



NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2024 Vol. 52, No. 1

[Annual LAS Meeting](#) in Lafayette on February 23–25, 2024



Projectile points and gunflints from Site 16OR14. See inside, pp. 3-9.

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Mark A. Rees, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

With this winter 2024 issue of the *LAS Newsletter* the calendar is almost a quarter century into the third millennium. Some say time flies. Archaeologists know it sends things into the ground. Time doesn’t just fly; it forms layers. For a discipline originally defined as the study of what is ancient, archaeology has never been more interesting, current, and relevant. This is true for archaeology in Louisiana, including the study of the modern world through material remains.

Each new year brings opportunities to get involved in Louisiana archaeology. The annual meeting of the LAS will be held at the Holiday Inn and Suites North in Lafayette on February 23-25, 2024. The first organizational meeting was held 50 years ago, in May of 1974 at the Catahoula Bank in Jonesville. The first annual meeting followed in Lafayette on March 1, 1975 at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, now UL Lafayette (see [LAS Special Publication No. 2](#) for a full rundown). Make plans to attend this year’s meeting in Lafayette, get involved in Louisiana archaeology, and support the LAS. One easy way to support the LAS is to donate books to the Silent Auction.

A Preliminary Agenda for the 2024 LAS meeting is provided in this issue of the *LAS Newsletter*, along with information on how to register and attend. Samuel Huey is the Program Chair. As this year’s meeting will commemorate the 50th birthday of the LAS, it is fitting that Richard Weinstein has agreed to deliver the Keynote Address. [Historical accounts](#) indicate Rich has been a sustaining member from the start.

This issue of the *LAS Newsletter* also contains a diverse assemblage of fascinating articles on recent research. First up is McGimsey and Skipton’s description of a curious site on the shore of Lake St. Catherine in Orleans Parish. Historical documentation and location suggest the possibility of a maroon settlement – a community of self-emancipated formerly enslaved people. Ceramics and numerous gunflints from Site 16OR14 raise intriguing questions that call out for additional research. This is followed by Filoromo’s report on the material culture and cultural features at Wilderness Plantation (16EBR244), a site that has also produced “a unique and unusually large quantity of gunflints.” Accounting for the quantities and kinds of gunflints at Wilderness Plantation and Site 16OR14 is bound to shed light on much more than gunflints.

Diana Greenlee provides an update on the Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program, with a closer look into an enigmatic pit-mound feature between Mounds A and E. [Poverty Point World Heritage Site](#) seems to be an enigma-filled place. Attend the annual LAS meeting for another update on this “mysterious” feature. Two articles in this *LAS Newsletter* are penned by students from LSU and UL Lafayette. Both stem from a partnership agreement between the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab at UL Lafayette and Kisatchie National Forest (KNF) Heritage Program. The first provides a GIS environmental analysis of two sites in the KNF Calcasieu Ranger District, while the second relates the authors’ experiences of site testing and survey in the KNF Catahoula Ranger District. Elizabeth Haire, a graduate student at Florida State University, presents a brief look at the historical migration of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana. It is heartening to see students advancing archaeology in Louisiana. The potential opportunities for important research and education are myriad yet mostly untapped.

This issue concludes with News and Announcements; on LAS Chapters, upcoming meetings of the LAS and Society for American Archaeology, and an archaeology field school to be offered by UL Lafayette in May of 2024. If you have announcements, news, or recent research of interest to LAS members, please email the editor at laarchaeology@gmail.com.

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FIELD NOTES AND RECENT RESEARCH

Gunflints, Maroons, and the Interesting Site of 16OR14

Chip McGimsey and Tara Skipton

Site 16OR14 is your typical shell midden eroding into Lake St. Catherine, just west of Miller's Bayou in northeastern Orleans Parish (Figure 1). It is not notably different from hundreds of other shell middens in coastal Louisiana, except for one intriguing fact. It has produced a large number of gunflints. That factoid started McGimsey down the rabbit hole that led him to Tara Skipton and the joint effort that is this article.

The site was first noted by Saucier and McIntire in 1953 during McIntire's survey of coastal sites (McIntire 1958). It was officially recorded by Saucier and Gagliano in 1957. Those two visits produced the only two collections obtained by archaeologists from the site. In the 1950s, the site was a 100 meter-long beach of eroded shell. The extent of intact deposits was unknown, although some areas of apparently intact midden were observed. There has been only one professional visit since then, when archaeologists from Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI) stopped by the site in 2016 while enroute to another project area.



Figure 1. Location of 16OR14 in southeast Louisiana.

The site was brought to our attention when Keith Bauers of Kenner, LA, showed McGimsey his collection from the site. Notably, this collection includes a number of European gunflints. The CEI site form also noted that Dr. Gagliano recalled hearing that a cache of gunflints had been found at the site in the 1960s and 1970s. Mr. Bauers confirmed this report, as he knew some of the

individuals who had obtained a large collection of gunflints from the site, perhaps up to 500 specimens. In addition, the 1950s site form noted the presence of "chipped quartz scrapers" that seemed likely to be more gunflints. These reports piqued the senior author's interest, as this quantity of gunflints seemed remarkable.

The Saucier, McIntire, and Gagliano collections are housed at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMNS). Alex Belanger, graduate curation assistant, graciously pulled the collections and let McGimsey examine them. The sheer quantity of materials permitted only a quick inspection of the collection. McGimsey was able to complete a quick tabulation of approximately 850 artifacts. At least that many were not examined for this article.

The pre-contact assemblage consists overwhelmingly of water-rolled Baytown Plain body sherds, or sherds that are so water worn that decoration is no longer visible. A small number of Tchefoncte Plain sherds (n=8) were recognized, along with two Marksville Incised, *var. unspecified*. Mr. Bauer's collection includes one Marksville Stamped, *var. Mabin* sherd. Other Lower Mississippi Valley (LMV) decorated types noted in the LSUMNS collection include Pontchartrain Check Stamped, *var. Pontchartrain* (n=2) (Figure 2 c), and French Fork Incised, *var. unspecified* (n=2) (Figure 2 b).



Figure 2. Euroamerican and pre-contact ceramics. a: annular Pearlware (1790-1830); b: French Fork Incised, *var. unspecified*; c: Pontchartrain Check Stamped, *var. Pontchartrain*.

The 1957 site form also notes the presence of Coles Creek Incised. Mr. Bauer's collection also includes Mazique Incised, *var. unspecified*, and Evansville Punctate, *var. unspecified*. No obvious examples of

Mississippi Plain sherds were observed in the LSUMNS collection, but the water-rolled sherds were not closely examined. A small number of blocky shell-tempered Guillory Plain sherds were identified (n=40).

The 1957 site form states that 30% of the pottery is shell-tempered. That is a far greater frequency than observed in this study. Guillory Plain is common in the Pensacola – Mobile Bay area (Fuller 1983) and a number of sites with blocky shell-tempered sherds have recently been identified around Lake Pontchartrain (McGimsey n.d.; McGimsey and Shannon n.d). Two Guillory paste decorated sherds are identified as Middle River Incised, *var. unspecified*, and an undefined, curvilinear-incised design (Figure 3). The only lithic artifacts observed in the collection are two Kent points (Figure 4 a, b).



Figure 3. Indeterminate incised decoration on a Guillory paste.



Figure 4. Projectile points and gunflints. a, b: Kent points; c-e: French gunflints.

The small temporally-diagnostic assemblage in the collections from the site identify Tchefuncte, Marksville, Coles Creek, perhaps Plaquemine, and late Mississippi period occupations. The site was sporadically occupied from nearly 2,500 years ago up to the contact period.

What was unexpected in the LSUMNS collection was the amount of Euroamerican material. Only 50 items were examined for this assessment, with dozens more unexamined. Euroamerican ceramics were tentatively sorted and appeared to be mostly Pearlware and contemporary materials. Photographs were taken of some of the decorated sherds. Thurston Hahn and Sara Hahn of CEI graciously identified some of the items in this small sample from the photographs (Hahn and Hahn, personal communication 2023). Ceramic type identifications and suggested date ranges follow Coysh and Henrywood (1982), Halfpenny (2012), Hunter and Miller (1994), Kowalsky and Kowalsky (1999), Lofstrom (1976), Moir (1987), Price (1982), Samford (1987), Snyder (1997), and Yakubik (1990).

Decorated sherds are primarily Pearlware (Figure 2a; Figure 5c, d; Figure 6a; Figure 8a, c; Figure 9b, d). There are numerous examples in the collection that exhibit blue puddling. When CEI visited the site in 2016 they noted that most of the observed ceramics were Pearlwares dating to the early 1800s. The examples in the LSUMNS collection likely date between the late 1700s and 1830-1840. A few examples can be more precisely dated, such as Figure 5c (1827-1831), Figure 8b (1805-1840), and Figure 8c (1810-1840).

There are several examples of early whiteware that generally date to 1820-1865 or later (Figure 5a; Figure 6b, c; Figure 8b, d; Figure 9a). There are also examples of redware which generally date to 1700-1800 but can persist until 1830 (Figure 5b, Figure 6d, Figure 7, and Figure 9c). CEI also noted at least two examples of manganese-glazed redware.

Two pieces of possible Creamware were noted in the collection, reflecting a late 1700s age. There are also a few later, more modern pieces (slip-glazed stonewares, whiteware, purple glass), but these are a small minority of the assemblage. While not tabulated, there are also numerous dark green bottle fragments with deep, recessed bases suggestive of 1700s and 1800s bottles. There are a few pieces of water-rolled brick in the collection as well, although their relative age was not assessed (CEI noted a soft paste). The brick could suggest a structure was present at some point during the site's Euroamerican occupation.

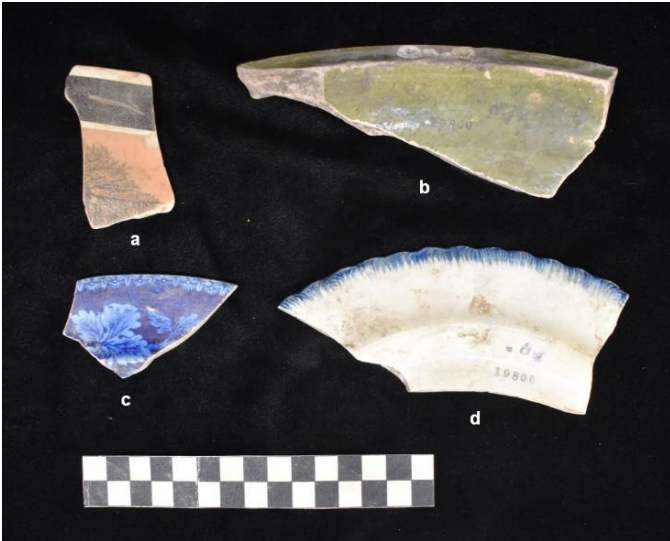


Figure 5. Miscellaneous Euroamerican ceramics. a: annual mocha holloware, probably early whiteware (1828-1860); b: green-glazed redware (1700-1810); c: blue transfer-printed Pearlware plate in Enoch Wood & Sons London Views series (1827-1830); d: edged blue symmetrically scalloped Pearlware plate (1805-1830).



Figure 7. Lead-glazed redware bowl (1700-1830).

The only other materials noted in the assessment were 11 gunflints, 10 of which are the honey-colored French manufacture (Figure 4c-e; Figure 10). The other example (Figure 10, lower right) is a dark-colored chert and may be English. When Mr. Bauer's collection is included (Figure 11), a total of 42 French gunflints, 29 English gunflints, and 12 locally manufactured gunflints have been recovered at the site. In addition, Mr. Bauer notes

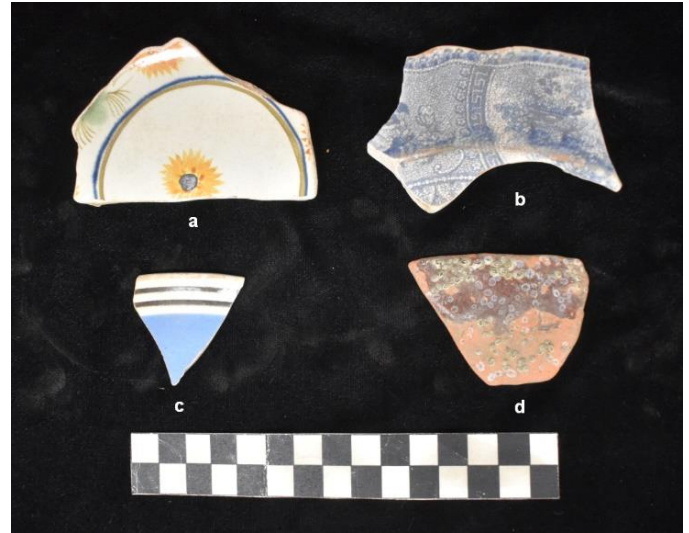


Figure 6. Miscellaneous Euroamerican ceramics. a: hand-painted polychrome Pearlware (1780-1830); b: blue transfer-printed early whiteware plate (1820-1865); c: annular banded early whiteware/whiteware holloware (1820-1865); d: brown-glazed redware (1700-1830).



Figure 8. Miscellaneous ceramics. a: Edged blue symmetrically scalloped Pearlware plate; b: blue transfer-printed early whiteware plate in Joseph Heath and Company's Italian Villas pattern; c: hand-painted monochrome pearlware cup (1810-1840); d: hand-painted polychrome whiteware plate (1820-1865).

that other collectors have recovered perhaps as many as 500 additional gunflints from the site.

This examination of a portion of the Euroamerican ceramic assemblage in the LSUMNS collection identifies the primary occupation as dating to the early 1800s, likely ending by 1830 or 1840. Although dwarfed numerically by the pre-contact assemblage, the relative abundance of Euroamerican artifacts suggests there was a substantial occupation of the site in the early 1800s.

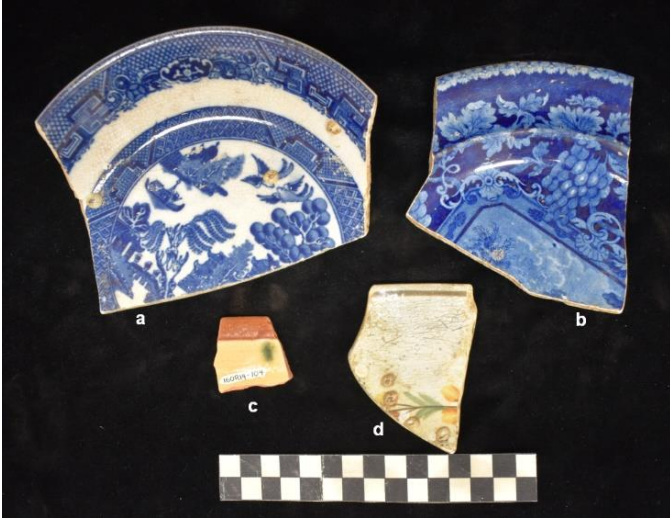


Figure 9. Miscellaneous Euroamerican ceramics. a: blue transfer-printed whiteware in Blue Willow pattern (1820-1865); b: blue transfer-printed Pearlware plate in Enoch Wood & Sons London Views series (?-1840); c: white-slipped and lead glazed redware (1700-1800); d: hand-painted polychrome Pearlware saucer (1780-1840).

At least two aspects of the Euroamerican occupation are curious. One is its location. The site is located well off likely transportation or trade routes that would have followed dry land leading to the narrow crossing to the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain at the Rigolets. By the 1800s, the general area around the site was likely mostly marsh, with the shell midden along the shore being the only significant high ground. There may have been natural levees along Miller's Bayou, but probably not large enough to support substantial agricultural activities. This leaves the interesting question of what folks were doing out here.

The second curious aspect of the site is the abundance of gunflints. Given that 500 or more are reported from the site, and 83 are present in the extant collections, it is tempting to see the site as an early 1800s trading post. Unfortunately, there are few records that might indicate whether a post was ever established, even for a few years, at this location.



Figure 10. Gunflints in the LSU MNS collection.



Figure 11. Gunflints in Bauer's collection.

Again, the site is situated well away from likely trade or transportation routes and would have taken a deliberate effort to reach for trading. Given that most of the other Euroamerican materials found at the site appear to reflect domestic materials, a trading post seems unlikely.

There are no definitive answers at this point for what the Euroamerican occupation of the site represents, and why it is located in this setting. One intriguing possibility is that it is not Euroamerican, but instead a Maroon settlement. Maroons were African and African American descendants who fled enslavement and captivity to instead live independently in various kinds of communities. For the most part in southern Louisiana, Maroons congregated temporarily in small groups of two to four people in the backswamps near plantations and New Orleans (White 2019).

During the Spanish rule of Louisiana, however, two relatively large Maroon settlements lasted for several years around the vicinity of 16OR14. Gaillardeland or Ville Gaillarde – the more documented of the two – was

located on the southeastern shore of Lake Borgne. After the Maroons raided nearby plantations for supplies over several years, the Spanish destroyed the community and captured their leader, Juan San Maló, in 1783. Operating contemporaneously, and presumably also under the leadership of San Maló, Chef Menteur was located on land between Lake Borgne and Lake Pontchartrain (Hall 1992). Historians know less about this secondary community, perhaps because record keepers and officials of the time did not know much about this community either. Although these communities were in operation around the late 1700s, it is unclear how long Maroons were living at this settlement, whether they also dissolved after the 1783 Ville Gaillarde raid, or whether they resettled in these locales several decades later.

While always at risk of re-enslavement, the Maroons of southern Louisiana stayed close to loved ones still enslaved, raided plantations and other storehouses for supplies, and established an extensive trade and communication network that helped Maroons travel

regularly across the region (Buman 2006, Diouf 2014). Regarding 16OR14, the hundreds of gunflints could be the products of years of raids or represent trade items.

The historic ceramics align in date with a potential Maroon occupation, regardless of whether this site represents the community of Chef Menteur. The domestic nature of the assemblage appear to indicate a settlement, but could be trade items as well.

Historians place Chef Menteur around the same location as 16OR14, though their source for this placement is unclear (Hall 1992:214). Similarly, place names on historic maps locate Chef Menteur in this same area, although there are no added descriptions of Maroons (Figure 12; Lafon 1806). Given that Maroons frequently fled into inaccessible, inundated terrains like marshlands and swamps, they often found and reused spots of high ground in the landscape like shell middens. Apart from its geographic location, the archaeology at 16OR14 might support an interpretation of a Maroon occupation. One of the most important questions within the field of

Maroon archaeology is how to distinguish a Maroon archaeological site from other contemporaneous sites.

There is not a robust array of known Maroon sites in the Americas for an exhaustive comparison and so far, there are no definitive characteristics of Maroon sites. Each arose under different circumstances and interacted with systems of slavery differently. Thus, we must evaluate each site on a case-by-case basis, evaluating how and why archaeological assemblages exist the way they do. None the less, 16OR14 represents one of very few potential Maroon sites identified in Louisiana. We hope this brief examination of the extant data will encourage someone to take a more detailed look at the site.

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Figure 12. Detail of Lafon's 1806 map, showing the communities of Chef Menteur and Maló, highlighted in yellow.

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A Colonial Crossroads in the Material Culture of Wilderness Plantation (16EBR244)

Steven J. Filoromo

TerraXplorations, Inc., Baton Rouge

Beyond the City of Baton Rouge, the sugar plantations lining the Mississippi River, and smaller port towns lining the leveed corridor, the terraces along the Comite and Amite rivers were home to many settlements and farms. Additional archaeological information is needed to understand the development of farms and plantations far from River Road. By the mid-to-late nineteenth century, Office of War maps and plat surveys show numerous residences and roads in East Baton Rouge and Livingston parishes. A recent Phase II evaluation of Wilderness Plantation (16EBR244) provided an opportunity to assess one such site.

When the site was discovered in 2022 a late-nineteenth century “Creole” house was found standing among large oaks (Figure 1). Hidden beneath brush near the Zuber house were the brick pier foundations of an auxiliary house demolished by the landowner in the 1960s (Figure 2). Given its location, available historical documentation, and archaeological deposits, Phase II site testing was conducted to evaluate three interrelated questions concerning: (1) who owned the plantation; (2) whether the archaeological deposits corroborated the historic occupation or related to other land use; and (3) how the

spatial patterning of cultural features and material culture might inform views of everyday life.

A suite of field methods, including shallow geophysics, controlled surface collections, unit excavations, and mechanical stripping were used to identify subsurface features within the site. Limited areas were surveyed by ground penetrating radar (GPR) to identify potential subsurface structural remains associated with the standing house and nearby house ruins. During the GPR survey we identified four high-amplitude anomalies associated with an octagonal cistern, a brick pier (ca. 1850s, not associated with the standing house or ruins), a memorial garden, and a mid-to-late twentieth-century septic tank. Each of these four features was further examined using either test unit excavations or mechanical stripping.

Cultural materials and features across the site date from the late-eighteenth century to the early-twentieth century (Figure 3). Units 1, 2 and 3 were placed over an anomaly to define the mid-to-late twentieth-century septic tank, which was associated with a bathroom addition to the house. Mechanical stripping was necessary to define the brick pier identified by GPR



Figure 1. View of the ca. 1889 Zuber house at the Wilderness Plantation site, facing N-NW.



Figure 2. View of the brick piers at the Wilderness Plantation site, facing S-SE.

(Feature 26), the memorial garden (Structure 2), and the octagonal cistern (Structure 3). Mechanical stripping behind the house to define the brick pier revealed a historic patio buried beneath a modern garden and stairs (Feature 23), which contained an early twentieth-century bottle dump (Feature 22). Adjacent to the patio, two deeper piers were identified, likely associated with an earlier house (Features 26 and 27). Adjacent to the main house were 20 features (Features 1 through 20), all of which were brick piers, except for a double-sided chimney base (Feature 13). Unit 4 was placed at the base of Feature 18 within both an interior and exterior portion of the house to better understand house construction and evaluate potential activities such as yard-sweeping.

The remaining discussion will focus on the unique and unusually large quantity of gunflints from the site (see the previous article by McGimsey and Skipton in this issue of the *LAS Newsletter*). Archaeologists recovered a

large quantity of French gunflints ($n=81$) during the original survey of the property, although none were found during a later site revisit (McMains et al. 2022; Stanford et al. 2022). More gunflints were recovered during Phase II site testing, including: amber French blade gunflints ($n=4$), English blade gunflints ($n=2$), and an English gunspalls ($n=1$) (Figure 4).

Gunflints and spalls were ubiquitous items related to trade, hunting, and military activities throughout the southeastern U.S. during the eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Gunflints and spalls were utilized in guns with a matchlock or wheel lock ignition system, and are especially prevalent at European colonial sites. Flints are the product of mass-production, using chert or flint blades, whereas spalls are the product of direct percussion from a chert nodule (Hume 1969; Kenmotsu 1990).

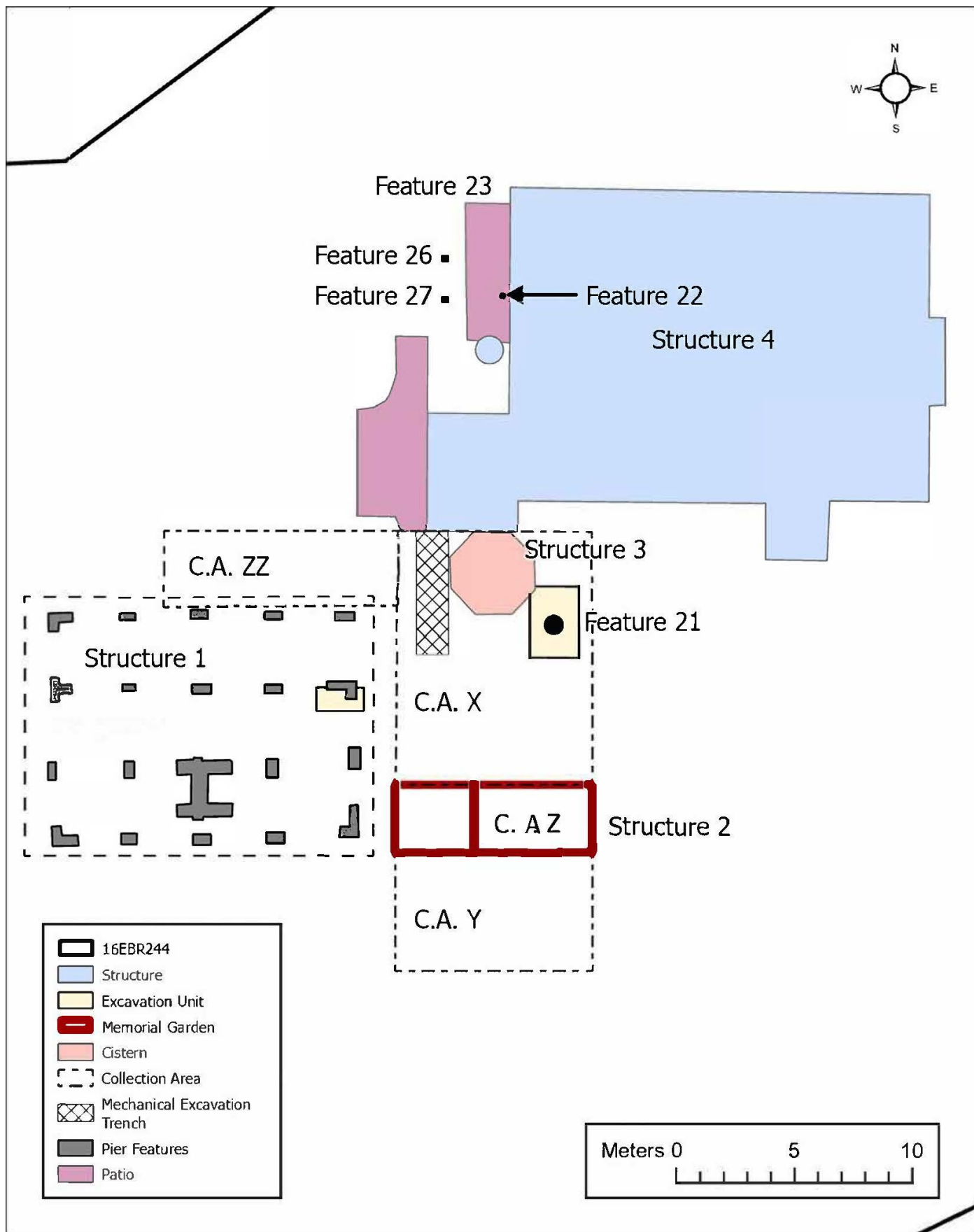


Figure 3. Map of the Wilderness Plantation site (16EBR244).

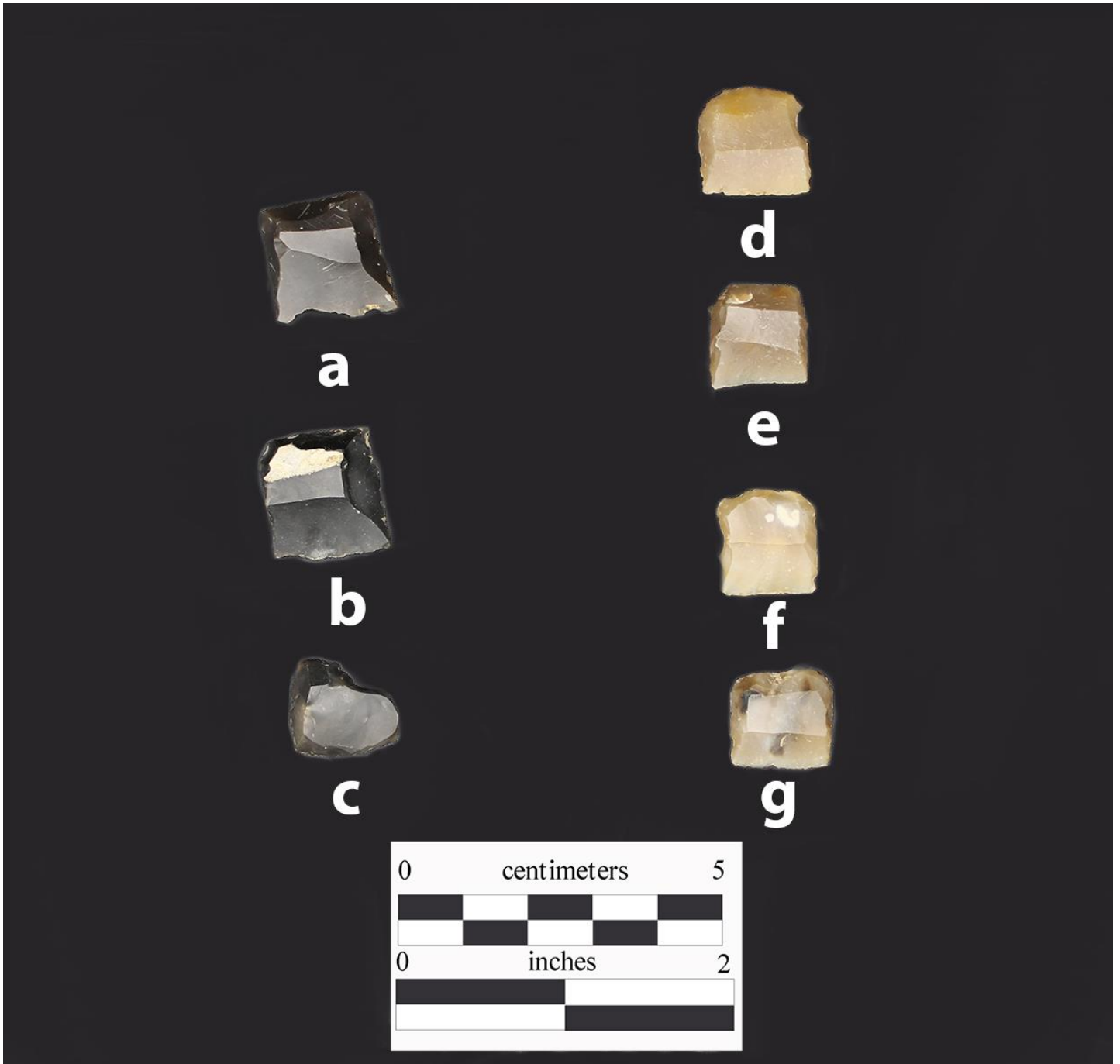


Figure 4. Gunflints from excavation, showing English flints (a-b), spall (c), and French blade gunflints (d-g).

The source materials for gunflints and spalls are regionally and temporally diagnostic, as change over time corresponds with variance in trade and exchange. French gunflints and spalls were generally produced using a blond, brown, or honey-colored chert, whereas English gunflints and spalls were produced from a gray to black flint (Kenmotsu 1990). While color differences largely relate to country of origin for manufacturing, French gunflints were common trade items in the British Isles until ca. 1790 (Kenmotsu 1990). Within Louisiana, such materials are common at Native American sites and

colonial forts (Brown 1976, 1980). The historical record includes many references to gunflints, such as the Los Adaes soldiers who arrested a French trader in 1754 who was carrying over 10,000 gunflints (Avery 1997).

While the presence of gunflints at a late-eighteenth century plantation is not entirely unusual, the large quantity of gunflints at the Wilderness Plantation site was unexpected. Unfortunately, none of the materials were recovered from intact feature fill. Although the associated artifact assemblage suggests an early-

nineteenth century date (Kent 1983), gunflints were found in early-twentieth century contexts at the site. These shallow contexts were likely mixed, with older materials redeposited on, or near the surface by tilling, erosion, and flooding. A gunflint from Level 1 in Unit 4 was in a stratum with window glass that likely corresponded with the destruction of the house.

A spatial pattern was noted in the distribution of gunflints at the Wilderness Plantation site. All of the black English gunflints were recovered to the south of the Memorial Garden. The plantation was raided by Confederates during the Civil War, which might explain the presence of some gunflints. This does not, however, account for the earlier dates of many gunflints based on morphological analysis. Without understanding the use-life of these gunflints, their presence is suggestive of trade, hunting, or perhaps items collected and curated over time.

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Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program Update

Diana M. Greenlee

Poverty Point Station Archaeologist

As forecast in the Summer 2023 *LAS Newsletter*, the Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program staff explored the origins of a pit-mound structure last summer and fall. This feature is located between Mounds A and E in an area that had been in trees until 2010-2011 (Figure 1). Previous research had determined the pit to be a deep feature (possibly nearly 5 m) and, based on the radiocarbon age of a piece of pine wood recovered from deep within a core, likely of post-Contact origin. It was further established that the pit feature was not part of a larger gully or borrow area subsequently filled by Euro-American farmers.

The most obvious hypotheses were that the pit was a partially-filled privy, well, or cistern, and the associated mound was the excavated dirt. Privies were often, but not always, lined with wood, brick, or stone; the pine

wood could be part of the lining or part of the outhouse structure. In addition, many privies contain discarded objects (glass, pottery, personal items, toys, etc.) and a piece of wood would not be unexpected in that context. Although the core samples contained only fired earth and charcoal fragments, they represent a very small sample of the pit contents. More relevant, however, is the composition of the sediments. Previous studies have characterized privies as having relatively high pH, phosphorus, potassium, and (especially) organic matter content compared to background levels (e.g., De Cunzo et al. 1992; Springer 2015). While these variables are relatively higher in the pit, the amount of organic matter is far below the range expected for a privy

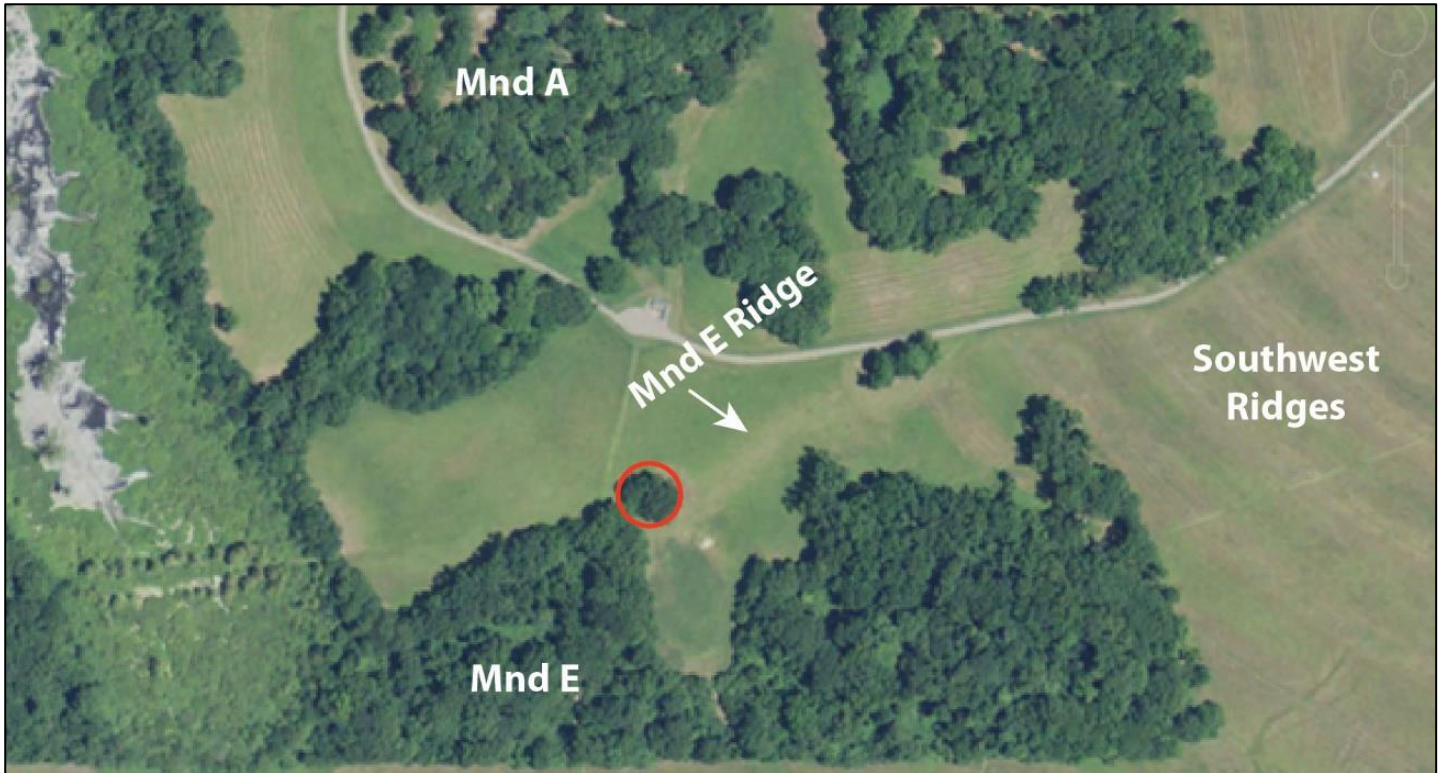


Figure 1. Location of Pit-Mound excavation at Poverty Point WHS.

Hand-dug wells and cisterns typically have some sort of lining (e.g., brick, wood, or stone) to prevent the sides from caving in. Again, if the lining was wood, that could explain the piece of pine recovered in the core. The possibility that the pit was an abandoned, partially-filled well or cistern, even though these are not common on Macon Ridge, could best be evaluated through excavation. Two 2-by-2 m units were set out with the total station to facilitate exploration of both the pit and the adjacent mound (Figure 2). The deepest part of the pit depression was approximately quartered by Unit 1, thereby providing profiles in two directions. Unit 2 sampled the adjacent mound. The resulting 4-m long south profile would present a clear view of the relationship between the two components.

The feature fill was generally distinct from the surrounding natural soil, and the border was often tracked by roots. The western edge of the pit, as shown in the south profile, sloped inward. Indeed, at 2.1 m below the ground surface, the pit wall had sloped sufficiently that the feature was no longer accessible in the unit (Figure 3). Thus, the bottom of the feature was not reached. The east profile showed a nearly vertical cut, with some bioturbation and slumping. Thus, the pit does not have the typical shape of a well or cistern and there was no evidence for any sort of pit lining. The pit fill was composed of mixed, weathered silt loams and no

distinct cultural layers consistent with isolated filling episodes were encountered.

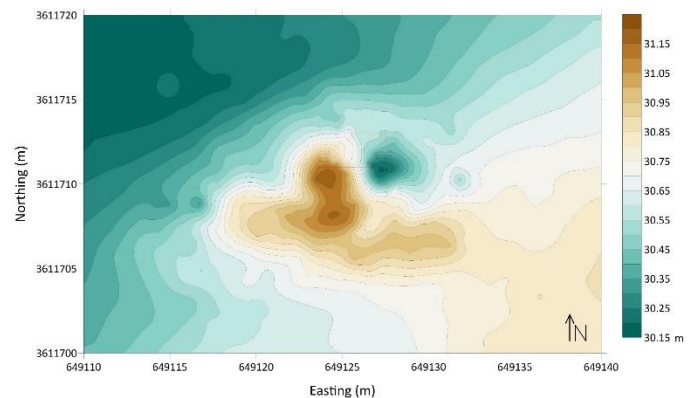


Figure 2. Two 2x2 m units placed to investigate the Pit-Mound feature.

The adjacent mound, which appears to the eye to be too large to be from the pit excavation, showed a fair amount of pedogenesis (Figure 4). A square hand-wrought nail was observed in the south profile near the base of the mound, confirming a Post-Contact source for the deposit.

All excavated sediments, except those of the natural fragipan, were water-screened using 1/8" punched metal screens. Analysis of the screen debris is ongoing, but few artifacts have been observed to date. As it now

stands, it seems that we know more about what this feature is not than we do about what it is. An update will be provided at the 2024 annual meeting of the LAS. In the meantime, any and all suggestions will be duly

considered. We happily acknowledge the contributions of volunteers Helen Bouzon, Sam Huey, Noelle Latiolais, and Joe Perkins with excavation and/or screening.



Figure 3. View of south profile looking down into the pit. Note the armadillo burrow in the upper right corner.

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Figure 4. Photo-merged image of the south profile of the mound feature. Note armadillo burrow on left of image.

Geographic Information Systems Environmental Analysis of Sites 16VN3504 and 16VN3508 in Kisatchie National Forest

Conan Mills, Louisiana State University

Over the summer of 2023, the University of Louisiana Lafayette (ULL) hosted a field school at two sites, 16VN3504 and 16VN3508, in Vernon Parish in the Kisatchie National Forest (KNF). The two sites were first recorded, along with many others, in July and August 2003 by Panamerican Consultants, Inc., under contract with the U.S. National Park Service (Saatkamp et al. 2003). These sites, located adjacent to one another as one contiguous system, measure over 100 acres in total and are among the largest and earliest pre-contact sites documented in western Kisatchie, spanning over 10,000 years of occupation. Significant damage to the sites by unauthorized excavations, in addition to treefall damage from Hurricanes Laura and Delta, led to a research partnership between KNF and the ULL Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab. The purpose of this partnership was to conduct salvage excavations at the sites. All excavations were conducted in consultation with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and KNF's nine affiliated and federally-recognized Native American Tribes.

Both sites sit on a ridge with a large floodplain and creek to the south, with heavily forested areas to the north. They are located along Drakes Creek, one of the larger drainages of western Kisatchie, which connects to the Whiskey Chitto River. The sites are bisected by a road that runs roughly north to south, and are likely one contiguous archaeological site spanning more than 100 acres. 16VN3504, to the west, has been interpreted as Paleoindian to Early Woodland (ca. 11,000 BCE – 1 CE), with a small historic component based on artifact assemblages. A Clovis base and San Patrice points indicate early and late Paleoindian occupation, with Kirk Serrated and Dooley Branch points from Archaic period occupations, and a Gary point from the Late Archaic to Early Woodland periods. The ridgetop epicenter of 16VN3508, located approximately 300 meters to the east, is interpreted as Late Archaic to Woodland, based on artifact assemblages. A Kent point was recovered, representing a Late Archaic (2000-1000 BCE) or Early Woodland (1000 BCE – 1 CE) component, with Godley and Marcos points suggesting a Woodland component (Saatkamp et al. 2003).

I was hired by the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab as a field technician to assist in excavations and help teach the field school students excavation techniques.

Considering how the project came together, I wanted to take a look at how human interactions and environmental factors could have an effect on site preservation. I pulled together Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and Digital Elevations Models (DEMs) from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and processed these in Quantum Geographic Information Systems (QGIS). This is a free open-source GIS software that is quite powerful with the aid of plugins and is relatively intuitive (Wells et al. 2015).

The most recent publicly available LiDAR data available through the USGS are from 2018, so I used the Open LiDAR Toolbox to process it to half-meter resolution to get a sense of what was happening at the ground level (Štular et al. 2021). While this plugin has many features, the one that is most useful is its ability to highlight features in the data for further investigation. After processing the data, several features popped out. On and around both of the sites, what appear to be several depression-like features are highlighted. There appear to be vehicle tracks in the ground to the north and northeast of 16VN3508 (Figure 1). The depression-like features could be from either unauthorized excavations ("looter" pits), or tree falls that have occurred at the sites. However, at least one of the pit features match closely with a looter pit that was located on site *via* GPS coordinates (Figure 2). For the vehicle tracks, I researched historic aerial imagery provided by the USGS and found a photo from 1994 that depicts forest management or other activity that resulted in cleared land at 16VN3508 (Figure 3). When overlaying the aerial imagery to the LiDAR, there is a match between the cleared land and vehicle tracks in the LiDAR (Figure 4). There is also some evidence of erosion at the east base of the knob where 16VN3508 is located. Between the forestry activity and time the LiDAR data were acquired, the vehicle tracks were washed out in the low area.

Using various tools within QGIS, we can look at the wider landscape around the two sites using the DEM. With the floodplain to the south, we can look at potential flooding risk to the sites using watershed and flood order analysis. The floodplain of Drake's Creek is particularly wide in the area of the site. Watershed analysis provides a look at what areas will flood at specific elevations in meters



Figure 3. Aerial Image of 16VN3504 and 3508 from 1994.

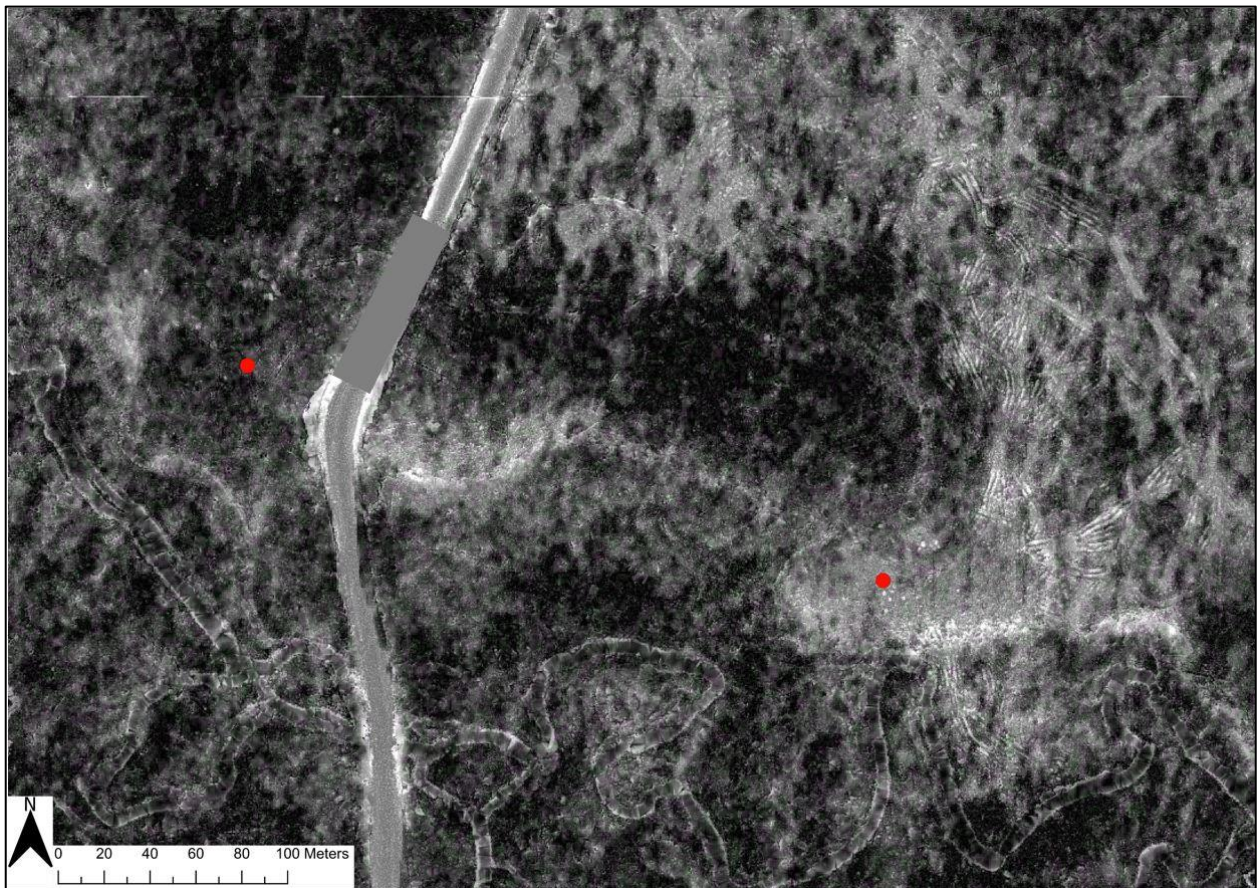


Figure 4. Aerial Image Overlay on Processed LiDAR.

above sea level, with dark blue being more likely to flood and light blue being least likely to flood (Figure 5). What this shows, given the higher ridgetop elevation of the sites relative to the surrounding elevation, and size of the floodplain and drainage, is that it is unlikely for the two sites to flood under normal conditions. However, other weather-induced issues could still cause site preservation problems.

Next, we can calculate how and where water flows on the two sites using the Whitebox Tools plugin and the SAGA Next Gen Plugin. In order to do this, we need to fill any holes or small depressions in the DEM, then calculate the flow direction and accumulation based on the slope of the ground features in the DEM (Ramdani 2023; Tarboton et al. 1991; Wang and Liu 2006). Filling the holes in the DEM prevents the simulated water on the DEM from pooling in low areas and gives the correct

direction for the simulated water to flow. The flow direction tells the software which way the water is supposed to be flowing. With this we can calculate the flow direction of water on the landscape, and at the same time, see where streams form on the landscape during periods of high precipitation. Areas of zero flow represent local topographic highs and can be used to identify ridges, as indicated in dark blue in Figure 6. Conversely, areas of high flow are typically lower areas, shown in yellow, orange, and red. These areas have multiple input sources where the most amount of water flows. These high-water flow areas present the most likely areas of erosion to occur because of the increased flow rate of water. This also shows us there is an issue with the ditch on the road running north to south directing water to 16VN3508, increasing the risk of erosion.

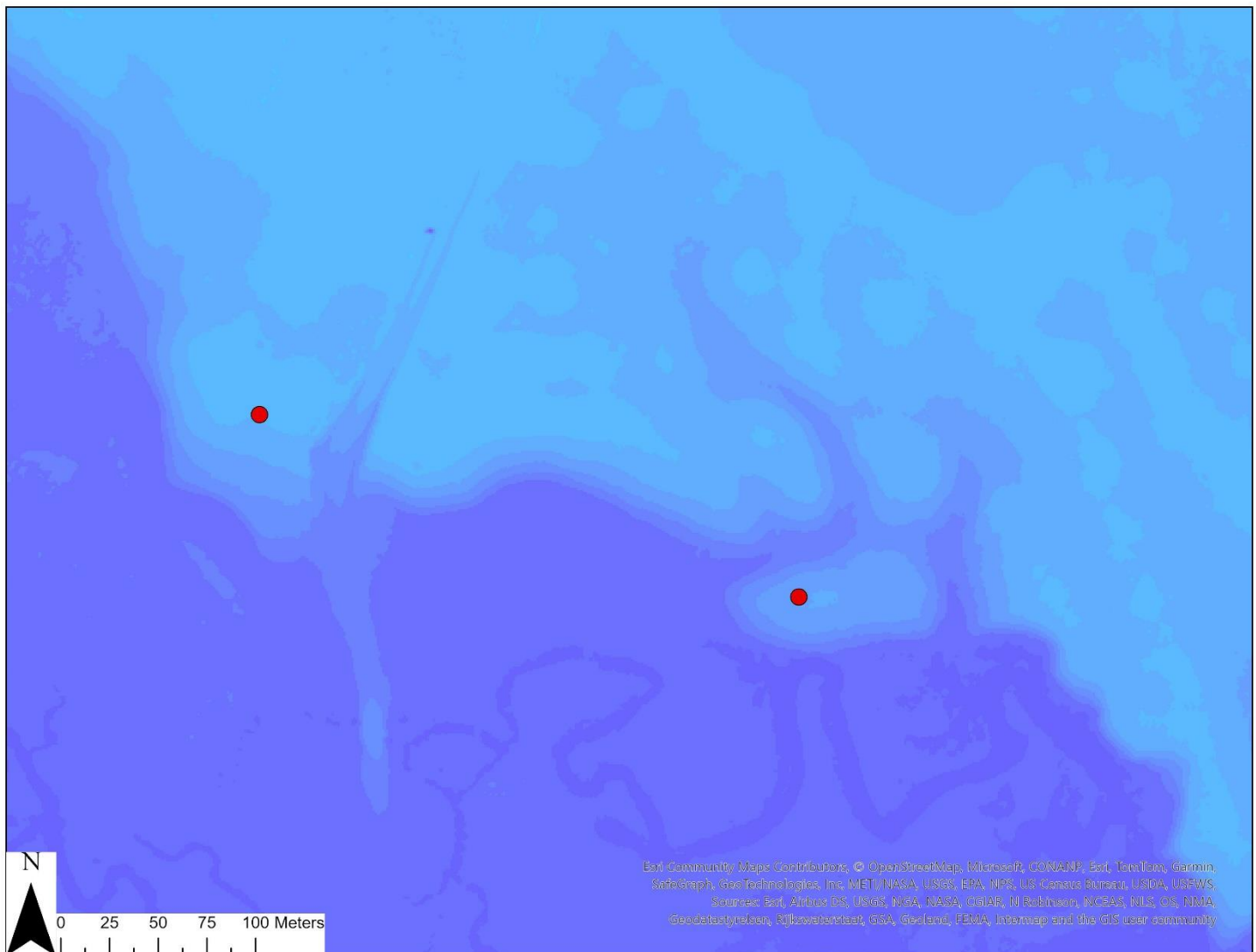


Figure 5. Watershed analysis of both sites.

and Brandon (2014) have written extensively about using GIS in site predictive modeling, and Neubauer (2004) discusses its use in geophysical surveys in archaeology. Along with processes evaluating flooding and erosional susceptibility, GIS applications relative to watershed could also shed light on ancient settlement patterns relative to drainage and floodplain size, and other hydrographic landscape characteristics. While the techniques described here are more of a straightforward geographic approach, this adds another layer of information on the human and environmental factors affecting site preservation.

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Site Testing in Kisatchie National Forest, Winter 2023 – 2024

Gloria Church, Brileigh Elton, Conan Mills, Ian Robicheaux, Sarah St. Germain, Sarah “Gray” Tarry, and Evan Wedgeworth

Over the winter break, between the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters, students from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) and Louisiana State University (LSU) took part in the Phase II testing and survey of nine sites in the Catahoula District of Kisatchie National Forest (KNF). This was part of a cooperative agreement between the KNF Heritage Program and ULL Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab. The goal of site testing is to determine eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). It was necessitated by storm damages from hurricanes Laura and Delta. The Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab team consisted of the ULL project director, Dr. Erlend Johnson, four student

assistants (Church, Elton, Robicheaux, and St. Germain), and three field technicians (Mills, Tarry, and Wedgeworth). They were joined by Forest Service archaeologists, Matthew Helmer and John Maher (Figure 1).

The fieldwork schedule was broken down into two ten-day periods: December 12th to the 21st and January 3rd to the 12th. During the first ten-day period, fieldwork was conducted at five sites: 16GR3, 16WN557, 16WN660, 16WN661, and a fourth site in Winn Parish that has not yet received a site number. During the second ten-day period, fieldwork was conducted at sites 16GR353, 16GR655, 16GR658, and 16GR871. Although all nine sites

produced information, this brief article will highlight some of the more memorable and important sites that were investigated.

Two of the sites were previously thought to be possible mound sites, with pre-contact Native American artifacts and earthen monuments. The first site, in Grant Parish, known as Spanish Mound (16GR3), was originally recorded in 1936 as a single, large earthen mound in the Latt Creek floodplain. Since then it has been the subject of numerous investigations. Much of this work was poorly documented, however, leading to some disagreement over whether Spanish Mound is a constructed earthwork or natural geographic feature. Conversations with local residents suggested that 16GR3 could be a mound site. The other site, in Winn Parish, also appeared to have an anomalous geographic feature or mound, but had not yet been investigated or recorded. The possible mound was brought to the attention of KNF archaeologists by ornithologists from ULL. Due to damage from tree falls and looting in the area, both sites needed to be investigated and, if appropriate, evaluated for NRHP eligibility.

We started at site 16GR3 by excavating eight shovel tests in cardinal directions from the base of the mound. These shovel tests did not produce any artifacts. Then we opened two 1-by-1 meter units into the eastern flank of the mound, spaced two meters apart, to get an idea of what the stratigraphy looked like (Figure 2). This would help determine if the mound was human made or a natural landform. We were joined by others at 16GR3 to learn more about the site and potential mound. The first was a group of soil scientists from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), with the NRCS State archaeologist Aubra “Butch” Lee (Figure 3). The NRCS crew assisted with stratigraphic analyses of the mound and surrounding landform. They conducted auger testing at two locations, including one auger test placed on top of Spanish Mound. Their findings indicated Spanish Mound was in fact a natural topographic feature.

Additionally, cores were placed at the top of the mound and eastern side to observe stratigraphy and to collect samples for optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating. OSL determines when soil was last exposed to



Figure 1. ULL crew and KNF archaeologists. From left to right: Mark Rees, Erlend Johnson, Ian Robicheaux, Sarah St. Germain (above), Brileigh Elton, Gloria Church, Grayson Tarry, Conan Mills, Evan Wedgeworth, Matt Helmer, and John Mayer.



Figure 2. Conan (left) and Evan (right) excavating a test unit on the east flank of Spanish Mound (16GR3).



Figure 3. KNF and NRCS personnel at Spanish Mound. Left to right: Todd Sewell, Robert Wilson, Butch Lee, Mike Lindsey, Brandon Waltman, Gavin Faulk, Matt Helmer, and John Mayer.

light. Samples were taken at depths of up to 1.5 meters with an AMS 2-inch diameter multi-stage core sampler. OSL dating of these samples will further inform the stratigraphic analyses. Several 1-by-1 meter units were also placed on top of Spanish Mound, where excavations produced lithic material and pottery sherds (Figure 4). The results of these investigations will be documented in a technical report.



Figure 4. Decorated pottery sherd, probably Mazique Incised, recovered from site excavations at 16GR3.

We were also joined at Spanish Mound by FBI Special Agent and Art Crime Team Member, Randy Deaton, who works with the national arts crime task force. Deaton visited the site to learn about proper excavation, collection, and recording methods, and to be better prepared for antiquities and looting investigations. Mr. Deaton had this to say about his experience:

As a member of the FBI's Art Crime Team, I have had the opportunity to investigate and assist in matters involving ancient cultural objects. Learning from a book or a conversation as to how these objects are unearthed and discovered is one thing, but to actually visit an archeological site and have the opportunity to be a part of the

archeological process, well that is an invaluable experience for any cultural property investigator. If you are going to investigate cultural property matters, then you need experiences like that, and you need to have partnerships with the archeologists and subject matter experts.

For the other possible mound site in Winn Parish, shovel tests and cores were also placed both on and around the landform. Lithic material and pottery sherds were recovered from these shovel tests. The stratigraphic information was limited by disturbances from logging activities in the area, causing erosion on the crest of the landform. Based on the initial results, both of these "mound" sites are natural landforms that represent erosional remnants of the nearby uplands. Evidence of human activities associated with pre-contact occupations was recorded, however, at both sites.

Though most of the sites investigated during the winter produced prehistoric artifacts, site 16WN557 featured a historic assemblage. Records from previous survey indicated the site was a logging camp, with a suspected privy and midden. With sparse details regarding its location, a survey was done with the goal of finding the midden. Delineation of the site began with shovel testing. This led to the opening of a 50-by-50 cm test unit, as well as a 1-by-1 meter unit placed on opposite sides of a logging road (Figure 5). We recovered artifacts associated with the logging camp from this unit. Whiteware sherds, both decorated and undecorated, were recovered, including one large sherd with a floral pattern (Figure 6).

Numerous metal fragments were present, with the majority being small, unidentifiable pieces. Larger pieces of rusted iron, including one cylindrical object, were found, but were too fragile to remain intact during excavation and collection. A number of nails were recovered, with the majority of identifiable nails being machine cut. A small number of wire nails and staples were also found. A clear, intact bottle offers a possible *terminus post quem* for the site. The bottom of the glass bottle displayed an "I" centered in a diamond, a maker's mark for the Illinois Glass Co. placed on bottles produced from 1915 to 1929. This matches the latest active period of the logging camp. The most interesting artifacts recovered from site 16WN557 are multiple small, thin pieces of a leather-like material. A few of these pieces featured evenly spaced holes, suggesting the remnants of a shoe or other piece of clothing. Though the recovered artifacts suggest a portion of the midden was



Figure 5. Wedgworth and Tarry recording test unit information at site 16GR557.

relocated, it remains unclear whether this was the midden described in the site record.

16GR655 was the most difficult site we investigated. Due to errors in the site record, we had difficulty relocating the site to begin Phase II testing. While this was a bit of an inconvenience, there were two upsides. The first was that the actual site location was properly recorded for preservation and research. The second was that a new site was discovered in the process. Once we arrived at the actual site location, things went smoothly. Shovel tests were excavated to confirm the site location. Based on these shovel tests, a 1-by-1 meter unit and a 1-by-2 meter unit were placed near two shovel tests in areas of high artifact densities on the edge of the bluff overlooking the nearby creek. Both of these units showed very few if any signs of bioturbation, suggesting we had intact stratigraphy.

The 1-by-1 meter unit produced a large amount of small to large lithic flakes. It also produced Coles Creek pottery sherds in the first level, and a possible Plainview point base at around 45 cm below surface, all from the northwest corner of the unit. The 1-by-2 meter unit also



Figure 6. Whiteware sherd from site 16GR557.

produced numerous flakes of various sizes, as well as a number of small to medium-sized undecorated sherds. It had a feature that was determined to be a tree burn associated with cobbles and gravel.

One of the least remarkable sites from the second round of fieldwork was 16GR658. This site was on two natural landforms, with shovel tests laid out on both knolls. Shovel testing produced material on only one of the knolls, however, where two 1-by-1 meter test units were then opened. Each test unit produced lithic material and pottery sherds, but nothing diagnostic was recovered. In comparison to the other sites investigated during our fieldwork, the assemblage from this site was unremarkable.

Another site visited during our second stint of fieldwork was 16GR871. This site was initially recorded and surveyed in 2022 by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. They used the latest available sub-meter GPS technology to record the location of the site. This made finding the site incredibly easy, which allowed our team to rapidly identify the best locations for test units. Once on site, we excavated three shovel tests in areas where the survey indicated high concentrations of

artifacts. The shovel tests confirmed these locations, so we laid out three 1-by-1 meter test units.

The assemblage from 16GR871 included many pottery sherds, various projectile points, and an immense number of flakes and other lithic debitage. Due to the large number of artifacts, one unit was expanded into a 1-by-2 meter test unit. This unit yielded three diagnostic projectile points, as well as pottery sherds (Figures 7-9). This will assist with evaluation of NRHP eligibility. Two non-human mammal bones were also uncovered in the 1-by-2 m unit from depths of between 30 and 40 cm. The first was approximately 15 cm in length, and the second was only slightly smaller. These were positioned vertically *in situ*, directly in the center of level 2-A.

Overall, our time in Kisatchie allowed us to advance our knowledge of fieldwork, while adding to the understanding of archaeology in the KNF Catahoula District. From investigating mounds by augering and coring, with assistance from NRCS soil scientists, to using sketch maps from previous documentation to pinpoint and find sites, these experiences have enhanced our fieldwork abilities. Our team thoroughly investigated each site with the utmost diligence. Fieldwork in Kisatchie National Forest is still ongoing and collections are being processed at the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab. We would like to thank the KNF Heritage Program archaeologists, as well as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette for this incredible opportunity.



Figure 7. Stemmed projectile point, possibly a Gary, from site 16GR871.



Figure 9. Projectile point, possibly an Epps, from site 16GR871.



Figure 8. Side-notched projectile point made of heat-treated chert, from site 16GR871.



Studying the Chitimacha’s Historical Migration

Elizabeth Haire

Florida State University, NSF CoPe Project

The Chitimacha Tribe are Indigenous to the Gulf Coast of Louisiana in regions around the Atchafalaya Basin and Bayou Lafourche. Despite their long-standing occupation of this region there is little historic documentation about the tribe. Initial sightings of the Chitimacha happened before contact in 1699, but the Spanish were reluctant to enter the swamp because of the supposed hostility of the Atakapa-Ishak and Washa peoples. However, this did not stop interactions between the Europeans and Indigenous peoples.

War broke out in 1706 between the Chitimacha and French and ended in 1719 with a calumet ceremony. This was not an isolated incident; battles, raids, and legal disputes frequently disrupted the life ways of Indigenous groups, particularly the Chitimacha. The tribe was pushed further into the Atchafalaya Basin, most notably around Grand Avoille Cove (Figure 1) and Charenton Beach, where the reservation of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana has been located since 1916.



Figure 1 Grand Avoille Cove.

Although the Chitimacha continued to migrate over the years, their exact settlement locations are not recorded. While georectifying historic maps, a potential migration pattern can be seen in Figure 2. One of the first appearances of the Chitimacha on a map was in 1703, north of Morgan City and east of Lafayette. They continued to move northwest and then to the southeast, eventually settling near the current day Chitimacha Reservation in Charenton. With further research and georectifications, a clearer migration route is expected.

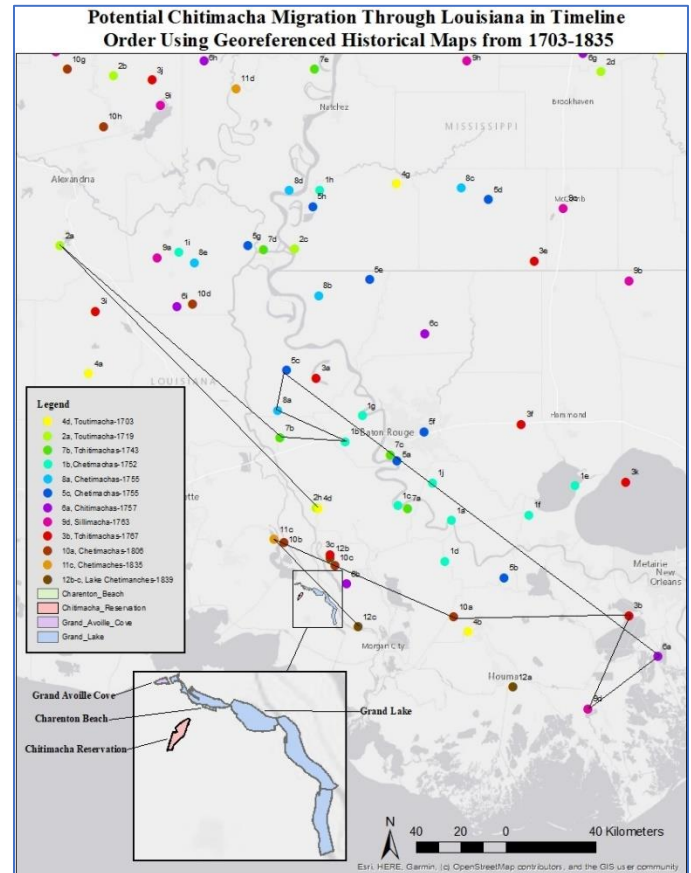


Figure 2. Historical maps georectification showing a potential Chitimacha migration route.

Interpreting historic documents written by credible researchers such as John Swanton, Albert Gatschet, and Le Page du Pratz, and cultural material from Grand Avoille Cove and nearby sites, aids in better understanding Chitimacha culture as well as placing the region into context. The cultural materials found during the summer 2022 and 2023 field seasons include ceramics, glass, fauna, metal, a possible shell bead, and more. The ceramics have been processed and analyzed, and Figure 3 illustrates the most common types found. With further research regarding the history of these artifacts and the peoples who made them, Grand Avoille Cove and surrounding sites can be placed in historical context regarding occupation and function.

Collaborating with the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana are Dr. Jayur Mehta and Stuart Nolan, with a NSF Coastline and People (CoPe) grant. Working together provides a wonderful research opportunity to share knowledge, including village names, possible historical site locations,

cultural knowledge and associations, and much more. With the hope of being able to trace a clear migration route, future research into the locations of Chitimacha villages and sites is on the horizon. This will enable tribal members and archaeologists to begin filling in the gaps in the history of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana.



Figure 3. (a) Marksville Incised, *var. unspecified*, from 16SMY2 surface collection; (b) Coles Creek Incised, *var. Pecan*, from 16SMY2 surface collection; (c) Pontchartrain Check Stamped, *var. Pontchartrain*, from 16IV4 surface collection; (d) Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac*, from 16SMY12 TU 1 Lvl 1; (e) Baytown Plain, *var. Unspecified*, from 16SMY12 TU 1 Lvl 1.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acadiana Chapter of the LAS

The Acadiana Chapter of the LAS hosted an event for International Archaeology Day at the Lafayette Farmers and Artisans Market on Saturday, October 21, 2023. It was a beautiful day and we connected with many interested locals. Thank you to the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology for providing outreach materials and volunteering their time.



The Acadiana Chapter hosts a speaker series in partnership with the Anthropology Society at UL Lafayette. On January 30, 2024, Dr. Ryan Seidemann spoke about Louisiana archaeology and cemetery law in the Magnolia Room of the UL Lafayette Student Union (below photograph).



New officers were elected for 2024 and a new position added to the by-laws. The new officers are: Ian Robicheaux, President; Parker Chouest, Vice President; Sarah St. Germain, Secretary; Sam Huey, Treasurer. Gloria Church is the new Social Media/UL Lafayette Liaison. Thank you for your work!

Check out the Acadiana Chapter on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AcadianaLAS/) at <https://www.facebook.com/AcadianaLAS/>, email acadianalas@gmail.com, or Ian Robicheaux at ian.robicheaux1@louisiana.edu for more information.

West Louisiana Archaeology Club

John Guy

The West Louisiana Archaeology Club held its Christmas and Holiday Dinner at the City Buffett in Leesville on 12 December 2023. The Club meets on the 4th Monday of every month except November and December.



ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

May 2024

In partnership between the [University of Louisiana at Lafayette](#), Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab, and Kisatchie National Forest



An Archaeology Field School (Anthropology 490G) will be offered through the University of Louisiana at Lafayette during the Summer 2024 Intersession, May 13 – 31, 2024.

A follow-up lab and records course (Anth 499G) is scheduled for July 1 – 26, 2024.

- The field school will be held at a Woodland period site (16GR591) in Kisatchie National Forest, Catahoula Ranger District, Grant Parish, Louisiana, from May 13 to May 31, 2024.
- Learn scientific techniques of archaeological excavation and site investigation while participating in applied research.
- Lodging and local transportation to sites will be provided for the field school.
- A limited number of paid field school student assistant internships will be available.
- Earn undergraduate, graduate-level, or transfer credit in Anth 490G.
- Field school participants are encouraged to also enroll in the lab (Anth 499G), to be held in the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab at UL Lafayette (lodging not provided).
- *Enrollment will be limited, so apply early!*

For information on admission options and enrollment, go online to:

<https://louisiana.edu/admissions-aid/application-process> or email: recruitment@louisiana.edu

For more information on the Archaeology Field School, or to apply, email:

Erlend M. Johnson, Ph.D., Project Director, at erlend.johnson@louisiana.edu or

Mark A. Rees, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, at rees@louisiana.edu

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 2024 ANNUAL MEETING



February 23 – 25, 2024 at the [Holiday Inn & Suites North](#),
2219 NW Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, LA

Pre-Registration: \$40 for LAS members, \$50 for non-members, and \$20 for students until February 16, 2024 on the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/lasannualmeeting) (<https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/lasannualmeeting>)

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

Early registration ends February 16, 2024. On-site registration will be an additional \$5.

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](#) at 337-706-8199. The conference room rate (government/state rate) is \$92.00. To get the LAS conference rate, attendees must call the hotel and say they are attending the LAS conference. Reservations must be made by February 9, 2024 to be eligible for the LAS conference rate. For online reservations, the conference rate can be found [here](#). A tax-exempt form is required if tax exempt.

For more information: email Sam Huey, Program Chair, at shuey@crt.la.gov. Additional information is available on the [LAS website](#).

Preliminary Agenda for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society

Friday, February 23, 2024

- 3:00 – 6:00 pm REGISTRATION
Pre-Function room of the Holiday Inn & Suites North
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Ballroom of the Holiday Inn & Suites North

The following schedule is tentative and might change prior to February 24, 2024

Saturday, February 24, 2024

- 8:00 – 9:00 am REGISTRATION
Pre-Function room of the Holiday Inn & Suites North

Morning Presentations

Ballroom of the Holiday Inn & Suites North

- 8:40 – 9:00 am *Opening remarks and State of the State*
Chip McGimsey
- 9:00 – 9:20 am *Maybe Mound, Maybe Not: Preliminary Findings from Coring and Test Excavations at Spanish Mound (16GR03) in Kisatchie National Forest, Grant Parish, Louisiana*
Matthew Helmer, Erlend Johnson, Mark Rees, and John Mayer
- 9:20 – 9:40 am *Paillet Levee Phase II in Barataria, Louisiana at Bayou Villars (16JE68-69)*
Christopher Wilson and Justin Daley
- 9:40 – 10:00 am *Bayougoula Revisited*
Kevin A. Rolph
- 10:00 – 10:20 am BREAK
- 10:20 – 10:40 am *Yucatecan and Central American Influences on Taino Ceremonial Iconography*
Jesse O. Dalton and F. Kent Reilly, III
- 10:40 – 11:00 am *Inland Trails and Coastal Villages: Investigating Ancient Settlements in Louisiana*
Elizabeth Haire
- 11:00 – 11:20 am *An Examination of Tchefuncte Culture Settlement Patterns in Louisiana*
Emily Dale and Paul D. Jackson
- 11:20 – 11:40 am *Atchafalaya Water Heritage Trail*
Justin Lemoine
- 11:40 am – 12:00 pm *Some Highlights from the Past Two Decades of Archaeological Research in New Orleans*
Nathanael Heller
- 12:00 – 1:20 pm CATERED LUNCH

Poster Session: 9:30 to 10:30 am*

- *Digital Lithic Analysis: the Tale of Three Evans Points*
Conan Mills and Erlend M. Johnson
- *Discussion of Posthole and Associated Features at Site 16VN3504 in Kisatchie National Forest*
Gloria Church and Erlend Johnson
- *Education and Outreach: Volunteer Archaeological Investigations at the Maison Freetown Site, 16LY159*
Sadie Whitehurst and Samuel Huey
- *When in Drought: An Exposed Shipwreck along the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge, LA*
Maegan Smith and Karla Oesch
- *Braided Streams and Big Lakes: Settlement Patterns and Land Use on the Lower Calcasieu River*
Cat Strader, Austin Tranberg, and Steven J. Filoromo

*Posters will remain hanging for the remainder of the day.

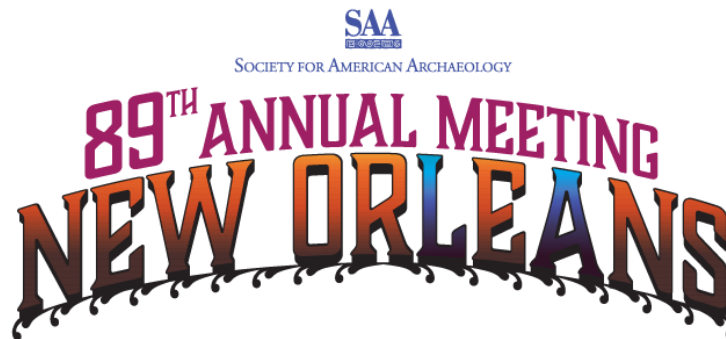
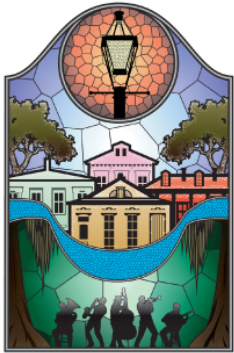
Afternoon Presentations

Ballroom of the Holiday Inn & Suites North

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1:20 – 1:40 pm | <i>Old Andrus Place, a Late Troyville – Early Coles Creek Site in St. Landry Parish</i> James Fogleman |
| 1:40 – 2:00 pm | <i>Untangling the Plantation Landscape: Phase II Investigations at the Wilderness Plantation (16EBR244) in Baton Rouge</i> Steven J. Filoromo |
| 2:00 – 2:20 pm | <i>A Matter of Correction: Setting the Lithic Record Straight</i> James A. Green II and James (Jim) R. Morehead |
| 2:20 – 2:40 pm | <i>Material Culture in Educational Spaces: A Peek Into 20th Century Teaching Environments</i> Steven J. Filoromo and Cristyn Maxey |
| 2:40 – 3:00 pm | BREAK |
| 3:00 – 3:20 pm | <i>Preliminary Analysis of the Turkey House (22 Fr 1716) Phase II Excavation</i> Adam Fuselier |
| 3:20 – 3:40 pm | <i>The Battle of Lafourche Crossing – The Archaeological Record</i> Robert F. Westrick |
| 3:40 – 4:00 pm | <i>Archaeological Investigation of a Possible Pit-Mound Structure: “Mysterious Feature Baffles Archaeologist”</i> Diana M. Greenlee |
| 4:00 – 4:20 pm | <i>With a View to the East: Excavation of a Weeden Island Village in Gadsden County, Florida</i> Nathanael Heller |
| 4:20 – 4:40 pm | <i>The Original Vermilionville</i> Mark A. Rees |
| 4:40 - 5:10 pm | BUSINESS MEETING |
| 5:30 – 7:30 pm | RECEPTION AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER <i>Archaeology in Louisiana and 50 Years of the Louisiana Archaeological Society</i> Richard Weinstein |

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Tours: *To Be Announced*



APRIL
17–21,
2024

SAA 2024 in New Orleans, April 17–21

Christopher B. Rodning and Sadie Whitehurst

The 89th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) will take place in New Orleans, April 17–21, 2024, at the New Orleans Marriott, 555 Canal Street, 70130. Information about the SAA conference and preliminary program are posted on the SAA website here: <https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting>, and the final program will be available there in March. This conference is the largest annual gathering of archaeologists in the Americas.

The first formal session of the conference is the President’s Forum, scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 6:30–8:30PM, “Equity in the Archaeology of Disaster: Past, Present, and Future.” Impacts of disasters in both the past and present are of course familiar to us in Louisiana, and this topic has both local resonance and global relevance. Participants include Mark Rees (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), T.R. Kidder (Washington University in St. Louis), and Chris Rodning (Tulane University).

One new initiative and new feature of the SAA conference program is a series of sessions focused on the archaeology of the region where the SAA conference is held; for 2024, this region is defined as the southeastern United States. The “Southeast Session Series” at SAA 2024 will include sessions focused on Poverty Point, the Winterville mound site in Mississippi, historical archaeology in New Orleans, archaeology of the Civil War era in and around Vicksburg, large-scale datasets and analyses in Southeastern archaeology, and current theoretical debates and dialogues in the archaeology of the US Southeast. Sessions of particular interest to LAS members include, “Not Your Father’s Poverty Point: Rewriting Old Narratives through New Research,” organized by Diana Greenlee and Virginie Renson

(Thursday, April 18, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM), and “New Orleans and Its Environs: Historical Archaeology and Environmental Precarity,” chaired by Ryan Gray (Thursday, April 18, 6:30 PM – 10:00 PM). Other papers and posters at the conference will also consider aspects of the archaeology of Louisiana and the Southeast, including some of the papers in a symposium about the archaeology of dugout canoes (including a paper by Chip McGimsey about dugout canoes in Louisiana, and another by Daniel LaDu about dugout canoes in Mississippi). Other LAS members will be presenting on other topics and in others sessions. The preliminary program (and eventually the final program) and the annual meeting event guide are accessible online at <https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting/programs/preliminary-program>.

In addition to our presence throughout SAA’s excursions and symposia, LAS will have a presence in the Exhibitor Hall. LAS joined with the SAA Council of Allied Societies (CoAS) in December 2023, and one benefit of joining is the collective efforts of many regional and state societies to network at the SAA annual meetings and other conferences. Attendees of the meeting can visit the CoAS exhibitor booth to grab LAS swag and brochures, and to find good conversation with LAS members and members of other state and regional societies from across the US.

As is normal for SAA conferences, the annual CRM Expo will take place on Saturday, April 20, starting at 12:00PM. This event is sponsored by SAA and the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA); it is open to conference attendees starting at noon, and it is open to the public between 1:00 and 3:00 PM. Please contact Teresita Majewski by email (tmajewski at sricrm dot com) for more information.

One of the perks of serving as the host state for SAA annual meetings are the local events and excursions to sites of interest in the region. Several excursions are planned for the SAA 2024 conference, and conference attendees may register for those excursions. There are fees for these excursions, in addition to the conference registration. The due date for registering for SAA 2024 excursions is March 8. Excursion details and registration information can be found at:

<https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting/excursions>.

Planned excursions include the following:

- “Poverty Point,” Tuesday, April 16, 1:00 PM – Wednesday, April 17, 5:00 PM, \$110.00 (meals and overnight accommodations not included). A visit to Poverty Point World Heritage Site and a two-day tour focused on the natural and cultural history of the Lower Mississippi Valley in northeastern Louisiana. Organized by Heidi Luchsinger, Jonathan Dombrowsky, and the SAA Geoarchaeology Interest Group.
- “Climate Change, Land Loss, and Archaeological Resilience in the [Mississippi River] Delta,” Wednesday, April 17, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM, \$180.00 (lunch at *Restaurant des Familles* in Marrero not included). A boat trip on Lake Salvador to explore site loss and resilience in the context of sea-level rise and subsidence in Lake Salvador and surrounding areas. Organized by Carole Nash, Heather Wholey, Brian Ostahowski, Tad Britt, David Watt, Sadie Schoeffler Whitehurst, Sam Huey, and the SAA Committee on Climate Change and Cultural Resources.
- “Evergreen Plantation and Whitney Plantation: Archaeology, Environmental Justice, and Historic Preservation,” Thursday, April 18, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, \$124.00 (lunch at Nobile’s Restaurant in Lutcher not included). A tour of Evergreen Plantation (including ongoing excavations at the site by Florida State University) and Whitney Plantation near Edgard. Organized by Jayur Mehta.
- “Tours of Fort Pike and Fort Macomb,” Friday, April 19, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, \$40.00. A half-day ranger-guided tour of nineteenth-century American forts in New Orleans that were settings for activities during the Seminole Wars, the Mexican War, and the US Civil War; both forts are closed to the public but open for this excursion by special invitation of the Louisiana Office of State Parks. Organized by

Nathanael Heller in collaboration with the Louisiana Office of State Parks.

- “Barataria Preserve,” Saturday, April 20, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, \$40.00. A half-day excursion exploring environmental diversity of Louisiana wetlands, and the hardwood forests, swamplands, bayous, and marshlands in Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve, with options for people of varying interests and needs. Organized by Gillian Wong and the SAA Zooarchaeology Interest Group.
- “French Quarter Walking Tour,” Saturday, April 20, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, \$15.00. A half-day tour of important sites in and around the French Quarter. Organized and led by Ryan Gray.

There are, as always, minimum and maximum numbers of attendees for these formal SAA excursions, so please do check the SAA website for any latest updates.

As is typical for SAA annual meetings, there are also several workshops scheduled, which are open to SAA attendees, but which require additional workshop registration and associated fees. The due date for registering for SAA 2024 workshops is March 8, and details and links for registration can be found at <https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting/workshops>.

- “A 10-Step Method for Recording a Rock Art Site,” April 17, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, \$20.00. An introduction to techniques in recording rock art sites, and considerations about cultural sensitivities and ethics related to studying rock art sites. Led by Lawrence Loendorf, Amanda Castaneda, and Aaron Bain, and sponsored by Sacred Sites Research, Inc., and the SAA Rock Art Interest Group.
- “Everything You Wanted to Know about Archaeometry but Were Afraid to Ask: Tips and Guidelines for Collaborating with the Archaeometry Lab at MURR,” April 17, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM, no fee. An introduction to current techniques and technologies of archaeological sciences and archaeometric analyses, including method such as neutron activation analysis (NAA), X-ray fluorescence (XRF), and elemental and isotopic analysis by mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS, MC-ICP-MS), and discussions of MURR database management and opportunities for education, training, research, and grants. Led by Brandi L. MacDonald, Whitney Goodwin, James A. Davenport, Wesley Stoner, Virginie Renson, Jay

Stephens, and Alejandro J. Figueroa, and sponsored by the Archaeometry Laboratory at the University of Missouri Research Reactor (MURR).

- “Communicating Your Research to the Public and the Media,” Friday, April 19, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, \$22.00. A workshop on smart media engagement and approaches to amplifying archaeological work and findings in public spaces, and techniques in media planning, creating effective social media content, navigating media interviews, addressing anti-science critiques, and managing harassment and trolling. Led by Suanna Selby Crowley, Cassandra Apuzzo, Kurt Fredrickson, Andrea Vianello, Matthew Piscitelli, Joshua Massey, Dylan Person, Ryan Collins, and Jessica Hale, and sponsored by the SAA Committee for Media Outreach.
- “ArchaMap: Tools for Integrating Datasets for Synthetic Archaeological Analysis,” Saturday, April 20, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM, no fee. A workshop on synthetic research in archaeology, focused on ArchaMap tools for merging diverse kinds of archaeological data. Led by Robert J. Bishoff, Daniel J. Hruschka, Matthew A. Peeples, and Cindy Huang, sponsored by the National Science Foundation Center for Archaeology and Society, Arizona State University.
- “Exploring Power Dynamics, Responsibility, and Accountability in Archaeological Practice,” April 20, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, \$20.00 for student and international members, \$30.00 for all other members. An interactive workshop on strategies and practices for identifying, addressing, and preventing sexual misconduct and bullying in archaeological practice. Led by Jeanne M. More, sponsored by the SAA Meeting Safety Committee in collaboration with Futures Without Violence (<https://futureswithoutviolence.org/>).

As with excursions, there are in some cases maximum or minimum numbers of participants for workshops. There are sometimes adjustments to workshop details and schedules, so please check the SAA website for any updates related to workshops of interest.

Other popular events at the SAA annual conference are the following. State archaeology posters will be on display at the SAA conference venue and also on the SAA website. Viewers can vote on the “best state archaeology poster” at:

<http://www.saa.org/postercontest>. Each year, the Louisiana Division of Archaeology submits the previous annual Louisiana Archaeology Month poster to the SAA poster contest; this year’s submission (from 2023) features unique and historic shipwrecks from around the state.

The SAA Equity Summit, Part 1, will take place on Thursday, April 18, from noon until 2:00 PM CDT; conversations will contribute towards planning and initiatives by the new SAA Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Justice (DEIJ). The 19th Annual SAA Ethics Bowl will take place on Thursday, April 18, 1:00–3:00 PM CDT; during this event, student teams are challenged to come up with innovative approaches to problems and ethical issues that help us all think through archaeological ethics in the present and pathways for our future. The SAA Government Affairs Committee will host Q&A about matters related to NHPA Section 106 on Saturday, April 20, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. There are interest group and committee meetings throughout the conference, including the NAGPRA Meet and Greet on April 18, 7:00–9:00 PM (cohosted by the SAA Committee on Repatriation, the Curation Interest Group, and the Committee on Museums, Collections, and Curation). Networking events include a reception for students on Thursday, April 18, hosted by the Student Diversity Networking Program (Thursday evening, April 18), and a networking reception for women in archaeology on Saturday evening, April 20, cohosted by the Committee on the Status of Women in Archaeology (COSWA) and the Women in Archaeology Interest Group (WAIG). There are social aspects to all of these events, and there are also receptions for student members and first-time conference attendees on the evening of Wednesday, April 17.

Please consider attending the SAA conference! Closer to the dates of the annual meeting, LAS will announce a time and location for LAS members and friends to gather for socializing one evening during the conference. We looking forward to being together on home turf for the 89th Annual Meeting of the SAA.

After the SAA conference in New Orleans in 2024, future SAA venues include Denver (2025) and San Francisco (2026). In 2025, the annual meetings of the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) and the American Anthropological Association (AAA) will be held in New Orleans, and the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) will meet in Baton Rouge.

LAS CHAPTERS

Acadiana Chapter

The Acadiana Chapter of the LAS meets regularly and hosts a speaker series in partnership with the Anthropology Society at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Check our [Facebook](#) page at <https://www.facebook.com/AcadianaLAS/> or email acadianalas@gmail.com for future dates and locations.

Acadiana Chapter Officers are:

Ian Robicheaux, President

Parker Chouest, Vice President

Sarah St. Germain, Secretary

Sam Huey, Treasurer

Gloria Church, Social Media/UL Lafayette Liaison

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

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.

The Delta Chapter has a Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/DeltaChapterLAS

Northwest Chapter

Primary Contact: Tad Britt

Email: tad.britt@gmail.com

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West Louisiana Archaeology Club

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Email: johnnyhguy53@gmail.com

Rockey Rockholt, Vice President

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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
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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/>



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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.