



# Louisiana Archaeological Society

## NEWSLETTER

RICHARD A. WEINSTEIN, NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC.      BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

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Fall 1999

### FROM THE EDITOR

Despite my plea for articles, news, letters, or anything else related to Louisiana archaeology, I received only one short note from Chip McGimsey regarding radiocarbon dates. Thus, I was forced to "coerce" several of my fellow employees at CEI to contribute information on their current research. I hope this will inspire other consulting firms, along with universities and individuals, to submit similar news regarding their recent archaeological activities in the state.

The only other information in the newsletter concerns the minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting, information on the upcoming annual meeting in New Orleans in February, and a few short announcements. I can only draw a few assumptions from this situation—(1) nobody reads the newsletter, (2) people read the newsletter but don't care about its contents, or (3) folks are too busy with their own work to have time to submit information to the newsletter. I certainly hope that the latter is the case. Otherwise, I've been wasting my time, Cherie Schwab has been wasting her time (Cherie does the formatting and layout of the newsletter at CEI), Tammy Bridges has been wasting her time (Tammy maintains the membership list at the Division of Archaeology and supplies the mailing labels for each newsletter), and we are all wasting the society's money (between \$500 and \$1,000 per newsletter, depending on its length).

Believe me, I know how hard it is to put aside work that you're being paid to accomplish and to take several hours (perhaps days) to compile an article or information for the newsletter. However, as archaeologists in Louisiana, both professional and avocational, we all have a responsibility to disseminate information to our colleagues. I'm not saying something that folks haven't heard numerous times before, yet, unless people do take the time to prepare items for the newsletter (and the L.A.S. Bulletin), then the main function of this society will cease to exist. So, please, please, send me some *stuff* on archaeology!! I don't care what you send. Just send something. Anything will be appreciated.

In any case, as I noted above, this newsletter contains information on the upcoming annual meeting in New Orleans. This includes the first call for papers, information on the hotel, etc. Although it's only September, it's not too early

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside this issue. . .

Minutes of May 1999 Executive Meeting .....	4
Building an Archaeological Radiocarbon Database for Louisiana .....	8
New and/or Renewed Members .....	9
26th Annual Louisiana Archaeological Society Meeting .....	10
Archaeology Awareness .....	12
Current Research .....	15

to start thinking about presentations. We need to have a full slate of papers for the meeting to be successful, so please start preparing your presentation now.

On a sad note, this newsletter also includes a brief obituary of Sylvia Duay Dennison. Sylvia was a long-time member of the L.A.S. and a fellow coworker for several years at CEI. For those of us who had the pleasure of working with Sylvia and getting to know her on an individual basis, I know I can speak for all when I say that she will be missed tremendously.

Rich Weinstein  
Newsletter Editor

*In Memoriam*

**SYLVIA TIMMONS DUAY DENNISON**  
**FEBRUARY 22, 1941 – JUNE 16, 1999**

Sylvia Dennison passed away on June 16 at Ochsner Hospital in New Orleans, after a long battle against lung disease. She is survived by her husband, Jack Dennison of Magnolia, Arkansas; her mother, Ruby Franks Timmons of Macedonia, Arkansas; her sister, Sandy Rodemacher of Lafayette, Louisiana; two sons, Shelby Duay, Jr., of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Scott Duay of Lafayette, Louisiana; and two grandsons, Lance Duay of Lafayette, Louisiana, and Dalton Duay of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Sylvia was born in Magnolia, Arkansas, on February 22, 1941, the daughter of Ruby Franks Timmons and the late Archie "Dick" Timmons. She spent her early years growing up in

the Magnolia area, before the family moved to Morgan City, Louisiana. She graduated from Morgan City High School, and briefly attended Southern State College (now Southern Arkansas University) in Magnolia. She married Shelby Duay, had two sons, Scott and Shelby, Jr., and lived in Morgan City, Bayou Vista, and New Iberia, Louisiana. For a part of that time she was an employee of Exxon Corporation.

During the early 1980s, Sylvia went back to college at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL) to complete her Bachelor's degree. While there, she was fortunate enough to take a few classes with Jon Gibson. Jon's love of archaeology and devotion to the discipline has long been known to "rub off" on his students, and Sylvia was no exception. Although in her 40s, she found herself with a new passion—archaeology. With her friend, Jan Delgehausen, and other students at USL, Sylvia conducted brief archaeological surveys and small-scale excavations

in the Lafayette area, and began to attend local and regional archaeological conferences. At one point, she conducted excavations at Shadows on the Teche, a National Trust Property located in New Iberia.

Sylvia graduated from USL in 1987 and soon found herself working as a part-time field archaeologist with Coastal Environments, Inc., (CEI) in Baton Rouge. Although living in Lafayette, Sylvia worked on several CEI endeavors, ranging from the Beulah Levee project in Bolivar County, Mississippi (which included the initial cultural resources survey, testing of several mid-nineteenth-century locales related to Doro Plantation, and



Sylvia Timmons Duay Dennison surveying along the Tallahatchie River in 1991.

the data-recovery excavations at the early Baytown period Rock Levee site), to a project involving survey and testing along the Channel to Victoria in Calhoun and Victoria counties, Texas. Also occurring during this time were additional surveys and testing jobs for the Vicksburg and Galveston districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These included: testing of several sites along the lower Trinity River in Liberty and Chambers counties, Texas; data-recovery excavations at an early-nineteenth-century farmstead on Lake Charlotte in Chambers County, Texas; the excavation of the prehistoric Lido Harbor site in Galveston County, Texas; and a survey of the Louisiana and Arkansas Railway Bridge in Rapides Parish, Louisiana.

Eventually, Sylvia moved to Baton Rouge in 1990 and became a full-time employee of CEI. As such, she directed her own surveys, served as assistant project director on several jobs, and authored or co-authored many of the reports stemming from these studies. Of particular note were a five-month-long data-recovery project at the Guadalupe Bay site in Calhoun County, Texas; a two-month-long testing job at the Possum Bluff and Kendrick's Hill sites in Jackson County, Texas; and a subsequent six-month-long data-recovery project at Possum Bluff and Kendrick's Hill. Sylvia also surveyed segments of the Tallahatchie River in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, and examined several proposed dike locations along the Mississippi River in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. In the office, Sylvia became proficient at analyzing lithic artifacts and Texas coast ceramics.

It was during the 1992 excavations at the Guadalupe Bay site, while the CEI crew resided in Port O'Connor, Texas, that Sylvia met Jack Dennison. Sylvia and Jack were married shortly thereafter. Two years later, however, while conducting the data-recovery excavations at Possum Bluff and Kendrick's Hill, Sylvia began to notice a loss of stamina and a concomitant increase in shortness of breath. Following that project, she was diagnosed with a rare form of emphysema

that had ravaged both lungs. She and Jack moved to Lafayette, and began to seek medical treatment. Unfortunately, this forced Sylvia to withdraw from archaeology, although she continued to maintain a deep interest in the subject. Fortunately, Sylvia was able to obtain a lung transplant in March 1996, and, although life never would be the same, she was able to rekindle another life-long passion, that of gardening and raising flowers. She and Jack moved back to her family's property near Macedonia, Arkansas, where she was able to help Jack with the garden. Medical necessity intervened once more, however, and Sylvia and Jack were forced to move back to Lafayette to be near the medical specialists and the treatment that she required.

Sylvia will be missed. However, she will be remembered both by the love and kindness that she gave to others and by her contributions to the field of archaeology.

#### PUBLICATIONS OF SYLVIA TIMMONS DUAY DENNISON

##### Contract Reports

Duay, Sylvia Timmons

1990a *A Cultural Resources Survey of Additions to the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Lasseigne and Legett Architects, Inc., Baton Rouge.

1990b *A Cultural Resources Survey of a Proposed Borrow Pit, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to V. Keeler & Co., Inc., New Orleans.

1991 *A Cultural Resources Survey of a Proposed Sabine Pipeline-Kaplan Interchange M&R Station for Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation, Houston.

- 1992a *A Cultural Resources Survey of a Barge Loading Ramp in the Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge, LaSalle Parish, Louisiana.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Four Rivers Exploration, Inc., Vidalia, Louisiana.
- 1992b *Cultural Resources Investigations at Island 70, Anconia Chute, Ajax Bar, and Cottonwood Bar, Mississippi River, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 1992c *Cultural Resources Survey of the Greenville Urban Protection Project, Washington County, Mississippi.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Duay, Sylvia Timmons, Thurston H. G. Hahn III, and Richard A. Weinstein  
1990 *Management Summary: National Register Testing of Seven Archaeological Sites Located Within the Right-of-Way of the Proposed Cornerstone Natural Gas Pipeline Route, Richland and Madison Parishes, Louisiana.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Bio/West, Inc., Logan, Utah.
- Duay, Sylvia Timmons, and Richard A. Weinstein  
1992 *Analytical Techniques. In Archaeology and Paleogeography of the Lower Guadalupe River/San Antonio Bay Region: Cultural Resources Investigations along the Channel to Victoria, Calhoun and Victoria Counties, Texas,* by Richard A. Weinstein, pp. 85-97. Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Duay, Sylvia Timmons, Richard A. Weinstein, Laurie Zimmerman, and James P. Whelan, Jr.  
1994 *Analytical Techniques. In Archaeological Investigations along the Lower Lavaca River, Jackson County, Texas: The Channel to Red Bluff Project,* by Richard A. Weinstein, pp. 73-88. Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Flores, William M., Thurston H. G. Hahn III, Sylvia Timmons Duay, and Richard A. Weinstein  
1991 *Cultural Resources Survey and Testing of the Proposed Cornerstone Natural Gas Pipeline Route, Richland and Madison Parishes, Louisiana, and Warren County, Mississippi.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Bio/West, Inc., Logan, Utah.
- Hunter, Donald G., and Sylvia Duay  
1991 *Cultural Resources Survey and Significance Evaluation of a Proposed Electrical Substation Site and Power Transmission Corridor near Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Central Louisiana Electric Company, Pineville, Louisiana.
- Perrault, Stephanie L., Sylvia Timmons Dennison, Charles E. Pearson, and Tom Wells  
1995 *Historical Assessment and Magnetometer Survey for Dike Construction at Thirteen Locations along the Mississippi River.* Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Weinstein, Richard A., Richard S. Fuller, Susan L. Scott, C. Margaret Scarry, and Sylvia Timmons Duay  
1995 *The Rock Levee Site: Late Marksville through Late Mississippi Period Settlement, Bolivar County, Mississippi.* The Lake Beulah Levee Project: Archaeology and History, Vol. 3. Series edited by Richard A. Weinstein and Charles E. Pearson. Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

#### Articles

- Guevin, Bryan L., Richard A. Weinstein, and Sylvia T. Duay  
1988a *Preliminary Analysis of the 1987 L.A.S. Field School Investigations at Fontainebleau State Park, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.* *Louisiana Archaeological Society Newsletter* 15(3):5-10.

#### Papers

- Guevin, Bryan L., Richard A. Weinstein, and Sylvia T. Duay  
1988b *Preliminary Investigations at the Cane Slough East Site, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana: The 1987 L.A.S. Field School Excavations.* Paper presented at the 14th annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, Bossier City.

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

**May 8, 1999  
Marksville, Louisiana**

**Reported by  
Maureen Downey  
L.A.S. Secretary**

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society met Saturday, May 8, 1999, in Marksville, Louisiana. President Roger Saucier called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Members present were:

Roger Saucier – L.A.S. President, Vicksburg,  
MS

Carl Kuttruff – L.A.S. Vice President/President Elect, Baton Rouge Chapter

Jim Fogleman - L.A.S. Past President, Morrow, LA

David Jeane – L.A.S. Treasure, Springhill, LA

Rich Weinstein – L.A.S. Newsletter Editor,  
Baton Rouge Chapter

Maureen Downey – L.A.S. Secretary, Delta Chapter

Nancy Affeltranger – President, Central LA Archaeological Chapter

John Guy – L.A.S. Representative-at-Large,  
Anacoco, LA

**MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of the February 5, 1999, Executive Committee meeting was deferred until the end of the meeting so all members could review the minutes. At that time, John Guy motioned that the minutes be approved as submitted. Jim Fogleman seconded the motion, which the Committee then passed unanimously.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer David Jeane gave the Treasurer's report. On April 16, 1999, a third certificate of deposit for \$5000 (LAS Savings "C") was purchased. As of May 6, 1999, LAS Savings "A" totaled \$7204.79, LAS Savings "B" totaled \$4843.04, and the new LAS Savings "C" totaled \$5000.00. The balance in the LAS checking account was \$6747.52. David reported that payments by Brian Duhe were up-to-date. He has repaid \$12,580 and still owes \$4420. David said that the final accounting for the 1999 Annual Meeting in Monroe was not yet complete. President Saucier thanked David for the Treasurer's Report.

**Membership Report**

Membership Chair David Jeane reported that, as of this date, the L.A.S. had 214 members. He stated that overall membership was down and that fewer students were members. He added that one new life member had been added. Rich Weinstein remarked that he had not yet sent out dues reminders that should result in more members. Various means of increasing membership were discussed including encouraging all members of the professional firms to become members or to renew their membership. President Saucier urged everyone to think of ways to increase membership. Carl Kuttruff made a motion, seconded by Nancy Affeltranger, to accept the Membership Report. The motion passed and President Saucier thanked David Jeane for his report.

**Newsletter Report**

Newsletter Editor Rich Weinstein reported that, again, few submissions were being received. He informed the Committee that this lack of sub-

missions was causing delay in the publication of the newsletter. He repeated the appeal to all members and chapters to contribute to the newsletter. President Saucier declared that everyone must be encouraged to submit material to be included in the newsletter. He stated that he would address this in his next editorial. He emphasized that the chapters should submit names and pertinent information regarding their officers and/or contact persons to be published in the newsletter. And, he added, members enjoy learning what other members are doing. David Jeane motioned that the Newsletter Report be accepted. Nancy Affeltranger seconded the motion that the Committee passed.

### **Bulletin Report**

Bulletin Editor T.R. Kidder was unable to attend the meeting but he had previously sent his report to President Saucier. In his report, he stated that Bulletin No. 23 (for 1996) was ready to go to the printer. That bulletin will contain five articles and will be 156 pages in length. He expects it to be out by the end of the summer. T.R. also reported that he has plans already for Bulletin No. 24 and would like to make Jeff Girard's report on the Fredericks Site, Bulletin No. 25. The Committee again discussed the possibility of having to obtain a new publisher. Rich Weinstein motioned that the Bulletin Report be accepted and David Jeane seconded the motion that the Committee passed.

### **Archival Committee**

Archival Chair Carl Kuttruff reported that he has spoken with Dr. Tom Eubanks and obtained permission for interim storage of the L.A.S. material until the materials are organized. They will then be transferred to the state archives for permanent storage. He also said that he had received more material including another box of materials from Jon Gibson. All Committee mem-

bers agreed that the classification system developed by Carl was excellent. Roger thanked Carl for a great job.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **L.A.S. Web Site**

President Saucier informed the Committee that the L.A.S. web site was going well and reminded members of the address, which is LAARCHSOC.org. He said that the site had 140 hits when he last checked it. He remarked that there was some difficulty in getting the site updated, but he intends to work hard on getting it accomplished. He said that David Jeane had given him some photos of artifacts to replace some poor-quality photos currently on the site. Roger remarked that he would also like to add some new links. Rich Weinstein and T.R. Kidder were thanked by Roger for compiling the list of the contents of the bulletin, *Louisiana Archaeology*, numbers 1 through 21 (1974-1994), placed on the site. Information on the 2000 Annual Meeting, hosted by Delta Chapter and to be held February 4, 5, and 6, 2000, will also be included. David Jeane informed the members that he had received several requests for membership information by E-mail, he believes because of the web site. Roger asked for suggestions for other links or items that should be included on the web site.

### **Updated L.A.S. Brochure**

Jim Fogleman submitted the revised draft of the updated L.A.S. Brochure. He remarked that the format was basically the same as used with the old brochure. Some corrections were made. Roger Saucier will obtain printing estimates. Hopefully the new brochures will be available for Archaeology Week, September 26 - October 2. Jim agreed that a copy of the brochure could be placed on the L.A.S. web site. Rich Weinstein suggested that the Membership Application and

Dues Renewal form that appears in the newsletter might also be included on the site. The Committee favored including these items on the web site. President Saucier thanked Jim for his work on the brochure.

### Reprints of L.A.S. Publications

Roger Saucier said that he would request, in the next newsletter, suggestions for reprints. He asked for any suggestions from the Committee. It was unanimously agreed that L.A.S. Special Publication No. 1, *Stone Points and Tools of Northwest Louisiana*, by C. Webb, should be the first reprint. Other publications were discussed. David Jeane stated that the most requested out-of-print Bulletin was Bulletin No. 2. Rich Weinstein suggested Cherie Schwab be asked to do the reprint. David Jeane said he would attempt to secure an original copy for her. He then motioned that the L.A.S. solicit Cherie Schwab to reprint L.A.S. Special Publication No. 1. John Guy seconded the motion that the Committee passed.

### 1999 Annual Meeting in Monroe, LA

Joe Saunders submitted to Treasurer David Jeane a preliminary report on the Annual Meeting held February 5, 6, and 7, 1999, in Monroe, LA. There was an excellent turn out for the meeting – 115 people registered for the meeting. All Committee members agreed that all the speakers were excellent. Steve Williams' keynote speech on the Early Pioneers of Louisiana Archaeology was extremely interesting. One of the highlights of the meeting was the informal discussion on Louisiana Archaeology by Williams, Saucier, and Gibson. Nancy Affeltranger made a motion to thank the Monroe Chapter for doing a great job. Carl Kuttruff seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS

President Saucier, acting upon discussions with Jon Gibson and Carl Kuttruff, said that he would like to see the L.A.S. endorse a Louisiana Archaeologist faculty position at a state university. Carl Kuttruff has discussed this with Dr. Eubanks. Carl will draft a letter stating the position of the L.A.S. and present it to Roger for his approval.

Delta Chapter will host the next Annual Meeting. It will be held February 4, 5, and 6, 2000, at the Holiday Inn, Metairie, LA.

President Saucier will notify all members of the date and location of the next Executive Committee meeting. There being no further business, President Roger Saucier adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

### L.A.S. WEB SITE

The L.A.S. now has a web site that one can search for information on the society, it's upcoming meetings, past publications, etc. Check it out!!—  
[www.laarchsoc.org](http://www.laarchsoc.org)

### IN THE WORKS

Plans are now being finalized for the reissue of  
SP #1 *Stone Points and Tools of Northwestern Louisiana*.

Expect to see it back in circulation this fall!

## BUILDING AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RADIOCARBON DATABASE FOR LOUISIANA

by

Chip McGimsey

University of Louisiana - Lafayette

Radiocarbon dates are one of the most important and useful pieces of archaeological data that can be recovered from a site. Since the early 1950s, when the technique was developed, archaeologists have increasingly taken advantage of this tool to ascertain when a site was occupied. Today, few archaeologists excavate a site without attempting to recover materials for dating and the number of radiocarbon dates is rapidly increasing. But, as the dates have proliferated, so has the difficulty in keeping track of them and locating any which are relevant to the research project or question you are trying to address. Many dates are buried in contract archaeology reports that have only a narrow distribution or have not yet seen the light of publication. At present there is not a central file for radiocarbon dates that anyone can access for information on Louisiana's cultural history. A year from now, I hope that this situation will no longer exist.

I am undertaking to compile a comprehensive database of radiocarbon dates obtained from archaeological sites in Louisiana. This database will hopefully include all dates obtained prior to 1 January 2000. When completed, I anticipate publishing the database in the Louisiana Archaeological Society Bulletin. The computerized version will also be available to anyone willing to send a diskette.

The biggest challenge to constructing this database will be simply tracking down all of the dates and their contextual information (site, provenience, etc.). We will be searching the published literature, including the L.A.S. Newslet-

ter, L.A.S. Bulletin, Southeastern Archaeology, and American Antiquity, as well as the unpublished literature. All of the contract reports on file at the Louisiana Division of Archaeology will be searched for dates. However, many of us have dates which have not yet made it into one of these publicly available sources. In order to make this database as comprehensive as possible, I am requesting the assistance of anyone who has collected a radiocarbon date from a Louisiana archaeological site. A copy of the original laboratory report form would be the most useful, especially if the date has not been published. Alternatively, a bibliography identifying those manuscripts which report any radiocarbon dates you have collected will help insure that we don't overlook any dates. If you have numerous dates, I would be willing to come to your office and copy the necessary information.

The following list indicates the information that we want to collect for each date. The most important categories are the site, provenience, measured radiocarbon age, and the reference where the most complete discussion of the date is published. If you send information on a date, please try to indicate whether the date is the measured radiocarbon age or the conventional radiocarbon age (the measured age plus the C12/13 correction factor). If the calibrated age is also available, that will save us the time of running the calibration, but we plan on providing the calibrated age for every sample in the database (but please indicate which program was used to calibrate the date).

We anticipate finalizing the database no later than July 2000. I hope I can count on your assistance with this project. When completed, it will be of considerable value to any archaeologist working in Louisiana and the surrounding states. If you have any questions or comments about this project or the structure of the database, please contact me at the following address:

Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
 PO Box 40198  
 University of Louisiana-Lafayette  
 Lafayette, La. 70804  
 mcgimsey@usl.edu  
 318-482-5198

### RADIOCARBON DATABASE FORMAT

1. site name
2. state site number
3. provenience square and level feature or burial number and level mound stratum
4. material dated (shell [give species], wood, nut-shell, bone, charcoal, etc.)
5. radiocarbon lab number (include lab code and number)
6. measured radiocarbon age and 1-sigma standard deviation in years BP (the raw age without correction or calibration)
7. C12/13 correction factor (provide both correction value and change in years)
8. conventional radiocarbon age in years BP (the measured age plus the correction factor)
9. calibrated median age in years BP
10. calibrated median age in years BC/AD
11. calibrated 2-sigma standard deviation in years BP
12. cultural component date is assigned to
13. drainage basin site lies in (major drainages only - Red, Ouachita, Tensas, Atchafalaya, etc.)
14. primary reference (the one that provides the primary description of date and its context)
15. comments (very brief comments on context of date from original reference)

## NEW AND/OR RENEWED MEMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER, 14 1999\*

Name	City	Exp. Date	Category
Deborah Jeansonne	Deville, LA	1999	Associate
Delma Briggs	Leesville, LA	1999	Associate
Lillie Jeansonne	Deville, LA	1999	Associate
Loyd A Olin, Jr.	Houma, LA	1999	Associate
Mississippi State University	Mississippi State, MS	1999	Institution
University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, MI	1999	Institution
Harold Jeansonne	Deville, LA	1999	Life
Sam Brookes	Jackson, MS	1999	Life
Arthur Murphey	Ft. Polk, LA	1999	Regular
Bill Verzwylt	Pineville, LA	1999	Regular
Cherie Schwab	Baton Rouge, LA	1999	Regular
Chip McGimsey	Lafayette, LA	1999	Regular
G. R. Dennis Price	Austin, TX	1999	Regular
Hester Davis	Fayetteville, AK	1999	Regular
J.P. Jack Moore	Covington, LA	1999	Regular
Janet Carrigee	Mandeville, LA	1999	Regular
Jerry Barnes	Pleasant Hill, LA	1999	Regular
Mark Walters	Kilgore, TX	1999	Regular
Michael J. Camardelle	Luling, LA	1999	Regular
Richard P. Chenevert	Baion Rouge, LA	1999	Regular
Robert Neuman	Natchitoches, LA	1999	Regular
Roger L. Briggs	Leesville, LA	1999	Regular
Sue Olin	Houma, LA	1999	Regular
Josetta LeBoeuf	Baton Rouge, LA	1999	Student
Michele P. Cossey	Crowley, LA	1999	Student

\* List does not include Sustaining or Life members from previous years.

### Did You Know?

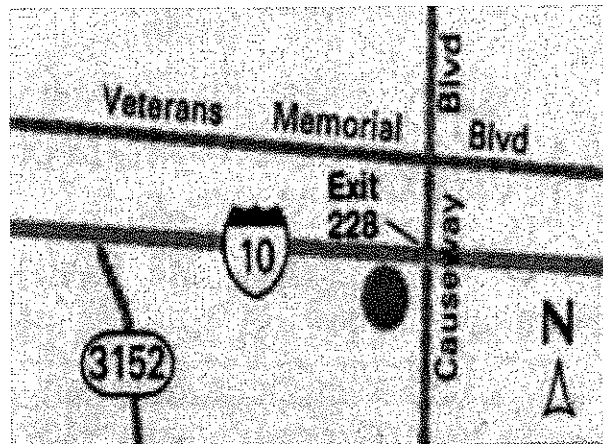
The Society for Historical Archaeology  
 (www.sha.org) has journal abstracts and news-  
 letter highlights.

The Society for American Archaeology has a  
 bulletin web site (www.anth.ucsb.edu/  
 SAABulletin) with many articles of general  
 interest. Included are archaeological federal  
 legislation, teaching archaeology, archaeologists  
 and the media, and finding lab reference  
 manuals on the web.

## 26<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Delta Chapter will host the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. The meeting will be held on February 4, 5, and 6, 2000 at the Holiday Inn New Orleans-Metairie located at 3400 I-10 S. Service Road at Causeway Blvd. in Metairie, LA 70001. For reservations call 1-800-747-EASY or 1-800-HOLIDAY. The theme of the Meeting will be "*Archaeology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Earth and Beyond.*" The keynote speaker will be Timothy Riordon of *American Archaeology* Magazine. He will present a talk on Historic St. Mary City, Maryland, and his work there. There will be a Friday Night Social (with band) to which everyone is invited to attend. The room rate is \$79.00 for single or double occupancy. There is a restaurant on the premises as well as others located conveniently nearby. As usual, there will be a book room where any exhibits or displays are welcome. The L.A.S. Business Meeting is tentatively scheduled for 5:00-6:00 p.m., Saturday, February 5, 2000. Door prizes will be drawn at the conclusion of the business meeting (winners must be present). The L.A.S. Executive Committee and the L.A.C. Executive Committee will meet Friday afternoon, February 4, time to be announced. The following pages include the Call for Papers, a Registration Form, and a Hotel Reservation Request Form. More information will be provided at a later date. If you have questions, you may contact Virginia Bommer at (504) 394-9737.

Map and directions to the Holiday Inn New Orleans-Metairie



*Holiday Inn*

3400 I-10 & Causeway Blvd.

South Service Road

**From airport, take I-10 East and exit on Exit #228, Causeway Boulevard South. From the east, take I-10 West, exit I-610 West to Exit #228, Causeway Boulevard South to Service Road.**

# CALL FOR PAPERS

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Louisiana Archaeological Society Meeting**  
**February 4, 5, and 6, 2000**  
**Holiday Inn**  
**Metairie, Louisiana**

Delta Chapter, L.A.S., is now placing a call for papers. The theme of the Annual Meeting will be “*Archaeology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Earth and Beyond.*”

If you are interested in presenting a paper, please submit a title and abstract about your topic. Include title and author’s name in heading. Limit presentations to 20 minutes. Any special requests or audiovisual equipment needs for presentations should be submitted in writing along with the abstract. Space will be available for book sales and other displays. If interested, please indicate type of display and space requirements. (Please pre-register if presenting a paper.) Send typed abstract to:

**Carl Kuttruff**  
**621 Albert Hart Drive**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70808**  
**(225) 767-6605**

or you may submit via e-mail at: **kutt621@bellsouth.net**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Presentation \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include author’s name in heading)

## ABSTRACT

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Copy form and use additional space on back if necessary)

**Deadline for abstracts is January 15, 2000**

## ARCHAEOLOGY AWARENESS

GET INVOLVED AND LEARN MORE ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY  
AND THE PRESERVATION OF OUR VALUABLE CULTURAL RESOURCES

12TH ANNUAL LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK  
SEPT. 26TH-OCT. 2ND, 1999

LECTURES  
EXHIBITS  
TOURS  
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES  
DEMONSTRATIONS

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## CURRENT RESEARCH

*The L.A.S. would like to include this as a regular spot in the newsletter. Let us know what you're doing and you'll see it here!*

### LAKE PROVIDENCE, LOUISIANA

Richard A. Weinstein

Data-recovery investigations were conducted at the Lake Providence Mounds site (16 EC 6) by personnel from Coastal Environments, Inc., (CEI) from August 1998 until February 1999. The investigations were directed by Richard A. Weinstein with the assistance of Katherine M. Roberts, and were performed under contract to the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Research occurred within the construction right-of-way (ROW) for the installation of a series of relief wells and associated drainage ditch to be placed at the toe of the Mississippi River levee. The levee, built in the 1930s, cuts through the eastern edge of the site and has buried part of this large, prehistoric, multimound center dating primarily to the late Coles Creek period (ca. A.D. 1100 to 1200). The ROW extended roughly north-south for about 500 m along the base of the levee and westward for 40 m into adjacent soybean and cotton fields.

Initial fieldwork included magnetometer surveys of three 100-by-40-m areas within the ROW, each designed to locate and compare the number and intensity of subsurface anomalies. One area was situated at the southern end of the site and covered a small ridge emanating from one of the mounds. This ridge and its vicinity were hypothesized to have been the loci of aboriginal structures located south of the main site plaza. The second area covered the central plaza of the site, and was hypothesized to lack evidence of structural remains. The third area examined the northern edge of the site where additional houses, structures, and activity areas were thought to have been located. Following the

magnetometer surveys, a series of six 2-by-2-m-square sample excavation units was placed down at the location of each of the proposed relief wells. Data from the magnetometer surveys and the sample units then were used to guide the placement of additional 2-by-2-m excavation units. Nineteen units were arranged around the southernmost of the sample units, all positioned on the ridge noted above. Together, these units were identified as Block 1 and covered an area of 80 m<sup>2</sup>. Two additional units also were positioned around the northernmost of the sample units, forming Block 2, and covering 12 m<sup>2</sup>.

Both the magnetometer surveys and excavation units indicated that the outer fringes of the site contained elevated ridges upon which most structures and houses were located. The central plaza was virtually void of cultural remains indicating that it was used only for ceremonial purposes and not for living. Block 1 uncovered the remains of two occupation levels overlying a man-made ridge that, in turn, was built over the original ground surface that also contained evidence of a brief occupation. Numerous overlapping structures, most identified by their surviving wall trenches, were found descending from the uppermost occupation level into a noncultural layer of flood-deposited silt that separated the upper two occupation layers. The second occupation layer rested directly on the man-made ridge. Extremely large posts and wall trenches descended out of it into the underlying ridge-fill material, suggesting that a very large structure or palisade wall once existed atop the ridge. No evidence of structures was found associated with the initial occupation below the ridge. Block 2 uncovered evidence of two occupation levels, also separated by noncultural flood deposits, plus the remains of a large trash pit or small borrow pit that had been filled with general house refuse. The latter included numerous

pockets of charcoal, ash, and fired clay, presumably the remains of hearths that had been cleaned out, plus well-preserved faunal and floral remains. Given the nature of these remains, plus some of the fineware ceramic vessels uncovered in the refuse, it appears that the pit was used as a receptacle for trash from a high-status residence once located atop one of the nearby mounds.

All cultural material recovered during the investigations was brought back to CEI's laboratory in Baton Rouge where it currently is undergoing final washing and cataloguing. Eventually, the material will be analyzed and incorporated into a report on the investigations.

**NATCHEZ, MS**  
Thurston H.G. Hahn III

Coastal Environments, Inc., conducted a Level I cultural resources survey during the summer of 1998 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Vicksburg District, in regard to the proposed Natchez Riverfront Revetment. During the winter of 1998 and spring of 1999, CEI conducted a Level I cultural resources survey of Reach 4 of the proposed Natchez Bluffs Stability Project for the COE. The COE's Natchez Riverfront Revetment project entails the construction of a large, stone embankment along the riverfront of Natchez, Mississippi, to thwart riverine erosion of Natchez-Under-the-Hill, while the Natchez Bluffs Stability Project entails the stabilization of the bluffs upon which downtown Natchez rests.

A number of archaeological sites were investigated (both above and below the bluffs) as a result of these two surveys. Two of the sites have since been determined eligible for inclusion on the NRHP, both of which CEI has examined this summer. The earlier of the two sites is a multi-component historic site that consists of the remains of what is commonly known as the Roth

sawmill (ca. 1842-ca. 1873) and three dwellings (ca. 1880-ca. 1940). Examined cultural features associated with the domestic occupation of the site include two brick fireplaces; two brick-lined, subterranean cisterns; two wooden, pier foundations; six privies (ranging from ca. 1885-ca. 1915); and, a small sheet midden. Only two features associated with the sawmill have been found (much of the site has been lost to riverine erosion) – the chimney foundation for the mill's boilers and a brick-lined well to provide water to the boilers. Although excavation of the 150-cm diameter well is ongoing, its upper 570 cm has yielded a variety of artifacts, many of which are apparently associated with the abandonment of the sawmill in the early 1870s. Excavation at the site will continue through the end of September 1999.

The second site examined by CEI in Natchez this summer consists of the Natchez Water Supply and Sewer Company pumping and storage facility. Constructed in 1888-1889, the steam-powered waterworks provided water to the city of Natchez for 50 years. CEI examined over 30 *in situ* structural features associated with the waterworks, including its interior and exterior walls, floors, pump pit, engine foundations, chimneys, pump foundations, and wells. Originally constructed of brick and poured concrete (a relatively recent introduction at the time), the two-room plant was modified many times before it was eventually closed in about 1940. During its heyday, the plant had a storage capacity of 600,000 gallons of water and could pump up to 3.5 million gallons per day.

**LAFAYETTE, LA**  
Katherine M. Roberts

During June 1999, CEI personnel surveyed an 823-m-long stretch of the Vermilion River within the city of Lafayette. The survey was conducted in preparation for the construction of a floodwall

by the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Systematic augering at 10-m intervals within the proposed construction ROW, along with the clearing of several bankline profiles, identified two prehistoric archaeological sites. One of the locales, situated at the western end of the survey area, had earlier been reported by Jon Gibson in the 1970s as the Teche Street site (16LY55). The other locale, situated several hundred meters to the east, was identified as a new site, named Demanade Street (16LY99), although it could actually represent a continuation of the Teche Street site. Both sites contain thin, intact midden deposits buried by both sedimentation and dredge material. Ceramic and lithic artifacts suggest an occupation dating from the late Marksville through early Coles Creek periods. Additional research at the sites will be necessary prior to construction of the floodwall.

#### CATAHOULA PARISH, LA

Donald G. Hunter

#### Westwood Plantation

The Westwood Plantation site (16CT490), located on the lower Tensas River in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, was examined by CEI during three phases of cultural resources investigations conducted for the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Initially identified in 1995 during an intensive survey undertaken for the Sicily Island Levee Project, Westwood was the scene of subsequent testing and data-recovery excavations, all conducted by CEI. This work revealed the archaeological remains associated with the main residence of Westwood Plantation, which was established in 1844 by Henry D. Mandeville, Jr., of Natchez, formerly of Pennsylvania. Mandeville's father had been a foreign factor in the China trade before moving his family to Natchez in 1835. The younger Mandeville practiced law there, but ill health forced him to abandon that profession. Subsequently, he purchased Westwood where he started what would

later become one of the largest cotton plantations along the lower Tensas River.

Although the actual plantation records relating to Westwood were presumably destroyed, correspondence in the Mandeville Family Papers at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge give insights toward daily life on the plantation. Although plagued by the deaths of family members, including that of his wife Julia, a son, Henry, and a sister, Charlotte, Henry and his surviving children would see Westwood prosper in the decade preceding the Civil War. Still, he, his family, and his slaves would suffer from harsh living conditions in the swamps of east-central Louisiana.

The first two years of the war had little direct effect on the Mandevilles. Supplies normally obtained from New Orleans by steamboat became unavailable after Federal troops occupied the city in the spring of 1862. Still, some necessities could be obtained from family members in Natchez. Union gunboats would occasionally come up the Tensas River in search of cotton and contraband, but Westwood was largely unaffected by sporadic appearances of northern troops. However, in the summer of 1863, slaves from nearly every plantation in the area, including Westwood, started leaving. When their slaves did not appear one morning, Mandeville's son went up to the quarters where he "found no living thing...except a sick chicken and some dogs."

With no labor, Mandeville was unable to plant another cotton crop after the war. Faced with debt, crop lands being inundated during seasonal flooding, and poor health, Henry and his children tried to eke out a mere existence at Westwood during Reconstruction. Letters to his sister and his father back in Natchez contain lists of plants that he was trying to raise just to feed his family. Continued flooding and ill health finally force Mandeville to leave Westwood for

New Orleans in late 1871 where he died several months later. In February 1873, the house at Westwood, which was then occupied by Henry's children, burned to the ground, and for all practical purposes what remained of the plantation was abandoned.

The data-recovery excavations conducted in the summer of 1997 uncovered numerous features associated with the main house at Westwood. Many of the structural elements of the house had been destroyed by land clearing and agriculture; however, numerous well-preserved archaeological features remained. Most were trash pits, containing abundant faunal remains and other domestic refuse. Although the artifact analysis is still on-going, the features can be easily assigned to either a pre- or post-Civil War era. The preliminary analysis has shown that the earlier group contains, expensive and somewhat unusual ceramics, including elaborate transfer-printed whitewares, Basalt, Chinese export porcelain, refined redwares, Parian ware, and refined Davenport yellowwares. Although some of these appear in the later features, the post-war ceramics are dominated by undecorated, edged, or stenciled whitewares.

The faunal remains appear diverse. In addition to an expected dominance of pig, wild species are present in abundance and include what have tentatively been identified as deer, turtle, quail, fish, and waterfowl. The analysis of these materials will allow an examination of changes in subsistence, material culture, socio-economic status, and other issues brought about by the Civil War. It is hoped that the extensive flotation samples taken from the site will provide an unusual glimpse into Euro-American plant use in the Tensas Basin, an area of research that has received virtually no archaeological attention in this region heretofore.

## Big Cash Bayou

The Big Cash Bayou site (16CT451) was also examined by CEI during three phases of investigations for the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as a part of the development of the Sicily Island Levee Project. Situated on the west side of the Tensas River some 3.5 km above Westwood Plantation, the site was the scene of intensive data recovery excavations conducted by CEI during the spring of 1997.

The predominate component at the site is Euro-American and appears to span the period between 1840 and 1952. Big Cash Bayou was initially settled by King G. Holstein in 1840. He established a residence there and operated a small cotton plantation, subsequently purchased by his son. Although the amount of historical information is limited, it appears that this was never a large plantation and its owners practiced more diversified economic pursuits, including subsistence farming, ranging livestock, and lumbering. Socio-economic indicators suggest the Holsteins and subsequent owners were middle-class farmers. The site appears to have been continuously occupied until the middle of the twentieth century with the same general economic pursuits being followed by each owner.

The archaeological remains at Big Cash Bayou consist of brick structural members related to two houses that were built at the site: the original house built by the Holsteins and a later shotgun house moved onto the site following the demolition of the original structure. Also present were an in-ground brick cistern, a walkway, an intact sheet midden, and trash pits.

The excavations at Big Cash Bayou included hand-excavated units to sample the midden and mechanical stripping to expose features. A large

quantity of artifacts (including faunal remains) was recovered and is presently being prepared for analysis. Here, again, extensive flotation was undertaken to examine Euro-American plant use. Through the analysis of these materials and those of Westwood (discussed above), it is hoped that socio-economic comparisons can be made between two partially contemporaneous plantations on the lower Tensas River and a better understanding can be achieved concerning early Euro-American adaptations to that region.

### The Charles E. Klueppel Site

The Charles E. Klueppel site (16CT479) was also recorded by CEI during a survey of the Sicily Island Levee Project for the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. When first recorded in 1995, it appeared as a light surface scatter of lithic debitage with a small admixture of grog-tempered pottery. The few decorated sherds recovered at that time suggested it was occupied on middle Coles Creek time levels. Although the site did not appear to have much research potential, patches of artifact-rich, dark-stained earth indicated that the site might have some intact midden or subsurface features.

The site was tested in the summer of 1996. That work consisted of a controlled surface collection and the excavation of a single 2-m<sup>2</sup> test unit. During the excavation of the unit, two prehistoric trash pits were encountered at a depth of 20 cm below the present ground surface, demonstrating that deep plowing had not destroyed all of the cultural remains at the site.

Those portions of the features within the unit were hand excavated with all of the soils waterscreened and matrix samples taken for subsequent flotation. Three radiocarbon dates had one-sigma ranges spanning the interim between cal A.D. 1260-1300, with intercepts averaging cal

A.D. 1265. This general time equates to the early Mississippi period in the Tensas basin and is normally equated with the Routh phase.

However, the decorated ceramics were highly unusual and feature previously undescribed treatments including the use of diagonal (Mazique-like) incising below the rim overlying a field of horizontal (Coles Creek-like) incising. Also, several vessels had combined incising and punctations resembling Avoyelles Punctated, but executed to form curvilinear (pendant semicircle) designs. Additionally, there was a complete absence of decorated types normally associated with Plaquemine culture in the Tensas Basin, notably Plaquemine Brushed, *var. Plaquemine*, and Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac*.

Even though these ceramics appear very unusual in comparison to other local Plaquemine assemblages, there are enough continuities in regard to paste (a Baytown Plain, *var. Addis*, ceramic fabric) and vessel form (particularly the carinated bowls) to argue for ties to other early Mississippi period groups in the region. Another interesting note concerning the ceramics from the two trash pits at Klueppel is the occurrence of several bone/grog/grit-tempered sherds. In Joanne Ryan's recent excavations at the nearby Hedgeland site (16CT19), similar sherds were also found in early Mississippi period deposits, although none of the ceramics from Hedgeland compared to the decorated types from Klueppel.

The flotation samples taken from the two trash pits contained charred botanical remains. The recognized plants included abundant corn (*Zea mays*), thin-shelled hickory (probably *Carya illinoensis*), persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*), black walnut (*Juglans cf. nigra*), palmetto (*Sabal minor*), possible maygrass (*Phalaris caroliniana*), carpetweed (*Mollugo verticillata*), cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*), sumpweed (*Iva annua*), purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*), wood sorrel (*Oxalis*

that have now been destroyed or that yielded little during the fieldwork.

One of the topics examined by the research concerned the age of the landforms found in the study area. Recent geological research published in the journal *Science* argues that the Lafourche delta complex began forming about 1500 years ago, much later than previously thought. One site in the present study area that is apparently associated with a crevasse channel emanating from Bayou Lafourche, Bruly St. Martin (16IV6), has produced Tchefuncte ceramics that should date at least 500 years earlier than that. Additional archaeological and geological research will be required to determine which age estimate is correct.

#### WEST FELICIANA PARISH, LA

David B. Kelley

CEI is currently conducting excavations at two historic sites, 16WF121 and 16WF122, that will be impacted by levee construction at Angola Penitentiary. The research is being directed by Stephanie Perrault and Joanne Ryan with funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District. Site 16WF122 is believed to include the location of the antebellum big house or overseer's house and the slave quarters on Angola Plantation, while 16WF121 apparently represents the remains of post-bellum workers' quarters. Angola Plantation was a cotton plantation begun in the 1840s. It was purchased in 1880 by Samuel James, who managed the state prison system under a lease from the legislature. James in turn leased out prisoners to work on public works projects, like levee construction, as well as private plantations. Although the penitentiary at that time was located at Baton Rouge, James apparently housed many of the prisoners on Angola Plantation.

The archaeological sites currently being excavated were located during a survey conducted in the spring of 1998, and test excavations were

carried out at both sites later that year. The test excavations, which included controlled surface collections, 1-by-1-m test units, and mechanical stripping of over 2000 square meters at each site, yielded substantial quantities of artifacts and intact features, such as brick pier and chimney foundations, brick cisterns, a possible brick-lined privy, and trash pits. As part of the current investigations a thermal imaging survey was conducted at both sites in an effort to identify buried structural features. These areas are then being mechanically stripped and any features that are exposed mapped and excavated.

## NEWS

### DISCOVERY PUSHES HISTORY BACK 5,000 YEARS

by John Andrew Prime

(Excerpted from the *Shreveport Times*)

A chance discovery of human remains in rural Bienville Parish this summer has pushed the history of human settlement in Louisiana back 75 centuries.

"It is one of the most important sites in the state of Louisiana in terms of research potential," said Thomas Eubanks, head of the state Division of Archaeology.

The site is more than 4,000 years older than Poverty Point, a West Carroll Parish complex of mounds that has not yielded any human remains. Eubanks said the earliest human remains previously found in Louisiana were from the Tchefuncte site, located on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. Those sites date from 600 BC to 200 AD, Eubanks said. [Actually, the oldest prior burials in Louisiana are believed to date to the Late Archaic period and were excavated by Ann Ramenofsky and other LSU investigators at the Cowpen Slough site (16CT147) in the mid 1980s — Ed.]

Jeff Girard, the regional state archaeologist excavating the site, said nationally there are only "maybe a half dozen sites with burials of comparable age" to those at the new site.

Girard said the site will be the subject of intense national study, not only for the human remains, but for the light it will cast on an era that is only dimly understood even by researchers, let alone the general public.

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Send all notes, news, and other communications to: Richard A. Weinstein, Newsletter Editor, Coastal Environments, Inc., 1260 Main Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802. If possible, articles should be submitted on computer disk, preferably in Microsoft Word or Word Perfect, although most other word processing programs can be translated. Digital figures can be submitted on disk in a TIFF or PICT format. Questions regarding format should be directed to Cherie Schwab, Coastal Environments, Inc., (225) 383-7455. Style should conform to the guidelines published in *American Antiquity*, Vol. 57, No. 4 (Oct. 1992).

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