NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2011 **Vol. 39, No. 1**

BEFORE & AFTER

The trees on Mound A (Bird Effigy Mound) and other mounds have been cut down at the Poverty Point site. Find out why on page 7!!

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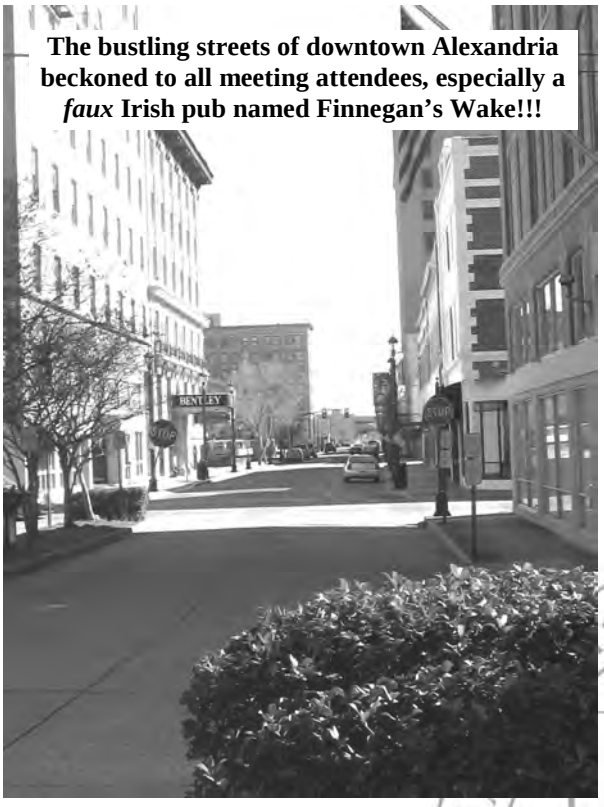
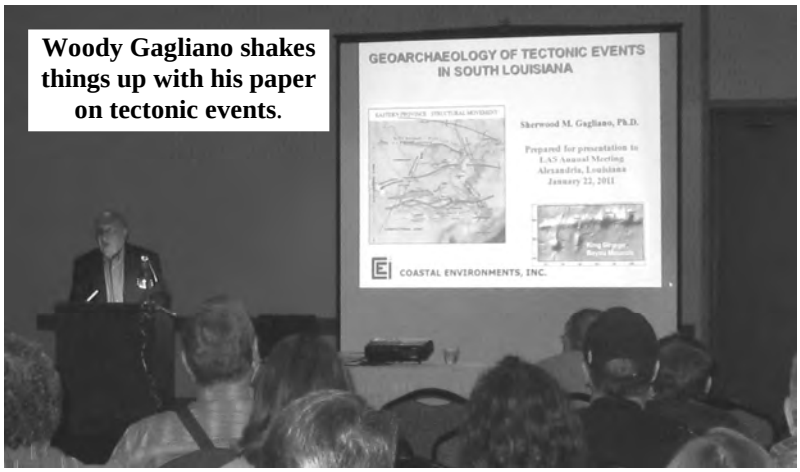
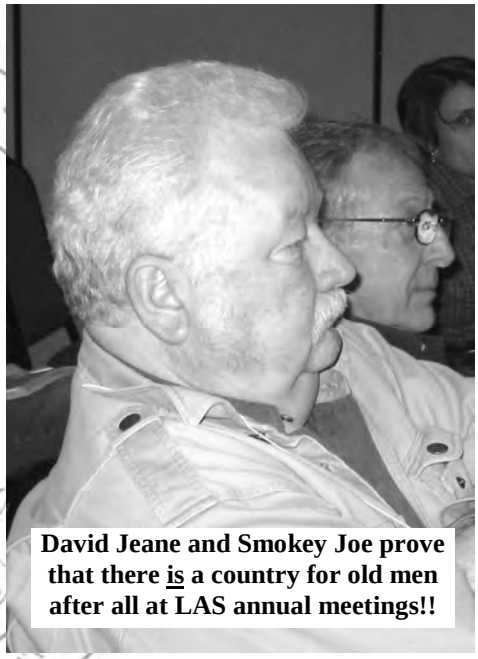
LAS Newsletter printed courtesy of R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc., New Orleans, LA



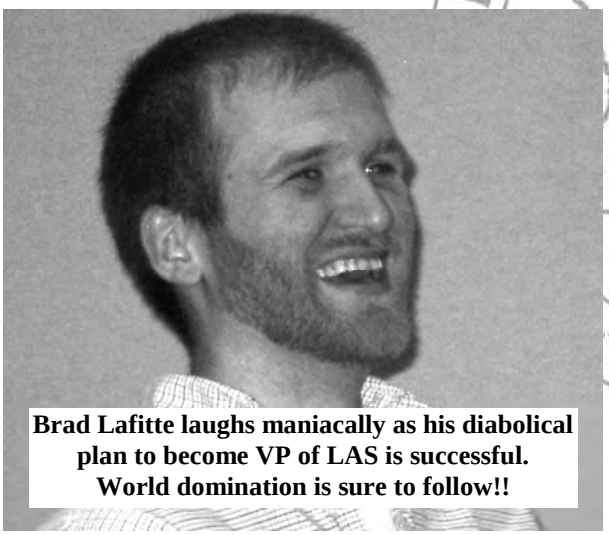
The bustling streets of downtown Alexandria beckoned to all meeting attendees, especially a *faux* Irish pub named Finnegan's Wake!!!



Woody Gagliano shakes things up with his paper on tectonic events.



David Jeane and Smokey Joe prove that there is a country for old men after all at LAS annual meetings!!



Brad Lafitte laughs maniacally as his diabolical plan to become VP of LAS is successful. World domination is sure to follow!!

Kellye French makes her move to beat Duke Rivet to the banquet buffet.

The LAS is almost ready to jump on the social media bandwagon! A Facebook page for the Louisiana Archaeological Society is in the works. If you have any photos you would like to share, please forward them as .jpg files to Kellye French, the LAS Facebook administrator, at kellye_french@yahoo.com. Be on the lookout for an email to "like" the LAS.

Find us on Facebook

LAS Annual Meeting, Jan. 21-23, 2011 at the Alexander Fulton Hotel, Alexandria, LA

In case you missed it, the LAS meeting in Alexandria went without a hitch (or at least none that seemed serious enough to me)!! Meeting highlights included 18 informative presentations, a great banquet meal, and a tour de force *by our keynote speaker, Dr. Jack Irion, on the Mardi Gras shipwreck. In addition to these events, there were guided tours at the Marksville site (16AV1) and the Civil War site of Fort De Russy in Avoyelles Parish led by Chip McGimsey and a tour of Forts Buhlow and Randolph across the river from the conference hotel. These two forts have a recently opened visitors' center and other facilities reflecting its status as Louisiana's newest historic site and state park. In addition, the silent auction raise well over $600 for the LAS coffers and there was an exhibit of selected artifacts recovered from the Mardi Gras shipwreck. A list of papers delivered at the meeting follows below in alphabetical order of their authors. The 2012 LAS meeting will be in Baton Rouge. See you all then. – Dennis Jones, LAS editor.*

Velicia Bergstrom (Kisatchie National Forest)
From Spanish Land Grants to Fullerton Mill, a Brief Tour of PIT Projects on the Kisatchie

Danny Cain (Kisatchie National Forest)
Revisiting Lithic Scatters: A CRM Perspective

Jim Delahoussaye (Louisiana Archaeological Society)
A Fishy Place: Faunal Remains from the Landerneau Site (16CA87)

Shannon Lee Dawdy (University of Chicago)
An Urban Theatre: the Archaeology of St. Anthony's Garden (Read by Lauren Zych)

Jason Emery (Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office)
Recovery, Section 106, Burial Permits an' Stuff Like That There: Louisiana Burial Law as Seen Through Two Case Studies in Orleans Parish, Louisiana

Jim Fogleman (Louisiana Archaeological Society)
Prehistoric Trade Materials for South-Central Louisiana

Sherwood Gagliano (Coastal Environments, Inc.)
Geoarchaeology of Tectonic Events in South Louisiana

Jeff Girard (Northwestern Start University)
Investigations at the Longlois Site (16NA657), Natchitoches Parish

Diana Greenlee, Richard Hughes and Tom Origer (Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Geochemical Research Laboratory, and Origer's Obsidian Laboratory)
New Research on Poverty Point's Obsidian

Jessica Kowalski and Richard Weinstein (Coastal Environments, Inc.)
Cultural Resource Investigations for the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Ecosystem Restoration Project, Southeastern Louisiana

Chip McGimsey (Louisiana Division of Archaeology)
Louisiana Archaeology in 2010 and a Brief Summary of the BP Oil Spill

Rob Mann (Louisiana State University)
Commodities and Colonialism: French Faience, Spanish Reforms, and Isleño Settlers in 18th century Louisiana

David Palmer (University of Louisiana at Lafayette)
Survey and Limited investigations at 16IB34, Marsh House Slave Quarters: Preliminary Report on the Winter 2010-2011 UL Lafayette Archaeology Field School

Mark Rees (University of Louisiana at Lafayette)
Recent Developments and Future Directions of Archaeology in Louisiana

Ryan Seidemann (Office of the Attorney General, State of Louisiana)
Shipwreck Protection: Coverage of the Laws, Problems, and Suggestions for Broader Protection

Forrest Travirca (Wisner Donation)
Archaeology of the Wisner Donation Property: Fourchon Beach.

Andrea White (University of New Orleans)
Layers of History: Predicting Archaeological Site location and Tracing the Development of New Orleans with GIS and Historic Maps

Lauren Zych (University of Chicago)
Handmade Earthenware in Colonial New Orleans: Typical Pots in Unexpected Contexts

Dr. Jack Irion, with the Bureau for Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE) presented the keynote address during the LAS banquet on Saturday night, Jan. 22, at the 2011 annual meeting. Jack entertained and informed all who attended as he told us about the Mardi Gras shipwreck in the Gulf of Mexico in 4000 ft of water. The artifacts and other evidence point to the ship being the *Rapid*, an early nineteenth century privateer, although that is not completely certain.

LAS president, Velicia Bergstrom presents the 2011 LAS Institution Award to Colonel Francis B. Burns, garrison commander at Ft. Polk, LA and Mr. Wayne Farris, public relation officer. Long time LAS member Philip G. "Duke" Rivet, nominated the Fort Polk Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division (ENRMD) for their long-term exemplary commitment to Section 106 compliance within Ft. Polk. This commitment has led to Vernon Parish having far and away the most reported archaeological sites (3623 as of March 1, 2011) in the state and an ongoing program of archaeological testing (over 600 sites to date) and site protection. Individuals associated with Ft. Polk and named in Rivet's nomination include Dr. Charles Stagg, Jim Grafton, Bob Hayes, Ellen Ibert, Brad Laffitte, Dena Struchtemeyer, and Josh Martin.

Anthropology pioneer was known for study of Caddo Indians in East Texas Dee Ann Story, 1931-2010

By Melissa B. Taboada, Austin American-Statesman, Published: 9:28 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2010

Dee Ann Story was a trailblazer. A professor emeritus of anthropology from the University of Texas, Story entered the field when there were few women in the profession and was one of the first to work alongside her male colleagues on sites. She directed archaeological investigations across the state, but Story is best known for her work on the George C. Davis site in East Texas, where Caddo Indians built mounds. Story died Sunday of lung cancer. She was 79.

Friends and family described her as a spirited woman who was passionate about her work and intensely curious about life. She traveled to every continent — visiting Antarctica twice. She went to the Arctic and the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean; she spent time in northern Canada watching polar bears. Even during the last stages of cancer, she traveled to California to look at Indian sites.

"She was a true defender of fact and critical thinking," said her nephew, Clayton Morgan. "You did not want to argue with her about anything, because she was usually always right."

Story was raised in Houston. She attended what is now Texas Woman's University in Denton and received bachelor's and master's degrees in anthropology. She was the first woman to graduate from the anthropology program at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she received her doctorate in 1963.

Once back in Texas, Story became the assistant director for the Texas Archeological Salvage Project and a lecturer in the UT anthropology department. She directed the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory from 1965 to 1987. Among her many accomplishments, Story led an archaeological team in Utah documenting sites before the construction of the Glen Canyon Dam.

"She was one of the giants in Texas archaeology, and we're sorry to lose her," said Elton Prewitt, a retired archaeologist who was a student of hers in the early 1960s. "She was a driving force in Texas archaeology and was one of the most consummate researchers one could hope to work with.

"When you work with Dee Ann, you got an early start and you worked late," Prewitt said. "We'd have to sit in the trucks and wait for it to be light enough to see where we had to dig."

She married Hal Story, an illustrator and exhibits preparatory for the Texas Memorial Museum at UT, in 1961. They had no children. He died in 1995. She retired from UT in 1987. Story and her husband moved to the Wimberley property where her parents spent their retirement. She granted a conservation easement to the Archaeological Conservancy for a prehistoric site on the property. During her retirement, she became active with the Wimberley Institute of Cultures and the Hays County Historical Commission.

"They didn't break the mold with her," Morgan said. "She was the mold."

A memorial service will take place sometime in the spring at an archaeological site in the Hill Country, family members said.

Much has happened at the Poverty Point site. Below is a comment that was sent to UNESCO regarding the nomination of the site to the World Heritage List. The University of Poverty Point Alumni (UPPA) is seeking to reactivate and Dr. Diana Greenlee has begun a Facebook page for the Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program. Everyone interested in Poverty Point should check in regularly with that Facebook page for updates. Check out the announcements on pages 10 and 26 as well for more Poverty Point news.
- Editor

Comment on US Nominations to the World Heritage List: Poverty Point

Douglas C. Comer, Ph.D., Co-Chair, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM)
Ex-officio member of the US/ICOMOS Board of Trustees (for the Society for American Archaeology)
Principal, Cultural Site Research and Management, Inc., dcomer@culturalsite.com

I am writing to urge the nomination of the archaeological site of Poverty Point, in Louisiana, for inscription on the World Heritage List. Over the past two years, the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management (ICAHM), for which I am Co-President, has put forth a request to its members to identify comparable archaeological sites, more specifically, ancient monumental earthen structures constructed by societies that did not practice agriculture. We have found few that might credibly be described as such, and none that indisputably fit that description. Further, it seems likely that Poverty Point represents the culmination of a cultural phenomenon that began almost two millennia before its construction. While the ICAHM membership could not positively identify monumental earthworks constructed by societies that did not practice agriculture in other continents and in most of North America, these can be found in Louisiana and nearby states. They have been preserved only because the landscapes in which they are found have been relatively unutilized since Europeans came to the New World. The oldest of this constellation of sites is very likely Watson Break, which was initially occupied about 6,000 years ago. In comparison, the pyramid at Giza was built about 4,500 years ago.

I would suggest that the earthen mounds in Louisiana and nearby states have much to tell us about human culture, and that Poverty Point is an important benchmark in the development of complex societies. The study of Poverty Point and the sites related to it will almost surely provide us with scarce and crucial information as to why we find monumental architecture in all regions of the earth. The various explanations that have been offered are really different arguments about what drives cultural change, how individual cultures differ and are similar, and why this is so. Such discussions are interesting not only to anthropologists, but also, if presented correctly, to the general public. The questions raised by these discussions have to do with what makes us, collectively and individually, what we are. That these earthen monuments so clearly predate the appearance of agricultural societies in the region suggests that they functioned—ideologically, socially, and economically—in ways that were valuable to hunting and gathering societies. It is likely that further research utilizing a landscape approach can suggest good reasons why this might be so. Recent approaches to analyzing space syntax could be valuable here.

I would argue that from anthropological standpoint, Poverty Point and related earthen mounds are as important as the pyramids at Giza and Stonehenge. Though the pyramids at Giza set starkly against the desert skyline and along the Nile trigger an emotional response that does not so frequently occur at Poverty Point, this does not diminish the scientific and historical importance of Poverty Point. Also, if tree removal at the site continues, the views there will more readily engender a similar emotional response.

Another factor that would recommend nomination is the amazingly pristine condition of Poverty Point and related sites, as evidenced by archaeological excavations. Finally, the management team at Poverty Point seems extremely capable. I can readily see them participating in the formulation of a practical monitoring system and implementing it.

University of Poverty Point (UPPA) Alumni Return!!

Ellen Ibert is calling for a return of UPPA alumni to meet at the Poverty Point site on **March 25-27, 2011**. UPPA is a "friends of…" non-profit organization formed in 2000 to assist the site with preservation issues. The club was originally formed by former students who worked at the site, but is open to all adults who hold an interest in research and management at the site. The dorm at the site will be open to all who participate. There will be activities around the site, as well as presentations concerning research and the World Heritage nomination. A $20 participation fee will go towards the costs of meals and supplies. All who are interested should contact Ellen Ibert ASAP at (377) 208-7602 or my email at e_ibert@yahoo.com.

New Look for Ancient Mounds

WEST CARROLL PARISH, La. (KNOE Channel 8 [Monroe, LA] News) -- Hundreds of trees are coming down on the pre-historic mounds at Poverty Point State Historic Site in northeast Louisiana, as part of a stabilization project to preserve the ancient Native American mounds.

Raymond Berthelot, Chief of Interpretive Services for the Louisiana Office of State Parks, said the project to remove about 1,700 trees from the mounds is nearly finished. "We've been very carefully removing the trees, each one individually," Berthelot said.

About 700 trees have been cut and removed from the mounds and about 1000 more trees will be removed in the coming few months. Dennis LaBatt, Historic Site Manager at Poverty Point, said trees have grown naturally on the site's six mounds for about 70 years, but the now-mature trees can damage the ancient mounds. Strong storm winds can uproot the trees, digging craters in the soil. "These are Volkswagen-sized holes that the trees throw up," LaBatt said. "It would just cause irreparable damage."

LaBatt said the tree removal will give the site a different look, but the new view will more closely resemble the mounds as they were first built. A highly civilized pre-historic community constructed the mounds about 3,400 years ago.

When the tree removal is complete, buffalo grass will be planted on the mounds to control erosion. The project is scheduled to finish up before summer of 2011. The makeover comes as the United Nations considers Poverty Point as a possible World Heritage Site. If Poverty Point is included on the list, it would be the first in Louisiana and one more added to the list of 23 cultural and natural sites in the entire US that are on the list (www.cr.nps.gov/worldheritage/list)

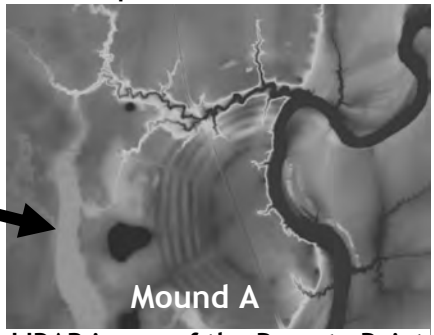
"We would be among a small group of sites throughout the world such as Machu Picchu in South America or the pyramids in Egypt," Berthelot said. "Meaning this is a site of worldwide significance." Berthelot said it could be years before the United Nations will decide on adding Poverty Point to the list of World Heritage Sites.

Find us on Facebook

Diana Greenlee maintains a Facebook page for the "Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program."

2/7/2011. "Bad news. Big tree, giant hole, Ridge 4 North. Alisha [Lisa] Wright included for scale." [Editor's note- This is an example of what could have happened to trees that were on Mound A at the site.]

"I (Diana Greenlee) went out in the swamp (long light area on the left side of the LIDAR image) west of Mound A yesterday (12/6/2010). We think this is a borrow area, from where the Poverty Point folks took dirt to build the mound. We've had so little rain this fall that the swamp is dry, except for a net-work of beaver canals. It would be nice to get out there with a total station and map the bottom."



LIDAR image of the Poverty Point site showing area of putative borrow pit for Mound A.

Gibson bones predate Columbus

By John DeSantis, Senior Staff Writer, Houma Courier, Saturday, January 8, 2011

HOUMA — Bones found in the basement of a Gibson home last year could be more than 700 years old and likely came from the Indian mound on which the house was built, state officials said.

The bone fragments were found Nov. 21, 2009, amid the remains of a cardboard box in the basement of 234 Fandall St. by a real-estate agent showing the house to potential buyers.

The bones are likely those of American Indian inhabitants of the area and could be more than 700 years old, archeologists say in a soon-to-be-released study.

The report, from the state Division of Archeology, indicates that they came from one of two mounds on the property. Initial plans are for the Chitimacha tribe in Charenton, St. Mary Parish, to receive the bones. They will likely be returned to the Gibson mound, said state anthropologist Chip McGimsey, although discussions with the Chitimacha and local Indian groups are still pending.

While the bones were not carbon-dated or other "invasive procedures," McGimsey estimates they date back to between 800 and 1300 A.D. Pottery shards recovered along with the bones aided scientists in establishing the timeline. Scientists have not determined the tribe of origin. What is known, according to the report, is that the remains are of at least four people — three adults and a child.

Rob Mann, the state anthropologist whose region includes Terrebonne Parish, said the Gibson mounds are "already considered a significant site."

The Archaeological Conservancy, a private, nonprofit organization, bought the Fandall Street house and land, site of one mound. Negotiations are under way for the adjacent property, site of the second mound. "We preserve these sites for research and educational purposes," said Jessica Crawford, the conservancy's regional director, "There could be future limited testing and mapping of the mounds and maybe coring of some parts," she said. "It is one of the few remaining mound sites in the area so that would make it unique."

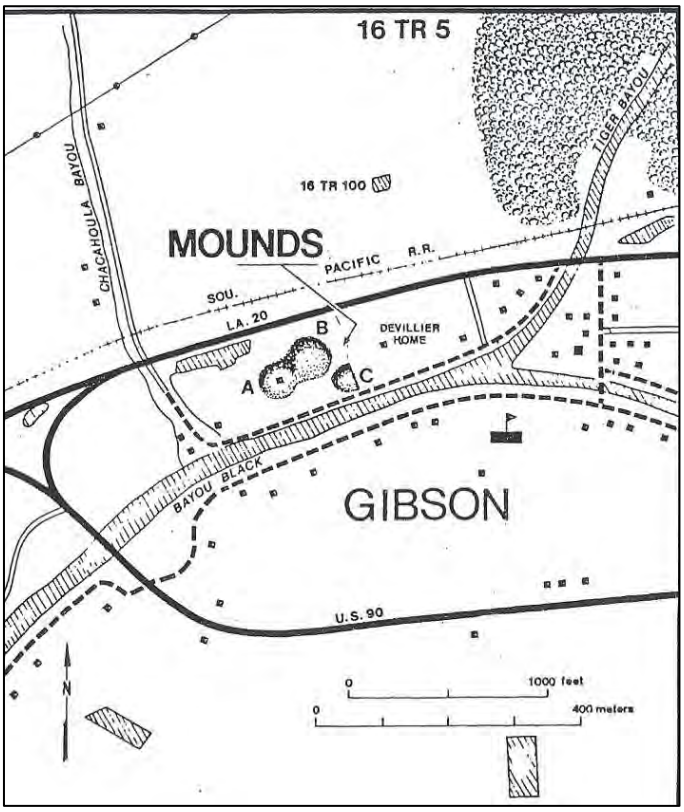
Crawford, who was traveling when contacted, was not certain of the purchase price of the house. The house was previously owned by Mark Morgan of Schriever.

According to the report, the bones were likely removed from the mound beneath the house over many years, likely by different people. Officials discounted the possibility that the basement — perhaps a fallout shelter built by prior owner decades ago — was the scene of a modern-day crime. Terrebonne Parish Coroner's Office investigators had previously determined the bones were very old, but they couldn't be more specific.

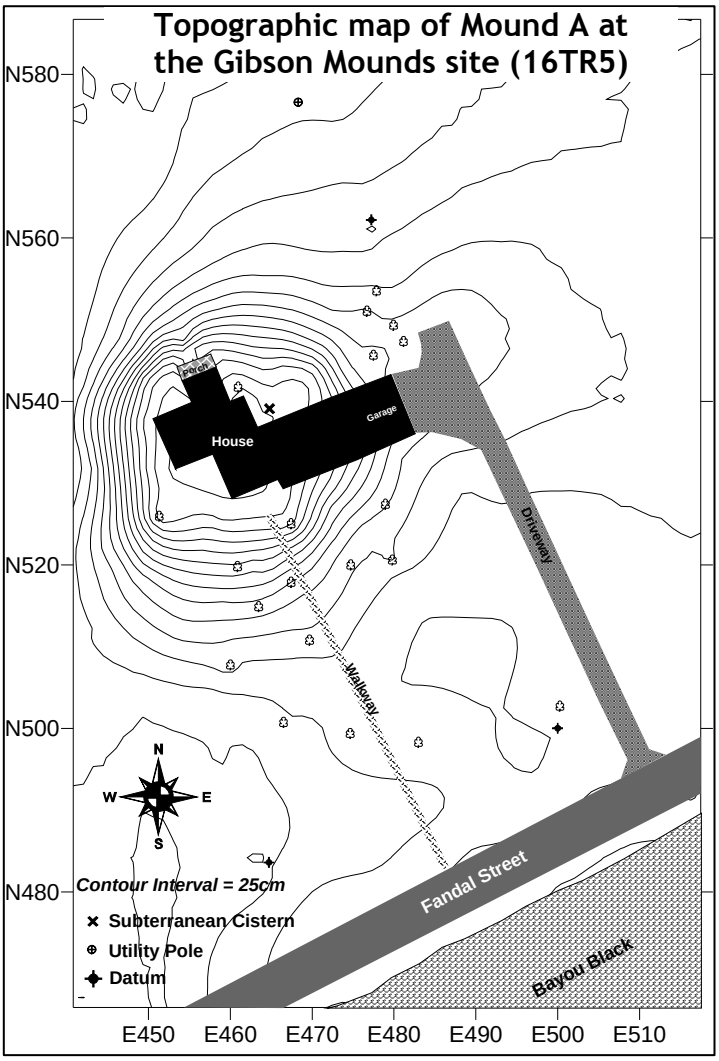
Those determinations came from researchers at the FACES Laboratory at Louisiana State University. Their inventory shows 661 bones or bone fragments were recovered, 504 of which were animal and 157 were human. The human bones, according to the report, included ribs, legs, arms and skull fragments. Researchers said they couldn't determine gender with any certainty.

Representatives of local Indian groups said they are waiting to hear from the Division of Archeology, but several acknowledged that turning the bones over to the Chitimacha for reburial is a good thing. "They should go to the proper people which are probably the Chitimacha," said Lora Ann Chaisson, 45, a United Houma Nation Tribal Council member living in Pointe-aux-Chenes. "And they need to bury them in the proper ways."

Chaisson said she and other Indian people were dismayed upon learning the bones had been disinterred from their mounds and found in a basement. She expressed hope that property owners will take care when discovering evidence of Indian burials on their lands, so that the dead are not disturbed. "People need to be aware and respect it," she said. "Contact the proper authorities. If you find it mark it and document and leave it. That is my personal preference."



General site map of the Gibson Mounds site (16TR5)



On the website for the Houma Courier, www.Houmatoday.com, the article by John DeSantis reprinted here also included links to two documents concerning the Gibson Mounds site. One was a copy of Dr. Rob Mann's annual report on the SE region of the state for the Gibson Mounds site and the other was an analysis of the remains collected at the site that was conducted by LSU students Michelle Whipp and Stephanie Crider under the supervision of Mary H. Manhein and Dr. Ginny Listi, LSU FACES Laboratory. Their summary of the remains collected is below.-Editor

Summary

Overall, the remains in this assemblage are in good condition. After complete analysis, the suggested minimum number of individuals (MNI) for the Gibson Site remains is four: three adults and one juvenile. These remains appear to be robust as a whole and possibly have a low sexual dimorphism. With minimal pathologies, the general health of the individuals represented appears to be relatively good as well.

ULM teacher has grant to study artifacts

STAFF REPORT • NEWS@THENEWSSTAR.COM • JANUARY 2, 2011, MONROE, LA

University of Louisiana at Monroe adjunct assistant professor has received a grant that will allow her to evaluate the condition of 178 copper objects in the artifact collection at Poverty Point.

The National Endowment for the Humanities recently approved the grant funding request of archaeologist and adjunct assistant professor Diana Greenlee. She will act as the principal investigator.

Greenlee, a Poverty Point station archaeologist and adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Atmospheric Science, Earth Sciences and Physics at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, requested the Preservation Assistance Grant through the NEH's Division of Preservation and Access.

Greenlee will evaluate the copper objects and devise an appropriate plan to clean and stabilize any objects in need of treatment.

"In addition, the funding will help us establish an appropriate long-term storage microenvironment for the copper," Greenlee said. "This includes obtaining X-ray images of the objects to assess their structural integrity and purchasing long-term curation materials as necessary."

Louisiana's Poverty Point State Historic Site, a vast complex of earthen mounds and ridges in West Carroll Parish built more than 3,500 years ago, was populated by a highly civilized group who left behind one of the most important archaeological sites in North America. The mounds and ridges they built are advanced for a pre-agricultural society. The central construction consists of a 70-foot mound in the shape of a bird, surrounded by six rows of concentric ridges, which at one time were five feet high. The five aisles and six sections of ridges form a partial octagon. It is thought that these ridges served as foundations for dwellings.

Poverty Point recently has received two honors. The complex is among 13 sites on the U.S. Department of Interior's tentative list of places that could be nominated for the prestigious U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage List that includes the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, The Great Wall of China, the Statue of Liberty and the Galapagos Islands.

It also has been accepted as a Smithsonian Affiliate. The site is one of four Affiliates in the state, and one of only 160 Affiliate museums and cultural organizations in the United States.

The Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program, which curates an artifact collection that numbers in the hundreds of thousands, if not millions, is an integral part of the public education mission of the Poverty Point State Historic Site, Greenlee said.

"While the collection is remarkable in the frequencies with which exotic raw materials and ornamental objects appear, it also provides a detailed picture of the mundane day-to-day activities of the people who lived there roughly 3,500 years ago," Greenlee said. "We are concerned with the current condition and long-term preservation of the relatively rare exotic copper objects and will be able to use the funding to assess the condition of nearly 200 items."

ULM will receive official notice of the funding in the coming weeks from the NEH Office of Grant Management, which will detail the award amount and reporting requirements.

Forgotten DeSoto [Parish] cemetery is restored

BY VICKIE WELBORN • VWELBORN@GANNETT.COM • JANUARY 17, 2011, SHREVEPORT TIMES

FRIERSON — An unmarked and pretty much forgotten DeSoto Parish cemetery that was almost razed last year during a pipeline crossing project has been restored to a condition likely not seen since its creation more than 150 years ago.

The rediscovery of the Old Gravel Point Cemetery sitting on a bluff along Bayou Pierre in the Frierson community also reconnected descendents of several of DeSoto Parish's pioneer families. And along with it, historians learned even more about the history of the region.

"This cemetery is along a cotton road where people would travel to take their cotton to Gravel Point to a steamboat," said Gary Joiner, a local historian who was enlisted as a consultant to research the cemetery. "This area was there in the 1820s, no later than 1840s. It's when people started coming into this region, even before Shreveport. This is an old, old community. It was a pioneer trail."

Landowner Reggie Roe said he wasn't aware a cemetery existed on the site. And it likely would have remained a secret if had not been for the ETC Tiger Pipeline project that traverses part of Roe's land.
No signs of a cemetery were noted when archaeologists conducted preconstruction surveys prior to the installation of a 42-inch pipeline that is carrying natural gas extracted from the Haynesville Shale. The land resembled a vacant field.

But as an equipment operator moved in to scrub the corridor "he was sitting up high enough to see that something wasn't right," Joiner said. "He did the right thing. He stopped and made the right calls."

ETC Tiger contacted Joiner, who in turn brought on board two of his LSUS students. Gentle removal of topsoil revealed earth stains associated with the excavation and refilling of grave shafts. An infrared camera helped Joiner identify 25 graves that were oriented east-west, as is the custom in Christian cemeteries.

As ETC Tiger made plans to reroute the pipeline, Joiner and his students flagged each grave corner and mapped the entire area. Still, piecing together the cemetery's history was just beginning. “We started out with absolutely no information," Joiner said

But it wasn't long after poring through dozens of maps that Joiner found the Old Gravel Point Cemetery designated on an 1861 Confederate defense map of Caddo and DeSoto Parishes. And from a computer-generated map of the ridge, Joiner was able to outline the road bed that led to the Gravel Point steamboat landing once located on Bayou Pierre, a major tributary of the Red River.

Joiner lucked up again after a conversation with a fellow teacher led to her brother, Albert Lafitte, who once

A worker erects one of 25 metal crosses the mark previously lost graves in the Old Gravel Point Cemetery in the Frierson community. The cemetery has been restored after being rediscovered during a pipeline crossing project last year. (Special to The Times)

searched the land for a cemetery where some of their ancestors were believed to be buried. "He walked through there and didn't see a thing," Joiner said. "I eventually identified three sets of intertwined families that had been working on their genealogy and none of them knew how it fit together. This cemetery was the missing piece."

Of the 25 gravesites, only six can be positively identified. "But even though we don't know the specific people in the specific grave, we do know how many are there, where they are and the families involved," Joiner said.

Joiner heaps praise on how ETC Tiger handled the situation. "They did everything right every step of the way" from rerouting the pipeline, "which cost them a ton of money," to erecting an iron fence and gate around the cemetery boundary. Each gravesite is marked with a 3-foot tall metal cross, and an historical marker noting the final resting place of members of the Dupre, Lafitte, Prudhome, Rambin and Williams families also was added.
ETC Tiger has produced an eight-page booklet outlining the restoration effort. It's filled with maps, photos and background information on the pioneering families.

"ETC Tiger is pleased to have had the opportunity to restore the Old Gravel Point Cemetery so that it can once again be visited by descendants and stand as a visible reminder of DeSoto Parish history," the document states.

Joiner assisted William Stanyard in preparing a full technical report on the site that is now registered with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. The report will undergo review before it is deemed final. But having it registered as an archaeological site could mean stiff penalties for any vandals. Vandals get the blame for the destruction of the original cemetery markers. "This was such a wonderful, wonderful project to work on. To me, it validates what I do and why I do it," Joiner said.

Found Human Skull could date to 1800s

By SANDY DAVIS, staff writer, Published: Feb 8, 2011, Baton Rouge Advocate

Contractors excavating a downtown [Baton Rouge] site Monday were surprised when they found part of a human skull that could date to the 1800s, said Don Hunter of Coastal Environments Inc.

Hunter said the site of a future apartment building at 438 Main St. used to have a house on it that dated to the 19th century when a dentist lived there — and operated his practice out of it. "We expected to find teeth and pliers here, but not part of a cranium," Hunter said. The partial cranium or skull was found during an archaeological survey on the site.

Hunter, an archaeologist, along with a small group of other archaeologists, is conducting the survey for a company called 438 Main Street, LLC. Kevin Cunningham, one of the owners of 438 Main Street, said Monday that the survey is required because the apartment project is being partially funded by the federal government. Any time federal money is used to alter a site that may have historical significance, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires such an archaeological survey be conducted, Cunningham said. His company applied for a demolition permit in November to tear down the building on the site and hired Coastal Environments Inc. to conduct the survey.

The group of archaeologists marked off the property in grids and has been using small tools to scratch away at the earth, bit by bit, to see what kind of treasurers might have been buried by time. "We expected to find chimneys, chamber pots and things like that," Hunter said. "We have found a lot of animal bones."

The partial cranium was found at about 11 a.m. a few feet away from a chimney that, Hunter said, he believed was part of a detached kitchen. He said the detached kitchen was common in those days because of the heat generated by a kitchen. Police were called to the site to determine whether it was a crime scene.

The police contacted Mary Manhein, director of LSU's FACES Laboratory, an anthropology forensic lab, who, after looking at the skull, said it appeared to have been autopsied. "It looked like a professional autopsy," Manhein said. "It was cut from front to back with a saw and part of the top of it was missing. "Because of the obvious professional autopsy, I did not suspect foul play," she added. The piece of skull was obviously very old, darkly stained but had a smooth autopsy cut "that was easily recognizable," she said. The skull was found a few inches below the earth's surface, she said.

Autopsies were performed fairly regularly in the early 1800s, Manhein said, and became routine around the period of the Civil War. "They were doing autopsies and embalming after the Civil War so they could send loved ones home," she said. It was also common, Manhein added, for doctors and dentists who acquired such skulls in medical or dental schools to keep them for educational purposes.

While the skull could have come from a dentist's office, Manhein said, there are other possibilities as well. "They were looking in undisturbed soil and finding a lot of debris — dishes, animal bones things like that," she said. "It could have been an old trash heap."

The site is also located across the street from a church, St. Joseph's Cathedral, Manhein said. Human bones have been found around the downtown area, she said, even around the Capitol. Normally, Manhein said, she and her crew would have taken the skull back to her lab for further study. "But Coastal Environments has been

in business for over 30 years and does work all over the South. They're a very respected company with a great reputation," she said. "So we left it with them." She advised company archaeologists to leave plenty of dirt around the skull so when it was transported to the company's lab, "it would have plenty of cushion and not fall apart." "Once they get it there, they'll clean it with water and see what they have," she said.

Anne Marie Maher Blank, an archaeologist with Coastal Environments, spent at least several hours Monday afternoon preparing to remove the skull from the dirt. "I'll be very curious to see what they find out," Manhein said. "It is interesting, especially if they find a filling in it."

Ultimately, Coastal Environments will turn the skull over to the state archaeologist, Dr. Charles "Chip" McGimsey, who is also director of the state's Division of Archaeology, a part of the Lieutenant Governor's Office. McGimsey was out of the office Monday, but Jacques Berry, communications director for the Lieutenant Governor's Office, said he spoke with state archaeologists.

Berry said when the state takes possession of the skull; they'll put it in the state's curation facility in the basement of the Galvez building until they decide what to do with it. "Our guys have never really dealt with anything like this," Berry said. "They'll all get together, talk about it and decide what to do with it. "They could bury it, but that's unlikely because it wasn't buried in the first place," Berry said. "They may see if LSU has an interest in it for educational or archival purposes or for historic preservation."

Cunningham, the developer, said once the apartment building is completed, it will have 22 units for mixed-income families. The federal money is part of a "Hurricane Ike and Gustav affordable rental program," he said. In the meantime, archaeologists will continue their survey of the Main Street site. "You know what's interesting about all of this," Hunter, the archaeologist, said, "We still haven't found any extracted teeth or any pliers."

Anne Marie Maher Blank, of Coastal Environments Inc., digs carefully near a chimney foundation to uncover a human skull Monday found at 438 Main St. [Baton Rouge], where a new apartment building is being built. The skull may have belonged to a dentist who lived at the site in the 19th century, said Don Hunter, an archaeologist with the company. Jonathan Decker, top, also with the company, was one of the workers who discovered the skull.

A Decorated Vessel from Anacoco Lake

By Chip McGimsey

Anacoco Lake is located in western Vernon Parish. It is a modern lake created in 1951 by the damming of Anacoco Creek, and encompasses 2,310 acres. The lake was drawn down in 1995, 1999, and 2006 (McGimsey 1996; McGimsey et al. 1999; McGimsey and Rees 2008). During those draw downs, nearly 95% of the lake bottom was surveyed by the author with the assistance of numerous volunteers. Roger and Delma Briggs of Leesville, La., worked with the author during each of those years and their support and tireless efforts made these projects possible.

As a result of these efforts, 211 sites were identified across the lake bottom. The vast majority of the sites are small artifact scatters on pimple mounds or small remnants of natural levees along the small creeks that drain into Anacoco Creek. Along the edge of the Pleistocene terrace on the western side of the lake, several deep (2 m) stratified sites were identified. Lower components of these sites dated to the Middle Archaic period (McGimsey 1996).

The 2006 survey consisted primarily of revisiting previously recorded sites to confirm their location with GPS, and to search for additional diagnostic artifacts. Most sites produced one or two projectile points, or perhaps a single decorated sherd. One site however, 16VN1780, was notable for several large decorated sherds found during the first visit. Several of these sherds fit together and as a result, the author and the Briggs made several revisits to the site in hopes of finding more of the vessel. For the last visit, we brought a couple of garden rakes and raked an area approximately 10x10 m in size in an effort to find as many pieces of the vessel as possible. While this is not normally an approved excavation method, this site (as with all others in the lake bed) is severely deflated. Stumps at this site and others indicate that 30 cm of sediment or more has been removed from these sites and most show the B horizon subsoil on their surface today. In these circumstances, none of the artifacts remain in situ and raking was an effective means of finding sherds within the wave-washed sand covering the site.

In the end, 21 sherds were found, most of which can be glued together to form approximately 10% of a vessel. The reconstructable vessel section extends from the rim to almost the base (Figure 1); additional sherds make it possible to estimate the complete vessel profile. The vessel exhibits a distinctive brushed decoration using a four tine brush (Figures 1, 2 and 3). The upper rim is decorated by two strokes of the brush running parallel to the lip (Figures 2 and 3). Below that, a series of regularly spaced brush strokes run obliquely down the vessel neck; the upper ends of each stroke are accentuated where the brush was pushed into the surface forming a small punctate (Figure 3). These oblique strokes end at a crude scratched line marking the base of the neck. Below that, a series of regularly spaced vertical brush strokes extend from the neck nearly three-fourths of the way down the vessel body. The bottom one-fourth of the vessel is plain.

The vessel profile (Figure 1) shows a large globular jar with a constricted neck. At the neck, the vessel is approximately 28 cm in diameter. The lip is plain and rounded. The base is flat. The vessel thickness ranges from approximately 6 mm at the lip to approximately 12 mm at the base. The paste is very sandy, although this probably reflects a sandy clay matrix rather than the intentional addition of sand to the clay.

It is rare, especially in the western part of the state, to find enough of a vessel to understand the overall design. This is what made all the revisits to the site worthwhile; this is the only reconstructable vessel section found in all of the Anacoco Lake survey work, and one of the very few from this part of the state. The design is reminiscent of Plaquemine Brushed from the lower Mississippi River valley, and of Pease Brushed incised from the Caddo region of the Red River valley, but is clearly neither of these. This reflects what appears to be a common pattern in this region: the inhabitants were clearly aware of what their neighbors were doing in adjoining regions but chose to interpret them in their own way, creating their own styles with a common technique.

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Figure 1

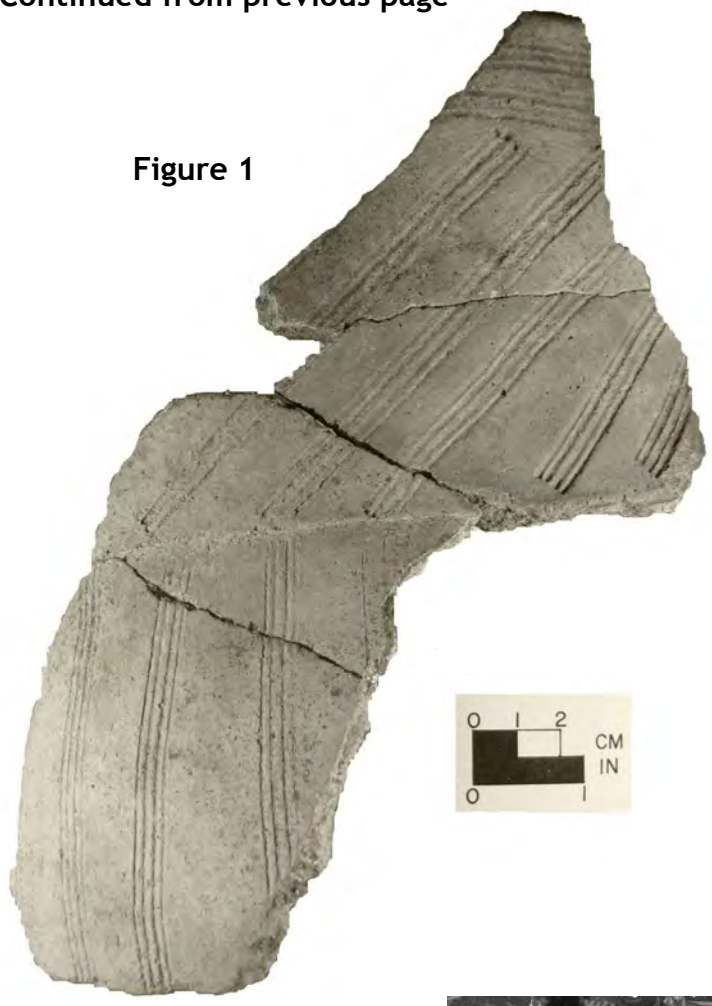
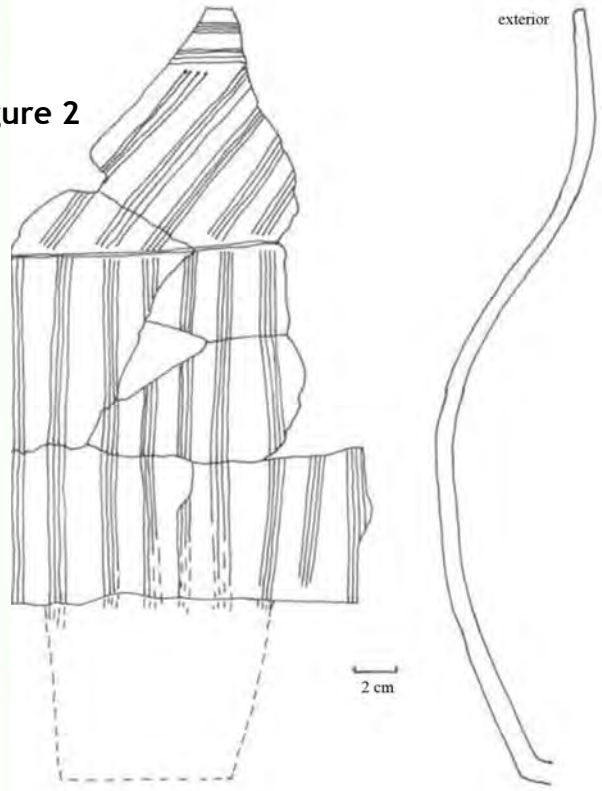


Figure 2



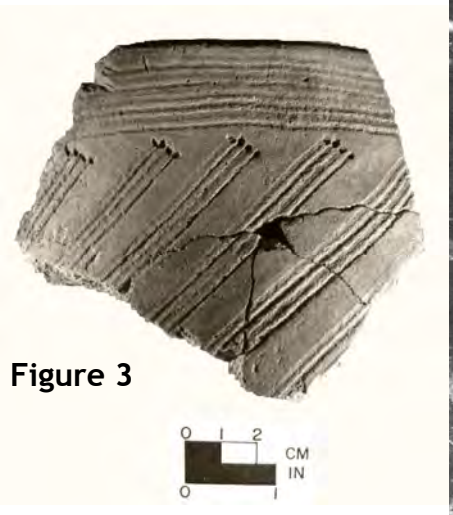
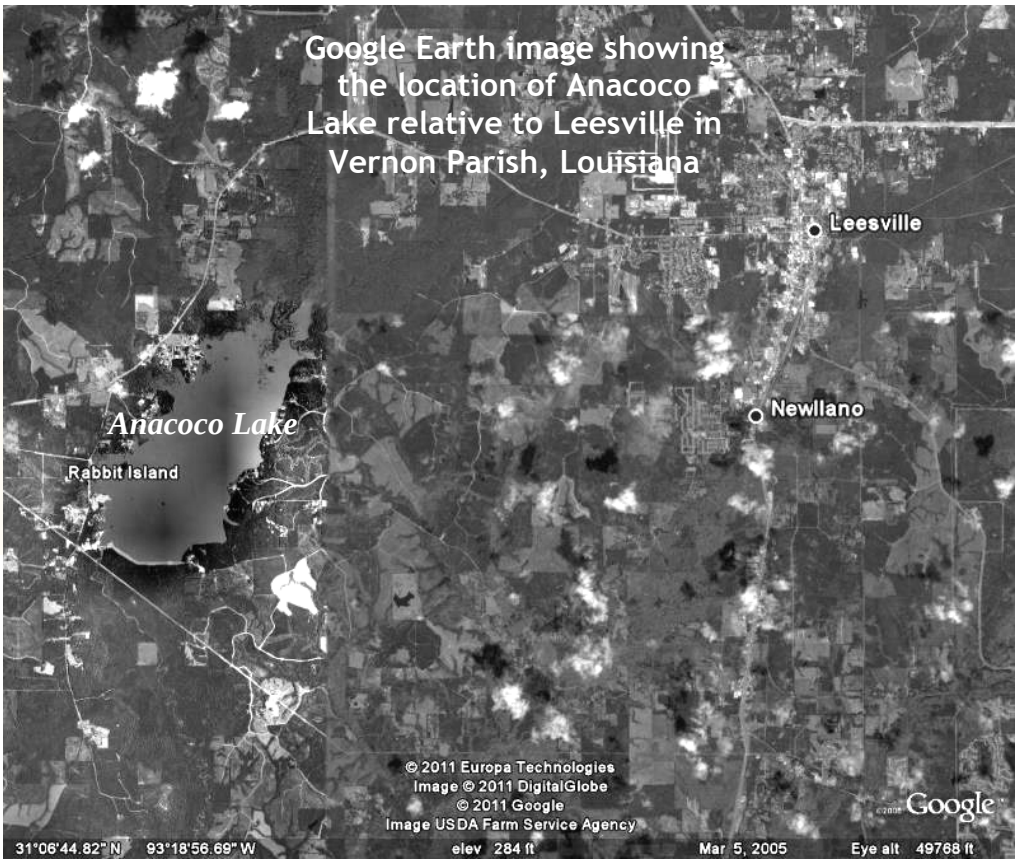


Figure 3



Google Earth image showing the location of Anacoco Lake relative to Leesville in Vernon Parish, Louisiana

Investigations at DeLoach's Bluff (16RA45), a Civil War Battlefield and Early Historic Residential Site in Rapides Parish

W. Ryan Smith and Jeffrey S. Girard
Northwestern State University of Louisiana

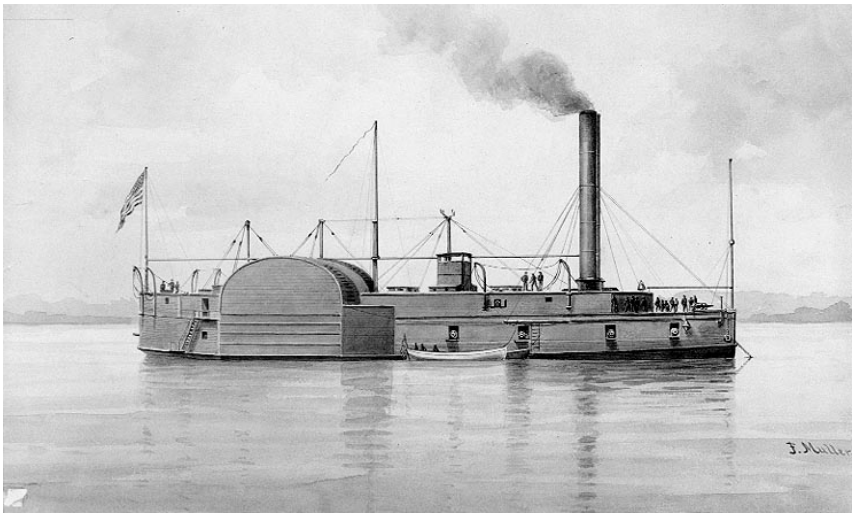
In July 2010, Northwestern State University's Cultural Resource Office (NSU CRO) was awarded a competitive grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) to carry out an archeological investigation and boundary delineation of one battle site associated with the Red River Campaign. The Union naval flotilla, under Admiral David Dixon Porter, was attacked by Confederate land forces repeatedly during their April 10-28, 1864 descent of the Red River. These actions resulted in the loss of a number of naval vessels and hundreds of lives.

According to the historic record, Deloach's (or DeLoges) Bluff (16RA45) in northern Rapides Parish is a known site location for one of these engagements. The site also features relatively intact colonial and early American period domestic components. Beginning at least as early as 1785 the area was occupied by members of the immigrant Pascagoula tribe. In 1795, the land was sold by the Pascagoula chiefs to Colin LaCour. Later, the estate was acquired by Joseph Gilliard and finally, decades into the American period, by William Deloch. During this time the plantation estate was known alternately as Pascagoula, Mount Pleasant Plantation and finally DeLoach's Place or Bluff.

In 1864, in the area between present-day Montgomery and Boyce, Louisiana hosted a number of Civil War engagements related to the Red River Campaign. One of these engagements featured a Confederate field battery, supported by sharpshooters, placed on DeLoach's Bluff. The action was brief, but fierce, and resulted in significant damage to at least one Union vessel and control of the river by the Confederates. Ultimately, the Union fleet would limp back to Alexandria, become entrapped as a result of low water above the falls in the river, and famously, would be saved by the timely and ingenious completion of Colonel Bailey's Dam.

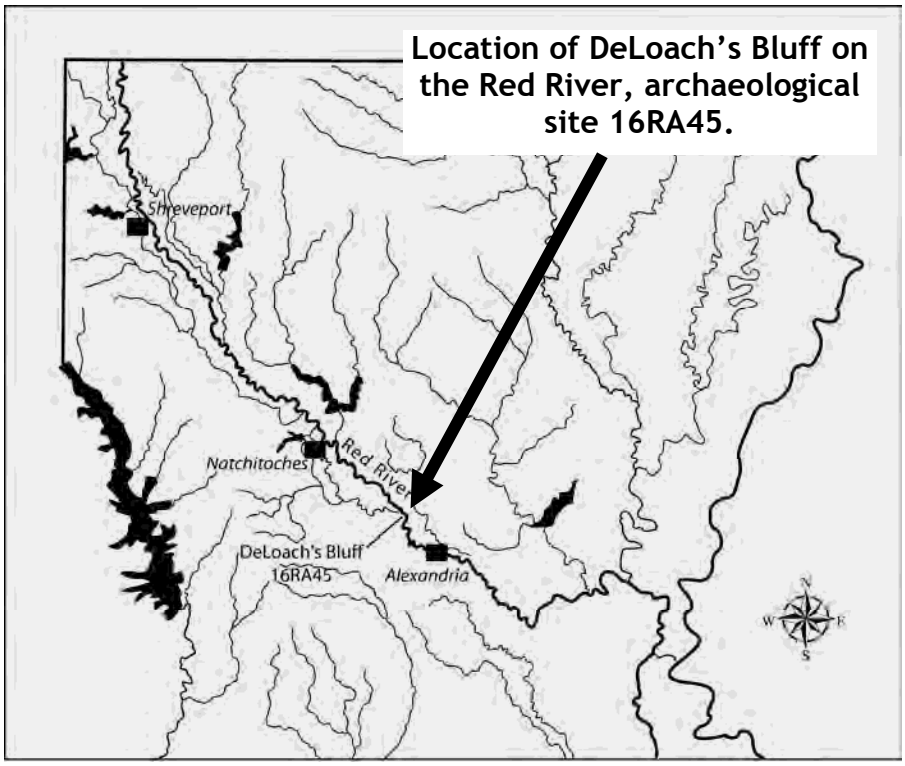
The project objectives are to document the various historic period contexts related to the site, establish possible site locations for the Civil War engagements along the Red River based on predictive modeling using GIS, complete an exploratory archaeological survey of DeLoach's Bluff, and present the ABPP with a boundary delineation and military terrain analysis of the battlefield – a military site that has heretofore received little attention.

Field work for the project began in October 2010 and is ongoing. To date, 36 shovel tests have been excavated and a metal detector survey completed. The metal detector survey work was assisted by Brad Lafitte and Jameel Damlouji, members of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. Field mapping was carried out with the help of NSU's Regional Archaeology Program. Material culture analysis is incomplete, but initial impressions indicate that the integrity of the late 18th century to early 19th century components is high and evidence is present of later activities, including those relating to the April 1864 battle. Battle-related artifacts that have been recovered include gun parts, cannon shell fragments, shrapnel and complete shot, and large knife or possible military saber blade fragments. Artifacts from earlier contexts include a variety of hand-forged tools, 18th century aboriginal and non-aboriginal ceramics and domestic debris, as well as a 1721 French Colonial coin. The project is scheduled for completion, with publication of the results, by the end of summer, 2011.



The U.S.S. *Lexington*, five-gun riverboat steamer used by the U.S. Navy's inland river fleet from 1861-1865. *Lexington* was engaged with Confederate forces and heavily damaged at DeLoach's Bluff in April 1864. Image courtesy U.S. Naval Historical Center

The announcement of the NPS award for this research project was in the Fall 2010 newsletter-Editor



Iron key recovered during the metal detector survey

One-inch spherical canister shot recovered from 16RA45. Unlike solid shot or heavy cannon shells, canister shot was intended for use totally as an anti-personnel device. Several of these iron balls would be discharged from cannon at once, creating a spread of lethal projectiles.

Ryan Smith and Joe Evans (background) excavating shovel tests at DeLoach's Bluff site

Other Perforated Ground Stone Artifacts in East Texas
By Mark Walters

Editor's note: The last LAS newsletter contained a short article from Mark Walters of Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, TX. Below is the second part of Mark's submission that was shortened due to space considerations. His article explores the presence of perforated ground stone artifacts in East Texas from the Buddy Calvin Jones (BCJ) collection that have similarities to artifacts reported in Louisiana.

Another example of a ground stone artifact with a drilled hole is a probable gorget labeled "17, G.C." from the BCJ collection. The exact location of this find is unknown, but G.C. in the BCJ notes, refers to Gregg County, Texas. This is a fragmentary artifact, made from a brownish-yellow Limonite. It is smoothed on one side, the opposite side appears to be a natural surface, and the edges present are rounded and smoothed. The object is broken through an 8.2 mm diameter drilled (perforated) hole (Figure 1).

Figure 1

The second perforated ground stone artifact from the BCJ collection is a gorget labeled BCJ 18. The gorget is made from black slate and is highly polished on all surfaces. Dimensions are: length: 93.6 mm, width: 52.7 mm, thickness: 4.66 mm, and weight: 40.7g. (Figure 2). This specimen is similar to the rectangular bar type, variety C (Lintz and Zahai 1985), found primarily in the Red River area. Both ends of the gorget are beveled, creating bits similar to those found on Caddo celts. There are three drilled holes along the gorget midsection. The one on the distal end is 5.4 mm in diameter on the top side and 4.5 mm on the opposite side. The hole located in the middle of the gorget is 6.8 mm in diameter on one side and 3.8 mm diameter on the other side. The hole on the distal hole is 5.2 mm in diameter on the top and 5.4 mm in diameter on the bottom side. Adjacent to the distal hole is a started hole on the top side that is 2.3 mm in diameter.

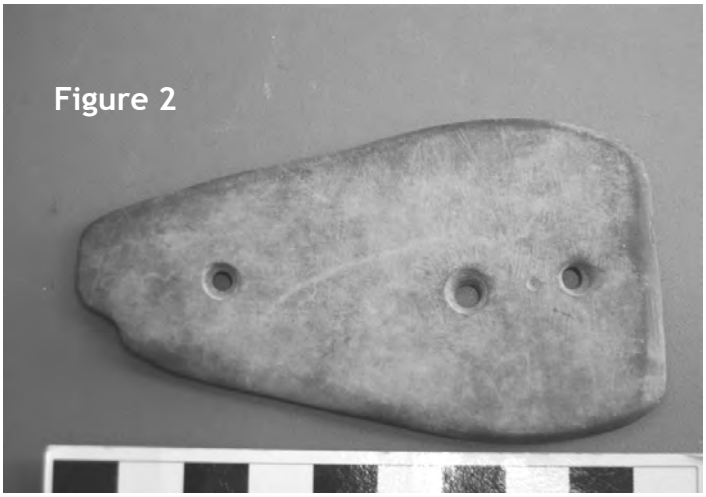


Figure 2

The final perforated ground stone artifact from the BCJ collection is a gorget that has no provenance. The gorget is made from yellowish-brown siltstone and is polished on all surfaces. Dimensions are: length: 57.3 mm, width: 66.0 mm, thickness: 7.5 mm, and weight: 36.8 g. (Figure 3). The object is broken through a 6.2 mm diameter drilled hole. This specimen is similar to the rectangular bar type, variety C (Lintz and Zahai 1985), and is decorated with intermittent serrations along both edges. There are ten closely spaced notches remaining on one side; the notches on the other edge have been damaged.

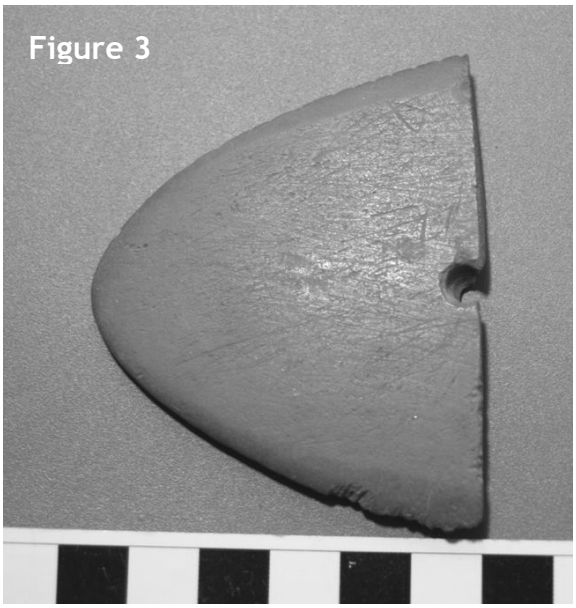


Figure 3

It is always frustrating dealing with artifacts that have poor provenance, as is the case in this paper, but hopefully this information will add to Neuman's efforts to document perforated ground stone items in Louisiana and adjacent areas. Neuman suggests that perforated celts could well be assigned to a Plaquemine or Mississippian time period (from about A.D. 900 to A.D. 1630), based on similar artifacts at other sites in the Southeast U.S. that he attributes to the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex. The celt from the BCJ collection compares favorably in shape, method of manufacture, and raw material to other known Caddo celts. What are striking are the drilled holes, as it was not known that the Caddo evidently developed an interest in drilling holes in stone objects. There are shell beads on Caddo sites that have drilled holes as well as an occasional ceramic vessel with drilled holes, including the flat bases that have drilled holes to make whorls for the weaving of fiber. The other four examples from the BCJ collection are temporally problematic.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Tim Perttula for his assistance in editing this article. I also thank Patti Haskins, fellow Steward and volunteer at the Gregg County Museum, for making these items available for study.

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Professional Archaeologists of Louisiana

P.A.L., the Professional Archaeologists of Louisiana (PAL) is up and running as an organization. The group is recognized as a non-profit organization by the State of Louisiana, and is awaiting notice from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that its application for tax-exempt status has been accepted. Meanwhile, click on the PAL Facebook page: www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Professional-Archaeologists-of-Louisiana/. Check out the information page and look for further information via Facebook in the future.

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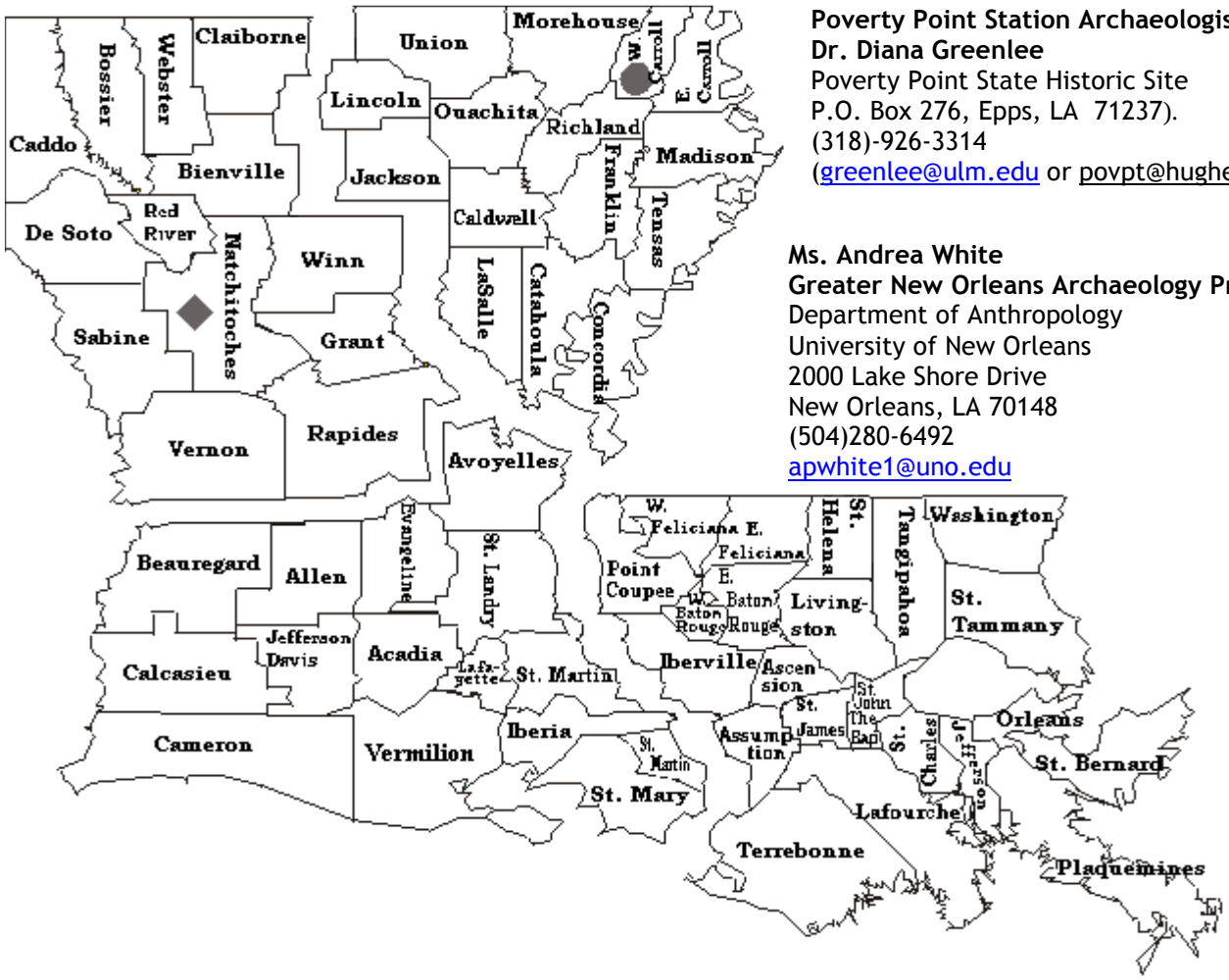
Regional Archaeology News



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A Tale of Two Mounds and Their Dates

By Joe Saunders, NE Regional Archaeology Program
University of Louisiana-Monroe

Two projects undertaken by the Northeast Louisiana chapter of the LAS in Monroe exceeded our expectations. Each project recovered charcoal suitable for AMS dating of two mound sites. Until then, the age of the two sites was unknown and, in fact, it was uncertain if even one of the mounds was a mound at al (see the Spring 2010 issue of the LAS Newsletter). Booth Landing (16CT31) is recorded as a single conical mound on the west bank of the Ouachita River near its confluence with the Boeuf River. Associated pottery from surface collections near the mound indicate a Tchefuncte age for the mound. Over the past 10 years or so, the Northeast Regional program has attempted to recover organic material for establishing the age of the mound. The dense vegetation hampered augering and hand coring at the base of the mound. Clearing of the underbrush by the NELAS made it possible to position the ATV coring rig on top of the mound. One continuous soil core was removed in two sections and described by soil scientist/geoarchaeologist Thurman Allen. He identified the submound midden approximately 205 cm below the surface and it continued to 232 cm below the surface.

Two charcoal samples were collected from the core and submitted for radiocarbon analysis. Sample 1 was from the top of the midden and it dates to approximately cal. 750-610 B.C. +/- 40 years (Beta 280736). Sample 2 was from the bottom of the midden and dated to 760-400 B.C. +/- 40 years (Beta 280737). Analysis of the organic remains and artifacts in the midden is forthcoming.

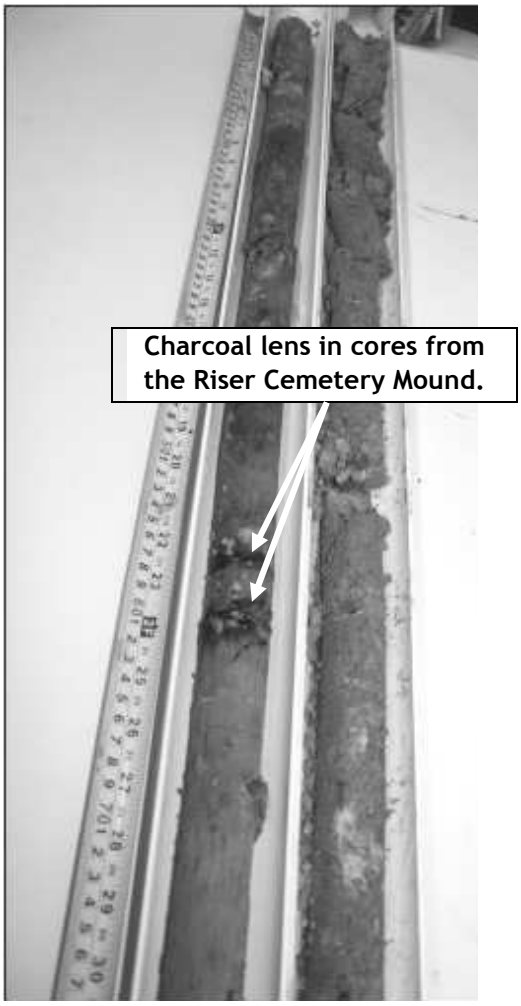
Saunders and Thurman Allen recovering soil cores from the Boothe Landing Mound site (16CT31)

NE Regional report continued

In an earlier issue of the LAS newsletter I discussed two possible interpretations for the small conical mound at the Riser Cemetery site. First, it was a natural rise and part of the rolling topography of western Ouachita Parish. Second, it is a prehistoric mound. Two auger excavations for permanent site datums exposed a well-developed Bt horizon, suggesting that if it was a mound, it could be very old.

Thurman Allen was asked to verify my and NELAS' interpretation by coring the mound. Allen pulled three cores, each with a well developed Bt horizon up to 40 cm thick. A band of charcoal in Core 3/2, 188 cm below datum and approximately 6 cm above the submound surface has been dated to 3260– 2910 B.C. +/- 40 years (Beta 281538).

This age falls within the "mode" of Middle Archaic mound, but two more dates are advisable. These could come from the lower band of charcoal and the organics in the submound surface. At the moment, however, indications are that this may be yet another Middle Archaic mound in Louisiana. Note in the adjacent figure the two bands of charcoal in the core.



Charcoal lens in cores from the Riser Cemetery Mound.

Survey and Investigation of the Marsh House Slave Quarters Site (16IB34)

By David T. Palmer, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

For the winter 2010-2011 "inter-semester," I directed a field school at the Marsh House Slave Quarters site (16IB34). During the approximately month-long project, 11 students from UL-Lafayette and Millsaps College learned archaeological fieldwork skills by participating in site mapping, shovel test pit survey, and limited excavations.

The Marsh House Slave Quarters site includes two small standing brick cabin structures on the western portion of Avery Island (Figure 1). The site is a portion of the housing area for enslaved Africans and African Americans working for the sugar plantation established by John Marsh in 1818. Marsh, from Connecticut, brought enslaved people from New York and New Jersey with him to his sugar plantation in Louisiana. By 1840, the plantation was known as Marsh-Avery plantation, and by the time of the Civil War, was known just as Avery Plantation. The 1860 slave schedule lists 100 enslaved persons living on Avery Island during that year.

The site was first recorded in the late 1980s by David Babson on the basis of historical data, with no subsurface investigation. The Regional Archaeology Program was contacted by McIlhenny Company and Avery Island Historian Dr. Shane Bernard in June 2010 after a portion of the site was unintentionally damaged by residential construction activities that exposed 19th century artifacts and the remains of a brick feature. After documenting the damage to the site with Dr. Mark Rees, I discussed the need to define site boundaries and determine the extent of intact archaeological deposits with Dr. Bernard. This discussion expanded to involve the leaseholder of the site and McIlhenny Company and Avery Island, Inc. The results of the discussions were an invitation to work at the site and partial financial sponsorship of a winter field school project at the site.

Project goals included better defining the horizontal and vertical extent of the site and determining if intact archaeological deposits relevant to the plantation era still existed. These goals were accomplished through site mapping, systematic survey via shovel test pits of the area south and east of the extant structures, magnetometer survey south of the extant structures, and the excavation of a limited number of excavation units. A total of 28 shovel test pits and 13 square meters of excavation units were completed for the project, with many artifacts and four plantation period features uncovered.

Features relating to the plantation era discovered through the project included part of a wooden post, Feature 003, which may have been a pier for another house (or a sturdy fence post), a dense trash deposit, and two brick features. The trash deposit, Feature 002, was initially defined as a feature because the brickbats within it were thought to be the remains of a house pier pad. Further excavation proved this not to be the case, but a dense deposit of artifacts including ceramics, glass, animal bone, a harmonica plate, doll parts, and a toy cannon were well-documented. Feature 001 is a layer of brickbats to the southwest of the extant structures, of c. 1-x-2 meters. Feature 005 was found to the west of Feature 001 in the same excavation block, and was differentiated from Feature 001 because it consisted of full bricks more formally laid than the brickbat paving of Feature 001. These features probably related to the church which used to be in this area of the site. They were likely a landing or walkway and a pier pad for the church structure.

At the southern end of the area investigated, in excavation unit (EU) N1970.5 E 2050, we found a thick midden layer consisting of antebellum artifacts of glass, metal, ceramic and animal bone. Among the artifacts recovered from this EU were kaolin clay smoking pipe stems.

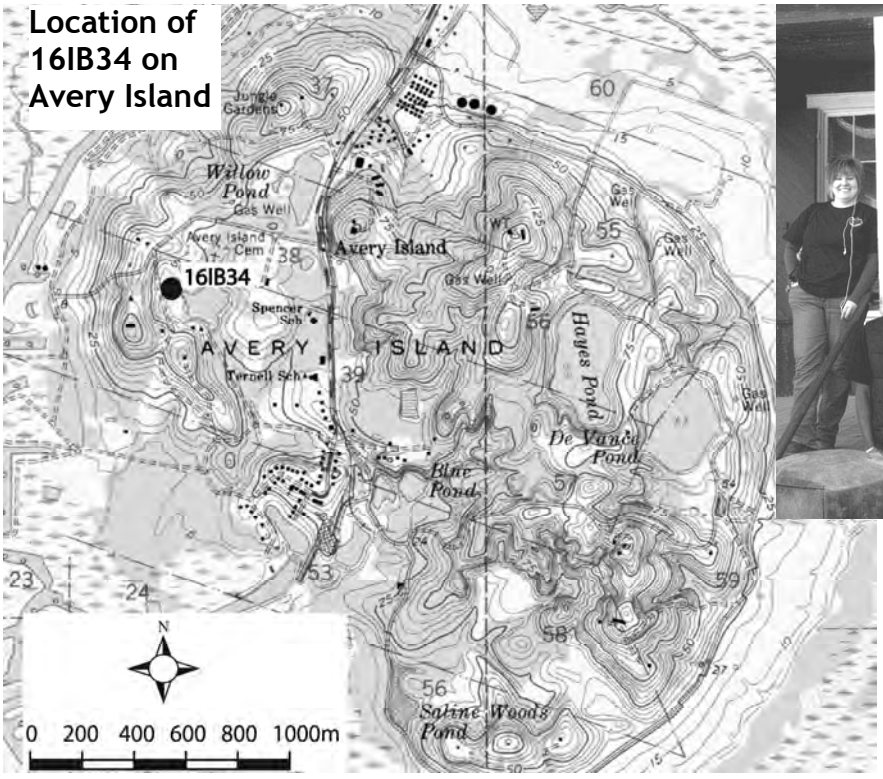
Magnetometer survey data will need to be ground-truthed via excavation at a future date, but does seem to indicate some anomalies which are likely related to the site. Artifact processing and analysis is taking place during the spring 2011 semester as part of the "Archaeological Records" laboratory course at UL-Lafayette. All but two of the field school students are enrolled in the course and are enjoying the opportunity to follow-through with the research.

Through this project we were able to determine that intact archaeological deposits with good integrity pertaining to plantation-era African American life remained at the site, and we were also able to begin to define the extent of the site. Additionally, 11 undergraduate students benefitted from the opportunity to learn archaeological field methods while participating in original research. Through interactions with volunteers and visitors to the site, students also gained valuable first-hand experience in public archaeology. Further survey and excavation at the site is warranted to more fully define its extent and recover data with which we can interpret what life was like for the enslaved workers of this sugar plantation.

Acknowledgements

This research was conducted through the State of Louisiana's Southwest Regional Archaeology program at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. It has been financed with state funds and with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, through a grant from the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Additional funding and logistical support was provided by McIlhenny Company and Avery Island, Inc. I also wish to thank the following individuals for their support of the project: Mr. Paul McIlhenny, Mr. Tony Simmons, Mr. Took Osborn, Dr. Shane Bernard, Mr. Jack D'Aquin, and Mrs. Nanine D'Aquin.

Project volunteers included Mr. Jim Delahoussaye, Mr. Tim Phillips, Mr. Mark Richard, Ms. Danielle Tyler, Ms. Donna Jackson, Ms. Alyssa Jackson, and Ms. Anna Jackson. This project would not have succeeded without the enthusiasm and unflagging efforts of my winter field school class of students from UL Lafayette and Millsaps College (Figure 2): Mr. Matthew Chouest, Mr. Mikey Chouest, Ms. Leslie Clements, Ms. Jennifer Hopkins, Ms. Miley Jackson, Mr. Chad LaComb, Ms. Janie LeBlanc, Ms. Jessica Mahoney, Mr. Santiago Oyana, Ms. Kelci Quereau, and Mr. Caleb Walls. Mr. Walls also served as student assistant during the field project.



David Palmer, front row & center, with his crew of students who participated in the intersession archaeological field school at 16IB34.

Executive Committee Meeting
Louisiana Archaeological Society
Pineville, Louisiana
Saturday, October 26, 2010

Velicia Bergstrom called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.
Minutes: Dennis Jones made a motion to accept the meeting minutes with corrections. Nancy Affeltranger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer Reports

President: Contract with Alexandria Fulton was signed. Brad Lafitte has agreed to serve as a candidate for VP in the next elections for officers.
Vice President: John Guy had no report.
Secretary: We need to hold elections for Vice President and the Secretary position. Rachel Watson (current) is willing to run for Secretary position. Ellen Ibert and Johnny Guy agreed to serve on the nominating committee.
Treasurer & Membership: Jason Emery reported noted that there was an error in the treasury report in the meeting minutes from June 26, 2010 meeting. The corrected numbers were as follows:

Checking	$10,029.95
Savings	$10,121.54
PayPal	$2785.48
Total	$29,936.97.

The current account balances are:

Checking	$7,502.29
Savings	$10,121.54
PayPal	$2,785.48
Total	$20,409.31.

Jason will move the Springhill CD to Bank One in May.

Membership Breakdown:

Institution	29
Regular	154
Associate	12
Student	13
Lifetime	95
Sustaining	3
Ex officio *	6

* The executive committee voted to grant the regional and station archaeologist free membership for the duration of their tenure of the position.

Website: Junior Doughty was unable to attend but emailed his report. The site averages 143 hits a day. Sixty-six newsletters are downloaded weekly. The LSU Mounds edition is the most popular.
Bulletin & Newsletter: Dennis Jones reported the archaeology month schedule would be in the next newsletter. In addition, there would be an announcement concerning Mark Rees's new book. The LAS spent $483.00 to mail the current issue of the newsletter.

The next bulletin would cover the Hoover Site, Josetta LeBouef's thesis, an article on bricks, and an article about underwater archaeology of a steamship in the Sabine River. Dennis believed the bulletin would go out in October. He believed another bulletin would be ready for January. LAS will need to produce three or four bulletins a year to bring our publications commitments to the current year.

LSU press paid the LAS $400 to advertise *Archaeology of Louisiana* edited by Mark Rees in both the newsletter and the bulletin.

Chapter Reports

Acadiana Chapter: No report
Baton Rouge Chapter: Dennis Jones reported on behalf of the chapter. The chapter meets on the last Wednesday of the month at the Bluebonnet Library. Last two speakers were Dena Struchtemeyer and Rob Mann.
Central Louisiana Chapter: Nancy Affeltranger reported that the chapter had excellent presentations. Speakers included George Avery, Dena Struchtemeyer, Marie Richards, and Jim Fogleman.
Delta Chapter: Lucretia McBride emailed a report on behalf of Delta Chapter. The chapter is reorganizing and plans to hold new elections soon.
Northeast Chapter: No report.
Northwest Chapter: No report.
Southwest Chapter: No report.
West Chapter: Johnny Guy reported that the chapter meets every third Thursday at the Museum of West Louisiana. Twelve members attend regularly.

Old Business

Dennis Jones gave an update on the possible excavations of Lake St. Agnes Mounds. Philip "Duke" Rivet, David Palmer, and Dennis met with Marc Dupuy to discuss excavations. A professional archaeologist needs to agree to develop a research design, direct excavations, and write-up the report.

Several possible speakers were discussed for the keynote speaker at the 2011 Annual Meeting. Jason Emery agreed to contact possible candidates.

Johnny Guy made a motion that the LAS give $500 to Poverty Point World Heritage Fund. Jason Emery seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

New Business

The executive committee discussed the charter for the Acadiana Chapter. Ellen Ibert made a motion to accept the charter with one minor correction. The charter needs to contain language that they will have their fiscal report to the LAS treasurer no later than January 31st. Johnny Guy seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Dennis Jones made a motion to create a card for lifetime members after a vote by the membership at the annual meeting. Rachel Watson seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Announcements

We need to announce the idea for T-shirt design and submission guidelines at the Business meeting during the 2011 Annual Meeting.
Rachel Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:04 pm and Ellen Ibert seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recent LAS Membership History
Compiled by Jason Emery-LAS Treasurer, February 2011

	2010	**2009**	**2008**	**2007**	**2006**	**2005**	**2004**	**2003**	**2002**
Institutional	30	29	23	25	20	30	23	16	24
Regular	162	108	93	91	64	81	74	65	61
Associate	13	5	4	11	14	12	17	14	13
Student	9	9	6	8	7	13	5	6	7
Life	100	95	94	92	95	94	93	94	93
Sustaining	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Ex Officio	5								
Total	**322**	**249**	**223***	**230**	**203**	**233**	**215**	**198**	**201**

*Membership for 2008 was recounted in 2009 and is, in all likelihood, low

2011 Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Archaeological Association
The upcoming Mississippi Archaeological Association Annual Meeting will be held **March 11-13, 2011** at the **Comfort Inn, 137 Walnut Street, Greenville, MS, (**662-332-0508**)**. The Friday night social, March 11th, will begin at 6pm and will include beverages and appetizers. Papers will begin at 8:30am on Saturday, March 12th followed by the business meeting, banquet, and key-note speaker. Sunday, join us for a tour of the Winterville Mounds beginning at 10am. More information available at www.msarchaeology.org or Facebook

53rd Annual Caddo Conference, March 25-26, 2011
Location: Fort Smith, Arkansas

The 53rd Caddo Conference will be held on 25 and 26 March 2011 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Co-sponsors for the Conference are the Arkansas Archeological Survey and University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. Program Chairman is Arkansas Archeological Survey archeologist Dr. Mary Beth Trubitt, who can be reached at trubitm@hsu.edu, and PO Box H-7841-HSU, Arkadelphia, AR 71999-0001. Arrangements Coordinator is Dr. Ann M. Early, who can be reached at amearly@uark.edu, and 2475 North Hatch Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72704.

UPPA Poverty Point Site Clean-up, March 25-27, 2011

The UPPA is a "friends of the Poverty Point State Historic Site" organization that was formed in 2000 to assist State Parks with preservation issues at the site. It was originally composed of students who have worked at the site and continue to have an interest in its archaeological resources. Facilities at the site will be open to all who attend. The participation fee this year is $20.00. The fee goes for meals and snacks for your weekend stay at the dorm facility. Alcoholic beverages are not included in fee. For more information call Ellen Ibert at (377) 208-7602. All interested adults are urged to attend. Prior work at Poverty Point is not necessary!!

ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH
- March 2011 –

The **2011 Arkansas Archeology Month** theme is *Archeology of Conflict*, which aligns with the first-year observance of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. Among the many subjects for study that archeologists pursue, one that is rapidly growing is that of "conflict archeology." Its most obvious sites are historic battlefields, and military encampments and forts. But the field of study is broader than just military engagements, as archeologists study sites associated with conflicts of many sorts. Included in these studies are the search for evidence of prehistoric warfare and its impacts throughout communities, racial and cultural conflicts, settlement disputes, and workplace violence. Archeologists studying conflict may look for evidence of defensive structures, trauma on skeletal remains, burning, and kinds of settlement patterns. Geophysical techniques have been employed to see troop movements and activities on battlefields. For more information, view the Arkansas Archaeological Society (AAS) website: www.arkarch.org/

SEAC 2011
68TH ANNUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 2-5, 2011 AT
The Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront
Jacksonville, Florida
More information at www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annualmeeting

Regular Membership	Annually $20.00
Associate Membership	Annually $5.00
Life Membership	$200.00
Sustaining Membership	$300.00
Student Membership	Annually $12.00
Libraries & Institutions	Annually $20.00

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name _____

Organization (optional)_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Email Address_____

Names of Associate Members_____

All memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Regardless of the time of year during which you join the society, you will receive all publications for the year specified.

Back Issues of LAS Bulletins, $15.00 each. Orders of 10 to 14 copies, $13.50 each; orders of 15 or more copies, $12.75 each. Available Bulletins are:

#1(1974), #7(1980), #8 (1981), #9 (1982), #10 (1983), #11 (1984), #13 (1986), #14 (1987),#15 (1988), #16 (1989), #17(1990), #18(1991), #19(1992), #20(1993), #21(1994), #22(1995), #23(1996), #24(1997), #25(1998), #26 (1999), #27(2000), #28(2001), #29(2002), #30 (2003), and #31 (2004)

Back Issues of LAS Special Publications:

SP #1 Stone Points and Tools of Northwestern Louisiana (1981, Reprinted 2000)	$4.00
SP #3 Louisiana's Archaeological Radiometric Database	$4.00

Optional Donation: Roger T Saucier Memorial Fund $_____-

Make checks payable to:
Louisiana Archaeological Society

Send payment to:
Jason Emery, LAS Treasurer
406 Tricou
New Orleans, LA 70117

WWW.laarchaeology.org

Membership dues and other purchases can be paid for by using PayPal!!

Information for Subscribers

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

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Email: archaeoman.jones@gmail.com; office phone: (225) 342-6932
If possible articles should be submitted on computer disk or by email, preferably in Microsoft Word. Digital images are encouraged. Please send in TIF, JPG or Word format. Contact editor via email with all questions.

LAS Web Site

www.laarchaeology.org

LAS OFFICERS
President: Mr. Johnny Guy, Leesville, LA
Vice President: Mr. Brad Lafitte, Mansfield, LA
Secretary: Rachel Watson, Baton Rouge, LA
Treasurer: Mr. Jason Emery, New Orleans, LA
Editor: Dennis Jones, Baton Rouge, LA
Webmaster: Carlos Perez, Baton Rouge, LA
All officers can be contacted through the LAS website

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NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY