



# Louisiana Archaeological Society

## NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 27, No. 2

Fall 2000

### FROM THE EDITOR

First, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. Once again, I've gotten a great response from the society in submissions of all kinds.

As usual, the minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting are presented. Carl Kuttruff's President's Statement expands upon some of the topics discussed at the meeting and is a significant contribution to this issue. I strongly urge everyone to read it and consider the importance that the Louisiana Archaeological Society plays in this state and the *power we have to effect change* in numerous aspects of Louisiana's cultural climate.

This issue also includes some very interesting articles. Robert Connolly's submission is an article covering recent research at Poverty Point. Two articles were submitted by Chip McGimsey — one on two possible Native American pirogues in Southwest Louisiana and another which presents the results of recent efforts to remap the Marksville site. Another article, demonstrating the positive impact of volunteerism, contributed by Dennis Jones, describes the combined efforts of Baton Rouge Chapter LAS members and Boy Scouts who performed excavations at the Avondale Mound site in East Feliciana Parish.

Information and forms for the next annual meeting are included, as well as an itinerary for

upcoming activities at the Marksville State Historic Site.

Perhaps most importantly — a reminder that the 13th Annual Louisiana Archaeology Week is fast approaching and will be held October 1-7. A variety of activities and participants are again included this year. A full schedule of the activities can be viewed on the Division of Archaeology website at [www.crt.state.la.us](http://www.crt.state.la.us). If you would like to help in any of the activities it's never too late to volunteer your time. Contact Nathanael Heller at the Division of Archaeology at (225) 342-8170 or email: [nheller@crt.state.la.us](mailto:nheller@crt.state.la.us) if you would like to participate.

Cherie Schwab  
Newsletter Editor

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## PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

An interesting and productive Board of Directors meeting was held in June at the Poverty Point Site, hosted by T.R. Kidder. It was decided that beginning with Volume 25, the format of the LAS Bulletin would be changed to 8.5 by 11 inches. It is expected that this change in format will provide an increase in the quality of the illustrations, and potentially, some cost-savings. Plans are being made to have another special publication printed in time for the 2001 Annual meeting. This publication will consist of three unpublished WPA Quarterly Reports written by Andrew Albrecht from the Ethnographic Survey of Aboriginal Southeast. The reports cover aboriginal agriculture, hunting, and gathering wild produce in Louisiana.

There was a discussion of how more of the membership might get involved in archaeological projects, particularly the ones being conducted by the Regional Archaeologists. I am requesting that anyone with upcoming projects in which LAS members might participate as volunteers, or where a site tour might be scheduled for LAS members, to please send that information to the Newsletter Editor.

The state of archaeology and anthropology programs in the State Universities of Louisiana was the subject of considerable discussion. A Position/Discussion paper has been written to indicate the concern of the Louisiana Archaeological Society about the standing and adequacy of anthropological and archaeological programs in Louisiana's state-supported universities to meet the needs of archaeology in Louisiana. It summarizes the current scope of archaeology in Louisiana, and outlines what the perceived needs are for promoting Louisiana archaeology, particularly in the state universities. This paper includes a brief overview of the importance of Louisiana archaeology, and the interest that now

exists in the field. Its purpose is to promote a discussion of those needs and requirements, and the implementation necessary to provide the appropriate teaching and research programs in Louisiana universities. Several points made in this paper are included here:

The Louisiana Archaeological Society, representing most of the State's professional and avocational archaeologists, and a number of archaeology students, recognizes the need for higher education in Louisiana to critically examine its current archaeological focus and programs. It also recognizes the urgent need for enhancements and changes.

It is clear, however that the increase in professional and avocational archaeologists within the state, general public interest in archaeology, and increased opportunities for employment and research has not been adequately matched either by increases in state higher education programs, or by programs that cater to this interest in Louisiana archaeology. There is a real potential that archaeological programs within the state colleges and universities could be reduced in the near future.

The situation as it now stands is critical at several points. First, students seeking graduate degrees in archaeology from a university anthropology program, are almost forced to seek such training at out-of-state universities. The various federal and state agencies requiring graduate degrees, and particularly Ph.D.s, almost always have to recruit out-of-state for personnel. One exemplary irony in this regard is that the state university system in Louisiana cannot produce a graduate qualified to meet the requirements for

State Archaeologist, or even one of the Regional Archaeologists of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. The third aspect of this is that there is a great deal of interest by students and archaeologists from the southeast in Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley prehistory and history. The State of Louisiana simply does not have the archaeology programs at its universities to attract students from outside the state that might be interested in this region.

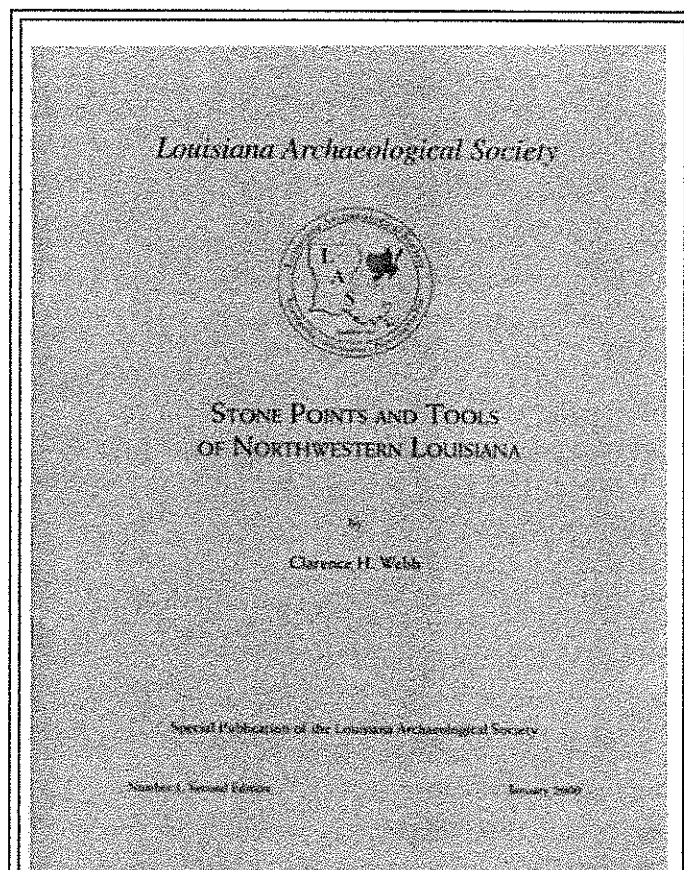
Copies of the full paper are being sent to the Chairpersons of the appropriate university departments with a request for information about their current programs, the future of their programs, and directions that those departments might be planning. This will also include a request for information from the departments as to how the LAS might provide assistance in helping them achieve their goals. The Division of Archaeology and the various archaeological contracting companies working in Louisiana will also be asked for input as to how the university programs might better serve their staffing and other needs.

I am asking here that the membership of the LAS please inform me of the needs they see relating to archaeological programs, and how their areas might best be served by the university programs. Since most of the membership of the LAS is composed of nonprofessional or avocational archaeologists it is important to include your opinions on this matter and how you might benefit from changes or expansions of university programs.

This Newsletter contains the first announcement of the 2001 Annual Meeting. Begin to make plans. In particular begin developing presentations and papers. I urge that whomever can do it, have in addition to the paper to be read at the

meeting, a publishable version ready at that time so that those papers could go immediately to the Bulletin Editor, or a brief summary that could be provided to the Newsletter Editor.

Carl Kuttruff  
September 2000



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

**June 10, 2000**

**Poverty Point State Commemorative Area**

**Reported by  
Maureen Downey  
LAS Secretary**

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society met Saturday, June 10, 2000, at the Poverty Point State Commemorative Area. President Carl Kuttruff called the meeting to order at 12:25 a.m. Members present were:

Carl Kuttruff - LAS President  
Joe Saunders - LAS Vice President, President-Elect  
T.R. Kidder - LAS Bulletin Editor  
Chip McGimsey - LAS Bulletin Managing Editor  
Cherie Schwab - LAS Newsletter Editor  
Maureen Downey - LAS Secretary, Delta Chapter Representative  
Nancy Affeltranger - President, Central LA Archaeological Chapter  
Mildred Peavy - CLAC Representative  
Margarette Cheramie - CLAC Alternate Representative  
John Guy - LAS Representative-at-Large, Anacoco, LA  
Mary Brice - Northwest Chapter  
Virginia and Bill Bommer - Delta Chapter  
Van and Jessie Klett - Northeast Chapter  
Tommy Ike Hailey - Natchitoches  
Brian Cockrell - Natchitoches

President Carl Kuttruff welcomed everyone and thanked T.R. Kidder for hosting the meeting.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting held February 4, 2000, at the Holiday Inn, Metairie, LA, were unanimously approved as published in the latest LAS Newsletter. T.R. Kidder made the motion, seconded by Chip McGimsey, to approve the minutes.

**REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer David Jeane was unable to attend the meeting but had previously sent his report to President Kuttruff. As of April 30, 2000, the balance in the checking account was \$3,695.00. LAS Certificate of Deposit "A" had a balance of \$7,500.00, CD "B" \$5000.00, and CD "C" \$5200.00. Carl explained that dues may need to be increased approximately \$5.00. The Executive Committee will consider this at their next meeting. If the Committee judges the increase necessary, it will be brought before the membership at the Annual Meeting for approval.

**Newsletter Report**

President Kuttruff complemented Cherie Schwab on the first newsletter produced by her as Newsletter Editor. She remarked that she was pleased with the submissions and hoped that everyone would continue to submit. She reported that 317 newsletters had been mailed. Carl remarked that he would like to see included in the next newsletter information about volunteer opportunities for archaeology projects.

**Bulletin Report**

Bulletin Editor T.R. Kidder hopes to have both Bulletin No. 23 (1996) and Bulletin No. 24 (1997) published this calendar year. (As usual, the press dictates the final publication date.) T.R.

has five articles in hand for Bulletin No. 25 (1998). He has plans for what will be included in the bulletin which will be dedicated to Roger Saucier. Cherie Schwab volunteered to help T.R. with the layout work on the bulletins and they will discuss working together on Bulletin No. 25. President Kuttruff asked the Committee for their thoughts regarding changing the Bulletin to an 8.5 x 11 format. One advantage would be better illustrations and graphics. It was suggested that an example of both formats be compared by the Committee. Chip McGimsey will obtain prices from UL-L for both formats. A discussion was held regarding having Cherie Schwab format the Bulletin. Further discussion on the publication of the Bulletin will be held at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

### Chapter Reports

Delta Chapter: Virginia Bommer reported that Lucretia McBride, President of Delta Chapter, was teaching a non-credit course in Forensic Archaeology and the Historical Exhumation Project, June 7, 14, 21 and 28 at Nicholls State University. Lucretia will also be giving several lectures in the Southeast Region during Archaeology Week. Delta members have helped Chris Matthews and the GNO Archaeology Program with assisting Dr. Scott Simmons at Live Oak Plantation in Waggaman. Dr. Simmons will also team up with Delta Chapter members for a hands-on lab workshop to process the remaining Evergreen Plantation artifacts (where Delta Chapter members previously volunteered).

Northwest Chapter: Mary Brice reported that the Northwest Chapter was hosting a program for Archaeology Week. She also said that some of Harold Brice's collection was being used in a summer reading program.

CLAC: Nancy Affeltranger reported that the Central Louisiana Archaeological Chapter had

identified more than two thousand artifacts from their last project. For Archaeology Week, the CLAC has planned lessons in Indian dance and costume making, bow drilling, flint knapping and basket making. They also plan to help Jeff Girard on his latest project.

Vernon Parish Area: John Guy described conflicts between agencies that had hampered projects. He also stated that some sites in the area were being destroyed.

Northeast Chapter: Jessie Klett related that, like many chapters, attendance was dropping in the Northeast Chapter, but that programs arranged by and other efforts by Claire and Lester Davis should help with membership.

### ONGOING BUSINESS

#### LAS Reprints

President Kuttruff ask for suggestions for reprints. After some discussion, the Committee deferred making a final decision until their next meeting. As it stands now, however, this publication will tentatively consist of three unpublished WPA Quarterly Reports written by Andrew Albrecht from the Ethnographic Survey of Aboriginal Southeast.

#### LAS and Regional Archaeology Program

Joe Saunders distributed copies of his concerns regarding the role/place of amateurs/avocational archaeologists in the LAS, in particular, the lack of fieldwork/school opportunities for nonprofessional with professionals. He suggested that an arrangement be made with Regional Archaeologists by which information concerning volunteer opportunities on projects could be made available to LAS members on a region by region basis. Such an arrangement might provide more exposure of fieldwork to

LAS members and interaction between the professional sector and the public. Discussion followed and Joe agreed to consult Dr. Eubanks and report back to the Committee. Carl Kuttruff also encouraged the Committee to continue to consider the proposed plan under which graduate students would use LAS volunteer help on their projects.

### **Discussion of Archaeological and Higher Education in Louisiana**

President Kuttruff expressed the desire to continue to pursue the possibility of the LAS endorsing a Louisiana Archaeological position in higher education. He distributed a draft of a discussion/position paper. He will draft a letter to various Department Chairpersons and submit it to the Committee for review.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Change of LAS Mailing List Duties at Division of Archaeology**

President Kuttruff reported that Tammy Bridges had changed positions and that the Division of Archaeology appointed Idella Corley to handle the LAS mailing list.

#### **2001 Annual Meeting**

Tommy Ike Hailey related plans for the 2001 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Ryder Inn in Natchitoches. No date had yet been set, but the last week in January was being considered. There will be a Friday night reception in the museum on campus. A call for papers was to be included in the next newsletter. A suggestion that a session of 4 to 5 longer papers, perhaps on some theme relative to the area, be considered. President Kuttruff asked for clarification of some items on the report on the 2000 Annual Meeting. Delta Chapter offered that LAS patches to be sold at the 2001 meeting.

### **Archaeology Week**

LAS Brochures will be available for distribution at Archaeology Week.

President Kuttruff stated that he would notify all members of the date and location of the next Executive Committee meeting. There being no further business, Mary Brice made a motion to adjourn. Cherie Schwab seconded the motion. The motion passed and President Kuttruff adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

## **CHAPTER NEWS**

### **DELTA CHAPTER**

The Delta Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society meets on the last Thursday of every month except November and December. No meetings are scheduled for June, July and August. The public is invited to attend our meetings which are held at:

University of New Orleans  
Science Building Room 1001  
7:30 PM

Archaeologically speaking we at Delta Chapter have spent a lazy summer. We are looking forward to the fall and our upcoming speakers along with Archaeology Week activities.

Archaeology Week Presentation by our president  
Lucretia McBride  
"Cast Iron Coffins as Archaeological Artifacts: ca. 1852, 1853, 1857"  
Thursday, October 5  
UNO Science Building. Room 1001

I would like to mention that Joan Bruder, our Chapter Historian, has put together a great scrap book for Delta Chapter containing photos of past LAS Annual meetings as well as photos of Delta Chapter activities up to the present time.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MEETINGS

The Delta Chapter has now organized quarterly-scheduled board meetings during which guidelines for presentations, allocation of monies and other such topics are discussed. The first meeting is scheduled at the Holiday Inn in Metairie on September 23. There will be a luncheon from 1-2:30 pm followed by a Board Meeting from 2:30-3:30 pm. Contact Lucretia McBride (lucretiadmcbride@worldnet.att.net), Virginia Bommer (vadig@aol.com), or Maureen Downey (msdowney@aol.com) for more information. The chapter is also forming an ethics committee and developing a grant application form to help fund archaeological projects throughout the state.

Delta's first annual archaeology field trip is scheduled for Sat. Oct. 7, 2000. Anyone interested is invited to attend and is asked to meet in Houma at Lucretia McBride's house at 12:00 pm. The field trip will consist of a tour to see the *El Nuevo Constante* (shipwreck) exhibit at Nicholls State University from 12-1:30 pm and then will proceed to the Southdown Plantation Museum to view Indian artifacts from 2-4:00 pm. Following the tours there will be a reception from 4-6:00 pm at President McBride's home where all are welcome to view various artifacts including some pieces from the exhumation project.

President McBride would like to personally applaud Virginia Bommer in her efforts as Delta's LAS Newsletter Correspondent and commend Nathanael Heller on his organization of the exceptional exhibit of the *El Nuevo Constante* at Nicholls. She would also ask that other chapters contact the Delta Chapter to give them contact information so that they may be put on the mailing list to receive the Delta Chapter's newsletter.

For more information contact:  
Virginia Bommer  
Delta Chapter  
LAS Newsletter Correspondent  
504.394-9737  
vadig@aol.com

#### Louisiana Archaeological Society

The Northwestern State University Cultural Resource Office and the NSU Anthropological Society will host the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society on February 9-11, 2001 at the Ryder Inn at 7624 Hwy 1 Bypass in Natchitoches. More information will be provided at a later date. If you have questions, you may contact Tommy Ike Hailey at (318) 357-4453 or email: haileyt@alpha.nsula.edu.

#### Arkansas Archaeological Society

September 29 - October , 2000

Batesville, AK

There will be a reception at the motel on Friday evening, a full day of papers on Saturday, and a banquet and speaker on Saturday night.

For more information contact Program Chair:  
Mary Ann Goodman (501) 525-7312)

Arkansas Archeological Society (501) 575-3556

#### SHAC

The South Central Historical Archaeology Conference will be held at Pleasant Hall, at Louisiana State University, September 15-17, 2000.

**Workshop:** Vernacular architecture workshop will cover dating techniques and structural change through the 19th century.

**Tour:** Sid Gray will lead a tour to St. Gabriel Church and a turn-of-the-century timber-framed residence.

The meeting is hosted by LSU Geography and Anthropology Department and Coastal Environments, Inc. Contact: Sara Hahn at 383-7455 or email: shahn@coastalenv.com for more information.

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK  
OCTOBER 1-7, 2000

Archaeology Week 2000 is fast approaching! This year's Archaeology Week poster and bookmark highlight the 1999 excavations at Angola Plantation, by Coastal Environments, Inc. Printed copies of the Archaeology Week schedule of events will be available at your local library by the third week of September.

**From the Division of Archaeology...**

Considering that the Division of Archaeology mails a copy of the Archaeology Week schedule to all members of the LAS, everyone should know by now that Archaeology Week 2000 is just around the corner. If you haven't received a schedule, and would like to, please contact the Division at (225) 342-8170, or access the schedule on-line at [www.crt.state.la.us](http://www.crt.state.la.us) (*click Archaeology*).

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKSHOP**

An archaeological materials workshop series is offered this year to students and vocational archaeologists interested in gaining a tactile knowledge of materials likely to be encountered in the field. Various methods of analysis, and salient issues in the discipline of archaeology will be covered by an expert in the field. Subject matter will cover a broad scope of material types and date ranges: prehistoric ceramics and lithics, zooarchaeological and ethnobotanical material, as well as historical materials, including ceramics, glass, and iron.

Each workshop will contain a lecture segment and a hands-on identification and analysis segment. The meetings will be conducted on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in the anthropology lab of the Museum of Natural Science. The lab is located in Room 4 on the ground floor of the Gym Armory Building at Louisiana State University.

The current schedule is as follows:

**September 9**

*Field Methods, Careers*

Becky Saunders, LSU Museum of Natural Science

*Louisiana Research*

Chip McGimsey, Regional Archaeologist, Southwest Louisiana

**September 30**

*Historic Ceramics*

Paul Farnsworth, Louisiana State University

**October 14**

*Prehistoric Ceramics*

Rich Weinstein, Coastal Environments, Inc.

The workshop series will continue in the spring semester, and will culminate in a panel discussion on ethics during the month of April. Professional archaeologists will discuss federal and state regulations and compliance, field ethics, and community involvement. A question and answer period, and reception will follow the discussion.

The series is sponsored through the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science and the Department of Geography and Anthropology.

**REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

Dr. Christopher Hays is no longer with the Regional archaeology program and has accepted a teaching position at the University of Wisconsin College at Fond du Lac.

He can be contacted at:  
University of Wisconsin College at Fond du Lac  
400 Campus Drive  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935-2998  
email: [chays@uwc.edu](mailto:chays@uwc.edu)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Volunteer Opportunities for the  
Fall 2000 Season  
Southwest Louisiana**

The Southwest Regional archaeologist anticipates undertaking some limited excavations at

the Marksville site this fall for which volunteers will be needed and welcome. The Marksville site is a State Historic Site located in Avoyelles Parish near the center of the state. Two projects are expected to occur. The first of these will involve very limited shovel trenches around Mounds 4, 5, and 6 to locate the 1933 WPA trenches through these mounds. This is the final step in a long effort to locate and place on a map the location of all the previous excavations at the site. We have a pretty good idea where these excavations are, and our investigation will involve only as much digging as necessary to precisely define the old excavation limits. I expect this project will only take one weekend depending upon the number of volunteers.

The second project is aimed at exploring several of the house rings identified at the Marksville site by Gerard Fowke in the 1920s. These are low, circular embankments up to 30 m in diameter (imagine a small donut lying on the ground). Three of these have actually been investigated but the information from only one has been written up in any way (see Tommy Ryan's report in the 1975 *Southeastern Archaeology* bulletin). Two excavations took place in 1933 and 1939, as well, but very little information is available from these investigations. What is particularly interesting is that while the embankment and surrounding area apparently have very few features or artifacts, the center (hole) of the "donut" contains a 6-7 foot deep pit with burned soil and charcoal at the base. My goal for this year to reexamine at least two of these features by reopening the old excavations, remapping the stratigraphy, and collecting samples for radiocarbon dating. If this goes as planned, there will be a lot of shoveling of backdirt with only limited new excavations undertaken. But things rarely go as planned and there may be more real excavation than anticipated at this time. This work will probably be spread out over 2-3 weekends, again depending upon volunteers.

I anticipate these two projects will take place in October and November. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Chip McGimsey at the following address:

Department of Sociology  
and Anthropology  
PO Box 40198  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Lafayette, La. 70504  
(337) 482-5198  
mcgimsey@louisiana.edu

### Volunteer Needed

To type the approximate 150 double-spaced paged Albrecht WPA manuscript into Wordperfect or Microsoft Word in preparation for the next Special Publication. Contact Carl Kuttruff for more information:

(225) 767-6605  
kutt621@bellsouth.net.

### CURRENT RESEARCH IN LOUISIANA

Charlie Pearson is the state coordinator for collecting information on current archaeological research in Louisiana for the SEAC Newsletter. Anyone interested in submitting information on their research should email it to Charlie at: cpear2@gte.net.

Space for current research in the Newsletter is limited, so please be brief in your project descriptions. Try to keep individual project descriptions to a single paragraph of not more than seven or eight sentences. Provide information on what and where the project is, who directed it, who funded it, and the results. The Newsletter is principally interested in information on completed projects or progress reports on large scale projects which will be of interest to the general SEAC membership.

## TWO POSSIBLE NATIVE AMERICAN PIROGUES FROM SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Chip McGimsey  
University of Louisiana - Lafayette

In the five years I have been the Southwest Regional archaeologist, two pirogues have been discovered in this part of the state. Research on these vessels was undertaken as part of the Regional Archaeology Program funded by the State of Louisiana and the National Park Service. As pirogues are rare items, the available information on each is presented in this article. The first pirogue was found by a local landowner who was having a large snag dredged from Bayou des Glaises northeast of Cottonport in Avoyelles Parish. He rescued three large fragments from the backdirt pile as the dredge was operating. As a result, there is little information as to the exact context of this vessel, whether it was originally whole or broken, and if any artifacts might have been associated with it. When I saw the vessel, it had been lying at the landowner's house for several weeks and was showing the effects of drying, but it was still in excellent condition. The available fragments permit the original size and shape of the pirogue to be reconstructed.

Figure 1 is a reconstruction of how the pirogue would have appeared, based upon a

nearly complete basal section and one partially complete end and wall segment. It was approximately 540 cm long, 40 cm wide, and the walls were 20-22 cm high. The floor of the pirogue was up to 5 cm thick while the walls were only 2 cm thick and at a right angle to the floor. The one end was slightly rounded with a 10-15 cm wide flat platform on top, although would probably have been too smaller to serve as a seat.

Inspection of the vessel suggested it was constructed from a cypress log, although the wood was not identified. There are no obvious manufacture marks, nor are there any nails or other historic materials evident. The absence of axe or adz scars suggests the pirogue could be of Native American manufacture. A radiocarbon date on the wood returned a corrected age of  $148 \pm 60$  BP ( $\delta^{13}C$  value =  $-24.49$ ) (UGa-7249). Calibrating this date returns multiple intercepts of AD 1682, 1734, 1806, 1931, and 1947, with a 2-sigma range of 1645 - 1954 (CALIB 4.1.2; Stuiver and Reimer 1998). Given the available information, the earlier part of this age range seems most likely.

This pirogue has been donated to the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and is awaiting conservation at their facility.

The second pirogue from Southwest Louisi-

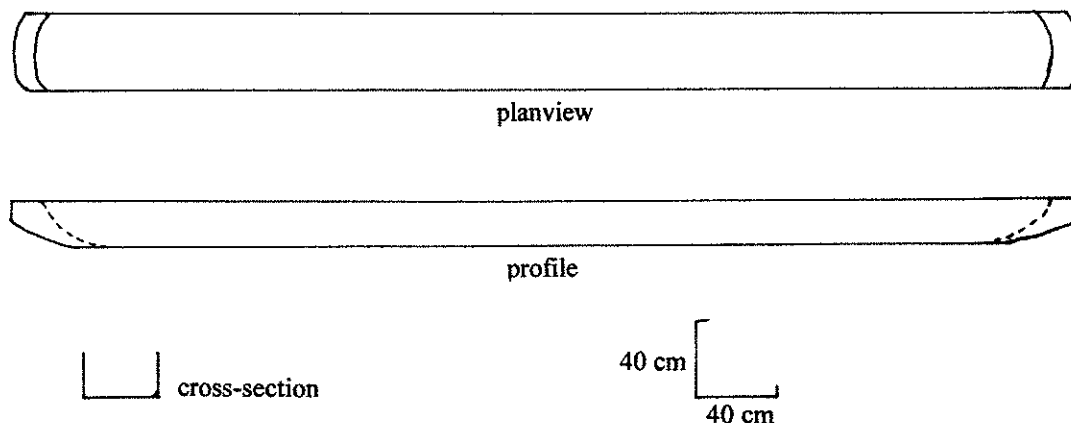


Figure 1. Pirogue from Bayou des Glaises in Avoyelles Parish.

ana was found this last year by a duck hunter in the marshes of Cameron Parish north of Hackberry. While boating along Long Point Bayou, he observed several wooden objects that looked interesting, and persuaded his friends to help him haul them up. This pirogue is not as well preserved as the Avoyelles Parish specimen and there is less that can be said about it.

Two large fragments were recovered, apparently of cypress wood. One fragment is 340 cm long and 40 cm wide with remnants of the vessel wall present along one edge. This fragment curves up slightly on its base suggesting it is nearing the bow or stern but a complete end is missing. The wall is at nearly a right angle to the floor but angles outward slightly and is at least 40 cm high although the maximum height is unknown due to the very weathered edge. The floor and wall are 1-2 cm thick and the floor increases to 3 cm thick where it rises toward the bow/stern. The other fragment is very similar in shape and size; both exhibit areas of burning on both exterior and interior surfaces (probably from marsh fires). If both segments are laid end to end, they would form a vessel at least seven meters long and perhaps even eight meters or more, and at least 40 cm wide. If these two segments are actually right and left halves of a bow or stern segment, then the vessel length is unknown but it would have been at least 90 cm wide. In either case, this was a substantial vessel.

There are no manufacture marks, nails, or other evidence that might help determine its age and means of manufacture. Evaluation of these features is limited by the very weathered and eroded nature of the wood. A radiocarbon date obtained on the wood returned a corrected age of  $370 \pm 60$  BP (c13 value = -23.9) (Beta-42964). This calibrates to an age of AD 1490 with a two sigma range of 1425 - 1650 (CALIB 4.1.2; Stuiver and Reimer 1998). As there are very few refer-

ences to European visitors to this region in this interval, it is quite likely this vessel represents the remains of a Native American pirogue.

## REFERENCE

- Stuiver, M., P.J. Reimer, E. Bard, J.W. Beck, G.S. Burr, K.A. Hughen, B. Kromer, F.G. McCormac, J. von der Plicht, and M. Spurk  
1998 Radiocarbon Calibration Program  
2000:Rev. 4.2. *Radiocarbon* 40:1041-1083.

## A NEW MAP OF THE MARKSVILLE SITE (16AV1)

Chip McGimsey  
University of Louisiana - Lafayette

Over the last few years, the Division of Archaeology in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism has been funding efforts to systematically map some of the significant prehistoric mound sites in Louisiana. These have included Poverty Point, Watson Brake (as seen on last year's Archaeology Week poster), and now Marksville. The Marksville site is an extensive set of mounds and earthworks located in Avoyelles Parish which was constructed between 2,000 and 1,500 years ago. Today, a portion of the site is a State Historic Site.

The first map of Marksville was drawn by Gerard Fowke in 1926 when he visited the site and conducted excavations in several of the mounds. For a long time, this was the only map of the site until Dennis Jones and Malcolm Shuman mapped the mounds and earthworks in the late 1980s. They provided the first detailed view of the site, including the size and shape of the mounds and the precise organization of the site. In 1999, the State of Louisiana and the National Park Service provided funds for the Regional Archaeology Program, with the coopera-

tion of the Office of State Parks, to conduct a further investigation of the site, taking advantage of new mapping technology and computer-generated graphics.

The portion of the site within the State Historic Site was mapped in the spring of 2000 using a TOPCON GTS-213 laser transit. In addition, Marc Dupuy and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana gave permission for the portion of the earthworks on their property to be mapped, and as a result, all of Enclosure A and its encircled mounds were mapped during this project. The bulk of the work was cheerfully performed by Recca Jones and Norm Davis, both who now qualify for mountain climber status for crawling

up and down the gullies and over the mounds. As a result of their efforts, nearly 7,800 data points were recorded across the park property. The site maps were produced using SURFER, a computer-based mapping program.

Figure 1 shows the results of this project (map scale is in meters and the contour interval is 25 cm). This map shows the park as it looks today, with all of the modern alterations to the landscape such as ditches and roads apparent. To make it easier to see the prehistoric cultural features, Figure 2 deletes all of the modern features and shows the land as it might have appeared to the original inhabitants of the site. The enclosing embankment is readily visible, except

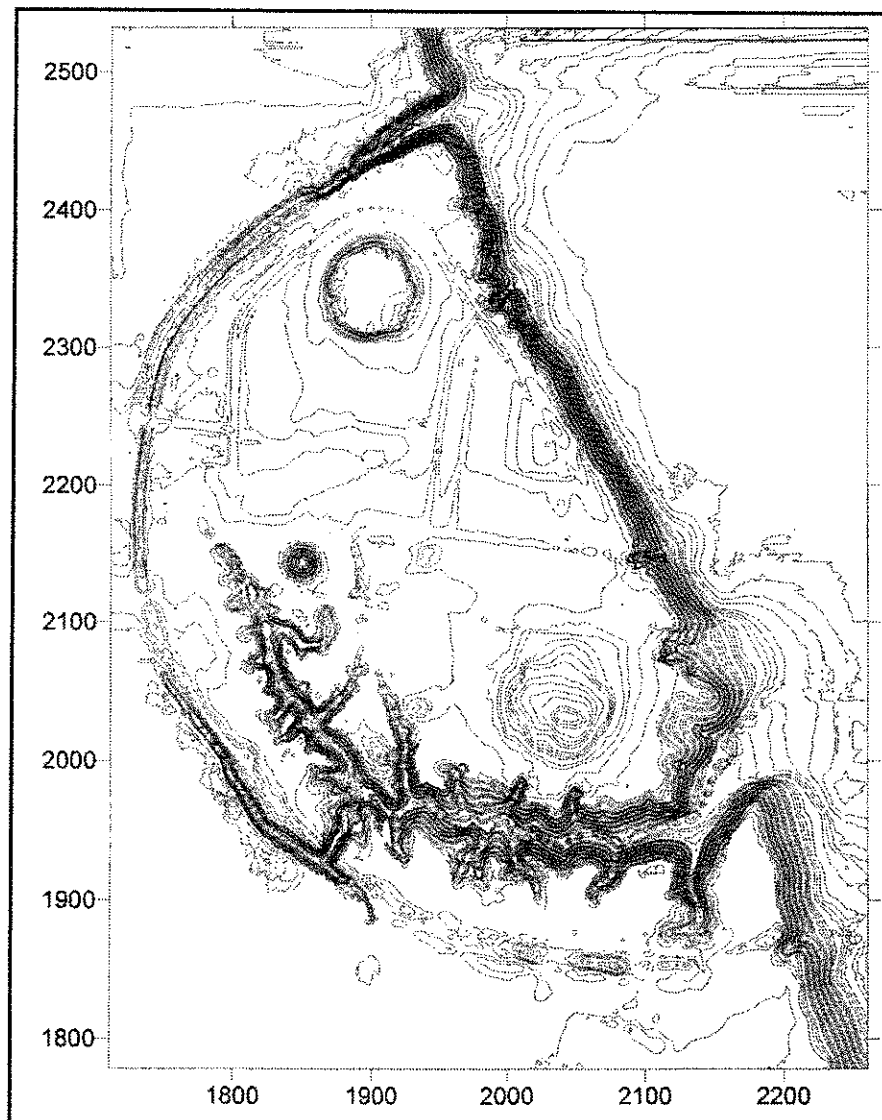


Figure 1. The Marksville park as it looks today.

where it has been destroyed by historic road construction (two segments on the south side) and by gully erosion on the north end. The mounds are easily seen as well. One important point is that we now know there is an additional mound (known as Mound 'X') within the embankment that had not been recorded by previous researchers at the park (see Figure 2). This mound was identified as a result of coring undertaken by Joe Saunders, Jon Gibson, and Thurman Allen several years ago which revealed 1 m or more of fill in this location. It appears to have been severely impacted by plowing, racetrack construction, and other historic activities, making its original size and shape difficult to determine. With Mound 'X's identification, it can be seen that Mounds 2, 4, 6, and 'X'

form a typical rectangular arrangement around a central plaza, a form commonly seen in later Coles Creek and Plaquemine sites. It is not clear how Mounds 3 and 5 fit into this arrangement.

Some of the features can be more easily seen in Figure 3, which is a shaded-relief map taken with the sun at a 45 degree angle in the south. For example, the remnant of the outer circular embankment, at the very southern side of the main embankment, shows up much more clearly in this view. In addition, Fowke's 1926 excavation into the top of Mound 3 is also evident, as is the 1933 trench east-west across Mound 5. The morphology of Mound's 2 and 6 is clearly evident in the shaded-relief image.

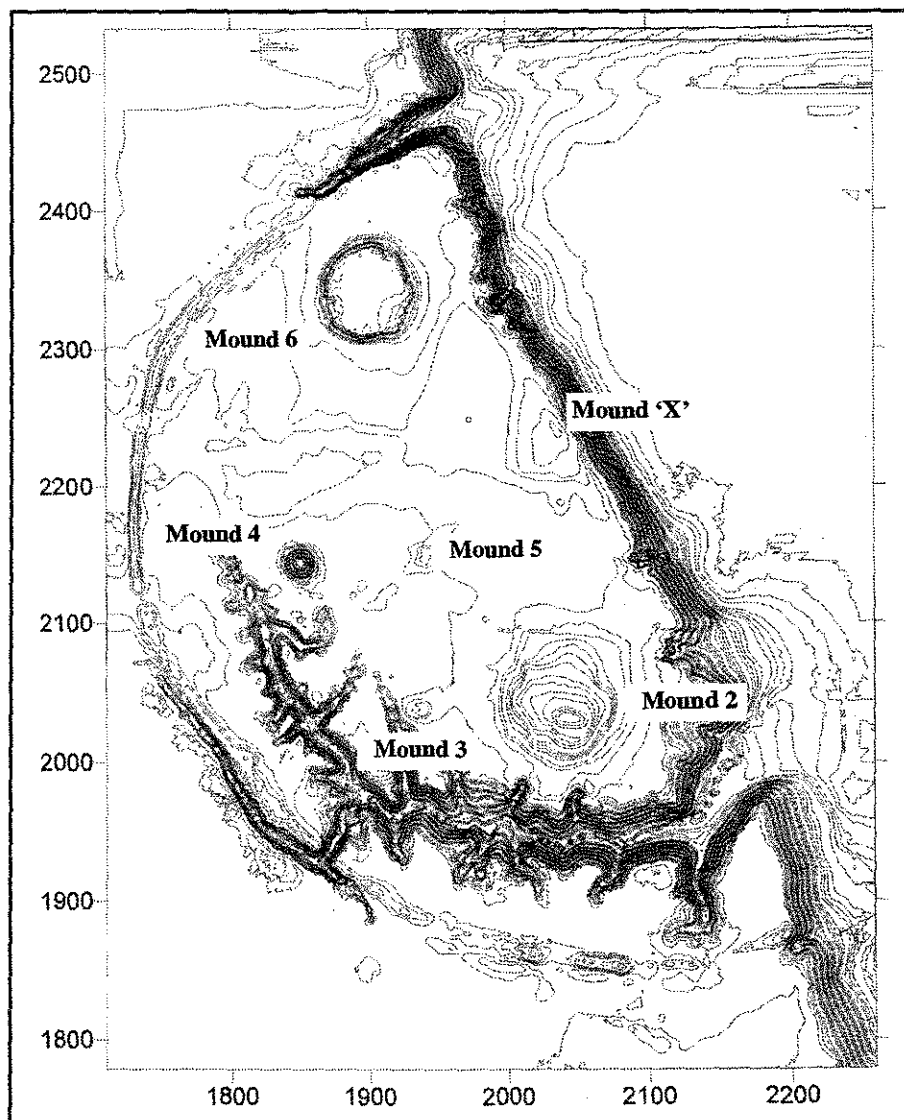


Figure 2. The Marksville park without modern features shown.

This project has augmented our knowledge of the site from the maps prepared by Fowke and Jones and Shuman. The detailed mapping of the gullies and bluff face will permit the extent and rate of erosion to be monitored so that further damage to the site can be minimized. In the coming year, this map will be extended to the north to include Enclosure B, Mound 7, and several of the 'house rings' that were identified at the site. We hope these efforts will provide all interested researchers with detailed images of the site that will be beneficial for understanding this important site in Louisiana.

## REFERENCES

Fowke, Gerard

1928 *Archaeological Investigations II: Explorations in the Red River Valley in Louisiana*. Annual Report 44. Bureau of American Ethnology, Washington, D.C.

Jones, Dennis, and Malcolm Shuman

1989 *Archaeological Atlas and Report of Prehistoric Indian Mounds in Louisiana, Vol. IV, Avoyelles Parish, Part 1*. Submitted to the Division of Archaeology, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Baton Rouge.

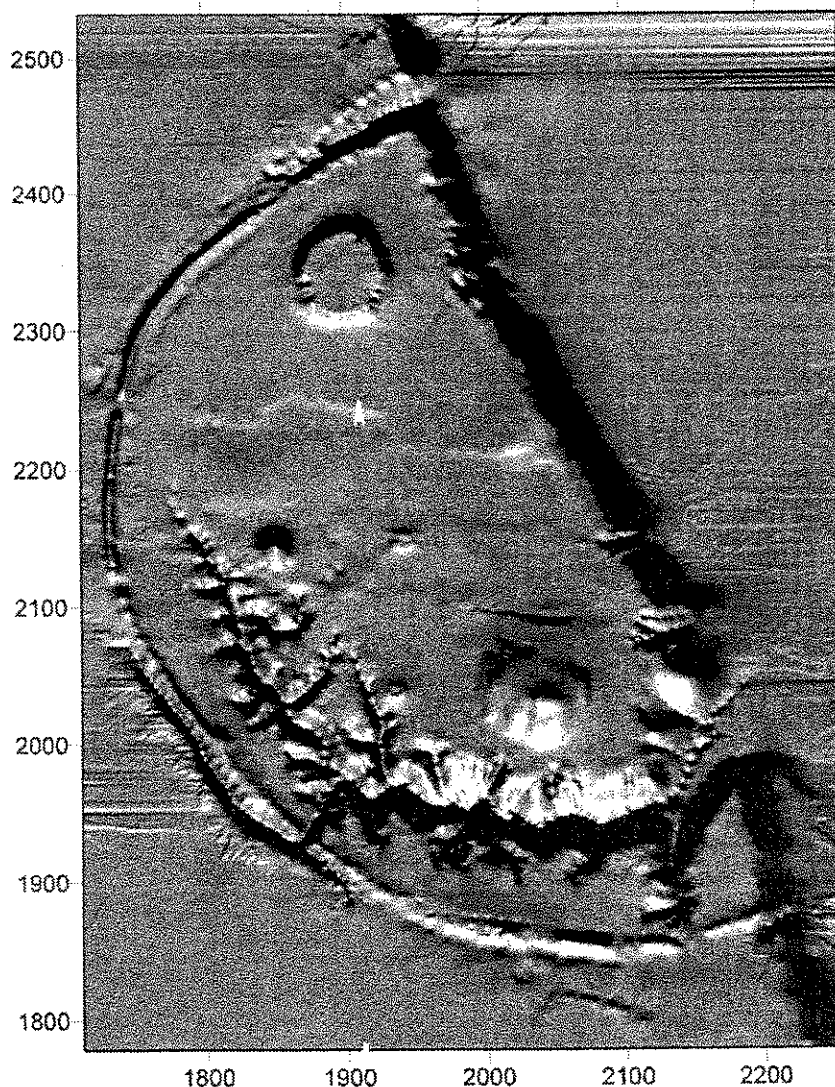


Figure 3. A shaded-relief map taken with the sun at a 45 degree angle in the south of the park.

**BATON ROUGE LAS MEMBERS WORK  
WITH BOY SCOUTS  
AT THE AVONDALE MOUND SITE (16EF9)**

**Dennis Jones**

**Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc.  
Baton Rouge, LA**

Several members of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the LAS recently joined with five Boy Scouts to investigate a prehistoric mound site located at the Avondale Scout Reservation near Clinton, Louisiana in East Feliciana Parish. Their combined efforts have started what will become a long-range project to study a site that has received only preliminary investigation until now.

While a Research Associate at LSU in the late 1980s, Malcolm Shuman and I visited the mound at Avondale, measured the mound's dimensions, and updated the information on the site for the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. Because of the limited nature of the project, however, we were unable to find out more about the site other than to note that it lay rather isolated in a narrow floodplain, had been "potted" somewhat, but was in pretty good shape overall. At the time, I had a one-year-old son that I thought might someday visit this site if he became a Boy Scout.

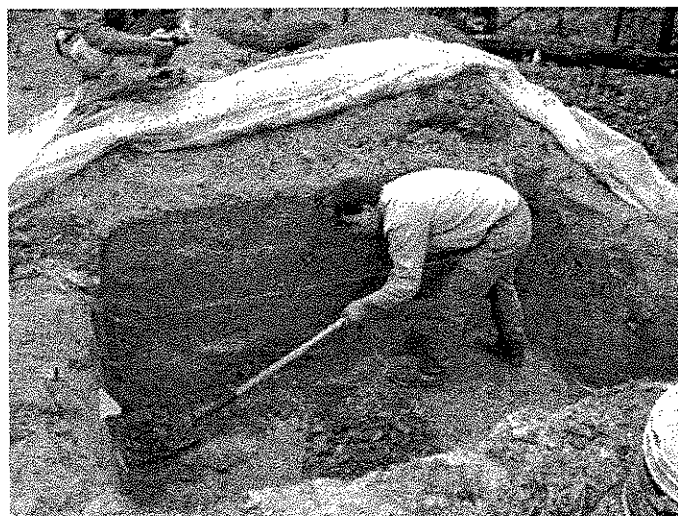
Fast forward to early 2000 and I revisited the site during a warm-up hike for a crew going to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico that had my son as a member. I saw that the mound was still isolated and overgrown, but that it had been dug into again deeply and recently. This digging was not done carefully and information that could have been gleaned from a more systematic effort was lost forever. I realized that something ought to be done, to not only investigate the mound properly, but also to involve Boy Scouts in the investigations and give them the opportunity to earn the relatively new Archaeology merit badge. I also knew that several mem-



**Figure 1.** Norman Davis of BRLAS shows excavation techniques to one of the Boy Scout volunteers.

bers of the local LAS chapter would be eager to help (Figure 1).

Work began with five Scouts from Troop 505, where I am an Assistant Scoutmaster, and the LAS folks this past March and April. We re-excavated the mound at the recent "pothole", cleaned up and extending the profiles, recovered artifacts, and obtained charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating (Figure 2). We also started on a detailed map of the mound and surrounding region in an effort to place the mound in its surroundings.



**Figure 2.** Rick Bordelon of BRLAS cleaning up "pothole" excavation at Avondale Mound (16EF8).

The profiles suggested that the mound was likely a small platform structure that had been built in a single episode of construction. A shallow, but distinct, depression a few meters north-east of the mound may be a remnant of the borrow pit from which the mound fill came. Dr. Chris Hays, the recently departed Regional Archaeologist for southeast Louisiana, graciously submitted a radiocarbon sample from the excavation to the University of Georgia. Unfortunately, the information from this sample was inconclusive.

The artifacts recovered consisted of lithic tools and debitage, as well as prehistoric ceramics (Figures 3 and 4). This material was recovered from the mound's fill and thus indicates the occupation of the site prior to the mound's construction. Even so, this information hints that the

mound was a relatively late prehistoric construction. The presence of shell tempered pottery also suggests that the site might have had influences from or at least contact with Mississippian groups (see Figure 4).

More work is planned at the site this fall, with both LAS member and additional Boy Scouts. A brief tour of the site will be part of Archaeology Week 2000. Interested people should meet at the front gates of Avondale Scout Reservation at 2 pm, October 7. I will be meeting people to lead them to the site which will have to be reached on foot. Long pants and stout shoes are recommended. Anyone interested in visiting the site during Archaeology Week, please call Dennis Jones at (225)-767-8544 (home) or (225)-381-8201 (office).



Figure 3. Two views of a tan chert scraper recovered from excavation at Avondale Mound (16EF8).

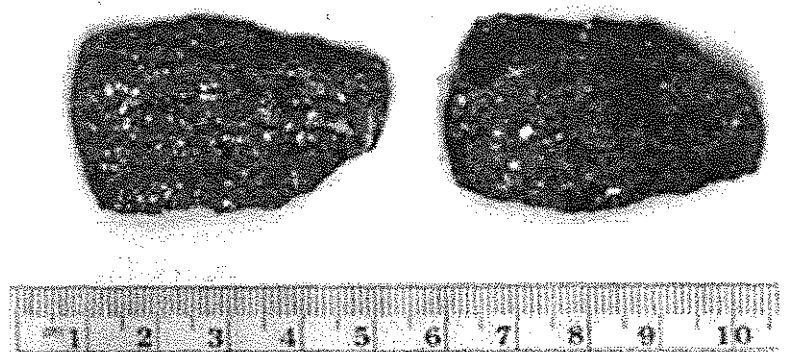


Figure 4. Two views of shell tempered sherd recovered from Avondale Mound (16EF8).

## CURRENT RESEARCH AT THE POVERTY POINT SITE

Robert Connoly  
Poverty Point SHS  
Epps, LA

In the past year a number of significant advances for archaeology at Poverty Point have occurred. First, this fall will bring the publication of Jon Gibson's book that synthesizes his past 30 years of research at the Poverty Point site. The book is appropriately titled *The Ancient Mounds of Poverty Point, Place of the Rings*, to be published with the University of Florida Press by December.

The Office of State Parks construction of a new curation facility at Poverty Point is nearly complete. The building provides space for the hundreds of cubic feet of cultural materials excavated from the Poverty Point site currently curated throughout the state. Bringing the materials together under one roof will allow for the systematic curation of the artifacts and provide a central location for the study of Poverty Point site cultural materials.

Several research projects utilizing Poverty Point artifacts were completed in the last six months. First, for her Honor's Thesis at Tulane University, Jacquelyn Honig conducted a descriptive analysis of clay figurines recovered from the Poverty Point site. The purpose of Honig's research was to examine and record a wide range of metric and non-metric attributes on the figurines and determine if the attributes were randomly or purposively distributed throughout the six ridges of the earthwork complex. She noted that although the greatest proportion of surface collected figurines in her sample were recovered from the north sector of the Poverty Point ridge system, a random distribution for the various stylistic elements was ap-

parent. Honig completed the first detailed description along with metric tabulations for all surface collected figurines curated at Poverty Point. These data will be available for further figurine research.

Tony Ortmann, a graduate student in anthropology at Tulane University, performed thin-section analysis on a sample of ceramic vessel sherds and Poverty Point Objects (PPO) surface collected from the site. The purpose of the research was to determine if ceramic vessels and PPOs recovered at the site were manufactured from clays native to the Poverty Point site vicinity. Ortmann found that the PPOs in his test consistently cluster with soils obtained from the Poverty Point site, suggesting their local manufacture. A group of unclassified sherds also contain attributes which cluster with local soil samples, suggesting their on site manufacture. In contrast, some of the tested sherd types, such as Tchefuncte Incised, contain similar attributes to each other, but are distinct from the local soil samples, suggesting these vessels were brought to Poverty Point site in a finished form from a distant source. In a separate research project conducted by Chris Hays and Rich Weinstein, similar conclusions were drawn from the results obtained when examining the density of sponge spicules on a sample of Poverty Point sherds. The preliminary results from both ceramic studies were presented at the 1999 Annual Meeting of SEAC. The archaeologists expect to continue research on their respective projects to fine-tune the research results.

The Station Archaeology Program continued work on two research projects. The first project includes completing the final report on the 1980-1982 LSU excavations at Poverty Point. This report will be presented in published form in a regional journal. The second project is focused on distribution studies of the hundreds of thousands of surface collected artifacts currently curated at

Poverty Point. Besides processing and curating the artifacts to meet state standards, simple quantitative and qualitative measures for each artifact are being recorded. To date, this research has produced several interesting results. First, by recording the use-wear rates and other measures on Motley points, the research provided evidence that a greater number of these tools were manufactured in the north end of the site and then used for a wide range of activities in the southern end of the site. Another finding was that although most artifacts manufactured from jasper and galena occur in the southern half of the site, the north end of the site contains a disproportionately greater number of large unmodified pieces of the two raw material types. This finding suggests that the north end of the site is the location where imported or stored raw materials were kept prior to their manufacture into beads or other items of the lapidary industry. Such surface collection research allows for refining and expanding interpretations from the earlier distribution studies of Ford, Webb and Gibson.

Of special note, a topographic map of the Poverty Point site was completed this spring. The Center for Archaeology, Tulane University, conducted the project under the direction of T. R. Kidder. Funding for the project was provided by the Louisiana Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails Advisory Commission, through the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. The mapping project, using state of the art technology, recorded over 12,000 points of data to produce the most accurate and complete map of the Poverty Point site to date. The Commission map will serve as the standard reference in future studies of the earthwork complex.

Robert Connolly  
Station Archaeologist  
Poverty Point SHS  
PO Box 276  
Epps, LA 71237

318-926-3314

**SUBMIT!!!**

**The LAS newsletter needs your help! Got information on a field school, a new project, or even an interesting artifact? What's going on in your local chapter? What's new at the universities, regional archaeology offices and state parks? Need volunteers or workers for a field project? Tell us about it and you'll see it here!**

**PLEASE  
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**DEADLINE FOR  
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FOR VOL. 27,  
NO. 3  
IS SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 25,  
2000.**

## MARKSVILLE STATE HISTORIC SITE Calendar of Events

July - December, 2000

### July 8 *Pine Needle Basketry*

Come learn to make use of those pine needles you thought were a nuisance in your yard. Learn to make pine needle baskets. The class is from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Class size is limited, please pre-register.

### July 22 *Flintknapping (Spear making)/ Atlatl (Spear throwing)*

Spear making and Spear throwing were two important skills Ancient Marksville hunters needed to master for survival. Learn the art of spear point and arrowhead making out of stone. Try your luck at throwing with the atlatl. The class starts at 10:00 a.m. Limited enrollment, please pre-register.

### August 26 *Ancient Culture and Education: A Workshop for Educators\**

Come participate in this one-day workshop on integrating lessons about Ancient Louisiana culture into the classroom curriculum. The program starts at 10:00 a.m.

### Sept. 26-Oct.13 *WPA Archaeology \**

Become an archaeologist by learning archaeological techniques for digging artifacts. Participants will learn the importance of WPA Archaeology conducted during the 1930s at the Marksville site. Park hours are 9a.m.-5p.m. Pre-registration required for school groups.

### October 25-27 *Indian Myths & Monsters\**

Join us for the Halloween season by hearing the haunting stories American Indian children heard around the campfire long ago. Program hours are 9a.m.-4p.m.

### November 15-16 *Ancient Indian Foods\**

Get a taste of "Really Old" Louisiana by learning about the food ways and culture of the ancient Marksville people. The program hours are 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily.

### December 9 *Making American Indian Pottery*

Marksville Pottery is widely known for its unique pottery designs. Learn how to make coil pottery. Discover how these pots relate to ancient Indians in Ohio. Class open to general public recommended for ages 12 and up from 10a.m.-2:30 p.m. Pre-registration required due to limited class size.

\*Indicates School Programs

## MARKSVILLE STATE HISTORIC SITE Calendar of Events

January - June, 2001

### January 12 *Louisiana Indian Lore\**

In ancient America, the storyteller taught history and religious values through folklore and legend. Mr. Larry Richard dressed in American Indian regalia will demonstrate this ancient tradition of storytelling as well as demonstrating tools and weapons.

### February 17 *Flintknapping (Spear making) /Atlatl (Spear throwing)*

Ancient Marksville Hunters needed to master the art of spear-head making and spear throwing to survive. Learn the art of flintknapping (spear point and arrowhead making) out of stone. Try your luck at throwing with the atlatl. The class starts at 10 a.m. Limited enrollment, please pre-register.

### March 23 *Ancient Marksville Garden\**

Spring has sprung! Its planting time again. Join us in planting the *three sisters* (corns, beans, and squash) and discover American Indian gardening. The district conservationist with the Natural Resources Service will be on hand with gardening tips.

### April 6-7 *American Indian Games\**

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game . . . buy me some peanuts, popcorn, . . ." Come learn about and play the games the Native Americans of Louisiana played and are still playing. Games begin at 9:00 a.m.

### May 17 *Ancient Indian Foods and Culture\**

Get a taste of "Really Old" Louisiana by learning about the food ways of the ancient Marksville people. Make the "catch of the day" by fishing with bone hooks or lounge around your palmetto hut after a hard day of mound building. The program hours are 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

### June 9 *Making American Indian Pottery*

Marksville Pottery is widely known for its unique pottery designs. Learn how to make coil pottery. Discover how this pottery design relates to Ancient Indians in Ohio. Class size is limited, please pre-register.

\*Indicates School Programs

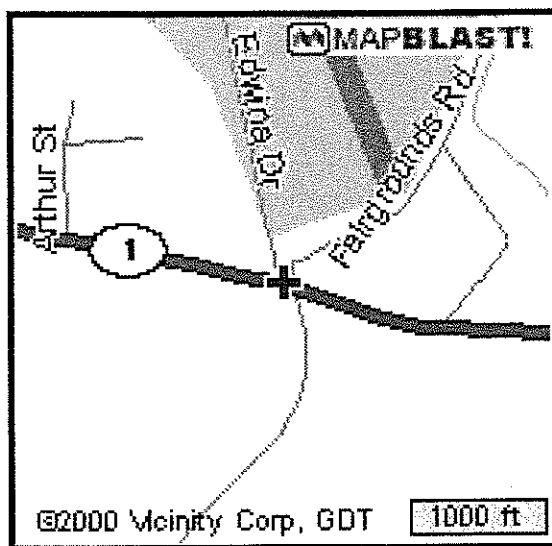
For more information contact  
Marksville SHS, 837 Martin Luther King Dr., Marksville, LA 71351  
or call (318) 253-8954 or toll free (888) 253-8954

## 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The Northwestern State University Cultural Resource Office and the NSU Anthropological Society will host the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. The meeting will be held on February 9-11, 2001 at the Ryder Inn at 7624 Hwy 1 Bypass in Natchitoches. A block of rooms has been set aside for the conference. The room rate is \$50.00 for single or double occupancy. For reservations call toll-free at 1-888-252-8281. When making your reservations be sure to say that you will be attending the LAS Annual Meeting to insure Meeting pricing and placement.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ian Brown, professor of anthropology and Curator of Gulf Coast Archaeology at the University of Alabama. Dr. Brown will be speaking about his recent excavations at the McIlhenny Co.'s late nineteenth century Tabasco laboratory at Avery Island. There will be a book room where any exhibits or displays are welcome. The Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy Meeting and the LAS Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Friday evening, followed by a reception, and the LAS Business Meeting will be held Saturday. The following pages include the Call for Papers and a Registration Form. More information will be provided at a later date. If you have questions, you you may contact Tommy Ike Hailey at (318) 357-4453 or email: [haileyt@alpha.nsula.edu](mailto:haileyt@alpha.nsula.edu).

Map to the Ryder Inn in Natchitoches:



**Ryder Inn**  
**7624 Hwy 1 Bypass in Natchitoches**  
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Send all notes, news, and other communications to: Cherie A. Schwab, Newsletter Editor, 7325 Meadowbrook, Ave., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810. If possible, articles should be submitted on computer disk or via email, preferably in Microsoft Word or Word Perfect, although most other word processing programs can be translated. Digital figures can be submitted on disk or via email in a TIFF or PICT format or in hard-copy format, if necessary. Questions regarding format should be directed to the editor (225) 767-2090, email: chereeba@home.com. Style should conform to the guidelines published in *American Antiquity*, Vol. 57, No. 4 (Oct. 1992).

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### OFFICERS

**President:** Carl Kuttruff, 621 Albert Hart Dr., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808. Tel. (225) 767-6605. email: kutt621@bellsouth.net

**Secretary:** Maureen Downey, 103 Beaupre Dr., Luling, Louisiana 70070. Tel. (504) 785-2545. email: msdowney@aol.com

**Treasurer:** David R. Jeane, 305 Hickory, Springhill, Louisiana 71075. Tel. (318) 539-5944. email: djeane@sprhill.net

**Bulletin Editor:** Tristram R. Kidder, Department of Anthropology, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Tel. (504) 865-5336. email: kidder@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu

**Newsletter Editor:** Cherie A. Schwab, 7325 MeadowbrookAve, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810. Tel. (225) 767-2090. email: chereeba@home.com

## LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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