



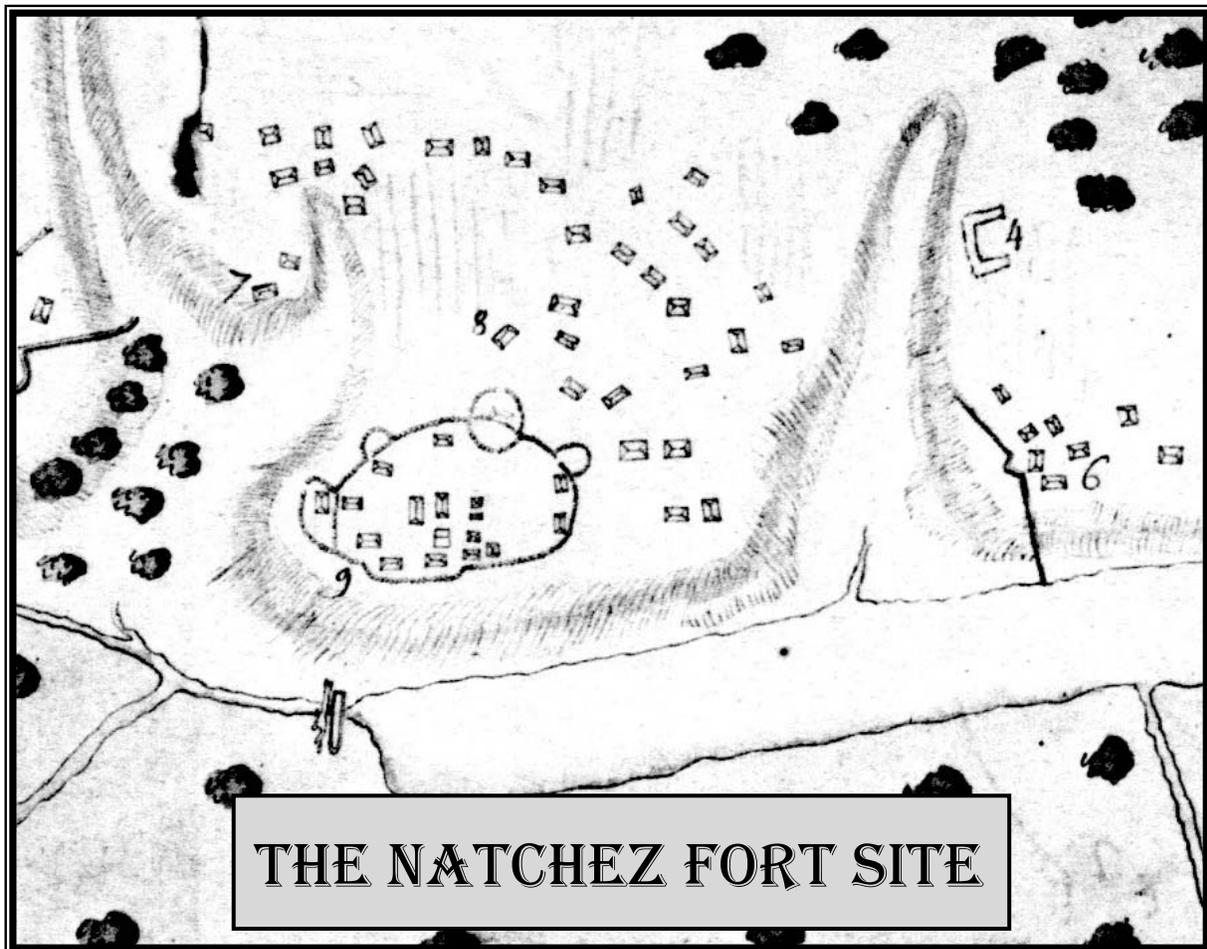
# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2015

Vol. 43, No.2

**LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH - OCTOBER 2015**

See Page 3



**THE NATCHEZ FORT SITE**

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

## LAS MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTER NEWS



Longtime LAS member, Stephanie Perrault, has been hired to be the manager for the Poverty Point World Heritage site. The site is managed by the Louisiana Office of State Parks. Stephanie will be only the third manager of the park since its opening. She takes over from retiring manager David Griffing.

### Poverty Point Site



The Friends of Poverty Point recently completed several tasks during the weekend of September 11-13 at the Poverty Point World Heritage Site. They cleared root balls from fallen trees on North Ridge #4 &5 and in front of Mound A. They also enjoyed washing some of the signs around the site, as seen in two of the photos here. The photo to the left below shows all participants in the weekend's activities watching a flint knapping demonstration by Mark Fox.

Participants this year included Charles Coke Guy, Jonathan Guy, Johnny Guy, Rachel Brooks, Kelly Flint, Madison Bouraue, Tim Phillips, Oriell Williams, Mark Richard, Sarah Romero, Ramsey Percle, Mike Lewis, Jon Pullen, J. R. Strode, William Schmidt, Hank and Mary Ann Carlson, Gen and Billie Dougherty, and Michael James.



## LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH - OCTOBER 2015

Louisiana Archaeology Month 2015 highlights the Natchez Fort site and its importance in our region's history and archaeology. Exhibits and presentations about the Natchez and the Natchez Fort site will be an important part of the 2016 annual meeting of the LAS held jointly with the Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA) in Natchez on Feb. 19-21 in Natchez, MS. There are many activities for Louisiana Archaeology Month in October 2015. Go to [www.crt.state.la.us/archaeology](http://www.crt.state.la.us/archaeology) for a complete list.

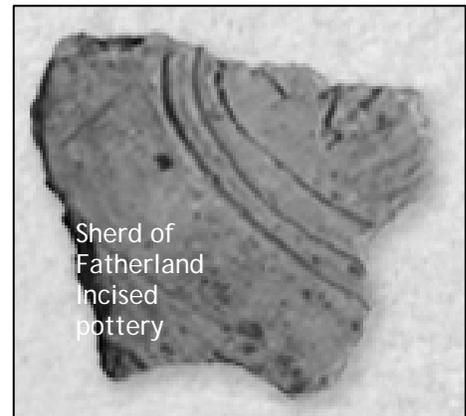
The Natchez Fort Site (16CT18) is near the modern community of Sicily Island in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana and was the scene of a significant defeat for what had been one of the largest and most powerful Native American groups in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Encountered during the early days of Euro-pean exploration and colonial rule, the Natchez Indians likely built the last ceremonial mounds in North America and their culture and life ways were documented by French colonial residents and officials in the early 1700s.

The French, with Natchez assistance, built Fort Rosalie in 1716 overlooking the Mississippi River and established a colony of hundreds, including families, who raised crops and traded with thousands of Natchez Indians who lived nearby. The Indians were in several settlements around their Grand Village, which is now a state park in Mississippi. The relationship between the French and the Natchez was not always a happy one, however, and after several incidents, the so-called Natchez Massacre occurred in 1729. This event saw hundreds of French men, women and children killed and scores more taken captive by the Natchez Indians. Enslaved Africans also became prisoners of the Natchez.

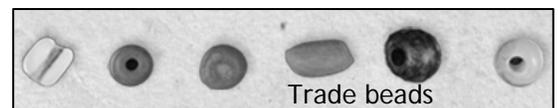
The French eventually sent a retaliatory expedition to the Grand Village and, with Choctaw allies, laid siege to the Natchez, who had constructed two European style forts and defended themselves with captured French cannons. On the morning February 26, 1730, however, the French found that the Natchez had escaped their siege undetected.

The Natchez Fort Site, about 30 miles northwest and across the river in what is now Louisiana, was the place where the surviving Natchez sought refuge. The French, realizing that their colonial presence in *La Louisiane* would be very tentative if the Natchez were not completely vanquished, organized another military expedition from New Orleans in December 1730. Again, accompanied by Indian allies, this expedition eventually found the Natchez Fort and laid siege to it in January 1731 with cannons they had brought with them. The Natchez could not successfully withstand this siege and most eventually surrendered on January 25, 1731 after diplomatic treachery by the French led to the capture of the Great Sun, the Natchez leader. While some Natchez escaped, the Great Sun and hundreds of his subjects were sent ultimately to the French sugar growing colony of Saint-Domingue, now known as Haiti.

The location of the Natchez Fort site was reported by local historian John A. Green in 1938 in an article in the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly* and verified by archaeologist James A. Ford soon after. Sadly no organized program of archaeological research was ever conducted there. In the late 1980s, however, an avocational archaeologist named Jack Shaffer recovered thousands of artifacts from the site as it was being land levelled for efficient large scale agriculture. Jack plans to donate his collection to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, which in turn will place it on long term loan to the museum at the Grand Village of the Natchez in modern Natchez, Mississippi: a fitting resting place for this unique set of artifacts.



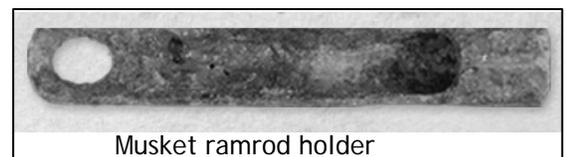
Sherd of  
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pottery



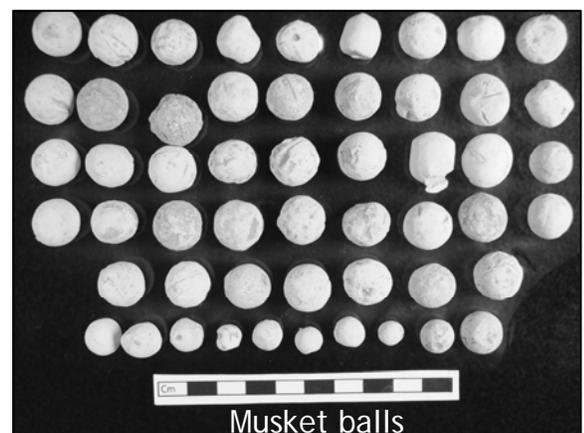
Trade beads



Trade bell



Musket ramrod holder



Musket balls

## RESEARCH NOTES

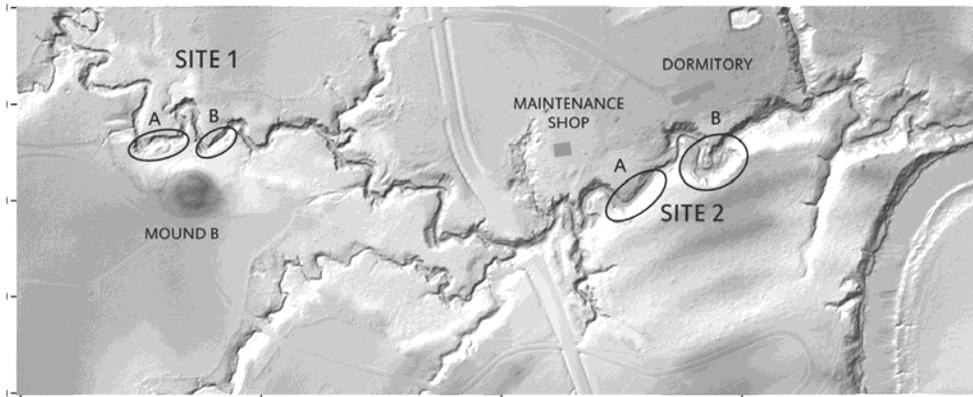
### Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program Update

By Diana Greenlee

#### *Harlin Bayou Stabilization Project*

In January 2013, excess water from a series of torrential rains caused Bayou Maçon to back up into Harlin Bayou, which runs on the north end of Poverty Point's monumental core. When the water receded, the south bank of Harlin Bayou, adjacent to the northern ridges, slumped. There was a significant amount of soil lost, which caused damage to remnants of Ridge 6 North and threatened the remaining ridges (see *LAS Newsletter* 41[1]:12). The banks of Harlin Bayou in the area near Mound B were also beginning to show signs of erosion and site personnel were concerned about that, as well. The Louisiana state legislature provided sufficient funding to stabilize the banks of Harlin Bayou in both of those areas.

The stabilization effort began in mid-January 2015. Station personnel monitored as the contractor cleared the work areas and moved dirt from the northern banks of Harlin Bayou to create a stable slope on the south bank. The new slope was covered with geofabric, crushed rock, and large stone riprap. About 280 linear feet of bank were stabilized in this way. Historic and prehistoric artifacts were recovered from secondary deposits in the bottom and along the banks of the bayou. The work was completed in early July 2015.



*Left: Locations of work areas for Harlin Bayou stabilization project at Poverty Point*

*Below: Photo panoramas of the eastern portion of work site 2B, looking south. Upper photo prior to stabilization. Lower photo after stabilization.*





*Select artifacts from Harlin Bayou, clockwise from upper left: melon-grooved PPO; novaculite Gary point; cross-grooved PPO (atypical groove pattern); reworked novaculite Marshall (?) point; hand-painted polychrome whiteware rim (ca. 1840-1860); local (Citronelle) chert Gary point; clear, rectangular, druggist's bottle.*

*Mississippi State University Field School at Poverty Point*

In 2014, the Station Archaeologist obtained a permit from the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission to begin a systematic survey of that part of the Poverty Point World Heritage Site situated north of Harlin Bayou. Limited previous research in this area had found little evidence of prehistoric occupation. A crew of twelve students from Mississippi State University, led by Janet Rafferty and Evan Peacock, assisted with the project. Using a GPS, shovel tests were laid out on a 10 m grid, with positive outcomes triggering additional tests at 5 m intervals. Two hundred forty-nine shovel tests had been excavated in areas immediately north of Harlin Bayou near the planned stabilization effort. The tests confirmed a very low density deposit of artifacts, primarily fired earth fragments and chert flakes, concentrated on the gentle slope leading to the north bank of Harlin Bayou. The students also conducted geophysical surveys (magnetic gradiometry and electrical resistivity) of a large open area near the maintenance and curatorial facilities. Detailed analysis of the results is ongoing.



*Left: Mississippi State University crew at work digging shovel tests and screening fill.*

*Below: Mississippi State University survey field school (left to right): Lee Smith, Will Turner, Brent Lyles, Diana Greenlee, Mary Madden, Kelsey Meer (flexing), Billy Wilemon, Ryan Young, Christina Ramazani, Cheyenne Bennett, Daniel Shawl, Nicholas Dinenschneider, William Harris, Evan Peacock, Janet Rafferty.*



## Environmental Processes and the Archaeological Record along the Louisiana Coast

By Brian E. Ostahowski, MA, RPA  
HDR, Inc., New Orleans, LA

From 2010 to 2014, HDR, Inc. in New Orleans conducted a cultural resource survey across 3,056 miles of the Louisiana coastline on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard. This survey focused mostly along the shorelines in the southernmost parishes where the Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico. Crews discovered a total of 50 new archaeological sites and revisited 163 previously recorded sites (Cloy and Ostahowski 2015). At the conclusions of this survey, and the update of conditions at many previously recorded sites, some broad, coarse-grained patterns began to emerge about the stark reality of the archaeological record along Louisiana's disappearing coast.

In terms of environmental processes, erosion and subsidence are key factors (after deposition) affecting the archaeological record along any coastal setting. In Louisiana, these factors contribute to terrestrial archaeological site loss and present researchers with a unique set of challenges for understanding past human behavior at both the local and regional scales. One challenge with measuring the magnitude of this problem is the frequency of site visitations by researchers throughout time in order to measure local and regional rates of site loss. Many of the archaeological sites along coastal Louisiana, for example, had not been visited for many years prior to HDR's investigations. In fact, the average length of time since previous investigations at recorded sites surveyed during this project was over 22 years. During this time, Hurricanes Katrina (2005), Gustav (2008), Ida (2009), and Isaac (2012) impacted the Louisiana coast, causing damage to natural and cultural resources alike.

While hurricanes certainly compound the rate of archaeological site loss, there is good reason to believe that erosion and subsidence are the greatest long-term concerns along the Louisiana coast. The table below shows the number of sites per parish that were previously reported and at the time of the field work for the survey were either entirely submerged or mostly submerged (i.e. > 50 percent of the recorded site boundary polygon was under water). This table also presents the average years since the previous archaeological investigations per parish. While the loss of terrestrial sites is high across the Louisiana coast, the parishes with the highest frequency of newly inundated sites are Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Jefferson and Lafourche parishes. In the most extreme case, the number of inundated sites in Plaquemines Parish (n=18), considered with the average time since the last survey (19.7 years), could suggest an average annual loss of nearly one terrestrial archaeological site. While these statistics assume a constant rate of site inundation, we know that is just simply not the case. Some years might go up due to hurricanes, some years might go down due to vegetation influx and shoreline stabilization, but that doesn't make it any less clear that coastal archaeological sites are threatened. Unfortunately, this threat will only grow.

Cloy, Courtney B. and Brian E. Ostahowski,

2015 *Archaeological Investigations in Support of the MC252 (Deepwater Horizon) Oil Spill Response in the State of Louisiana*. Report on file with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. Baton Rouge, LA.

### Terrestrial Archaeological Site Loss by Parish

Parish	Number of Sites Submerged Since Last Visitation	Average Time Since Last Visitation (Years)
Vermilion	5	22.6
Iberia	4	24.5
St. Mary	4	38.3
Terrebonne	8	16.8
Lafourche	10	23.8
Plaquemines	18	19.7
St. Bernard	14	32.6
Jefferson	10	20.4
Orleans	3	11.7
St. Tammany	1	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>23.4</b>

### Fun in the Forest!

By Geoffrey R. Lehmann, Kisatchie Ranger District  
[glehmann@fs.fed.us](mailto:glehmann@fs.fed.us)

This year Regina Schneider and Victoria Thompson from LSU, along with Doug Doise and Katie LeBlanc from UL Lafayette joined me for 10-weeks of archeological field survey on the Kisatchie Ranger District (KRD). Participating agreements among the three institutions provide students the opportunity for hands-on experience as a field crew conducting Phase I archeological survey of proposed KRD project areas.

Our original goal for 2015 was to complete the survey of a large, multi-year project aimed at restoring the longleaf pine ecosystem within the Sheard Branch drainage. This remaining area has an unusually dense vegetation cover, including plenty of thorny vines.

An extremely wet late winter and spring prevented the KRD from implementing a controlled burn, so after surveying about 115 acres of the less densely vegetated area, we moved on to another project. We did discover two new sites there, with one from my very first “demonstration” shovel test. We also relocated two of four small previously recorded sites. Burning and completing the survey of this area will be top priority for next year.

The KRD has identified a number of future vegetation management projects, so we moved on to the South Bob’s Creek project in the watershed

just north of Sheard Branch. We surveyed about 580 acres within the very upper headwaters of this drainage and were disappointed, if not entirely surprised, that we did not discover any new sites. Some previous survey in this area produced identical results.

A total of 695 acres of proposed KRD project areas were surveyed. Although not the total acreage we usually accomplish in the summer, neither survey area had been subjected to a controlled burn and the crew is to be commended for taking that in stride. Doug, Katie, Regina and Victoria received training in conducting Phase I archeological survey as well as the opportunity to extend their personal boundaries.

Kisatchie National Forest’s public affairs personnel arranged for KALB -TV to interview the crew, and they provided us with the photo here. There was also an article in the Alexandria Town Talk newspaper and a spot on Red River Radio. Check these out through the links below.

<http://www.kalb.com/news/edheadlines/LSU-and-UL-Anthrolopogy-students-spend-summer-digging-in-Kisatchie--316188681.html>,

<http://www.thetowntalk.com/story/news/local/2015/07/17/students-spend-summer-jobs-never-imagined/30315733/>,

<http://redriverradio.org/post/kisatchie-ranger-district-gets-sweat-equity-anthropology-students#>



**Left to Right: Doug Doise, Victoria Thompson, Geoff Lehmann, Katie LeBlanc, and Regina Schneider.**

## University of New Orleans 2015 Summer Field School at 810 Royal Street, New Orleans

By D. Ryan Gray, UNO Department of Anthropology

This summer, students at the University of New Orleans in Dr. Ryan Gray's field school in historical archaeology began excavations at 810 Royal Street (16OR706). Located in the heart of the French Quarter, the lot at 810 Royal was the location of a ca. 1801 building that collapsed in late 2014. New property owners had invited Dr. Gray to examine the lot's archaeological potential. Preliminary testing indicated the presence of intact Colonial era deposits throughout the lot, including substantial quantities of hand-built pottery presumably of Native American origin.

In addition, according to historic map overlays, the lot had a developmental history going back to the very first years of the city, with structures extending into the lot no later than 1722. Archaeological remains from the earliest part of the French Colonial period can be rare and difficult to access in the city where they are often covered over by pavements and later buildings. Since the lot was planned for redevelopment in the fall, Dr. Gray made it the primary target of the 2015 field school. He and his students were given unfettered access to investigate the lot in detail

A total of 10 UNO students were full-time participants in the summer dig. They were joined by graduate students from two other institutions and by occasional student volunteers in investigating four loci on the lot. Excavations totaled about 12 square meters in surface area, with additional work focused upon exploring features encountered during those excavations. Students learned basic excavation techniques, soils, historic material culture, archaeological testing, planning, and profiling

Given the site's high-traffic location, the students also learned about engaging with the public. Each day, we typically spoke to at least 200 passers-by directly, as well as the many French Quarter tours that stopped by the site. The dig was also covered extensively in local media, with newspaper, radio, and television features. All of these are presently archived at the project's website: <http://theartofdigging.com/>.

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*Mapping: UNO students Helen Bouzon and Lori Atkinson and Michigan State graduate student Grace Krause mapping brick feature at 810 Royal. Photo courtesy of Brandy Dufrene.*



*UNO students Chris Combel and Sydney Viard excavating at 810 Royal as Ryan Gray looks on. Photo courtesy of the University of New Orleans.*

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The site's developmental history was complex, with remains from multiple French and Spanish Colonial era occupations recovered. The fact that the ground had been so long protected in this vicinity meant that there was excellent stratigraphic separation throughout the lot. Remains of a ca. 1730s-1750s post-in-ground structure, a possible earlier French-period structure, and a number of Spanish period (both pre and post 1788 fire) buildings were identified. One of the most interesting features was a subsurface brick arch that was later in-filled with additional brick; it was presumed to have been associated with a *cave* or other storage feature. The period between the 1788 fire and the construction of the ca. 1801 building was particularly well-represented by artifacts, with a cess pit from the period producing numerous well-preserved examples of English creamware and 'China glaze' style pearlware. Earlier deposits contained a wide variety of incised, punctated, combed, and red-filmed hand-built pottery, in addition to French faience, Chinese porcelain, Spanish majolica, English or Dutch delft, and many other types. Large quantities of animal bone and other artifacts were also collected. Material is currently being processed in the lab at UNO; Dr. Gray will present some preliminary findings at the October 30, 2015 Creole Conference in Natchitoches and at the annual SEAC meetings in Nashville.



*Brick Arch: Arched brick feature at rear of lot. Photo by D. Ryan Gray*

*Bowls: Blue hand-painted 'China glaze' pearlware and mocha pearlware bowls. Photo by D. Ryan Gray.*



## Analysis for Artifacts from the Kreitzer's Last Stand Site (16WN542)

By Velicia Bergstrom, Kisatchie National Forest

Kreitzer's Last Stand (16WN542) was first discovered in 2004, and was then deemed to need additional testing to determine if it meet the eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In the spring of 2014 a *Passport In Time Project* was hosted on the Kisatchie National Forest. This is a volunteer program where folks from all over join Forest Service archaeologists to assist with various projects on the forest. During this week long project, the volunteers help excavate 7.05 cubic meters of soil and then restore the landscape. A possible feature of a hearth was documented on the western edge of the landform. A field laboratory was also held during this week which kept the associated artifacts and records in proper sequence.

The map that was prepared in 2004 depicted an area where there was a higher concentration of artifact recovery. Unfortunately, that map did not have a proper datum point which made it difficult to relocate in 2014. It was not until near the end of the field time in 2014 that this area was relocated through a series of shovel tests.

Through an agreement with the Forest and the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, crew members of the Coushatta worked with Forest Service archaeologists for five days in February 2015 excavating in the area noted as having a higher concentration of artifacts. An additional three cubic meters of soil was excavated. The Forest Heritage staff now has enough field data to consider the site's eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.

Another Passport In Time Project was held 6-10 April 2015. This was a laboratory project to analyze the artifacts collected from this site. The project leaders believed that this would take the entire 5 days; but never underestimate the power of volunteers! During this week they logged in all the artifacts from 16WN542 (Kreitzer's Last Stand) and an additional site, 16WN130.

From Kreitzer's Last Stand they looked at close to 1200 waste flakes and determined if they were complete, broken, fragments or debris. They also accounted for the type of material (local or non-local varieties of stone); if the flake was heat

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*Tools from Kreitzer's Last Stand site (Photo by Tom Snodgrass)*

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treated or not, and at what stage of lithic reduction the flake was produced. Twenty four cores were also documented. Over seventy stone tools were also documented in the collection. These included hammer stones, utilized flakes, drills, points (to include Ellis, Alba, Evans, Motely, Gary, Friley) and a sandstone abrader, to list a few. There are over three hundred ceramics in the collections. Diagnostic examples are described as Alligator incised, *var Alligator*, and Beldeau Incised. They were also able to determine that there are approximately 20 vessels.

The volunteers were also able to document the artifacts collected from 16WN130. They

examined over five hundred waste flakes, and noted three cores in the collection. There are seventeen tools, none of which could be classified outside the two bifaces. The ceramics accounted for over five hundred specimens. The majority of these are plain wares, but volunteers were able to discern several different vessels. And as this was not enough for the laboratory crew, when they finished with those artifacts, they re-bagged and re-labeled materials that had been sitting in storage since the 1980's. It is truly amazing how much a great group of eleven volunteers can get accomplished in a short period of time!



*Ceramic from Kreitzer's Last Stand. (Photo by Tom Snodgrass)*

## LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

### Local archeologist: State Capitol area sits over 1,000 years of history

By Gordon Brillion/ Special to the Baton Rouge Advocate,  
August 19, 2015

The State Capitol building and its grounds have seen a lot of history since it was built almost 85 years ago. But the history of the area is actually far older.

An Indian mound by Capitol Lake, in what is now Arsenal Park, dates to about the year 1000, said Thurston Hahn, a historical archeologist with environmental consulting firm Coastal Environments Inc.

It's the earliest known human structure in the capital area and was likely built by the same Native American tribes that used the "red stick" hunting marker that would later give the city its name. Hahn told members of the Baton Rouge Genealogical and Historical Society on Saturday that the area had a vital role in shaping Baton Rouge's history.

The Indian mound wasn't the last time an artificial hill was built in the area, Hahn said. "The State Capitol looks like it's built on a hill. That's not true. The hill was actually built around the Capitol," he said.

He explained that when Gov. Huey Long decided to build his State Capitol, all the buildings on the grounds were cleared away and covered with a layer of sloping earth to create the new grounds. At that time, those buildings included military facilities and LSU's campus, which was then moved to its current location.

The hill with a view of the river made the ground around the old Indian mound an attractive piece of real estate when European settlers did eventually arrive in the area, Hahn said. While French subjects were the first settlers in the early 1700s, it wasn't until about 50 years later when English troops built an earth fort that Baton Rouge began as a successful colony.

That first fort, known by a number of names and controlled in turn by the English, Spanish, the short-lived West Florida Republic and the United States, has been the focus of much of Hahn's research in the area.



*Aerial view of the Pentagon Barracks in Baton Rouge*

Hahn displayed a series of hand-drawn maps from the 18th and 19th centuries he and his company used to establish the fort's location. The maps showed the earliest illustrations of what would become Baton Rouge's downtown area — Lafayette and Third streets stretched north into a path leading to the now-destroyed fort.

Hahn's company is usually called in by the state when maintenance or construction work needs to be done at a location that may be archaeologically sensitive. This creates an opportunity to oversee the work while searching areas that may be otherwise inaccessible. In digs around the Capitol area, Hahn said his company has found a trove of artifacts, mostly military in origin — buttons, insignias, cannonballs, even a bugle. He said no matter how much preparation he puts into a site, he can't tell what the team will find until they start digging.

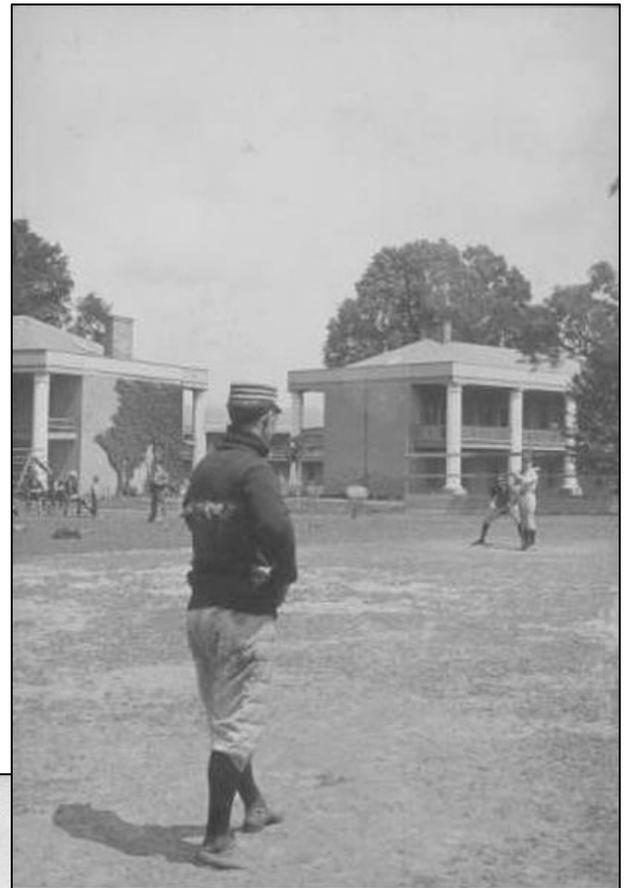
"We try to do as much research beforehand as we can. But sometimes we don't have that luxury. Sometimes we get a call saying, 'We need you out here next week,'" Hahn said. "I've seen sites where they've prepared, and they're digging with heavy machinery and they don't find anything."

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Hahn said Coastal Environments hasn't had as many calls from the state in recent years, despite a number of construction projects around the Capitol. The Pentagon Barracks, a group of four buildings on Third Street across from the Capitol, which are now primarily apartments for state legislators, were built by the U.S. Army in 1819, Hahn said.

Melanie Hanley, a new member of the Genealogical and Historical Society and formerly board member for the Foundation for Historical Louisiana, said she was particularly worried about the lack of attention paid to the Pentagon Barracks and the lack of public access. "Don't you care if (the Barracks) has structural integrity?" Hanley asked. "I want to know. It'd be nice if they were doing some kind of studies. And it'd be nice if there was a tour once in a while."



*Above: Photograph of the historical marker at the Pentagon Barracks in downtown Baton Rouge.*

*Above, right: Scene from the late 1800s showing a baseball game in progress at the Pentagon Barracks when they were part of Louisiana State University.*

*Right: Cadets learning the basics of artillery on the grounds of Louisiana State University with one of the Pentagon Barracks in the back ground.*



### What prevents us from unearthing our Cajun origins?

By Dominick Cross, dcross@gannett.com,  
Lafayette Daily Advertiser, August 24, 2015

In 1765 Joseph Beausoleil Broussard led more than 200 Acadians to Nouvelle Acadie in present-day Iberia and St. Martin parishes. Many died in the months after their arrival, including Beausoleil and his brother, Alexandre, according to the New Acadia Project/University of Louisiana at Lafayette website. The founders of New Acadia were buried at the places they settled along the Bayou Teche, referred to as *premier camp d'en bas*, *dernier camp d'en bas*, and *camp Beausoleil*, the website says. Their gravesites and homesteads remain unmarked and unknown 250 years later, in what is today known as Acadiana — the homeland of the Cajuns.

So, right under our noses — somewhere out there along the Teche Ridge south of Loreauville — could lie the remains of Broussard and some 30-40 others, as well as their homesteads. A resistance fighter against the British in Acadie, Broussard and more than 200 Acadians were forced out of their homeland and found refuge in south Louisiana, first New Orleans and then St. Martin and Iberia parishes.

An epidemic did what the British couldn't — still Broussard's heart. But there's more to the story than finding a man who led the fight against injustice and also led his people to Louisiana; because where lies Broussard so do the homesteads and graves of the very first Acadians to settle here. The people proudly known as Cajuns.

The world well knows these Cajuns; their music, food and joie de vie have spread far and wide. Cajun music is instantly recognizable and honored with Grammy awards; Cajun bands have performed dances, concerts and festivals around the globe; and likewise, Cajun food has not only garnered awards, but TV shows have popped up around it, too.

Both the food and music are often imitated, but never duplicated and that's okay — imitation, after all, is the sincerest form of flattery. But what's not alright is that this culture's very beginnings here in south Louisiana — the tap root of the tree of a determined people hell bent on survival — remains lost to history.

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*Maegan Smith, graduate research assistant for the New Acadia Project, left, and Christian Sheumaker, undergraduate research assistant for the New Acadia Project, use a laser positioning system to help produce a project-specific map as they investigate an abandoned graveyard located on private property along the Bayou Teche last summer, near Loreauville, La. The team is hoping to uncover evidence of early Acadian camps that were set up along the bayou. (Photo: File photo)*

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Associate Professor of Anthropology at UL Mark Rees, however, wants the mystery solved. And with the New Acadia Project, he aims to do it. The New Acadia Project combines public archaeology, history, and community outreach in a collaborative study of the 18th century settlement of New Acadia, its website says. In addition to providing unique historical and cultural knowledge of the first major Acadian settlement in Louisiana, this research supports heritage conservation and commemoration, and promotes development of the cultural economy.

The expedition to discover the lost settlement of Nouvelle Acadie involves archaeological survey and remote sensing, historical and archival research, oral histories and genealogies, public outreach, and community engagement, according to the website.

Time — especially in the subtropical climate of south Louisiana — is of the essence. Funding, too, that fuels the archaeological survey, remote sensing and digs is running out and is difficult to come by. And that, to me, is more baffling than the actual whereabouts of the first Cajuns and their homesteads.

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*The gravesites and homesteads of the first Cajuns remain unmarked and unknown 250 years later. Funding to fuel archaeological survey, digs difficult to secure,*

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Indeed, it is puzzling that a state geared to tourism and promoting the Cajun and Creole cultures has not the foresight to see this project needs funding to completion. It's not to say there aren't other priorities like education, healthcare and infrastructure — then again, we see how they've been treated — so one can only wonder what goes on in our state government. Enter Brad Clifton, interim mayor of Loreauville since Al Broussard died in a wreck in April. Clifton said Loreauville is looking to put up an Acadian Odyssey Monument in a town park and other projects like the dig, but funding was an issue there, too.

“That’s exactly one of the first things Mayor Broussard brought it to our attention, I was an alderman, I just couldn’t believe that Louisiana as a state wasn’t falling all over itself trying to fund this thing,” said Clifton, adding there’s even more significance to consider: “A lot of the Broussard family was involved in mapping out the Louisiana Purchase. So, it gets a lot bigger than just getting here and settling here and becoming the Acadiana like we know it today.”

When the idea of the monument initially came up, it was during the planning of New Orleans Tricentennial in 2018. “You can pretty much forget funding for at least a year, year-and-a-half, two years until all that’s over with,” Clifton said. “But at the same time, it gives a lot of private individuals the opportunity to get involved and really take a hold of that because sometimes with state funding, it’s not as personal. “That’s where we’re going to go with our park project,” he said.



*Amy and Katie working this past summer carefully sift the soil from one of many, many shovel tests place along the natural levee of the Bayou Teche. Their efforts were part of the New Acadia Project that intends to locate the settlements of the earliest Acadian settlers in Louisiana. Updates are available online at: <http://newacadiaproject.blogspot.com/>*

## UNO students excavate historic Royal Street site

By Caitlin Faw, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune\_ June 17, 2015 at 5:58 PM, updated at 9:28 PM

Dr. Ryan Gray and his students are digging in the historic French Quarter this summer. Carefully and quickly, the University of New Orleans professor and those enrolled in his summer field school in historical archaeology are using trowels and dustpans to pick apart and collect the age-old dirt.

As buggies and tourists roll through the heart of the French Quarter, Gray and his UNO students are conducting excavations at 810 Royal St., a plot of land located between Dumaine and St. Anne Streets. A 210-year-old, three-story, brick-and-cypress building once stood at 810 Royal. It collapsed in October 2014, and after the fall, the property owners invited Gray to examine the land's archaeological potential.

A few weeks into the summer field school the professor and his students are getting down to the 18<sup>th</sup> century level, now searching through remnants of New Orleans' Colonial-era history. So far they have excavated animal bone, large fragments of pottery, pieces of English creamware, English pearlware, and earthenware, Native American pottery, as well as porcelain imported from China.

Students usually arrive to the site by 8 a.m., when the sun is not too blistering, and they leave sweaty after hours of digging, sifting, and answering questions that are asked by the more-than-occasional onlooker. "You finding anything good today?" a man asks as he walks by the site. "Have you found any dead bodies yet?" another onlooker asks.

Gray thinks the crowd's curiosity is a valuable aspect of the dig. "We have hundreds of people stop by the site every day and ask questions, and it's a unique opportunity to share some about the city's history with many, many people.

"And to emphasize the history of the French Quarter is not just what's above ground, the built environment, but also what's below ground. There's a rich archaeological history here and there's nothing really protecting that. You know this is private property. The only reason we're getting to do this dig is because the property owners invited us in to do it."



*Dr. Ryan Gray, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of New Orleans, examines a unit believed to be the location of a privy shaft. (Photo by Caitlin Faw, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune*

Grace Krause, a doctoral student at Michigan State University who is writing her dissertation about food and sexuality in New Orleans -- and has been working alongside Gray this summer -- also talked about the unique possibilities of this dig.

"The overall goal is to create a better understanding of how people were living during the colonial period," she said. "It's pretty hard to get at colonial sites in this area, because they don't often just tear something down and leave it. A lot of these buildings are very old. They've been there a long time, people renovate them, and there's no opportunity to excavate in between."

Here, there are many opportunities to excavate, and Dr. Gray and his students have been busy these last few weeks digging to discover an earlier time in New Orleans. In the next weeks they will spend more hours in the UNO lab, cleaning and analyzing all the artifacts they have discovered on site. To read more about the artifacts and the dig itself, check out <http://theartofdigging.com/> for more information.

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO LAS MEMBERS

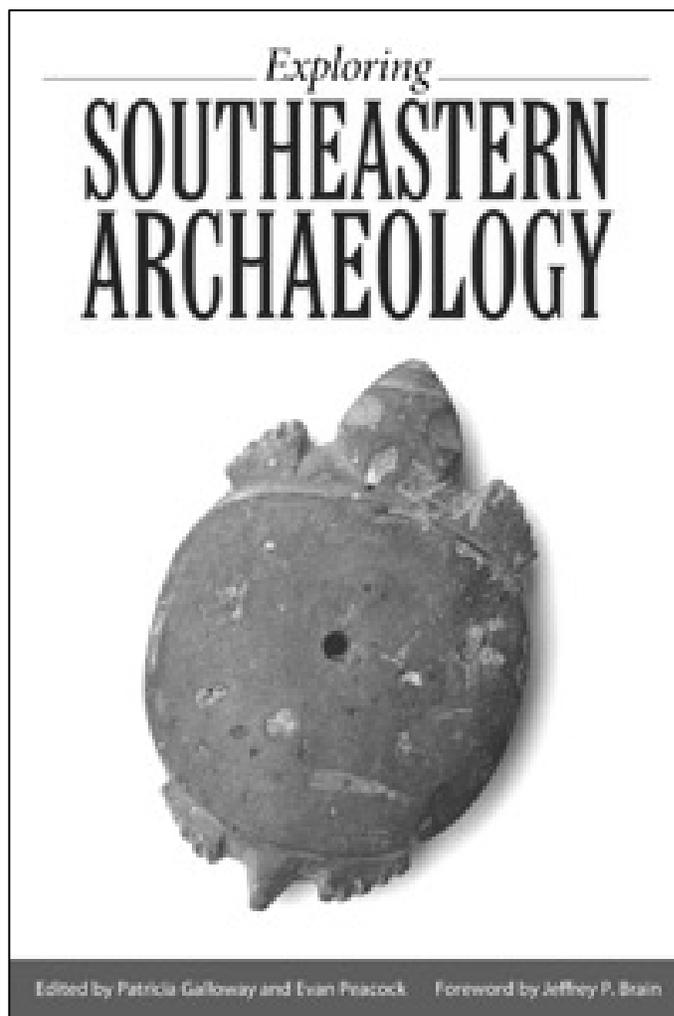
### **Exploring Southeastern Archaeology (Essays in honor of Samuel O. Brookes)**

**Edited by Patricia Galloway and  
Evan Peacock**

**Foreword by Jeffrey P. Brain**

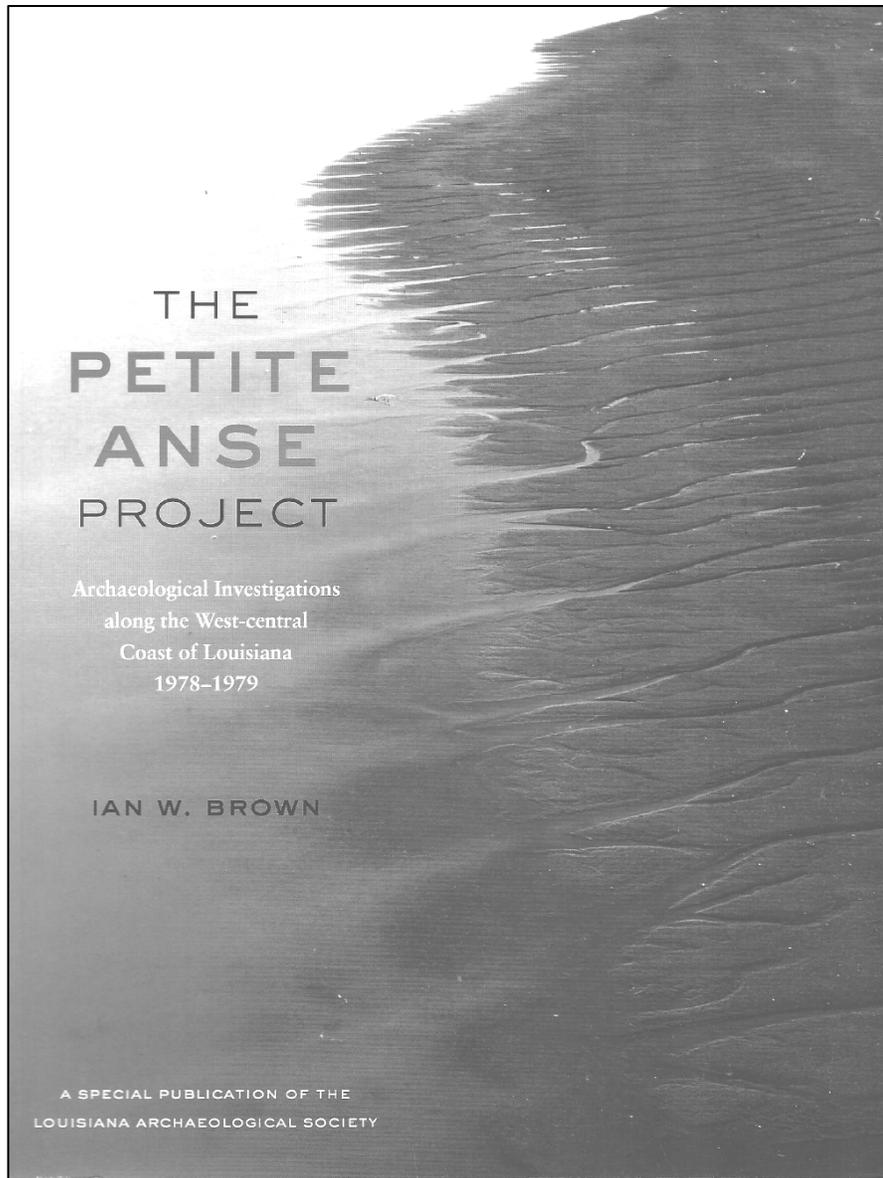
320 pages (approx.), 6 x 9 inches, 101 b&w  
figures, 35 tables, foreword, index  
Printed casebinding \$70.00

Contributors: Keith A. Baca, Jeffrey P. Brain,  
Samuel O. Brookes, Ian W. Brown, Philip J. Carr,  
Jessica Crawford, Patricia Galloway, Alison M.  
Hadley, Christopher T. Hays, Edward R. Henry,  
Cliff Jenkins, Jay K. Johnson, Evan Peacock, Janet  
Rafferty, Maria Schleidt, Mary Evelyn Starr,  
James B. Stoltman, Andrew M. Triplett, Melissa  
Twaroski, and Richard A. Weinstein



This volume includes original scholarship on a wide array of current archaeological research across the South. One essay explores the effects of climate on early cultures in Mississippi. Contributors reveal the production and distribution of stone effigy beads, which were centered in southwest Mississippi some 5,000 years ago, and trace contact between different parts of the prehistoric Southeast as seen in the distribution of clay cooking balls. Researchers explore small, enigmatic sites in the hill country of northern Mississippi now marked by scatters of broken pottery and a large, seemingly isolated "platform" mound in Calhoun County. Pieces describe a mound group in Chickasaw County built by early agriculturalists who subsequently abandoned the area and a similar prehistoric abandonment event in Winston and Choctaw Counties. A large pottery collection from the famous Anna Mounds site in Adams County, excavations at a Chickasaw Indian site in Lee County, camps and works of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the pine hill country of southern Mississippi, and the history of logging in the Mississippi Delta all yield abundant, new understandings of the past.

Overview papers include a retrospective on archaeology in the National Forests of north Mississippi, a new look at a number of mound sites in the lower Mississippi Delta, and a study of how communities of learning in field archaeology are built, with prominent archaeologist Samuel O. Brookes' achievements as a focal point. History buffs, artifact enthusiasts, students, and professionals all will find something of interest in this book, which opens new doors on the prehistory and history of Mississippi.



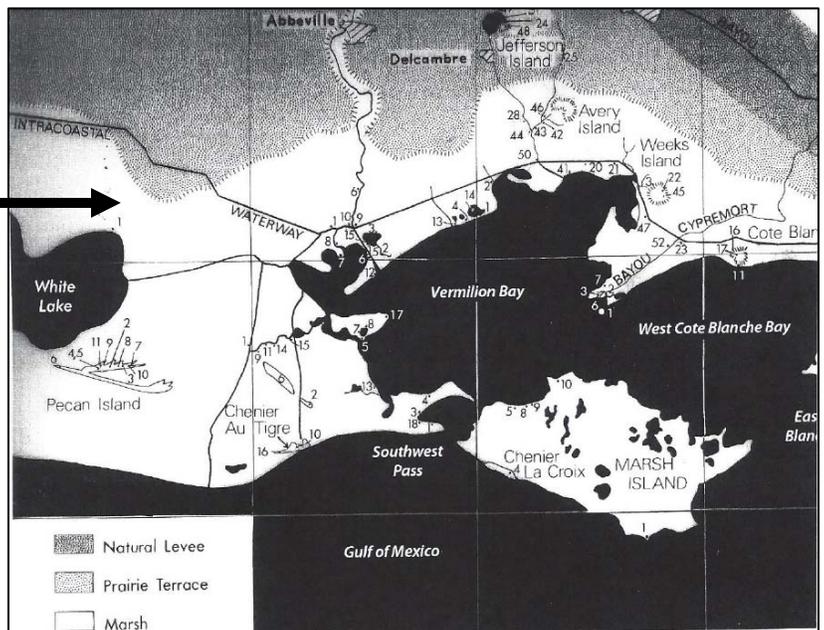
**NOW AVAILABLE!**

The Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) and Borgo Publishing present *The Petit Anse Project: Archaeological Investigations along the West-Central Coast of Louisiana 1978-1979* by Dr. Ian W. Brown.

This volume provides the results of a two year survey into a region then little known to archaeology. Ian Brown and his crew discovered, recorded, collected, excavated, analyzed, and eventually interpreted well over 100 prehistoric sites in the Petit Anse area.

Handsomely bound, this well – illustrated volume provides site maps, artifact photographs, and 192 tables that thoroughly document the accomplishments of this project.

At 400+ pages and available for \$40 plus postage, it belongs on the shelf of every archaeologist whose interests lie in the Lower Mississippi Valley and the Gulf Coast. *The Petit Anse Project* will be available on site at SEAC 2015 and the 2016 LAS annual meeting. Immediate purchase by contacting LAS editor at [archaeoman.jones@gmail.com](mailto:archaeoman.jones@gmail.com).



*This map indicates the location of the Petit Anse region in coastal Louisiana. This area includes salt domes like Avery Island and Jefferson Island, as well as relict beaches like Pecan Island. The unique geography of the area is rivaled only by the singularity of its prehistoric occupation.*

## MEETINGS, FIELDWORK, EXHIBITS, WEBSITES, ETC.

### SEAC Public Outreach Grant Promotes Visits to Sites in the Mississippi River Valley

By Robert Connolly, C. H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa, Memphis, TN

Here is the deal:

- As the director of a museum in Memphis, TN, I have long been frustrated that prehistoric venues, particularly those owned by their respective states, do not cross-promote their offerings across state boundaries. Along the Mississippi River from Iowa to Louisiana there are nearly 20 venues devoted to Native American prehistory. There is no piece of literature or digital content exclusively devoted to the promotion of these venues. Drawing on my experience in Memphis, there is a clear need for such information.
- A year ago a student in my Applied Archaeology and Museums class created such a brochure. On the strength of that brochure, I applied for and was awarded a Southeastern Archaeological Conference Public Outreach Grant to expand the brochure and create a website.
- The same student, Allison Hennie, as now completed the first phase of that process. The expanded brochure will be printed in the next week and copies distributed to the listed venues. We will begin to aggressively promote the website beginning September 1. (You can review the brochure at the website link below.)
- This fall, students in my Museum Practices graduate seminar will review the website analytics, contact all listed venues for their evaluation, and make recommended changes to the website.

About the website:

- Here is the address for the website: <http://www.pemvalley.com/>
- The digital presence is intended to be reasonably simple and mobile device friendly.
- Intended additions include – individual venues adding content to their individual pages and a general resource or link page. These additions will be facilitated by my students this fall.
- We will also encourage the individual venues to contribute blog posts that highlight events, special exhibits, or other content about their site/museum.

Here is what I am requesting of you. From an archaeological, traveler, or any other relevant perspective, regarding the current website:

- Does it work for the intended purpose listed on the about page or first blog entry?
- What changes do you recommend?
- Any other comments or suggestions?

Please don't feel the need to write extensive notes – simple bullet points, direction to other websites you think are organized better, etc. etc. are totally sufficient. And I will appreciate your promoting the webpage on any relevant social media outlets.

Comments can be sent to Robert Connelly at:

<http://www.memphis.edu/chucalissa/>

<http://rcnnolly.wordpress.com/>

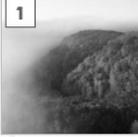
or posted at [www.pemvalley.com](http://www.pemvalley.com).

From Iowa to Louisiana along the course of the Mississippi River are over 15 prehistoric earthworks and their associated museums. This website is your guide to those monuments created by the prehistoric Native American inhabitants who lived along the *misi-ziibi*, or Great River, for thousands of years.

Within a 90-minute drive of the Mississippi River, there are eighteen prehistoric or Native American museums in seven Southeast and bordering states. In addition, there are numerous publicly accessible prehistoric earthworks and city museums with large prehistoric collections. There is no single resource of these museums to guide the public interested in these testaments to Native American culture. This website, funded in part by the Southeastern Archaeological Conference Public Outreach Grant, is a first step to resolve that shortcoming.

*Introduction to the home page of the [www.pemvalley.com](http://www.pemvalley.com) website. A page from the online brochure about the prehistoric earthworks promoted by this website is presented on the next page. Three sites are in Louisiana.*

**PREHISTORIC EARTHWORKS OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY**



**1 EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT**  
151 Iowa 76, Harpers Ferry, IA 52146  
(563) 873-3491

[www.nps.gov/efmo/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/efmo/index.htm)



**2 TOOLESBORO INDIAN MOUNDS**  
6568 Toolesboro Ave., Wapello, IA 52653  
(319) 523-8381

[www.naturallylouisacounty.com/areas/toolesboro](http://www.naturallylouisacounty.com/areas/toolesboro)



**3 BLACKHAWK STATE HISTORICAL SITE**  
1510 46th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201  
(309) 788-0177

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



**4 CENTER FOR AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY**  
Illinois 100, Kampsville, IL 62053  
(618) 653-4316

[www.caa-archeology.org](http://www.caa-archeology.org)



**5 ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM DICKSON MOUNDS**  
10956 N. Dickson Mounds Rd., Lewistown, IL 61542  
(309) 547-3721

[www.experiencedicksonmounds.com](http://www.experiencedicksonmounds.com)



**6 CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE**  
30 Ramey Street, Collinsville IL 62234  
(618) 346-5160

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



**7 MASTODON STATE HISTORIC SITE**  
1050 Charles J Becker Dr, Imperial, MO 63052  
(636) 464-2976

[www.mostatateparks.com](http://www.mostatateparks.com)



**8 WICKLIFFE MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE**  
KENTUCKY DEPT. OF PARKS  
94 Green Street, Wickliffe KY 42087  
(270) 335-3681

[www.parks.ky.gov](http://www.parks.ky.gov)



**9 HAMPSON ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM STATE PARK**  
US 61 & Lake Drive, Wilson, AR 72395  
(870) 655-8622

[www.ArkansasStateParks.com](http://www.ArkansasStateParks.com)



**10 PARKIN ARCHEOLOGICAL STATE PARK**  
60 Hwy 184N, Parkin, AR 72373  
(870) 755-2500

[www.ArkansasStateParks.com](http://www.ArkansasStateParks.com)



**11 TOLTEC MOUNDS ARCHEOLOGICAL STATE PARK**  
490 Toltec Mounds Rd., Scott, AR 72142  
(501) 961-9442

[www.ArkansasStateParks.com](http://www.ArkansasStateParks.com)



**12 C.H. NASH MUSEUM AT CHUCALISSA**  
1987 Indian Village Dr., Memphis TN 38109  
(901) 785-3160

[www.memphis.edu/chucalissa](http://www.memphis.edu/chucalissa)



**13 WINTERVILLE MOUNDS STATE PARK**  
2415 Mississippi 1, Greenville, MS 38703  
(662) 334-4684

[www.wintervillemounds.com](http://www.wintervillemounds.com)



**14 JAKETOWN MUSEUM**  
116 West Jackson St., Belzoni, MS 39038  
(662) 247-2151

[www.belzonims.com/belattract.htm](http://www.belzonims.com/belattract.htm)



**15 GRAND VILLAGE OF THE NACHEZ INDIANS**  
400 Jefferson Davis Blvd., Natchez MS  
(601) 446- 6502

[www.natchezgrandvillage.com](http://www.natchezgrandvillage.com)



**16 POVERTY POINT WORLD HERITAGE SITE**  
6859 Hwy 577, Pioneer, LA 71266  
(888) 926-5492

[www.lastateparks.com](http://www.lastateparks.com)



**17 MARKSVILLE STATE HISTORIC SITE**  
837 Martin Luther King Drive, Marksville, LA 71351  
(318) 253-8954

[www.lastateparks.com](http://www.lastateparks.com)



**18 CHITIMACHA MUSEUM**  
3289 Chitimacha Trail, Charenton, LA 70523  
(337) 923-4830

[www.chitimacha.gov](http://www.chitimacha.gov)

GULF OF MEXICO

N 0 100 miles

## CREOLE ARCHAEOLOGY - FROM THE GROUND UP: VIEWS OF THE CREOLE PAST

The Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern Louisiana State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches will host a one day meeting focused on Creole archaeology/culture on October 30, 2015.

Papers are invited on Colonial and Creole archaeology.

Paper presentations from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

6:00 PM a Creole meal

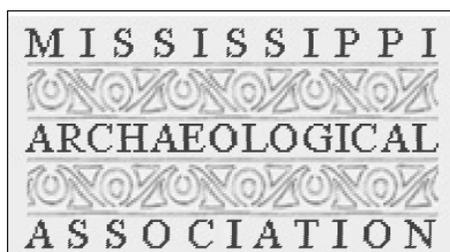
7:00 PM a traditional LaLa or Creole Dance.

Registration Fee is \$ 25.00 (includes the meal and dance)

Presenters will pay \$10.00 (meal cost only).

Please Contact Pete Gregory or Loletta Wynder at the Creole Heritage Center, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497.

318.357.6685 [www.creole.nsula.edu](http://www.creole.nsula.edu).



**2016 JOINT MEETING  
LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY &  
MISSISSIPPI ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
NATCHEZ, MS  
GRAND NATCHEZ HOTEL  
Feb. 19-21, 2016**

**This meeting will commemorate the construction of Ft. Rosalie by the French at Natchez 300 years ago, the founding of the National Park Service (NPS) 100 years ago, and the establishment of the Grand Village of the Natchez as a Mississippi State Park 40 years ago.**

**Many events, exhibits, tours, etc.**

**Mark your calendars now!!**



## Southeastern Archaeological Conference

**SEAC 72nd Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN (2015)**

Doubletree by Hilton Hotel - Downtown Nashville

**Wednesday, November 18, 2015 to Saturday, November 21, 2015**

Conference Organizing Committee: Kevin E. Smith (Conference Chair), Aaron Deter-Wolf, Phil Hodge, Shannon Hodge, Sarah Levithol, Mike Moore, and Tanya Peres. Please contact the conference organizers at [SEAC2015@gmail.com](mailto:SEAC2015@gmail.com). For more general information as meeting time draws closer go to the SEAC website: [www.southeasternarchaeology.org](http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org).

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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 LAS 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 editor or authors and do not necessarily reflect society policy.

**Information for Contributors**

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

Dennis Jones, LAS Editor

1801 Ormandy Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70808

[archaeoman.jones@gmail.com](mailto:archaeoman.jones@gmail.com)

Articles should be submitted by email, preferably in Microsoft Word. Digital images are encouraged. Please send in TIF, JPG or Word format. Contact editor via email with all questions.

**LAS Web Site**

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

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NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY