have collected virtually all of the shaped pieces from the site prior to the Goodwin visit. Given that artifacts are confined to the plow zone and he visited the site numerous times over many years, this is certainly possible. At the very least, the Darby collection illustrates the benefits of multiple visits to a site.

The Darby collection indicates the site was occupied at least occasionally for the last 9,500 years. The initial occupations (the San Patrice and Cache River points; Figure 1) left few specimens, indicative of very sporadic occupation of this locale. The occupation frequency increases only slightly during the 7,500 - 5,000 BP interval (the Bulverde and Evans points; Figure 1). It is during the 5,000 to 3,000 BP interval that the occupation frequency increases significantly. Marcos, Williams, Ellis and Birds Creek points (Figure 2) comprise one-fifth (20.4%) of the total point assemblage (depositing one point every 26.7 years of this period). The occupation intensity continues to increase during the 3,000 to 1,500 BP interval, represented by Gary and Kent points (Figure 3). Most of the Late Archaic stemmed and barbed points probably fall into this interval as well. If all these points are included, this interval contains 40.5% of the points, or one point every 10.2 years. This pattern seems to be reflected in the ceramic assemblage recovered by the Goodwin excavations, which are dominated by Marksville types coeval with the Gary and Kent styles. Once the bow and arrow are introduced, occupation of this site appears to taper off. Arrow points (Figure 4) comprise only 13.1% of the point assemblage, or one every 22.9 years.

Except as noted in Table 1, all the artifacts are made of Citronelle gravel chert. Most of the indeterminate chert items probably represent unrecognized varieties of Citronelle gravel. The one clearly imported chert is novaculite from the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas. Its importation appears to have been limited to the Late Archaic through Marksville periods as it only appears as Gary, Kent and indeterminate Archaic points.

The Darby collection is also notable for the four stone beads recovered at the site (Figure 5). Three are finished tubular beads, two of red jasper and one of an indeterminate stone. Perhaps the most interesting item is the bead preform. Made of red jasper, it is a squared piece that has received minimal rounding and abrasion. Initial drill holes

Table 1. Inventory of prehistoric lithic materials in the Allen Darby collection.

Description	Count
Bifaces and biface fragments	93 (2 novaculite)
Adzes (defined by polished bits)	5
Core/hammerstones	2
Drills (thin, narrow bifaces)	29
San Patrice point	1
Cache River / Big Sandy point	1
Bulverde points	9 (1 quartzite, 1 indeterminate chert)
Evans points	5
Birds Creek points	6
Marcos points	27 (1 indeterminate chert)
Williams points	25
Ellis points	17 (1 fossil wood)
Motley point	1 (indeterminate chert)
Gary points	48 (1 novaculite, 1 quartzite, 3 indeterminate chert)
Gary/Kent points	29 (1 novaculite, 1 palm wood, 1 indeterminate chert)
Kent points	47 (1 indeterminate chert)
Late Archaic stemmed points	11
Late Archaic barbed points	12
Indeterminate Archaic points	64 (1 novaculite, 1 Catahoula sandstone, 2 indeterminate chert)
Indeterminate point fragments	21 (2 indeterminate chert)
Perdiz point	1
Alba points	25
Colbert points	5
Friley points	3
Indeterminate arrow points	14
Quartzite hammerstone	1
Red jasper bead perform	1
Red jasper tubular beads	2
Indeterminate stone tubular bead	1



Figure 1. Early and Middle Archaic points in the Darby collection: a –Cache River / Big Sandy; b –San Patrice; c, d, e – Bulverde; f, g, h –Evans

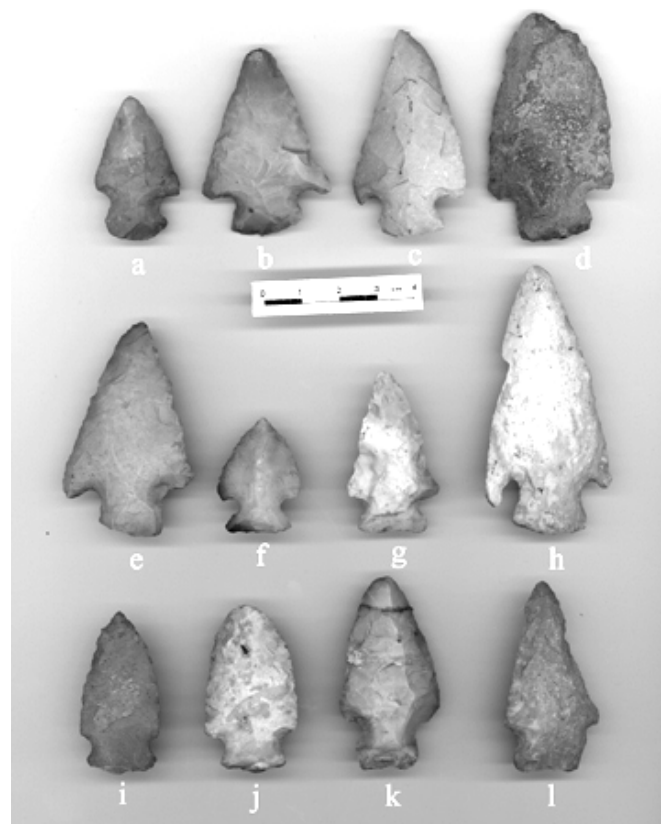


Figure 2. Middle to Late Archaic points in the Darby collection: a through d –Williams; e through h – Marcos; i through l –Ellis

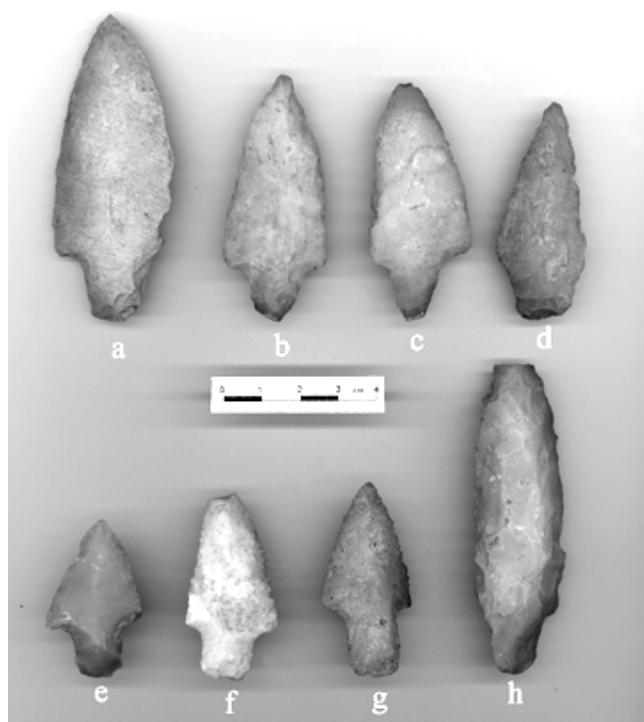


Figure 3. Late Archaic points in the Darby collection: a through d –Gary; e through h –Kent

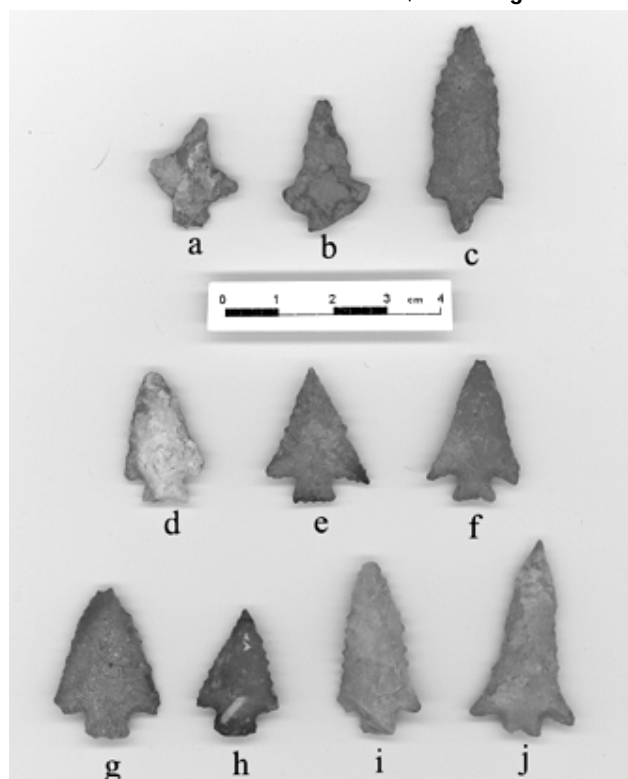


Figure 4. Arrow points in the Darby collection: a and b –Friley; c –Perdiz; d through f –Colbert; g through j –Alba.

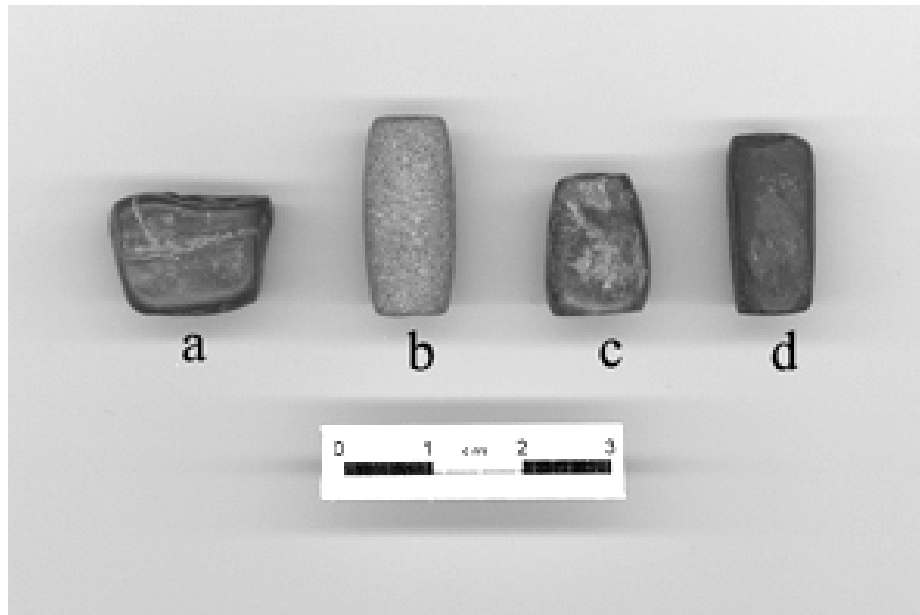


Figure 5. Beads in the Darby collection: red jasper preform; b – tubular bead of indeterminate stone; c and d – red jasper tubular beads.

are present on opposite ends. The presence of this item indicates that at least some beads were being manufactured in this region, rather than being imported as finished items.

The Darby collection, along with the Goodwin assemblage, is puzzling for the near absence of chert flakes. Although it is possible Mr. Darby did not pick up flakes at this site, he was a very conscientious collector at 16IB101, even picking up flakes less than one centimeter in size. This disparity may mean that a significant portion of the collection actually belongs to 16IB101. But assuming that the collection is not mixed, the paucity of flakes at a site with a large number of points, bifaces and biface fragments in various stages of manufacture suggests a distinct type of site probably focused on hunting and butchering of animals.

Mr. Allen Darby was a very interested avocational archaeologist who confined his activities to two sites, 16IB63 and 16IB101. Although there may be some mixing between the two collections, present evidence indicates the material described here was obtained from 16IB63. Mr. Darby's collection provides a significantly different view of the site's cultural history than was obtained by the Goodwin investigation. The site has a long occupation history, beginning with San Patrice and continuing with at least occasional occupation for the next 9,500 years. Occupation frequency peaked during the 5,000 to 1,500 BP interval. This may correspond to the presence of the Mississippi River main channel in the floodplain below the terrace in the early portion of this interval (Saucier 1994:258-261, Plate 11). Mr. Darby's collections from both 16IB63 and 16IB101

illustrate the long and complex history of the terrace margin where it overlooks the Mississippi River floodplain. His collections are also a testament to the value of repeated visits to a site over a long period of time.

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Regional Archaeology Program goes Hollywood. Rob Mann, Southeast Regional Archaeologist

In October and November the SE Regional Archaeology program undertook archaeological investigations at property owned by the Bethel Baptist Worship Center in Morganza, Louisiana. During the Civil War Morganza was occupied by the Union Army, which established a heavily fortified camp known as Fort Morganza. As many as 20,000 Union troops were encamped in and around Morganza follow the disastrous Red River campaign in 1864. Exhaustion, wounds, malnutrition, and infectious diseases took a heavy toll on the dispirited soldiers and many hundreds died at Morganza. A government report following the war noted that in 1868 Federal troops returned to Morganza and disinterred 698 bodies for reburial at the National Cemetery in Port Hudson.

Oral traditions around the town of Morganza indicated that a cemetery related to the Civil War era was located on or near the property now owned by the Bethel Baptist Worship Center, which is planning to expand its complex. Concern over the possible human graves on the property prompted Rev. Larry Bossier to initiate efforts to get an archaeological assessment of the property before construction of the new building began. The SE Regional Archaeology Program agreed to investigate the area to be impacted by construction to determine if intact archaeological deposits (including burials) relating to the Civil War era were present on the property. I was assisted in this effort by several people, including Mr. Buck Tucker, LSU graduate students Lucinda Freeman and Dena Struchtemeyer, and several parishioners of the Bethel Baptist Worship Center. We excavated 15 .30 x .30 m STPs over the project area. Several large cement slabs are still present on the surface and local informants told us that they had buried much of the debris from the demolition of this structure in a large backhoe trench on one end of the property. So, it was clear from the outset that the area was heavily disturbed by the construction, occupation, abandonment, and demolition of the 20th-century building which formerly stood on the site. Still, the degrees of disturbance was much greater than anticipated and in only 1 STP were we able to detect pre-1930 deposits and even here nothing pre-dating 1900 was recovered. No evidence of burials was detected in any of the STPs.

What we did end up with, however, was an interesting artifact assemblage from a site associated with a significant piece of 20th-century Americana. As it turns out, the building that once stood on the property was Melancon's Café, which was prominently featured in the 1969 classic, *Easy Rider* (Fig. 1). We recovered construction materials (e.g., brick, mortar,



Figure 1: Photograph of Melancon's Café in Morganza La. that provided a set for part of the iconic 1960s movie *Easy Rider*.

nails, patterned asbestos floor tiles, and plate glass window fragments), ceramic and plastic dinnerware, and some faunal material (mostly oyster shell). Some potential spatial information was also gleaned from the STPs. For example, several coins and a 1961 plastic pocket calendar (Fig. 2) were recovered from one STP, leading us to speculate that the cash register may have been located in this area of the café. Though we set out to investigate Civil War era cemetery, we ended up documenting the material remains of a 20th-century commercial establishment. Analysis of the café assemblage is still-ongoing and we may yet discover some tangible link to Morganza's brush with fame.



Figure 2: Plastic pocket calendar for 1961 recovered in a shovel test in Morganza.

New Poverty Point Station Archaeologist

Welcome to Diana Greenlee, the new Poverty Point Station Archaeologist. Dr. Greenlee received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. Her dissertation focused on explaining variation in prehistoric diet and subsistence associated with the appearance of maize farming in the Ohio River valley. She used archaeological human bone chemistry, along with traditional sources of archaeological information (e.g., faunal and floral remains, skeletal pathologies, environmental location and settlement organization) and climatic proxy data (e.g., pollen, tree rings and beach ridges), to examine how and why subsistence varied as it did.

Dr. Greenlee has previously conducted research and taught introductory archaeology classes at the University of Washington and at a nearby community college. She has published and given professional presentations about prehistoric subsistence in the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys and elsewhere. She has won four poster awards at Society for American Archaeology annual meetings.

Dr. Greenlee brings to Poverty Point an ongoing research interest in the ways prehistoric populations of eastern North America interacted with their



Dr. Diana Greenlee, new station archaeologist at Poverty Point.

environments, particularly with respect to subsistence issues. Her experience applying multiple scientific analytic techniques to previously-acquired collections will be useful in gleaning information from the collections curated at Poverty Point. She can be contacted via email (greenlee@ulm.edu or povpoint@bayou.com), telephone (318-926-3314), or mail (Poverty Point State Historic Site, P.O. Box 276, Epps, LA 71237).

Northeastern Region Archaeology News - Dr. Joe Saunders and Recca Jones

During Archaeology Week, the first week in October, the Regional Program scheduled 12 presentations. the turnout was lower than it has been for the past few years. Apparently, this was a statewide phenomenon.

In November, Jeff Girard gave a presentation on salt pans in Winn Parish to the Northeast Louisiana Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeology and the Museum of Natural History in the Sandel Building at ULM.

Poverty Point archaeologist, Dr. Diana Greenlee excavated a small pit feature exposed by roadwork at Poverty Point. She also assisted with the resumption of the gradiometer survey at Poverty Point by Mike Hargrave and Berle Clay. They continued to work in the central plaza area. They found additional large circular features (30 m in diameter), origin and age unknown. Dr. Greenlee also made arrangements for the Natural Resource Conservation Service to topographically map a portion of Poverty Point with their new GPS system. In a day, they collected over 10,000 points on the ridges in the south half of the site. Results of the data collection are pending.

Joe Saunders began mapping Hedgepeth Mounds in preparation for coring transects over the site area to define the horizontal limits of the buried soil (and presumably a Middle Archaic occupational surface) on the west side of the site. If interested in giving a hand for a day, he can be reached at saunders@ulm.edu.

Saunders and Jones contacted the owners of part of the Watson Brake swamp, the namesake of Watson Brake. The swamp is in pristine condition, no historic structures on the shoreline. A very preliminary evaluation indicates that the swamp bottom may have paleoenvironmental data. Saunders and Jones are investigating the possibility of acquiring the land (purchase, donation, and swap) to the preserve the setting of Watson Brake and to protect the potential paleoenvironmental data.

Kisatchie National Forest, Caney Ranger District Passport In Time (PIT) Project just off Corney Bayou: A Brief Discussion.

Velicia R. Bergstrom (KNF Heritage Program Manager) & Brian Cockrell (Caney RD Archaeologist)

The Caney Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest recently hosted its first Passport In Time Project. For those that don't know, the Caney Ranger District is located in the north central part of this grand state. The project area is just a few short miles from the Arkansas border and just off the Corney Bayou, a major upland waterway. As stated earlier, the sites in this project area were mostly discovered after a survey and during the subsequent timber sale. The sale was terminated and a few of the sites had not been fully delineated or tested. That became the focus for this project during the week of October 16-22, 2006.

At historic site 10-2-B we excavated an additional 20 plus shovel tests, mostly in hopes of locating evidence of a house site. Though the artifacts recovered indicate the presence of late 1800 occupation, this effort failed to meet the goal of locating any structural indications.

At 10-2-G, a prehistoric site, a feature was noted during the 2004 investigations. In 2006, a 1X2m unit was placed in this vicinity to aid in determination the nature of this anomaly. It appears to be that of a living surface as the soil at this level is organic in composition and the artifact density is very high. On the southern part of this feature is adjacent to what appears to be that of an extant stream bed (Figure 1). Also recovered from this unit was a substantial amount of charred hickory nut which will be sent off for C¹⁴ analysis.



Crew working on PIT Project 2006.
Standing, left-right: Charles Surber, Carol Foster, Michael Foster, Art Bethke, Tom Snodgrass, RuthAnn White, Alan White, Brian Cockrell and Velicia Bergstrom.
Kneeling: Rog Bergstrom, Mary Surber and Rocky Rockhold.
Not present are Don and Joanne Goodman.

**Wall profile of 1X2m unit
at site 10-2-G**



LAS Chapter and Membership News

Baton Rouge LAS Report Stephanie Perrault

The Baton Rouge Chapter of LAS has continued to meet monthly. At each meeting we've had the good fortune to have with a wide variety of great speakers. The latest have been as follows:

September 27

Dr. Jay D. Edwards

LSU Department of Geography and Anthropology
"Architecture and Ethnicity, Contributions to Louisiana's Cultural Landscapes."

October 25

Norm Davis

"The General Orientation & Dimensions of the Poverty Point Site"

Our annual Christmas party was held on December 16, 2006 at Chelsea's Café in Baton Rouge. Our chapter will continue with our speaker program this upcoming year. If anyone is interested in giving a presentation in B R, contact Stephanie Perrault @ perraults@cox.net.

Maureen Dowdy Will Be Missed as Secretary

Nomination/volunteer needed to take Maureen Dowdy's place as LAS Secretary. She's done a great job, but wants a well deserved rest. Someone please step up!!!

Dr. John G Wafer, Jr.

Dr. Wafer was a longtime LAS member from Shreveport, La. He died at Willis-Knighton Pierremont Hospital on October 12, 2006 at the age of 87. Dr. Wafer was born in Homer, La. in 1919. He was a graduate of Byrd High School, Tulane University, and the Tulane University School of Medicine in 1943. He served as a battalion surgeon with the 2nd Infantry Division in France, Czechoslovakia, and Germany during World War II. He was a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and a member of the American Angiology and the American College of Thoracic Society. He was also a member and director of the Louisiana Heart Association.

Dr. Wafer was an avid reader and student of history and was honored by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas for locating and preserving the last existing boundary marker between the Republic of Texas and the United States. He served as President and program chair of the Northwest Louisiana Civil War Roundtable and was a long-term member of the board of directors of the North Louisiana Historical Association. (*Portions of obituary, Shreveport Times, Oct. 16, 2006. Sent by David Jeane*)

West Louisiana Archaeology Club (WLAC) Johnny Guy

Jeff Girard and club members, Dick Rockhold, Roger Briggs, and John Guy have started surveying the bottom of Lake Vernon, where the water table has been lowered. We started on the south east part of the lake. Four new sites were reported. Jeff will be setting up dates for further investigations. If anyone is interested, please contact him at girardj@nsula.edu

The club did not meet in December, but we will be holding our next meeting on Thursday, Jan. 18 at 6 pm at the Museum of West Louisiana. For further information contact John Guy @ catherineguy@earthlink.net or #337-238-3277.

Thanks Marc Dupuy!

Marc Dupuy, long-time LAS member and patron of Louisiana archaeology, has donated a digital video camera to LAS so that a record can be maintained of the meetings and presentations. Johnny Guy will be the videographer at the meeting in Leesville.

Central Louisiana Archaeology Club (CLAC) Nancy Affeltranger

The Central Louisiana Archaeology Club reports that they have been involved in working with an archaeological survey of the site of Camp Beauregard. Part of the site was a B17 flight training base. They have discovered that a B17 crashed on Highway 28E on land that was owned by a Native American. The land owner saved the engine block from the crash site, but part of the cockpit sank into a creek bed. CLAC members Katalyn Adams and Ellis Denning went to the property and inspected the engine remnants.

Within the last three months Chip McGimsey has spoken at CLAC meetings substituting for speakers who have not honored their commitments. One talk was on the solar and lunar alignments at the Marksville site.

Archaeology Week 2006 was a huge success with about 50 people attending the program at Ball Municipa Auditorium. The program consisted of a "mini" museum, a flint knapping demonstration, bow and pump drilling through wood and rock. The Ishak Natau Native American Dance Troop put on a great exhibition.

Official Business

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 26, 2006

The Executive Committee, Louisiana Archaeological Society, met 11:00 A.M., Saturday, August 26, 2006, Conference Room, Kisatchie National Forest Complex, Pineville, LA. Attendees were Ellen Ibert, President; George Riser, Vice President/President Elect; Maureen Downey, Secretary; Josetta LeBoeuf, Treasurer; Chip McGimsey, Bulletin Editor; Dennis Jones, Newsletter Editor; Junior Doughty, Web Site Editor; John Guy, LAS Representative at Large; Rogers Serpas, LAS Representative at Large; Margarette Cheramie, CLAC Representative; Nancy Affeltranger, CLAC President; Marc Dupuy; and Velicia Bergstrom.

Revised June 10, 2006 minutes approved.

President Ellen Ibert announced the 2007 Annual Meeting will be February 9-11. Chip McGimsey will be in charge of the program and silent auction. The digital video camera will be purchased soon. Project to select outstanding students to attend the Annual Meeting was approved.

Treasurer Josetta LeBoeuf submitted the Treasurer's Report: checking \$9,892.99; CD \$8,905.92; 197 members

Newsletter Editor Dennis Jones reported. Deadline for next Newsletter submissions, September 1. Archaeology Week activities will be in the Newsletter. Archiving of old newsletters on website proposed. Trial period of First Class mailing for Newsletter approved.

Bulletin Editor Chip McGimsey stated that the Bulletin is to be completed shortly. Submissions needed for the Bulletin.

Web Site Editor Junior Doughty reported. Average of 112 hits/day. Archaeology Week information will be on the site.

Baton Rouge Chapter: Dennis Jones reported. Stephanie Perrault is program chairperson.

CLAC: Nancy Affeltranger described recent well-attended programs held by the CLAC and Archaeology Week activities planned. The Chapter has approximately 15 active members.

WLAC: John Guy reported approximately 16 persons attended the last meeting. Archaeology Week activities planned included Jeff Girard presenting on the acquisition of Hodges Gardens by the State and "brown bag" lunches at Fort Polk. WLAC membership dues are \$10.00.

Delta Chapter: Rogers Serpas reported: Status of Chapter, no meetings being held.

A call for volunteers for the Grant Writing Committee to be placed in Newsletter. Nancy Affeltranger offered a copy of the grant received for the last meeting that CLAC hosted. Announcement of a grant writing seminar to be held in October and November in Lafayette.

Velicia Bergstrom announced a PIT (Passport in Time) project, October 16 -22, Caney District, Kisatchie National Forest.

Next Executive Committee meeting, 11:00 A.M., December 2, 2006, Conference Room, Kisatchie National Forest Complex, Pineville, LA.

Ellen Ibert adjourned the meeting at 12:05 P.M.
Minutes reported by Maureen Downey, Secretary

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY

Board of Directors Meeting August 26, 2006

President Kathleen Bergeron called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m., Saturday, August 26, 2006 at the Conference Center, Kisatchie National Forestry Complex, Pineville, Louisiana. Present were Kathleen Bergeron, Maureen Downey, Marc Dupuy, Velicia Bergstrom, and Rogers Serpas.

Minutes of the June 10, 2006 LAC meeting were approved after email vote of members absent.

The LAC and its purposes were discussed. Marc Dupuy requested that the treasurer provide the Board with a membership list.

The Highland Stockade servitude has changed ownership. Kathleen will ask Josetta LeBoeuf to determine the present owner in order to insure that he/she is aware of the servitude.

Kathleen expressed her hope that the LAC become more effective, perhaps by establishing a more

separate identity and obtaining more active members. To help increase membership, Dennis Jones has volunteered to update the LAC brochure for distribution at the 2007 Annual Meeting. Kathleen urged LAC members to attend Archaeology Week activities in their areas to distribute information about the LAC. She stated her desire to coordinate with the national organization of the Archaeological Conservancy so that the LAC can be more informed of their activities in Louisiana.

A motion to contribute \$50.00 to the Archaeological Conservancy in the name of Thomas Eubanks, (Contribution increased to \$100.00 after Marc Dupuy donated \$50.00.) was approved after email vote of members absent.

The next meeting of the LAC will be held after the LAS meeting, approximately 12:30 P.M., December 2, 2007, Conference Center, Kisatchie National Forestry Complex, Pineville, Louisiana.

Kathleen Bergeron adjourned the meeting at 1:10 P.M. Minutes reported by Maureen Downey, Secretary

Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission Meeting, September 12, 2006

The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, September 12, 2006, 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, Ms. Paige Ashby, Mr. Gregory DuCote, Mr. James Fogleman, Dr. George Riser

Members Absent: Ms. Pam Breaux, Mr. Marc Dupuy, Jr.

Others Present: Ms. Jessica Dixon, Ms. Nancy Hawkins, Dr. Rob Mann, Ms. Kathleen Mocklin, Dr. Chip McGimsey, Ms. Karen Richardson, Mr. Duke Rivet, Ms. Sherry Wagener, Ms. Rachel Watson, Ms. Cheraki Williams.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Heather McKillop called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. She announced that Mr. Marc Dupuy was unable to attend today's meeting and had given his proxy to her. Ms. Pam Breaux was unable to attend the meeting and had given her proxy to Mr. Duke Rivet. Dr. McKillop spoke briefly about the passing of Dr. Thomas Hales Eubanks, Louisiana State Archaeologist, and noted that Dr. Eubanks' work with the Louisiana Legislature, tribes of Louisiana, other state archaeologists, FEMA, and as an adjunct professor at LSU will have a lasting impact on archaeology in the State of Louisiana.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the Commission Meeting held June 13, 2006.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Gregory Ducote and seconded by Dr. George Riser, to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2005, Antiquities Commission Meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.*

OLD BUSINESS

Filhiol Mound Site: Mr. Duke Rivet spoke to the commission regarding the Filhiol Mound Site (16OU2). Between July 10 and July 26, 2006, 16 burials located within the U.S. Highway 165 widening project were excavated by the Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services (FACES) Lab of LSU under the direction of Mary Manhein. Malcolm Shuman and Dennis Jones of Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. are supervising the overall data recovery project. This is a Louisiana Timed Managers project being conducted for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

Preliminary indications suggest that the remains represent 7 children and 9 adults, dating to the late 19th to early 20th centuries. A coin found with one of the burials has a date of 1906. Preservation of the remains ranged from poor to good. Where possible, the approximate age, gender, and other observable characteristics will be determined for each set of remains. In addition, pathologies or injuries will be noted. Associated artifacts will be cleaned and analyzed and eventually reburied with the appropriate set of remains in the Riverside Cemetery in Monroe upon completion of the analyses, which will take approximately one year.

The project historian, Madelyn Hannan, in an attempt to find information on the burials and any descendants who may come forward to claim the remains, is conducting ongoing research. There have been no positive identifications to date. A summary of the excavation, analyses, and archival research will be included in the data recovery report being prepared for this project.

GIS Update: Ms. Rachel Watson informed the commission that the Division of Archaeology had received the money for the hardware and software for the new GIS System. GEC had completed digitizing the locations of the archaeological site data and was almost through scanning the site forms. The archaeological sites will be password protected. FEMA will supply the new historic districts for New Orleans upon completion of their surveys. Ms. Watson asked for feedback from the commission when the system becomes operational.

Poverty Point Station Archaeologist: Ms. Nancy Hawkins announced that Dr. Diana M. Greenlee was the new Poverty Point Station Archaeologist. Ms. Hawkins supplied the commission with copies of Dr. Greenlee's Curriculum Vitae.

NEW BUSINESS

Archaeology Week Update: Ms. Nancy Hawkins presented commission members with the 2006 Archaeology Week Poster. She thanked Dr. Chip McGimsey and Mr. Carl Accardo for their production assistance. The regional archaeologists scheduled all of the Archaeology Week events this year. Mr. Dennis Jones with the LAS acted as an intermediary and compiled all the scheduling and events information for the regional archaeologists.

Annual Update -Southwestern Archaeology Program

Dr. Chip McGimsey stated that the three collections he had discussed at the previous commission meeting has occupied much of his time during the past grant year. Since that meeting, Dr. McGimsey has been involved with two small projects. The first of these was the documentation of the Theriot pirogue in Grand Isle. The dugout canoe was washed out of the marsh during Hurricane Cindy in August of 2005, but it was not recorded until August of 2006. The canoe measured approximately 6.3 m long and 0.3 m wide. When found it was largely intact but has since begun to split.

Dr. McGimsey's second project involved revisiting archaeological sites at Lake Anacoco in Vernon Parish. The lake has been systematically surveyed during previous drawdowns and the current drawdown only exposed a portion of the lake bottom. Dr. McGimsey has revisited 146 of the 204 recorded sites and has identified 6 new sites. He stated that collectors regularly visit the sites, but a few projectile points and decorated sherds have been recovered from some sites.

Southeastern Archaeology Program

Dr. Rob Mann reported to the commission on projects he conducted in southeast Louisiana since January 2006. He described the Sims site (16SC2) as a multi-component mound complex in St. Charles Parish. Mound A was damaged during Hurricane Katrina by a fallen tree, which exposed human remains. Dr. McGimsey, the Chitimacha Tribe and members of the LAS assisted Dr. Mann with the excavation of the root ball. Artifacts and human remains were recovered and reburied at the site after they were analyzed. Profiles of the tree fall scarp showed Mound A to be a single stage construction of basket loaded mound fill and revealed the presence of a sub-mound midden in at least one location. A topographic map was made of Mound A. Dr. Mann also analyzed a collection of

artifacts from the Sims site donated to the LSU Museum of Natural Science by Mrs. Sara Sims.

At L'Hermitage Plantation (16AN24), Dr. Mann and Holly Tunkel, an LSU anthropology graduate student, conducted shovel tests in two areas thought to be the locations of a plantation hospital and the slave/workers quarters. Brick features in the "Plantation Hospital Area" revealed that a structure was indeed located in this area. Results in the "Quarters Area" were less conclusive and may have found the artifacts related to a 20th century structure in this area.

Brick concentrations uncovered during construction projects at St. Joseph Plantation (16SJ53) may be related to the plantation home of William Priestly, who came to southeast Louisiana in 1804. William was the son of Joseph Priestly, who is credited with discovering oxygen. William's grandson, Henry Hobson Richardson, was born at the plantation in 1838. He later became a well-known architect who is associated with the high-style architecture known as Richardsonian Romanesque.

Limited Permit Request-Regional and Station Archaeologists

Ms. Nancy Hawkins requested that the commission grant limited permits for fieldwork conducted by regional and station archaeologists on state property to run concurrent with their grant cycles.

MOTION: *Dr. George Riser made a motion to approve the request for the limited permits for regional and station archaeologists. Dr. Heather McKillop seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

Hurricane Recovery Grant

Ms. Nancy Hawkins reported to the commission that the National Park Service had provided \$12.5 million in hurricane recovery grants. The majority of the money will be used to help owners accurately restore historic homes and business buildings and will be administered by the Division of Historic Preservation. The amount of \$200,000 has been set aside for archaeological technical assistance with unexpected discoveries encountered during hurricane recovery. The money will be administered by a New Orleans university, which will hire a regional archaeologist who will be more readily available to assist the public. A total of \$1.3 million will be used for Section 106 enhancement, which includes GIS hardware and software and additional staff for two years to process the increased number of Section 106 reviews.

(Antiquities Commission meeting continued)

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Heather McKillop introduced Ms. Paige Ashby who is the newly appointed director of the Governor's Commission on Indian Affairs.

MOTION: A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. George Riser and seconded by

Mr. James Fogleman. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Meetings, Fieldwork, Exhibits, Etc.

2007 Louisiana Archaeological Society's Annual Conference, February 9, 10 and 11, 2007, Landmark Hotel, Leesville, Louisiana. Details on pages 2-4 of this newsletter or check LAS website: www.laarchaeology.org.

The East Texas Archeological Conference is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2007 at the Robert R. Muntz Library on the University of Texas at Tyler Campus in Tyler, Texas. If you are interested in presenting a paper or poster, or for more information contact Mark Walters.

walters@tyler.net

49TH Annual Caddo Conference, March 15-18, 2007, Reynolds Center, Southern Arkansas University Magnolia, Arkansas. Papers are invited on the archeology, history, and culture of the Caddo Indians and the area of the Caddo homelands in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma. Send paper titles/abstracts by February 15, 2007 to: David Jeane; Arkansas Archeological Survey; SAU Box 9381; Magnolia, AR 71754; e-mail djeane@centurytel.net; phone 870-235-4230. For the latest info, look on the AAS-SAU website at: <http://www.saumag.edu/archeology/>

Society for American Archaeology (SAA), 72nd Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, April 25-29, 2007. Hilton Austin Hotel, 500 East 4th St., Austin, Texas 78701. Further information at www.saa.org.

The Station Archaeology Program at Poverty Point is looking for volunteers to help with screening dirt and/or sorting artifacts. Interested folks can contact Diana Greenlee via phone (318-926-3314) or email (greenlee@ulm.edu) for more information.

The Arkansas Archeological Survey and Arkansas Archeological Society will cosponsor a Training Program in Archaeology June 9-24, 2007, at the Jones Mill Site (3HS28) in Hot Spring County, Arkansas. The Jones Mill Site, which is listed on the National Register, may have served as a home base during Middle and late Archaic periods for local groups of hunter-gatherers who worked novaculite from nearby quarries.

No experience is necessary to participate, and both adults and children as young as 8 (accompanied by an adult) are welcome. Participants receive hands-on instruction in field methods and have the opportunity to enroll in week-long seminars on a variety of archeological topics. Minimum length of stay is 3 days. Fees and expenses vary depending on length of stay. Registration costs are estimated to be about \$45-\$65, and participants cover their own costs of room and board. For more information, check the Arkansas Archeological Society web site at www.arkarch.org, or contact Barbara Scott at bhscott@uark.edu, or 479-575-3556.

Mobile's Exploreum museum premiers exhibit on Pompeii.

For the first time, Gulf Coast residents will be able to experience "a day in Pompeii" without leaving the region. Mobile's Gulf Coast Exploreum will host the major exhibition "A Day in Pompeii", January 12 to June 3, 2007, in collaboration with the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei.

LAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL

Regular Membership Annually \$20.00

Associate Membership Annually \$5.00

Life Membership \$200.00

Sustaining Membership \$300.00

Student Membership Annually \$12.00

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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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Information for Subscribers

The Newsletter of the Louisiana Archeological Society is published three times a year for the society. Subscription is by membership in the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS). Annual membership dues are \$20 for individuals, libraries, and institutions. \$5.00 for associates (relatives of individual members) and \$12 for students. Life membership dues are \$200 for individuals. Sustaining membership dues for individuals or institutions are \$300. In addition to the newsletter, members receive one issue per year of the bulletin Louisiana Archaeology. Membership requests, subscription dues, changes of address, and back issue orders should be directed to the Treasurer. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the Newsletter Editor and do not necessarily reflect society policy.

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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

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