



# Louisiana Archaeological Society

## NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 28, No. 3

Winter 2001

### FROM THE EDITOR

The LAS 2002 Annual Meeting will be February 1-3 in Leesville. The guest speaker this year is David G. Anderson, an archaeologist at the Southeast Archeological Center of the National Park Service in Tallahassee, Florida. More information on his presentation is included in this newsletter.

At this meeting we say goodbye to former LAS President Carl Kuttruff and hello to new President Joe Saunders. On behalf of myself and the LAS, I would like to thank Carl for his many contributions as president and personally thank him for all of his help with past mailings of publications. Unfortunately Carl will not be with us at this year's meetings - he has returned to the Pacific to work on an excavation of a WWII site. Apparently a film crew from National Geographic will also be there, so perhaps we'll see Carl on TV this year!

Cherie Schwab  
Newsletter Editor

### LAST MINUTE INFO FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Landmark Hotel of Leesville  
3080 Colony Blvd  
Highway 171 South  
Leesville, LA US 71446  
(337) 239-7571

Pre-registration \$20.00

Mail to: West Louisiana Archaeology Club c/o  
Museum of West Louisiana 803 S. Third Street  
Leesville, LA 71446

Banquet to be held on Saturday at 6:30p.m. — must RSVP no later than Jan 30, 2002 — \$12.00 all inclusive. (Sliced Roast Beef/Fried Catfish/Fried Chicken will be the main entrees on a one time serving buffet) Guest speaker is David Anderson. Door prize will be given. Reserved seating is required for the banquet.

Conference registration at the door will be \$25.00. All checks should be payable to: West Louisiana Archaeology Club

West Louisiana Archaeology Club will sell a limited supply of T-shirts at the conference for \$15.00 Med. to X-Large and \$18.00 XXL. Anyone wishing a shirt in other sizes should order in advance. Orders will also be taken at the conference, however, there will be a shipping charge to mail purchases.

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### LAS MEETING SCHEDULE

- Friday afternoon is the general business meetings for LAS and LAC. A hospitality room will be available, for registered participants, from 4:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., for informal socializing.
- Registration table will be opened on Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and reopen Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
- Archaeological lectures will be conducted from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday followed by the general business meeting, with door prizes available. (Agenda available in registration packet)
- Saturday night, at 6:30 p.m., will be a banquet and guest speaker. A Banquet ticket is \$12.00 (inclusive) for a one time serving buffet. All banquet tickets must be purchased prior to this event and should be mailed to West Louisiana Archaeology Club no later than January 30, 2002. (There will be a door prize)
- A hospitality room will be available to registered participants on Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It will reopen after the banquet is completed until 12 midnight.
- Sunday morning, the Museum of West Louisiana will host a continental breakfast at the museum on 803 S. Third Street, Leesville, Louisiana for all registered participants. This will give participants an opportunity to view some of the history from Vernon Parish prior to departure from the area. All persons interested in attending should register at the registration table as soon as possible.

*David Anderson, an archaeologist with the Southeast Archeological Center, will be the keynote speaker at the 2002 Meeting. The following is an abstract for his presentation at the 2002 Annual Meeting along with information about himself.*

#### FROM CARIBBEAN PLANTATIONS TO SOUTHEASTERN MOUNDS

**David G. Anderson,  
Archaeologist, Southeast Archeological Center,  
National Park Service**

This presentation will be a lavishly illustrated, whirlwind tour of my recent NPS research projects in the Southeast and Caribbean, including in the US Virgin Islands, and at Shiloh National Military Park in western Tennessee. It will also briefly touch on recent thoughts about Paleoindian colonization, the development of complex societies in the prehistoric Southeast, and how all this ties in to archaeology in Louisiana. The Caribbean work focused on a plantation and slave village on a small island off St. Thomas. The great house burned while fully furnished,

providing a remarkable artifact assemblage. The site is unusual in that the first two owners were freed blacks, who were themselves owners, whose cabins were also examined. At Shiloh, NPS archaeologists worked at the National Landmark Indian Mound Group located right on the battlefield in the park. The main Indian mound is eroding into the Tennessee River, and large scale excavations are underway. Remarkably, several of the mound stages were capped with bright red soils, indicating our traditional idea about what these mounds probably looked like when in use need some serious rethinking. Finally, thoughts on Paleoindian colonization routes, projectile point recording projects, and early mounds and how complex societies arose in the Southeast will all be briefly examined.

#### About the Speaker:

David G. Anderson is an archaeologist at the Southeast Archeological Center of the National Park Service in Tallahassee, Florida. His technical interests include Paleoindian colonization and culture change, cultural resource management, modeling prehistoric population distributions, synthesizing archaeological research on locality to regional scales, and exploring the evolution of cultural complexity in Eastern North America.

The author of numerous (>200) papers and monographs on prehistoric and historic archaeology in various parts of North America and the Caribbean, in 1990 he received the Southeastern Archaeological Conference's first C. B. Moore award for excellence by a young scholar and the Society for American Archaeology's dissertation prize for his work on organizational cycling in Mississippian chiefdoms in 1991. He also received the SAAs Presidential Recognition Award in 1997 and the Excellence in Cultural Resource Management Award for Research in 1999. Major recent publications include *The Savannah River Chiefdoms: Political Change in the Late Prehistoric Southeast* (Alabama 1994), *The Paleoindian and Early Archaic Southeast* (Alabama 1996), and *The Archaeology of the Mid-Holocene Southeast* (Florida 1996). The latter two were edited volumes prepared with Kenneth E. Sassaman, and are part of a long-range effort to produce syntheses of southeastern prehistoric archaeology. He has several additional volumes on southeastern archaeology currently under review or in preparation, including edited volumes on *The Woodland Southeast* with Robert C. Mainfort, Jr., and *Prehistory and History Western Louisiana* with Steven Smith, summarizing 30 years of archaeology at Fort Polk.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### **Symposium: Papers in Memory of William Haag**

Louisiana State University, Thursday, March 7,  
through Saturday, March 9, 2002

Dr. William G. Haag exerted a profound influence on Southeastern Archaeology. This Symposium will use his work as a touchstone, highlighting some of his achievements and exploring avenues built upon his pioneering efforts. Papers do not have to be directly based on Dr. Haag's work, but they should be inspired by his efforts.

Paper topics can be as diverse as: Evolutionary Approaches to Archaeology, Public Archaeology, Ecology, Ceramic Analysis, The Nature of Culture, Faunal and Bioarchaeological Analysis. A more general scope of Prehistoric or Historical Archaeology is also acceptable. Papers should be 15 minutes in length.

Please send paper title, abstract, and preferred presentation format (i.e. overhead, slides, or power point) to Kelli Ostrom at [kelliostrom@hotmail.com](mailto:kelliostrom@hotmail.com) by January 15, 2002. Notice and conference schedule will be sent to all respondents by January 31, 2002. There will be no registration fee for the conference.

Tentative schedule: Thursday, March 7, 2002, 4:00-7:00 Reception and registration at Pleasant Hall; Friday, March 8, 2002, 9:00-12:00 Papers in Pleasant Hall, 12:00-1:00 Lunch on your own, 1:00-5:00 Papers in Pleasant Hall, 5:00-7:00 Reception in Atrium of the Howe-Russell Complex; Saturday, March 9, 2002, 9:00-12:00 Papers in Pleasant Hall, 12:00-1:00 Lunch on your own, 1:00-5:00 Papers in Pleasant Hall, 6:00-9:30 Celebration Dinner at the Faculty Club, 7:00 Keynote Address by Dr. Stephen Williams, professor emeritus of Harvard University

Celebration Dinner: We invite you to the Faculty Club for a Southern Fried Chicken Dinner on Saturday, March 9th at 6:00 pm. Stephen Williams, Peabody Professor of North American Archaeology and Ethnography, Emeritus, Harvard University, will

deliver the keynote address. Later in the program, friends, students, and colleagues of Dr. Haag will share their memories of him, and the influence that he had on their personal and professional lives.

There will be a charge of \$15 for the dinner. Should you be interested in attending the celebration, but wish to decline the invitation to dinner, you are welcome, and will not be charged any fee. The Faculty Club, Raphael Semmes and Highland Road, is a short walk from Pleasant Hall. Please join us for a memorable evening.

The Conference Hotel is Pleasant Hall on the corner of Dalrymple and Highland Roads, Louisiana State University campus. Pleasant Hall offers typical hotel accommodations. Rooms and suites are available, and include a complimentary continental breakfast. Concierge rooms are available at \$55 per night; concierge suites are \$65 per night. Note: Room rates are based on single/double occupancy. \$5.00 will be charged for each additional person. Check-in is after 2:00 pm, check-out is by 11:00 am.

Guests may make reservations by calling 225-387-0297 or 1-888-551-5933. All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card (MasterCard, Visa, or American Express). Guests should mention the Haag Symposium when they call. Reservations should be made before February 15, 2002, at which time the block of rooms will be released.

Airport shuttles are available free of charge to guests at Pleasant Hall. Shuttles run from 6:00 am until 10:30 pm, and must be scheduled three days prior to the event.

Alternative accommodations are available: Corporate Inn, 2365 College Drive. Rooms may be less expensive than Pleasant Hall. Reservations: 800-695-0077. The Ramada Inn, 1480 Nicholson Drive. This hotel is close to campus. Prices are comparable to Pleasant Hall. Reservations: 225-387-1111. Comfort Inn University Center, 2445 S. Acadian Thruway. Fairly reasonable rates. Reservations: 225-927-4449.

For more information, contact: Kelli Ostrom, Department of Geography and Anthropology, 227 Howe-Russell Complex, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803; or E-mail: [kelliostrom@hotmail.com](mailto:kelliostrom@hotmail.com).

Sponsored by: The Louisiana State University Department of Geography and Anthropology, the Louisiana Archaeological Society, Coastal Environments, Inc., and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology.

## 2002 Caddo Conference

Dates: the weekend of March 15-17

Where: Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas

Sponsor: SFASU Anthropology/ Archaeology Club and the Dept. of Sociology

Submissions to: Jim Corbin, Box 13047, SFA Station, Nacogdoches, TX

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### IMAGINATION RUN PLUM RAGGED: THE 1930 VISIT TO 16VM4, THE SQUARE HILL SITE

Chip McGimsey and Ken Dupuy

Interest in and fascination with Native American sites is well known from the earliest days of Euroamerican settlement in Louisiana. Recently, Ken Dupuy came across some early accounts of 16VM4, the Square Hill site, located on the north shore of White Lake. Since these articles provide the only known description of this site before it was destroyed, and are interesting windows into mid-twentieth century views of archaeology and history, we thought they would be of interest to Society members.

White Lake is a naturally formed water body along the northern edge of the chenier plain in Vermilion Parish, southwestern Louisiana. William McIntire recorded 16VM4 in 1952 as a generally "square" shaped *Rangia* shell midden located in the marsh about 0.25 miles north of the lake. It had been

mined for shell. A later visit by Dennis Jones and Joan Exnicios found a shell midden remnant barely extending above the marsh along a natural levee at or near the original reported location. As evidenced by the presence of willow trees, the natural levee remnant was 300 feet long and 150 feet wide, although shell midden remnants were not observed across the entire levee (Jones and Shuman 1988). A ceramic collection retained by McIntire suggests a Baytown to Coles Creek period occupation. Until the newspaper articles presented below were uncovered by Dupuy, this was the extent of our knowledge about this site.

An article in the Abbeville Meridional, dated 8 March 1930, states:

Mr. F.L. Pere, who is engaged in dredging shells at the large shell mound on the north shore of White Lake, which are being used in the construction of the Palmetto Plantation Highway, south of Abbeville, came in Tuesday, bringing with him the skull of an Indian, which was found while dredging shells at the mound. The Indian had been buried there some hundreds of years ago. The skull was whole, well preserved, and if we mistake not, of the brachycephalic type. The lower jaw has been damaged and a few of the teeth have fallen out, but those remaining are in perfect condition. Mr. Pere informs us that this is only one of the many hundreds of skeletons he has unearthed since he began gathering shell at this mound. He says they are found throughout the mound mixed with pottery and various cooking and hunting implements at one time used by the Indians. And while they are very numerous in the mound, the dredge boat has not reached the principal burying ground, where the greatest finds are expected. This great mound is supposed to have been one of the permanent camps of the Attakapas Indians, a cannibal tribe residing at one time between the Vermilion and Sabine Rivers. An effort will be made to interest the authorities at the Smithsonian Institution in the burial grounds remaining untouched.

Apparently the authorities at the Smithsonian were not sufficiently interested in the site as there is no report of their ever visiting the region. A second

description of the site appears a week later (15 March 1930) in the same newspaper. It runs under the title "We Visit the Shell Mounds at White Lake". Although the author is not given, it seems likely the same person, perhaps the newspaper's editor, wrote both articles.

The second article reads:

For some time we had been "hankerin after" an opportunity to visit the shell mounds on the north shore of White Lake - the former burying grounds of the Attakapas Indians, and one of the principal hiding places of Lafitte's red-handed followers - the spot where any number of barrels of gold had been concealed and also a few barrels of diamonds. We had about given up in despair - it seemed that the opportunity would never present itself, but Monday afternoon, C. Gooch informed us that as he and his son Jack were going to mounds early Tuesday morning we were welcome to go along as we would be useful as ballast.

We did. Tuesday morning at about 4:40 o'clock we loaded into a car and "high-tailed it" for the Palmetto Ranch near the mouth of the Vermilion Bayou. Here we found the "Devil No. 2" awaiting us (not he of the cloven hoof but a substantial little speed boat - one of the best in this section of the state) and we all loaded in including the "sand-wichums."

Jack Gooch, as chief navigator soon had the wheel turning and the Devil went tearing through "the bounding main" - or rather that portion of it that had strayed into the Intracoastal Canal. We soon found ourselves in White Lake, and with high land on our sta'b'd side and a bevy of whales (or it might have been mullets - they look so much alike we can't tell the difference) on our la'b'd, we pointed her nose to the north shore, while Capt. Gooch trod the bridge with haughty mien and "Little Red" took refuge in the fok's'l with a sandwich in one hand and brilliant rays of hope exuding from his china-blue eyes.

We arrived, all hale and hearty, black flag flying, and the death's head nailed to the mast. The boys in charge of the mounds were surprised at first but were soon at ease when they found that we intended them no harm.

We lowered a boat and went ashore. We stood

where former cannibal chiefs were wont to stand.

And cast a wishful eye.

We were told that hundreds of skeletons were unearthed here, the greater portion of which are now doing duty as road surfacing material. And the gold and diamonds - well, we hate to tell, but Capt. Pere got 12 barrels of gold, 10 barrels of diamonds, besides several carload shipments of silver and other inferior metal, and we have been assured that if he makes enough money out of the contract for moving the shells, to purchase enough gasoline to make the trip he is going back to get it. No use allowing it to remain there and corrupt some of the brethren.

We stood on one of the mounds and took the bridle off our well fertilized imagination. We saw the mounds covered with savages, laughing and enjoying life, campfires burning, and the squaws busy preparing the cannibal feast. We saw a small boat loaded with fierce, repulsive Caucasians, approach the shore. We saw the savages retreat into the marsh. The "civilized" ones landed but only a short time for the savages rallied and prepared to attack. The "great white ones" then retreated.

It is very probable that the Indians had constructed a shell road or path reaching to Outside Island [16VM122] about 4 miles to the north - the road has been traced for some distance beyond the mounds. Another path was constructed to the Lake shore - this latter is easily traced.

The north shore mounds and Pecan Island [Morgan (16VM9) and Veazey (16VM7/8) sites] are places of mystery. When discovered there were hundreds and perhaps thousands of human skeletons scattered over the surface of the ground. It was not customary for the Indians to leave their dead unburied, then how account for the fact that so many were denied burial? The mystery will never be solved - we can only form a guess - and one man's guess is as good as any other man's.

But it's all over now. The former camping site of the "noble red man" has been demolished in the interest of progress - of a superior people. His bones stood between us and the dollar, and the poor bones had to go. They make good surface material, however, and in the future our people will enjoy gliding over the "great white way" in their palatial cars - but what about - oh, well, w'at the use?

The treasure hunters may now rest in peace -

if they care to. The treasure which was is not. They can now turn their attention to other mysterious locations where Lafitte's smugglers concealed the "barrels of gold and diamonds."

After we had seen all that was to be seen, and "run our imagination plum ragged," Capt. Gooch suggested that we "lite" out for Abbeville where civilization aboundeth and savages are not - sometimes. The Chief Navigator (Jack Gooch) assembled himself, turned a lot of little knobs, kicked off the brakes and pointed her nose out to sea. We were hungry but wouldn't eat as we don't owe the White Lake fish anything nohow. When we entered the Intracoastal we were busy watching both banks in hope that we might see a "b'ar" and forgot all about the grub pile.

The return trip was uneventful except for a run up Bayou Chene which is really one of the beauty spots of the South - a short but romantic and picturesque little stream - fit to make an old man fall in love with - nature.

We "busted" into Abbeville in time for dinner, having made the entire trip in about eight hours.

We didn't eat much of a dinner, but that night we were visited by a fierce and high kickin nightmare, ridden by all of the members of the Attakapas tribe. And there were many bloody pirates in the crew who threatened us with bloody cutlasses. Under such conditions a man thinks fast, and as we found it impossible to move we "siked" the mob onto Claude Gooch as the man responsible for us visiting the mound. They departed very indignant and bloody minded in search of Gooch. Probably they found him as we haven't seen him since that memorable day.

There is little doubt both articles are describing 16VM4. Claude Gooch was the informant who led William McIntire to the site in 1952. Although Richard Fuller and Nancy Lambert-Brown did not relocate the site during the 1979 Petite Anse project survey of the lake, they did not observe any other sites along the north shore of the lake. The remnant shell midden noted by Jones and Exnicios is in the same spot reported by McIntire and Gooch.

There are several interesting points to be drawn from this new information. One, the site size reported

by McIntire is clearly just a remnant of the original shell mound; his survey card describes the site as "dredged." The original size is unknown. Second, the article author refers to multiple mounds at the site; how many is not known. Nor is it clear if they simply represented differential accumulations of shell or whether there was a structural organization to the site. And a third interesting point is the description of two shell roads linking the shell midden to the lake shore and to the high ground to the north. The shore road would have been at least 1/4 mile long, while the northern road, if it continued all the way to Outside Island, would have been several miles long. This is the first instance the authors are aware of for shell roads linking sites to other points on the landscape in southwestern Louisiana. Nor are we aware of instances generally in southern Louisiana - are there members of the Society who know of similar roads and have any been documented at sites?

Despite the new information about the Square Hill site, it still remains poorly known. In particular, there is no information on its age or cultural components. Tchefuncte through Coles Creek sites are known from this area and it would not be surprising if this site contained a long series of occupations.

One final interesting note is the process by which this article came to be. Ken Dupuy transcribed the original articles out of his own interest, and provided copies to Shane Bernard, Archivist at McIlhenny Inc., Avery Island. Shane passed them on to Ian Brown and Carl Kuttruff, both of whom suggested sending them to Duke Rivet. Ian further suggested they might make a nice article for the newsletter. Duke subsequently forwarded the transcriptions to McGimsey, who worked with Ken to prepare this article.

#### References Cited

- Jones, Dennis, and Malcolm Shuman  
1988 *Investigations into Prehistoric Occupation of Pimple Mounds in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.* Report on file at the Division of Archaeology, Baton Rouge.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL

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

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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.

- |                          |              |                                |
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| #8 ( ) 1981              | #17 ( ) 1990 |                                |
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The *Newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society* is published three times a year for the society by Coastal Environments, Inc., Baton Rouge. Subscription is by membership in the Louisiana Archaeological Society. Annual membership dues are \$20.00 for individuals, libraries, and institutions, \$5.00 for associates (relatives of individual members), and \$12.00 for students. Life membership dues are \$200.00 for individuals. Sustaining membership dues for individuals or institutions are \$300.00. 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.

### Information for Contributors

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

### Web Site

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

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