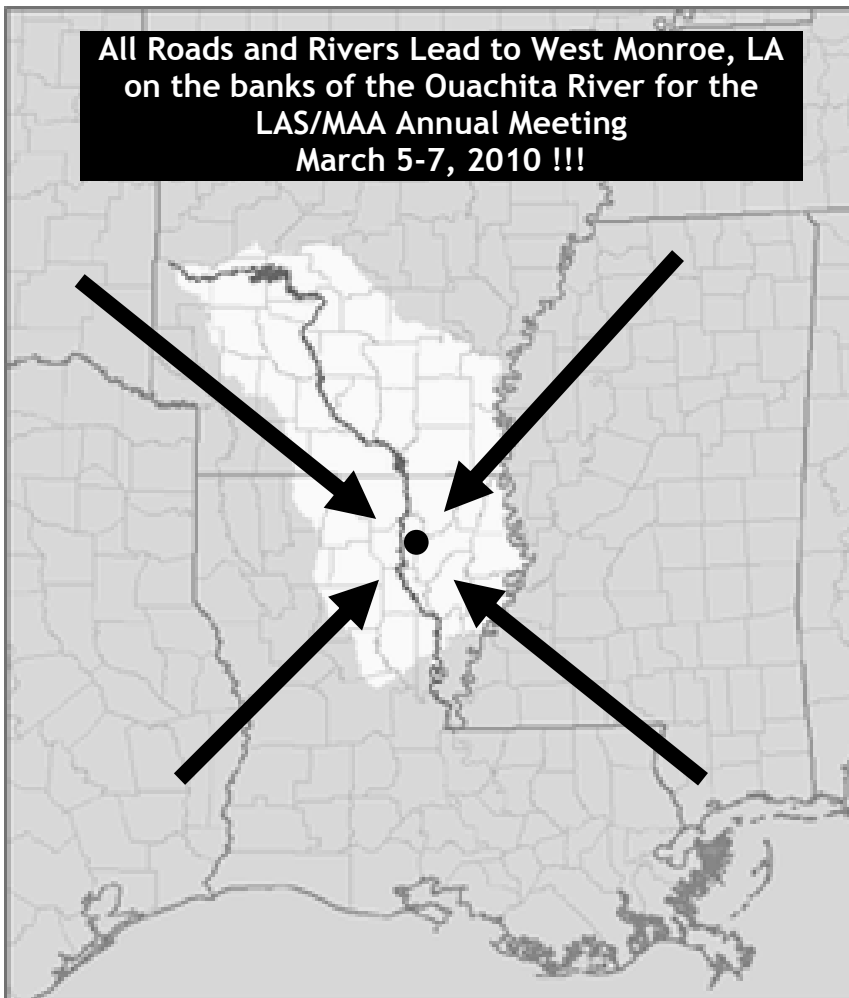




NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2009/2010

Vol. 37, No. 3



**All Roads and Rivers Lead to West Monroe, LA
on the banks of the Ouachita River for the
LAS/MAA Annual Meeting
March 5-7, 2010 !!!**

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New Orleans, LA



2010 LAS/MAA Joint Annual Meeting in West Monroe, LA, March 5-7

The second joint meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) and the Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA) will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in West Monroe, LA, March 5-7, 2010. There will be paper presentations on Friday and Saturday, a banquet on Saturday with keynote speaker Dr. Mike Wiant of the Illinois State Museum Dickson Mounds Museum presenting his research on the Archaic Period in the Midwest and the prehistoric mound-building and burial traditions for that part of the country. A choice of tours of significant sites in NE Louisiana is planned on Sunday. Room rates are \$99-109. Additional information about the conference will be posted on the LAS website (www.laarchaeology.org) as the conference date gets closer. Meanwhile more information about the conference hotel is available at www.westmonroe.hgi.com.



Directions to the Meeting Hotel

When traveling West on I-20, take Exit 113 Downing Pines. At the Red Light, you will merge Right onto Downing Pines. Continue straight for 0.2 miles. Simply make a Right turn onto Mane Street. The hotel is located on the right across from the IKE HAMILTON EXPO Center.



LAS Silent Auction

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

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

-Chip McGimsey

Call for Papers

Dr. Chip McGimsey will be the program chair for the 2010 LAS/MAA joint meeting. Contact him at cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us or (225) 219-4600 if you are interested in presenting at the meeting. As was the case last year, the number of presentations will be evenly divided between Mississippi and Louisiana archaeologists. With this limited number, those who contact him first will be assured of being on the program. The deadline for paper submission is 5 pm February 19, 2010.

Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker for the 2010 LAS/MAA meeting in West Monroe will be Dr. Michael Wiant. His presentation will be *Archaic Period Mortuary Practices in the Midcontinent*.

Drawing on evidence ranging in age from 8500 BP to 3000 BP, one finds distinct trends in the development of mortuary practices in the Midcontinent. There was little difference in the treatment and disposition of the dead between 8500 BP and ca. 6300 BP, when an abrupt change ushered in considerable variation in mortuary ritual during the remainder of the Archaic Period.

Michael Wiant is Director of the Illinois State Museum—Dickson Mounds, a large on-site museum dedicated to Native American history in the Illinois River valley and Mississippian culture in particular. He has been a member of the Illinois State Museum staff since 1982. Wiant received a BS in Social Sciences and an MS in Sociology-Anthropology at Illinois State University and an MA and PhD in Anthropology at Northwestern University. For nearly 40 years he has studied ancient Native American culture, focusing in particular on the Archaic Period in the Illinois River valley. He directed excavations at Koster and Napoleon Hollow, both stratified, multi-component sites with numerous Archaic Period components. Among his publications are a paper written with Ken Farnsworth and Edwin Hajic titled *The Archaic Period in the Lower Illinois River Basin* and with George Milner and Jane Buikstra a paper titled *Archaic Burial Sites in the American Midcontinent*, both of which were recently published in *Archaic Societies (Emerson et al 2009)*.



Dr. Michael Wiant

Dr. Wiant's presentation on the Archaic in the Midcontinent will be especially intriguing this year for LAS/MAA members because of his discussion of Archaic mounds in that region to compare with the many Archaic mounds that have come to light in the Lower Mississippi Valley in recent years.

-Editor

The (tentative) general schedule of the 2010 LAS/MAA annual meeting is as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday (March 5) | 10 am to Noon - Arrival, Registration, Set-up
Noon to 4:40 pm – Paper presentations
5pm to 6 pm – Executive Committee Meetings (LAS and MAA)
7 pm to 10 pm – Reception |
| Saturday (March 6) | 7am to 8 am – Registration and Welcome
8 am to 11:30 am – Presentations
11:30am to 1 pm – Lunch (on your own). Restaurant @ hotel will be available, as well as nearby others.
1 pm to 4 pm – Presentations
4 pm to 5 pm – General Business Meetings
5 pm to 6 pm – Organizational meeting of PAL
7 pm to 10 pm – Banquet and Keynote Address by Dr. Michael Wiant |
| Sunday (March 7) | Choice of tours to various archaeological sites in NE Louisiana
Poverty Point - Dr. Diana Greenlee, Station Archaeologist
Archaic Mounds - Joe Saunders
Watson Brake – Recca Jones |

Pre-Registration Form
 2010 Joint Annual Meeting of
 The Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) &
 The Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA)
 March 5-7, 2010
 The West Monroe Hilton Garden Inn, W. Monroe, LA

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Telephone No. _____

Email Address _____

Meeting \$15.00/person _____

Banquet \$25.95/person _____

Please mail to: Mr. Jason Emery
 LAS Treasurer
 406 Tricou St.
 New Orleans, LA
 70117

A block of 40 rooms has been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights (March 5 and 6, 2010) at the Hilton Garden Inn, West Monroe, LA at rates of \$99-109. Reservations are first come, first serve.

Meeting Registration is \$15 if registering early using this form or \$20 at the meeting. Please mail the filled out form, with your check, to Jason Emery at the above address. Also, check out the LAS website (laarchaeology.org). Hopefully PayPal will be up and running for people to register online.

If you have any questions concerning the meeting, contact Ms. Rachel Watson at rwatson@crt.state.la.us or Dennis Jones at djones@crt.state.la.us or either one by phone at (225) 342-8170.



New Issue of *Louisiana Archaeology* Now Available!!

Many of you reading this issue of the LAS newsletter found that it accompanied the 2001 issue of *Louisiana Archaeology*, the scholarly bulletin of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. This happy coincidence means that you were/are a LAS member then and now!! For those of you who were not members of the LAS in 2001, you will be able to purchase this volume, Number 28, at the annual meeting in West Monroe, March 5-7, 2010 or by contacting the current editor of the LAS, Dennis Jones.

This volume contains the following articles:

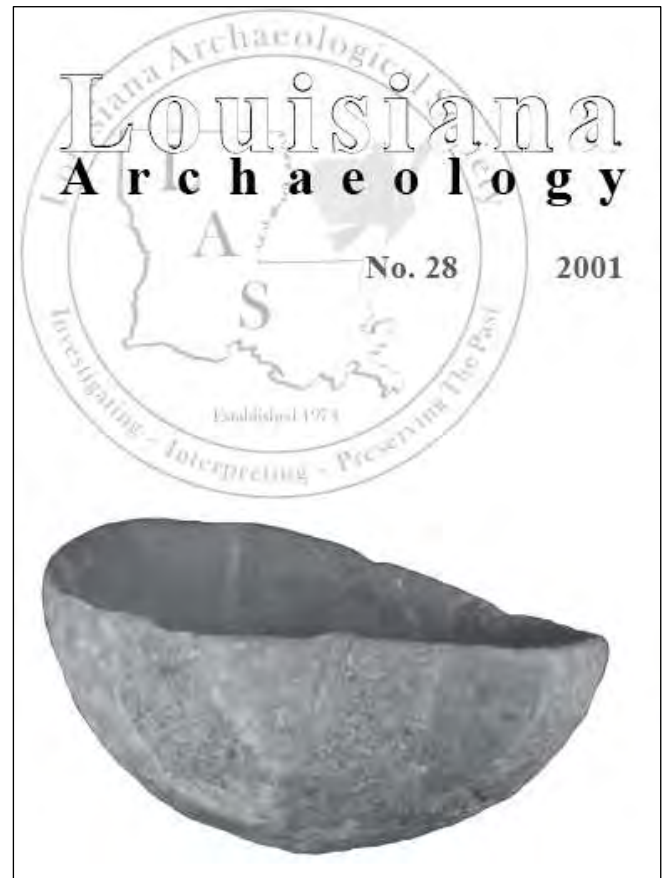
An Early Nineteenth Century Alabama-Coushatta Burial from the Carolina #3 Site (16BO176) in Northwestern Louisiana by *Timothy K. Perttula and Diane E. Wilson*

An 18th Century Artifact from Beauregard Parish, Louisiana by *James A. Green, Jr.*

A Sourcing Study of Soapstone Vessel Fragments from the Poverty Point Archaeological Site (16WC5), West Carroll Parish, Louisiana by *Wm. Brian Yates*

The Bayou Grande Cheniere Mounds Site 16PL159 by *Timothy Schilling*

Recent Investigations at the Belmont Mound (16SJ1) by *Joe Saunders, Robert W. Neuman, and Thurman Allen*



Work is already underway for another volume to be (hopefully) available at the LAS annual meeting!!

Calling All Members! Calling All Members!



Turn to page 35 of this LAS Newsletter!
It's that time of the year again...**annual LAS dues are due!!**
Please select your category of membership, fill out the membership form and return to the address provided. You can send it to me, with a check of course, the old fashioned way via snail mail. You can also use PayPal on the LAS website at laarchaeology.org. Either way your membership supports archaeology in Louisiana and entitles you to three issues of the newsletter and an issue of the LAS Bulletin, *Louisiana Archaeology*.

Jason Emery, Treasurer
Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS)
406 Tricou St.
New Orleans, LA 70117

- Money couldn't buy friends, but you got a better class of enemy. -*Spike Milligan, British humorist*
- Money often costs too much. -*Ralph Waldo Emerson, American philosopher*
- If you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some. -*Benjamin Franklin, American politician.*
- Money plays the largest part in determining the course of history. *Karl Marx, Communist Manifesto*
- If you want to know what God thinks about money, just look at the people He gives it to. *Irish Proverb.*

Dr. Joseph H. Miller
May 27, 1924 -
September 6, 2009
Age: 85
Long time member of
the Delta Chapter, LAS



Dr. Miller, Emeritus Professor of Tropical Medicine and Medical Parasitology of the Louisiana Medical Center in New Orleans, was born on May 27, 1924 in Yonkers, New York and passed away in Windsor, Colorado.

A resident of New Orleans since 1953, Dr. Miller was appointed to an academic position with the Louisiana State University Medical School. He remained at that institution and retired as Emeritus Professor in 1984.

Dr. Miller's career took him as a teacher and practitioner to such places abroad as Costa Rica, Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Kenya, and Saudi Arabia, and Arizona within the US. His specialties were treatment of tropical diseases and parasitology.

Dr. Miller served three years of active duty as a combat medic with the Second Calvary (Mechanized) during WWII on the European front, including Normandy Beach, France and Germany. His unit served under General George S. Patton and was influential in saving the famed Lipizzaner Stallions in Vienna.

Central Louisiana LAS Chapter News

Officers are Nancy Affeltranger- President, Tommy Delrie- Vice President, Lillie Jeansonne-Secretary, Charles Affeltranger-Treasurer., Jackie Edwards-LAS Rep. The group meets the second Thursday of each month at the Ball Municipal Building, Ball, LA at 7:00 p.m. This year's programs were:

January-.Jeff Girard -NW LA. Regional Archaeologist, **The Gahagan Site in Red River Parish**

February-Velicia Bergstrom -U.S. Forest Service-**Archaeological Investigations in Italy**

March. Dustin Fuqua-Cane River Creole NHP -**The Greenhouse Site (16AV2)**

April-Patsy Barber- Author-**Above the Falls: Early Settlements Around Cotile**

May-Mark Gutzman-U.S. Forest Service-**The Colfax Riot**

June-Lee Stewart-Kisatchie National Forest -**Drake Salt Works and a Plea for Proactive Participation**

July-The Pirates: Donna, Jean Luc, and Elizabeth- **Legend Keepers of The Tunica-Biloxi**

August-NO MEETING

September- Nancy Affeltranger-**Anna Jarvis: Clothes and Memorabilia of Mothers Day**

October-Lee Stewart-Kisatchie National Forest- **Categorizing of Ceramics from Drake Salt Works** & Oct. 19th. Archaeology Month -Chip McGimsey- **Astronomical Aspects of the Marksville Mound Site**

November- Jeff Girard -NW LA Regional Archaeologist- **Early Historical Tribes of Louisiana**

Northeast Chapter of the LAS

The Northeast Louisiana Archaeology re-organized in September to comply with the LAS rules.

Officers elected were:

Anthony Bastoe, president

Dr. John Norris, vice president

Bruce Schuster, treasurer

Jennifer Gentry, secretary

Susan Hollis and Sue Norris, co-chair of the Speakers Committee.

The group meets the third Thursday of each month at the Museum of Natural History on the third floor of Sandel Hall at the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

The Northwest Chapter of LAS

By Jameel Damlouji

The Northwest Louisiana division of LAS is alive and well. During Louisiana Archaeology Month, we participated in two events along with the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center. At the annual Pioneer Days Fair at the LSUS Pioneer Heritage Center and the Annual Red River National Wildlife Refuge Celebration, we manned exhibits demonstrating the use of bois d'arc (Osage Orange) Caddo tools, other Caddo artifacts, and provided literature and information on our local chapter and the LAS.

Recent chapter meetings featured a presentation by Dr. Mary Beth Trubitt from the Arkansas Archaeological Survey on their summer training digs of 2007 and 2008 at the Jones Mill Site and a demonstration of flint knapping by Wilford House. For the December meeting, Dr. George Avery of Stephen F. Austin State University was our featured speaker. He made a presentation on the Los Adaes State Historic Site and the results of recent remote sensing studies conducted there this past summer. Our local members are looking forward to providing volunteers for a pending project at the Los Adaes site that may consist of some excavations verifying results of the ground penetrating radar studies. We are planning to have Dr. Jamie Brandon, a Research Station Archaeologist for the Arkansas Archaeological Survey speak at our January meeting on excavations at the Historic Washington State Park in Arkansas.

In conjunction with the 2010 Louisiana Archaeology Month activities, we are planning our first ever Archaeological Fair! Initial planning has begun and we will be holding the event at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum in Shreveport. Our plans include exhibits featuring several occupation periods such as paleo, Caddo, and historic, with an emphasis on how archaeology and archeological processes can help to interpret and preserve our culture and history. In addition, we plan to have an artifact identification event (think "Artifact Roadshow"), representative exhibits from groups in Arkansas and Texas, and representation by the local Caddo Nation. As we firm up our plans, we will share more details of the event.

Phillip G. “Duke” Rivet Retires!!!

Few professional archaeologists have worked in Louisiana in the past 30 years without encountering Duke Rivet. Whether those encounters were of the first, second, or third kind, most came away convinced that they had met someone unique. Duke’s encyclopedic knowledge of the people and places that make up Louisiana archaeology was renowned. Attention to detail and organization are also legacies he can claim. He obtained a Master’s from LSU in the early 1970s writing a thesis about Tchefuncte pottery. He then promptly entered the field working for DOTD for five years before moving over to the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism (CRT) and the Division of Archaeology. At the Division, he met the many challenges of administering projects and their reports that resulted from Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Few authors submitted a report to the Division for review that was not improved to some degree by Duke’s insightful comments. He was crucial to the efforts of state archaeologists Kathleen Byrd, Tom Eubanks, and Chip McGimsey, as well as others on the Division’s staff to study and preserve the cultural heritage of our state.

-Editor



Reminiscences of Duke by Fellow Workers at the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism in Baton Rouge



Duke answers the call of the wild

Duke is comical to me. We always got a laugh out of each other's conversation whether in the hall, elevator, or when he would come to my office. -Sparkle Hurst.

Duke always had a smile and welcome hello for everyone!
-Rebecca Reeves

Duke needs to be reminded that routing a highway through a cemetery is sacrimonious. Make sure that whoever gets this message does not change the spelling. -David G. Marschall

According to Duke “It’s all about the process.” – Rachel Watson

“Isn’t technology supposed to make our lives easier?” was an oft heard refrain.
-Dennis Jones

Duke is a natural teacher who shared his love of Louisiana nature, history, and culture with all of us who worked with him. I’ll always be grateful to him for helping me learn how to pronounce Lecompte, LeBlanc, and countless other names.
-Nancy Hawkins.



Duke actually excavating at the Lac St. Agnes site in 1972 !!



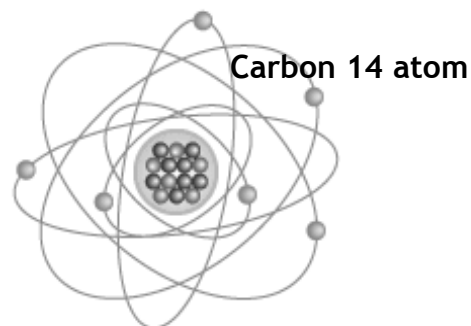
Left to right: Rich Weinstein, Doug Wells, Rob Mann, and Don Hunter share a light moment with Duke at his retirement party in November 2009.

Louisiana's Archaeological Radiocarbon Database to be Offered Online

The Louisiana Division of Archaeology is currently updating the radiocarbon portion of the LAS Special Publication No. 3 *Louisiana's Archaeological Radiometric Database* (McGimsey and Van der Koogh 2001). The database will be available in a searchable format online at the Division's website in early 2010 (no specific date as of yet). The expanded version of the McGimsey and Van der Koogh database will include radiocarbon dates that were published in reports submitted to the Division's Cultural Resource Management library since December 2001, as well as those published in relevant periodicals and newsletters. We would also like to include radiocarbon dates that for various reasons may have never been published. The goal is to keep the database as current as possible. Your input, questions, and comments are vital in making this a research tool that will be useful to all.

The basic information that is requested for database entry (inclusion of a lab datasheet would be ideal) is the following.

1. Site Name
2. Site Number
3. Lab Number (should be on datasheet)
4. Material dated
5. Provenience (test unit, level, cmbs, stratum, feature, etc.)
6. $c_{12/13}$ correction factor (should be on datasheet)
7. Conventional radiocarbon age (corrected)
8. 2 sigma calibration range
9. If calibrated dates are given please include the calibration reference
10. Primary reference (if applicable)



Information, questions and or concerns may be sent to Stacie Palmer at spalmer@crt.state.la.us or by mail to Louisiana Division of Archaeology c/o Stacie Palmer, P.O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

Revising Louisiana's Comprehensive Archaeological Plan – Your Help is Needed!

-Dr. Chip McGimsey, LA State Archaeology

In 1983, in its first comprehensive plan, the Division of Archaeology undertook a year-long planning effort that “would (1) organize current archaeological information into meaningful units, (2) identify research and site preservation needs, (3) set priorities, and (4) develop and implement programs to meet these priority needs.”

The result of this effort was the creation of the Louisiana Comprehensive Archaeological Plan (CAP) which is available for viewing or download on the Division's website (www.crt.state.la.us/archaeology). In nearly 300 pages, it outlines the responsibilities and goals of the Division of Archaeology, divides the state into six management units and summarizes existing archaeological information from each region. It also sets forth a series of research themes that identify critical research needs across the state that can be used to identify key sites and research projects. At some level, this Plan has guided the efforts of the Division of Archaeology, the Regional Archaeology program, and contract-funded archaeological research for the last 26 years.

But few plans can last 26 years and not need some revision. And so it is with the CAP. The Division has received funding enabling it to spend the next couple of years developing a new CAP. This will be an opportunity for everyone with an interest in Louisiana archaeology to have an input. During 2010, the Division will contact academic archaeologists, contract archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, Native American tribes, and other interested folks to ask their opinion. Important questions to consider include:

1. What are the critical issues now and in the future for archaeology in Louisiana? How can they best be addressed?
2. What should the goal(s) of a Comprehensive Archaeology Plan be? What are short-term (within the next 5 years) and long-term goals?
3. What should the goals and responsibilities of the Division of Archaeology be for archaeological resources in the state? What should our priorities be – identification, documentation, preservation, public education and awareness?
4. What criteria should be used to identify critical sites and what are the most effective strategies for protecting and preserving them?
5. How can we best summarize the current state of archaeological knowledge about Louisiana's past? How can we divide 15,000 years of history across the state's diverse regions to provide comprehensive summaries of what we know and don't know about our past?
6. What are the key research questions or themes that should guide decisions about critical sites, which sites should be excavated and which can be destroyed on construction projects, and which sites should be preserved?

Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts, suggestions, ideas, criticisms, offers to help and other options. You can reach me at mcgimsey@crt.state.la.us, or by phone at 225-219-4600. I will also make a presentation about this project at the upcoming LAS/MAA meeting, and I hope there will be opportunities to speak with many people there. **This is your opportunity to influence the direction of archaeology in Louisiana for the future, so please let me know what you think.**

Louisiana Celebrates Archaeology Month 2009

Nancy Hawkins (Division of Archaeology)

During October, people across the state attended Louisiana Archaeology Month events. Audience members enjoyed activities such as archaeological talks, museum exhibits, children's programs, and artifact identification. With more than 50 events in 28 cities and towns throughout Louisiana, there was a great selection of events.

Archaeology Month provides an opportunity to celebrate and learn about Louisiana archaeology. Each year, a variety of organizations host and arrange Archaeology Month events, including public libraries, universities, museums, state parks, non-profit organizations, and businesses. Archaeology Month allows Louisiana residents to learn more about the human history of Louisiana, the unique archaeological heritage of the state, how archaeologists learn about the past, and the laws that protect these sites.

Louisiana Archaeology Month 2009 was the second month-long celebration, following 20 years of Louisiana Archaeology Week. The 2009 Archaeology Month poster highlights the Northeast Louisiana Indian Mounds Driving Trail. Copies of the poster are still available and will be on hand in the exhibit room of the annual meeting along with copies of the Northeast Louisiana Indian Mounds Trail Guide.

This year's celebration of Archaeology Month was a huge success, thanks to the assistance provided by the station and regional archaeologists, guest speakers, participants, and host venues. The Division of Archaeology greatly appreciates the support of the Louisiana Archaeological Society in organizing and promoting events. We look forward to having another successful month of celebrations and activities in 2010!



A young potter tries his hand under the watchful eye of Nancy Hawkins during Clay Discoveries for Kids at Louisiana Pottery in Sorrento, an activity of Louisiana Archaeology Month 2009.



An audience sits in rapt attention during a presentation about archaeological artifacts delivered by Jeff Girard, NW Regional Archaeologist, during a Louisiana Archaeology Month program.



The next four pages contain reprints from various newspapers in Louisiana about archaeological work in their areas of coverage. The newspapers include the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate and the Houma Courier.
- Editor

Regional archaeologist Rob Mann, of LSU, left, photographs an excavation Thursday at a Civil War cannon position that was part of Union Siege Battery 8 on the Port Hudson battlefield north of Baton Rouge. LSU graduate student Brian Hess, second from left, Port Hudson Interpretative Ranger Jarred Guidry, hidden, and Virginia Middleton hold a tarp to shield the floor from direct sunlight. Others taking part in the archaeological survey are Mark Robinson and Amanda Kittoe, behind Middleton, and Matthew Helmer and Kellye French, seated, who are working on an adjacent excavation.

Students dig Port Hudson history

By James Minton

Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, 10/6/2009

PORT HUDSON — LSU graduate archaeology student Brian Hess once studied American Indians of the western United States, but he's now trying his hand at Civil War archaeology on part of a major Louisiana battlefield.

Hess, from Seattle, is studying Union Siege Battery 8 — or what's left of it — at the Port Hudson State Historic Site north of Baton Rouge, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River.

Federal troops fired 12-inch Napoleon cannons and highly accurate 3-inch ordinance rifles at a Confederate position known as "Fort Desperate," said Port Hudson Manager Gregg Potts and Curator Mike Fraering.

Union forces surrounding Port Hudson tried two all-out assaults against the position on May 27 and June 14, 1863, but the defenders held their ground. Union commanders then settled on a siege strategy to force the entire garrison to surrender on July 9.

While studying at the University of Washington, Hess said he participated in archaeological projects at Pacific Coast Indian sites. "The American Civil War didn't have quite the presence in Washington as it did in Louisiana," he said jokingly. "There is a lot that gets left over from battlefields. A lot of 'trash' was left over there, and trash becomes artifacts," Hess said, pointing in the direction of Fort Desperate, about a quarter-mile away. It forms the basis of his master's thesis, in which Hess said he will try

to contribute to the body of knowledge concerning the construction of Civil War earthworks.

Archaeologists have studied Fort Desperate, but not as much is known about the gun batteries that faced the position, Hess said. Union Siege Battery 8 is noted on the hiking trail to Fort Desperate but is concealed by large trees and thick underbrush. One of the goals is to determine the exact boundaries of the battery, Hess said. Hess and the park employees also hope they can find evidence of a zigzag trench, or sap, that historical accounts say the Union troops dug from the battery to a short distance from the Confederate lines.

Fraering said Union troops would have filled in the trench after they took Port Hudson to prevent Confederate troops from counter-attacking. No one knows exactly where it started or ended. Hess and his associates looked near the Confederate lines earlier this year but could not find the sap. A group of LSU students, volunteers, state Office of Archaeology employee Kellye French and Southeast Regional Archaeologist Rob Mann, also of LSU, painstakingly excavated five square-meter sections of one gun position in the battery last week to begin the latest phase, looking for possible signs of a structure that may have been erected as cover for the gunners.

One early discovery was a wire that would have been yanked with a lanyard to set off a friction primer to fire an artillery piece. "It's relatively rare. You don't see them in relic books," Fraering said.

Human bones found in Gibson home's basement

By Daniel McBride

Staff Writer-Houma Courier: Sunday, November 22, 2009

GIBSON — Human bones discovered Saturday in the basement of a Gibson home are likely the age-old remains of American Indians buried nearby, officials from the Terrebonne Coroner's Office said.

The investigation is ongoing, but Coroner's Office forensic investigator James Kenny said foul play is not suspected.

About 100 human bones were found piled in the basement of 234 Fandal St. by a real-estate agent showing the house to potential buyers. Angela Adams, the LaRussa Real Estate agent assigned to the house, declined to comment when contacted at her home Saturday. Schriever resident Mark Morgan, who owns the Fandal Street property, also declined to comment.

The bones will be sent to a forensics lab at LSU in Baton Rouge for analysis, which Kenny said could take months.

The bones are covered in dirt, which also saturated the marrow inside the bones. Kenny said this indicates the bones are very old. "We don't think it's a murder scene or anything like that," he said.

Officials said the bones were found in the corner of the basement. The house consists of two structures which sit split-level, with half atop a circular rise in the ground.

Parish officials and neighbors suggested this rise may be an Indian burial mound. Kenny said his investigation showed that the house's previous residents would often find bones while mowing the lawn or doing yard work, then store those bones in the basement.

Brenda Dardar-Robichaux, a representative of the United Houma Nation, said there are many burial mounds throughout southeast Louisiana, but not all are documented.

"A lot of them are on privately owned property now," she said. "A lot of them have been mishandled in the past."

Dardar-Robichaux said she was uncertain whether the Gibson residence was built atop one of those mounds. She said she understands the importance of the investigation, but her primary concern is what will become of the bones once the analysis in Baton Rouge is complete. "What happens to the remains after that?" she said.



Emily Schwarze/Staff
Terrebonne Parish Coroner's Office forensic investigator James Kenny displays some of several bones Saturday that were found inside the house at 234 Fandal St. in Gibson.

Bones from house will be identified, returned

By Daniel McBride

Staff Writer – Houma Courier, November 24, 2009

HOUMA — An investigation by state scientists will determine what happens to about 100 human bones found Saturday inside a house in Gibson, officials said.

Spokesmen for both the Terrebonne Sheriff's Office and the Terrebonne Coroner's Office say the bones are not suspected to be related to any crime and no charges are being contemplated.

"Those bones have been out there since the 1800s," said Gary Alford, senior investigator at the coroner's office.

Investigators said the bones are being sent for analysis by the Anthropology Department at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Once the analysis is complete, law-enforcement officials will determine whether a crime occurred.

If there is no crime, and the bones are more than 50 years old, they then fall under the responsibility of the state's Division of Archaeology.

"Our office is notified, then it really becomes a consultation among all interested parties to decide what's the best solution," said Chip McGimsey, director of the Division. There is not a set protocol, he said. If the remains are American Indian, then the "appropriate" tribes will be consulted, he said. If the bones turn out to belong to another ethnic group, different groups may be notified.

Bones Identified continued from previous page

Because the bones were found on private property, the state has no authority to go in and search for more remains, McGimsey said. But if more remains are found, state officials must be contacted.

“The law clearly states that you cannot disturb human remains,” McGimsey said. “It’s their responsibility under the law to contact us. The law applies to everybody across the board. There’s not a penalty process.”

Parish records show the Gibson property, 234 Fandal St., is part of the estate of Elizabeth Morgan, who died three years ago. The owner contacted by sheriff’s deputies Saturday was Schriever resident Mark Morgan, Elizabeth’s son. He refused to comment.

Mark Morgan is trying to sell the property through LaRussa Real Estate, which led to the Saturday discovery of about 100 human bones, mostly rib and limb bones. As LaRussa Real Estate agent Angela Adams showed the home to potential buyers, she discovered the bones and called police.

Before Elizabeth Morgan, the property can be traced back nearly five decades to Anna Salome Fandal, a scion of the family that once owned much of the property in the area. The street is named after the Fandal family.

The property was passed down to Fandal’s daughter, Winnie. In 1968, Winnie sold it to her niece, Elizabeth, who was then married to Floyd “Jack” Morgan.

Jack Morgan, who now lives in Athens, Ga., said he doesn’t remember ever finding human bones on the property. The house, he said, was already built by Winnie when he and Elizabeth moved in. But he said there was some digging involved in building the garage.

“When they dug all we ever found was animal bones,” Jack Morgan said. “We found a couple of arrowheads down at the bottom.”

Gia Imbornone, granddaughter of Elizabeth and Jack Morgan, said her grandmother told her that the bones were found when the house was built. Imbornone said she visited the house regularly as a child, when her grandmother helped raise her. She added that she didn’t visit the house regularly until after Elizabeth and Jack were divorced, and the bones may have been found after Jack moved away.

“My grandma was a pack rat. She had those bones, and she kept them,” said Imbornone, who works at a clinic in Madisonville. “She just didn’t want to get rid of them because she thought it would be wrong.”

State archaeologist says bones found in Gibson are a link to the past

By *John DeSantis*, Senior Staff Writer, *Houma Courier*, Sunday, December 6, 2009

GIBSON — The house that all the fuss is about appears to sit on a hill — two hills actually — on a quiet bayouside road.

Last month, about 100 human bones were found within its walls. How they got into the house, and why, remains a mystery, although interviews and research over the past week support theories that they are related to American Indian mounds on the property. What is clear, however, is that many homes and properties in Terrebonne and Lafourche may hold secret archaeological treasures. They can include clues to life on plantations or long-vanished Indian communities.

And as Louisianans become more aware of the importance of preserving the bits and pieces that tell the state’s story, scientists want property owners to tell them about old and new discoveries. The hope is that Louisiana will not continue paving over its past, says Charles McGimsey, Louisiana’s archaeology director. “This is a characteristic of any modern state around the world,” McGimsey said. “Here, in Iraq and Russia and England, people want homes and roads and businesses and in many of those places there is history in the ground.”

Federal laws dictate what property owners and developers must do if historical evidence is found on a property owned by the U.S. government or developed with government money. But only a handful of states have laws directing what should be done to protect the past if traces of it are discovered on private land. And Louisiana is not one of them. “At builds in the French Quarter they destroy part of the early French colonial history that is there,” McGimsey said.

Louisiana did enact statutes in the 1960s and the 1970s that concern human bones found on private property, but little protection exists beyond that. State scientists are examining about 100 human bones found Nov. 21 at the house in Gibson, 234 Fandal St. Local authorities don’t suspect the bones are related to foul play. If they are determined to be Indian bones then the state will try to contact appropriate tribal entities. But for now no concrete answers have emerged

Link to Past continued from previous page

Members of the Morgan family, whose relatives once owned the wood-frame house, said they recall stories about bones being found when the house was built. And Johnny Rochel of Gray remembers when the "house on the hill," as it was called, belonged to a barber named Homer Mobley. Rochel said his uncle Claude Rochel helped Homer Mobley build a fallout shelter for the house back in the 1950s.

The shelter was built into a mound, Rochel said, recalling stories told in his family. Bones were discovered at that time, including a jawbone so large that his uncle was able to place it over his own jaw. "They would find bones," Rochel said. "I don't remember what they did. I thought they were going to put them back into the ground."

The shelter is mentioned in Helen Wurzlow's historical compendium "I Dug Up Houma-Terrebonne." The book says "one of the mounds was cut down years ago and a house built atop. People are still living on this historic site today. The other (mound) was cut down and a baker shop stood atop ... During the Cuban missile crisis someone built a bomb shelter down in one of the mounds.

SCREENING YIELDS ARTIFACTS FROM SITE, Baton Rouge Morning Advocate October, 17 2009

EPPS - A handful of stone knives or scrapers fashioned thousands of years ago were among items turned up Friday, the first day of a weekend "screen-a-thon" for artifacts at Poverty Point State Historic Site.

The round-the-clock event continues until 2 p.m. Sunday, for a total of 50 hours - two more than last year, when 13 volunteers washed the dirt from 16 to 18 boxes of prehistoric artifacts and modern-day construction leftovers.

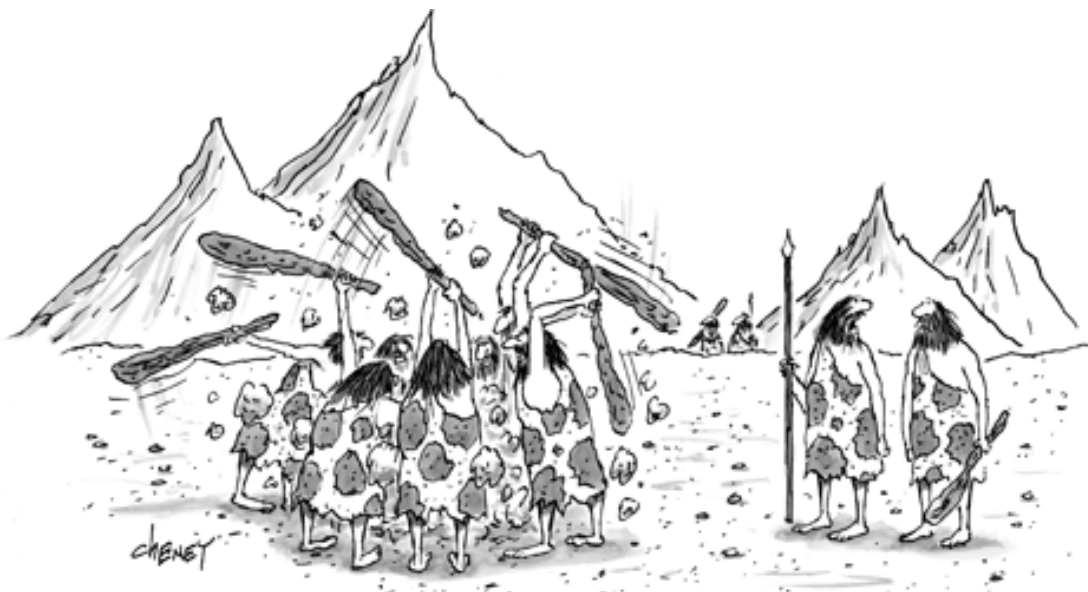
"We haven't finished sorting everything we found last year," said station archaeologist Diana Greenlee, who is supervising the event as part of Louisiana Archaeology Month. The stone tools were made 3,100 to 3,700 years ago, when culvert a couple of years ago. Although it's from an area where Native Americans are believed to have lived, there was no way to make

a precise dig because a driveway had been laid down there sometime before 1938.

The culvert work left behind enough dirt to fill a cube more than 9 yards to a side. Last year's event went through nearly 4 cubic yards of it. Gravel that underlay the driveway made up the bulk of what they found, with bits of asphalt, metal and glass, "But there are a lot of artifacts in it, Greenlee said.

All told, there were 477 pounds of stuff remaining after bucket after bucket after bucket of dirt was washed away. If volunteers get through as much of the dirt this year, there may not be enough left for a third screen-a-thon.

"Next year may be a sort-a-thon, where we sort all the stuff we got from screening," Greenlee said.



"It's some new thing called an intervention."

Dear Potential PAL

Last November, the Professional Archaeologists of Louisiana (PAL) was formed, although informally, after conversations among many working archaeologists in the state. The group is open to all student and professional archaeologists, historical archaeologists, underwater archaeologists, anthropologists with a specialization in archaeology, or historians/geographers working or studying in Louisiana. The intentions of the associations are to ensure the continuation of superior quality archaeological work in Louisiana by maintaining high principles; assisting and advising public agencies in their formulation and the implementation of archaeological standards and procedures; facilitating communication among all sectors; and monitoring archaeological developments so as to ensure a positive image of archaeology on the part of the public, academic, and private clients.

We just wanted to provide an update on the status of PAL. During our initial organizing meeting in Natchez during the joint Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS)/Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA) meeting this past spring, most of those in attendance agreed that the archaeological community of Louisiana would benefit by such an organization and supported its formation. David Kelley, Dennis Jones, and I also indicated at that time that we would pursue incorporation of PAL as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in Louisiana and with the IRS.

PAL received their articles of incorporation from the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office on May 12th, 2009. Yes, we are now official in the State of Louisiana. Some of the potential members at the February meeting expressed an interest in possibly contributing toward the 501(c) 3 non-profit filing fee so that there would not be too many out-of-pocket expenses for the current executives. We have now opened a bank account at the downtown Baton Rouge *Regions* Bank so that we can pay our incorporation costs and accept start-up donations (one of the purposes of this email).

At this time we would like to extend an email request to those potential members for some funds for the 501(c) 3 (i.e., tax exempt) status. For us to now move forward with our non-profit status the IRS requires a filing fee of \$300. Please make your donations payable to the organization, Professional Archaeologists of Louisiana (**PAL**) and they can be sent to the following address (we can also provide a tax receipt to all those who request one):

Professional Archaeologists of Louisiana (PAL)
PO Box 3191
Baton Rouge, LA
70821

We are also in the process of developing a webpage for the association; currently we are in the designing the following pages within the webpage:

Home – Mission statement and who we are; **Become a Member** – How to become a PAL, Advantages, Membership Categories (Student – Professional); Membership Application Forms (downloadable PDF), Membership Costs
Bylaws - On web (downloadable PDF); **Member List** - Name, Membership Category, Email, company/university affiliation;
Archaeology in Louisiana - SHPO Information, Types of Investigations; **Upcoming Events** - Meetings, Conferences, etc.;
Job Board – List of CRM Companies; Potential Job Opportunities; **Links** - other professional associations, LA SHPO;
Contact PAL - Email links to Executive

Webpage hosting costs approximately \$10-\$20/month; any additional funds raised above the \$300 for the IRS would be used toward that end. As well, we are requesting that if you have any photographs (i.e., field shots, archaeological sites, or artifacts) that you would like to contribute to the Website effort, we would all be greatly appreciative. In addition, other folders/tabs that people think would be useful to incorporate into the website design would also be gratefully accepted. Also, any of you out there with any graphic design abilities that would like to take a stab at designing a logo for **PAL**, please send your thoughts / designs in; we would appreciate any and all input in this.

We have also included the mission statement for the organization as well as a draft (preliminary) set of bylaws. Both documents are being presented for the potential membership for input and review. The above action items should keep **PAL** up and moving forward until our next meeting during the LAS/MAA conference on March 5 to 7, 2010 in West Monroe, Louisiana.

Be a PAL (continued)

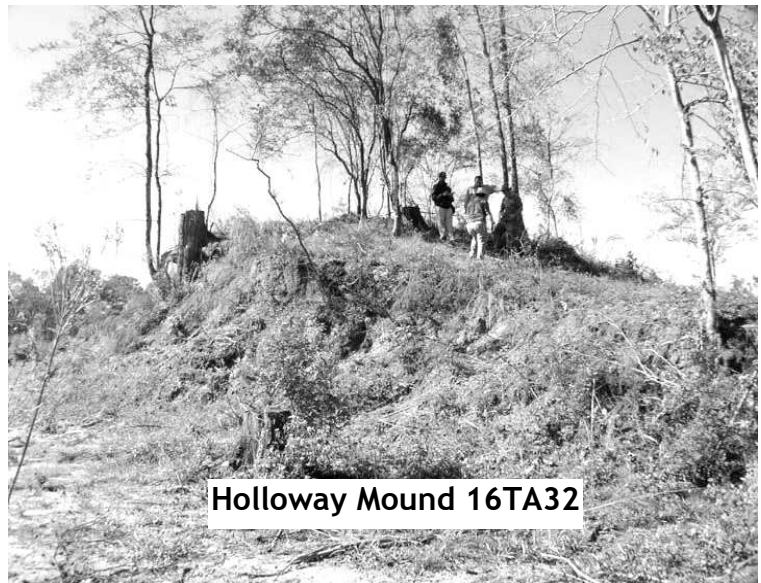
This email request is being forwarded all of the professional archaeologists (that we are aware of) in Louisiana; please feel free to forward this email to any and all archaeologists. We look forward to hearing from all of you in the coming months as we move forward on this exciting process. Thank you all for your continuing support in this process.

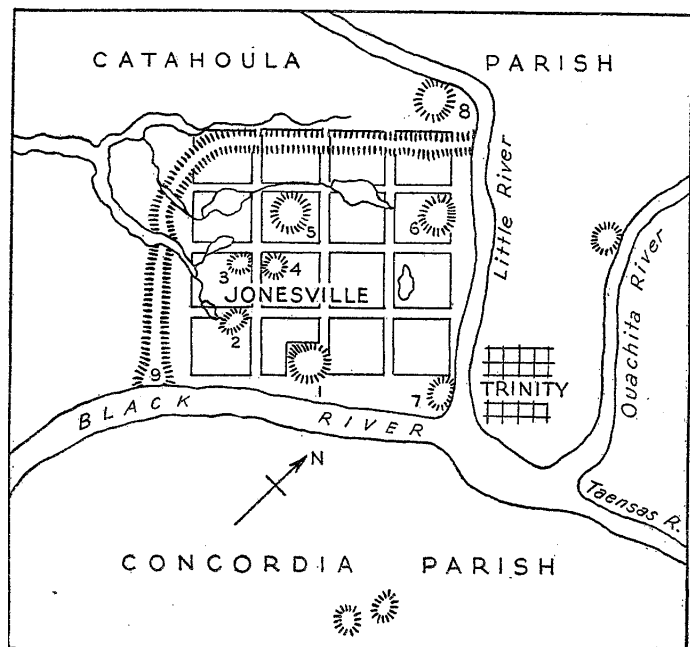
Sincerely,

Martin Handly, President (RPA); David Kelley, Vice President; Dennis Jones, Secretary/Treasurer (RPA)

New Geophysical Investigations by LSU class at Prehistoric Mounds

LSU geology professor Dr. Brooks Elwood had students in his Geoarchaeology class conduct geophysical investigations of two sites: the Richland Mound and the Holloway Mound in West Feliciana and Tangipahoa Parishes respectively during the fall of 2009. They conducted magnetic susceptibility and soil resistivity tests at regular intervals over the surface of the sites in an effort to locate materials that may be recovered for radiocarbon dating, as well as to gather other types of data. The results of these investigations will be described in a future issue of the newsletter or perhaps in an article submitted to *Louisiana Archaeology*.





The map of the Troyville site (16CT7) above showing the layout of the site's mounds and enclosure is from Winslow Walker's seminal 1936 monograph for the Smithsonian Institute about the site. The Google Earth image to the right above shows the locations of the new and old bridges over the Black River.

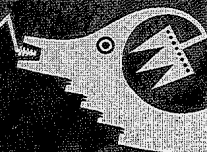


The Archaeological Conservancy Spotlights the Troyville Site

In its Winter 2010 edition, *American Archaeology*, the publication for both the lay and professional public from the Archaeological Conservancy published an article about the once impressive Troyville site (16CT7) written by Stanley Nelson. Mr. Nelson is the editor of the *Concordia Sentinel*, the weekly newspaper serving east central Louisiana, and a member of the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission. He has a long standing column in the *Sentinel* that recounts the history of that region.

The *American Archaeology* article reports on the history and past research at the site, as well as the more recent projects by Joe Saunders, the Northeast Regional Archaeologist, and Butch Lee, of Earth Search, Inc. who recently monitored the leveling of the approach ramp for the old bridge across the Black River that had used fill from the Great Mound at the site. The article also makes mention of Mr. Bill Atkins, a life-long resident of Jonesville and former state legislator, who is behind an effort to reconstruct a scale model of the Great Mounds out of the fill from the now leveled bridge ramp. This model will be in the middle of modern Jonesville and will be the focus of additional plans for a museum to showcase the once inspiring Great Mound and the rest of the Troyville site. (See Joe Saunders' report below for more information).

The Conservancy Helps To Preserve Troyville



The Conservancy recently acquired Mound 4, one of Troyville's smaller mounds. The acquisition "energized the community," says Bill Atkins. "This told us that preserving Troyville is important."

Archaeologist Joe Saunders did a test excavation of Mound 4, uncovering a pit with over 1,100 pottery sherds. He also discovered that more of the mound is intact that was previously thought. Archaeologists are trying to understand the relationship between Mound 4 and the Great Mound, which were connected by a causeway. Palisades protected the Great Mound. "The palisades seem to indicate an attitude of 'stay away.' Symbolically the Great Mound was an important place, so access was limited," says archaeologist Butch Lee.

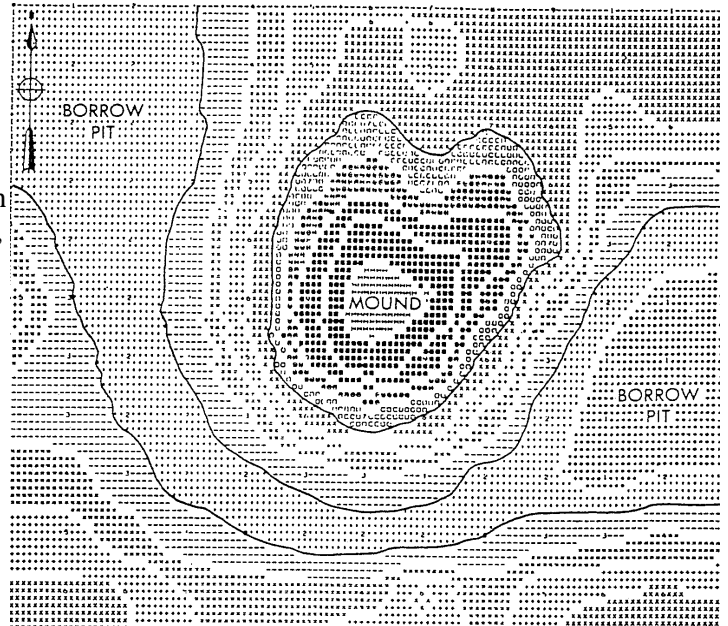
The Conservancy hopes to acquire the remains of some of Troyville's other mounds. "There are five more tracts in the town that I'd like to get," Jessica Crawford, the Conservancy's Southeast regional director, says.

The Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy Obtains a Preservation Servitude for the Lac St. Agnes Site (16AV26)

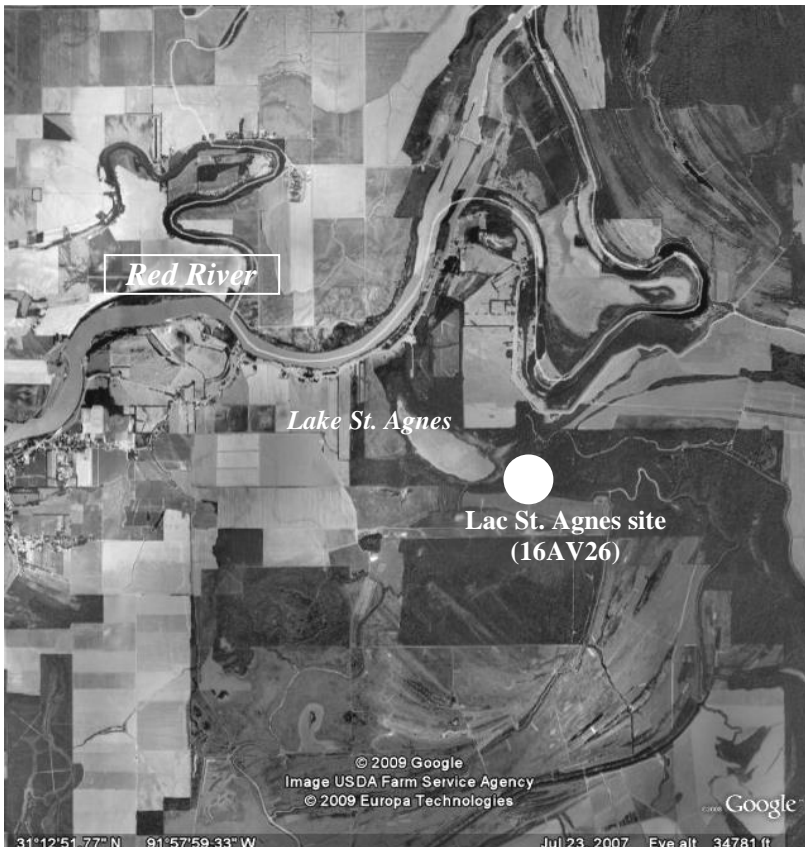
On December 8, 2009, the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy accepted preservation servitude from the Dupuy Land Co. that insures that this mound and surrounding area will be left undisturbed by continued cultivation or future development. This will allow the opportunity for future researchers to investigate additional features and portions of the site that was first reported upon in significant detail by Alan Toth in 1979 for work that he and others did in 1972. His monograph, *The Lac St. Agnes site: a Multicomponent Occupation of Avoyelles Parish*, reported that this site exhibited evidence of occupations over 1400 years of prehistory. But Toth concluded his study with:

Considering the size and richness of the Lake St. Agnes site, it is obvious that a month of fieldwork is sufficient only to tap the knowledge of site history. More village excavations, especially in the far western area and the location northeast of the mound, will add considerable detail to the sequence of occupation.

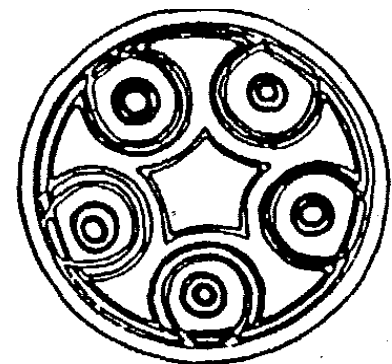
This preservation servitude insures that these very areas will be available for just such future studies. The development of techniques and technologies that were not around for Toth can now be used to prove or disprove his conclusions and further refine our knowledge about an area that has proven important to the development of Louisiana archaeology.



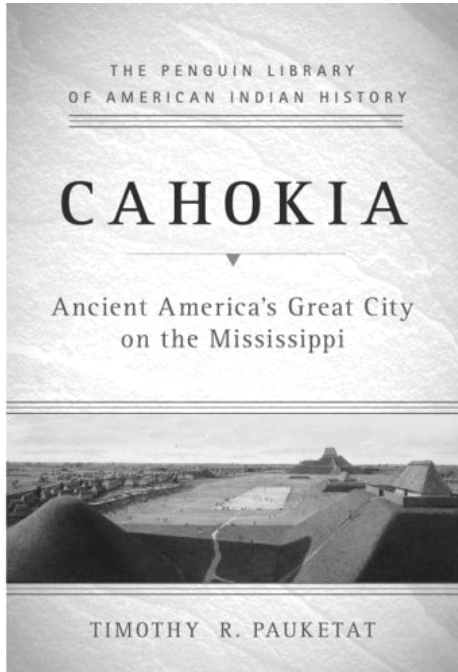
Computer graphic showing the contours of the mound at the Lac St. Agnes site from Toth's 1979 report.



Google Earth image (left) of the Lac St. Agnes Mound site (16AV26) in Avoyelles Parish showing its nearby namesake and the Red River. The Dupuy Land Company has agreed to a preservation servitude that consists of a rectangular area measuring just over nine acres. This area includes the prehistoric mound site and an adjacent village area.



Louisiana
Archaeological
Conservancy



CAHOKIA: ANCIENT AMERICA'S GREAT CITY ON THE MISSISSIPPI
 Timothy Pauketat, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at the University of Illinois

In the middle of North America, in what is now Illinois, sits the site of the greatest American Indian achievement of the pre-Columbian era. Beginning with a “big bang” likened to that of cosmic creation, the people of Cahokia built a new city and created an expansive culture a thousand years ago. The city was reminiscent of the earliest civilizations of Mesopotamia or Mexico and, like them; Cahokia had a great historical effect on all of the ancient people of North America as well as on the westward expansion of a young United States. In fact, the ancient Cahokians, with their unique public sport, their religion, and their great rulers, continue to influence Native and non-Native Americans today.

Timothy Pauketat reveals the untold story of this mysterious ancient city, its culture and historical effects, and gives us the backstory of the archaeologists who have struggled to bring to light over the last half century the remarkable history of these American Indians.

2009 - Penguin Library of American Indian History

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION!!

Archaeology of Louisiana

Edited by Mark A. Rees

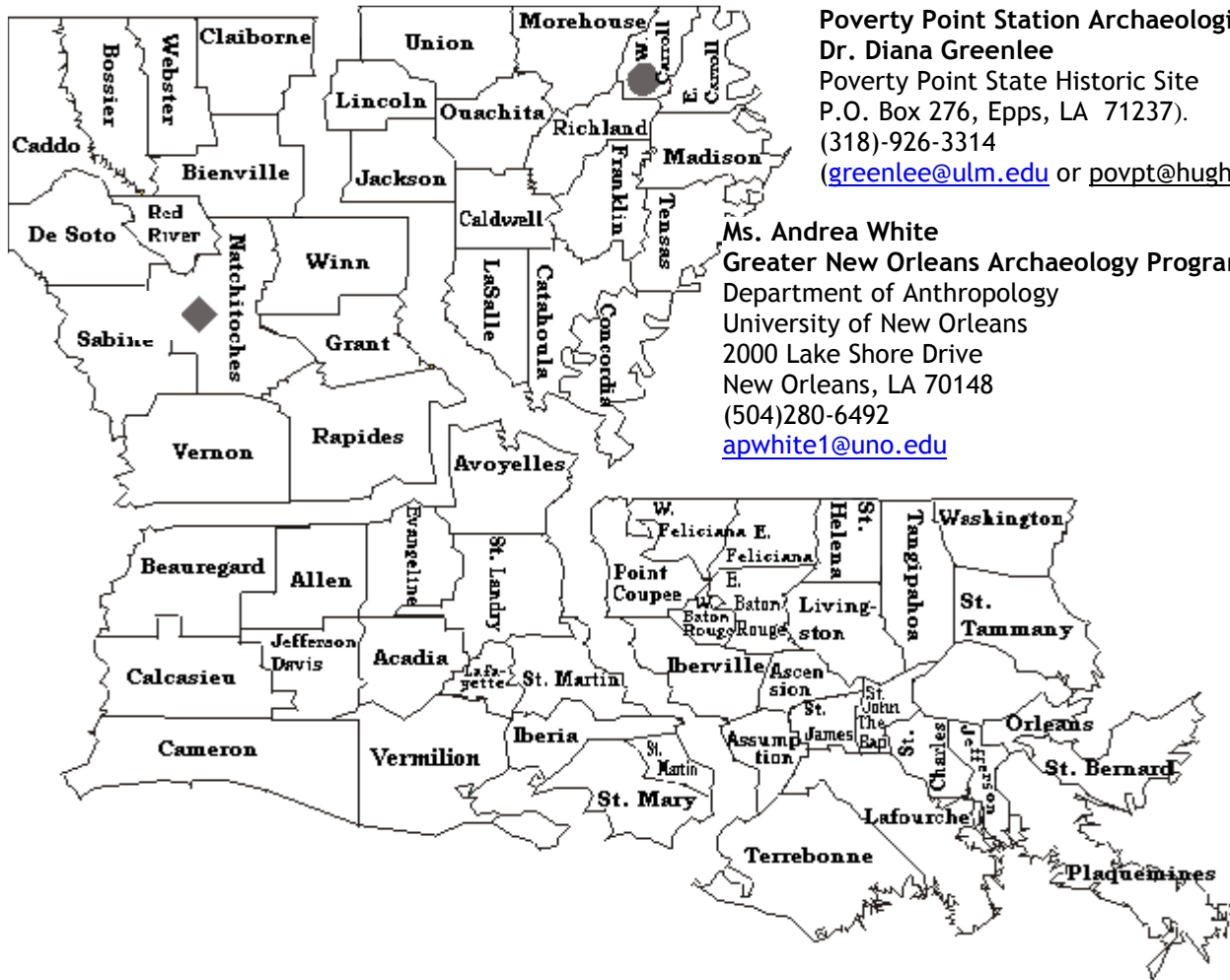
A new book, entitled *Archaeology of Louisiana* has been accepted for publication by Louisiana State University Press. The idea of a multi-authored, up-to-date overview of archaeology in the state was organized at the 2007 Louisiana Archaeological Society meeting in Leesville. After lengthy reviews and revision, the final manuscript was submitted to LSU Press in October of 2009.

Archaeology of Louisiana consists of 18 chapters, ranging from Paleoindian and Early Archaic to the historical archaeology of New Orleans. Overviews on topics such as underwater, African-American, and French colonial archaeology make it a fresh and especially-welcome contribution to current understanding of Louisiana's past. Among the 27 contributing authors are noted scholars well versed in Louisiana's archaeology, cultural resources and heritage. Although a publication date has not yet been set, look for it in 2010.

Contents

Foreword, by Ian W. Brown; 1. *Introduction*, by Mark A. Rees; 2. *A History of Archaeology in Louisiana*, by Kathleen M. Byrd and Robert W. Neuman; 3. *Paleoindian and Early Archaic*, by Mark A. Rees; 4. *Middle Archaic and Watson Brake*, by Joe W. Saunders; 5. *A History of Poverty Point*, by Jon L. Gibson; 6. *Tchefuncte and Early Woodland*, by Christopher T. Hays and Richard A. Weinstein; 7. *Marksville and Middle Woodland*, by Charles R. McGimsey; 8. *Troyville and the Baytown Period*, by Aubra L. Lee; 9. *Coles Creek*, by Lori Roe and Timothy Schilling; 10. *Plaquemine and Mississippian*, by Mark A. Rees; 11. *Caddo Communities of Northwest Louisiana*, by Jeffrey S. Girard; 12. *The Caddo Nation, Archaeology and NAGPRA*, by Robert Cast, Bobby Gonzalez, and Timothy K. Perttula; 13. *The Spanish in Northwest Louisiana, 1721-1773*, by George Avery; 14. *French Colonial Archaeology*, by Rob Mann; 15. *African-American Archaeology*, by Laurie A. Wilkie, Paul Farnsworth and David T. Palmer; 16. *Colonial and Early Antebellum New Orleans*, by Shannon Lee Dawdy and Christopher N. Matthews; 17. *Immigration and Urbanization in New Orleans*, by Ryan Gray and Jill-Karen Yakubik; 18. *Underwater Archaeology*, by Allen R. Saltus, Jr. and Charles E. Pearson.

Regional Archaeology News



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Assessing Hurricane Gustav Treefall Damage at the Port Hudson Battlefield (16EF7).

Dr. Rob Mann, Southeast Regional Archaeologist
Louisiana State University

Hurricane Gustav struck southeast Louisiana on September 1, 2008 causing widespread damage. Much of the damage was the result of hurricane-force straight line winds and tornados spawned by the storm. At the Port Hudson State Historic Site, a Civil War battlefield designated Louisiana site number 16EF7, dozens of trees were uprooted and toppled. While the damage was widespread across the park, several of the major earthworks preserved on the site were hard hit by uprooted trees, creating scour pits into these important cultural resources. In order to document and assess this damage, protocols developed in conjunction with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology were used to examine the Port Hudson earthworks between September 11 and September 23, 2008. First, treefalls that overlie known archaeological features and culturally sensitive areas were marked with paint and the location of each marked treefall was recorded with a GPS unit (Figure 2). We marked a total of 12 treefalls at Port Hudson. According to the new protocols such trees were to be cut at the trunk as close as possible to the rootball, leaving the rootball in place (still tipped up) until both the rootball and the scour pit could be examined for the presence of features and/or artifacts. At Port Hudson one of the biggest concerns was that the treefalls would expose artifacts and that this would encourage looting at the site. In order to protect against this and to recover artifacts and information that might otherwise be lost, the rootballs and scour pits of each of the 12 marked treefalls were scanned with metal detectors by Bennie Tilbury, Buck Tucker, and Calvin Wiggs (Figure 1).

For 48 days in summer of 1863 Union troops laid siege to the Confederates at Port Hudson. The earthworks at Port Hudson were built by both Confederate troops trying to defend this important Mississippi River port town and Union troops determined to drive the Rebels from the Mississippi. The 12 treefalls examined in 2008 were located at four Confederate positions (Fort Desperate, Alabama-Arkansas Redoubt, Bennett's Redoubt, and Commissary Hill) and a Union position (Fort Babcock). Not surprisingly, given both the historic context of the site and our recovery methodology, the vast majority of the material recovered during the metal detector scans were small arms ammunition (n=46). The most common artifacts recovered were the .58 caliber rifle bullets commonly called Minié balls (Figure 3A-H). Other caliber Minié balls recovered include .56 caliber (Figure 3I-J), .54 caliber (Figure 3K-L), and .69 caliber (Figure 3N). Also prevalent were .69 caliber musket balls that were used in "buck and ball" rounds that consisted of a one ounce lead ball (Figure 3M) and three smaller pieces of lead buckshot. These rounds were commonly used by the Confederate troops at Port Hudson. Other items of interest recovered during the metal detector scans of treefalls at Port Hudson include pewter sabot fragments, brass threaded fuse ring fragments, and iron shell fragments from an exploded artillery round in the damaged earthworks at Treefall 9 at Bennett's Redoubt. The sabot "served as the driving band for an artillery projectile. Generally, a sabot was made of wood, brass, copper, lead, or wrought iron...The sabot for a rifled projectile was attached directly onto the projectile. When the weapon was fired, the gases from the explosion caused the sabot to expand into the rifling grooves of the barrel" (Graf 2003:122). The Port Hudson specimen is unusual in that pewter was not typically used as a raw material for artillery sabots. At Treefall 1 at Fort Desperate we recovered a composite cupreous metal and iron "arrowhead" style attachment hook or clip found on the back of some Civil War era belt plates (buckles). Finally, at Treefall 12 at Commissary Hill we recovered a cupreous artillery shell fuse (Figure 4).

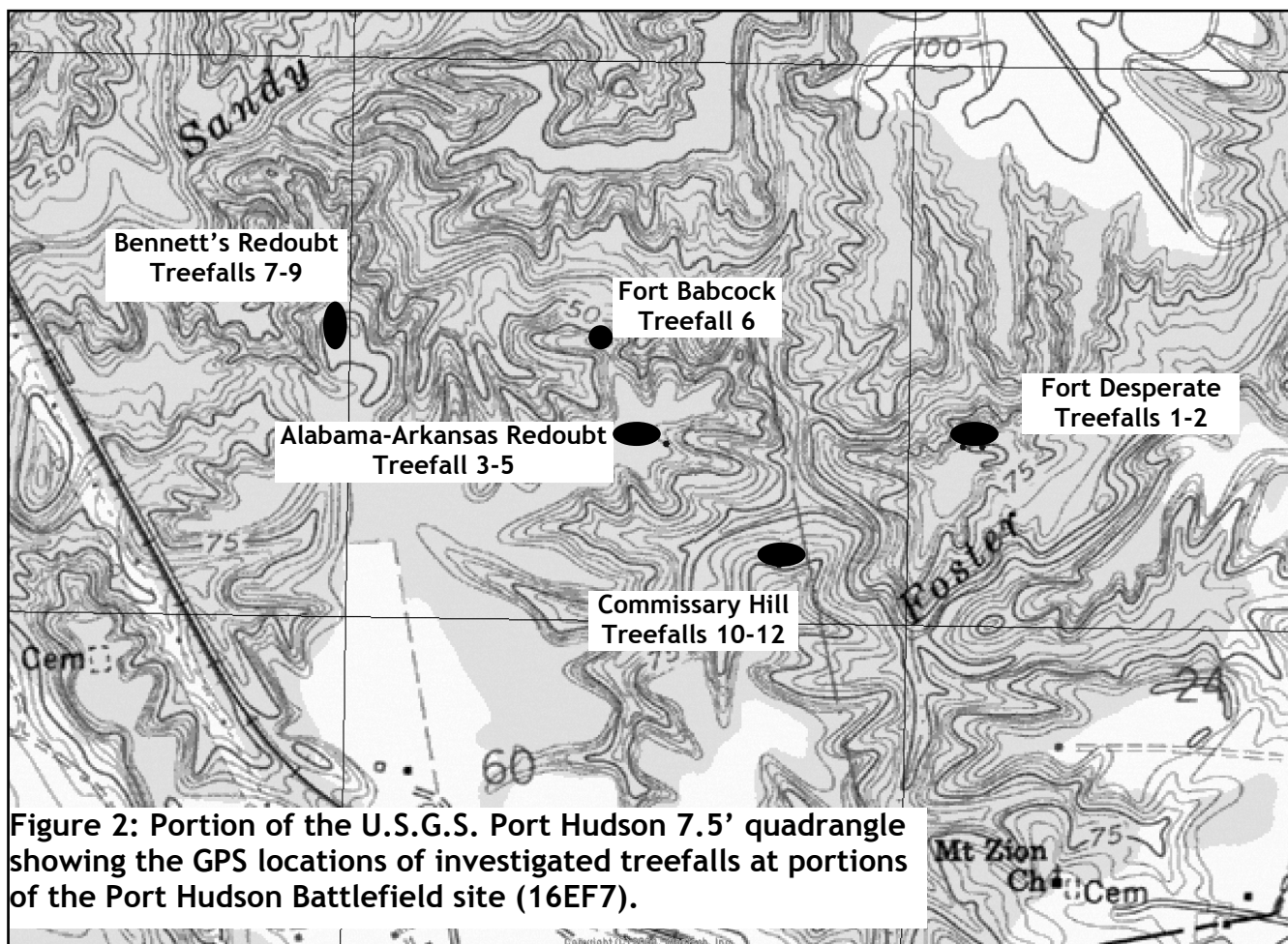


Figure 1. Bennie Tilbury and Calvin Wiggs use metal detectors to scan the rootball and scour pit of a treefall at Port Hudson Battlefield (16EF7).

Gustav Treefall Damage (continued)

During our assessment of the damage done by the treefalls at the Port Hudson Battlefield (16EF7) it was determined that the most extensive damage was done by Treefall 1 located on the interior (rear) of the north-facing parapet of Fort Desperate. Because the rootball of Treefall 1 scoured out a significant divot into the Fort Desperate parapet, we decided to cut a 1 meter wide profile down through the exposed portion of the earthwork. We screened all soil removed during profiling through ¼ inch mesh hardware cloth. We recovered no artifacts during the profiling. The profile did, however, provide a clear picture of the internal structure of the Fort Desperate parapet in this location (Figure 5). Zone 1-A consisted of what appears to be an old looter's pit or perhaps an episode of bioturbation that has filled in with a 10YR 4/6 silt loam. Zone 1-B is a humus layer of 10YR 4/4 silt loam, lightly mottled with 10YR5/4 silt loam. Zone 1-C/D represents the fill from the excavation of the ditch/moat that was used to construct the Fort Desperate parapet; it has a matrix of 10YR 4/6 silt loam. Zone 2-E₁ is the buried A-horizon that represents the ca. 1863 ground surface. It has a matrix of 10YR 4/3 silt loam. Below that is the sterile subsoil (Zone 3-F₁₋₃), a 10 YR 4/6 clayey silt loam. No cultural features were observed in the profile and we saw no evidence of wooden cribbing or posts that might have been associated with a revetment built along the interior of the Fort Desperate parapet.

The investigations at the Port Hudson battlefield revealed the presence of significant cultural resources. In addition to the surviving above ground cultural features (i.e. the earthworks), this study indicated the presence of subsurface artifact distributions that may hold the keys to a better understanding of troop positions and movements as well as the spatial organization of the siege and battles fought at Port Hudson. Indeed, this study has prompted additional archaeological research at the battlefield. Brian Hess, a graduate student in the LSU Department of Geography and Anthropology, and I have recently completed field work at a possible ammunition magazine for Battery 8, a Union artillery position arrayed against the Confederates at Fort Desperate. The results of this investigation will be reported in Brian's forthcoming M.A. thesis.



Gustav Treefall Damage (continued)

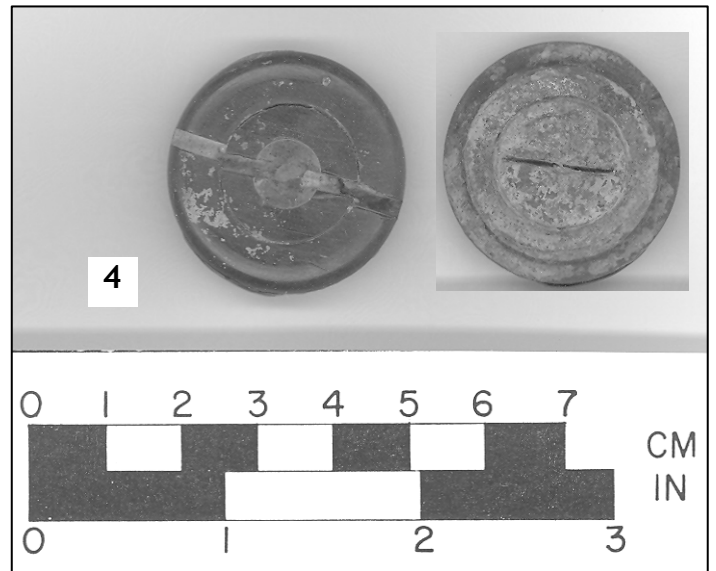
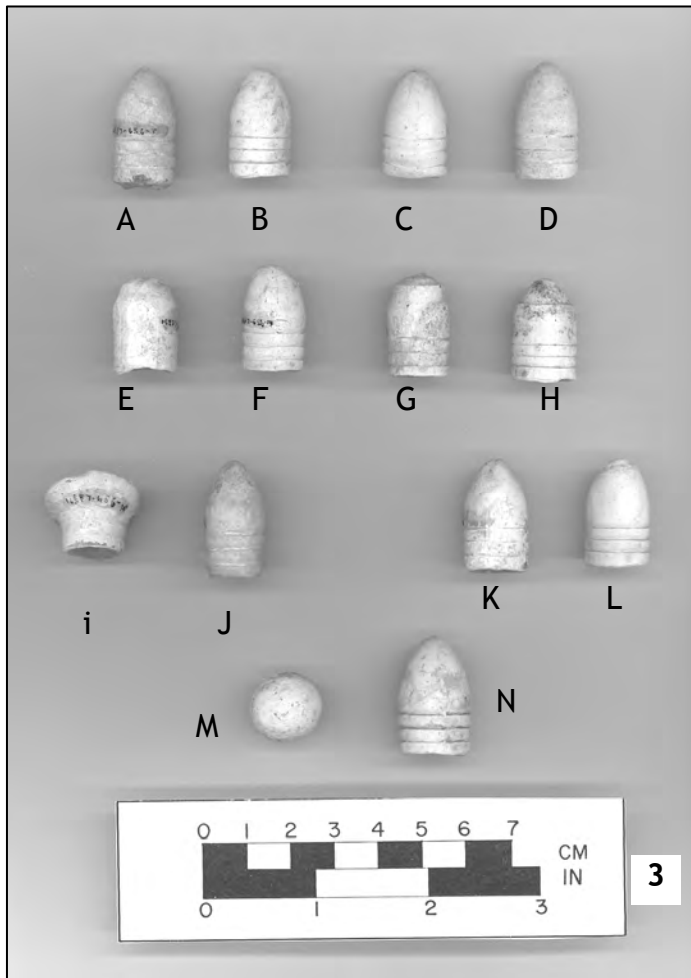
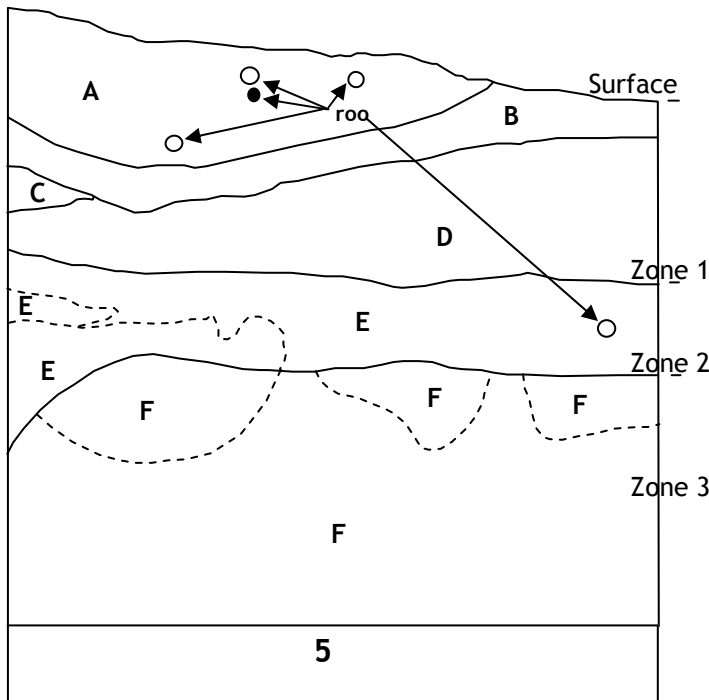


Figure 3. Bullets recovered from Port Hudson Battlefield (16EF7), Commissary Hill-Treefall 12.

Figure 4. Two views of an artillery shell fuse recovered from Treefall 12 at Commissary Hill, Port Hudson Battlefield (16EF7).

Figure 5. Profile of Fort Desperate at Treefall 1, Port Hudson Battlefield (16EF7).



Black Louisiana Troops Charging Confederate position on May 27, 1863 at Port Hudson

Replica of the Great Mound at the Troyville Site Under (Re)Construction

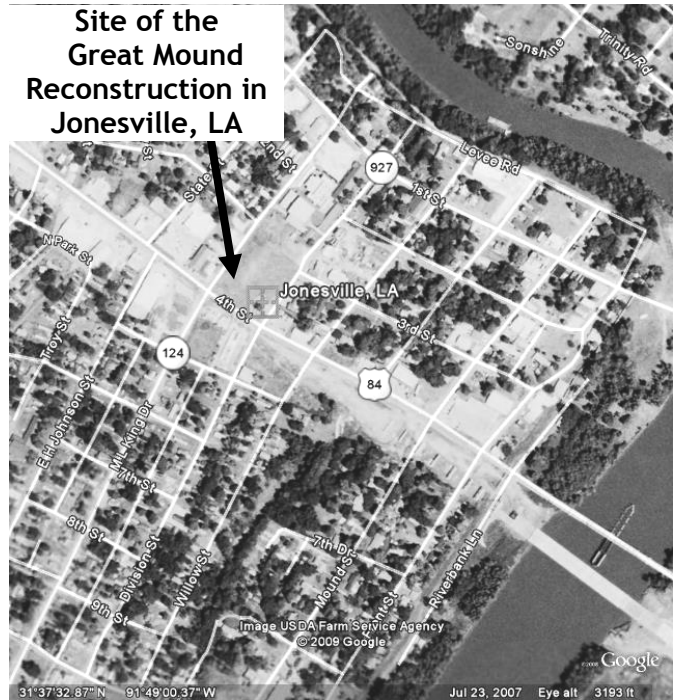
By Joe Saunders, Northeast Regional Archaeologist
University of Louisiana-Monroe

On November 5th, the Louisiana National Guard began construction of a replica of the Great Mound of Troyville. The plan is to build a fifty per cent scale model of Stage 1 (90 x 90 feet at the base and 15 feet tall) in Jonesville, using the original mound fill from the Great Mound. The reconstruction has been a goal of Jonesville resident Bill Atkins for decades. With the assistance of the Louisiana National Guard, the proper expertise and heavy equipment has been shaping the foundation of the mound under the direction of MSG Chris Maxwell and the supervision of SFC Michael LaCour; and heavy equipment operators NCOIC (Non Commissioned Officer in Charge) SSG Jerry Caylor, SSG Bracy Wilson, SGT Brian Lingefelt, SGT Michael Collins, SPC Brandon Jerry, SPC Thomas Kendrick, SPC Candie Reed. Equipment included two D7 Dozers, one Scoop Loader, and two Compactors.

Because of excessive rain a week before the construction began, the mound fill was saturated, so progress was slower than anticipated. Nevertheless, two weekends of work completed approximately 35% of Stage 1 (ca. 5+ feet in height). The National Guard will continue work on the replica in January and February. Atkins said that work will complete the first step of reconstruction with a 90' X 90' square, rising at 42 degrees to a height of 15 feet. The crews were very pleasant to work with. Their interest in the project is sincere and we would like to thank each one of them for their participation.



The Great Mound of the Troyville site rises again in Jonesville, LA



Site of the Great Mound Reconstruction in Jonesville, LA



Bulldozers instead of basket loaders build this version of the Great Mound.



National Guardsmen enjoy themselves while building the new Great Mound at the Troyville site in Jonesville, LA

Poverty Point Update

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

Screen-A-Thon 2009

Poverty Point State Historic Site (SHS) hosted this year's Archaeology Month screening marathon (photos next page) over the weekend of 16-18 October 2009. Despite the unseasonably chilly weather, we had 15 hardy volunteers (Douglas Arp; Linda Berhard-Potter; Linda Gladney; Jack and Grant Libby; Jerod Mason; Pam Melder; Barry Moore; Stacie Palmer; Joe Perkins; Shane, Leslie and Calvin Praetorius; Victoria Rogers; and Noreen Sellars) and 7 visitors turn out for the event. Our goal was to screen continuously for 50 hours, but it became so cold Sunday morning that we were forced to take a break. We did screen for a total of 44.5 hours over the weekend, however, and we recovered 242 lbs. of artifacts and other materials in the screens. Barry Moore won the 2nd annual Screen-A-Thon atlatl/spear-throwing contest. There is enough dirt for a third Screen-A-Thon, so watch upcoming LAS newsletters for an announcement.

World Heritage Nomination Update

For those of you who are wondering where things stand with regards to our efforts to get Poverty Point SHS inscribed on the World Heritage List, the process continues. A working committee has been created to collaborate on the lengthy and detailed nomination required by the World Heritage Commission. The committee consists of representatives of the Office of Cultural Development (State Archaeologist Chip McGimsey, Archaeologist Manager Nancy Hawkins, Deputy Assistant Secretary Phil Boggan and State Historic Preservation Officer Scott Hutcheson), representatives of the Office of State Parks (Assistant Secretary Stuart Johnson, Chief of Interpretive Services Ray Berthelot, Deputy Assistant Secretary Dianne Mouton-Allen, Chief of Resources Cliff Melius, Poverty Point Site Manager Dennis LaBatt and Poverty Point Site Manager David Griffing) and me. Although we have set for ourselves a target deadline of March 2011 for completing the nomination, the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior will determine if and when the nomination will be submitted; we hope to learn more about that process in a conference call this coming February.

Obsidian at Poverty Point – Preliminary Results

Recent presentations and publications (e.g., Anderson et al. 2007; White and Weinstein 2008) have called attention to fragments of obsidian found in 1988 at Poverty Point SHS. Jon Gibson described the artifact as having come from the ground surface along the eastern edge of Maçon Ridge in the area of Ridge 5 North (White and Weinstein 2008:235). The obsidian fragment has been suggested to have come from Wyoming (Gibson 2000:173, 270). No other exotic raw materials at Poverty Point are known to have come from a source as far west. A second piece of obsidian, a small bifacially-flaked fragment, was discovered last winter at Poverty Point while sorting debris recovered during the maintenance building project (see *LAS Newsletter* 36[2]:17). Unfortunately, the context of the second fragment is not securely prehistoric. It was recovered in a sample from a backdirt pile created by a subcontractor who scraped the ground surface prior to construction. In this area, north of Harlin Bayou, the frequency of artifacts is much reduced when compared with areas farther south; thus, it was surprising, from a sampling perspective, to recover such a rare artifact in an area of relatively low artifact density.

Flintknappers have been and continue to be active at the Park. They most frequently work with chert, but they have also knapped obsidian. The possibility that one or both pieces of obsidian is/are debris from modern knappers is a very real one that needs to be addressed. We can do that by comparing the elemental composition of the recovered fragments to see if they are from the same geological sources as the knappers' material and by examining the thickness of their hydration rinds to see if they are equal (= recent) or thicker (= older) than the knappers' sample.

Richard Hughes of Geochemical Research Laboratory used energy dispersive x-ray fluorescence to measure the elemental composition of the Gibson fragment, the new maintenance building fragment and a sample of obsidian used by Park knappers. He concluded that the Gibson and maintenance building fragments represent the same geochemical source, and that source differs clearly from the knappers' sample (Glass Buttes, OR). Furthermore, the composition of the fragments does not match any known obsidian samples from western North America, Mexico or Mesoamerica.

Poverty Point Update (continued)

Since those analyses were completed, two more small obsidian flakes were discovered in screened debris from the maintenance building project. Given the level of historic activity in the area, the near-surface context was not securely prehistoric. The two flakes have been sent to Hughes for elemental analysis. Those results are forthcoming. Once we know how they compare compositionally to the previously analyzed samples, some or all of the obsidian fragments and the knappers' sample may be submitted for obsidian hydration analysis to establish their relative ages.

It is worth noting that three of the four obsidian fragments were recovered using 1/8" screens. For most of the excavation history at the site, 1/4" or larger mesh sizes were the standard. Under the current 1/8" screening standard, more obsidian may be recovered in the future, providing more opportunities to evaluate the source and/or use of this rare raw material at Poverty Point SHS.

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2000 *The Ancient Mounds of Poverty Point: Place of Rings*. University Press of Florida, Gainesville.
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2008 The Mexican connection and the far west of the U.S. Southeast. *American Antiquity* 73:227-277.



The 2009 Poverty Point Screen-a-thoners!! (All names left to right)

1) Stacie Palmer; 2) Pam Melder and Linda Bernhard-Potter; 3) Leslie Praetorius, Alisha Wright, Calvin Praetorius, Shane Praetorius, Jerod Mason and Linda Gladney; 4) Victoria Rogers, Noreen Sellars and Grant Libby; 5) Barry Moore, Linda Gladney and Joe Perkins; 6) Barry Moore receiving the award for the 2nd Annual Screen-A-Thon atlatl/spear-throwing contest from Diana Greenlee.



16OR533: Archaeological Excavation in the Historic Tremé

By Andrea White, Greater New Orleans Archaeology Program (GNOAP), University of New Orleans

In September of 2009, the GNOAP shovel tested two lots in the historic Tremé neighborhood of New Orleans, just off Bayou Road. Investigations at were spurred by the owner, the Christian Fellowship Spiritual Church. They were aware of the potential significance of the property and were amenable to archaeological testing to determine if any intact subsurface strata could be documented at the site. Eventually, they plan to build a church on the property and wanted to test the lot prior to construction. Students from Tulane TIDES program volunteered their time to the project as part of their community service learning hours. Additional volunteers from UNO, the Christian Fellowship Spiritual Church, and the GNOAP contributed to the success of the project.

Bayou Road was a major highway that connected the Vieux Carré (French Quarter) to Bayou St. John. Land grants during the colonial period were issued along this important thoroughfare. The Pontalba family, who owned the track where the site is located, donated it to the city for charitable reasons to construct a leprosy hospital known as St. Lazarus Hospital. The hospital was open until 1805. The hospital was abandoned and became a refuge for Native Americans according to court documents. This section of town was finally subdivided in 1836. It is unclear when the lots were sold and developed. It is believed it did not occur until after the Civil War based on notarial records. By the 1880s, 2 residential structures are illustrated on historic maps of the area. Eventually the 2 homes were torn down between 1990 and 2004.

Archaeological testing consisted of the excavation of six shovel tests in order to examine the subsurface strata at the site. A total of 1,479 artifacts were recovered and reflect a late nineteenth- and twentieth-century domestic occupation. Numerous children's artifacts were observed including tea set dishes, marbles, and doll parts. Unfortunately, only scant colonial and antebellum period artifacts were uncovered, including 2 faience sherds and 1 piece of pearlware. Finally a privy feature was encountered, filled with a thick deposit of charcoal. The charcoal was likely a sanitation fill placed in the privy after the installation of a water closet. However, due to the presence of intact archaeological deposits and a possible privy feature on the property, the site has the potential to contribute to our understanding of late 19th century New Orleans and the residents of the Tremé neighborhood.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

TRIBUNE



Examples of marbles from the from shovel tests.



Tulane student volunteers.

Archaeological Evaluation of Hurricane Damaged Areas at Marksville (16AV1)

By David T. Palmer, Southwest Regional Archaeologist, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Hurricane Gustav struck Louisiana and moved northwest through the state on September 1, 2008. Fifteen trees at Marksville State Historic Site (SHS) were knocked down from the stump up, exposing subsurface areas of the site along with the rootballs of the trees. The extent and depth of the ground exposed varied with each of the fifteen trees downed at the root level. With the assistance of Marksville SHS staff and volunteers from the Division of Archaeology, I labeled, photographed and mapped in the downed trees. To avoid potential confusion with treefalls from past years (n=5) (McGimsey 1998:15-22; McGimsey 2005:17-28), I labeled the downed trees with the name of the hurricane, the year, and the number in which they were recorded (e.g. Gustav-08-01, abbreviated G-08-01, with the number 12 accidentally omitted) (Figure 1)

Treefall areas of archaeological concern were located in a rough band from the northwest side of Mound 2, clockwise north and east to the east side of Mound 5, and south and west towards Mound 3, and then, to the earthen embankment where it is south of Mound 2. The trunks of the downed trees were splayed in a pattern suggestive of a tornado.

Previous Treefall Evaluations at Marksville

Chip McGimsey excavated a treefall on the north face of Mound 6 in 1998, of 2.05-x-1.50 meters in size. Prehistoric artifacts recovered included 12 flakes made from local chert, two small chert pebbles with retouched areas, and ten small, plain potsherds (McGimsey 1998:19). Flotation of soil recovered from the excavation produced another three chert flakes and charcoal from wood, nutshell, and a monocot (likely cane) (McGimsey 1998:19). Stratigraphy encountered in the excavation may be evidence of at least two mound construction strata (McGimsey 1998:22). Radiocarbon analysis, while not providing a precise age of mound construction, is evidence that it was built after ca. 2065 BP (McGimsey 1998:19, 22). In 2004, McGimsey excavated a sample of two treefalls out of four that resulted from storms. Approximately five square meters were examined in McGimsey's work. Excavation of ca. four square meters recovered a total of 301 flakes, five stone tools, 279 sherds, and three projectile points, as well as evidence of an unknown prior excavation (McGimsey 2005:28). The findings from Square 19 support the pattern found by WPA trench excavations, of lower artifact density on the southern and western sides of Mound 2 relative to the eastern side of that mound (McGimsey 2005:28).

Archaeological Evaluation of 2008 Treefalls

Archaeological management of the uprooted areas in 2008 included mapping, photography, collecting exposed artifacts, and limited excavations to obtain a sample from undisturbed deposits. Work was conducted under the terms of the annual Limited Cultural Resources Investigation Permit issued by the Division of Archaeology to the program, and all artifacts and associated records are curated with the Division of Archaeology.

Three uprooted areas were chosen for limited excavation based upon their potential to provide information relevant to questions about intra-site use of space, mound building, and culture history that will enhance our knowledge of the site and our ability to interpret it for the public. Of these three, Treefall G-08-07 was the most informative.

Marksville SHS and Division of Archaeology staff and volunteers from UL Lafayette, LSU, and the Louisiana Archaeological Society worked with me on the excavations. Artifacts and soil samples were collected. Artifacts were processed at UL Lafayette and during two "wash-a-thon" events at Marksville SHS with the help of volunteers from the community, SHS staff, the Division of Archaeology, and the Tioga High School Archaeology Club (cheerfully led by Nancy Affeltranger).

Treefall G-08-07 was ca. 10 meters southeast of G-08-06, and closer to the bluff. A semi-circular area of ca. seven square meters was exposed by the uprooted tree. As was the case with the excavation of other treefalls, we initially cleared the loose, upper disturbed deposits of soil from the exposed area, and then established a smaller sample unit for excavation, in this case measuring 50-x-423 cm, with the short axis oriented ca. 35 degrees east of magnetic north.

The upper ca. 10 cm was excavated as one unit, but after this level, the unit was excavated as eastern and western halves for better spatial control. In excavating the upper ca. 20 cm of the eastern portion of the unit, we found a mixed fill soil (stratum 2), similar to that encountered in the upper layer of other tree falls, except containing many more prehistoric artifacts. Below this we found a buried A horizon (stratum 3) of brown and dark gray very fine silt loam soil, with some mottles of yellowish-brown soil. This was a richly organic midden deposit, containing an abundance of plain and decorated sherds and stone artifacts, and extending to a depth of ca. 55-65 cmbd. Below this was the B horizon (stratum 5), of brownish-yellow color and with naturally occurring manganese nodules. We only saw the E horizon in a few places in the excavation (stratum 4), where it was visible as a gradual transition from the darker brown of the A horizon midden to a pale brown color. Stratigraphy of the western half of the unit was similar, except that the disturbed upper layer was generally not as thick.

Marksville Treefalls (continued from previous page)

The unit for G-08-07 had a high density of artifacts, with more than 4,000 recovered. These included many sherds, with Marksville types the most abundant of the 233 decorated. Other artifacts included four Gary, two Kent, and one undiagnostic point fragment, flakes, cores, a few calcined animal bone fragments, and a stone bead preform. The majority of the lithics were made of local gravel cherts.

Decorated ceramics were mainly Marksville Incised and Marksville Stamped types, but also included *Troyville Stamped* types as well as red painted, cord marked, and fabric impressed types. Four of the decorated ceramic types found in this unit have not previously been reported from Marksville. These are Cormorant Cord Impressed, Larto Red, Pontchartrain Check Stamped, and Withers Fabric Marked. The varieties could not be determined for these sherds. There were also sherds of three varieties that had not previously been reported from this site: Mulberry Creek Cord Marked *v. Porter Bayou*, Mulberry Creek *v. Smith Creek*, and Troyville Stamped *v. Poindexter*. It must be noted, however, that ceramics were not collected systematically from excavations in the 1930s (McGimsey et al. 1999:84). Decorated ceramics from this unit range from Early Marksville to Late Baytown/Early Coles Creek (ca. 50 BC-750 AD), with some of the early types recovered in the first two excavation levels along with later types.

A stone bead preform recovered is of particular interest because it is the first known from the Marksville site, and is evidence of local manufacture of stone beads. UL Lafayette Geology Professors Duex, Lock, and Richter examined the artifact and identified the stone, which has tan, gray, pink, and green coloration, as a meta-igneous stone whose parent material was diorite. The speckling of colors in the stone is due to pink garnet, white feldspar, and green amphibole materials. Possible sources for this material, according to Professor Duex, are the gravel quarry near Alexandria (a result of river deposition), the St. Francis Mountains of Missouri, Arkansas, or the Canadian Shield. The preform weighs 9.7 grams, and has the following dimensions: length of 25 mm, center width of 16 mm (widest), end dimensions of 10-x-8 mm. One end is partly drilled, with a drilled diameter of 4 mm.

Excavation in this area further confirmed that this area of the site has a high density of artifacts. Another finding was the stone bead preform, indicative of stone bead production at or near the site, and the first reported for Marksville. There were also four previously unreported ceramic types (Cormorant Cord Impressed, Larto Red, Pontchartrain Check Stamped, and Withers Fabric Marked), and three previously unreported ceramic varieties (Mulberry Creek Cord Marked *v. Porter Bayou*, Mulberry Creek *v. Smith Creek*, and Troyville Stamped *v. Poindexter*) found in excavation, useful data for the culture history of the site and the Marksville Period.

Discussion

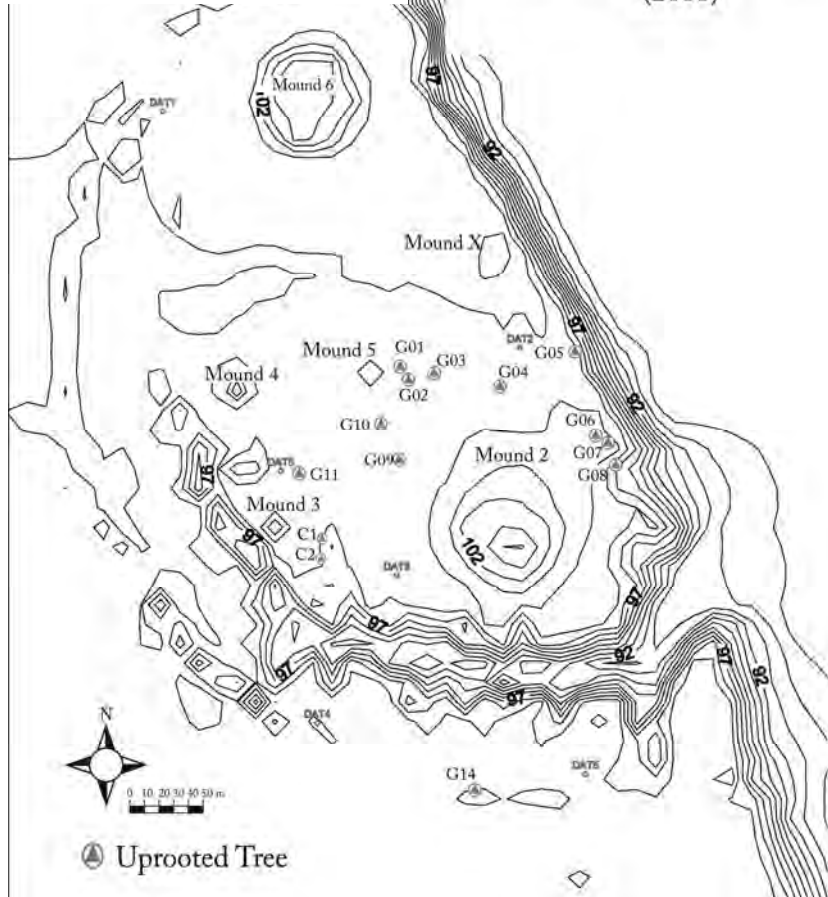
Hurricanes and other severe weather are a fact of life in South Louisiana. The response to the hurricane damage at the Marksville site was primarily one of management, but included a research component. Through consultation with the Division of Archaeology and the Office of State Parks, including the Marksville State Historic Site management, we were able to agree upon a plan for the removal of fallen trees and associated debris that avoided further damage to the site. With the assistance of OSP and Division of Archaeology staff, and volunteers from UL Lafayette, LSU, and the LAS, I was able to document the damage and its impacts upon archaeologically sensitive areas of the site, and to excavate a sample of surfaces exposed by the uprooted trees.

New information about the site was recovered in the course of this project: evidence of the production of stone beads at Marksville, and ceramic types and varieties not previously reported from this site. This new information is relevant to our understanding of the culture history of the site and region in this period, and the bead, in particular, is exciting because it is evidence of a previously undocumented activity at the site. This new information, along with the more corroborating data from the project, will also enable us to better interpret the site to the public.

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1999 *Marksville (16AV1), Lake Anacoco, and the Chenier Plain: Explorations of Southwest Louisiana Prehistory*. Regional Archaeological Program Management Unit III Annual Report. On file at the Division of Archaeology, Baton Rouge.
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2005 *Marksville Then and Now: 75 Years of Digging*. *Louisiana Archaeology* 26:75-98.

David Palmer's description of the salvage archaeology done at the Marksville site in the wake of Hurricane Gustav is presented much more comprehensively in his annual report than here in this brief article.
-Editor



View of treefall G 14 before excavation. Dennis Jones and Cheraki Williams of the Division's staff are dwarfed by the rootball.



Stone bead preform recovered from excavation of treefall G 07 at the Marksville site (16AV1).



Plan view of the excavation of treefall G 06 near the edge of the terrace overlooking Old River at the Marksville site (16AV1)

Louisiana Archaeological Society Executive Committee

Golden Corral Restaurant, Pineville, Louisiana,
Saturday, July 25, 2009

Attendees: Rachel Watson, George Riser, Dennis Jones, Chip McGimsey, Velicia Bergstrom, Jim Fogelman, Agnes Fogelman, Recca B. Jones, Junior Doughty, Ellen Ibert, Mark Dupuy, Jr., and Johnny Guy.

Meeting called to order 12:18 pm.

Minutes: Dennis Jones made a motion to approve the minutes and Junior Doughty seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports

President: Velicia Bergstrom indicated that the casino wanted \$169 a night for the joint LAS/MAA meeting so that we need to explore a new location for the meeting. Velicia wanted to acknowledge George Riser for all of his work on the joint LAS/MAA meeting in Natchez.

Vice President: Johnny Guy reported that Ellen Ibert had been in contact with a possible speaker for the next joint 2010 LAS/MAA meeting.

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: Jim Fogelman has taken over as Treasurer. Account balance \$10,992.91. Membership count is at 208.

Webmaster: Junior Doughty reported that the website averages 82 hits per day. We still have plenty of spare bandwidth for future growth. Officers need to submit biographical information for the website. PayPal is generating a lot of spam for a system that is not currently operating. We need to activate the PayPal system ASAP.

Newsletter Editor & Bulletin Editor: Dennis Jones reported the fall newsletter would focus on Archaeology Month. Chip McGimsey and Dennis Jones are working on a list of possible publications that would take very little work to publish for the bulletin. Most of these would be Master's theses. Still need to contact the regional archaeologist about submissions. Denis has set an FTP site for article submission.

Chapter Reports

Baton Rouge Chapter: Chapter meets last Wednesday of every month. Chapter currently has \$500. Next speaker will be Jenny Listi, LSU, concerning her research in bio-archaeology on some Coles Creek period human remains.

Northeast Chapter: Recca Jones reported that the chapter was struggling. They still met on the 3rd Thursday of every month. The chapter is planning to re-organize as soon as possible.

West Louisiana Chapter: Johnny Guy reported that the chapter is helping Jeff Girard survey Lake Vernon, which has been drained. They have identified nine new prehistoric sites and two new historic sites. They plan another survey in August. There is a problem with exposed sites being looted. Chapter still meets on the third Thursday of every month.

Old Business

No old business to report.

New Business

The 2010 Joint LAS/MAA meeting location will be moved from Marksville to Monroe. Unfortunately, we could not get hotel space in Marksville at an affordable rate.

LAS could host Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy on the same server host as soon as LAC can buy a domain name.

There was a discussion concerning the keynote speaker for the 2010 Joint LAS/MAA meeting. Ellen Ibert had contacted Dr. Herman Ronnenberg. Dr. Ronnenberg's research focuses on brewery development. Several members of the executive committee felt that the MAA membership would have more interest in a speaker with knowledge of prehistoric archaeology. Velicia Bergstrom suggested that for 2011 LAS Annual Meeting we invite a keynote speaker with a background in historic archaeology.

Motions

George Riser made a motion for Rachel Watson to contact several prehistoric archaeologists for the next joint LAS/MAA meeting. Dennis Jones seconded the motion. Nine votes in favor, one vote against, and one attendee had left by that time. Junior Doughty made a motion to host LAC on LAS's website at no cost. John Guy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Ellen Ibert made a motion to reimburse Dennis Jones for the cost of the FTP site. John Guy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. John Guy made a motion to adjourn at 2:20 pm and Velicia Bergstrom seconded. Motion passed

The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission

Tuesday, September 8, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in the Capitol Annex Building, 1051 North Third Street, Conference Room 238A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Members Present: Mr. Gregory DuCote, Dr. Heather McKillop, Dr. Mark Rees, Dr. George Riser, Dr. Nina Muller-Schwarze, Dr. Chip McGimsey and LTC Michael Tarpley

Members Absent: Mr. Scott Hutcheson, Mr. Mark Ford, Dr. Jack Irion, Mr. Stanley Nelson

Others Present: Ms. Jill Andrew, Ms. Kellye French, Ms. Nancy Hawkins, Dr. Rob Mann, Dr. David Palmer, Ms. Stacie Palmer, Mr. Duke Rivet, Ms. Sherry Wagener, Ms. Cheraki Williams, Ms. Rachel Watson, Ms. Jennifer Gardiner, Dr. Brooks Ellwood, Mr. Brian Hess, Ms. Andrea White, Mr. Roger Corley, Mr. Mike Varnado

Welcome & Introductions

Dr. Heather McKillop called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Scott Hutcheson, Mr. Mark Ford, Dr. Jack Irion, and Mr. Stanley Nelson were unable to attend the meeting.

Dr. Heather McKillop made several welcoming announcements. She thanked everyone who contacted the Legislature regarding efforts to keep the Commission in existence by removing it from a legislative proposal to eliminate selected Boards and Commissions. Dr. McKillop suggested providing a yearly report to the Legislature on Commission activities; this could include press releases and contacts concerning Regional reports and other appropriate news

Duke Rivet noted that the Commission was not currently listed on the State's online list of active Boards and Commissions.

Dr. McKillop noted the recent attention to the Greenwell Springs Road cemetery and the activities of Ryan Seidemann of the Attorney General's office. It was clarified that the cemetery was on Brookstown Road in Baton Rouge.

Dr. McKillop noted that Southeast Regional archaeologist Dr. Rob Mann has been appointed assistant professor (research) in the LSU Department of Geography and Anthropology.

All of the people in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliation. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the Commission Meeting held 12/9/2008.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Dr. George Riser and seconded by Mr. Gregory DuCote, to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2009, Antiquities Commission Meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.*

Old Business

Permit updates

Ms. Sherry Wagner summarized the status of the permits approved by the Commission at previous Commission meetings:

Dr. Greenlee's project at Poverty Point with the combined UL-Monroe and Mississippi State University field schools will be reported by Dr. Greenlee at the next Commission meeting.

The permit for Dr. Rinita Dalan and Dr. Mike Hargrave was renewed and they have submitted a management summary. They did GPR on 1.3 ha on south side of road and found evidence of southern aisle and a new circle.

The Los Adaes permit: a brief summary of the project prepared by the national Park Service was received but has not been reviewed. Dr. Michael Hargrave will be requesting an additional permit to do some limited ground truthing test excavations at a later date.

The permit for ground-penetrating radar survey at Mansfield State Historic Site is awaiting approval of the research design from the American Battlefields Commission. No new information has been received for this proposal.

Dr. Rob Mann was granted a permit for work at Port Hudson, searching for a Union sap trench, as part of an LSU student MA thesis. Dr. Mann stated that they have begun the fieldwork but no results yet.

At the Marksville State Historic Site, a draft report on the ground-penetrating radar project has been received, but not yet reviewed. The permit for Port Hudson will be discussed later in this meeting during the presentation by Dr. Rob Mann.

A permit extension was granted to Andrea White for the permit for excavations at the U.S. Mint in New Orleans to allow analysis of the recovered faunal remains to be included in the final report.

Dr. McKillop repeated her desire that updates on permits be continued to be provided to the Commission. Dr. Mark Rees asked about the status of the permit for excavations at Poverty Point by Dr. TR Kidder and Dr. Ortmann; no new information is available.

There was discussion that a bibliography of reports filed at the Division of Archaeology is now available online through the Division's website.

There was discussion of whether or not press information was made available for permitted projects. There was press coverage of the field school at Poverty Point but not for any of the other projects. Dr. McKillop suggested that any press releases be forwarded to the appropriate legislator's to let them know what is happening in their region. Dr. Riser supported this suggestion.

Dr. McKillop asked who receives permit requests and to whom do the reports go? In both cases, the answer is the State Archaeologist. She also asked who signs the permits. The State Archaeologist signs the permit once the Commission has approved it.

Port Hudson revised permit request

Dr. Rob Mann asked the Commission for a revised permit concerning his project at Port Hudson State Historic Site. His original permit asked for a permit to find the Union siege trench near Fort Desperate; initial fieldwork efforts did not yield any evidence of the trench. The goal is still to look for the siege trench but to approach the problem from a different perspective

LASAC minutes continued

A revised approach to locating the trench and providing additional information about the battlefield is proposed. The research effort will shift to the Union Battery 8, where the siege trench is known to have begun, in an effort to locate the head of the trench. The project will also collect information on the construction and use of a battlefield magazine. The ultimate goal will be developing a GIS-based dataset of battlefield features that will allow greater precision and documentation of the battlefield and its placement in the State Historic Site.

Dr. McKillop asked what the landscape and vegetation in the project area is like. Dr. Mann replied it is wooded and the Park will assist in clearing the excavation area. Mr. Tarpley asked about the surface visibility of the siege trench and noted that the LIDAR data and old aerial photographs might show subtle terrain topography that would indicate where the trench was located. Dr. Mann indicated that Paul Heinrich of the Louisiana Geological Survey had suggested that same idea and the park staff also had looked at old aerial photos in addition to having infra-red aerial photos taken of the park in a similar effort.

Dr. Mark Rees asked when the project would be done and whether any effort to inform the press would be undertaken. Dr. Mann indicated that the fieldwork would be undertaken very soon, and that they were working with the State Historic Site concerning publicity.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Dr. Mark Rees and seconded by Dr. Chip McGimsey to approve the permit request. The motion carried unanimously.*

Report on LSU Campus Mounds project

Dr. Brooks Ellwood provided a summary of his research at the site. They did identify a possible hearth about 1.6 m below surface and obtained a radiocarbon date of about 4,000 BC. They did GPR survey across the mounds using two different frequencies; the data was attenuated but did pick up slump scars on the shallow subsurface. They also ran a magnetometer survey across both mounds. A number of anomalies were identified in each mound; Mound A had a large anomaly near the western apex of the mound while Mound B had fewer areas of interest. As a result of these finds, Dr. Mann used his regular state permit to take a core through each mound. Electrical resistivity survey was also undertaken on each mound; the results indicate that each mound has a very different structure. The data showed an anomaly in the same place as the magnetometer data did in Mound A; Dr. Ellwood suggested this anomaly represents an area of fired earth.

Dr. McKillop spoke about the problems caused by slumping and bike riding up and down the mounds. Dr. Mann indicated that LSU has protected the mounds at time by putting up hurricane fencing during football games, but there is no protection at other times. Dr. McGimsey indicated that protection is ultimately the responsibility of the landowner and the division or the Commission could write a letter to LSU asking them to increase protection. It was noted that Dr.

Rebecca Saunders has a long relationship with LSU and could work with the University to provide greater protection. Dr. Muller-Schwarze asked whether the mounds could be affiliated with a specific Tribe but that is not possible with archaeological data. She also suggested including the Tribes in discussion of plans for protecting the mounds. Ms. Rachel Watson noted that the LSU Ambassadors lists sliding down the LSU Mounds as their Number 1 activity while visiting the campus.

New Business

Update-Southeastern Regional Archaeologist

Dr. Rob Mann gave an update on his activities over the last year. It was a very busy year, with Hurricane Gustav having just hit last year. State Parks had a number of properties with extensive downed trees. Port Hudson was hit particularly hard.

A survey of Lake Verret was undertaken with the assistance of Ginger Rushing, a tour boat operator on the lake. A number of sites were revisited and updated. At 16AS6, an earthen mound originally reported at the site in 1913 but not relocated until this visit.

Dr. Mann reported on coring of 3 mounds, including Richland Mound (16WF83). With the assistance of a Boy Scout, Dr. David Palmer and Dr. Chip McGimsey, a core was placed through the mound. The Holloway Mound (16TA32) was also cored in Tangipahoa Parish.

Dr. Mann undertook a small project at Fontainebleau State park following discovery of a small feature during FEMA monitoring of debris cleanup after the hurricane. It is probably not a feature but a depression in the surface midden that once existed in this location. Dr. Mann with assistance from volunteers from the Division of Archaeology was able to excavate the remainder of the feature and remove all the sediment for water screening. Material for a radiocarbon date was obtained, and the sample returned an age of 640-560 BP.

Dr. Mann continued with his investigation of Galveztown, the Isleno's village and fort dating to the late 1700s. This project was undertaken as an LSU Leisure Studies class that ran for six Saturdays.

Other projects Dr. Mann was involved in included a visit to the Toncrey Mounds with Dennis Jones and Rachel Watson. The site is rapidly subsiding and its associated shell midden is rapidly eroding away. Dr. Saunders and Dr. Mann are considering a project at the site later this year to map the mounds and obtain limited artifact samples.

Ms. Nancy Hawkins briefly announced the 2009 Archaeology Month, the second year it has been a month-long event. Posters and schedules were made available to all members, as well as noting the schedule is available online to the general public.

LASAC minutes (continued)**Other Business**

Dr. McGimsey announced that Duke Rivet is retiring from the Division of Archaeology in November 2009; thus this is the last Commission meeting that he will attend in an official capacity.

The election of officers is required by the Bylaws at the fall meeting of the Commission. Mr. Mike Tarpley nominated Dr. Heather McKillop to continue as Chair of the Commission, seconded by Mr. George Riser. Her nomination was approved unanimously. Mr. Greg DuCote nominated Mr. George Riser to continue as Vice-chair of the Commission, seconded by Mr. Mike Tarpley. This nomination was approved unanimously.

Ms. Rachel Watson announced that the annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society and the Mississippi Archaeological Association will be held March 5-7, 2010, at the Garden Hilton Hotel in West Monroe, Louisiana. She invited students to submit papers for presentation.

Mr. Greg DuCote announced that at the recent legislative session, Senate Resolution 60 called for scientific study of the present Coastal Zone Boundary to determine if it needed to be modified for any reason. The Department of Natural Resources is gathering data and information that would help define the coastal zone, including cultural resources. There was discussion of possible datasets that could inform on this issue, and of coordination with the Mineral Management Service.

Motion: Dr. George Riser moved that the Commission meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Mr. Greg DuCote. The Motion passed unanimously.



Drs. Heather McKillop (L), current chairperson of the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission and Chip McGimsey (R), Louisiana State Archaeologist present Mr. Marc Dupuy of Marksville, LA with a certificate of recognition from Gov. Bobby Jindal that recognizes Marc's long time service with the Commission. This presentation took place on December 8, 2009 during the most recent Commission meeting. Mr. James A. Fogelman, of Morrow, LA also received a similar certificate for his service with the Commission. He was unable to attend the presentation.

2010 LAS/MAA Annual Meeting

Joint Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) and Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA) annual meeting, March 5-7, 2010 at the Hilton Garden Inn, West Monroe, LA. Registration and hotel information is available in this newsletter on pages 2-4. More details and updates are available at the LAS website: laarchaeology.org. Hotel contact information is at www.westmonroe.hgi.com.

Check out the website of the **National Center for Preservation Technology and Training** headquartered in Natchitoches, LA. @ www.ncptt.nps.gov/. The site currently contains the Annual Report for 2009, along with YouTube videos showing the NPS workshop at Los Adaes in the summer of 2009. There are also many other informative features and links.

THE 52ND CADDO CONFERENCE AND 17TH EAST TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

March 18-20, 2010, in Tyler, Texas, on the University of Texas at Tyler campus, Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd.

The first Caddo conference was held in 1946 on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. Now more than 60 years later, the Caddo conference is still going strong, and the 2010 Caddo conference will be the 52nd meeting. The Caddo Conference is an informal organization of archeologists (both professional and avocational), Caddo Indian peoples, historians, ethnohistorians, and others, that come together once a year (and rotating the meeting year to year between Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas) to learn more about current research on the native history and culture of the Caddo.

From its modest beginning in 1993, the East Texas Archeological Conference (ETAC) has become a well-attended regional archeological conference. At each conference, the current results of archeological, ethnohistorical, and historical research projects conducted by professional and avocational archaeologists in the general East Texas region are presented to an interested public. **WEBSITE:** <http://www.52ndcaddo-17thetac.com/>

TULANE MAYA SYMPOSIUM: GREAT RIVER CITIES OF THE ANCIENT MAYA

February 26-28, 2010, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

The ancient lowland Maya civilization of Mexico and Central America is often celebrated for its achievements in an environment unique for its lack of rivers, unlike that of the ancient Egyptian, Sumerian, Indus, and Chinese civilizations. Nevertheless many major lowland Maya cities were indeed located along important rivers such as the Usumacinta, Pasión, Belize, Motagua, among others. These "River Cities" provided the rest of the Maya lowlands access to the resource-rich highlands to the south, as well as contact with to both the Caribbean and Gulf coasts. Moreover, they facilitated the movement of peoples throughout the region, allowed for critical movement and trading of exotic goods, and gave rise to innovative artistic and architectural styles. For these reasons, this conference will focus on how and why the great river cities of the ancient lowland Maya represent some of the most intriguing, opulent, and important segments of this civilization. For scheduling details, registration and any other information go to our website: www.tulane.edu/~mari/MayaSymposium2010.htm or contact mari@tulane.edu

Between Colony and State: Louisiana in the Territorial Period, 1803-1812

Exhibit at the Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal St., New Orleans, LA.

September 30, 2009- May 2, 2010.

On December 20, 1803, the largest real estate transaction in U.S. history was fulfilled with the official transfer of the Louisiana Purchase territory from France to the United States. The date marked the beginning of a turbulent period in Louisiana history, complete with political disputes and culture clashes. The exhibition *Between Colony & State: Louisiana in the Territorial Period, 1803-1812*, and its companion online component, examines the people, places, and events that shaped this fascinating period, which culminated in Louisiana's admission to the Union as the 18th state. Highlights of the exhibition include manuscript maps, newspapers from the period, artists' depictions of contemporary life, and a short film by Walter Williams. To learn more visit online at: www.hnoc.org.

LAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL

Regular Membership	Annually \$20.00
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Back Issues of LAS Special Publications:

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

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

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

LAS Web Site

www.laarchaeology.org

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