



NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2023 Vol. 51, No. 3

[October is Louisiana Archaeology Month!](#)



LAS Northwest Chapter members and volunteers screening and sorting material from the Conly site (16BI19) – See inside!

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Mark A. Rees, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

The record-breaking extreme heat of the summer has finally passed. Rumors are circulating in Acadiana of cooler air somewhere north of Alexandria, Shreveport, or Minneapolis. October is upon us, and as every LAS member and archaeological devotee knows, that means *Louisiana Archaeology Month!*

The Louisiana Archaeology Month [poster](#) for this year features a selection of historic watercraft (see page 9 of this *Newsletter*). Louisiana Archaeology Month involves presentations, demonstrations, trivia nights, and related events highlighting Louisiana archaeology across the state. Check out the [Louisiana Archaeology Month webpage](#) to find an event and get involved in Louisiana Archaeology Month.

In this issue of the *LAS Newsletter* you will find a couple of articles on recent work with collections from sites in Louisiana. Chip McGimsey discusses a ceramic collection from the Bob Neuman site (16SB67) donated by the Borne Family. As described by McGimsey, the Borne collection is one of only two collections of artifacts and among the only available source of information on the site. His analysis indicates the site has Plaquemine and Mississippian components, adding to a small but growing body of information on contemporaneous sites around Lake Pontchartrain. McGimsey also queries readers of the *LAS Newsletter* to identify an anomalous-looking fired clay object from the Coulee Crow site (16SM15). See page 5 if your curiosity is piqued.

The Northwest Chapter of the LAS recently screened and sorted material recovered from the Conly site (16BI19) in Bienville Parish (see photos on the cover of this *LAS Newsletter*). Jameel Damlouji discusses this important site and the events that led to the Northwest Chapter conducting water screening of previously unprocessed feature fill from the site. With help from the Red River Wildlife Refuge and Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., the Northwest Chapter set up a laboratory to sort and process the resulting material. As described by Damlouji, it was an excellent opportunity for public education through participation. Additional lab sessions are being planned, so read on if you would like to volunteer or get involved. LAS members employed in archaeology through cultural resource management, federal or state agencies, or universities might be inspired to offer other opportunities for the advancement of public archaeology in Louisiana, especially during Louisiana Archaeology Month!

This issue of the *LAS Newsletter* has information on the upcoming annual meeting of the LAS, to be held on February 23–25, 2024 at the Holiday Inn and Suites North in Lafayette. Samuel Huey is Program Chair and Sadie Whitehurst is co-organizer. As the LAS was founded in 1974, this meeting will mark the fiftieth year since its establishment. The first LAS meeting was held on March 1, 1975 at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette). So the 2024 annual meeting will commemorate the 50th birthday of the LAS. It seems appropriate to hold it in Lafayette. Be sure not to miss the meeting and celebration.

The *Newsletter* also features News and Announcements of interest to the LAS, including an archaeological study by UL Lafayette and Kisatchie National Forest. Beginning in 2023, UL Lafayette is offering an Archaeology Concentration as part of the B.A. degree program in Anthropology. This is newsworthy for the LAS and anyone interested in Louisiana archaeology, as the focus of the Archaeology Concentration at UL Lafayette is archaeology in Louisiana. The passing of Kathleen Bergeron, long-time LAS member and alumna of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, is noted by LAS members who knew her. If you have announcements or news that may be of interest to LAS members, please email the editor at laarchaeology@gmail.com.

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FIELD NOTES AND RECENT RESEARCH

The Borne Family Donation from the Bob Neuman Site (16SB67)

Chip McGimsey, Louisiana Division of Archaeology

The Bob Neuman site (16SB67) is situated on a low natural levee on the west bank of an unnamed bayou east of New Orleans. Bob Neuman and Rich Weinstein visited the site in 1974, apparently for a survey of a proposed route for Interstate-410. They recovered 13 ceramic sherds from the surface and noted it was a Mississippi period camp with a possible Plaquemine component. In 1982, Roger Baudier of the Delta Chapter of the LAS visited the site and excavated six shovel tests. No artifacts were recovered from the shovel tests and it is unclear whether any were recovered from the surface.

At about the same time Neuman and Weinstein visited the site, the Borne family of Chalmette also visited the site several times. They acquired a modest collection from the surface which they held onto for many years. In early 2023, John Borne reached out to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology about donating their collection, which the Division agreed to accept. This article is a brief report on the Borne collection.

In the 1970s, the site lay just east of LA 47 in an area of broad marsh between Chalmette and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet canal. There are numerous channels crisscrossing this area and it is impossible to associate the natural levee the site lies on with a larger system. At the time of the site visits, it lay in a cultivated field. Today the site lies underneath several large industrial warehouses and no part of it is accessible. The Neuman and Borne collections are the only record of this site.

The small Neuman collection at Louisiana State University (LSU) was not examined for this study but given that it was described as a Mississippi period site, it is likely that all or most of the 13 sherds are shell tempered.

The Borne Collection

The Borne collection includes 355 Native American ceramic sherds, along with nine Euroamerican artifacts. The Borne assemblage confirms the site is primarily a Mississippi period occupation with a likely Plaquemine component.

For this study, the sherds were first sorted by paste, using a 10X magnification hand lens to examine a freshly broken edge. The sherds were then sorted by decoration, if present.

The grog-tempered Baytown Plain assemblage includes 146 rim and body sherds. Decorated sherds are scarce and include one Anna Incised, *var. Australia* (Figure 1d), one Fatherland Incised, *var. unspecified* (Figure 1c), one tentative French Fork Incised, *var. unspecified* (the sherd is small with limited decorative expression), and three indeterminate incised sherds. The Anna Incised and Fatherland Incised sherds reflect either a late Plaquemine component, or the inclusion of grog-tempered ceramics within the larger Mississippian occupation.



Figure 1. Middle River Incised, *var. unspecified* (a, b); Fatherland Incised, *var. unspecified* (c), and Anna Incised, *var. Australia* (d).

The shell-tempered ceramic assemblage includes both Mississippi/Bell pastes and Guillory/Graveline pastes. Mississippi/Bell is traditionally defined by platy shell inclusions, while Guillory/Graveline is defined by blocky shell tempering. The latter is characteristic of Mississippian assemblages along the Gulf Coast east of Louisiana, but has recently been recognized at several sites around Lake Pontchartrain (McGimsey et al. n.d.; McGimsey n.d.).

Mississippi Plain and Bell Plain sherds are a very minor component, represented by nine and six sherds, respectively. This is similar to what is found at other sites with blocky shell tempering; there appears to be a preference for one or the other types of shell temper. These are rarely present in equal quantities at the same site.

The shell-tempered assemblage is dominated by sherds with Guillory and Graveline paste. In the analysis of plain sherds, these two varieties were not segregated. There is a total of 23 rim sherds and 134 body sherds with blocky shell temper. The assemblage appears to be dominated by the coarser Guillory paste, but fine temper Graveline paste is present. Four of the plain Guillory rim sherds have an exterior lug.

Decorated specimens on Guillory paste include two Middle River Incised, *var. unspecified* rims (Figure 1a, b) and three Pensacola Incised, *var. unspecified* examples (one rim and two body sherds). There is not, at present, an accepted variety name for Pensacola Incised examples in southeast Louisiana. Figures 2a and 2b are comparable to *var. Rutherford* in the Pensacola/Mobile Bay area (Fuller 1996), while Figure 2c is comparable to *var. Bear Point*. There are also two rims and six body sherds with indeterminate incising.

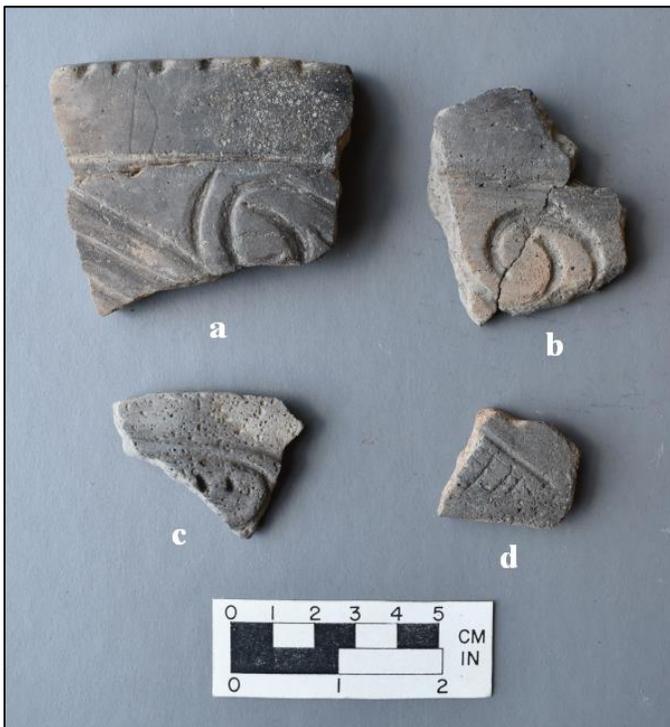


Figure 2. Pensacola Incised, *var. unspecified* (a, b; cf. *var. Rutherford*); *var. unspecified* (c; cf. *var. Bear Point*); and *var. unspecified* (d; cf. *var. Perdido Bay*).

Decorated sherds on Graveline paste include one example of Pensacola Incised, *var. unspecified* (cf. *var. Perdido Bay* [Fuller 1996]) (Figure 2d), and one example of D'Olive Incised, *var. unspecified*. D'Olive Incised vessels exhibit interior incising, typically on broad shallow plates or bowls. There are also two rims and seven body sherds with indeterminate incising.

Many of the Guillory and Graveline sherds have a very coarse sandy paste. The Borne collection includes three sandy paste body sherds where evidence for shell tempering could not be seen. These are likely examples of Guillory or Graveline pastes where the examined edge was simply not in the right place to see the shell tempering.

The Borne collection also includes a small number of Euroamerican artifacts. These include seven Kaolin pipe stem fragments, one two-hole bone button, and one bone needle case (Figure 3). These items suggest there is an 1800s occupation of the site, but no other historic materials are mentioned by any of the researchers who visited the site.



Figure 3. Bone needle case.

Conclusion

The Borne collection confirms the Bob Neuman site has Plaquemine and Mississippian components. Whether the Plaquemine assemblage is contemporary with the Mississippian occupation, or represents a separate, earlier occupation, is unknown. This assemblage adds to a growing list of sites around Lake Pontchartrain that have Mississippian assemblages dominated by blocky shell temper. Blocky shell temper was first recognized in the Pensacola/Mobile Bay region of the Gulf Coast (Fuller 1996). It appears that after around 1200 CE people from that region began moving west along the coast and settled in southeast Louisiana by around 1300 CE.

Assemblages from other sites around Lake Pontchartrain exhibit Southern Cult motifs (McGimsey et al. n.d.) and other design motifs that are exact copies of those found to the east. This suggests that people are actually moving and bringing their ceramic traditions with them, rather than local folks around Lake Pontchartrain simply copying the new designs. The Borne collection from the Bob Neuman site adds to our understanding of the cultural dynamics that appear to characterize the Mississippian period in southeast Louisiana.

References Cited

Fuller, Richard

1996 Mississippi Through Early Historic Period Shell Tempered Pottery in the Pensacola Cultural Area. Gulf Coast Survey, Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa.

McGimsey, Chip, George W. Shannon, Jr., and James Delahoussaye

n.d. The Johnson Site (16ST68): A Mississippian Period Occupation on the North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Manuscript submitted to the Louisiana Archaeological Society.

McGimsey, Chip

n.d. The Mississippian Period Occupation at 16ST301. Manuscript in progress.



Do You Know What This Is? A Fired Clay Artifact from the Coulee Crow Site (16SM15)

Chip McGimsey, Louisiana Division of Archaeology

The Coulee Crow site (16SM15) lies on the south bank of the Vermilion River where Coulee Crow dumps into the river. It is a substantial Tchefuncte period site that had three mounds at one time, although only a portion of one mound remained in 1975, at the time of the last major site visit. Modern Lidar indicates that mound is not present at the site today. Although well known, only limited investigations have been conducted. In 1975, Jon Gibson at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette) excavated a single 5-by-5 foot test unit into a rich earth midden (Gibson 1975). The unit produced numerous Tchefuncte sherds, a quartz crystal, clay bead, projectile points, and lithic debitage.

In 2020 I was contacted by a local individual who had been boating along the Vermilion River and noticed a midden deposit exposed on the south bank. A visit to the location confirmed it was the Coulee Crow site. The exposed midden appeared to be fill within a large erosional gully several meters across and at least 2 meters deep. Vegetation and tree roots obscured the river bank and the exact size and shape of the deposit remains undefined. The intent of the site visit was simply to confirm the location of the exposed midden. Collecting artifacts was not planned. However, I could not resist picking up the artifact shown here.



Figure 2. Fired clay artifact from the Coulee Crow site (16SM15).

It is made of fired clay and exhibits clear scraping marks along all sides, indicating it was intentionally made. It is 55 mm long and 22-28 mm in maximum width. There are no perforations, grooves, striations, or other obvious use marks to suggest its function or purpose. Its position in the midden indicates it is of Tchefuncte age.

I have never seen anything quite like this and have no idea what it is, what it was intended for, or even what to call it. If you think you know what it is, or was used for,

Northwest Chapter and the Conly site (16BI19)

Jameel Damlouji, Louisiana Archaeological Society

This summer members of the Northwest Chapter of the LAS, along with local volunteers, screened and sorted material recovered from the Conly site (16BI19) on Loggy Bayou in Bienville Parish. This site, radiocarbon dated to 6200-5100 BC, was occupied for several hundred years and abandoned before floods deposited 12 to 15 feet of clay over the living surface. This clay cap created an anaerobic environment, preserving bone, shell, and other organic artifacts normally destroyed by the acidic soil in the area. Information about the site is available in the book *The Caddos and Their Ancestors* by Jeffrey Girard (2018, LSU Press) for those interested in learning more about this unique location.

In 1999, the site was threatened by rising waters due to a new lock and dam on the nearby Red River. Because erosion would have destroyed the site without intervention, the State of Louisiana and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funded a project to stabilize the area with a rock revetment. Prior to stabilization, Regional Archaeologist Jeff Girard conducted excavations in a portion of the Loggy Bayou cutbank where the old surface was exposed. Most of the materials recovered from a midden and pit features were brought to Northwestern State University for processing and analysis. At the end of the fieldwork, however, approximately half of the fill from a large pit feature was quickly removed but unscreened. It was stored on the nearby property of the Dickson family, who have a keen interest in local history and ecology and had provided extensive assistance with the project (Figure 1).

Over 20 years passed. Then, earlier this year, Mark Dickson contacted Jeff about screening the material to recover animal bone and artifacts to supplement existing information about the Conly site inhabitants. Our chapter President, Tad Britt, along with LAS members Jeff Girard, myself, and Jay Gray met several times with

send me an email at cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov. Suggestions will be published in the next *LAS Newsletter*.

Reference Cited

Gibson, Jon

1975 An Archaeological Survey of Bayou Teche, Vermilion River, and Freshwater Bayou, South Central Louisiana. Report submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District by the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.



Mark Dickson to plan a weekend water screening. We built screens modified from a design by Louis Baker capable of recovering ¼-inch and ⅛-inch artifacts in a single wash (Figure 2). Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc., a local contract firm, donated many drying racks and other equipment. The weather cooperated and we completed the screening in one weekend thanks to the help of the Dicksons and several dedicated archaeologists and volunteers (Figures 3-5, and this *LAS Newsletter* cover). We anticipated much would be left to do after water screening. With several hundred pounds of washed but unsorted material, the easy part was over.



Figure 1. Feature fill from the Conly site (16BI19).

We then began the second portion of our project. With the help of the Red River Wildlife Refuge (RRWR) and Northwest Chapter members, we set up a sorting laboratory that ran two days each week during the summer (Figures 6-8). We had equipment for over a dozen stations and solicited help from the general community through social media and other public means of communication. In addition, we were lucky to have Regan Crider, a University of Oklahoma archaeology

student on a summer internship at the RRWR, who was kind enough to help lead all of the lab sessions. Many people volunteered and the effort proved to be a great success. We finished sorting all of the ¼-inch material during our summer sessions, which we thought might take significantly longer!



Figure 2. Screen with ¼-inch and ⅛-inch mesh.



Figure 3. Northwest Chapter members water screening.



Figures 4 and 5. Faunal remains and ecofacts from water screening.

The Northwest Chapter will restart the sorting laboratory this fall with the ⅛-inch material. Although we expect it to be more tedious, it will be worthwhile. Besides the obvious benefits of salvaging artifacts, food remains, and information on some of Louisiana’s earliest inhabitants, the laboratory is an excellent opportunity for public archaeology. We have introduced many people to archaeology who would otherwise not have an opportunity to participate, including school age children. The sorting laboratory benefits archaeological research and provides a unique learning opportunity for the community.

Anyone interested in participating in future lab sessions and sorting artifacts can email Jameel.damlouji@gmail.com for information and dates.



Figures 6-8 (above). Participants at the sorting lab.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Louisiana Archaeology Month 2023

Maegan A. Smith, Louisiana Division of Archaeology

Every year, states across the country set aside a month to highlight archaeology through various programs, posters, and events specific to their state and local communities.

[Louisiana Archaeology Month](#) is celebrated each year in October, which coincides with [International Archaeology Day](#) on the third Saturday of October. Louisiana Archaeology Month programs encourage residents and visitors to learn more about the archaeology and history of the state, to protect and preserve important cultural resources, and to enjoy of our rich cultural heritage.

The 2023 Louisiana Archaeology Month programs range from archaeology days with artifact identification and demonstrations, to trivia nights, presentations, and more, highlighting the archaeological sites, finds, and evidence that help shape the history of our state. If you would like to get involved in Louisiana Archaeology Month, whether for the first time or as a former participant, visit the Louisiana Division of Archaeology's [Louisiana Archaeology Month webpage](#) to add a program or to find an event happening in your area.

This year's Louisiana Archaeology Month [poster](#) (on the following page) highlights a selection of 13 historic watercraft found across the state and on the coast. While mention of sunken vessels tends to bring to mind shipwrecks deep in the ocean, sunken watercraft can be

of various shapes, sizes, and depths in any present-day or historical waterway or body of water.

The *Brookhill* steam ferry, now internationally famous thanks to its exposure along the Mississippi River last year, operated between Port Allen and Baton Rouge until it sank in 1915 during a severe storm, likely a hurricane. Nearly 160 years prior, in 1766, a hurricane grounded the Spanish frigate *El Nuevo Constante* on its way back to Spain. More than 500 years before *El Nuevo Constante* met its doom, the Caddo people in northwestern Louisiana crafted a dugout canoe measuring roughly 34 feet long to traverse the Red River. The Louisiana Division of Archaeology has [online exhibits](#) of the *Brookhill*, *El Nuevo Constante*, and Red River Caddo Canoe. [Discover Archaeology](#) at the Louisiana Division of Archaeology's website to learn more about these and other archaeological sites in Louisiana.

October is a busy month for the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development. Not only is October Louisiana Archaeology Month, it is also [Atchafalaya Month](#), [Louisiana Folklife Month](#), and [National Arts and Humanities Month](#), which the [Louisiana Division of the Arts](#) celebrates through local programming. We look forward to celebrating Louisiana's rich culture with you this October!

Follow the Louisiana Division of Archaeology on:
 Facebook @LouisianaOfficeofCulturalDevelopment
 Instagram @LouisianaArchaeology for
 #LouisianaArchaeology and
 #LouisianaArchaeologyMonth information.



Louisiana Archaeology Month

OCTOBER 2023



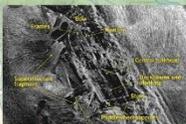
Red River Dugout Canoe
Caddo dugout canoe constructed between 1298 - 1413 CE. Water transport using canoes played a vital role in Caddo social interactions and trade between villages.



Big Horn Steamboat Wreck
Stern-wheel (single wheel on the rear) paddlewheel steamer sank 1835.



Dorcheat Boat Wreck
Unknown early 1900s flatboat, possibly a boat or ferry.



Neches Belle
Two-deck stern wheel steamboat (shown in this sonar image) built in 1889, carried freight and passengers on the Sabine River between 1891 and 1897.



Lower Little River Wreck
Unknown early 1800s vessel thought to be an early keeled barge or true keelboat.



Thibodeaux Bateau
1920s flat-bottomed, slope-sided, wooden hulled "putt-putt" boat, likely used to transport cattle or timber.



Frances Geraldine
Two-masted fishing schooner with an auxiliary oil-burning diesel engine abandoned in the late 1970s.



New Roads Barge
Unknown rafted bottom, square-ended, scow barge dating between 1890-1910. Likely used to haul cotton seeds from Old River plantations to processing mills near New Roads.



Brookhill
Inboard paddlewheel steam ferry operating between Baton Rouge and Port Allen, sank in 1915 during a storm.



El Nuevo Constante
Sonar image of the Spanish merchant frigate, one of two ships grounded by a hurricane the first week of September 1766 en route to Spain from Veracruz, Mexico.



Mellon Wreck
Unknown wooden vessel built in the 1850s-1860s, remained in service into the early 1900s.



Dutch Island Wrecks
Aerial image showing the unknown, pre-1960s motor vessel and barge.



Mardi Gras Shipwreck
Unknown merchant schooner dating between 1780-1820, possibly sank due to a storm. This is a photomosaic, pieced together from multiple images showing what the shipwreck remains look like on the ocean floor.

SHIPWRECKS

When you think of a shipwreck, you might imagine the ocean... but shipwrecks can be anywhere there is, or was, a body of water. As of this year, the Louisiana Division of Archaeology notes over 160 archaeological sites recorded as shipwrecks. Louisiana's abundance of waterways provided ample opportunities for various types of boats, ships, vessels, and other watercraft to traverse throughout human history. This poster highlights 13 examples of shipwrecks documented across the state of Louisiana and off its coast.



Scan here to visit www.crt.state.la.us/discoverarchaeology/ for more information

Archaeologists in Louisiana Save Artifacts 12,000 Years Old from Natural Disasters and Looters

By Stephen Smith and Kevin McGill

[AP News](#) Published 11:05 PM CDT, July 17, 2023

VERNON PARISH, La. (AP) Long buried under the woods of west-central Louisiana, stone tools, spearpoints and other evidence of people living in the area as long as 12,000 years ago have become more exposed and vulnerable, due to hurricanes, flooding and looters.

This summer, archaeologists have been gingerly digging up the ground at the Vernon Parish site in the Kisatchie National Forest. They have been sifting through dirt to unearth and preserve the evidence of prehistoric occupation of the area.

“The site appears to have been continuously occupied throughout prehistory, as evidenced by a wide range of stone tools and pottery dating to each Native American cultural era up to European contact,” the U.S. Forest Service said in a news release.

The site was found by surveyors in 2003, according to the Forest Service. After hurricanes Laura and Delta uprooted trees, disturbing and exposing some of the artifacts, Kisatchie National Forest officials used hurricane relief money to begin salvage excavations to learn more about the site, and to preserve it.

“Between the looting and the hurricane damage we were really in danger of losing this site over time,” Forest Service archaeologist Matthew Helmer said during a media tour of the site in June.

Helmer walked amid areas already excavated, pointing to changes in soil color and texture that, like the crude artifacts being excavated, can give clues as researchers work to determine facts about the people who occupied the area at different times over the millennia.

“We’re really writing the history of these peoples that lived prior to 1492, all the way back 10,000-plus years,” said Helmer.

It’s a welcome opportunity for Mark Rees, a professor of archaeology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and director of the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab.

Still, Rees laments that the work is hampered by people who have made unauthorized digs and made off with material from the site.

“It’s like walking into the archive and finding a book that’s so rare it’s one of a kind and it predates writing

itself, it’s like tearing a page out of that book and walking off with it,” said Rees.

The salvaged artifacts will be sorted, catalogued and examined as researchers at the archaeology lab seek to make determinations about past cultures at the site.



Above: Students, crew, and staff from UL Lafayette and Kisatchie National Forest at sites 16VN3504 and 16VN3508.

Archaeology at UL Lafayette

Mark A. Rees

Anthropology Program, UL Lafayette



Beginning in 2023 the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is offering an *Archaeology Concentration* as part of the B.A. degree in Anthropology. The new *Archaeology Concentration* provides UL Lafayette students with focused coursework and applied experience in archaeological methods, theory, culture history, and fieldwork.

The *Archaeology Concentration* is one of three recently approved concentrations in the Anthropology Program at UL Lafayette. Students now have the option of focusing on Archaeology, Culture & Communication, or Forensic Anthropology as part of their undergraduate studies in anthropology.

The Anthropology Program at UL Lafayette will continue to emphasize the four sub-fields of anthropology and provide students with a broad undergraduate education in the holistic, comparative study of humans, from evolutionary origins to cultural diversity in the modern world. All students who major in Anthropology take courses in archaeological, biological, cultural, and linguistic anthropology. UL Lafayette will continue to provide students with the option of a B.A. in general anthropology. For those who choose to pursue one of the three new concentrations, they will enroll in courses focused on that sub-field or specialization.

To complete the *Archaeology Concentration* at UL Lafayette, students will take World Archaeology, Cultural Resource Management, and an Archaeology Field School. Other courses to choose from include: North American Prehistory, Bioarchaeology, Louisiana Arch-

aeology, and Archaeological Records. The *Archaeology Concentration* and Anthropology Program at UL Lafayette emphasize applied learning experiences based on faculty research in Louisiana, the Lower Mississippi Valley, and Gulf South.

Internships and part-time research assistant employment are available to UL Lafayette students. The Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab conducts applied research, public education, and community outreach involving the archaeological and cultural resources of Louisiana. Students, faculty, and staff are involved in public archaeology and cultural resource management through collaboration and partnerships with federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, Tribes, local governments, communities, and businesses. An Archaeology Field School will be offered in the winter of 2023-2024 and summer of 2024 in partnership with Kisatchie National Forest.

The Anthropology major and concentrations at UL Lafayette provide students with applied research experience and preparation for careers and graduate studies, as part of the university's Advance Student Research Experience Quality Enhancement Plan. For more information on the *Archaeology Concentration*, Archaeology Field School, and Anthropology Program at UL Lafayette, go online to:

<https://sociology.louisiana.edu/academic-programs/anthropology>. Questions can be emailed to: anthropology@louisiana.edu or rees@louisiana.edu.

Support Archaeology at UL Lafayette by donating to the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab Fund at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation at:

<https://give.louisiana.edu/> or call 337-482-0700.



Current and former UL Lafayette students in the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab and doing archaeological fieldwork.

Homochitto National Forest Passport In Time

Adam Fuselier, Homochitto National Forest District Archeologist

The Homochitto National Forest heritage program is planning a Passport-in-Time project at a 19th century homestead (22 Fr 1716) in Franklin County, Mississippi. Passport-in-Time is a Forest Service-wide program that introduces interested people in the general public to a various assortment of heritage projects. Projects may include anything from laboratory work with artifacts to excavations or the rehab of old buildings. The planned project is a Phase II excavation (1 -by-1 meter units). The scope of work for the proposed project is to determine National Register eligibility of the site by identifying the layout of features, such as structures, and specific dates of habitation. Another goal is to teach archaeology to the public and interested non-professional archaeologists. The Passport-in-Time project is scheduled for October 2-7, 2023. The results will be presented at a future LAS meeting. For more information, contact Adam Fuselier, Homochitto National Forest District Archeologist at 601-967-5876 or adam.fuselier@usda.gov.

Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks Join Poverty Point as UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Mark A. Rees, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Fort Ancient, Great Circle, High Bank, Hopeton, Hopewell, Mound City, Octagon and Seip: these are the names of eight monumental complexes recently added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List. This prestigious list recognizes places of universal importance and value to humankind. Located in Ohio, these monumental earthworks now join [Poverty Point World Heritage Site](#) in Louisiana and 24 other [World Heritage Sites](#) in the U.S. The sites in Ohio are collectively inscribed as the [Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks](#). These earthworks are “Masterpieces of Human Creative Genius” that include mounds and geometric circles, squares, and octagons with celestial alignments in a sacred landscape. Known to archaeologists as Hopewell, Native Americans built the earthworks approximately 1,600 to 2,000 years ago, around the same time as the [Marksville site](#) in Louisiana. For more information on the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, check out the nomination and listing on the [UNESCO website](#).



Aerial View of Mound City (by John Blank, © Hopewell Culture NHP/NPS. whc.unesco.org/en/documents/193118)

IN MEMORIAM

Kathleen M. Bergeron*January 1, 1952 – March 25, 2023*

Kathleen Bergeron, known to all as “KB,” passed away in March at the age of 71. She was born in Morgan City on January 1, 1952. As a member of the United Houma Nation, she grew up with tribal traditions and a deep love for American Indian culture, history, and traditional practices. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in General Studies from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette), but spent much of her time hanging out in the anthropology labs.

KB participated in the 1991 Poverty Point field school, then served as lab supervisor for the 1993 season and helped set up the lab for the 1995 field school at the site. KB assisted in several other archaeology projects during her time at USL.

After graduating from USL, KB went on to the University of Denver, graduating with a Master of Arts degree in Liberal Studies and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in American Indian Studies. She worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a tribal liaison on a number of disasters around the country. Upon retiring from FEMA, KB returned home and became the Archivist for the United Houma Nation. She served as president of the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy and was a member of the Society of American Indian Government Employees.

The following is a collection of remembrances, representing a small selection of KB’s lasting impression on many within the local archaeology community. The contributors offer their individual and unique experiences and memories of KB, reflecting her personality and ability to impact people in different contexts in uplifting ways.

In Remembrance by Chip McGimsey

I first met KB when I arrived at the University of Southwestern Louisiana as the new Southwest Region archaeologist for the state in 1995. Although graduated then, she still occasionally appeared in the archaeology labs, and we met again when I volunteered a couple of days at the 1995 Poverty Point field school. After that, our interactions were sporadic, occurring mostly when either she was back in Louisiana between FEMA disaster efforts, or when she might have a question about some project or another.

What I remember about her is that no matter the situation, she was always cheerful and every conversation included numerous laughs. In her later retired years, she would call me ever so often just to catch up, and even if her health wasn’t great, she was still laughing about something or the other. You always walked away from KB feeling better about things.

In Remembrance by Brandon Badinger and Cheraki Williams

Kathleen M. Bergeron, or “KB” to most, had an unmistakable laugh that would light up any room, and she never met a stranger! She will be sorely missed not only in Louisiana, but across the country where she tirelessly supported federal disaster recovery operations and advocated for the identification and protection of cultural resources at every turn. KB was a proud tribal citizen of the United Houma Nation, and after retiring from FEMA as an Environmental Historic Preservation Advisor (EHAD) served as the Tribe’s archivist. Her perseverance and dedication were unmatched, and she took every opportunity to educate people on Tribal sovereignty, oral traditions, and the importance of preservation for all our futures. KB was caring, kind, and always had a positive attitude with a smile, but above all else loved her friends and family deeply, especially her grandchildren.

THE SPIRIT OF KATHLEEN BERGERON, “KB”

Jon L. Gibson

*If all would talk and then do as you have done,
the sun of peace would shine forever.*

—*Setangya, or Sitting Bear, Kiowa, 1810-1871*

[“Native American Wisdom,” compiled and edited by Kent Nerburn and Louise Menglekoch, 1991. New World Library, San Rafael, CA]

“Morning, Doc, brought you some biscuits.”

And with that familiar greeting, KB turned the day warm and sunny despite the weather. No matter whether it was before classes in Mouton Hall or four thirty in the morning at Poverty Point’s “Harlin Hotel,” KB made good biscuits and good weather.

“Brought you a little something, Doc. My brother made them—napkin holders shaped like arrowheads and a little wooden boat shaped like our skiffs on the bayou. Good, huh?”

The sky brightened and spirits uplifted.

“Figured you needed a little help, Doc. Sure are a lot of pieces of PPOs, and they’re sometimes hard to tell from FeMn concretions, you know.”

The clouds parted and silver linings appeared.

“They’re all washed, labeled, sorted, and inventoried, Doc. Told you we’d be finished by this afternoon.”

Sunlight shone through the blinds.



Figure 1. 1991 Poverty Point Field School in Front of “Harlin Hotel.” (L-R) Row 1 (sitting): Erica Brammel, Sonja LaComb, June Hayes, Natalie DesOrmeaux; Row 2 (hunkering/squatting): Donna Trahan (hat)-(gap)-Michelle Hutchins (cap); Row 3 (kneeing): Andree Fortier (plaited hair). Angel Quinn, Aimee Finley, Denise DeCuir, Jon Gibson (cap); Row 4 (standing), Mary Bullen, Kathleen (KB) Bergeron (dark shirt), Lisa Coleman (hat); Row 5 (standing): Tommy Borque (cap), Shannon Hughes, Mike Pears, Chad (“E-Rat”) Nunez (hat), David Kent (backpack), Chad Breaux, Helen Perilloux, Margaret Barre; Row 6 (standing): Carl Kuttruff (beard), John Mayer, Doug Palombo (hat), and David Vige (Note: The Sunshine). Photograph courtesy of Jon Gibson.

“In 1991 we took a little trip
along with Doc Gibson
down the mighty Macon Ridge.
We took a little bacon,
and we took a little beans,
and we loaded up our shovels,
and we loaded up our screens. . . .”

“Doc, you’ve got to sing the lyrics to the tune of the
‘Ballad of New Orleans.’”
The shower stopped and the earth sang.
“I’m so proud of both my girls, Martinique and Heidi,
Doc. They both did good, and you ought to see those
grandbabies.”
And a new star appeared in the firmament.



Figure 2 (above). Sorting, labeling, and inventorying artifacts during 1993 field school (Note: Sunshine through the blinds). Old Poverty Point Laboratory. KB Bergeron, Brian Potier (standing). Photograph courtesy of Jon Gibson.



Figure 3 (right) “Plumb the Stadia,” signaled Doc. “Pull Hard, so We Don’t Have to ‘Break Tape,” shouted KB. Laying Off North-South Grid Line at Meche-Wilkes Mound, St. Landry Parish, 1991 (Note: The Sunshine). Photograph courtesy of Jon Gibson.



**LOUISIANA
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MEETINGS



Louisiana Archaeological Society
2024 Annual Meeting
 Lafayette, Louisiana
 February 23 – 25, 2024

The annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society will be held on February 23 – 25, 2024 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Lafayette North, 2219 NW Evangeline Thruway, in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Registration: \$40 for LAS members, \$50 for non-members, and \$20 for students on the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/) at: <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/>. *Early registration ends December 1, 2023.* After that date, attendees must register on site.

On-Site Registration: \$45 for LAS members, \$55 for non-members, and \$25 for students.

Presentation and Poster Abstracts: Presentations and posters are invited on topics related to Louisiana archaeology. Abstracts will be accepted beginning *October 1, 2023* until *December 1, 2023*. Email a paper or poster title, with an abstract of no more than 150 words to Samuel Huey, Program Chair, at shuey@crt.la.gov.

Silent Auction: The LAS will hold its annual Silent Auction at the meeting in Lafayette. The auction raises money for the Society's activities and over the years has raised several thousand dollars. Materials, including books, manuscripts, and objects related to Louisiana archaeology, the archaeology of surrounding states, and Louisiana anthropology, geography, and geology are welcome. If you have something to donate for the Auction, you can send it to Chip McGimsey, La. Division of Archaeology, P.O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, or bring it to the meeting. The LAS appreciates your support.

Hotel Reservations: Call the Holiday Inn & Suites Lafayette North at 337-706-8199. The conference room rate (government/state rate) is \$92.00. A tax exempt form is required for tax exemptions. To get the LAS hotel rate, attendees must call the hotel and say that they are with the LAS conference. The discount code for online reservations can be found on the Holiday Inn & Suites [website](https://www.holidayinn.com/). Reservations must be made by February 9, 2024 to receive the discount group rate.

For More Information: email Samuel Huey, Program Chair, at shuey@crt.la.gov or Sadie Whitehurst, meeting co-organizer, at 16sschoeffler@gmail.com. Additional information will be available on the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/).



Southeastern Archaeological Conference
 October 25-28, 2023

The 79th annual SEAC meeting will be held at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee on October 25-28, 2023

The 2023 Preliminary Program Schedule is now available. For registration, hotels, and more information, go to the [SEAC website](https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/details/):
<https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/details/>



94th Annual Meeting of the
Texas Archeological Society
 October 6 – 8, 2023

Embassy Suites By Hilton
 San Marcos Hotel Conference Center
 1001 E McCarty Lane, San Marcos, TX 78666

The 94th annual meeting of the Texas Archeological Society will be held on October 6-8, 2023 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton, San Marcos Conference Center in San Marcos, Texas.

For more information and to register online:
<https://txarch.org/AnnualMeeting>

**MISSISSIPPI
 ARCHAEOLOGY
 EXPO**

Saturday
October 14, 2023

Museum of the Mississippi Delta
 Greenwood, MS
 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

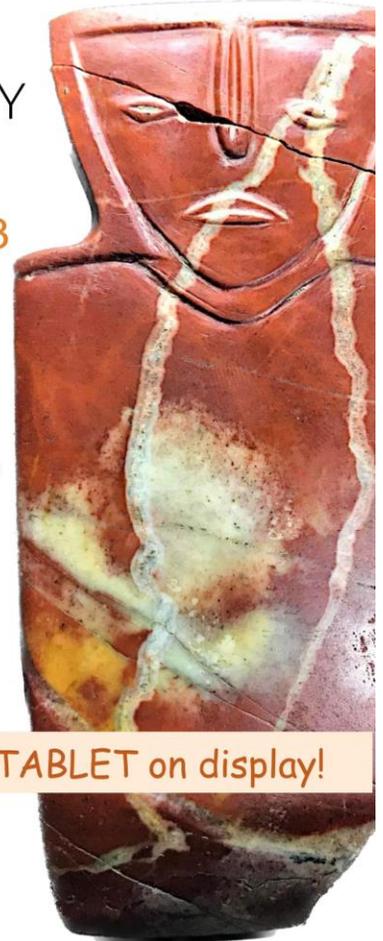
11:15 - James Starnes, RPG, MDEQ Geology:
 "Newly Discovered Prehistoric Lithic Mining Industry Along the Delta"

12:45 - Jonathan Leard, RPG, MDEQ Geology:
 "Rockin' and Rollin' in the Bluffs: Mississippi River Terraces"

1:45 - George Phillips, MMNS, Paleontology:
 "Recent Ice Age Discoveries in the Mississippi River"

FEATURING:

- Flint knapping by Guy Meador
- Artifact & fossil identifications
- Educational table displays
- **BRING YOUR ARTIFACTS & FOSSILS**



The JAKETOWN TABLET on display!

For more information contact
 Anna Reginelli at 662-402-2910 or
 go to www.msarchaeology.org



Late Registration: October 06, 2023

East Texas Archeological Conference
 February 17, 2024

University of Texas at Tyler
 Tyler, Texas

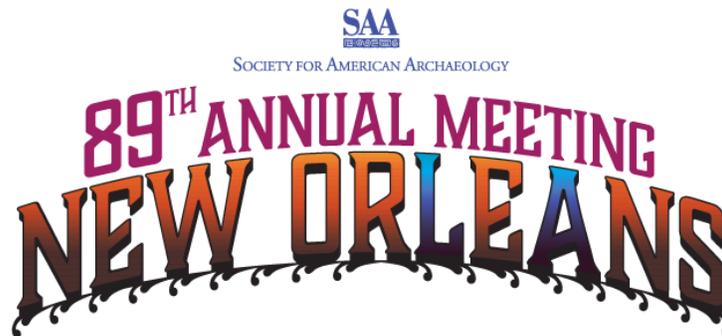
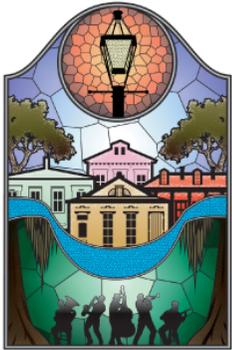


UTTyler
 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

The East Texas Archeological Conference will be held on Saturday, February 17, 2024 on the campus of the University of Texas at Tyler.

A call for papers and other announcements will be forthcoming. Submitted by
 Dr. Thomas Guderjan

The University of Texas at Tyler
 Email: guderjan@gmail.com



APRIL
17-21,
2024

SAA 2024 in New Orleans!

The 89th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) will take place on April 17 – 21, 2024, at the Sheraton New Orleans (500 Canal Street) and the New Orleans Marriott (555 Canal Street). The SAA meeting is the largest gathering of archaeologists in the Americas, with attendees from across the U.S. and around the world. The SAA previously met in New Orleans in 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, and 1977. This will be the sixth SAA meeting in New Orleans and the first in 23 years.

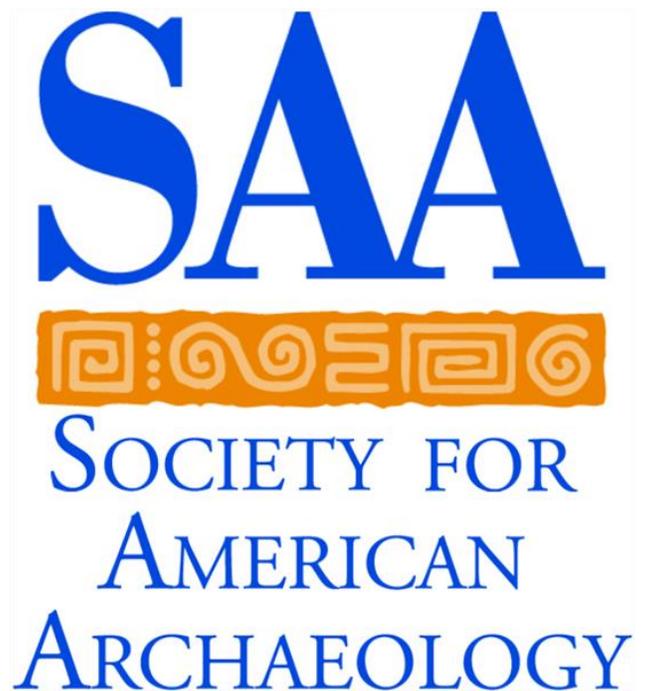
The SAA 2024 President's Forum will take place on Wednesday, April 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This will be followed by sessions, papers, posters, forums, workshops, meetings, and other events from early Thursday, April 18, through midday Sunday, April 21. Plans are taking shape for local field trips and events of interest to the public.

There will be presentations and posters on the archaeology of the southeastern United States, as part of the "Southeast Session Series." Make plans to come to New Orleans for the conference, and to participate in, and contribute to conference proceedings.

The annual SAA meeting [website](https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting), submission portal, registration, and additional information can be found here: <https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting>. The deadline for all submissions, both session and individual, was September 7, 2023, but . SAA membership is not required for conference registration, but registration fees are lower for SAA members than for non-member registrants. The deadline for non-member Annual Meeting Presenters to join the SAA is November 15, 2023. A Preliminary Program will be available on the SAA meeting [website](https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting) in March of 2024.

The SAA 2024 logo and banner (above) were designed by Liam Murname. David Carballo from Boston University is the SAA 2024 Program Committee Chair and Chris Rodning from Tulane University is the SAA 2024 Local Advisory Committee Chair.

Individuals interested in volunteering can apply to help staff conference registration tables and booths, the SAA conference-site-office, and the SAA session rooms. Volunteers who cover two four-hour shifts may be eligible to receive complimentary registration for the conference. Prospective volunteers need not be SAA members. Questions? Email meetings@saa.org for information on how to volunteer.



LAS CHAPTERS AND MEMBERSHIP

Acadiana Chapter

The Acadiana Chapter of the LAS is hosting a Fall 2023 Speaker Series in partnership with the Anthropology Society at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The next speaker will be Dr. Chip McGimsey, who will present "Who Participates and How? Archaeology in Descendant Communities" on October 10, 2023 at 5:30 pm in the Magnolia Room of the UL Lafayette Student Union, 620 McKinley Street. Check our [Facebook](#) page at <https://www.facebook.com/AcadianaLAS/> or email acadianalas@gmail.com for future dates and locations. Join us for *International Archaeology Day* at the Lafayette Farmers and Artisans Market, 2913 Johnston Street in Lafayette on Saturday, October 21, from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. For more information, email Sadie Whitehurst, President, or Gloria Church, Vice President at: acadianalas@gmail.com.

Baton Rouge Chapter

Contact: Brandy Kerr or Margeaux Murray, Co-Presidents

Email: batonrougelas1975@gmail.com

To receive information about our meetings, please email batonrougelas1975@gmail.com.

Delta Chapter

Contact: Brian Ostahowski

Email: brian.ostahowski@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/DeltaChapterLAS

The Delta Chapter hosts a monthly speaker series from August through April. The Delta Chapter meets the 4th Thursday of each month at Tulane University, Department of Anthropology, Dinwiddie Hall, at 7 pm in Room 201. For more information, email Brian Ostahowski at brian.ostahowski@gmail.com.

Northwest Chapter

Primary Contact: Tad Britt

Email: tad.britt@gmail.com

Secondary Contact: Jeffrey Girard

Email: jeffreygirard@att.net

West Louisiana Archaeology Club

Contact: John Guy, President

Email: johnnyhguy53@gmail.com

Rockey Rockholt, Vice President

Email: richardrockhold@yahoo.com



LAS Newsletter Information

The *Newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society* is published digitally three times a year for the society. Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) members receive email invitations for *Newsletter* content and regular notifications with links to the online *Newsletter*. Past issues of the *Newsletter* are available on the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/) at <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/>

Information for Contributors

Email all news, notes, announcements, reports, and *Newsletter* correspondence to the editor at: laarchaeology@gmail.com. Submissions should be in MS Word.

Mark A. Rees, LAS Editor
Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab
P.O. Box 43543, Anthropology Program
University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504

Membership Information

LAS members receive the digital *Newsletter*, one print copy of the annual LAS Bulletin, *Louisiana Archaeology*, and are invited to attend the annual LAS meetings. Annual membership dues are: \$30 for individuals; \$5 for associated family members; \$15 for students (with a valid student ID); \$45 for institutions such as libraries and universities. Life memberships for individuals or institutions are \$300. Members can also choose among the following chapter affiliations: Acadiana; Baton Rouge; Delta; Northwest; West Louisiana.

Visit the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/) at <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/> to join or renew. Membership requests, dues, and changes of address can also be directed to the LAS Treasurer:

Rachel Watson, LAS Treasurer
Louisiana Division of Archaeology
P.O. Box 44247 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Make checks payable to the *Louisiana Archaeological Society*.

LAS publications, including issues of *Louisiana Archaeology*, as well as shirts, hats, and other gear can be ordered from the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/) at: <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/>



LAS Officers

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Email: acadianalas@gmail.com

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Secretary: Jennifer Lynn Funkhouser, Lafayette

Treasurer: Rachel Watson, Baton Rouge

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treasurer@laarchaeologicalsociety.org

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Email: laarchaeology@gmail.com

Webmaster: Paul H. French

Email: webmaster@laarchaeologicalsociety.org

Visit the LAS website: www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org for additional information or to join the LAS.

Opinions stated in the Newsletter are those of individual authors or the editor and do not necessarily represent the viewpoints or policies of LAS members or the LAS.