



# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2008/2009

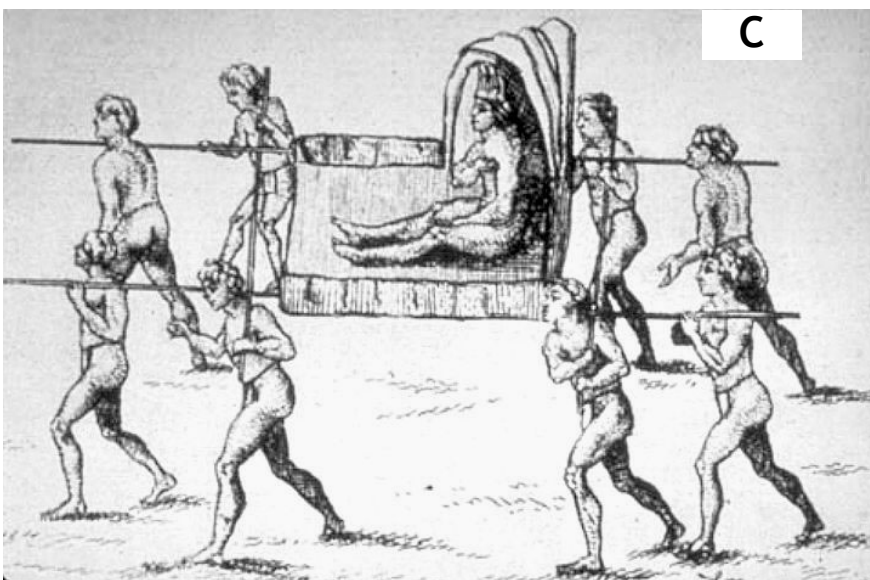
Vol. 36, No. 3



A-The foyer of the Eola Hotel, site of the 2009 LAS/MAA annual meetings.

B-Earlier accommodations in Natchez, Ms.

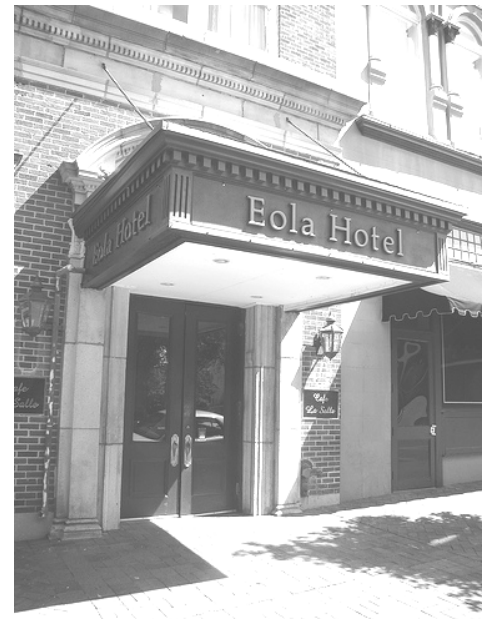
C-What you and the Great Sun of the Natchez Indians will have in common when you arrive at the 2009 LAS/MAA meeting!!



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

**More information inside for this  
first-ever joint meeting of the  
archaeological groups for  
Mississippi & Louisiana.**

**Natchez, Ms  
February 27-28 and  
March 1, 2009**



2009  
 Joint Annual Meetings of the  
 Mississippi Archaeological  
 Association (MAA)  
 and  
 the Louisiana Archaeological Society  
 (LAS)

February 27, 28, and March 1, 2009

Venue: Natchez Eola Hotel  
 110 Pearl St.  
 Natchez, Ms. 39120  
 Tel 1.601.445.6000  
 Fax 1.601.446.5310  
 Toll free 1.866.445.EOLA  
 www.natchezeola.com



Downtown Natchez, MS

Map data ©2008 Tele Atlas

## LAS Silent Auction

The LAS will hold its annual fund-raising Silent Auction during this year's annual meeting. During the last four years, Society members have raised over \$3,000 for the Society and helped avert possible dues increases. With the prospect of a joint meeting with the Mississippi folks this year, there is the potential for serious bidding wars and more money for the LAS.

We are delighted to accept anything (books, reproduction artifacts, art) related to archaeology, anthropology, geology, biology and other natural sciences as well as handicrafts, jewelry, arts and other items that you think would be of interest to members of the Society. Those of you contemplating cleaning out your bookshelf, attic, or garage now that the weather has turned cooler, think of the LAS before tossing that item into the trash. Questions and comments can be directed to Chip McGimsey ([cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us](mailto:cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us), 225-219-4600). Please let me know if you are donating items so that I can be sure to have sufficient table space and bid sheets. Happy Bidding!  
 -Chip McGimsey

**Pre-Registration Form**  
**2009**  
**Joint Annual Meeting of**  
**The Mississippi Archaeological Association &**  
**The Louisiana Archaeological Society**  
**February 27, 28, and March 1, 2009**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting \$15.00   
 Banquet \$27.74

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail to:     Treasurer  
                           Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS)  
                           c/o Louisiana Division of Archaeology  
                           P.O. Box 44247  
                           Baton Rouge, LA 70804

A block of rooms has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights at the Eola Hotel. The Natchez Eola Guest House is also available if anyone wishes to stay in a little more exquisite accommodation. Room rates for the hotel is \$89 a night single/double occupancy. The Guest House is a little more expensive with a rate of \$165 a night but does include breakfast.

**Meeting Registration:** Registration is \$15 if you register early (see form in this newsletter) or \$20 at the meeting. Please submit your pre-registration to Cliff Jenkins, Mississippi Archaeology Association Treasurer, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571.

**Friday:** Meeting registration and artifact display set-up will begin at 10:00 AM with papers beginning at 12 noon. A reception will be held Friday afternoon at the Eola.

**Saturday:** Meeting resumes at 8:00 AM with papers, artifact displays. Annual Business Meeting will follow papers. A keynote speaker and banquet is scheduled for later Saturday afternoon. The cost for the banquet is \$27.76 per person and includes tax and gratuities. It will be buffet style with a choice of two entrees and sides. This year the keynote speaker is Dr. Vin Steponaitis who will discuss his and John O'Hear's research at Feltus Mounds located outside of Natchez.

**Sunday:** A tour of Feltus Mounds and possibly other mounds in the area is scheduled for Sunday AM.

If you have any questions, call Rita Fields, meeting chairperson (601) 558-2596 or (601) 517-1490. Check the MAA website [www.msarchaeology.org](http://www.msarchaeology.org) or the LAS website [www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org) periodically for last minute details and changes. Everyone make plans to come—this is sure to be a memorable meeting!!!!

## LAS CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Baton Rouge LAS Chapter Dennis Jones-President

The Baton Rouge LAS chapter finished off 2008 with a Christmas party at Chelsea's bar and grill in Baton Rouge. Several member got together and put their chapter dues to good use by toasting one another and enjoying frosty libations.

The speaker for our October meeting, and listed as an Archaeology Month 2008 event was Joann Ryan from Coastal Environments, Inc. who spoke about a recent project she headed in Iberville Parish: *Digging Up a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Sugar Mill*. If some might judge the topic somewhat less than interesting, they would be wrong. Joann provided inter-esting insights to an early industrial site and technologies that are no longer with us.



Walter W. Beecher, circa 1939

### Walter Beecher 1913-2008

Walter Williams Beecher, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1913. He attended Ohio State University before moving to Baton Rouge in 1934 and transferring to LSU. He graduated in 1937 with a major in English and minor in history. Upon graduation, he accepted an anthropology fellowship to be curator of the small archaeology museum (the Indian Room) in the School of Geology. Part of his job required trips to Indian mound sites to collect pottery and other artifacts on the ground, bring them back to label and catalog, and reconstruct the pottery. At some point during this job he contracted malaria and had to resign his fellowship, then went home to Ohio to recover.

He later returned to Louisiana and was offered a supervisory position for a WPA/LSU archaeological project. He took the job and moved to New Orleans where he had a temporary lab and living quarters on the top floor of the WPA's archaeological project headquarters building. He worked out of New Orleans for approximately eight months, visiting sites of Indian mounds and villages. After completion of the new School of Geology building, he moved to Baton Rouge and was allowed to temporarily live in the attic of the new building until he found living quarters. He continued his work on the project until 1942 when he took at job at the Exxon Refinery, and retired 32 years later.

In honor of his contributions to LA Archaeology, a research fund has been established by the LSU Dept. of Geography and Anthropology in his memory.



### Newly-discovered Fossil Fish Named for University of Louisiana-Monroe Professor and Geologist (and LAS member)

Most scientists recall pivotal moments in their professional lives, but perhaps no moment is as meaningful as when a scientist realizes his or her name is forever linked with a new discovery. Such was the case with Dr. Gary L. Stringer, when colleagues in California named a 20-million year-old fossil fish for him.

Paleontologists Gary Takeuchi and Richard Huddleston of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles realized that they had uncovered a fossil fish entirely new to science, and they published their discovery in a recent issue of the Southern California Academy of Sciences. Discoverers of a new organism have the privilege of naming it, and Drs. Takeuchi and Huddleston agreed it fitting to name the fish *Pogonias stringeri*, in honor of Dr. Stringer, ULM's Geosciences Department head, who has spent a career studying fossil fishes.

Their article is titled, "A New Early Miocene Species of *Pogonias* (Teleostei: Sciaenidae) Based on Otoliths from California." In the publication, Takeuchi and Huddleston wrote the following regarding their choice for the new fossil fish's species name: "The species is named in honor of Dr. Gary L. Stringer, Professor of Geology, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Louisiana, in recognition of his contribution to the study of fossil fish otoliths, particularly in the Gulf Coast of North America." (*edited ULM press release-editor*)

## Be A P.A.L. !!!!

November 26, 2008, marked the birth of a new professional organization in our state, the Professional Archaeologists of Louisiana (PAL). The group is open to all professional archaeologists operating in Louisiana, both in the public and private sectors. Its intentions are to insure the continuation of superior quality archaeological work in Louisiana by maintaining high principles; assisting and advising public agencies in their formulation and the implementation of archaeological standards and procedures; facilitating communication among all sectors; and monitoring archaeological developments so as to ensure a positive image of archaeology on the part of the public and CRM clients. So far the new organization has received tremendous support from archaeologists both inside and outside the state, and has the backing of Dr. Chip McGimsey, State Archaeologist.

A committee of three persons, two from the CRM community and one from the Division of Archaeology, has been formed to prepare the official mission statement and write the bylaws. This committee will report to the members and other interested parties at the LAS meeting in Natchez, MS in February 27, 28 and March 1, 2009.

Inquiries for the time being may be directed to: Malcolm Shuman, Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, (225) 381-8201 or [mkshuman@surainc.com](mailto:mkshuman@surainc.com); or to Martin Handy, URS Corporation, (225) 231-6328 or [martin\\_handly@urscorp.com](mailto:martin_handly@urscorp.com).

### Editor's Corner

Dennis Jones, LAS Newsletter Editor

The first point I wish to make in this issue is that I encourage everyone to attend the annual meeting this year. It will be the first joint meeting of the archaeology groups from Louisiana and Mississippi. While some LAS members have occasionally attended meetings of the Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA), this will be an opportunity for even more LAS members to hear and meet archaeologists from our neighbors to the east. Also, attendees will have the opportunity to visit the Feltus Mounds site the scene of recent investigations by John O'Hear, Vin Steponaitis, and others. If possible, everyone should also take the opportunity to visit the Grand Village of Natchez state park, which is the largest site of the historic Natchez Indians that figured so prominently in the early colonial era of the Lower Mississippi Valley.

You will also notice that there has been an expansion of the section in the newsletter that announces and reviews recent books of interest to archaeologists working in Louisiana. This is a feature I hope to continue and if anyone wishes to submit a review of new title, feel free to submit one or contact Dennis Jones at [archaeoman2003@yahoo.com](mailto:archaeoman2003@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

I would also like to make a request of the LAS membership concerning Archaeology Month 2008. Send news about how events for this year's activities went and any suggestions you may have for next year. There has been a change, however, regarding Archaeology Month 2009. For the time being, the activities will be planned by Ms. Amy Mann. She can be contacted at (225) 342-8179 or by email at [amann@crt.state.la.us](mailto:amann@crt.state.la.us).

Finally, I hope everyone reads pages 18 and 19 in this newsletter. These pages, submitted by Chip McGimsey and Diana Greenlee, recount their recent trip to Naples, Italy to discuss the future research possibilities for Poverty Point. They also got the chance to visit Pompeii and Herculaneum. Oh, the demands of field work!!

## Louisiana Celebrates Archaeology Month 2008

Meta Pike (Division of Archaeology)

During October, people across the state attended events celebrating Louisiana Archaeology Month. Audience members enjoyed a variety of events such as guest speakers, archaeological site tours, museum exhibits, children's activities, documentary film viewings, and prehistoric tool demonstrations. With over 60 events in 37 cities and towns throughout Louisiana, there was a great selection of activities to choose from.

Archaeology Month provides an opportunity to celebrate and learn about Louisiana archaeology. Each year, a variety of events are held during Archaeology Month by public libraries, universities, museums, state parks, organizations, and individuals. Archaeology Month allows Louisiana residents to learn more about the human history of Louisiana, the unique archaeological heritage of the state, how archaeologists learn about the past, and the laws, which protect these sites.

Public celebrations of Louisiana Archaeology Week occurred for 20 years (1988-2007), and 2008 marked the first year of Louisiana Archaeology Month. Posters with different themes were created to advertise and celebrate the various activities, and entice all members of the general public to participate in the events. The 2008 poster showcased the underwater excavation of the Mardi Gras Shipwreck Site, discovered approximately 40 miles off the Louisiana coast.

Each area of the state offered a great selection of events for Archaeology Month. The Northwest region hosted a variety of guest talks, museum exhibits, and a public demonstration by the Ishak Natua Indians. The Northeast region also hosted many professional lectures, in addition to public fieldwork opportunities at the Poverty Point State Historic Site. The Southwest region offered the public numerous archaeological site tours, museum exhibits, guest talks, and artifact identification sessions. The Southeast region hosted a variety of activities for children, archaeological site tours, stone tool demonstrations, and museum exhibits.

This year's celebration of Archaeology Month was a huge success thanks to the assistance provided by guest speakers, participants, and host venues. In addition, the Division of Archaeology greatly appreciates the support of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. We look forward to having another successful month of celebrations and activities in October 2009!



**A young pottery maker tries her hand during a Special Saturday Adventures in Archaeology event on October 4 during Archaeology Month 2008 at the LSU Museum of Natural Science in Baton Rouge. Photo courtesy of Dana Thomas, volunteer at the LSU Museum of Natural Science.**



**Dr. Rob Mann, Southeast Regional Archaeologist, answers questions during Student Day at the Fairview-Riverside/Otis House State Park in Madisonville. This was a Louisiana Archaeology Month 2008 event that took place on October 2. Photo courtesy of Ann Durel, Curator at the Otis House.**

## Archaeobotanical Remains from the Bayou Grande Cheniere Mounds (16PL159)

By Tim Schilling, Washington University at St. Louis

### Introduction

This paper reports findings from an archaeobotanical analysis of samples from the Bayou Grande Cheniere Mounds (16PL159) in Plaquemine Parish. Even though the site is one of the largest prehistoric mound complexes on the coast, archaeologists have given little attention to it. The site is located in isolated marsh of southern Louisiana. The samples that will be discussed are the first archaeological samples from Plaquemines Parish to be examined for macrofloral remains.

### History of Investigation

The Bayou Grande Cheniere Mounds is a prehistoric mound and plaza complex located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana (Figure 1). With twelve mounds, the site is one of the largest prehistoric mound complexes on the coast (Figure 2). Although the site is large and well preserved, few archaeological investigations have been carried out there. Henry Collins first visited the mounds in the early summer of 1926. His crews placed an excavation pit into Mound 3 (cf. McGimsey 2005). Collins spent only a few hours at the site noting that, “mosquitoes and jad flies make work almost impossible.” (Collins 1927) After Collins’ brief visit, the site became lost to investigators until 1999 when McGimsey and Hayes, joined by archaeologists from Coastal Environments, Inc., relocated the site.

In 2002, Rebecca Saunders and Rob Mann of the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science (LSUMNS), assisted by a group of students, dug a series of test trenches at the site. Saunders and Mann investigated mound-building techniques, aiming to establish a temporal framework for mound construction. The next year Saunders and myself revisited the site with the goal of investigating site use activities.

Due to the limited excavation at the site, only a general temporal framework can be presented. Based on geological dating, the mounds could not have been built before ca. 850 A. D. when the Robinson’s Bayou subdelta was active (Gagliano et al. 1980; Schilling 2004:41). At this time Bayou Grande Cheniere was likely an active distributary of the Mississippi River.

Pottery from the 2003 excavations suggests that the site was occupied at some point in the later Bayou Ramos Phase (875 A. D. to 1000 A. D.) with use continuing as late as the early St. Gabriel Phase (1000 A. D. to 1200 A. D.) (Schilling 2004:76). The material remains fit within the Coastal Coles Creek Period (Kidder 2002:69). Drawing on information from the Lower Mississippi Valley, where our data are more secure, societies who lived on the coast around 1000 A. D. went through numerous changes in terms of material culture, settlement, and subsistence (Kidder 2002:86-90). Archaeologists still debate these changes (e.g. Schilling 2004; Weinstein and Kelly 1992).

The site consists of 11 earthen mounds surrounding a central plaza (Figure 2). A 12<sup>th</sup> mound lies approximately 75 meters south of the main group. The ovoid central plaza measured ca. 100 m X 75 m with the long axis running north-south.

Two flat-topped pyramidal mounds enclose the northern and southern ends of the plaza. A 13m tall conical mound dominates the eastern side. Five small domed mounds connected by a constructed ridge-line mark the western edge of the plaza. During the 2002 field season, test trenches were placed in Mound 3 and Mound 12. Crews sampled the area between Mound 9 and Mound 10 (Test Pit 2003-1) — and two loci on the ridge (Test Pits 2003-2 and 2003-3) — in 2003. Soil samples for flotation were recovered from Test Pit 2003-1 and Test Pit 2003-2.

Archaeobotanical samples were recovered from two locations in 2003. All samples were taken as bulk samples and none were screened in the field. Soil samples were floated using a flotation apparatus at the LSU-MNS laboratory (Watson 1976). Due to the clayey nature of the soils, the heavy fractions were subsequently re-floated at the Washington University Paleoethnobotanical Laboratory using a bucket technique (Fritz 2005:7). Analysts sorted all carbonized plant remains larger than 2.0 mm. Identifiable nutshell larger than 1.4 mm. were recovered, along with all sized whole seeds and maize fragments. Aided by Gayle Fritz, graduate students at Washington University made identifications.

The primary goal of the macrobotanical analysis in this project was purely descriptive. Archaeological remains from the coast of Louisiana are poorly known, with flotation rarely done. Archaeologists working in the southern Delta have had to rely on data generated from more inland contexts where the environment is markedly different.

### Nuts

In the Lower Mississippi Valley (LMV), researchers believe nuts, specifically acorns (*Quercus sp.*), were the most important plant food (Fritz 1994). Coastal subsistence practices, however, differed. At the Morgan Site (16VM9) on the cheniere plain of western Louisiana, flotation yielded no *Quercus* or any other nut remains. On the other hand, investigators at Morton Shell mound, farther east on Weeks Bay in Iberia Parish, found the most abundant nutshell type to be thick hickory (*Carya sp.*) (Byrd 1994). The results from the Bayou Grande Cheniere mounds follow a slightly divergent pattern. A total of 28 (*Quercus*=24, *Carya*=4) fragments of nutshell were recovered. Nutshell fragments were much denser in off mound midden contexts than in mound contexts.

### Maize

A total of 51 corn fragments were recovered. No cob or cob fragments were recovered. In the LMV, corn agriculture was adapted much later than across the rest of the Southeast with corn appearing only in low frequencies before about 1200 A. D (Fritz 2000:239). Mound top contexts

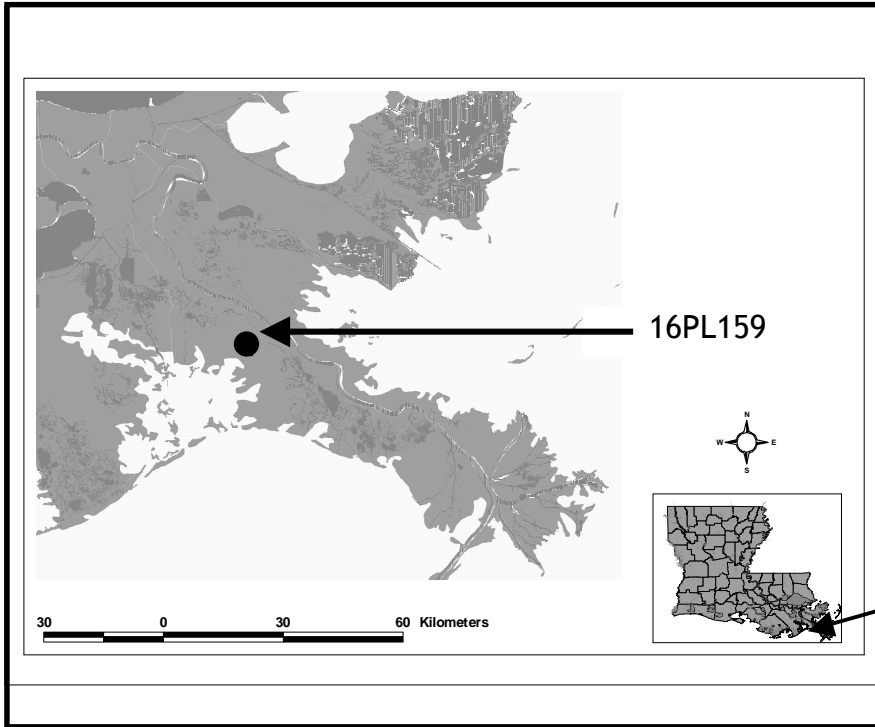
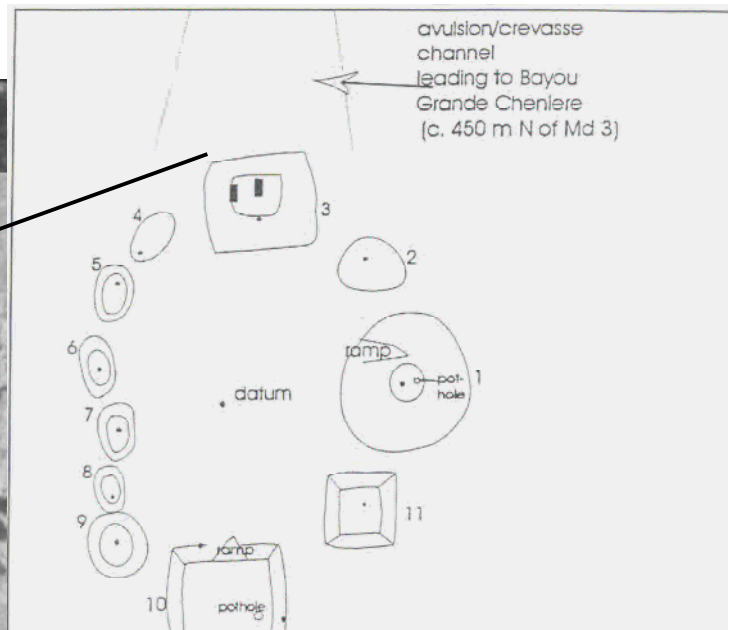
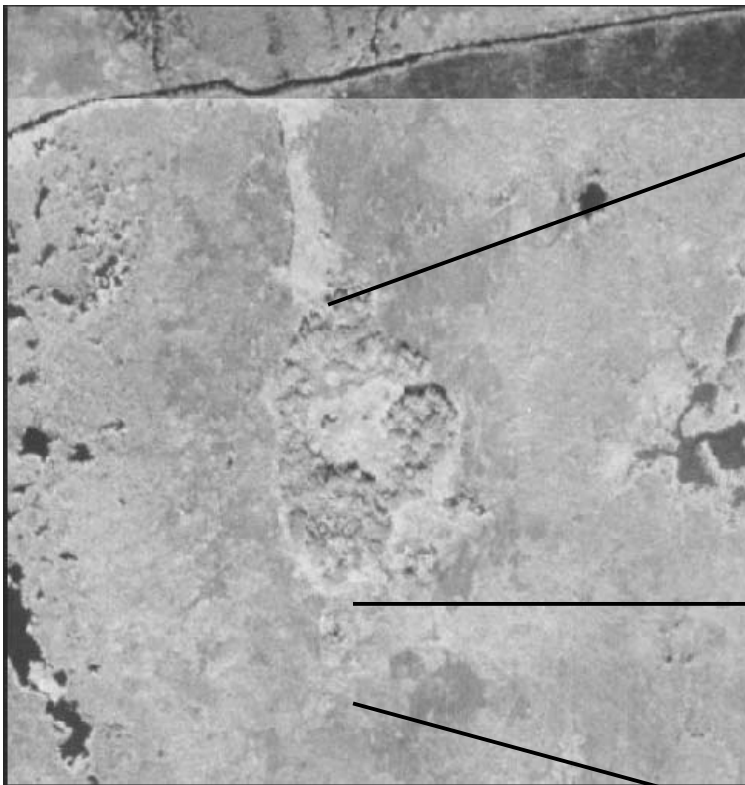
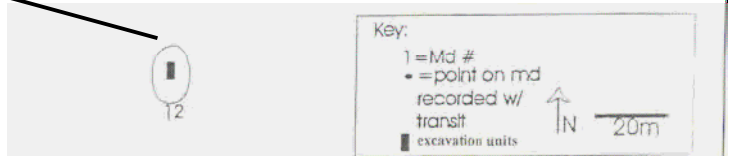


Figure 1: Location of the Bayou Grand Cheniere Mounds site (16PL159) in Plaquemine Parish.



Map Information from May 5, 2000 trip. Tallest mound is Md 1 (8.21 m above datum); Md 3 is c. 3 m above datum, Md 10 c. 2 m above datum; other mounds are c. 1 m or less in height above datum.

Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the Bayou Grand Cheniere site and a sketch map showing the arrangement of the 12 mounds at the site.



### Bayou Grande Cheniere Mounds (continued)

yielded the majority of the corn (n=64) with only one fragment coming from the toe-midden context.

#### Seeds

A total of 75 seed fragments were recovered. Most of the seeds are currently unidentified or need to be more securely identified (n=88).

Vetch Type (n=6) Vetches are annual flowering plants classified in the *Leguminosae* family. The vetch type seeds in this sample were fragmentary making identification uncertain, but they most likely are genus *Vicia* or genus *Lathyrus*. Some vetches produce pods and seeds that are eaten; other species are toxic and inedible. In the Old World, fava beans (*V. faba*) are cultivated as food. Modern distribution maps indicate that *V. ludoviciana* Nutt is the only species of vetch that grows in coastal Louisiana (USDA 2005). *V. ludoviciana* Nutt is commonly known as the Louisiana vetch. Ethnographic accounts from Louisiana do not indicate that Indians used *Vicia* as a food, but *Vicia* has been documented as a medicine by the Cherokee Indians in North Carolina (Taylor 1940:60).. *Vicia* is a weed species that grows well in human disturbed areas (Wetterstrom 1987:383). *V. ludoviciana* also serves as food for deer and other animals. *V. ludoviciana* blooms from March to May (Correll and Johnston 1979:874). Alternatively, the fragments could be from the genus *Lathyrus*. *Lathyrus venosus* is native to Louisiana (USDA 2005). *L. venosus*, the veiny pea, is an annual vine that produces seedpods. Ethnographic accounts of the Chippewa Indians documented *Lathyrus sp* used as a medicine (Densmore 1928:356-364). *L. venosus* blooms in April and May (Correll and Johnston 1979:877).

Portulaca oleracea. One seed identified as purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) was identified. Purslane is weedy species that has been cultivated as a food plant in the Southwestern United States, Europe and Asia (Haragan 1991:133). It is uncertain if the seed indicates that purslane was eaten as food or that it is an incidental inclusion, although at Morgan, researchers believe that purslane did make up a minor portion of the diet (Wetterstrom 1987:402).

Unidentified Seeds (n=68) The remaining seeds are classified as unidentified. Tentative identifications to include American Lotus (*Nelumbo sp*), sedges *Carex sp.*, members of the water lily (*Nymphaeaceae*) family and grasses (*Poaceae*). The American Lotus and the water lilies have large floating leaves with roots that anchor into the bottom of slow-moving freshwater streams or ponds (USDA 2005). Both flower throughout the spring and summer. Ethnographic accounts indicate that Native Americans used the pond lily seeds to make a meal for making cakes or breads. Swanton (1998:345) suggested that the roasted seeds tasted like hickory nuts. The Chitimacha Indians of the coast of Louisiana called the pond lily, “akta” (Gatschet n.d. as

cited in Swanton 1998:345). Some accounts suggest that the main Chitimacha dance house was called the pond-lily worship house (Co'ktangi ha'ne hetsi'nc), named for the abundant plants that grew nearby (Swanton 1998:352). It is not known if Indians used the sedges and grasses or if their inclusion was incidental. Both would have been available for use and ethnographic accounts show that these species were regularly used for both food as well as other non-food uses.

#### Discussion

From the macrobotanical remains it can be tentatively inferred that the local environment around the Bayou Grande Cheniere Mounds was freshwater dominated. No salt-tolerant plants were recovered. The current marsh represents a dramatic change from the environment of 1000 A. D. The floral remains were available from early spring through early fall, suggesting that the site was not used during the winter.

Although cheniere is French for oak, Indians on the coast did not rely heavily on acorns as food, contrary to other groups farther inland. Wetterstrom, in an analysis from the Morgan Mounds, also noted a similar pattern. At Morgan, no nut remains were identified. Wetterstrom argues that Indians relied upon a low intensity horticulture based on *Chenopodium sp*, *Iva sp*, mayweed, and little barley. Other important weeds were *Rumex sp* and *Portulaca sp* (Wetterstrom 1987:401-402).

At Bayou Grande Cheniere, the Native American diet incorporated wild species, such as acorn, vetches, and lilies (spatterdock). Maize kernels were also recovered, although the restricted context suggests that maize was not a staple, but rather a food for special occasions. The recovery of the *Nymphaeaceae* remains stands out as no other analysis has documented lily family remains from archaeological deposits. The remains documented at Bayou Grande Cheniere matches well with the ethnographically documented diet of the Chitimacha who ate a diet comprised of numerous wild species such as beans, pond lilies, and various roots and tubers. Domesticates, like maize, only supplemented the wild foods (Swanton 1998:345). More projects are needed to determine if this is the result of localized variation or part of a greater coast-wide pattern.

#### Summary

The macrobotanical analysis is only partially completed, however the initial results are promising. Two unusual, though not unexpected, food remains were found: corn and pond lilies. The site dates to a time period when in the LMV, corn was just beginning to be used. Currently, the corn remains from Bayou Grande Cheniere are the earliest corn remains from the coastal region. No other analyses has documented *Nymphaeaceae* remains, which given the environmental setting of coastal Louisiana is unexpected. The work is still in progress and stands to yield several interesting insights into an under-documented time period in Louisiana

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## You're An Archaeologist?!

By James Allen Green

Services Unlimited  
archeaid@a-55.com

“You’re an archaeologist?” That’s a common reaction when I’m asked about my occupation. However, most people’s knowledge about archaeologists is what they have seen on television and at the movies. They don’t know the real story.

First, archaeologists have a love/hate relationship with Indiana Jones. Usually, the first thing someone asks when they find out you’re an archaeologist is “You mean like Indiana Jones?” The second question is either “Found any gold/treasure?” or “What’s the coolest thing you’ve ever found?” The third thing is usually related to DINOSAURS. Sure, most archaeologists wear cool hats, use a whip like it’s another appendage, and, \*\*\*most importantly\*\*\*, dig up dinosaurs with gold-capped teeth.

On the other hand, archaeologists would love to travel to those exotic places and find things worth millions of dollars like Indiana Jones. And did you ever notice how carefully he bags those precious artifacts and writes exactly where he found them?

Face it; in America the vast majority of John and Jane Q. Public don’t understand what it is to be an archaeologist. Their opinion is that every day is like being in a candy store. God forbid that anything could be mundane in archaeology! My first couple of projects in sugarcane and cotton country I was thrilled to be finding artifact scatters at early 20th Century sharecropper house locations. Now it’s “Oh great! Sharecropper house site number 5,238!”

But seriously, field archaeology is 99/1. Ninety-nine percent of the time you question exactly why you got into archaeology. Then viola! You find something really neat or have an epiphany that makes all of the mundane seem worth it. Actually, that’s a little exaggerated; it’s more like 10/30/60. You’re enthusiastic the first ten percent, still somewhat pumped up the next thirty percent, and wondering if it’s worth it the last sixty percent. Then you find something else really neat and the cycle starts over again.

The general public’s opinion also is influenced by the “snob factor”. Be it on purpose or unwittingly, a lot of archaeologists do not know how to dumb it down when speaking to the public or the media. Instead of speaking in simplistic terms that the Average Joe can understand, archaeologists spout profanities of hundred-dollar words, half of which are not found in a normal dictionary, so as to seem knowledgeable. This also boosts the speaker’s ego and wins accolades from his peers (Jolly good show! Blokes probably didn’t understand a single word of it, but that’s why the buggers pay us the big bucks!).

Even seemingly simple terminology can be viewed as elitist. To archaeologists it’s “ceramics” and “projectile points” and “architectural elements” and a plethora of discipline-related lingo; to the public it is broken dishes, arrowheads, and bricks. How hard can it be to drop those precise terms when speaking to the public?

Something relatively unknown to the general public is contract archaeology. When you tell somebody that you’re an archaeologist, usually they ask what university. A lot of people are shocked to find out that there exist companies for the express purpose of getting paid to perform archaeological surveys and assessments. Yet they commonly think that archaeologists, as individuals, make tons of money. Yeah, right!

It’s not only the public. People with degrees in archaeology/anthropology often don’t know the difference between corporate (contract) archaeology and academic archaeology. Granted, while all academic archaeology is not performed in park-like settings, a lot of graduate students have excavated only in pastoral environments, like state or national parks. You can usually see the panic in the eyes of fresh-out-of-school archaeologists when they go on their first contract archaeology project and see the poison ivy, briars, and swamps filled with mosquitoes and snakes. We won’t mention the wasps and yellow jackets

That’s not restricted to academic archaeologists. Once, a recently hired archaeologist from the American Southwest took one look at the dense vegetation and stagnant pools of water on a project outside of New Orleans and quit one hour into the new job (counting showing up at the office, loading field equipment, and riding out to the project area). In fact, she hated vegetation, didn’t like bugs or snakes, was afraid of water, etc. Question: Would you really want a person working on an archaeological project that wasn’t smart enough to know that there is dense vegetation, swamps, snakes, and bugs in southern Louisiana? Are these the same people who move Down South, build a bungalow on the beach, and then complain that nobody told them about hurricanes?

Another desert archaeologist working in Louisiana refused to wade five inches of clear running water six feet across to get to a project area. Hello! Are you the Wicked Witch of the West or something?

Speaking of vegetation, one archaeologist from Maine, observing the lush, green vegetation while riding out to a project area in southern Louisiana one November morning asked when the leaves started turning brown and falling off. Sorry, we only have four seasons: spring, summer, hurricane, and fall.

Then there are the phobias and hazards. While driving down a rural Louisiana highway at 55 miles per hour, a fellow archaeologist ended up in my lap slapping the air and screaming bloody murder, all while trying to open my door! Why? Because a large grasshopper flew in the window and landed on her. She could stomp a water moccasin until it stopped writhing or pick up earthworms and toss them out of the screen, but grasshoppers were another animal entirely.

One day that same archaeologist asked me, while we were wading through a fallow field covered one and a half feet deep in vines, why I walked so fast. I told her that it was to give any snakes hidden under the vines less time to react. I told her that it was usually the second person that got snake bit after the first person disturbed the snake. She picked up speed and moved to the side of me.

On a Phase II excavation in Florida we were recovering tens of thousand of flakes from very dense wet clay. Our hands were getting cut so often that we eventually had to use Kevlar gloves while screening the clay. One archaeologist heard about a person in Florida dying from flesh-eating bacteria and refused to screen anymore. Probably didn’t help that we kept asking what was wrong with his complexion. To be fair, archaeologists have pretty much the same phobias endemic to the general population; cows, bees, chickens, snakes, squirrels, etc. We’re just more prone to encounter any or all of those things on a daily basis.

**You're An Archaeologist? (continued)**

Swamps can provide archaeologists with hours of fun or vexation, whichever way your attitude trends. A fellow digger had his photograph taken while standing armpit-deep in a really nasty black water swamp; one that there was no way around except for walking three miles in from the other side. The Chief Financial Officer/Safety Officer for the company blew a gasket when he saw the photograph and was determined to have us pack a boat two miles into the woods in order to cross the swamp again to test a small site! He never understood; sometimes you have to do what you have to do.

And then there are the things inhabiting the swamps and bayous. I was surveying with my partner down an existing pipeline right-of-way in Mississippi when we encountered a cypress swamp about 200 feet wide on the corridor. We tried to find a way around it, but finally decided that it was easier to wade on through it.

About 40 feet from the bank and thigh deep we heard a strange croaking noise. Out from the cypress boles swam 20 or 30 baby alligators (14 inches long or so), all of them crying "mommy, mommy, mommy". I told my partner to back out slowly while looking around for "mommy".

The solution to the alligators was to walk two and a half miles out of the way to get around the swamp. At least a mile of that was along a railroad track. At the end of the day we finally reached the end of our segment, the Pascagoula River. The only problem was that we had to walk a functioning railroad bridge 500 feet long and 40 feet above the river while hoping that a train didn't appear before we were across. To make matters worse, the crossties were spaced two feet apart, with absolutely nothing but air between them, and my partner refused to cross the bridge. After realizing that she was going to be left stranded between a river and an alligator-filled swamp with darkness falling, she finally decided to brave it.

I don't think anyone can appreciate the pit viper carrying capacity of a canal or bayou in the South. We were surveying a proposed pipeline route in southern Louisiana and had all intentions of crossing the 25-foot wide canal halfway through our segment. Fifteen feet from the canal's edge we started seeing cottonmouths and water moccasins of various sizes. By the time we were standing on the bank looking across to the other side, we had counted fifteen moccasins; most having slithered into the milky brown waters of the canal upon our approach. The one and a half mile hike around the canal seemed like a good investment.

Then there are those special moments. My survey partners and I started a segment in the middle of a quaking bog on an existing pipeline corridor. This was one of those places that raise hackles on the back of the neck. Imagine you're walking along through tall grass, small saplings, and sphagnum moss when you notice that every time you take a step a five-foot tall pine sapling shakes ten feet in front of you! I took my shovel and shoved it into the ground all the way to the top of the handle without touching bottom. When asked whether we should leave a note for the crew that was ending their segment at our starting point, I replied that both of them had years of woods savvy and would undoubtedly recognize the hazard. Wrong! That evening they looked like they had been mud wrestling!

And don't forget the weather. When you're doing an archaeological survey through the woods a thunderstorm is a fact of life. We were surveying along an existing pipeline corridor in a hilly section of Mississippi when a severe thunderstorm hit. This wasn't just any area; there were huge beds of ferruginous sandstone

(sand cemented together with iron oxide). I'm talking seven feet thick! Lightning started striking the ground left and right and, as you can well imagine, this place attracted lightning like sugar attracts ants. Then I heard that "special sound"; air being shredded. I told my two survey partners to find pine trees (no nearby oak trees) with thick canopies and hug them. There were loud protests, but I told them they would rather take the chance the tree being struck by lightning as opposed to what was coming. Within seconds of getting to shelter, such as it was, the air was filled with  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  diameter hail. It hailed so hard that the ground was covered several inches deep with hailstones. Needless to say, they were glad to be hugging a tree.

Hot and cold affect archaeologists too. Archaeologists on one excavation project in Pennsylvania had to erect a large canvas army tent and install kerosene heaters. Someone would go out to the site at six o'clock in the morning and light the heaters so that the ground would be thawed out enough to dig by nine o'clock. Then there is the opposite extreme. One crew working in Louisiana's Red River Valley had to excavate units in  $100^{\circ}$  to  $105^{\circ}$  temperatures.

Let us not forget those brave and dedicated souls in the Southwest. They probably would say that they'd take the  $120^{\circ}$  temperatures and no humidity in the desert to the  $100^{\circ}$  and 90 percent humidity in the South. A compatriot who has performed archaeological fieldwork in the Southeast and the Southwest has a message for desert archaeologists;  $120^{\circ}$  is  $120^{\circ}$ , humidity or no humidity.

And face it, not everyone in archaeology is running on a full tank. We had one archaeologist with an M.A. that parked the company vehicle in a roadside ditch full of cattails. Needless to say, the crew finishing their survey segment that evening found that the truck was stuck. Problem was, after being chastised about the incident, he did the same thing the next day. We took the keys away from him.

Another archaeologist complained about all of the large flat rocks in his excavation unit. He was removing them and stacking them outside of the unit. Unfortunately, what he was encountering was the stone floor of a Spanish mission storehouse complete with early corncobs! Luckily, we stopped him before he did too much damage!

Then there was the two-person crew who decided that there was nothing of importance in the overgrown field that they were supposed to survey across. No, nothing of importance except for the three-foot tall Weeden Island period burial mound and associated village that was on their transect.

But truthfully, some things just happen to archaeologists through no fault of their own. Once we were working on a two by two meter unit two and a half meters deep in Florida. Not having time to draw the wall profile before it got dark, we covered the unit with sheets of plywood and taped off the area. The next morning we found that an armadillo had fallen into the unit during the night and had messily dug his way back to the surface.

Then there was the reverse "Little Dutch Boy". My survey partner and I were excavating shovel tests through a wooded area containing water oak, cypress, and maple in southern Louisiana. Although dry, the area was surrounded by brackish water marshes and bayous. I jammed my shovel into the ground several times to form a 30-centimeter circle and pried the "plug" out. Water started shooting out of the ground to a height of about eight inches and six inches thick. I screened the soil like a good little archaeologist, but that also meant that I couldn't put the plug back. Yep, the next day the entire wooded area was six inches deep in water! True!

### You're An Archaeologist? (continued)

And in Mississippi and Alabama there is kudzu, that pervasive scourge brought over by some genius back in the 1930s. We were surveying through an area of dense Kudzu in northern Mississippi one time when my partner, who was ahead of me, suddenly dropped to his armpits (yes, the black water swamp archaeologist). Luckily, he had had the presence of mind to turn his shovel sideways, because he was daggling over a twenty feet drop. The kudzu had grown over a large system of deep gullies incised into the soft loess soil.

Military bases are also a lot of fun; especially during maneuvers. There's nothing like topping a rise and finding that you're staring down the barrel of an Abrams tank. Well, except for the crew that got "captured" as possible spies during Joint Readiness Training exercises on one base. They were detained 26 hours.

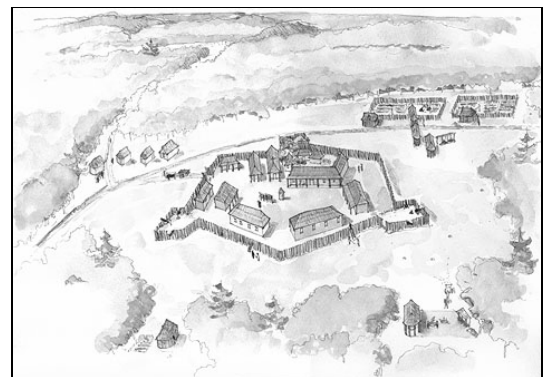
No, the general public doesn't know what it is like to be an archaeologist. While the profession has its rewards, it also takes that certain type of person, usually laughing in the face of adversity. Well, at least they got that part right with Indiana Jones.



**Did you remember to scatter a few spear points and arrowheads back there for future generations to ponder?**

### National Park Service's 2009 Archaeological Prospection Workshop at Los Adaes

The National Park Service's 2009 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century will be held May 18-22, 2009, at the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Natchitoches, Louisiana. Lodging will be at the Ramada Inn. The field exercises will take place at the Los Adaes State Historic Site (a Spanish presidio and capital of the Spanish province of Texas between 1719 and 1772). Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Adaes State Historic Site, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. This will be the nineteenth year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across this Nation. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with on-hands use of the equipment in the field. There is a registration charge of \$475.00. Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center's web page at <http://www.nps.gov/history/mwac/>. For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873; tel: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; fax: (402) 437-5098; email: [steve\\_de\\_vore@nps.gov](mailto:steve_de_vore@nps.gov).



**Illustration showing what the presidio area at Los Adaes would have looked like around 1767. By Sergio Palleroni, 2004 from <http://www.crt.state.la.us/siteexplorer/html/index.htm>**

## Louisiana Place Names of Indian Origin

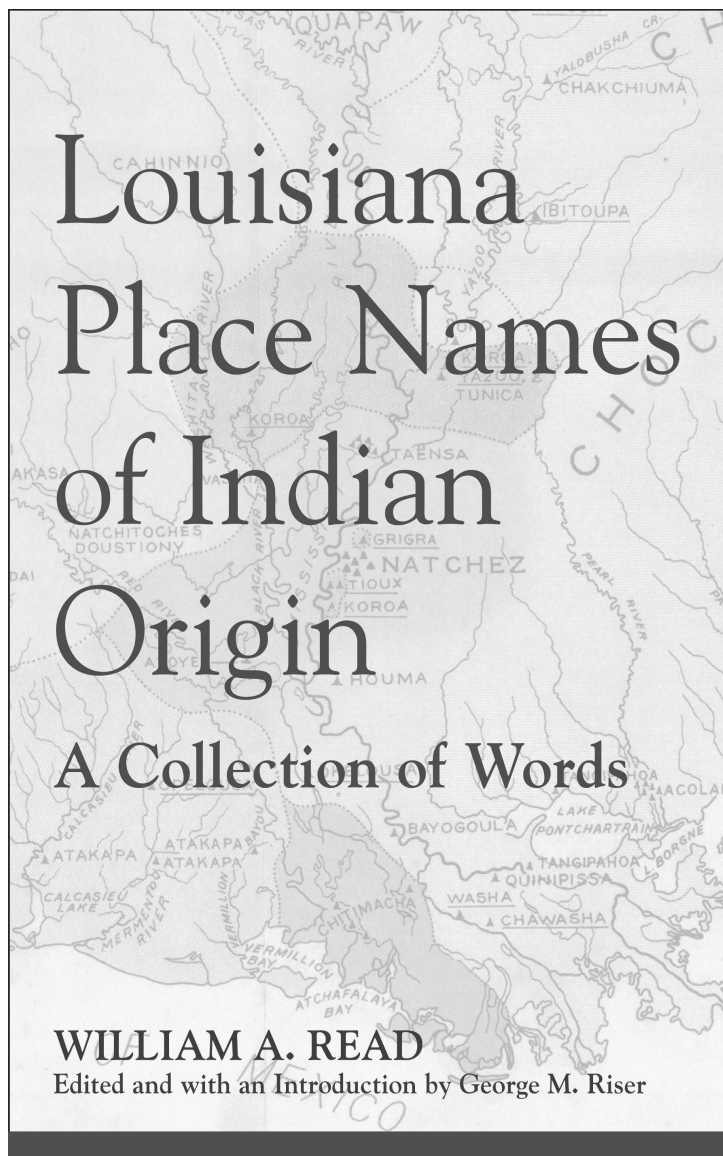
### A Collection of Words

William A. Read

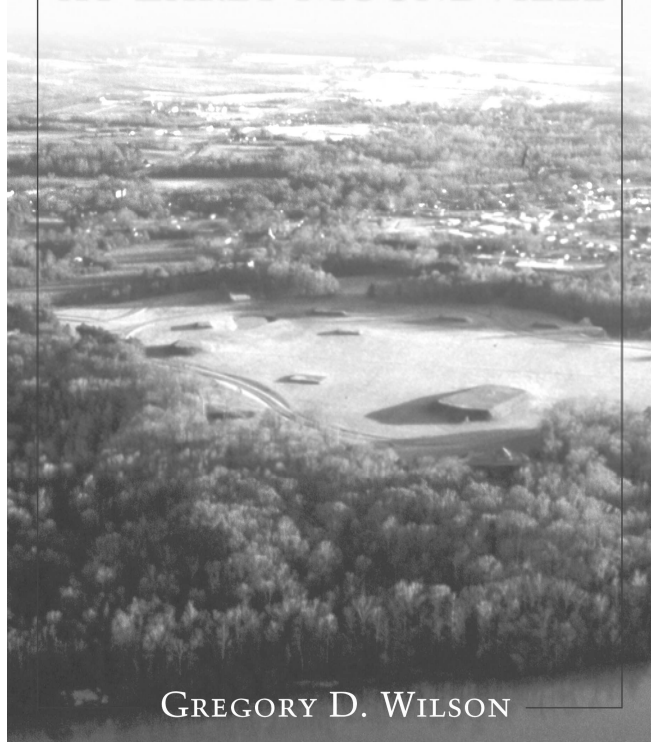
*Edited and with an Introduction by George M. Riser*

William A. Read (1869-1962) was an internationally educated renowned linguist whose career included 38 years as a professor of English at Louisiana State University. His writings spanned five decades and have been instrumental across a wide range of academic disciplines. Most importantly, Read devoted a good portion of his research to the meaning of place names in the southeastern United States—especially they related to Indian word adoption by Europeans. This volume includes his three Louisiana articles combined: *Louisiana Place-Names of Indian Origin* (1927), *More Indian Place-Names in Louisiana* (1928), and *Indian Words* 1931). Joining Alabama's reprint of *Indian Place Names Alabama* and *Florida Place Names of Indian Origin and Seminole Personal Names*, this volume completes the republication of the southern place name writings of William A. Read. **George M. Riser** is a retired internist, Louisiana native, and avocational archaeologist and historian of Louisiana's past. \$18.95t paper-liner notes from University of Alabama Press.

<http://www.uapress.ua.edu/>



## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE AT EARLY MOUNDVILLE



*The Archaeology of Everyday Life at Early Moundville.*  
Gregory D. Wilson, 2008. University of Alabama Press,  
Tuscaloosa. 182 pp. \$29.95 (paper). ISBN-10: 0-8173-5444-1.

Reviewed by Mark A. Rees, University of Louisiana at  
Lafayette.

Do we *really* need another book on Moundville? Along with Cahokia, Moundville is easily one of the most intensively studied and best-known Native American mound sites dating from the early to middle Mississippi period (A.D. 1000 - 1500). It should first be stated that the author and reviewer are friends and former classmates. The answer to this question nonetheless becomes apparent in evaluating the work based on its merits and shortcomings, to the extent any weaknesses can be acknowledged by one so biased.

### Moundville Review (continued)

In focusing on early Moundville in west-central Alabama, Wilson is interested in the first century-and-a-half of Moundville's phenomenal development, relating to residential and organizational changes dating primarily from the Moundville I phase (A.D. 1120 - 1260). During this time Moundville was built into the preeminent Mississippian capital and ceremonial center in the Black Warrior Valley, as well as the surrounding Gulf Coast region. With at least 29 earthen mounds methodically arranged around a spacious, rectangular plaza, the site continues even today to inspire pilgrims and attract cultural tourists. "Everyday life" at Moundville is less apparent however, visibly hinted at only in the size, shape and arrangement of mounds. Everyday life is defined by the organization and life cycle of households in a particular community and as such, involves evidence for the ordinary actions of individuals in a society, such as positioning, building, repairing, and rebuilding houses (Chapter 4), and making ceramic vessels for cooking, storage, or serving food (Chapter 5). The household consequently serves as the necessary building block and theoretical foundation for this "bottom up" study of social complexity.

As stated in the Introduction, the ultimate goals of the book are to better understand not only how complex Mississippian polities became, but also the ways in which complexity was organized, and the part households as a "minimal, co-residential social group" played in the production of Mississippian culture (pp. 1, 5). Since the 1990s archaeologists have gradually moved beyond the question of "how complex" Mississippian polities became (i.e., chiefdoms as opposed to states, simple *versus* complex chiefdoms), to examining the variable organization of complexity as hierarchical (vertical), heterarchical (horizontal), and even socially heterogeneous (three-dimensional). By looking at households in community organization from a perspective of agency and practice theory, Wilson is clearly on the latter, front line of scholarship. In only 137 pages of text, Wilson's concise book manages to describe and highlight the role of actual social groups in making Moundville. For this ambitious task he turns to a long untapped database produced by the 1939 and 1940 Alabama Museum of Natural History excavations for the circular Moundville Roadway. Subsequent fieldwork has been carried out at the site, notably on the riverbank and in several mounds, but nothing has been undertaken on such extensive scale. The results of the Roadway excavations, previously available in unpublished material and a few articles by Christopher Peebles, make this book essential reading for anyone interested in Southeastern archaeology.

The theoretical perspective and methodology of household archaeology are succinctly laid out in Chapter 1, along with questions to be addressed and data to be utilized (including "140 Mississippian buildings and 14,320 pottery sherds," p. 3). Chapter 2 establishes the requisite cultural and historical contexts through ethnographic analogies with Chickasaw and Creek kin groups, as well as comparisons with better-known Mississippian households in the southern Appalachians of Eastern Tennessee and

American Bottom of the Mississippi Valley. The second half of the chapter is devoted to more conventional overviews of culture history and previous investigations in the Black Warrior Valley. These are especially worthwhile however, as a new history of Moundville has only recently emerged, is still in the process of being written, and involves a substantially-revised regional chronology.

Chapters 3 through 5, characterized by Wilson (p. 9) as the "data" sections, offer a wealth of information on Mississippian architecture and ceramics, illustrated in no less than 55 figures and 20 tables. Chapter 3 situates Moundville households "in space and time" through ceramic and architectural seriations which draw upon previous research, especially work by Vincas Steponaitis, Margaret Scarry, and James Knight. The methodological discussion is a bit of an aside in light of the given objectives of the book, but exposes the practical, nuts and bolts approach of a systematic dissertation, from which the book was derived. It also introduces a vital and adaptable culture historical approach that neither processual nor post-processual archaeology has supplanted. The results of the seriations are unambiguous: the most extensive residential areas of Moundville date primarily from the "middle to late Moundville I phase" (p. 46). Such precise chronological information facilitates further cultural and historical analysis in chapters 4 and 5, which comprise the core of Wilson's study.

Mississippian architecture as it relates to community organization is examined in detail in Chapter 4, including previously unpublished photographs and illustrations of residential structures that are sure to delight archaeologists working in the Mississippian Southeast. Beginning in the early Moundville I phase, changing patterns in five residential groups indicate a substantial population increase, increased household variation, and more formalized use of space by kin groups. Conversion of domestic to mortuary space after A.D. 1260, coincidental with migration out of Moundville, suggests the power and longevity of ancestral connections.

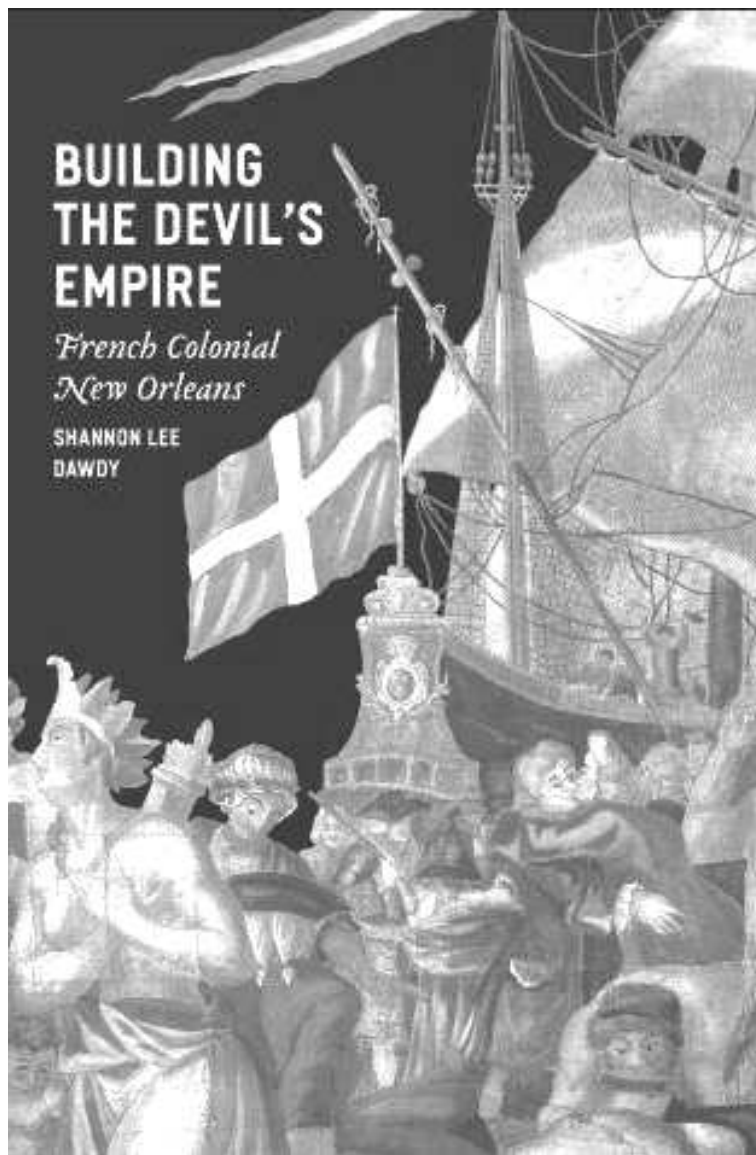
Chapter 5 offers a thoughtful and well-reasoned analysis of foodways at early Moundville based on ceramics, involving variations in how foods were stored, prepared, and consumed. Wilson looks at how vessel form and function implicate foodways, characterized by four discrete utilitarian and service-ware vessel sets: the ubiquitous Mississippi Plain set, the Bell Plain, *variety Hale* set, the Carthage Incised set, and an uncommon fine-ware set. Rather than distinguishing the latter as non-utilitarian prestige goods, he suggests these elaborate vessels were used by "multihousehold" residential groups in ceremonial events (p. 127). This returns readers to the objectives laid out at the beginning of the book, namely the role of households in the formation and variable organization of complexity, which is the subject of the brief discussion and conclusions in Chapter 6. Wilson finds the architectural and ceramic evidence do not support marked differences in status or wealth among hierarchically ranked clans at Moundville. More egalitarian tendencies were instead

**Moundville Review (continued)**

evident among households, at least during the early Moundville I phase. The establishment of spatially discrete household groups, which Wilson compares to historic matrilineages, was the precursor to Moundville's hierarchically structured monumental landscape. Beginning at the household level, kin groups were the primary architects and actors in this "bottom up" approach to complexity.

*The Archaeology of Everyday Life at Early Moundville* breaks through the clutter of cultural features, ceramic sherds, and material culture to reveal the ordinary people who lived at Moundville and the extraordinary society they organized. Readers hoping for more raw data might be dis-appointed, although this is clearly not intended to be

a site report. In putting together the pieces of excavations begun nearly 70 years earlier, there is a sense of casting light on crucial information shelved long ago. Those wanting more detailed discussion of the social, political and historical implications of the Moundville community will be left wanting more. What were the "ceremonial events" and "social negotiations" which comprised multi-household relationships and produced hierarchy and complexity? How were these altered through time? In broaching the subject of how Native Americans made their own history, Wilson has drawn from a deep well of previous investigations to present a concise synthesis and novel interpretation of Moundville's social organization. To answer the question posed at the beginning of this review, this is the book on Moundville many archaeologists have been waiting for, and need in order to really begin to understand Moundvillians, their households, and history. One only hopes this is the first of many such studies of Moundville and other major Mississippian communities.



*Building the Devil's Empire French Colonial New Orleans*, by Shannon Lee Dawdy, 2008, University of Chicago Press

Reviewed by Jason A. Emery

I carried *Building the Devil's Empire* around with me for several weeks: from home, to work, to lunch, to home—and repeat. As the cover of the book caught people's eye, they would ask: "What are you reading? It looks interesting." Upon seeing me in the hallway with it tucked under my arm, others, knowing me a little better, asked which book I was using as a "prop" this week. I say this not to call attention to how long it took me to read the volume, but to convey how the cover art and title of this little picaresque captured people's attention. The image, entitled *Le Commerce que les Indiens du Mexique Font avec les Francois au Port de Missisipi*, was a broadside advertisement circa 1720 under John Law's Company of the Indies. The subject, cover art, and title capture the imagination of the would-be-reader. It's the appropriate wrapper for the early history of New Orleans—a city who's reputation, good or bad, has always preceded it.

In a fluid and engaging style, Dawdy tells the story of the founding and development of the City of New Orleans as a small but important part of the larger French Colonial enterprise. The text of the book is extensively notated—with both references and expositions on conceptual tools. Dawdy's self stated aims are to provide a historical ethnography of Enlightenment New Orleans, bringing the characters, smells, struggles and banter of the eighteenth-century to life, while at the same time using New Orleans to generalize on the nature of colonialism. The literary vehicle for these goals is the picaresque. Conceptually, this vehicle fits Dawdy's needs perfectly; as it presupposes rogues, corrupt society, vainglorious adventure, and tragic fruitless actions with unclear motives.

**Devil's Empire Review (continued)**

Dawdy's depth of research and deliberations are apparent to the reader. She not only conveys the facts associated with archaeological artifacts and historical information in the form of letters, journals, maps, Superior Council and census records, but also constructs an argument that pries into the hidden lives of those in early New Orleans. Her "main characters" are: Marie Hachard, the young Ursuline nun; Father LeMaire, the scientist and satirist; Adrien de Pauger, the city's first engineer; Elizabeth Real, the innkeeper; St. Antoine, the African convert; and Louis Congo, the executioner. She follows their lives, commerce, and letters through the interconnected web of Colonial Louisiana, each being situated differently, but all building the same city.

While Dawdy works over many staid tropes like Black/White Urban/Rural and order/disorder, the main

thrust of the volume is her relentless development of the concept of Rogue Colonialism. For her, Rogue Colonialism is not simply masterless men and women organizing into a bandit group and taking advantage of all. It is an intersection of individual rogues—rogues that are one part improvisation, one part self-aggrandizement, and one part idealist—with the discretion distance affords a colony to arrange and legitimize its own affairs through the offices of government. The rogues in this story of French Colonial Louisiana, change through time and so too the power structure. Dawdy heuristically uses three generations—the Founder generation, and the first and second Creole generations—to examine cultural and political changes within and between generations making conclusions about colonialism, revolutions, and power, which are worth considering, if not adopting. If you are a student of French Colonial Louisiana, I recommend this book to you.

**Time's River: Archaeological Syntheses from the Lower Mississippi River Valley.** Edited by Janet Rafferty and Evan Peacock. University of Alabama Press.

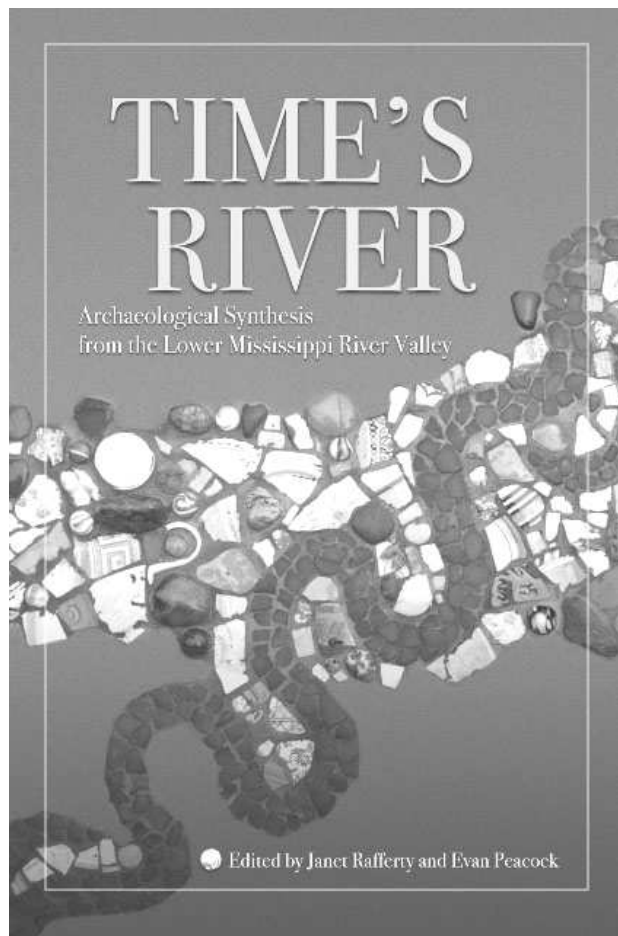
This volume stands as a key general resource for archaeologists working in the region extending from Louisiana through Mississippi north to Missouri and Kentucky, and it represents an opportunity to influence for decades a large part of the archaeological work to take place in the Southeast.

The book responds to a need for a comprehensive archaeological overview of the Lower Mississippi Valley that forms a portion of an interstate corridor spanning nine states that will run from southern Michigan to the Texas-Mexico border. The culturally sensitive Mississippi Delta is one of the richest archaeological areas in North America, and it is crucial that research designs be comprehensive, coordinated, and meet current preservation and future research needs. The authors are well-respected researchers from both within and outside the region with expertise in the full range of topics that comprise American archaeology. They examine matters of method and theory, the application of materials science, geophysics, and other high-tech tools in archaeology that provide for optimum data-recovery.

**Contributors:** Ian Brown, Kevin L. Bruce, Philip J. Carr, Robert C. Dunnell, James Feathers, Gayle J. Fritz, Michael L. Galaty, S. Homes Hogue, H. Edwin Jackson, Jay K. Johnson, Carl P. Lipo, Hector Neff, Evan Peacock, Janet Rafferty, James H. Turner, John R. Underwood, Amy L. Young

**Janet Rafferty** is Professor of Anthropology and Senior Research Associate at the Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Mississippi State University. She is a contributor to *Blackland Prairies of the Gulf Coastal Plain* and *The Woodland Southeast*.

**Evan Peacock** is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Senior Research Associate at the Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Mississippi State University. He is co-editor of *Blackland Prairies of the Gulf Coastal Plain* and a contributor to *The Woodland Southeast*. - Liner notes from University of Alabama Press.



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 592 pp. \$49.95 paper, \$85 cloth

## Poverty Point to Pompeii (or Chip & Diana's Excellent Adventure)

### Chip McGimsey and Diana Greenlee

In 2004, the Regional Government of Campania, Italy, began a long-term effort to develop Centers of Competence (essentially a research consortia) that would focus on specific research areas with potential economic benefits. Two of these Centers, known by their acronyms INNOVA and BENECON, included an emphasis on cultural heritage and historic preservation among their research areas. So what does this have to do with Louisiana and Poverty Point?

In 2008, the various Centers began a year-long effort to promote their research expertise and develop collaborative connections with individuals and institutions in the NAFTA region (Mexico, US, and Canada), China, India, and elsewhere in Europe. With the cooperation of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Montreal, Canada, these Centers sent small groups of people to meet with potential collaborators in these other countries. Thus, in June of 2008, Chip McGimsey received a phone call from the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Montreal indicating that the INNOVA Center wanted to send a mission of 3-4 individuals to New Orleans to meet with folks there who were involved in cultural heritage, particularly as it related to disaster recovery. Although this did not have much to do with archaeology, McGimsey was able to assist in planning this visit, which occurred in late September. This mission met primarily with researchers at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Transfer in Natchitoches and looked at issues of material conservation and preservation at several facilities in New Orleans. There was also an opportunity for McGimsey, Andrea White, the UNO Regional Archaeologist, and Jill Yakubik, Earth-Search, Inc. to have dinner with them one evening.

One outcome of this visit was the decision by the Italian Chamber of Commerce to send another mission to Louisiana to attend the World Cultural Economic Forum held in New Orleans at the end of October. At the Forum, McGimsey, along with Stuart Johnson and Ray Berthelot of the Office of State Parks, met with representatives of the BENECON Center, including Professore Gambardella, Vice-Mayor of Pompeii. The conversation at that meeting eventually turned to Poverty Point and suggestions/assistance the Italian researchers could provide for developing the World Heritage Site nomination for Poverty Point. While no concrete ideas were developed, all parties agreed there were mutual areas of interest and agreed to keep in touch.

Despite the interest shown at both meetings, it was a considerable surprise when, in mid-November, McGimsey received an invitation to participate in a return mission to the Centers in Naples, Italy. An invitation was also extended to Greg Lambousy of the Office of State Museums, although he was eventually unable to attend. Since it was anticipated

that a major focus of this mission would include continued discussion about collaborative efforts concerning Poverty Point, Diana Greenlee, Poverty Point Station Archaeologist, was also invited to attend. The Italian government was very gracious in agreeing to fund her participation in the mission as well.

Thus it was, that on December 13, we flew off to Naples, Italy. Although the mission officially lasted only until December 17, we both wanted to take advantage of this extraordinary opportunity and stayed through the end of the week on our own time to explore this part of the world. The business part of the mission produced some interesting discussions with various Italian researchers. They are developing instrumentation for the trace element analysis of materials that employ scanners with a much higher degree of sensitivity than is presently typical. They also showed us a laser system that identifies stresses and fractures in ceramic vessels; perhaps not appropriate for Poverty Point, but potentially of interest for Caddo or Mississippian collections where whole vessels are present. Our discussions identified a number of areas where we are going to exchange further information and see if some approaches might be useful for research at Poverty Point and for producing information that would assist in developing the World Heritage Site nomination. Stay tuned for further updates.

Diana and I visited three areas of archaeological interest: the National Archaeological Museum (conveniently located only 200 m from our hotel), Pompeii, and Ercolano (aka Herculaneum). The Museum is an imposing building that houses many of the objects from Pompeii and Ercolano. Many of the famous statues, both marble and bronze, as well as wall frescos and tile mosaics from both sites are on display there. The museum has a classical antiquarian approach as most items are displayed as individual pieces with little information provided as to context, setting, or meaning. One example is the archaeologically themed marble tile mosaic seen in the photo on the next page; unfortunately, we have no information as to the meaning or purpose of this image.

We spent an entire afternoon at Pompeii. This city was destroyed during an eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79. The other photograph shows Diana in the Forum of Pompeii with Vesuvius looming in the background. The site is both amazing and difficult to describe. Many of the buildings with their painted walls and tile mosaic floors are preserved and accessible to the public. One quickly realizes how colorful the Roman world was; virtually every wall and floor in a house or building was painted or tiled. Red is clearly the dominant color, but every color of the rainbow is present. In the first century A.D., the Romans were very big on Greek mythology,

**Poverty Point to Pompeii (continued)**

and many walls illustrate Greek gods and mythological scenes. But they were also very practical; one wall was covered with political slogans urging votes for various candidates.

While ancient Pompeii was a working town with a few wealthy individuals, Ercolano was primarily a summer retreat for the wealthy. The town was very rapidly buried by hot, wet ash, thus preserving in place many elements that are missing from Pompeii. Pompeii was also salvaged after the eruption and many pieces removed by the owners or salvagers. But Ercolano was buried by up to 25 m of ash and salvage was not possible. Only one-fourth of Ercolano has been excavated to date and the remainder lies under the modern city of Ercolano. What has been excavated is spectacular and well worth a visit. While Chip was chasing down an errant map, Diana met one of the site guards, who soon led us (and a Chinese tourist who happened along at the right time) on a private tour; he let us into some buildings not normally accessible to tourists. Although language barriers limited interpretation, I think we managed to understand most of what he tried to tell us. We saw some spectacular wall frescoes and mosaic floors. Remarkably, some of the original (charred) building timbers, stairs, and even one wooden door, are still intact, as well as some examples of furniture (sofas and beds). What is even more remarkable, given our concerns over preservation and conservation of materials, many of these items are left in place at the site, protected only by plexiglass sheets.

We had a wonderful visit and it was great to have the opportunity to see these famous archaeological sites. If only there had been time to see the dozens of other sites within day-trip distance of Naples! Although it is not Louisiana archaeology, Chip and Diana took a lot of photographs and would certainly be willing to show them to interested folks.

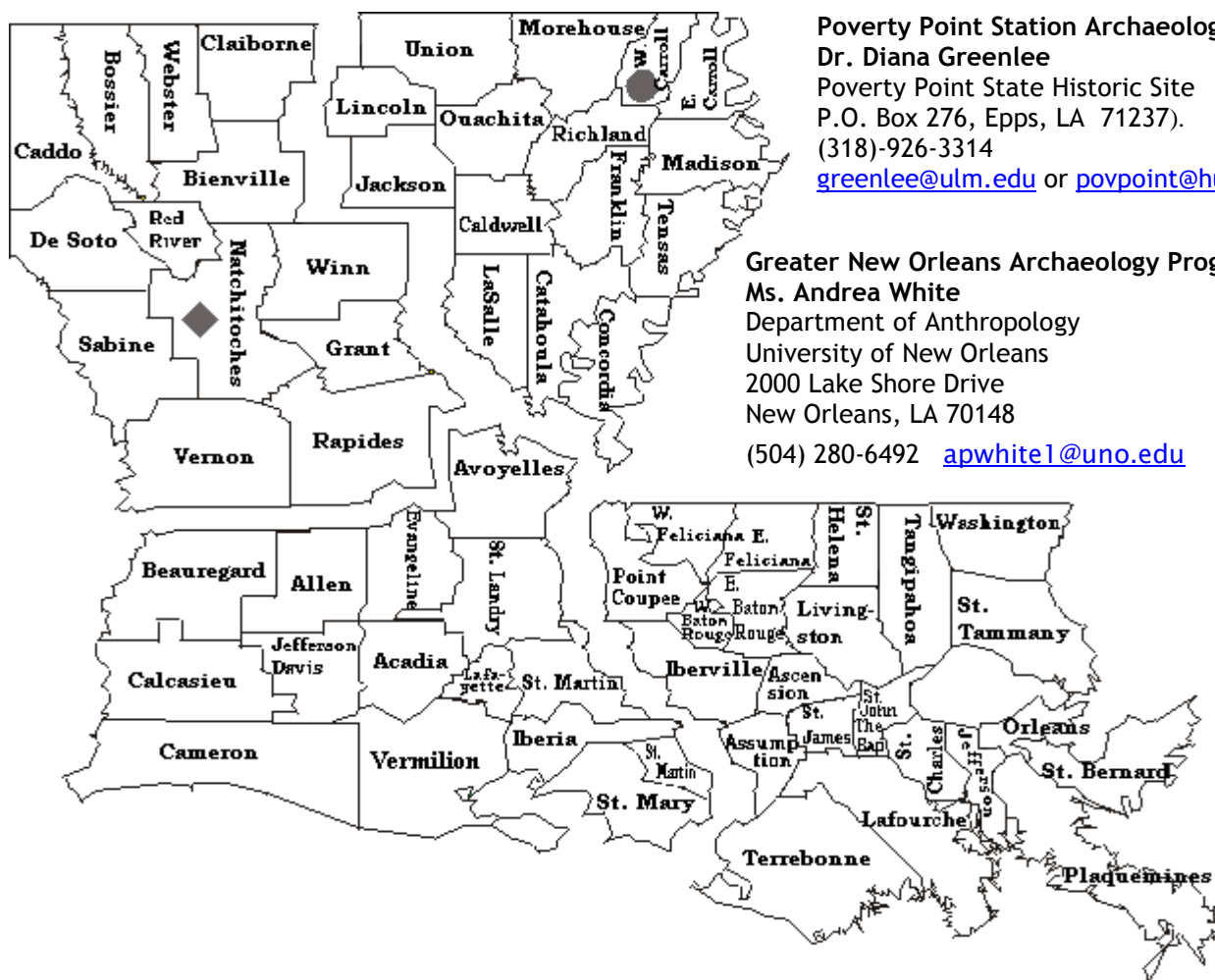


**Floor mosaic from Pompeii,  
From the National Archaeological Museum,  
Naples, Italy.**

**Diana Greenlee standing in the  
Forum at Pompeii; view looking  
toward the Temple of Jupiter  
with Vesuvius looming in the  
background.**



# Regional Archaeology News



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**Poverty Point Update**

By Diana M. Greenlee  
 Poverty Point Station Archaeologist  
 University of Louisiana - Monroe

*SCREEN-A-THON 2008!*

As part of Louisiana’s Archaeology Month 2008 celebration, a screening marathon was held at Poverty Point State Historic Site over the weekend of 17-19 October. Even though Guinness World Records declined to accept our application to establish a “longest archaeological screening marathon” as a world record attempt, we chose to proceed with the event.

The archaeological dirt to be screened was disturbed in 2006 by the LA Department of Transportation and Development during the placement of a culvert under a segment of the tram road (Figures 1 and 2). The Station Archaeology Program has worked intermittently on screening the dirt over the past 2 years, with the assistance of interested groups (e.g., the West Louisiana Chapter of the LAS, University of Poverty Point Alumni [UPPA]) and using it during archaeology demonstrations for schoolchildren. As a joke, the park maintenance crew at Poverty Point SHS recently installed a sign, identifying it as “Mound G” (Figure 3). We took this as a sign that it is time to intensify efforts to process the pile of dirt, hence the screen-a-thon event.

Thirteen volunteers, eleven shown in Figures 4 – 7 and Drs. Gary Stringer and Joe Saunders (not pictured), assisted Poverty Point Station Archaeologist, Diana Greenlee, and Collections Manager, Alisha Wright, in continuously water-screening archaeological dirt over the course of 48 hours. Yes, 48 continuous hours of screening. The Station Archaeologist blames the uneven photographic documentation of volunteers and events on sleep deprivation. Clearly, though, the people in these photos are having a good time!

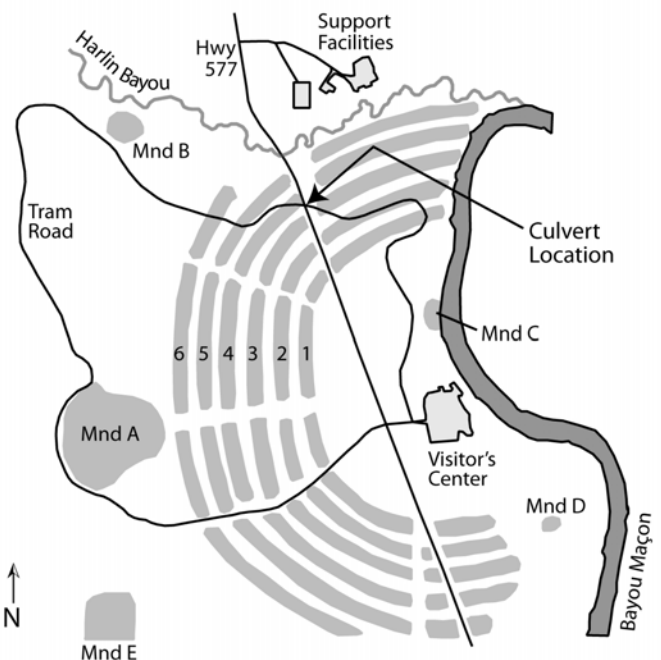
Figure 8 provides a sense of how much dirt was processed during the screening marathon. The density of objects in this dirt necessitates that we retain everything on the screens for later sorting. The result was roughly 477 lbs. of debris, including both historic (e.g., construction materials, glass, metal) and prehistoric (e.g., chipped stone [flakes, blades, biface fragments, perforators], PPO fragments, hematite plummets) artifacts.

During the Screen-A-Thon, Joe Saunders led interested volunteers on a guided tour of the nearby Mott site. Jerod Mason won the spear-throwing contest following the marathon. The Station Archaeology Program wishes to acknowledge the LA Office of State Parks staff for their assistance in setting up the screening station, for providing access to the dormitory for volunteers wishing to stay Friday and/or Saturday nights, and for allowing volunteers to visit the museum and tour the site at no charge. And, thanks, volunteers! Be sure to watch the *Newsletter* for announcements regarding Screen-A-Thon 2009.



**Figure 2. Location of culvert at Poverty Point State Historic Site**

**Figure 1. Dirt removed by LA DOTD during placement of a culvert under a segment of the tram road**





**Figure 3. "Mound G" before the Screen-A-Thon**



**Figure 4. Screen-A-Thon volunteers (L→R): Jerod Mason and Nisha Uprety Mason**



**Figure 5. Screen-A-Thon volunteers (L→R): Nancy Hawkins, Daymon Jackson and Mike Hawkins**



**Figure 6. Screen-A-Thon volunteers (L→R): Dennis Jones, Victoria Weinstein, Daymon Jackson and Genevieve Jones**



**Figure 7. Screen-A-Thon volunteers (L→R): Mike Wells, Elizabeth Armitage and Lisa Waters**



**Figure 8. "Mound G" after the Screen-A-Thon**

## Recent Excavations in the French Quarter

By Andrea White

Greater New Orleans Archaeology Program, University of New Orleans

In October of 2008, archaeologists from Earthsearch, Inc and the Greater New Orleans Archaeology Program at the University of New Orleans conducted intensive excavations at 400 Chartres Street in the historic French Quarter. Additionally over 250 hours were donated by UNO and Tulane students, members of LAS, and other archaeologists. The Historic New Orleans Collection, who owned the property, sponsored the research, even though there was no requirement to conduct archaeological testing on the property. The site's location on the corner lot of Chartres and Conti Streets makes it one of the earliest blocks developed in the city. The current structure, the Perrilliat House, was built in 1825 and essentially sealed the colonial deposits underneath its floors.

Intensive excavations reveal wonderfully preserved intact eighteenth-century deposits, including a midden deposit that extended across the site and dates mainly to the French Colonial period, a large French Colonial trash pit which contained large amounts of faunal material, a smudge pit with charred corn cobs, and architectural features associated with a Spanish Colonial townhouse.

One of the other exciting discoveries was a possible burn layer associated with the 1794 fire. Artifacts recovered include reconstructable Faience, Creamware and Pearlware vessels, Aboriginal pottery, and personal items such as buttons. Phytolith samples were also taken in hopes to discover what types of plants were being cultivated during the colonial period.

**Figure 1:**  
Earthsearch  
Archaeologist,  
Kimberly  
Eppler  
excavates the  
remains of a  
Spanish Period  
wooden floor.



**Figure 2:**  
Volunteers  
Betty  
Pendley  
(left) and  
Joan Bruder  
(right)  
assisting  
with the  
screening.



**Figure 3:**  
A French  
Colonial  
Period trash  
deposit.

## Previously Unreported Prehistoric Mound Found in West Feliciana Parish

By Rob Mann, Southeast Regional Archaeologist  
LSU Dept. of Geography and Anthropology

In February 2008 I visited a large land holding on Bayou Sara near St. Francisville in West Feliciana Parish. The property owner wanted me to investigate what was reportedly a Native American mound. No mound sites were recorded for this portion of Bayou Sara, so I was somewhat surprised to find what looks to be a small conical mound sitting on the edge of the terrace overlooking the Bayou Sara floodplain (Figure 1). I undertook a visual inspection of the mound but found no material culture on the surface of the mound or the immediate area surrounding the mound. There was some evidence of artifacts (e.g., a flake and a sherd) on the ridge overlooking the mound but these were not collected. I took a few push-probe soil cores from the flanks of the mound and saw some soil mottling that might indicate basket-loaded mound fill. Located approximately three miles up Bayou Sara from the Richland Mound is the Nolan Mound (16WF07). Richland Mound is similar in size to the Nolan Mound, which is apparently a Troyville-Coles Creek period mound (see Jones and Shuman 1986). Even closer to Richland Mound is the Bayou Sara Mound (16WF15), but site records indicate that it is a low, flat-topped mound that appears to be Plaquemine period in age.

In April I returned to map the Richland Mound site (Figure 2). We took 127 topographic shots of the mound and its immediate environs and produced a map that indicates that the mound is approximately 4.9 meters (16.122 ft.) high and has an approximate basal diameter of 20 meters (65.616 ft.). This small conical mound appears to have a great deal research potential and I recommend additional testing at the site. Minimally, I suggest that several cores be pulled from the mound. Analysis of the soil development on the mound can provide some indication of the age of the structure and cores are also an efficient way to obtain samples for radiometric dating. Coring will also provide some information about how the mound was constructed (e.g., single-stage construction or multiple-stage construction). Cores might also show evidence of internal features on the mound (e.g., prepared surfaces, structures, hearths/fire pits, burials, etc.). I plan to core the Richland Mound sometime in 2009.

### References Cited

Jones, D. and M. Shuman

1986 *Archaeological Atlas and Report of Prehistoric Indian Mounds in Louisiana, Vol.1*. Museum of Geoscience, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Report on file at the Division of Archaeology, Baton Rouge.



Figure 1. Photograph of the Richland Mound (16WF183).

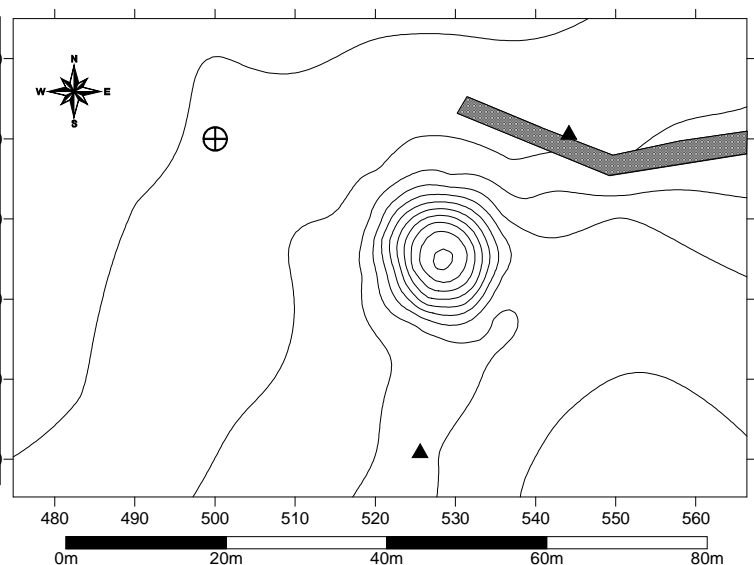


Figure 2. Contour map of the Richland Mound (16WF183).



Dennis Jones & Cheraki Williams (right) of the Division of Archaeology are dwarfed by the root ball of tree on the summit of Enclosure A at the Marksville Site (16AV1).



Tshy Cross, Janey Leblanc, and Rachel Farris, ULL students, screen fill from salvage excavation at the edge of the plaza area at Marksville.

### Southwest Region Update

David T. Palmer, University of Louisiana-Lafayette

Hurricane Gustav hit Louisiana and moved northwest through the state on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. In addition to lives and property lost or damaged, archaeological resources were also impacted. Sixteen trees at Marksville State Historic Site (SHS) were knocked down and their root balls exposed.

Consultation with the Marksville SHS manager about archaeological issues and tree removal resulted in a plan being agreed upon wherein the tree-removal contractor would cut and remove the trunks of downed trees, leaving the stumps with root balls exposed until they could be archaeologically assessed. In some cases, the root balls flipped back into the ground after trunks were cut away. For the rest, after the archaeological assessment, infilling and other measures are being taken to prevent erosion and further damage.

Archaeological management of the uprooted areas has included recording through mapping and photography, collecting artifacts exposed, and limited excavations to obtain a sample from undisturbed deposits. Three uprooted areas were chosen for limited excavation: one inside the plaza area (G-08-06), one on the bluff edge (G-08-07), and one on the earthwork (G-08-14). Artifacts and soil samples were collected for processing at the laboratory at UL Lafayette. Analysis is not complete, but some of the preliminary findings follow. The plaza unit (G-08-06) had few artifacts, lending more weight to interpretations of the plaza space as having been maintained free of debris. The bluff unit (G-08-07) is in a midden and had an abundance of Marksville type sherds, flaked and ground stone tools, and, most uniquely, a stone bead pre-form. The bead pre-form may be the first known from the site.

Field volunteers for the project included LAS members, UL Lafayette faculty and students, LSU students, Division of Archaeology staff, Marksville SHS and other Office of State Parks staff, and two archaeologists from Texas. Their efforts are greatly appreciated! Volunteers interested in helping to

process the artifacts should please feel free to contact me.

Archaeology Month 2008 went well in the southwest region, with events in DeRidder, Lafayette, Marksville, St. Martinville, and Sulphur. Thanks to event volunteers Jim Delahoussaye, Ryan Seidemann, Chip McGimsey, Glenn Rechs, Thomas Trahan, and the Longfellow-Evangeline SHS staff..

During the fall semester at UL Lafayette I taught Anthropology 499, the "Archaeological Records" class for Mark Rees (currently on an ATLAS award leave from teaching). This was the follow-up class to the 2008 summer archaeological field school at the Hayes Sugar House site (16IB76) on Avery Island. The students processed and catalogued all of the artifacts from the field school excavations at the site, and learned about historical artifacts and archaeological interpretation and reporting. Of the artifacts, the vast majority were brick, with some glass, metal, ceramic, coal and other materials. Unfortunately, there were not many temporally diagnostic artifacts, but the ones present date primarily to the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Jill Andrew of the LA Division of Archaeology gets into the spirit at the WPA Archaeology exhibit in the Marksville site Museum.

# Official Business

## The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission (LASAC)

The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission met on Tuesday, October 1, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the Capitol Annex Building, 1051 North Third Street, Conference Room 316, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was originally scheduled for September 9, 2008 and was rescheduled due to Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

**Members Present:** Mr. Gregory DuCote, Mr. James Fogleman, Dr. Chip McGimsey, Dr. Heather McKillop, and Dr. George Riser.

**Members Absent:** Mr. Marc Dupuy, Jr., Mr. Mark Ford, Mr. Scott Hutcheson, Dr. Mark Rees, LTC Michael Tarpley.

**Others Present:** Ms. Jill Andrew, Ms. Kellye Cummings, Ms. Lucinda Freeman, Ms. Nancy Hawkins, Mr. Dennis Jones, Dr. Rob Mann, Ms. Stacie Palmer, Ms. Meta Pike, Ms. Karen Richardson, Mr. Duke Rivet, Mr. Daniel Stoute, Ms. Sherry Wagener, Ms. Dabne Whitemore, Ms. Cheraki Williams.

### Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Heather McKillop called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Marc Dupuy, Jr., Mr. Mark Ford, Mr. Scott Hutcheson, Dr. Mark Rees, and LTC Michael Tarpley were unable to attend. Mr. Dupuy gave his proxy to Dr. McGimsey.

Dr. McKillop announced that Dr. Rebecca Saunders and Dr. Rob Mann have become new faculty in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at LSU.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the Commission Meeting held June 10, 2008.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Dr. George Riser and seconded by Mr. Gregory DuCote, to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2008, Antiquities Commission Meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.*

### Old Business

Update on LSU Campus Mounds Research by Dr. Brooks Elwood

Dr. McKillop discussed Dr. Brooks Elwood's remote sensing survey conducted at the LSU Mounds (16EBR6) as part of his GEOL 4019 class held in the spring of

2008. Radiometer and electrical resistivity surveys indicated an anomaly that had been burnt at a very high temperature in Mound A approximately 2 meters below the surface. A series of 1" diameter, short soil cores produced similar deposits from cores taken at both mounds that could indicate the mounds were constructed at the same time. The mounds have been over topped in an effort to preserve them. Finding the original top of the mounds through soil sampling would probably be the next research done at the site.

### New Business

Annual Update  
Southeastern Regional Program

Dr. McKillop introduced Dr. Rob Mann and congratulated him on his recent articles, "From Ethnogenesis to Ethnic Segmentation: Constructing Identity and House in Great Lakes Fur Trade Society," **International Journal for Historical Archaeology** and "Pointe Coupée: Recent Archaeological Investigations at an 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Colonial Settlement in French Louisiane," **Archéologiques**.

Dr. Mann reported to the Commission on his projects with the Regional Archaeology Program during the 2007-2008 grant year. He was the instructor for an LSU Leisure Class in the fall of 2008, which was conducted as a field study class at the site of Galveztown (16AN39), a Spanish colonial outpost in Ascension Parish. The participants worked in teams of 2 and 3 people. The purpose of the class was to find the town, locate individual buildings, determine the style of architecture and any modifications made to the buildings, determine the layout of the village, the diet of the settlers and their clothing style, and determine if trade had occurred between the settlers and the Native Americans and British that occupied that area at the time. The Spanish began to lay out the village in 1778. Maps from the time indicate that there was a central plaza with business, church, and house lots surrounding it. Soldiers were brought in to build standard 32' x 16'

**LASAC 10/1/2008 meeting (continued)**

houses, and Canary Islanders were brought over in 1779 to serve as colonists. By April, approximately 400 villagers occupied the site, and a fort had been built to counter the British who occupied the area on the opposite bank of Bayou Manchac. Due to the hardship of hurricanes, flooding, crop failure, and disease, the number of settlers had been reduced to approximately 100 by 1798. By the early 1800's most of the settlers had left, and by 1820 it was reported that only a few collapsed houses remained at the site. The class excavated 52 STPs and discovered 7 cultural features, some possible pit features and some possible structural remains. The artifacts included French, Spanish and Italian glass and earthenware. Most of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery was French faience from New Orleans, but there were indications that some trade occurred between the settlers and the Native Americans and the British.

Dr. Mann's second project involved Richland Mound (16WF183) in West Feliciana Parish. The owner of the property contacted him to record and map a previously unrecorded mound. The conical mound measured approximately 4.9 meters in height and 18 meters at the basal diameter. Dr. Mann intends to core the site in the upcoming year

The third project was located at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge (16EBR8). The fence surrounding the building had been removed and sent to Alabama for restoration. As a result, bricks and other artifacts were unearthed in those areas. The Old State Capitol Museum, the Division of Archaeology, and Dr. Mann arranged for students from two middle schools to take part in hands-on activities at three stations (a simulated dig site, a computer lab where the students played a computer game called "Dirt Detective, Junior Archaeologist," and an artifact screening station). These stations were staffed by Nancy Hawkins, Meta Pike, Dennis Jones, and Stacie Palmer from the Louisiana Division of Archaeology as well as me and Jessie Cohen from the LSU Regional Archaeology Program. Jessie, Dennis, and I staffed the artifact screening station that allowed the students to screen soil from the fence restoration back dirt piles and recover any artifacts present in the screens. This allowed the students a sense of discovery and a greater understanding of archaeological fieldwork.

The last project discussed by Dr. Mann was the Hardy Branch site (16SH110) in St Helena Parish. Mr. Brian

Duhe found projectile points and bifaces at the site that he believed to be from the late Paleo to Early Archaic period and 4 soil stains that could be cultural features. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the fill of one pit indicated that feature dated to ca. 1200 AD to 1400 AD. No pottery or late lithics were found at the site.

Limited Archaeological Investigation Permits For Regional Archaeologists and State Archaeologist

Ms. Nancy Hawkins stated that each year the regional and station archaeologists with the Division of Archaeology are issued limited cultural resources permits. The permit allows the recipient to conduct fieldwork on state property, limited to surface collecting and minimal sub-surface testing sufficient to establish the horizontal and vertical boundaries of archaeological resources and to determine their cultural and scientific significance. The permitted work is defined as Phase I and Phase II in "Investigations and Report Standards". The permits are often used in emergency situations such as tree falls after hurricanes. Dr. McKillop stated that investigations of a significant nature and suitable results should be submitted for publications to an archeological journal to promote Louisiana archaeology. Dr. McKillop entertained a motion to grant a limited cultural resources permit for the Regional and State Archaeologists.

***MOTION:** A motion was made by Dr. George Riser and seconded by Mr. James Fogleman, to issue a limited cultural resources permit to the Regional and State archaeologists. The motion carried unanimously.*

Mounds Trail Guide

Ms. Nancy Hawkins stated that in 1997, HCR 147 established the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails Commission to develop the ancient mounds area and trail as a cultural, recreational, and educational attraction to enhance the development of tourism in the state. Northeast Regional Archaeologist, Dr. Joe Saunders with the assistance of Recca Jones and others, recorded,

### LASAC 10/1/2008 meeting (continued)

cored, dated, mapped, and described the 39 sites listed in *Indian Mounds of Northeast Louisiana: A Driving Guide* published by the Louisiana Division of Archaeology in June of 2008. The mound guides have been distributed through Office of Tourism welcome centers and the Office of State Parks through their park stations. Copies are available to the public upon request from the Division of the Archaeology. Additionally, Ms. Hawkins has been involved in providing advice to the State of Mississippi on their mounds trail guide that is in the early develop stage.

### Archaeology Month

Ms. Meta Pike reported to the Commission on the 2008 Archaeology Month activities. She distributed this year's poster of the Mardi Gras shipwreck and schedule of upcoming events. She stated that 39 communities were participating this year. Activities for Archaeology Month include 34 professional talks, 4 children's activities, 10 demonstrations, 5 viewings of the film *Mystery of the Mardi Gras Shipwreck*, 7 archaeological site tours, and 8 archaeological exhibits. Ms. Pike thanked the Louisiana Archaeological Society for including the schedule of events in their recent newsletter.

### Curation Facility Update

Ms. Sherry Wagener informed the Commission of flooding and mold problems within the curation facility of the Division of Archaeology. The site of the facility was originally intended to be a 5 to 7 year temporary facility. HVAC units were installed to maintain a consistent temperature and humidity. In March of 2006, of the units leaked and flooded the processing room. The facility was shut down for approximately a month. Then, in August of 2006, the facility flood again due to heavy rains that entered the building through the roof over the front entrance area where 1 inch gutters were installed instead of the 3 inch gutters recommended in the original building plans. The facility has subsequently flooded several times due to heavy rains. Following each of these events, mold grows in the facility walls and the panels have to be removed. Recently, a green stain was noted on the floorboards of the movable shelving system. The state mycologist has been consulted and will be arranging for testing of the green stain, as well as the wall mold, to ascertain the nature of the floor staining and assess the quality of the environment for storage as well as for worker safety. Because of these problems, and the fact that the

facility will be out of space within a year, efforts are continuing to find a new facility. The Division is asking for \$25,000 in next year's funding cycle to update our new facility building plan. After this pre-sentation, there was discussion of the Commission preparing a letter supporting the need for a new facility.

### Annual Election of Commission Officers

Dr. McGimsey stated that the Chairperson of the Commission is to be elected annually at the fall meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission and that the Vice-Chairperson should be elected as well.

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Mr. Gregory DuCote and seconded by Mr. James Fogleman, to elect Dr. Heather McKillop as Chairperson for the Commission. The motion carried unanimously.*

**MOTION:** *A motion was made by Dr. Heather McKillop and seconded by Mr. Gregory DuCote, to elect Dr. George Riser as Vice-Chairperson for the Commission. The motion carried unanimously.*

### Other Business

Ms. Dabne Whitmore, the executive director of the Cultural Economy Program for Louisiana, spoke to the Commission on the upcoming World Cultural Economic Forum being held in New Orleans in October 2008. The major initiative is the World Cultural Economic Forum. She reported that this would be the first time the WCEF would be held in the United States. The forum would hold panel discussions regarding preservation of cultural heritage and industry and how to capitalize on those assets. In addition, the forum would have a world market place with vendor booths featuring artists, musicians, and food. Passport to Louisiana would showcase Louisiana's cultural industries by funding 65 organizations and 112 events throughout the state during the month of October including Mr. Andrew Barron who received a passport grant to promote archaeology as a part of WCEF.

Other business included an announcement by Dr. Riser that a joint LAS/MAA meeting will be held in the winter of 2009. The tentative location and time is Natchez, MS on the last weekend in Feb., and LA will reciprocate by hosting the next event. There being no other business to bring before the Commission, Dr. McKillop entertained a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION:** *A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Gregory DuCote and seconded by Dr. Chip McGimsey. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.*

\* The LAS Executive Committee has not yet approved these minutes. The next executive committee meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2009, in Pineville, LA.

**Louisiana Archaeological Society Executive Committee  
Capitol Annex Building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
Saturday, September 20, 2008**

Attendees: Rachel Watson, Secretary; Chip McGimsey, Bulletin Editor; Velicia Bergstrom, George Riser, Vice President/President Elect; Joretta LeBoeuf, Rogers Serpas

VP George Riser called the meeting to order at 11:26 a.m.

**Minutes:** Chip McGimsey made a motion, seconded by Velicia Bergstrom to accept the Executive Board Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### Reports

**President:** George Riser has a meeting with Mark Howell, Jessica Crawford, and Sam Brooks to discuss the joint meeting between MAA and LAS. Dates have been set for March 3, 2008 – March 8, 2008. Rita Field will be the program chair. There will be another joint meeting Friday, September 26, 2008, Hattiesburg, MS to discuss further details. George Riser suggested that the LAS have a program chair to coordinate with Rita Fields. The host society will create the program.

**Vice President:** Velicia Bergstrom will put together a letter, to be sent to the local universities, announcing the student paper awards competition for the 2009 meeting

**Secretary:** No report.

**Treasurer & Membership:** Joretta LeBoeuf reminded the Executive Committee that she had turned in her resignation in February of 2008. She had agreed to help through the summer but she could not continue as treasurer. She reported that there was a \$10,655.99 balance for the checking account. Membership was at 208 as of August 15, 2008. We need to vote on Jim Fogelman as a replacement for Joretta LeBoeuf. Joretta LeBoeuf suggested we vote by email. Chip McGimsey made a motion that we vote for Jim by email. Joretta LeBoeuf seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed. Joretta LeBoeuf made a motion that we vote on the reimbursement for travel expenses associated with Louisiana Archaeology Week by mail since the meeting was lightly attended. Chip McGimsey seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

**Website:** Junior Doughty was unable to attend however he emailed his report. The website has been averaging 107 a day; we are still in no worry of bandwidth overage charges as we

are using about .5% of our allotment. The two online newsletters are still being downloaded frequently, in my opinion: average 31 times a week with 34.3 getting the most downloads at 21 vs. 11 for 35.3.

**Bulletin:** Chip McGimsey reported that he had received four articles. He had not heard back from John Gibson concerning the Big Oak manuscript.

**Newsletter:** Dennis Jones was unable to attend. However, he emailed his report. It is as follows:

The latest issue of the LAS newsletter was put in the mail this past Friday, September 19, 2008. 199 copies went out. All copies had the 8-page program for Louisiana Archaeology Month 2008 inserted into newsletter.

R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates printed 400 copies for us this time so we could have extras to give away at Louisiana Archaeology Month venues. They did a great job of printing and getting the newsletter back to me for distribution. Heidi Post was again helpful with the printing and Stephanie Perrault was helpful by bringing the copies from New Orleans back to Baton Rouge.

I was impressed by all the submissions sent to me by the various contributors and I want to thank all of them for sharing the news about their various projects.

The next issue will come out in mid January/early February to provide information about the LAS-MAA meeting in Natchez, MS scheduled for Feb. 27, 28 & March 1, 2009.

### Chapter Reports

**Northeast Chapter:** No report.

**Central Louisiana Chapter:** No report.

**Delta Chapter:** Rogers Serpas reported on behalf of the Delta Chapter that the monthly meeting would to be held at UNO. They would soon hold elections for officers.



## Meetings, Fieldwork, Exhibits, Etc.

**February 27, 28, and March 1, 2009. Joint 2009 Annual Meetings of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) and the Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA). Natchez Eola Hotel, Natchez, MS. See pages 2-3 of this newsletter for details.**

### **January 31, 2009 East Texas Archaeological Conference**

The *16th Annual East Texas Archeological Conference* will be held on Saturday, at the *Ornelas Activity Center*, 3402 Old Omen Rd., across Spur 248 from the University of Texas at Tyler. The hours are 9 AM until 4 PM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM and admission is \$10 at the door. The ETAC was established to bring together people interested in the archeology of our area. This is an opportunity for professional archeologists, avocational archeologists, and members of the general public to visit with each other about their shared interest in the region's cultural heritage. For more information contact Mark Walters. [mwalters@wildblue.net](mailto:mwalters@wildblue.net)

### **February 6-8, 2009 - Maya Calendars and Creation**

Please join us the weekend of for the Sixth Annual Tulane Maya Symposium and Workshop, hosted by Tulane University's Stone Center for Latin American Studies. Through a series of lectures, workshops, and a roundtable discussion, specialists at the symposium will discuss our current understanding of the intricacies of Maya calendars and the relevance of the upcoming completion of the final baktun of the current era within the worldview of the ancient and contemporary Maya. For further information about the pro-gram, please contact Denise Woltering ([crctrts@tulane.edu](mailto:crctrts@tulane.edu)), or visit our website at <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/MayaSymposium>

### **March 27-28, 2009 - Louisiana Folklore Society Annual Meeting**

*Louisiana Frontiers, Margins, and Psychological Boundaries*. Northwestern State University--Fort Polk Campus, Leesville, LA.. The Louisiana Folklore Society invites proposals for papers and other types of presentations for its 2009 annual meeting. The Society is interested in hearing diverse voices; therefore, we encourage presentations on any subject by scholars, tradition bearers, folk artists, musicians, students, community leaders, community scholars, and others interested in local Louisiana cultures throughout the state and elsewhere. Typically, presentations last 20 minutes. With Louisiana's Neutral Strip as its backdrop, the 2009 LFS conference highlights the emergence of culture on the frontier. For more information on the Louisiana Folklore Society, or to pre-register, see <http://www.louisianafolklife.org/lafolkloresociety.html> or call Keagan LeJeune at 337-475-5312. All events related to the conference are open to the public.



From 1764 through 1788, when Louisiana was under Spanish governance, some 3,000 French-speaking Acadians settled in the prairies, bayous, and marshes of Louisiana. A popular conception of *le grand dérangement* is that of a "straight line" migration from Nova Scotia. The diaspora, in fact, lasted a period of 25 years and the Acadians' journeys often made detours through France, the British Colonies of the Eastern Seaboard, or the islands of the Caribbean. Once situated in Louisiana, the Acadians established a lifestyle, foodways, and culture that continue to enrich and define the region.

**Friday, January 30, 2009, Reception** (for symposium registrants)

The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal St.

6:00 p.m. Meet the speakers.

**Saturday, January 31, 2009, Symposium**

Omni Royal Orleans Hotel, 621 St. Louis Street

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

More details available at

<http://www.hnoc.org/programs/symposia.php>

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 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 |

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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), #3(1976), #7(1980), #8 (1981), #9 (1982), #10 (1983), #11 (1984), #12 (1985), #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)

Back Issues of LAS Special Publications:

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| SP #1 Stone Points and Tools of Northwestern Louisiana (1981, Reprinted 2000) | \$4.00         |
| SP #2 LAS 10th Anniversary Issue (1984)                                       | (out of print) |
| SP #3 Louisiana's Archaeological Radiometric Database                         | \$4.00         |

Optional Donation: Roger T Saucier Memorial Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ -

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Make checks payable to:<br><b>Louisiana Archaeological Society</b> | Send payment to:<br>LAS Treasurer<br>P.O. Box 44247<br>Baton Rouge, LA 70804 |
|--|--|

## LAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL

### 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 Archeological 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

### Information for Contributors

Send all notes, news, graphics and other communication to:

Dennis Jones-LAS Newsletter Editor

Snail mail: 1801 Ormandy Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Email: [archaeoman2003@yahoo.com](mailto:archaeoman2003@yahoo.com)

If possible articles should be submitted on computer disk or by email, preferably in Microsoft Word. Digital images are encouraged. Please send in JPG or TIFF format. Contact editor via email with all questions.

### LAS Web Site

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

#### LAS OFFICERS

**President:** Dr. George Riser, Covington, LA.

**Vice President:**

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All officers can be contacted through the LAS website: [www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org)

## Louisiana Archaeological Society

c/o The Louisiana Division of Archaeology

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