



# Louisiana Archaeological Society

## NEWSLETTER

CHERIE A. SCHWAB, NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
 COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC. BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

Volume 30, No. 1

Spring 2003

### FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings to all. This year's Annual Meeting in Baton Rouge was a great success. On behalf of the LAS, I'd like to thank Joretta LeBoeuf, Fiona Vasbinder, and the Baton Rouge Chapter of the LAS for a great meeting. The papers were informative and a great time was had by all.

It is my duty to announce that after many, many, years of service as the LAS Treasurer, David Jeane has stepped down from his post. On behalf of the Society, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all of his hard work over the years and wish him the best. Taking David's place as Treasurer is Joretta LeBoeuf of Baton Rouge. Joretta is an archaeologist with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and currently serves as Treasurer for both the Baton Rouge Chapter of the LAS and UPPA (University of Poverty Point Alumni). Welcome Joretta!

This issue contains the minutes of the meetings from this year's annual gathering, financial and membership statements for last year, and preliminary information for next year's meeting. Also included are two articles naming this year's recipients of the Ford Award and the Saucier Award. Richard Weinstein has undertaken the honorable task of providing the LAS with a fitting memorial for Jack C. Bonnin, charter member and former treasurer for the LAS. Other submissions include an article concerning the Bayou Portage Guidry site, a Plaquemine mound site in St. Martin Parish, and the zooarchaeological findings from the Little Bayou Long site.

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in this newsletter. Keep those submissions coming!

Cherie Schwab  
 Newsletter Editor

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

February 7, 2003  
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Reported by  
 Maureen Downey  
 LAS Secretary

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society met Friday, February 7, 2003, in Room 407, Cook Conference Center, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA. President Joe Saunders called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Members present were:  
 Joe Saunders - LAS President  
 Carl Kuttruff - LAS Past President

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John Polk - LAS Vice President/President  
Elect, Delta Chapter Representative  
Maureen Downey - LAS Secretary,  
David Jeane - LAS Treasurer  
Chip McGimsey - LAS Bulletin Managing Editor  
Cherie Schwab - LAS Newsletter Editor  
John Guy, Jr. - LAS At-Large Representative  
Margarette Cheramie - CLAC Representative  
Nancy Affeltranger - CLAC President

## MINUTES

The minutes of the November 16, 2002 meeting of the LAS Executive Committee were unanimously approved as printed in the Winter 2002 LAS Newsletter, Volume 29, No. 3. The motion to approve was made by Chip McGimsey and seconded by John Polk.

## REPORTS

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David Jeane presented the 2002 Financial Statement. The report covered the period beginning 1/31/2002 through 12/30/2002. Total assets as of 12/30/2002 were \$18,387.00. Income included \$1,057.00 from the 2002 Annual Meeting in Leesville. There were no Bulletins published in 2002. Mrs. Saucier was reimbursed for expenditures relating to the old LAS web site. Joe thanked David Jeane for his report.

### Membership

David Jeane reported that membership was declining. Methods to increase membership were again discussed. John Polk's proposal of LAS-supported archaeology clubs at local schools was discussed. John reported that although the idea was received favorably among the schools in his Parish, many problems had surfaced regarding implementing the program. Increasing institutional membership was also discussed. Executive Committee members are to check with their local libraries. It was noted that not being up-to-date with the Bulletins was a hindrance to increasing institutional membership. It was suggested that the next Bulletin be sent to all membership. It was also suggested that sample Bulletins could be sent to institutions to encourage membership. The Committee will discuss this further at the next meeting.

### Bulletin Report

T.R. Kidder was unable to attend the meeting. Because of his new duties, T.R. may have resigned as

Bulletin Editor and Chip McGimsey has replaced him. The next Bulletin, No. 25, will be in the new 8.5" x 11" format which should greatly increase the quality of the graphics. The Committee decided, to help speed the publication process, to switch the contents previously designated for Bulletin No. 25 and No. 26. Bulletin No. 25, 1999 will now contain Robert Connolly's Report on the 1982 Goad Excavations at Poverty Point. The articles for Bulletin No. 26 still need to be peer-reviewed. Cherie Schwab and Chip McGimsey will discuss this further and report to Joe Saunders on what they consider to be the best process to use.

### Newsletter Report

Newsletter Editor Cherie Schwab reported that submissions for the Newsletter were up but she urged everyone to continue submitting. Two hundred eleven copies of the last newsletter were mailed. Nancy Affeltranger made a motion to accept the Newsletter report. David Jeane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Web Page Report

Junior Doughty was unable to attend the meeting. However, the use of credit card payment for membership and purchases on the web site has been approved by the Executive Committee and the process is underway. The experimental Executive chat room was briefly discussed. All agreed that further work needed to be done on it.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Awards

A report on the two resolutions concerning the Roger Saucier Award previously voted on by the Executive Committee was given by Maureen Downey. One resolution established the Saucier Award and the other approved Marc Dupuy, Jr. as the first recipient of that award. Both resolutions were passed by the Committee. The Award was given to Marc Dupuy at the LAS Business Meeting on Saturday, February 8, 2003. Robert Neuman is the recipient of the Ford Award. That award was presented to him at the Business Meeting by Kathleen Byrd.

### Annual Meeting Packet

Joe Saunders has completed the Annual Meeting packet. Each year information from the Annual Meeting will be added and passed to the hosts for the next year's meeting. The Central Louisiana Archaeology Club will host the 2004 Annual Meeting. Charlie Affeltranger will be the meeting chairperson. Nancy

Affeltranger reported on progress on the meeting to date.

#### Updating LAS Brochures

Cherie Schwab reported on the progress on brochures. Among other changes, the brochure needs to be updated to reflect the change in the membership dues. Cherie invited members to submit images to be included in the brochure. She will place a draft of the brochure on the web site for comments and approval by the Executive Committee before it goes to the publisher.

#### Purchase of Camcorder

John Polk will further investigate the purchase of a camcorder for the Society. He will report to the Committee at a later date.

#### LAS Publications in Local Bookstores

No one reported any success with the placing of LAS publications in local bookstores.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### LAS At-Large Representatives

Joe Saunders introduced John Guy, Jr. who is the new LAS At-Large Representative. Joe thanked John for taking on the job. We know that he will be an excellent at-large representative.

#### By-Laws

Because of recent changes in membership dues in the institutions/organizations category and the student membership category, the By-Laws must be amended. The amendment was presented for approval to the membership at the Business Meeting.

#### Treasurer

David Jeane announced his resignation as LAS Treasurer. He has been treasurer for many years and has done an excellent job. He has been a great asset to the LAS.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Chip McGimsey and seconded by Margarette Cheramie to adjourn the meeting. President Joe Saunders adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

**Remember to  
Renew Your Dues!**

## MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 28TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

February 8, 2003

Cook Conference Center, LSU  
Baton Rouge, LA

Reported by  
Maureen Downey  
LAS Secretary

The 29th Annual Business Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society was called to order at 5:25 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2003, by President Joe Saunders. President Saunders welcomed everyone.

President Saunders first thanked Josetta LeBoeuf, Fiona Vasbinder and all the members of the Baton Rouge Chapter that worked so hard to make the meeting such a success.

Joe then announced that David Jeane had resigned as LAS Treasurer. He thanked David for all his years of hard work as treasurer. Joe asked for a volunteer to fill the vacancy.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the 28th Annual Business Meeting were published in the Spring 2002 LAS Newsletter, Volume 29, No. 1. There being no corrections to the minutes as published, a motion was made by Richard Weinstein and seconded by Joan Bruder to approved the minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

### REPORTS

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David Jeane distributed copies of the 2002 Financial Statement which covered the period 1/31/2002 through 12/30/2002. Total assets on 1/31/2002 were \$18,146.00. Income for the period was \$3,576.00 and expenses totaled \$3,335.00. However, David reminded the membership that no Bulletins had been published during 2002, therefore expenses were less than usual. The balance in the checking account was \$4,351.00. In LAS Savings "A" there was a balance of \$8,371.00 and in Saving "B" there was \$5,665.00. Total of LAS assets on 12/30/2002 was

\$18,387.00. President Saunders thanked Treasurer Jeane for his report.

### **Membership Report**

David Jeane announced that membership was down again. It has dropped for the last three years. The total 2002 membership was 203. In 2001 the membership total was 249. He said that membership had been falling since 1999. He emphasized that more effort needs to be made to retain old members and to recruit new ones. Members should submit their e-mail addresses to help in distribution of information. David also thanked the Baton Rouge Chapter on behalf of the LAS for a great meeting.

### **Bulletin Report**

Joe Saunders reported that if T.R. Kidder was to resign as Bulletin Editor because of his new duties, Chip McGimsey would agree to fill the vacancy. Joe remarked that the biggest problem in sustaining or increasing membership is the timely publication of the LAS Bulletin. Starting with Bulletin No. 25, a 8.5" x 11" format will be employed and the Bulletin will probably consist of Robert Connolly's report on the 1982 Goad excavations at Poverty Point. Articles for Bulletin No. 26 need to be peer-reviewed. Cherie Schwab and Chip McGimsey will work on the best procedure for this. Plans are to have these two Bulletins published before the end of the year. Joe praised T.R. Kidder for the excellent job that he has done as editor of the LAS Bulletin.

### **Newsletter Report**

Newsletter Editor Cherie Schwab reported that submissions for the Newsletter had been up. She stated her appreciation and encouraged continued submissions. Cherie said that the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy would like to have a page in the Newsletter in order to keep everyone up-to-date on what is going on with the Conservancy.

### **Web Site Report**

Web Site Editor Junior Doughty was unable to attend the meeting. Cherie Schwab reminded everyone that anything submitted to the Newsletter could also be placed on the LAS web site. Joe Saunders said that Junior has reported that people are continuing to purchase from Barnes and Noble through the web site. The process to enable use of credit cards on the site is underway.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Best Student Paper**

The Executive Committee had voted to have a

panel of three judges, one to be a professional archaeologist, one an avocational archaeologist, and one an educator, to decide on the best student paper given at the Annual Meeting. The winner would be publicly recognized for giving the best paper and would be awarded a free year's membership in the LAS. Erika Roberts was this year's winner for her well-presented paper on Whitney Plantation: Gender, Ethnicity, and Social Status. Congratulations Erika!

### **Ford Award**

President Saunders explained the five requirements to be eligible for the Ford Award. (These can be found on the LAS web site.) It is the highest honor for a professional archaeologist that the LAS can bestow and it has been given only to four other recipients. Joe introduced Kathleen Byrd who presented Robert Neuman with the LAS Ford Award. She outlined his long, illustrious, and extremely interesting career. He thanked the LAS for the award and said that he was proud of his association with the LAS and honored to receive the Ford Award. Congratulations to Bob Neuman!

### **Saucier Award**

Joe Saunders announced that the Roger Saucier Award had been initiated to honor those individuals who, while not having a professional career in archaeology, none-the-less had made a substantial contribution to the field. Chip McGimsey then explained the criteria for the Saucier Award which he said had been placed in the LAS Newsletter. He explained that, as the Executive Committee was considering the creation of the Saucier Award, a member of the LAS proposed that the LAS honor an individual who was a perfect match for the award. Chip then introduced the first recipient of the Roger Saucier Award -- Marc Dupuy, Jr. Chip related some of Marc's many contributions to archaeology. Mrs. Anita Saucier was unable to attend the meeting, but she sent her congratulations to Marc and said that Roger would be proud that he was the first recipient of the award. Marc made an interesting speech of acceptance and thanks to the LAS for the award.

### **Amendment to LAS By-Laws**

Announcement of the proposed amendment to the LAS By-Laws to reflect changes in membership dues in the institution/organization and the student membership categories was placed in Newsletter Volume 29, No. 3. Rebecca Saunders made the motion, seconded by Joretta LeBoeuf, to approve the amendment to Article I, Section 3 of the LAS By-Laws. Motion passed unanimously. The By-Laws are now amended to read: Section 3 Institutions and other

organizations may subscribe to the Society's publications upon payment of \$20.00....Students may obtain full membership in the Society by payment of \$12.00 annual dues and submittal of a valid student identification (ID) card.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LAS At-Large Representative**

President Saunders announced that John Guy, Jr. has accepted the position of LAS At-Large Representative. He thanked Johnny for accepting. He will be an excellent representative. Joe also asked for volunteers for the second At-Large Representative position.

**2004 Annual Meeting**

Central Louisiana Archaeology Club will host the 2004 Annual Meeting that will be held in Alexandria,

LA. President Saunders thanked the CLAC and remarked that he knew they would do a great job.

**New Chapters**

The West Louisiana Archaeology Club has expressed a desire to become a chapter of the LAS. Welcome! Another chapter may be forming soon.

**UPPA**

Ellen Ibert invited everyone to join the UPPA mailing list. The next meeting of the club will be March 21 at Poverty Point.

There being no further business, John Polk made a motion to adjourn. Jim Fogleman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. President Joe Saunders adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and door prizes were then awarded.

**LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
2002 FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
December 30, 2002**

*Period covered by this report—1/31/2002 thru 12/30/2002*

**ACCOUNT REPORTS JANUARY 31, 2002**

Louisiana Archaeological Society Savings "A".....	8,175.00
Louisiana Archaeological Society Savings "B".....	5,516.00
Checking Account Balance.....	4,325.00
Petty Cash.....	130.00

**TOTAL ASSETS - 1/31/2002 18,146.00**

**2002 TRANSACTIONS**

**INCOME**

Membership Fees and Publication Sales.....	2,140.00
Checking Account Interest.....	34.00
Savings Account Interest.....	345.00
Annual Meeting.....	1,057.00

**TOTAL 2002 INCOME 3,576.00**

**EXPENSES**

Louisiana Book Festival.....	63.00
Postage.....	325.00
Newsletter Expenses.....	1,416.00
Anita Saucier.....	61.00
Haag Symposium.....	200.00
Coastal Environments.....	293.00
Annual Meeting expenses.....	663.00
Misc (postage, ISF check, Speakers Bureau, SAA, etc.)...	314.00

**TOTAL 2002 EXPENSES 3,335.00**

**BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT 12/30/2002 4,351.00**

**TOTAL ASSETS LAS - 12/30/2002**

LAS SAVINGS "A".....	8,371.00
LAS SAVINGS "B".....	5,665.00
CHECKING ACCOUNT.....	4,351.00

**TOTAL 18,387.00**

**LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**2002 MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**JANUARY 31, 2003**

REGULAR MEMBERS.....	61
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.....	13
STUDENT MEMBERS.....	7
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS.....	24
SUSTAINING MEMBERS.....	3
LIFE MEMBERS.....	93
<b>TOTAL 2002 MEMBERS</b>	<b>203</b>

*1997—	307
1998—	273
1999—	282
2000—	252
2001—	249

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Jeane Treasurer  
2/7/2003

## Announcements

### LAS ANNUAL MEETING

The Central Louisiana Archaeology Club will host the Annual Louisiana Archaeological Society Meeting at the Alexandria Convention Center next to the Hampton Inn. The meeting will take place on February 6-8, 2004. The keynote speaker will be Stanley South, who will speak about Santa Elena (1566-1587).

A block of 50 rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn. The conference room rate is \$62 dollars. There will also be a banquet.

### RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

The Louisiana Division of Archaeology invites teachers to take advantage of its available free resources!

In addition to free posters and booklets, the Division of Archaeology has classroom exhibits that can be borrowed for two weeks. These exhibits are shipped by Greyhound bus when pickup is not possible. The teacher need only pay for the return shipping (approximately \$25). The Division also maintains a collection of books and videos available for loan.

A list and description of available materials can be found at our website <http://www.crt.state.la.us> (click Archaeology, then Educational Resources).

### FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITY

**Archaeological Fieldwork Opportunity: Alma Plantation, Louisiana  
June 16 - July 21, 2003**

Volunteers are needed June 16 - July 21 for archaeological excavation at Alma Plantation, Louisiana. The results will be used for a dissertation examining African American daily life at Alma and nearby Riverlake Plantations (1880-1940). Participants will excavate a former African American worker's house site occupied from the late 19th through the early 20th centuries, and may also carry out documentary and oral history research. No prior experience is necessary, and participants do not need to commit to the entire duration of the project.



Alma and Riverlake Plantations are located in Pointe Coupée Parish, Louisiana, approximately 30 minutes drive from Baton Rouge, near False River,

an oxbow lake of the Mississippi River. This region has a long association with sugarcane cultivation, beginning shortly after French settlement of the area, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Alma and Riverlake sugar plantations have production and occupation histories that stretch back to Louisiana's colonial era. Both were worked by enslaved Africans and African Americans from the colonial era until the abolition of slavery in the U.S., and then by African American wage laborers. Alma Plantation is a working plantation today, with a large, modern sugar mill and primarily Latino workforce.

Excavation goals for 2003 are the exposure of house and yard features, and the recovery of household artifacts and ecofacts. This data will help address the primary research goal; to examine the daily lives of African Americans at Alma and Riverlake Plantations from 1880-1940 through a combination of archaeological data, historical documents, oral history interviews, and ethnoarchaeological observation. The particular aspects of daily life of interest in this project are summarized as four research themes: cultural expression, cultural maintenance and change, community and relations, and dignity.

If interested, please contact: David Palmer, Ph.D.  
Candidate, RPA  
Dept. of Anthropology  
University of California, Berkeley

## News

### 3RD ANNUAL UPPA SPRING PILGRIMAGE

*By Josetta LeBoeuf*

Spring Pilgrimage has always been a spiritual time for me; a time for reflection, spending time with old and new friends, sharing good food and ideas no matter how preposterous, and most importantly a reminder of why I chose archaeology as a career. I don't know if it was the mystery of the site, the great company or both that initiated my obsession. Whatever it was, it's still there. I always knew how lucky I was to be able to participate in the annual visit. However, with the organization of The University of Poverty Point Alumni (UPPA) the invitation has been extended to anyone with an interest in the Poverty Point site; the archaeology, landscape, people, culture, art,

and even astronomical alignment. Here are just a few words about this year's event.

The third annual gathering (Spring Pilgrimage) of UPPA was held at the Poverty Point Historic Site on March 21-23, 2003. Most members (some old and a few new) arrived on Friday and caught up on the past year's events while enjoying Ellen Ibert's super chicken and sausage gumbo.

Saturday began with a fantastic breakfast. Next, the crew mobilized for "Operation Pick-Up-Sticks." This activity allowed members to volunteer their time and energy cleaning up fallen limbs and rotting logs on the ridges in the NW sector of the site as a token of our appreciation for the fantastic hospitality of the State Parks Rangers and use of the dormitory. This endeavor was followed by a special guest lecture by Norman Davis. Norm gave a fascinating presentation on some recent discoveries of the astronomical alignment of the Poverty Point earthworks.

Reca Jones and John Hogg were also staying at the dormitory while mapping Motley Mound as part of the Ancient Mounds and Heritage Initiative. Our

group was fortunate enough to be able explore the mound that Saturday evening—something few archaeologists have been granted permission to do. Thanks Reca and John! This was definitely one of the highlights of the event!

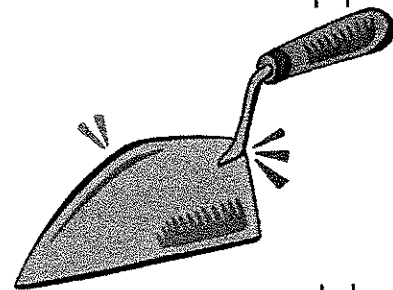
Saturday evening's walkabout included impromptu lessons in Conch shell blowing, star gazing, and nocturnal animal imitation. The site provides a great spot for viewing the stars, not only because of the lack of city lights but because it may have actually been designed for viewing the sky as we learned from Norm's lecture.

This is just a taste of what Spring Pilgrimage is like. Of course, I could never give you all the details. You will have to experience it for yourself!

Contact Josetta LeBoeuf [josieaz@bellsouth.net](mailto:josieaz@bellsouth.net) 225-767-4974 or Sara Hahn [shahn@coastalenv.com](mailto:shahn@coastalenv.com) 225-383-7455 for information on membership.

Annual fees for membership/mailings are \$5. Checks should be made out to UPPA and sent to Josetta LeBoeuf at 9364 Rainford Rd. Baton Rouge, LA 70810.

**Hey Local Chapters!**  
**Let the rest of the**  
**LAS know what's**  
**going on in your**  
**neck-of-the-woods by**  
**sending a submission to**  
**the newsletter!**



# LAS MEMBERS

The Division of Archaeology is beginning to make plans for the Sixteenth Annual Louisiana Archaeology Week in 2003, scheduled for September 28-October 4. We are looking forward to having a variety of activities and participants again this year. If you would like to help in planning, hosting, or leading an activity, please complete the information below and return this form to Joesetta LeBoeuf at the Division of Archaeology, P.O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, or fax it at (225) 342-4480. If you have any further questions, comments, or suggestions, feel free to contact Joesetta at (225) 342-8170, or e-mail at [jleboeuf@crt.state.la.us](mailto:jleboeuf@crt.state.la.us).

Please Print:

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Telephone Number During the Day (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Activity \_\_\_\_\_

Community \_\_\_\_\_

Host Organization/Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Contact Person/Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

(    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Date(s) of Event/Event Description \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Leader of Event \_\_\_\_\_



**THE 2003 FORD AWARD RECIPIENT  
ROBERT W. NEUMAN**

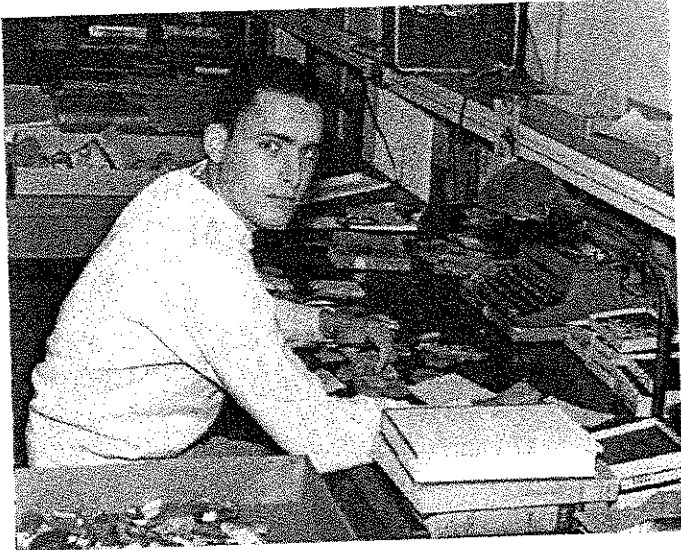
By  
*Kathleen Mary Byrd*

It was Robert W. Neuman's junior year at Tulane University before the then pre-med major had the opportunity to take his first elective. The elective was a course on South American Indians and it changed his life. As he tells it, he asked the professor Arden King, of Crooks Site fame, if people actually got paid for studying this sort of thing. They did and that summer, 1951, Robert went on his very first field investigation serving as a crewman for John Champe of the University of Nebraska. The summer was spent along the Republican River in southwestern Nebraska investigating a number of prehistoric and historic Indian sites. After that Robert was hooked on archaeology. The next summer found Robert in Wyoming working for Bill Mulloy (the same Bill Mulloy who excavated the Crooks Site.) Mulloy was excavating the McKean Site, the type-site for the McKean Complex, a major Meso-Indian complex dating to c. 5000-3000 BC. The summer of 1953, Robert was again in the field, this time working for Carl Chapman of the University of Missouri investigating rockshelters and caves in the Ozark Mountains. In these sites were found prehistoric Indian artifacts including hide and sandals and other not often preserved remains.

Having finished at Tulane and wanting to pursue his interest in archaeology, Robert enrolled in Louisiana State University in 1954 to acquire his Masters degree. He selected LSU because of the close association of anthropology and geography there, a decision he never regretted. The summer of 1955 found him once again on the plains, this time working as a field assistant for Wesley Hurt of the University of South Dakota excavating the Swan Creek Site, a prehistoric fortified earthlodge village along the Missouri River. Robert got to know many of the archaeologists actively working on the plains and in the spring of 1956, the Smithsonian Institution offered him a position with the River Basin Survey. Robert skipped his LSU graduation in order to be in Lincoln, Nebraska for the beginning of that field season. At the time Robert was the youngest staff archaeologist ever hired by the Smithsonian Institution. He was to remain with the Smithsonian Institution's River Basin Survey for the next eleven years.

The River Basin Survey (RBS) was a nationwide effort to identify and salvage important archaeological sites in the path of reservoir construction. The Missouri River was undergoing a massive dam building effort and many of the archaeological sites in the Missouri bottoms were to be flooded as a result of the dam and reservoir construction. The mission of the Smithsonian office headquartered in Lincoln was to record as many of these sites as possible before they were destroyed. The Smithsonian had up to twelve crews in the field during the summer survey and excavation season that typically began in the spring as soon as the snow was gone and continued into late fall. The crews excavated prehistoric earthlodges, fortified villages, campsites, caves, buffalo jumps, historic forts and other historic sites.

Robert excavated many of these types of sites but he was particularly interested in burial mounds. These low, often less than three feet tall, conical mounds dated to the Plains Woodland Period and had affiliations with the Hopewell Culture farther to the east. Within these mounds were buried as many as 34 people, many as secondary burials. These human remains were often interred in pits or log-roofed tombs and on occasion whole bison were buried with the dead. An interesting aside is that Robert routinely employed Dakota Sioux men as crewmembers for his excavations. The Sioux became very proficient at the excavation of the human burials (pre-NAGPRA). Based on the results of this research, Robert formulated and described the Sonota Complex to represent a mound building tradition on the northern Great Plains. The Nebraska State Historical Society published the monograph on his work in 1975. Although many of the Sonota sites are now under the Missouri River reservoirs, archaeologists still continue to research the camp sites and a few mound sites of this important prehistoric culture.



Robert Neuman in 1956 at the Smithsonian Institution.

The Missouri River was not the only area investigated by the River Basin Survey and reservoir projects were underway in other parts of the United States. During one six month period, Robert conducted a series of survey and excavations along the Chattahoochee River in both Alabama and Georgia. Here he tested a number of prehistoric and historic sites and conducted excavations at several fiber-tempered pottery campsites as well as an extensive excavation at a Fort Walton mound. Somewhat like C. B. Moore, he used a sternwheel paddleboat, named the Betty Ann, to get up and down and across the Chattahoochee.

Eventually, the Missouri River Basin Survey was phased out and Bill Haag offered Robert a position as Curator of Anthropology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Although Robert quickly developed an interest in Louisiana archaeology, he continued to be fascinated in human adaptations to grassland environments. While at LSU Robert received several grants including one from the National Science Foundation to conduct a comparative study of human adaptation to the pampas of Argentina and the plains of North America. He spent two field seasons (1974 and 1975) traveling extensively in Argentina, sometimes with gaucho guides and sometimes without. He went to a number of archaeological sites on the pampas including stone ring sites, caves in the foothills of the Andes, and pictograph sites. He also visited museums, reviewed collections, and spoke with many of the university archaeologists in

the country. He presented the results of his research at several national meetings.

Robert was also interested in the grasslands of China and Inner Mongolia and spent two field seasons in China (1988 and 1990). He visited such world renowned sites as Zhoukoudian, the *Homo erectus* site outside Beijing, as well as Neolithic farming villages such as Banpo, and the site of the full-size terra cotta soldiers recovered from near the tomb of Emperor Shihuangdi near Xian. But he was mainly interested in human adaptation to the central Asian steppes. He spent most of his time in Xinjiang Province and Inner Mongolia. Here he met with a number of Chinese archaeologists and toured many museums. He also visited Shang Dynasty burial tombs, represented on the surface by circular rings of stones; the remains of once-important cities established along the Silk Road but destroyed by the Mongols c. 1250 A.D. (and now largely claimed by the Gobi Desert); and caves dug into the loess cliffs by Buddhist monks. He was particularly interested in the Kazak and Mongol peoples who still live a nomadic life moving their herds of horses, camels, sheep, goats, and cattle. Robert, being a westerner, was considered something of a novelty and he fully enjoyed the hospitality of these nomadic peoples. He was less enamored with the boiled sheep's fat, which was always given to the honored guest. Robert returned once more to Hohhot, Inner Mongolia in 1991 to present a paper at an international conference on grassland human adaptations.

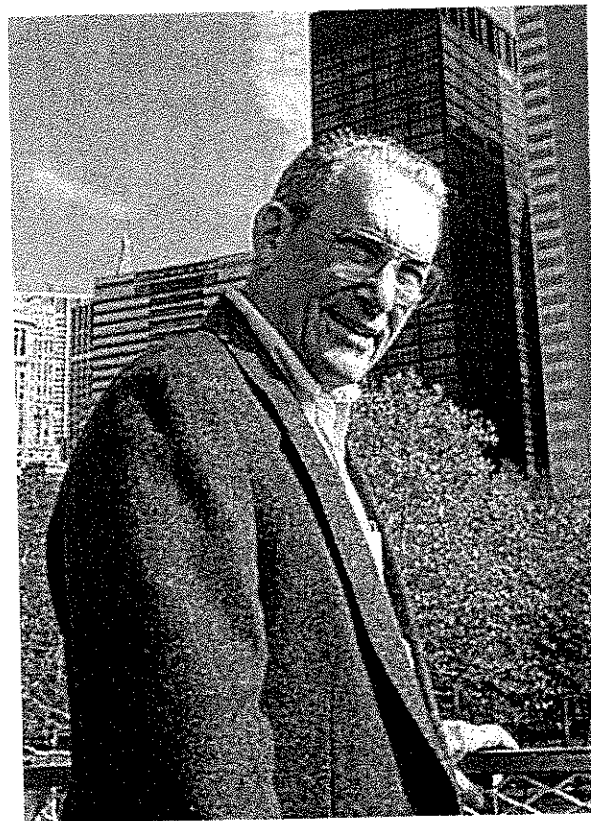
Robert made one more work-related trip outside the U.S. while at LSU, this time to El Salvador. Several faculty members from LSU were asked by the El Salvador government to help the El Salvadorian officials to identify possible research projects and economic development opportunities in the area of archaeological tourism.

While he remained interested in other topics, Robert's main area of concern while at LSU was Louisiana archaeology. Shortly after arriving at LSU in 1967 he began, in conjunction with Lanier Simmons, the compilation of a list of all published sources on Louisiana Indians. This bibliography was completed and published in 1969 under the title of *A Bibliography Relative to Indians of the State of Louisiana*.

One of Robert's first major field undertakings in Louisiana was the survey of the planned interstate corridors for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. This was the first large-scale archaeological highway project in Louisiana. Identified among the sites that would be impacted by the highway project was the Mt. Nebo Mound Site, in Madison Parish. Excavation of the Mt. Nebo site began in 1969 and resulted in the documentation of this mound site with Troyville-Coles Creek and Plaquemine components. Built in eight stages with a partial shell cap on one of the stages this mound was used both as a platform for structures as well as a burial mound. A minimum of 86 individuals had been buried in the mound. Dr. Marco Giardino analyzed these human remains for his master thesis at Tulane University.

Another major excavation that Robert was involved in at this time was the excavations at the Morton Shell Mound in Iberia Parish. Funded in part by the National Science Foundation, the Morton Salt Company, and the Avery Island Foundation, this excavation looked at human's adaptation to another grasslands environment, this time the wet marshlands of southern Louisiana. Over the course of about two years, five large units were excavated at the site. The burial area at the northern end of the site resulted in the recovery of the remains of at least 275 human individuals. These remains were fully analyzed by Dr. Louise Robbins and gave a detailed window into burial practices in coastal Louisiana during the Coles Creek period. Other sections of the site were also excavated including an area at the water's edge that extended down seven feet below sea level. Using pumps to keep the unit dry enough to excavate, Robert recovered extremely well-preserved vegetal remains from a peat deposit. These vegetal remains along with the faunal remains from the deposit, which dated to the Tchefoncté Culture, became the basis of my own Master's thesis. Robin Futch used the faunal remains from the Coles Creek deposits at the Morton Shell Mound for her Master's thesis.

A third major excavation that Robert supervised was the work at the Bayou Jasmine Site in Saint John the Baptiste Parish. This shell midden had been impacted by the construction of I-55. The site was virtually at sea level and in order to excavate an innovated system of interlocking steel pilings were con-



Robert Neuman in New York Harbor in 2001.

structed as cofferdams. These cofferdams and their associated pumps made it possible to excavate. This was the first use of this technique in Louisiana. Here again a peat deposit was found with well-preserved floral and faunal remains.

Robert was always intrigued with the mounds on the LSU campus and over the years he would walk back and forth over the mounds looking in eroded areas for any evidence of cultural remains such as ceramics or lithic materials. He found none. Finally in 1982 after speaking with several soil scientists, he and two LSU soil scientists cored one of the mounds. The purpose was an effort to study soil formation in an attempt to date the mounds. The technique was also used on the Belmont mound in St. James Parish. These early testing projects supported the existence of a pre-ceramic mound building tradition in Louisiana, at the time viewed as revolutionary and questionable. Today a pre-ceramic mound tradition is firmly established in Louisiana.

During his years at LSU, Robert traveled to all sections and parishes of the state numerous times.

He religiously documented sites with site forms and photographs. All artifacts collected were carefully cataloged and curated. His photographic records along with numerous negatives and slides, the original site forms, and all the artifacts he collected during his years in Louisiana are at LSU. These records are often the only data of many of the sites since destroyed. His field books have been donated to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology.

Robert also had an impact on many anthropology students who passed through LSU during his stay. For a number of years he taught a course in Louisiana archaeology and he was always willing to take students with him on field trips. Over the years many of us took advantage of these field trips and I am sure many have stories to tell about their field experiences with him. (I, for one, can remember an instance of a supposedly fordable bayou. I think either Duke Rivet or Rich Weinstein has pictures.) Robert was also of great assistance to a number of graduate students both from LSU and other universities around the country as well as archaeologists in and outside of Louisiana who worked in the state during his years at LSU.

But Robert wasn't only interested in fieldwork. He was also concerned that information on the state's archaeological past reached a larger audience. In 1984 Louisiana State University Press published his *Introduction to Louisiana Archaeology*, a detailed compilation of the information on the state's prehistoric past up to that time. It has been reprinted several times — once in paperback. He also developed a traveling

exhibit on Louisiana's Indians, both historic and prehistoric. This exhibit, which included informational panels, display cases of artifacts, and a slide show, was designed for use in local parish libraries and museums. It toured for almost a decade providing people all over the state an opportunity to see authentic Indian artifacts and learn about Louisiana's early residents. Robert was always a strong supporter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society and was the LAS Bulletin editor for ten years. He also served on several committees such as the National Register of Historic Places Review Board and the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Board. In recognition of his 30 years of efforts and his contribution toward Historic Preservation in the State of Louisiana, Robert received an award from the Foundation for Historical Louisiana in 1997 "for making the past known and useful to the present." During his professional career Robert worked in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Missouri, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming, El Salvador, Argentina, China, and Inner Mongolia. He has published numerous articles, given many papers at professional meetings, and has published several books.

Since his retirement, he has continued to be involved in research and to publish. He has articles forthcoming in the *Plains Anthropologist*, *Iowa Journal of Archeology*, and one on Louisiana Indian basket making in a forthcoming book on *Indian Basketry*. But if you ask him today what his is doing, he will say that he is a day laborer on a horse farm. Do you want to buy a horse?

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## THE 2003 ROGER T. SAUCIER AWARD RECIPIENT MARC DUPUY

By

*Charles R. McGimsey*

Shortly after last year's annual meeting, discussion began among various Executive Committee members about ways we could honor the contributions of members. With the help of Duke Rivet, who dug into various archives, we unearthed the criteria for the James A. Ford Award and the Special Award that had previously been given by the Society. The Ford Award is rather specific as to who can be considered, and we wanted to come up with a way to honor individuals who had contributed in ways other than considered by the Ford Award. The result was the formation of the Roger T. Saucier Award as announced in the LAS Newsletter. This award is designed to recognize members of the LAS for their contributions to Louisiana archaeology in the areas of ancillary analyses (such as geological, zoological, etc.) fields by people who were not primarily archaeologists, people

who contributed to the development of archaeology and cultural heritage via legislative and administrative means, and those who spread the message of archaeology through educational and various methods.

At the same time, a member of the LAS approached the Executive Committee with a proposal to honor a long-time member of the Society. The Award and the individual were a perfect match. The recipient of the first Roger T. Saucier Award of the Louisiana Archaeological Society is Marc Dupuy, Jr.,

Marc has been in archaeology, in a manner of speaking, his entire life. It is rumored that he witnessed the 1930 WPA excavations at Marksville and I know he was collecting artifacts during his early years running around Avoyelles Parish. In 1969, the Lake St. Agnes site on the Dupuy family farm was cleared and Marc contacted Bob Neuman at LSU about the possibility of doing some work at the site. This led to Alan Toth undertaking an excavation at the site in 1972, which Marc not only facilitated by letting the crew stay at the family camp but he was also an active participant.

The LAS was initially begun in 1961 or 62 but had not been able to sustain itself. It was reorganized in 1974 and in 1975 the first annual meeting of the Society was held in Lafayette. In 1982, the Dupuy family hosted an LAS workshop at their camp in Avoyelles Parish. This included Jon Gibson's famous "Sermon on the Mount" at the Lake St. Agnes mound. This workshop was held to provide training in a variety of archaeological methods and techniques, but the only thing people remember about it is the *cochon de lait* that Marc Dupuy held for the Society members at his camp — Marc was always the gracious host.

Throughout the 70s and 80s Marc worked with a number of archaeologists recording sites and participating in various workshops and site tours. In 1984, during the 3rd term of Edwin Edwards, he was appointed to a position on the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission where he has continued to serve ever since. Marc was one of the founding fathers of the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy, first pushing for its formation, doing the legal work to establish it, and then serving as its first president. Over the years, Marc has undertaken the task of performing all of the Conservancy legal

work for free to bring at least six sites into Conservancy. These sites include portions of the Marksville site, the Lake St. Agnes Mound, the Highland Stockade, and most recently the Conly site. Without his efforts at Conly, the Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the landowners would not have been able to preserve the site.

Marc encouraged the LAS, under the direction of Carl Kuttruff and Dennis Jones, to undertake an investigation of the Marksville site embankment in 1993. Not only did the Dupuy family permit the excavation on their land, they provided housing, arranged for the use of a backhoe, and even provided lunch for a meeting of the LAC during the project. This is typical of the efforts Marc has made for anyone interested in archaeology. Anyone working in Avoyelles parish was always welcome to stay at the family camp. In my own work, I can attest to his knowledge of sites, freedom to use his camp, and making any arrangements necessary to allow work to proceed.

We had hoped that Anita Saucier would be at the Annual Meeting to present the award, but she was unable to attend. She asked me to read this short statement in her stead.

"The family of Dr. Saucier would like to thank you for the kind invitation to join the group in person this evening. I regret that we are unable to attend. We are truly honored by the conception of the Roger T. Saucier Award and are touched that you would remember him in such a meaningful way. We all know that Roger would have been very proud and honored for the many aspects of Louisiana archaeology were among his greatest personal and professional interests. The family would like to extend our congratulations to Marc Dupuy for his accomplishments in the field of archaeology and for being the very first recipient of the Roger T. Saucier Award."

It would be difficult to find an individual who has done more to promote Louisiana's cultural history, encourage archaeological investigations, and work to preserve archaeological sites. For all of his efforts over the last 35 years on behalf of Louisiana's cultural heritage, it is the pleasure and honor of the Louisiana Archaeological Society to present Marc Dupuy, Jr., with the Roger T. Saucier Award.

## IN MEMORIAM: JACK C. BONNIN

By  
*Richard A. Weinstein*

Jack C. Bonnin, Charter and Life Member of the LAS and first Treasurer of the Society, passed away on Wednesday, October 16, 2002, in Welsh, Louisiana, his home town for over half a century. He was 75 years old. Jack is survived by his wife, Gretchen, a brother, Warren Bonnin of Carlyss, a sister, Myrtle Robinson of Arlington, Texas, 10 children—Susan Hinchee of Welsh; Stephen Bonnin of Galveston, Texas; Sam Bonnin of Houston, Texas; Sarah Bingham of New Iberia; Sylvia DeFranza of Suwanee, Georgia; Scott Bonnin of Lawton, Oklahoma; Dr. Stuart Bonnin of Pensacola, Florida; Barbara Wickham of Portland, Oregon; John Bonnin of Boerne, Texas; and Dottie Miller of Gresham, Oregon—plus 32 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Jack was born in Sulphur, Louisiana, and served in the Marines during World War II, taking part in the invasion of Iwo Jima and the occupation of Japan. This reporter can vividly recall Jack's description of his experiences on Iwo Jima when he told of them at some of those informal "late-night gatherings" held in bars or hotel rooms at past LAS annual meetings.

Jack was a teacher and administrator in the Jefferson Davis Parish school system for 36 years, and served as President of the Jeff Davis division of the Louisiana Teacher's Association. He also was a member of the American Legion and VFW Post 9046, plus past President of the Welsh Rotary Club.

As an educator, Jack's interest was drawn to the archaeology of southwest Louisiana, and he joined the Southwest Louisiana Archaeological Association as a Charter Member, eventually becoming President of that association prior to its affiliation with the LAS as the Imperial Calcasieu Chapter. Jack met other avocational archaeologists from the area, notably Charlie Bollich of Beaumont, Texas, Wallace Stroud of Elton, and Nelson Hardy of Welsh. Joe Frank of Lake Charles also became a close archaeological acquaintance. Jack also expanded his archaeological contacts and counted many of the state's leading ar-

chaeologists as his friends: Bill Haag, Clarence Webb, Stu Neitzel, Jon Gibson, and Bob Neuman, to name a few.

In the late 1960s, Jack began research into the relationship of archaeological sites and pimple mounds; those low, circular, enigmatic features that dot much of the surface of the Prairie Formation across southwestern Louisiana. His summary paper on the subject, entitled "Pimple Mound Habitation in Southwest Louisiana" (Bonnin 1972) described excavations into many of the pimple mounds present at several of the sites in the area (including tests into 11 of the mounds recorded at the Fontenot site—16JD6) and was the first study in the state since Beyer (1898) to examine pimple mounds from an archaeological perspective. Jack's research paved the way for similar investigations, such as those conducted by McGuff and Cox (1973), Aten and Bollich (1981), Fields et al. (1986), Ensor (1987), Jones and Shuman (1988), and Kuttruff (1993).

About the time he was studying pimple mounds, Jack also took on the task of a full-fledged archaeological excavation at the Strohe site (16JD10). This locale covered several acres atop the Prairie Formation adjacent to a relict channel of Bayou Chene in southern Jefferson Davis Parish. It was noted by the landowner as a "hot spot" for finding aboriginal artifacts. Over the course of numerous visits, from the fall of 1969 through 1972, Jack and a group of local laborers and volunteers dug a total of 27 five-foot squares into the richest part of the site, uncovering evidence of prehistoric occupation that extended almost unbroken from Paleo-Indian to Mississippi times (Bonnin and Weinstein 1975). Although never fully published, the data from these excavations became critical in establishing many of the local phases in southwest Louisiana. Particularly notable are the Strohe phase of the Late Paleo-Indian period, the Lacassine and Lake Arthur phases of the early and late Marksville period, respectively, the Roanoke phase of the Baytown period, the Welsh and Jeff Davis phases of the early and late Coles Creek period, and the Bayou Chene phase of the middle to late Mississippi period (Bonnin and Weinstein 1978; Weinstein et al. 1977; Weinstein et al. 1979). The Strohe site took on added significance when it was recognized as one of only a handful of excavated locales in southwest Louisiana to have produced artifactual remains criti-



cal to an understanding of aboriginal cultures across the Southeastern U.S. (Smith 1986).

Needless to say, Jack was a noted expert on the archaeology of Jefferson Davis Parish and the surrounding area. When this reporter was a graduate student at LSU in the fall of 1974, and employed briefly by Bob Neuman, then Curator of Anthropology, to conduct an archaeological survey of several watersheds across southwest Louisiana, he was told to contact two people who could be relied upon to provide the greatest assistance during the survey: Jon Gibson at USL and Jack Bonnin in Welsh. Not only did Jack provide valuable site information, but he opened his home to this poor graduate student; in so doing he provided both a place to stay during the survey and an intellectually rewarding experience that would be capped each night by an examination of the various artifact collections previously recovered from the pimple mounds and the Strohe site. Jack and his dedication to archaeology will be sorely missed. His legacy will continue, however, when the final report on the Strohe site excavations eventually is completed.

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[Editor's note: Some of the information appearing in the above memoriam came from the Obituary section of the *Welsh Citizen*, dated October 22, 2002.]

## BAYOU PORTAGE GUIDRY AND THE PLAQUEMINE MOUNDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

By  
Mark A. Rees

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL Lafayette) conducted an archaeology field school during the winter intersession of 2001-2002 at Bayou Portage Guidry (16SM38), a Plaquemine mound site on the western edge of the Atchafalaya Basin in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. The field school was planned to instruct students in techniques of mapping, excavation, and site documentation. It also marked the beginning of the Plaquemine Mounds Archaeological Project, a long-term program of research focused on Plaquemine culture in south-central Louisiana. The preliminary results of the field school are summarized here, accompanied by a brief discussion of the project goals.

### Bayou Portage Guidry

Bayou Portage Guidry (16SM38) is a multiple-mound site located on the south bank of the bayou for which it is named, on a natural levee of the Teche meander belt of the Mississippi River (Saucier 1994:279). The area surrounding the site is subject to periodic flooding and the site itself does not appear to have been historically cultivated. As many as five and possibly six earthen mounds have been identified, positioned around a plaza and surrounded by a series of shallow depressions. The general layout of the site was described in the Spring 2002 issue of the LAS Newsletter (Everett et al. 2002). Bayou Portage Guidry is associated with early Plaquemine culture (ca. AD 1100-1400) and possibly an earlier Coles Creek component (ca. AD 700-1100). The site was initially recorded three decades ago and has been the focus of intermittent investigations since that time (Gibson 1990; LDA Site File 16SM38). Local residents have long known about the site however, and it has served as a favorite locale for hunting, pot hunting, and recreational off-road vehicles.

Students from UL Lafayette participated in a winter intersession field school at Bayou Portage Guidry between December 10, 2001 and January 15, 2002. The immediate goals of the investigation were to collect general information regarding the site and to address the urgent need for mound stabilization and site preservation. A detailed topographic map was prepared, recording site configuration and design (see Everett et al. 2002, Figure 1). The mounds were assigned letter designations A through F beginning with Mound A, also known as "Big Mound," and moving counterclockwise around the site. Mound A is the largest in both area and height, at approximately 4 meters (13 ft) higher than the surrounding terrain. The conical shape of Mound A is also apparent, despite deep gullies, extensive pot hunting and erosion. As a result, the summit is estimated to have been reduced in height by at least 0.5 meters.

Mound D, the second largest in the group, has so far escaped much of the destruction wrought by off-road vehicles and appears to have been a rectangular platform (cf. Everett et al. 2002:7). Mounds A and D are both connected to smaller mounds (Mounds B and C) by low causeways or aprons. Two low rises, designated mounds E and F, are positioned on the south edge of a centrally-located plaza that slopes gently to the north. The mound group is surrounded on three sides by a series of shallow, intermittent channels and low-lying depressions, some of which appear to be borrow pits. The overall configuration is an open-ended quadrilateral facing the bayou to the north. The orientation and position of the four paired mounds bear a general resemblance to Greenhouse, a well known Troyville-Coles Creek mound site in Avoyelles Parish (Ford 1951; Rees 2002).

Test excavations at Bayou Portage Guidry focused on documenting site boundaries, artifact distributions, and cultural features. Twenty seven 50-by-50-cm test units were excavated along N-S and E-W transects at 20-meter grid intervals, producing well-provenienced, temporally diagnostic artifacts from controlled subsurface contexts. The site is conservatively estimated to cover 3 hectares (7.4 acres) based on the distributions of artifacts from these units. A dark, organic-rich midden extends around the north slope of Mound A and across a northern portion of the site. A circular charcoal stain (Feature 1) was recorded above the midden in two test units north-east of Mound A. Feature 1 contained burned soil, clay ball fragments, Pontchartrain Check Stamped and Coles Creek (*var. Coles Creek*) pottery sherds. A single charcoal sample from Feature 1 produced a conventional radiocarbon age of 610 +/- 70 BP, with a calibrated median date of AD 1352 (UGA10994).



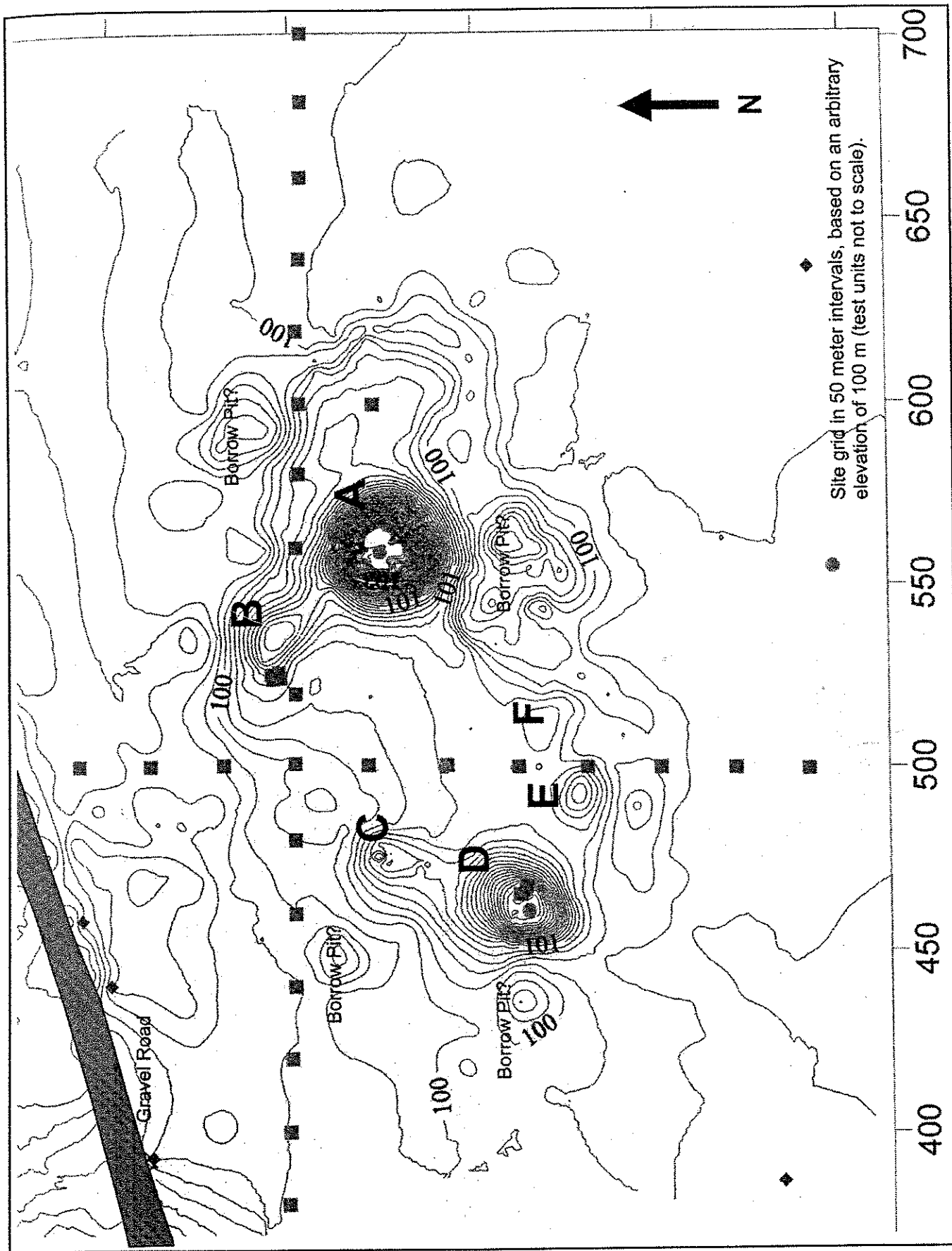


Figure 1. Map of Bayou Portage Guidry, showing the locations of test units.

The students excavated trenches into two gullies produced by off-road vehicles and erosion on the north and southeast slopes of Mound A. The sides of these gullies were cut back, revealing intact mound deposits, basket loading, and slope wash. The trench excavations followed the natural contours of the gullies, with minimal vertical disturbance of intact mound fill. The coring of mounds A and D provided preliminary information on mound construction. A single core on the summit of Mound A revealed two distinct episodes of fill above a pre-mound surface.

Accelerator mass spectrometry analysis of charcoal from the pre-mound surface, what appeared to be the original A horizon, produced a conventional radiocarbon age of 890 +/- 40 BP. The calibrated age is 738 BP, with a calibrated median date of AD 1212 (UGA 10995). Both of the above dates correspond nicely with two radiocarbon dates previously obtained from charcoal in the lowest stratum of mound fill in the west slope of Mound B, calibrated at AD 1205 and AD 1405 (Everett et al. 2002:9; see also McGimsey and van der Koogh 2001:6-7). This supports an early-thirteenth century estimate for the initial construction of mounds A and B, with subsequent occupations dating from the mid to late fourteenth century.

The rapidly deteriorating condition of Bayou Portage Guidry was apparent in the Fall of 2001. Mound A in particular, had been severely damaged as a result of recurring off-road vehicle use and erosion. The gully on the north slope of Mound A had reached a depth of 1 meter. Mound stabilization and site preservation were supported by an emergency site preservation grant from the National Association of State Archaeologists (NASA), through the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and State Archaeologist. In addition, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana contributed matching funds, heavy equipment and personnel.

A small bobcat with rubber tracks was used to backfill the two trenches in Mound A and one additional gully on the south slope. A sterile, clay fill was capped with 10-cm of topsoil in order to support revegetation. Two types of highly-permeable, biodegradable landscape fabrics were used to impede erosion, control topsoil loss, and allow for subsequent plant growth. Finally, a barbed wire fence was placed around mounds A and B in hopes of restricting access. Subsequent site visits have so far documented the stabilization of Mound A and the diversion of site traffic from mounds A and B.

### The Plaquemine Mounds Archaeological Project

In spite of recent investigations, Bayou Portage Guidry and sites like it remain a sort of archaeological enigma. Plaquemine was first identified more than sixty years ago as a transitional classification linking Coles Creek culture and the early historic Natchez (Ford 1952:327-328; Ford and Willey 1941; Quimby 1951). Yet much of what is known about Plaquemine culture has been drawn together from investigations along the Natchez bluffs and areas to the north (Bohannon 1963; Brain 1978, 1989; Brown 1985; Hally 1972; Phillips 1970; Rolingson 1976; Williams and Brain 1983). Studies on the Gulf coastal plain and Mississippi River delta have meanwhile shed light on what is regarded by many as a coastal variant of Plaquemine culture (Brown 1984:115-123; Weinstein 1985, 1987; Weinstein and Kelley 1992:38-39).

Gibson (1975:28) refers to Plaquemine components in the western Atchafalaya Basin and Teche Ridge as "peripheral, or marginal" in comparison to the Ouachita, Tensas, and Yazoo basins of northeastern Louisiana and western Mississippi, areas influenced more directly by Mississippian culture (see also Gibson 1976:20, 1978:44). In fact, current understanding of Plaquemine culture has been framed in reference to Mississippian culture, cultural expansion, or diffusion (Brain 1989; Haag 1978; Williams and Brain 1983; cf. Brown 1998; Jeter and Williams 1989; Neuman 1984:258-268). Yet this does not address the problems of regional variation or local, in situ development of Plaquemine societies from Coles Creek antecedents (Kidder 1998:131, 143). This is nowhere more apparent than in the western Atchafalaya Basin. Comparatively little is known about Plaquemine societies in the region despite the fact that the Medora site, where Plaquemine was first identified as a ceramic complex, is located only 40 km (25 mi) to the east (Quimby 1951).

The Plaquemine Mounds Archaeological Project (PMAP) was conceived during the 2001-02 field school at Bayou Portage Guidry, with the goal of investigating poorly-known mound sites dating from the Mississippi period (ca. AD 1100-1700) in south-central Louisiana. Funding for the PMAP has been sought from and recommended by the Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund, through the Research Competitiveness Subprogram. It is a three-year project intended to generate previously unavailable information on Plaquemine mound sites, support professional development and collaboration, and increase student participation in archaeological re-

search. Among the long-term goals are to develop a detailed database with which to examine Plaquemine settlement patterns, community organization, subsistence, and political organization. The project area encompasses the western limits of the lower Mississippi alluvial valley, demarcated by the Prairie Terrace escarpment on the west and main channel of the Atchafalaya River on the east, including portions of St. Landry, St. Martin, Lafayette, and Iberia parishes.

The objectives for the first year include the identification and assessment of mound sites with potential for yielding Plaquemine components. Surveys are planned to locate (or relocate) sites, record information on site components, and determine cultural affiliations. The goals for the second and third years are to complete the survey and mapping of mound sites, collect information on mound construction chronologies, and examine ceramic refuse, subsistence remains, architectural debris, and cultural features from mound and non-mound contexts through systematic test excavations. Site preservation is an additional concern, as many of these mound sites are endangered by recreational use, pot hunting and modern development. Among the sites to be visited, additional investigations are planned for Bayou Portage Guidry. Updates on the PMAP will be available online at <http://www.uclouisiana.edu/~mar8527/pmap.html>.

### Acknowledgments

The contributions of numerous individuals, groups and institutions were critical to the success of the field school at Bayou Portage Guidry. The landowners, Jean Kremer and family, are to be commended for their interest in archaeology and site preservation. Thomas Eubanks, Louisiana State Archaeologist, and the National Association of State Archaeologists deserve special thanks for funding mound stabilization and site preservation at short notice. Chairman Alton LeBlanc, Kim Walden, John Paul Darden, and the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana generously provided matching funds, heavy equipment, and assistance in the field. Additional support was provided by the College of Liberal Arts, UL Lafayette. Chip McGimsey, Southwest Regional Archaeologist with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, provided expert assistance in the field and funds for radiocarbon dating. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the diligence of the field school students who endured both mosquitoes and frigid temperatures during the winter intersession at Bayou Portage Guidry. For additional information on UL Lafayette field schools or the PMAP, the principal investigator can be reached by email at [markrees@louisiana.edu](mailto:markrees@louisiana.edu) or

through the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

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## ZOOARCHAEOLOGY OF A LATE PREHISTORIC SITE IN THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

By

*Jim Delahoussaye and Chip McGimsey*

The Little Bayou Long site (16SM100) is located on the south and east bank of Little Bayou Long about one mile upstream from Grand Lake (before it became filled with silt in recent years). In 1987 and 1988, the site was visited several times by Delahoussaye and other members of the then active Teche Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. An extensive collection of pottery and faunal materials was obtained from the surface; no test excavations were undertaken. Delahoussaye (1989) and Burton Cestia (1989) presented papers on faunal and ceramic materials from this site at the 1989 annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. Recently, it came the authors' attention that the site had not been recorded. While collating the existing data for the site form, the decorated sherds in Delahoussaye's collection were retabulated by McGimsey

The Little Bayou Long site is a 150 m-long *Rangia cuneata* shell midden situated on the south or east bank of the bayou. The decorated ceramic assemblage indicates the site is predominantly a late prehistoric occupation (Table 1). Only one sherd, a Churupa Punctated specimen, suggests an earlier component. One piece of chert appeared to be worked but did not resemble a projectile point or a tool of any other type. Some of the materials reported here were collected from a second, unrecorded, site directly across the bayou. However, the majority of the ceramic and faunal remains were obtained from the Little Bayou Long site.

The faunal assemblage was gathered from the site by searching the surface. Identification of the bones was accomplished by comparison with illustrations in published resources (Blair et al. 1957; Gilbert 1973; Olsen 1964, 1968, 1972) and then confirmed with an osteological reference collection. The calculation of the Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) was done, in part, after the method described in White (1953). Since White does not include data for fishes or turtles, a method was contrived for the purpose of this study. In the case of turtles, it is assumed that five pieces of disarticulated shell is equivalent to one individual; five vertebrae and/or five pieces of skull equals one garfish or bowfin; and five spines equals one centrarchid or drum. The choice of the number five is arbitrary but conservative. No use of garfish scales was made in the calculations. All other MNI numbers are based on the total presence of one bone from one side of the animal (such as the left scapula of the deer) or the availability of a whole skull (black bear).

Dietary contribution of the five most significant vertebrates was calculated directly by multiplying the MNI and the average dressed weight per animal. The dressed weights for the white-tailed deer and the black bear were taken from White (1953). The other three (alligator, garfish, domestic pig) were estimated.

A total of 3,923 bones was collected during seven visits to the site. Of this total, 1,720 (44%) were identified to a useful taxonomic level. Table 2 lists the 21 vertebrate groups identified in this study. The bones were found in an excellent state of preservation.

Nine mammals were identified in the collection, with the most abundant being white-tailed deer and the muskrat a distant second. The presence of the domestic pig suggests the site was occupied as late as 1539, when the pig was introduced to North America (Gibson 1978). Notable for its absence in the sample is the raccoon. Byrd (1976) reports that in a similar study on Weeks Island, Louisiana, the raccoon was a well represented mammal. Gibson (1978) reports the same for the lower Atchafalaya region. The red wolf was a difficult identification, being very similar to domestic canids and hybrids. The very distinct "S" shaped zygo-maxillary suture and large size (200 mm) were determining factors.

Only a single species of bird, the wild turkey, is noted in the sample. However, there were 27 avian long-bone fragments found, some of which may prove identifiable in the future.

The alligator was the most abundant reptile in the sample. The skull bones were encountered most often compared to the rest of the skeleton. Three types of turtle are well represented, but no snakes were identified.

**Table 1. Tabulation of Decorated Ceramics from the Little Bayou Long site.**

Type/variety*	Count
Anna Incised v. <i>Australia</i>	2
Carter Engraved v. <i>unspec.</i>	4
Churupa Punctated v. <i>Churupa</i>	1
Coles Creek Incised v. <i>Hardy</i>	2
Evansville Punctated v. <i>Rhinehart</i>	3
Harrison Bayou Incised v. <i>Harrison Bayou</i>	9
L'Eau Noire Incised v. <i>Bayou Bourbe</i>	1
Leland Incised v. <i>Deep Bayou</i>	3
Leland Incised v. <i>Leland</i>	1
Maddox Engraved v. <i>Emerald</i>	3
Mazique Incised v. <i>Manchac</i>	21
Mississippi Plain v. <i>unspec.</i>	1
Plaquemine Brushed v. <i>Plaquemine</i>	22
Plain sherds with leached organic(?) temper	2
Indeterminate decorated sherds	26

\* identifications using Brown (1998) and Williams and Brain (1983).

**Table 2. Identified Material.**

	Identified bones	% of Total
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
White-tailed deer	260	36.0
Muskrat	7	1.0
Swamp rabbit	2	0.3
Red wolf	2	0.3
Mink	1	0.1
Bobcat	1	0.1
Domestic pig	1	0.1
River otter	1	0.1
Black bear	1	0.1
<b>BIRDS</b>		
Wild turkey	1	0.1
<b>REPTILES</b>		
Alligator	101	14.0
Soft-shelled turtle	17	2.0
Testudinid turtle	9	1.0
Snapping turtle	8	1.0
<b>FISHES</b>		
Garfish sp. skull fragments	188	26.0
Catfish sp.	39	5.0
Centrarchid sp.	35	5.0
Drum	31	4.0
Bowfin	22	3.0
Catastomid sp.	1	0.1
Shark	1	0.1
Subtotal	729	
Garfish scales	991	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1720</b>	<b>99.4 %</b>

**Table 3. Minimum Number of Individuals.**

SPECIES	BONE USED	MNI
White-tailed deer	L. scapula	23
Muskrat	R. pelvis	3
Swamp rabbit	R. premaxillary	1
Red wolf	Skull	1
Mink	L. mandible	1
Bobcat	R. ulna	1
Domestic pig	R. maxilla	1
River otter	L. humerus	1
Black bear	Skull	1
Wild turkey	Tarsometatarsus	1
Alligator	R. angular	6
Soft-shelled turtle	*	3
Testudinid turtle	*	2
Snapping turtle	*	1
Garfish sp.	**	38
Bowfin	**	4
Catfish sp.	R. pectoral spine	5
Centrarchid sp.	***	7
Drum	***	6
Catastomid sp.	Pharyngeal arch	1
Shark	Tooth	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>108</b>

\* 5 pieces of disarticulated carapace and/or plastron = one individual.

\*\* 5 pieces of disarticulated skull and/or vertebrae = one individual.

\*\*\* 5 spines = one individual

Fish bone was much in evidence at the site. The most abundant group encountered was the garfish. Separation of the species was not possible, hence the grouping under the term "Garfish sp.". Skull material constituted the primary evidence for garfish reported in Tables 2 and 3. However, 991 garfish scales were also identified. No decision was reached as to how to translate this significant data into useful MNI figures. Inclusion would have had considerable influence on the relative importance of these fishes in Table 4 (dietary contribution). Allowing 25 scales to represent one individual, the contribution of garfish would have increased from 190 pounds to 390 pounds and they would have become second in importance to white-tailed deer. Bowfin, catfish, centrarchid, and drum were each represented by approximately equal amounts of bone. A single shark tooth 18 mm tall was found. This is a rather large tooth to have come from species of sharks that now ascend the Atchafalaya River. Perhaps this is an indication of coastal visits by residents of the site, or trading activity with other people nearer the marine environment.

Also of some possible modifying influence is the fact that 439 fish vertebrae remain to be identified. The significance of fishes as a dietary component could be enhanced by inclusion of this information.

Table 4. Dietary Contribution.

SPECIES	MNI	AVERAGE WEIGHT	DRESSED WEIGHT	TOTAL DIETARY CONTRIBUTION	
		lbs	%	lbs	%
White-tailed deer	23	200*	50*	2300	73
Alligator	6	100	50	300	10
Black bear	1	300*	70*	210	7
Garfish sp.	38	10	50	190	6
Domestic pig	1	200	70*	140	4

\* From White, 1953.

Notable for its absence from this sample was the buffalofish. A large, very edible species, this fish could have been expected to occur in numbers similar to those of the drum and catfishes. The buffalo has large distinctive spines that should preserve as well as those of catfish and drum. However, none was found.

Table 3 shows the calculations of Minimum Number of Individuals for the sample, and the material used to make that determination. White-tailed deer, garfish sp., centrarchids and alligator lead the list. Using the MNI information, Table 4 indicates the dietary contribution made by the five largest and/or most numerous representatives in the sample. White (1953) states that the white-tailed deer has an average live weight of 200 pounds. Gibson (1978) on the other hand speaks of a much smaller size for Louisiana deer (100 pounds). The former figure is used in Table 4. However, even using the lesser size, the contribution by this animal in this sample is overwhelming as compared to all other vertebrates. The alligator ranks second. An average weight of 100 pounds for alligators is used since much of the bone material found at the site is that of large alligators. The black bear, though only represented by one individual, is included because of its size. Greater representation by this animal might be expected. It is possible, however, that because of its large size, the bear was dressed at the site of the kill, leaving behind the skull and larger bones. The garfish sp. are well represented in this sample, contributing 6% of the total available meat. As discussed above, a much higher number is probable if the 991 garfish scales are used in the cal-

culuation (25 scales = one individual), elevating the garfish to second in total volume of usable meat.

In summary, a large number of bones was found upon surface examination of the Little Bayou Long site in the Atchafalaya Basin. Of the 3,923 bones collected, 1,720 were identified, representing nine mammals, one bird, four reptiles or groups of reptiles, and seven fish or groups of fish. The largest quantity of material came from the white-tailed deer, garfish sp., and alligator - the three comprised 76% of the identified bone, after subtracting the garfish scales.

In terms of MNI, the same three form the most significant, with the addition of the centrarchid sp. - drum - catfish sp. groups. A total MNI of 108 animals was represented in the sample. Assuming the MNI figures are representative, the dietary contribution of the five most numerous and/or largest animals shows that the white-tailed deer was predominant, forming 73% of the diet. The alligator, black bear, garfish and domestic pig contributed to a lesser degree.

Footnote

1 This paper is substantially that given by Delahoussaye at the 1989 LAS meeting, with the ceramic identifications and minor editing by McGimsey. Delhoussaye wishes to thank Drs. Jon Gibson and Robert Neuman for their advice and the generous loan of printed material during his analysis. He also thanks Carolyn Pedigo for help with the word processing and collecting, and in general, members of the Teche Chapter of the Louisiana Archeological Society for their interest and donation of material.



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