



# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2010 -2011

Vol. 38, No. 3

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Alexander Fulton Hotel  
701 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Alexandria, LA

**CALLING ALL LAS MEMBERS!!  
COME TO THE 2011  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 21-23  
ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA  
ALEXANDER FULTON HOTEL**

DETAILS WITHIN or at  
[www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org)



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

## 2011 ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

The Alexander Fulton Hotel & Convention Centre is located in the heart of downtown Alexandria and easily accessible to all areas of the city. It is adjacent to the Convention Centre. East on Jackson Street from HWY 71 or I-49.

Overlooking the Red River and connected to the River Front Center, the seven-story Alexander Fulton Hotel & Convention Center is approximately eight miles from Alexandria International Airport. This location is also next to the Rapides Regional Medical Center and Saint Francis Xavier Cathedral, two miles from the historical Kent House, three miles from Alexandria Zoo, six miles from the Rapides Parish Coliseum, and 15 miles from Lloyd Hall Plantation.

The rates for the hotel are \$75 dollars/night. Reservations can be made by calling **318-442-9000** or **888-667-8908**. Mention that these are reservations for the LAS meeting. Reservations can also be made via any travel website such as Expedia or Travelocity.

### Pre Registration Form

2011 Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) Annual Meeting

January 21-23, 2011

Alexander Fulton Hotel, Alexandria, LA

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Registration is \$15.00/person. Banquet cost is \$22.00/person.

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

A block of 50 rooms have been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights at the Alexander Fulton Hotel, Alexandria, LA with rates of \$75.00.

Meeting Registration is \$15.00 if registering early using this form or \$20.00 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](http://laarchaeology.org)). PayPal is available to use there for the early registration rate. If you have any questions concerning the meeting, contact Velicia Bergstrom at [vbergstrom@fs.fed.us](mailto:vbergstrom@fs.fed.us) or at 318-473-7043.

## Call for Papers for the 2011 LAS Meeting

Dr. Chip McGimsey will be the program chair for the 2011 LAS meeting. Contact him at (225) 219-4600 or [cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us](mailto:cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us) if you are interested in presenting at the meeting. He needs to have a title and abstract by January 14 at the very latest. Earlier would be much appreciated.

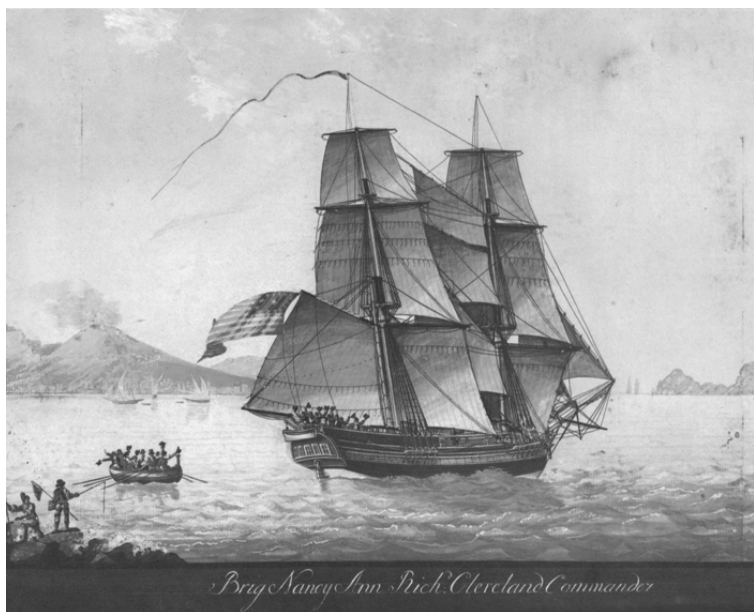
## Dr. Jack Irion, Underwater Archaeologist, will be 2011 LAS Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

A native Texan, Jack received his doctorate degree from The University of Texas in 1990. With over 37 years experience in underwater archaeology, he has participated in or directed archaeological expeditions in England, Mexico, Belize, Turkey, Italy, Puerto Rico, and throughout the United States. Prior to 1995, Jack served as a private consulting marine archaeologist working under contract to both private industry and state and federal agencies. His work has resulted in the discovery and documentation of numerous historic sites and shipwrecks, including the Confederate Harbor Obstructions in Mobile Bay, the wreck of the steamship *Columbus* in Chesapeake Bay, and the Confederate ironclad *Louisiana*. Since joining the former Minerals Management Service, now Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE), Jack has directed the Seafloor Monitoring Team in the documentation of several historic shipwrecks on the Outer Continental Shelf. These have included the Civil War gunboat U.S.S. Hatteras and the 19th century coastal steamers *New York* and *Josephine*. Most recently, Jack has overseen projects that documented the deepest shipwrecks ever found in the Gulf, including the German submarine *U-166* in 5,000 feet of water and the so-called "7,000-ft Wreck," as well as some of its most historic, such as a potential War of 1812 privateer dubbed the "Mardi Gras Shipwreck." Jack is currently the Supervisor of the Social Sciences Unit of the Gulf of Mexico Region of BOEMRE, comprised of 10 social scientists, economists, and archaeologists.



### Abstract for Dr. Irion's Keynote Address The Mardi Gras Shipwreck: A War of 1812 Privateer?

Nearly a decade ago in 2002, the operators of a remotely operated vehicle, or ROV, discovered the remains of an historic shipwreck lying undisturbed in 4,000 ft of water off the Louisiana coast while surveying the route of a proposed deepwater pipeline. This set into motion a chain of events that culminated in the recovery of hundreds of historic artifacts in the first deepwater archaeological excavation ever attempted in the Gulf of Mexico. The artifacts were donated by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement (BOEMRE, the former MMS) to the Division of Archaeology for the benefit of the public and the citizens of Louisiana. This paper will explore the way in which this extraordinary recovery came about, the high-tech means by which it was accomplished, and present some of the findings of the work. Finally, a possible identification for the wreck will be explored and its implications for the history of Louisiana.



## LAS Silent Auction

The LAS will hold its annual fund-raising Silent Auction during this year's annual meeting. During the last five years, Society members have raised over \$3,500 for the Society and helped avert possible dues increases. 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, art and other items that you think would be of interest to members of the LAS. Those of you contemplating cleaning out your bookshelf, attic, or garage now that the weather has turned cooler, think of the LAS before tossing that item into the trash. Questions and comments can be directed to Chip McGimsey ([cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us](mailto:cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us) 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*

### Why is the Hotel Named the Alexander Fulton? Wasn't He the Guy that Invented the Steamboat?!

Well, since you asked, he was not the inventor of the steamboat. That was Robert Fulton, but they were contemporaries. Alexander was a merchant, planter, politician and the founder of Alexandria, La. The date of his birth is unknown, but he was a native of Washington, Pa. He came to the Alexandria area ca. 1790 and was a partner with William Miller in land speculations. He brought a cargo of merchandise and erected the first store in Rapides Parish, on the banks of Red River. He was appointed coroner of Rapides, May 4, 1805, by Governor Claiborne and he became postmaster at Rapides in 1807. In 1805 he laid out the town of Alexandria and named it for himself (something you could get away with back then). He married, Mary Henrietta Wells in 1793 when she was 15 (also something you could get away with back then) and they had six children: Samuel, Eliza, William, Benjamin, Marcus, and Courtney Ann. He died, probably in 1818, and was likely interred in Rapides Cemetery, Pineville. The grave's exact location is currently unknown. Many in his family were prominent in the politics and the economy of central Louisiana during the nineteenth century, with his nephew James Madison Wells serving as a controversial governor immediately after the Civil War.

## THE (TENTATIVE) GENERAL SCHEDULE OF THE 2011 LAS ANNUAL MEETING

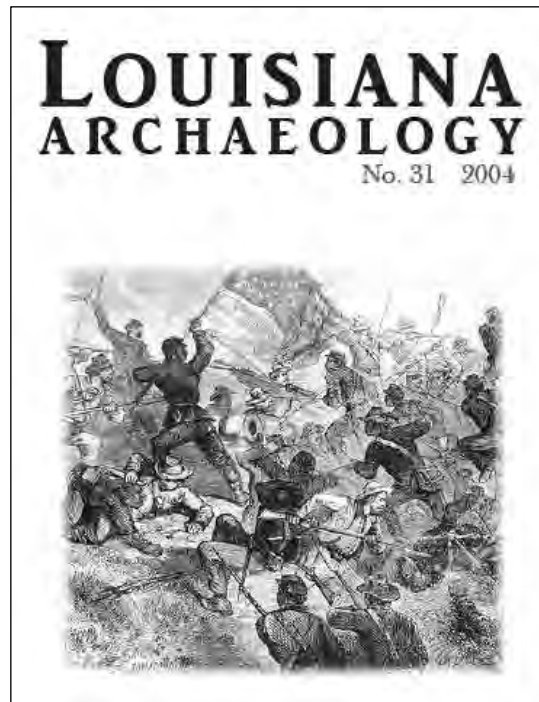
- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Friday (January 21)   | 4 pm to 5 pm – Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy (LAC)<br>5pm to 6 pm – Executive Committee Meetings (LAS)<br>7 pm to 10 pm – Reception   |
| Saturday (January 22) | 7am to 8 am – Registration and Welcome<br>8 am to 11:30 am – Presentations<br>11:30am to 1 pm – Lunch (on your own). Restaurant @ hotel will be available, as well as others nearby.<br>1 pm to 4 pm – Presentations<br>4 pm to 5 pm – General Business Meetings<br>7 pm to 10 pm – Banquet and Keynote Address by Dr. Jack Irion |
| Sunday (March 7)      | Choice of tours to various archaeological/historic sites in CENLA – Marksville & (possibly) Ft. DeRussy - Chip McGimsey<br>Fort Buhlow and Fort Randolph – LA State Historic Site   |



**BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!!  
COMING SOON:  
LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY NO. 31 FOR 2004**

Although time marches on and inevitably creates archaeological sites in its path, wherever people did certain things, the journal of the LAS has not exactly kept in step!! In an effort to get back into formation, the next issue of *Louisiana Archaeology*, which will be No. 31, should be available for the membership at the annual meeting. If you were an LAS member in 2004, we have a list showing you were. If you were not, but find the publication to be something you can't live without, it will be available for purchase at the meeting in Alexandria. If you can't make the meeting, but were a member in 2004, it will be mailed to you.

This issue contains the following articles: "The Burnitt Site (16SA204): A Late Caddoan Occupation in the Uplands of the Sabine River" by David B. Kelley, Donald G. Hunter, Katherine M. Roberts, Susan L. Scott, and Bryan S. Haley, "The Holmes Site (41SM282): An East Texas Site with Lower Mississippi Valley Ceramic Sherds" by Mark Walters and Tim Perttula, and "Cultural Resource Investigations Associated with the May 27, 1863 Assault by the Louisiana Native Guard upon Confederate Defenses, Port Hudson State Historical Site (16EF7)" by Kenneth A. Ashworth and Mike Fraering. - *LAS Editor, Dennis Jones*



**Shannon Dawdy, Anthropology Professor at the University of Chicago and Former Regional Archaeologist for the Greater New Orleans Area, Receives McArthur Foundation Award**

*The text below is from the website for the McArthur Foundation announcing the 2010 Foundation Fellows -Editor*

Shannon Lee Dawdy is an archaeologist and anthropologist who links scholarship with historical preservation to illuminate the history of the Atlantic World since 1450. In addition to work on the Southeast United States and Caribbean, Dawdy has produced insightful studies of New Orleans from its establishment as a French colony to the present day. In *Building the Devil's Empire: French Colonial New Orleans* (2008), she integrates the intellectual life of the community with the story of the adventurers, entrepreneurs, and smugglers who resisted governance, providing a markedly expanded narrative of the colonial dynamics and structure of the region. Her recent fieldwork in New Orleans, concentrating on the former site of the Rising Sun Hotel and St. Antoine's Garden behind St. Louis Cathedral, is the largest archaeological excavation undertaken to date in the French Quarter. These two sites are an important part of her current project: an exploration of the connections between aesthetics and social life. Complementing her academic work, Dawdy has also been a vocal advocate for historical preservation. She served as special liaison between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office to ensure that recovery efforts in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina remained cognizant of the city's singular archaeological heritage. Through her boundary-crossing scholarship, fieldwork, and efforts to engage the public in uncovering the history of their communities, Dawdy is enriching the arenas of historical archaeology and urban preservation.

Shannon Lee Dawdy received a B.A. (1988) from Reed College, an M.A. (1994) from the College of William and Mary, and an M.A. (2000) and Ph.D. (2003) from the University of Michigan. Since 2004, she has been an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Chicago. She is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters, as well as co-editor of *Dialogues in Cuban Archaeology* (2005) and *Dumont de Montigny: Regards sur le monde atlantique, 1715-1747* (2008).



## “And the Winner Is.....!”

### The LAS is now accepting nominations for various awards

The Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) is announcing the Annual Awards for nomination and competition for presentation at this year's annual conference. LAS has four awards categories: Ford Award, Roger Saucier Award, Marie Standifer Award, and the Student Paper Competition Award.

**The Student Paper** competition for the upcoming LAS annual meeting consists of undergraduate and graduate student paper submissions to the address below. Student papers are reviewed and evaluated by professionals for quality and content. The student winner of this competition will have all expenses paid for their participation in the LAS annual meeting and be required to present their paper at the conference. Please submit papers by January 14, 2010 to Velicia Bergstrom at [vbergstrom@fs.fed.us](mailto:vbergstrom@fs.fed.us), 2500 Shreveport Hwy, Pineville, La 71360; 318-473-7043 or 318-229-5344.

University Professors! The Louisiana Archaeological Society is also seeking nominees for the **Marie Standifer Award**. This award is designed for a graduate student, who is considered an outstanding student with a promising future in their field of study. The student must be seeking a graduate degree with a focus relating to archaeological or cultural heritage research and preservation. The universities are requested to submit nominees with a letter from a professor stating why this particular student is considered an outstanding scholar and befitting the Marie Standifer award. The winner of this prestigious award will have all expenses paid for their participation in the LAS annual meeting and required to present at the conference. Please submit nominees with a letter of recommendation by January 14, 2010 to Velicia Bergstrom at [vbergstrom@fs.fed.us](mailto:vbergstrom@fs.fed.us), 2500 Shreveport Hwy, Pineville, La 71360; 318-473-7043 or 318-229-5344.

LAS is also seeking nominees for the **Ford Award**. This award goes to a professional archaeologist who has done outstanding work in Louisiana archaeology.

And lastly, LAS is seeking nomination for the **Saucier Award**. This award goes to a professional, other than an archaeological professional, who has made major contributions to Louisiana archaeology.

Please submit nominees for the Ford award and the Saucier award to Velicia Bergstrom at [vbergstrom@fs.fed.us](mailto:vbergstrom@fs.fed.us), 2500 Shreveport Hwy, Pineville, La 71360; 318-473-7043 or 318-229-5344.

# Poverty Point considered for UN list

By Greg Hibern

*This article appeared in the September 30, 2010 issue of The Monroe News Star and was reprinted in other newspapers throughout the state.*

**Tim Williams, senior lecturer, Institute of Archaeology, University College, London and editor-in-chief, Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites, discusses Poverty Point with a panel on Wednesday at the state historic site near Epps.**



Louisiana's Poverty Point State Historic Site could one day be mentioned with the same historical significance of such cultural and natural sites as the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, the Great Wall of China, the Statue of Liberty and the Galapagos Islands.

The vast complex of earthen mounds and ridges in West Carroll Parish built by inhabitants more than 3,500 years ago is among 13 sites on the U.S. Department of Interior's tentative list of places that could be nominated to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage List.

"The inclusion of Poverty Point on the World Heritage List would elevate the status of both the site and our park system tremendously," said Stuart Johnson, assistant secretary of Louisiana's Office of State Parks. "It would be absolutely huge to reach that level of distinction."

There are only 911 such designated sites in the world and none in Louisiana or in any state contiguous to Louisiana.

A team of international experts convened at Poverty Point this week to advise station archaeologist Diana Greenlee how to prepare the official nomination.

"It's an exceptional site, and there's no doubt about its quality and its international significance," said Tim Williams, senior lecturer with the Institute of Archaeology at University College in London. "What's really exciting isn't the mounds in isolation, but the entire complex that sets it apart. It's a phenomenal, monumental complex, and that's what makes it sing.

"It's stunning and so well preserved that I think it has a good chance to make the list." But the process to make the list could take years.

Poverty Point made the first cut of tentative U.S. sites, but it still must be nominated to a federal advisory panel that would make a recommendation to the U.S. assistant secretary of the interior, who would make the decision on what site or sites to be sent to the World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Committee would make the final decision after sending its representative to assess Poverty Point in person.

When I just read about (Poverty Point) I was impressed, but I couldn't appreciate the scale of it until I saw it in person," said Phyllis Ellin, the historian with the National Park Service's Office of International Affairs. Though most of the U.S. sites on the tentative list are federally owned, Ellin said that doesn't put Poverty Point at a disadvantage. "Who owns the site isn't a factor," she said. "(The U.S. Department of Interior) nominates the sites, so it clearly belongs."

*Poverty Point and the UN: next page*

*Poverty Point and the UN: continued from previous page*

Mike Russo, an archeologist with the National Park Service, said the population that built Poverty Point was the most elaborate settlement of its time in North America. "It set the stage for far more famous mounds that were to come afterward," Russo said. "It has every permanent architectural feature that was to follow with ridge top living, causeways crossing water and land leveling. It set the historical precedent."

Greenlee said her first question to the panel of experts following their first day there was, "Should we proceed with the nomination? They were unanimous that we should."

Two Monroe natives, John Stubbs of New York and George Riser of Covington, were among the experts at Poverty Point this week. "It's a joy to come home and work on something so important as this stellar site," said Stubbs, vice president for field projects of the World Monument Fund. "It's a cultural asset that's becoming increasingly appreciated." "What makes it even more significant is that this site was discovered in our lifetime (in the 1950s)," said Riser, a member of the Louisiana Antiquities Commission. "It's going to bring me back to Monroe more often, which is great."

State Sen. Francis Thompson, D-Delhi, said the potential addition of the site to the World Heritage List would shine a light on the region and all of Louisiana. "This isn't just about arrowheads," Thompson said. "It's about understanding an ancient culture that isn't just important to us, but important internationally."

## **Poverty Point State Historic Site Designated as an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution**

BATON ROUGE - Poverty Point State Historic Site, located in northeast Louisiana, has been accepted as a Smithsonian Affiliate. The site is one of four Affiliates in the state, and one of only 160 Affiliate museums and cultural organizations in the United States.

"I am pleased to announce that Poverty Point State Historic Site has been given the honor of being named a Smithsonian Affiliate," said Lt. Governor Scott Angelle. "This is a tremendous honor and I look forward to this partnership with the world-renowned Smithsonian Institution."

Poverty Point SHS offers visitors educational programs, interpretive exhibits with unique artifacts on display, and the opportunity to experience some of North America's most complex earthen mound architecture reflecting the Native American culture that resided in the area centuries before European settlement of the Western Hemisphere. Archaeological digs are an on-going venture at the site, with continuous discoveries revealing discoveries on the daily lives of the area's residents. Office of State Parks staff also offer programs that demonstrate many of the tools - such as atlatls and cooking balls - that have been excavated on the site.

"This is certainly a great honor to be affiliated with the country's foremost cultural institution," said Dr. Stuart Johnson, the Assistant Secretary for the Office of State Parks. "We look forward to working with the Smithsonian for a greater exposure of the significant archaeological findings at Poverty Point."

The Smithsonian's collections-based Affiliations program provides access to pieces within the Institution's 136 million object collection, enabling Affiliates to augment their existing exhibits and enhance the visitors' experience to their sites. Smithsonian Affiliates may integrate Smithsonian artifacts and collections into their exhibitions, their educational initiatives and their research programs.

"The Smithsonian Institution is honored to launch this affiliation with the Louisiana Office of State Parks," stated Harold A. Closter, Smithsonian Affiliations Director. "The Smithsonian has played a major role in studying and explaining the significance of the earthworks at Poverty Point, and now through this partnership, we hope to share that story on a broader scale. We look forward to working together with the staff of the Louisiana Office of State Parks who have done such an excellent job of preserving and interpreting this remarkable site."

Smithsonian Affiliates partner, and share resources, in an effort to share America's artistic, scientific, and historic heritage. Visitors from across the country come together to experience the landmark moments of space flight, the mystery of gems, the beauty of nature, the passion of art, and the march of history at their local Affiliate site. More information on Smithsonian Affiliates can be found at [www.affiliations.si.edu](http://www.affiliations.si.edu).

*This was a press release from the Office of Cultural Developments that was printed in newspapers throughout Louisiana.*





## LSU Fans win first battle of the Mounds

By JORDAN BLUM  
 Advocate Capitol News Bureau  
 September 28, 2010  
 The Baton Rouge Morning Advocate

Children used 'Please do not slide on the mounds' signs as makeshift sleds on the LSU Mounds prior to the LSU-West Virginia football game. Photo by Heather McKillop

The battle for the LSU Mounds has been won by football fans for now.

LSU administrators opted to remove the ropes and poles barricading the historic mounds early Saturday for safety reasons, LSU associate vice chancellor for communications Herb Vincent said. Fans and children had overcome the barriers the week before the first home football game, he said.

The decision came less than two weeks after LSU announced plans to block off what are commonly known as the "Indian Mounds" for preservation purposes on high-traffic football game days. Children were using signs, reading, "Please do not slide on the mounds" and "Help preserve the mounds," on Saturday as makeshift sleds on the mounds.

LSU archeologists and anthropologists who were out protecting the mounds and handing out literature said they felt abandoned by the LSU administration. Rebecca Saunders, archaeology professor and associate curator of the LSU Museum of Natural Science, said the preservationists were "dumbfounded" the barricades were removed by the university without their knowledge. "It certainly is not very honorable and it doesn't teach the students a good lesson when they put in all this work," Saunders said of the protection and education efforts. "It certainly never occurred to us we'd meet this kind of resistance."

The mounds, which are more than 6,000 years old, were made by prehistoric American Indian tribes and are older than the Egyptian pyramids. The mounds are believed to have been used for ceremonial and marking-point purposes

Saunders said the concept of sledding down the sacred mounds is akin to climbing up and down a historic church. "It's like they're destroying a church," she said.

Rob Mann, southeast regional archaeologist in LSU's geography and anthropology department, said he regularly gets calls from private citizens who want help protecting American Indian mounds on their property. "It puts me in a bad light if my own university won't take steps to properly preserve them," Mann said. Mann said the repeated trouncing, sledding and biking on the mounds, especially on tailgating weekends, is tearing them down. "These mounds are in danger of coming apart," Mann said. "The preservation and protection of these mounds is something we need to be proactive in."

LSU Chancellor Michael Martin did not respond to two messages seeking comment Monday.

Vincent insisted LSU leaders want to protect the mounds. "We thought it was a hazard," Vincent said of the ropes and poles. "We remain concerned about the mounds, and we're looking for alternative ways to protect them." Vincent said using security or police is unlikely.

Mann said many people obeyed the barricades initially, but that, by the afternoon, a combination of alcohol consumption and growing crowds created a "critical mass" that resulted in people ignoring the ropes. "Change is not easy," Mann said of traditions of tailgating and children playing by the mounds. "It would be nice if people would not just think of the mounds as big piles of dirt."

## LSU Announces “Save the Mounds” Campaign: University comes together to preserve campus mounds; asks fans and supporters to do the same

By Ashley Berthelot, LSU Media Relations  
LSU Press release 9/30/2010

**BATON ROUGE** – Efforts to keep traffic off the LSU Mounds on game days got off to a difficult start, with barricades being pulled for safety reasons at the last game, allowing free access for people to walk up and slide down the mounds. But, because the mounds are so culturally and scientifically important, the university has come together and developed the “Save the Mounds” campaign to preserve LSU’s Mounds.

As such, visitors to campus on home football game days will see that the mounds have been fenced off in a safe but thorough manner to avoid crowds gathering there to slide or view the parade.

However, it is important to note that the mounds will be accessible at all other times. The only time access will be restricted is during game days, when potentially damaging crowds can gather on them.

A frequently asked question since the first stages of this preservation effort began has been, “Why now, after we’ve done this for years?” The answer is simple – we have only recently begun to study the mounds in detail, and this work has taught us precisely how endangered these mounds are.

“We need to stop the flow of traffic on games days because the mounds are collapsing outward. We didn’t know that years ago, but we do now,” said Brooks Ellwood, Robey H. Clark Distinguished Professor in Geology and Geophysics. Ellwood and his classes that now study the mounds recently discovered that the internal sediment, especially in Northern Mound A, liquefies when disturbed, much like sand along the shoreline on a beach liquefies when you tap your foot on it. “With the damage these mounds have incurred – both through the critical mass reached on game days and also as a result of natural processes – they are collapsing,” he said.

If this process continues, it would be devastating to the beauty and natural wonder of LSU’s unique campus mounds.

“As a state, we have a responsibility to protect this nationally registered historical site,” said Rob Mann, southeast regional archaeologist for Louisiana, assistant professor-research of geography and anthropology and resident expert on the mounds. “If it is damaged or destroyed, no one will be able to access it. Not the children who want to slide down the mounds, not the scientists who want to continue their research on the structures. It will be a disaster, which is why we’re aiming for a compromise now.”

Another question that has been asked during this process is, “What damage can a 40-pound child do to mounds that have been in existence for more than 6,000



**One of the LSU Campus Mounds (16EBR6)**

years?” The answer is a lot – especially when there are many children.

“The issue right now isn’t simply one child sliding down the mounds once or twice. It’s the amount of people – children and adults alike – that gather on the mounds during a game day. That combined weight and activity can really be catastrophic, especially when we’re looking at a structural system that is already compromised,” said Rebecca Saunders, curator of anthropology at the LSU Museum of Natural Science. “It’s already to the point that you can see severe slump scars on the face of both mounds. How long before those scars turn into gaping holes? Everything beneath such a hole would be ruined; there will be no way to accurately study the structure or gain any knowledge about the people who built it.”

While it might sound counterintuitive, the weight of a crowd of people is quite considerable and can cause significant damage, even to actual roadways. “We’d like to urge LSU fans and the community to look at the facts and then give this idea some serious consideration,” said Patrick Hesp, chair of the LSU Department of Geography & Anthropology. “Everyone loves the mounds, but the fact is that crowds sliding down them can create a hazardous situation for these very old and distinctive structures. If we work together, the mounds will be around for future generations to enjoy as they come to campus.”

The university is currently looking into alternative structures that could be provided for children on tailgating days, but the process will take time.

“Change is never easy, especially when it involves something that’s been considered a tradition for years and years,” said Chancellor Michael Martin. “But tradition doesn’t offset danger and potentially calamitous situations, and that’s what we’re facing here. Those mounds aren’t hills of dirt – they’re treasures, archaeological mysteries housed right here on LSU’s campus. We’re asking the entire LSU community – students, faculty, staff, fans and friends – to join forces and help us to save the LSU Mounds.”

-Special to the LAS newsletter

## **Don't Slide on the Mounds: Tailgating and Site Preservation**

By Dr. Heather McKillop, LSU Faculty and Chair of the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission

Tailgating on LSU home football game weekends is a long tradition that has included trailers parked for the weekend in lots, tailgating tents across campus, and climbing on the LSU Indian Mounds.

The student members of the Geography and Anthropology Society (GAS) at LSU decided to have an educational tailgating tent between the two earthen mounds on home football games in 2010 to discourage this last tradition. This included informative displays, pamphlets and displays along with students who were available to talk about the LSU Indian mounds. The Indian Mound tailgating tent also was listed as a 2010 Louisiana Archaeology Month activity that included SE Regional Archaeologist Dr. Rob Mann.

There was also a compelling LSU web page feature story at the beginning of the Fall semester. The author, Ashley Berthelot underscored the historic significance of the 6,000 year old earthen Indian mounds and the importance of protecting them. She also noted recent remote sensing and coring of the mounds by LSU Geology Professor Brooks Elwood that indicated internal damage to the mounds. The LSU Indian mounds also were featured in the book *Treasures of LSU* in an article by LSU Professors Sophie Warny and Rebecca Saunders that was published as part of the university's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

A committee of faculty members consulted with the LSU administration to fence the mounds on home football game days and to provide police security to enforce the fence. Initially the mounds were roped off (similar to the ropes protecting live oaks and other areas on campus); with small signs encouraging people to stay off the mounds.

Many individuals talked with the students at the GAS Between the Mounds Tailgating Tent at the first 2010 home football game. The signs, ropes, fencing, and educational information were unsuccessful in keeping tailgaters off the LSU Indian Mounds. The barricades were ignored and children and teenagers used the signs, cardboard, and recycling bins to slide down the mounds. In addition, kids rolled, "surfing" on cardboard down the mounds, tossed footballs, ran up and down, and dug their feet into the mounds.

As a response, a new LSU web page posting encouraged tailgaters to "Save the Mounds" (see previous page) and LSU's Chancellor, Dr. Michael Martin, also extended a request for people to stay off the mounds during football games:

Plastic snow fencing around the mounds at the next LSU home game also was ignored, as reported in the media, on Facebook, various on-line message boards, and by letters to the LSU Chancellor. The GAS Tailgating students were discouraged. At a meeting of LSU faculty, LSU police, and Facilities Services, LA state law was discussed which makes it "unlawful...to damage... archaeological resources...on state land," with financial penalties and/or jail time. The committee agreed that in order to keep people off the LSU Indian Mounds, there needed to be a security person stationed at the mounds before, during, and after home games, in addition to the fencing. Security officers posted at the mounds for the last three home games were effective in keeping people off the mounds, in addition to the snow fences around each mound.

Ultimately, the GAS campaign to keep people off the LSU Indian Mounds on home football game days was successful. The short-term solution to preserving the integrity of the mounds is security during home games. The next stage is an LSU Indian Mounds Planning Committee to discuss ways to protect the mounds long-term and to allow various non-destructive uses. Figuring highly in the discussion will be a research project by PhD student Cory Sills on the modern and historic uses of the LSU Indian Mounds. In addition to those on the initial mound committee and GAS representatives, the planning committee seeks additional interested individuals and stakeholders, such as the Tiger Athletic Foundation, Foundation for Historic Louisiana, and the LA Division of Archaeology.

Certificates were distributed December 10, 2010 to members of GAS who participated in the tail-gating at the mounds at LSU home games in the fall. They were: Marc Massom, Cory Sills, Alex Giancarlo, Louise Cheatham, Roberto Rosado, Paul Watts, Julie Doucet & family, Beverly Nuschler, Jenny Hay, Gentry Hanks, Michelle Whipp, Caitlyn McNabb, Rebecca Brown, Lauren Pharr, Beverly Clement, Mia Keeton, Anne Marie Caleucia, Laura Becker, Christopher Triche, and Amelia Ley.

The initiative to protect the LSU Indian Mounds in the Fall 2010, spearheaded by LSU GAS students, has resulted in significant progress both in protection the archaeological resources and promoting their value as "cultural capital" for the members of the LSU community and the citizens of Louisiana. The Archaeological Institute of America recognizes the importance of archaeological tourism in preservation of significant archaeological sites. Certainly, the oldest archaeological mounds in North America, right on the LSU campus, can attract tourists, tailgaters, and other visitors, while still protecting the integrity of the mounds.





**Mark Massom, one of the most active organizers of the LSU Geography and Anthropology Society's (GAS) efforts to keep people off the LSU Campus Mounds, speaks with a tailgating mother and her children during a home game on the LSU campus. Mean-while, children behind him go through barriers and play on one of the mounds' slopes.**

## **Work Continues on Watson Brake: Group hopes to make site declared a state park**

By Zack Southwell, Monroe News-Star, December 17, 2010

Watson Brake, an area of mounds south of Monroe, was discovered by local archaeologist Reca Jones more than 30 years ago. Since then, she has worked tirelessly to have the area declared a state park to preserve its treasures. Similar to Poverty Point in West Carroll Parish and reported to be older than the pyramids in Egypt, the area is believed to contain a great wealth of knowledge about the earliest settlers of northeastern Louisiana.

At the monthly meeting of the Northeast Chapter of the Archaeology Society [*that should be the Northeast Louisiana Archaeological Society (NELAS)-editor*] on Thursday, Jessica Crawford, Southeast regional director of the Archaeology Conservancy, spoke to the group about what she does. "It's hard work, getting a site named as a state park and preserved," Crawford said.

The Gentry family, which has owned the land the brake is located on since the 1950s, has allowed Jones and other researchers on sections of the property that the state has been unable to purchase. While the conservancy owns half the property, it has been unsuccessful in acquiring the rest of it. "For preservation purposes, we would like to purchase the entire site," Crawford said. "Ideally, we'd like to see it made into a state park."

Crawford could only confirm that discussions with the family to purchase the rest of the site are ongoing. "(The family) loves the site, too," Crawford said. "And they want to see it preserved. They have taken great care of it. But a lot of things need to be worked out."

The Archaeological Conservancy, established in 1980, is the only national nonprofit organization dedicated to acquiring and preserving the best of the nation's remaining archaeological sites. Based in Albuquerque, N.M., the conservancy also operates regional offices in Mississippi, Maryland, Ohio and California.

The park would include 22 acres near the Holocene floodplain of the Ouachita River. The floodplain is home to 11 mounds from three to 25 feet tall — roughly the size of a two-story house — connected by 3-foot-tall ridges to form an oval 853 feet across. Watson Brake has been dated to about 5,400 years ago. The site is considered the earliest mound complex in North America. It is the earliest dated, complex construction in the Americas. Watson Brake's dating is nearly 2,000 years before Poverty Point, previously thought to be the earliest mound site in the United States.

The discovery and dating of Watson Brake demonstrated that the pre-agricultural, pre-ceramic, indigenous cultures within the territory of the present-day United States were much more complex than previously thought. Research has indicated that the site was initially occupied around 4,000 B.C. during the Archaic period. Mound construction began at approximately 3,500 B.C., and continued for approximately 500 years.

Jones said 80 acres were sold by the family in 1998, at about \$72 per acre. "They practically gave it to us," Jones said. "We hope to have a state park there one day."



## Poverty Point World Heritage Initiative Formed as Part of ULM Foundation

### The World Heritage Program

It is a program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

- The World Heritage List includes the world’s outstanding cultural and natural properties.
- Currently the list includes 911 sites in 151 countries, including
  - o Cahokia Mounds - United States
  - o Machu Picchu - Peru
  - o Pyramids of Giza - Egypt
- Listing Poverty Point will attract international tourists.

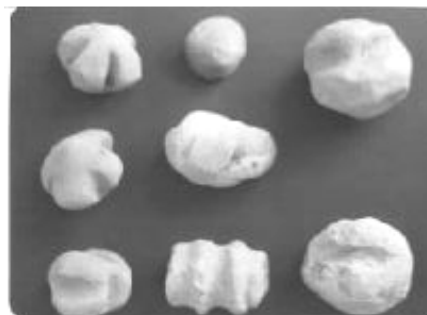
### Process of Becoming a World Heritage Site

- In 2008, the U.S. selected 14 properties for a Tentative List for future nomination. Poverty Point is on the U.S. Tentative List.
- Preparation of the nomination will take several years.
- Business, individual, and foundation financial contributions are needed to fund research, planning, and advice for the project.
- Local and state support is critical for success.

### The Poverty Point Site

The earthworks are massive: 5 mounds and 6 C-shaped ridges surround a huge plaza.

- The geometric design is unique in the world and is a masterpiece of engineering.
- The site is 3,500 years old.
- At the time the earthworks were constructed, they were the largest in North America.
- The site was the major political, trading, and ceremonial center of its day in North America.
- The people who built and lived at the site did not raise crops.



### Make a Tax-Deductible Donation through the University of Louisiana at Monroe Foundation

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1. Select: **Make a Gift Today**
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3. Fill in your information
4. In the Message box, put: **Poverty Point**

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Make your check payable to **ULM Foundation**, and in the Memo field, write **A & S Poverty Point**. Send your check, with this form, to the address below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send form and check to:  
 Poverty Point World Heritage Initiative  
 ULM Foundation  
 700 University Avenue  
 Monroe, LA 71209

## Several State Historic Sites Now Have “Appointment Only” Hours Due to Budget Cuts

Several state historic sites have joined Los Adaes (Natchitoches Parish, LA) in being open by appointment only (this means a site manager is there, but the sites are effectively closed to the public). Included are: Centenary (Jackson, LA), Marksville (Marksville, LA), Plaquemine Lock (Plaquemine, LA), and Winter Quarters, Newellton, Tensas Parish, LA

Still open 9 am to 5 pm every day, except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are: Audubon, Ft. Pike, Ft. St. Jean Baptiste, Locust Grove, Longfellow-Evangeline, Mansfield, Otis House, Port Hudson, Poverty Point, Rebel, and Rosedown.

Please check the Louisiana State Parks website: [www.crt.state.la.us/parks](http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks) for updated information.

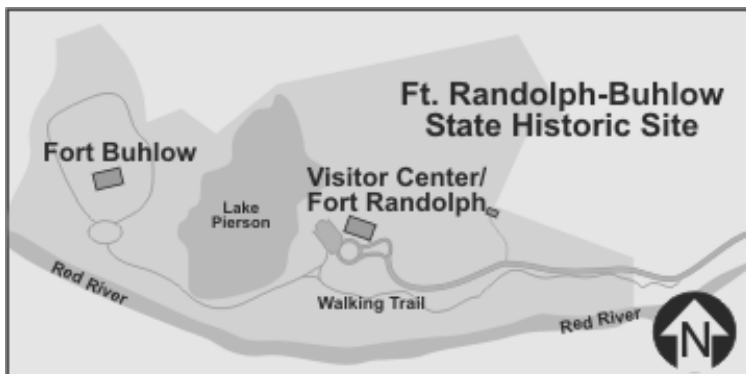
## New Civil War State Historic Site Facility Opens in Pine, LA

After the Battle of Mansfield on May 8, 1864 halting the Union advance to the West in spring of 1864, Forts Randolph and Buhlow were constructed on the Red River at Alexandria by Confederates in order to repel future Union attacks through Northwest Louisiana. Construction, completed by March 1865, was under the command of Cpt. Christopher M. Randolph and supervised by a military engineer, Lt. Alphonse Buhlow, for whom the forts are named. A third and larger fort, planned for the Alexandria side of the river, was never built.

The earthen forts, constructed using local plantation slave labor, were fortified with cannon and over 800 soldiers. In addition to a Confederate troop buildup in the Alexandria area, the Confederate ironclad Missouri was anchored in the river opposite Fort Randolph, but the anticipated attack never came and no fighting ever took place. In May of 1865, the Confederates surrendered to Union forces, and the forts were occupied for a short while by the Union before being abandoned at the end of the war.

Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site also includes the remains of Bailey's Dam. Bailey's Dam, remarkable for its design and the amount of time required in constructing it, allowed for the Union Fleet, under the command of Admiral David Porter, to escape below the rapids on the Red River at Alexandria during the Union retreat after the battle of Mansfield. Called “one of the greatest engineering feats of the Civil War,” The dam designed by Colonel Joseph Bailey has left a lasting mark on the history of the region. The site is today commemorated with interpretive signage and a scenic overlook of the Red River.

Located on Red River in downtown Pineville, the site includes a visitor center with exhibits on the Civil War Red River Campaign, an elevated boardwalk around the fort area, with an overlook near Bailey's Dam site, and an open field for Civil War re-enactments. Forts Randolph & Buhlow were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.



## PASSPORT IN TIME (PIT) Project Fullerton Mill

By Velevia Bergstrom, Forest Heritage Program Manager/Kisatchie National Forest

Fullerton Mill (1907-1927) (16VN-499) is arguably the largest and greatest lumber mill west of the Mississippi and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. S. H. Fullerton, an Irish immigrant, made his fortunes in retail lumber trade, decided in 1906 to build his own mills and he proceeded to build what was touted as the most beautiful mill site. A mill town was built to house up to 3,500 and accommodated 700 employees. Its uniqueness included a grand trolley and conveyor system, water, sewer and electricity to each house. Also, wages were paid in U. S. currency, rather than company scrip, and the last mayor of the town was female.

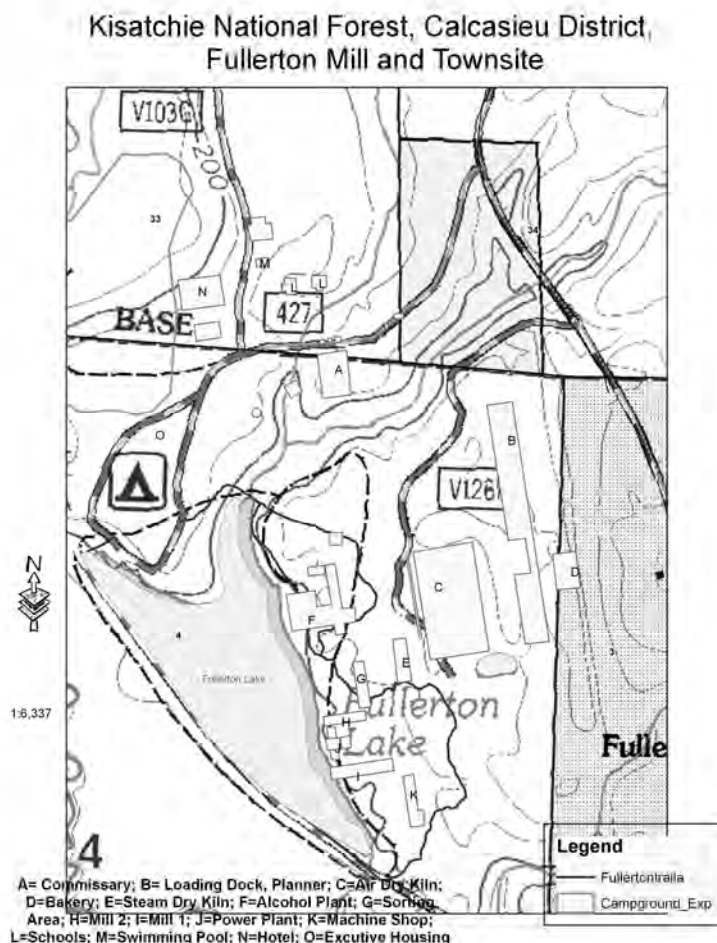
Some of the former sawmill and town became a part of the Kisatchie National forest and some of the lands were incorporated into the Ft Polk military reservation. Sadly, the Forest allowed the army to use the vacant concrete mill structures as bombing targets in the 1940's, leaving behind only the outlines of where the massive mill buildings once stood. Since that time, little vegetation management has occurred. Although there is a trail that passes by the ruins, the ruins are barely visible for the thick midstory and forest. The district recently has spent time and effort in mapping what is visible on the ground and has overlaid on the topographic maps where the now extant buildings once stood (Figure 1). And plans are being made to interpret this unique site to give back and acknowledge the wonderful past of Fullerton Mill.

In order to begin vegetation management for this unique site, the forest has a need to assess the conditions of these ruins. Additionally, the area has never been surveyed for prehistoric occupation. So plans were made for this project to survey the area during a Passport In Time (PIT) project October 15-24, 2010. This project also coincided with 2010 Louisiana Archaeology Month.

It was hoped that prior to the project, the areas would have been prescribed burned to aide in the on-the-ground survey. However, weather conditions (drought) did not allow this and the vegetation was very thick. We did, however, have access to a tractor and brush hogs, so transects were laid in a 30m intervals using the tractor, making the survey move smoothly.

We had nine volunteers for the work from Louisiana (certainly!) but also Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Indiana, Illinois and Texas, along with an enthusiastic crew from the district for this 10 day period (Figure 2). We discovered four prehistoric sites and revisited a site that was initially recorded in 1985.

We did not completely delineate these sites within the 10 day period. So Forest personnel carried on and finally completed the PIT project at Fullerton Mill on December 1, 2010. This was truly the longest PIT project the Kisatchie National Forest has had to date.



**Figure 1: Fullerton Mill and Town site with extant buildings overlaid.**



**Figure 2: Cast of Characters for the 2010 PIT project in Kisatchie National Forest**



### Perforated Spatulate Celt from East Texas

By Mark Walters, Stephen F. Austin State University,  
Nacogdoches, Texas

Robert W. Neuman (1991), in a volume of *Louisiana Archaeology*, discussed a perforated, spatulate stone celt from the Randolph A. Bazet collection. Neuman suggests the celt could well be assigned to a Plaquemine or Mississippian time period (from about A.D. 900 to A.D. 1630), based on similar artifacts at other sites in the Southeast U.S. that he attributes to the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex.

The perforated celt had a spatulate (flat) shape and was made from a compact, dark-green, metamorphosed rock, commonly referred to in the archaeological literature as greenstone. There was a single, circular drilled hole toward the poll end of the celt; no dimensions are given for the size of the celt or drilled hole. Neuman also discussed an identical perforated celt from the Williamson Collection at Northwestern State University that is reported to be from Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. It was 13.5 cm in length, 12.0 cm in width, and 1.0 cm thick. In addition, Neuman mentioned a third perforated object: a poorly made axe made of soft claystone, with a part of a perforation in the blade, although it is unclear if this is a portion of a completed hole or is a partially drilled hole.

The Gregg County Museum in Longview, Texas is the repository for the Buddy Calvin Jones (BCJ) Collection. Jones amassed this collection in his younger years (mainly the 1950's) in East Texas before moving to Florida and becoming Assistant State Archaeologist. This is a massive collection that has been poorly studied. While recently examining some of the ground stone tools, celts in particular, I noted a celt, made from a very dark-gray, dense igneous rock that had drilled holes that were not technically perforations since they did not go all the way through the celt on both sides.

Celts are defined as un-notched wedge-shaped tools that are axe-like and presumably used primarily for cutting and chopping wood (Davis 1991:296-297). In East Texas, they are most commonly made from exotic materials, such as greenstone from the Ouachita Mountains region, and were generally brought into this part of the Caddo area as finished goods. They are usually highly polished on all surfaces, especially the bit (more so than warranted by use); and occur fairly often in Caddo burials.

Grooved axes differ from celts in that they are more commonly made from hematite or other local ferruginous sandstones; have a distinct shape (i.e., three quarters to fully grooved); and are believed to predate celts, at least in the Caddo area.

This celt is labeled "14 BCJ" and the exact provenance of this is unknown. It is petaloid in shape (Figure 1), has a flattened oval shape in cross section due to the top and bottom surfaces being flat whereas the more commonly occurring celt forms on Caddo sites have convex top and bottom surfaces with a thickness that is generally 60-80 % of the width of the celt. Since the term spatulate means flat, this particular celt is referred to here as a spatulate celt. The celt had a flat poll on

one end and formed bit on the opposite end. All surfaces are polished and show no sign of wear, (though one side has recent scratches and residue from tape).

Relevant measurements are: length: 114.1 mm, width: 59.0 mm, thickness: 28.1 mm, and weight: 312.9 g. There are two drilled holes on one surface: one on the poll end has an outside diameter of 2.6 mm and is drilled 3.9 mm deep; the second hole is mid-section, has an outside diameter of 6.6 mm and is drilled 2.4 mm deep. The opposite surface has a drilled hole on the bit that is 5.4 mm in diameter and 3.4 mm deep (Figure 1).

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1991 *Prehistoric Artifacts of the Texas Indians*. Pecos Publishing Company, San Antonio, Texas.
- Neuman, Robert W.  
1991 A Perforated, Spatulate Stone Celt from Louisiana. *Louisiana Archaeology* 18: 85-100.



Figure 1. Views of both sides of celt in Buddy Calvin Jones collection showing locations of three drilled spots.



## CME's and Historic Indians in Terminal Antebellum St. Landry Parish

By James A. Fogleman  
LAS Correspondent in Morrow, LA

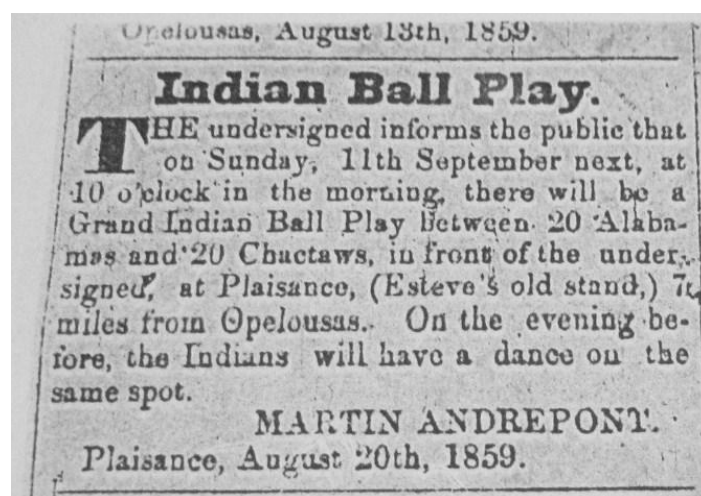
CMEs or “coronal mass ejections” are fairly common events in which the sun ejects masses of charged particles. They are generally unimportant and provide auroral displays at high latitudes. Auroras are rare in Louisiana. Living in a remote setting like Morrow, has a few advantages. One is confusing people by telling them that you are going to Morrow, today. Another is lots of local Indian sites to discover and visit. Still another is dark night skies. In several decades of observing, I have seen only 4 or 5 auroral events. Presumably, they are more common, since my time spent stargazing is fairly limited, not to mention the common overcast conditions in Louisiana. All but one of my observations has consisted of only a faint reddish glow in the northern sky. The solar storm of March 13, 1989, however, was the exception. It began with what appeared as a rapidly moving wave travelling north to south. Once it passed overhead, it brought bright colors which completely filled the sky. The source of this spectacular aurora was a massive sunspot my students and I had observed for several days prior to the event.

While the event of March, 1989 caused a massive power outage in Canada, it had few lasting effects elsewhere. CMEs do have the potential for catastrophic consequences, however. The *Scientific American* for August, 2010, lists CMEs as the second most likely cause of a worldwide disaster and reports that the strongest CME to affect the earth was likely the Carrington Event of 1859. [A CME in 2001 was the greatest event ever recorded. It reached a Magnitude 22 on a scale that had previously went only to 20. Fortunately it was pointed away from earth.] The Carrington Event, however, was directed towards our planet. Auroras were seen in the tropics and it is also noteworthy in that the telegraph [the only common electrical apparatus of that era] was significantly impacted with reports of sparks traveling down the lines and telegraphs bursting into flames. An event of such magnitude today would result in trillions of dollars in damages to all manner of electrical devices from satellites to anything hooked to the power grid including the grid itself.

Now for the big question, what does this article (with its pretentious title) have to do with archaeology? I researched to see if the Carrington Event was noted in Louisiana. During lunch breaks, I visited the Opelousas Public Library where the staff showed me how to access their copies of *The Opelousas Courier*. The Courier was a weekly paper published each Saturday in French and English during the nineteenth century. Unfortunately there was almost no local news except in advertisements. There were mentions of auroras, but only as quotes from papers elsewhere. My disappointment was somewhat muted, however, when I came across advertisements for ‘Indian Ball Play.’ The game was to take place in the small St. Landry Parish community of Plaisance (now known as the site of the annual Zydeco Festival) on Sunday, September 11, 1859. The game was to be between 20 Alabamas and 20 Chactaws [sic] with an Indian dance to be held the night before. The advertisement appeared in the September 3 and September 11 issues in both the French and English editions. The English used the term ‘Ball Play’ while the French used ‘Raquette, Raquette’ which makes one wonder if it was something like lacrosse. The English version used the term “Indians”, while the French used the term “Sauvages.” The phrase ‘et leurs exercices preparatoires’ suggests some practice for the upcoming games, but that was not mentioned in the English edition. My French is non-existent, but a French teacher, Madame C. Guler at the St. Landry Parish Magnet School, was kind enough to read over it for me.

The advertisement was placed by Martin Andrepont and refers to the site as ‘Esteves old stand.’ In another earlier advertisement dated August 6, 1859, Mr. Andrepont placed a notice which stated, ‘The undersigned having lately purchase the establishment of Esteve Fournier, 7 miles from Opelousas, on the main road to Ville Plate, have just opened a Dry Good Store, where they hope to suit their friends and the public in general. They have also opened a Coffee House and Billiard Table, where they will constantly keep good liquors and ice. MARTIN ANDREPONT August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1859.’

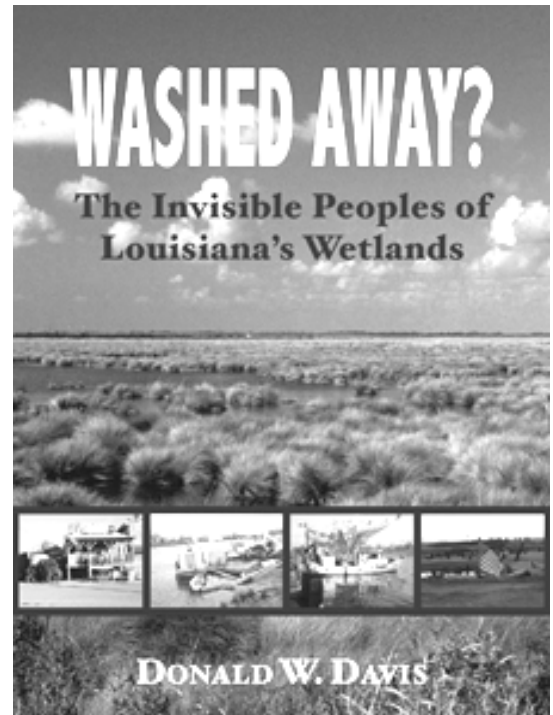
It would seem that as a promotional event to introduce his new business, Mr. Andrepont arranged to have an Indian dance and sporting event. Although I read several issues dated after the event, I was unable to determine if the event was a success or even happened. Another question is where did these tribal groups reside? In any event, this shows how I got from a spectacular solar event to historic Indians in a semi logical manner.



## WASHED AWAY? THE INVISIBLE PEOPLES OF LOUISIANA'S WETLANDS

By Donald W. Davis, University of Louisiana-Lafayette Press  
www.ulpress.org

For persons lacking an emotional attachment to the region, it is easy to see how South Louisiana's wetlands came to be labeled a "No Man's Land", a forgotten human landscape. However, a surprisingly large and ethnically diverse population has historically lived in this "wasteland", which boasted perhaps as many as 150,000 season inhabitants in the late 1930s. This resident trapper-hunter-fisherfolk collectively gives a human face to the coastal lowlands that have traditionally been studied almost exclusively for their distinctive flora and fauna. Indeed, books, monographs, and a sizeable body of research material have been published on the marsh and estuary's terrestrial, aquatic, and avian species, but little has been written about the trappers, commercial hunters, cattlemen, oystermen, shrimp fishermen, Chinese and Filipino seine crews, oil and gas company field crews, government service employees, rum-runners, shrimp-drying communities, and others. Yet, were it not for these marsh dwellers, this topographic element would have only aesthetic, not economic value. Ultimately, each wetlands group has imprinted its respective territory with its own unique cultural values, in the process giving Louisiana's near sea-level marshes its "personality". *Washed Away?* is the first comprehensive look at the settlement, occupation and environmental challenges of these Louisiana coastal communities.

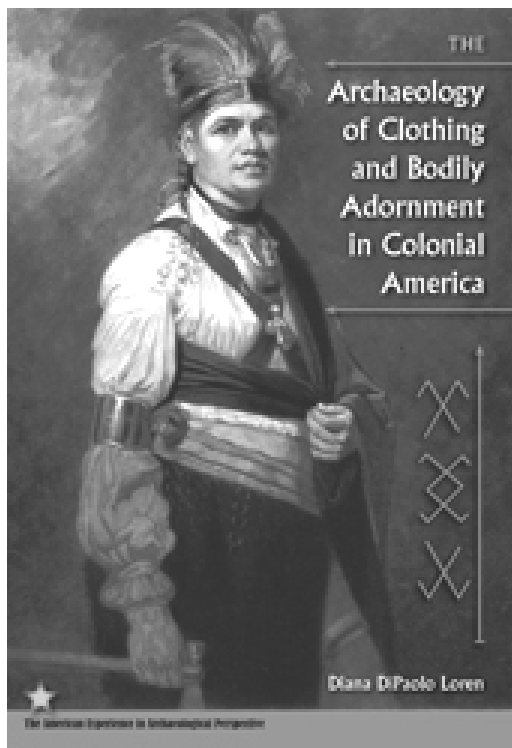


### Author Bio

Donald W. Davis has been involved in Louisiana coastal research for more than forty years as a professor at Nicholls State University and more recently LSU. Davis' research has resulted in over one hundred publications in books, journals, monographs, proceedings, and contract surveys. In all of his work, he has emphasized the importance of humankind in landscape evolution and change. Davis is currently administering a Louisiana Sea Grant project to develop an extensive oral history of the Louisiana Wetlands.

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF CLOTHING AND BODILY ADORNMENT IN COLONIAL AMERICA

By Diana DiPaolo Loren  
University of Florida Press: [www.upf.com](http://www.upf.com)



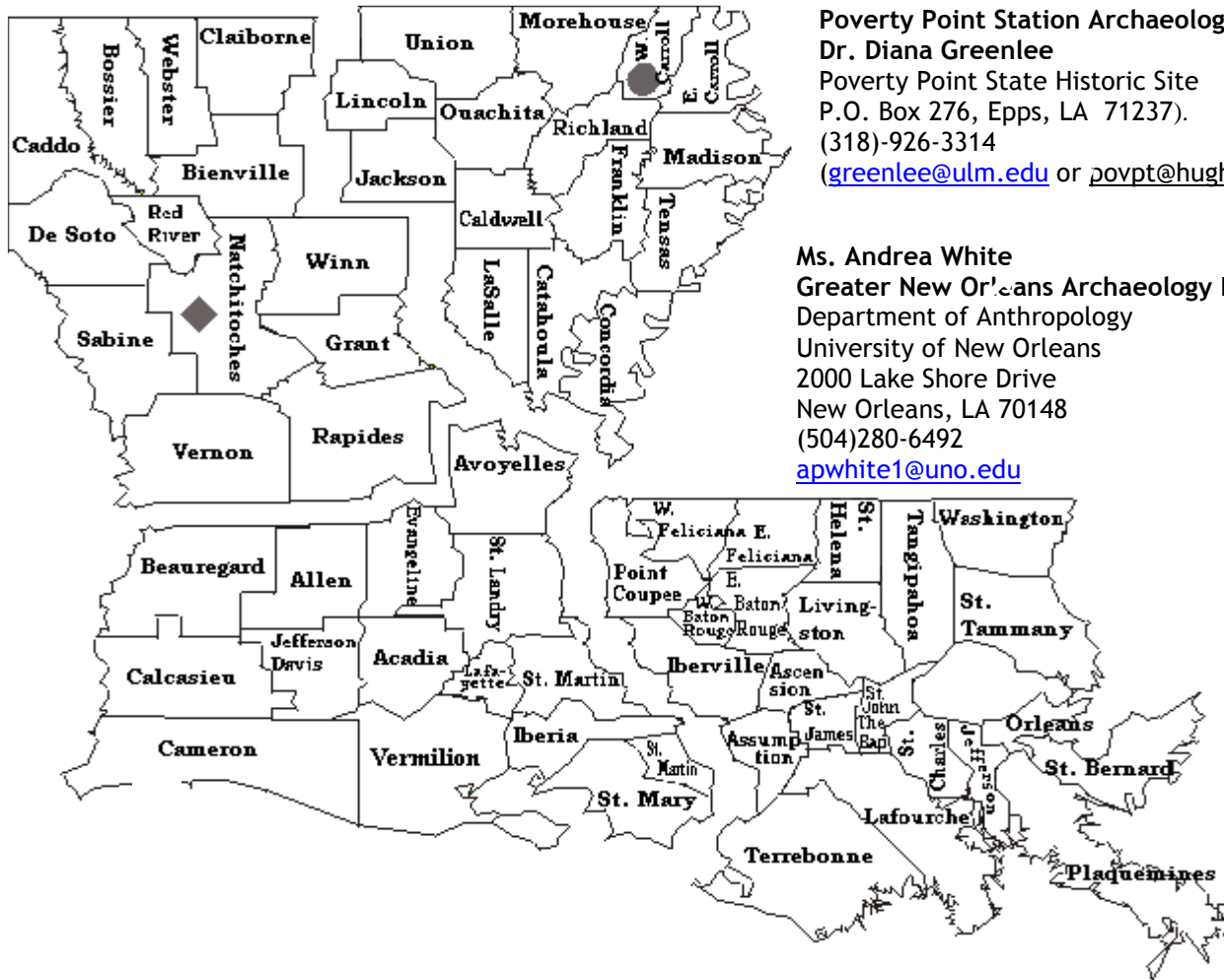
Dress has always been a social medium. Color, fabric, and fit of clothing, along with adornments, posture, and manners, convey information on personal status, occupation, religious beliefs, and even sexual preferences. Clothing and adornment are therefore important not only for their utility but also in their expressive properties and the ability of the wearer to manipulate those properties.

Diana DiPaolo Loren investigates some ways in which colonial peoples chose to express their bodies and identities through clothing and adornment. She examines strategies of combining local-made and imported goods not simply to emulate European elites, but instead to create a language of new appearance by which to communicate in an often contentious colonial world.

Through the lens of historical archaeology, Loren highlights the active manipulation of the material culture of clothing and adornment by people in English, Dutch, French, and Spanish colonies, demonstrating that within Northern American dressing traditions, clothing and identity are inextricably linked.

Diana DiPaolo Loren is associate curator at Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

# Regional Archaeology News



**Poverty Point Station Archaeologist**  
Dr. Diana Greenlee

Poverty Point State Historic Site  
P.O. Box 276, Epps, LA 71237.  
(318)-926-3314

([greenlee@ulm.edu](mailto:greenlee@ulm.edu) or [poyppt@hughes.net](mailto:poyppt@hughes.net))

**Ms. Andrea White**

Greater New Orleans Archaeology Program

Department of Anthropology

University of New Orleans

2000 Lake Shore Drive

New Orleans, LA 70148

(504)280-6492

[apwhite1@uno.edu](mailto:apwhite1@uno.edu)

## Northwest Region

**Mr. Jeff Girard**

Regional Archaeology Program

Department of Social Sciences

Northwestern State University

Natchitoches, LA 71497

(318) 357-5471 [girardj@nsula.edu](mailto:girardj@nsula.edu)

## Southwest Region

**Dr. David T. Palmer**

Regional Archaeology Program

Department of Sociology and

Anthropology

University of Louisiana Lafayette

Lafayette, LA 70504

(337) 482-5198

[dtpalmer@louisiana.edu](mailto:dtpalmer@louisiana.edu)

## Northeast Region

**Dr. Joe Saunders**

Regional Archaeology Program

Department of Geosciences

University of Louisiana - Monroe

Monroe, LA 71209

(318) 342-1899

[saunders@ulm.edu](mailto:saunders@ulm.edu)

## Southeast Region

**Dr. Rob Mann**

Regional Archaeology Program

Museum of Natural Science

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA 70803

(225) 578-6739

[rmann1@lsu.edu](mailto:rmann1@lsu.edu)



## *Irishtown (16IV180): A 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Working Class Neighborhood in Plaquemine, Louisiana.*

By Rob Mann, SE Regional Archaeology

In January 2010, I met with Kathleen Mocklin, who at the time was an Interpretive Ranger at Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site, regarding the possibility of conducting an archaeological investigation of a neighborhood in Plaquemine, Louisiana, known historically as Irishtown. Irishtown was a 19<sup>th</sup>-century community of mostly working class Irish immigrants located in the vicinity of the present-day Plaquemine Lock. Much of the original Irishtown community was lost to the vicissitudes of the ever migrating Mississippi River channel and to the efforts to control the river, including levees, during the course of the nineteenth century. The last remnants of the community were obliterated when the Plaquemine Lock was constructed beginning in 1895. Kathleen's research into the history of the area found historic maps that indicated archaeological deposits relating to the old Irishtown community may be located on the grounds of the Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site.

During a visual inspection of the property it appeared that any surviving archaeological deposits relating to the Irishtown community were likely buried under several meters of fill deposited on the landscape during the construction of the lock. A small parcel of land adjacent to the Plaquemine Locks State Historic Site property, however, did appear to be more or less at original grade and was currently a vacant lot owned by the city of Plaquemine. A check of the historic maps indicated that structures related to the Irishtown community were once located on this parcel. With assistance from Kristine Hebert, we secured permission from the city of Plaquemine to conduct a shovel test survey over this parcel (Figure 1). A 40 m x 20 m shovel test grid was laid out over the vacant lot and on April 9, 2010 volunteers Myrna Arroyo, Katie Baker, Jeanne Bergeron, Kathy Henderson, John and Janelle Hickey, James Johnson, Jonathan Keel, Patricia Mayeaux, Pam Melder, Ron Read, and King Robinson assisted Kathleen and I with the excavation of seven .40 m x .40 m STPs over the western end of the lot (Figure 2).

The results of the shovel test survey indicate that there are indeed intact, subsurface archaeological deposits related to the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Irishtown community in this location. In six of the seven STPs excavated we encountered a buried A horizon that contains artifacts diagnostic of the period that Irishtown was occupied, ca. 1830 – 1895. In general, the stratigraphy at the site consisted of four strata; 0-28 cmbs-modern A horizon & burned youth center structure, ca. 1909 – 1990 (10YR 4/2 and 3/2 silt loam); 28-61cmbs river silt fill (10YR5/3 silt loam); 61-80cmbs buried A-horizon (10YR3/1 silt loam); 80-84cmbs culturally sterile silt loam (10YR4/3) (Figure 3). The

upper strata contained the burned and demolished remains of a structure that served as a youth center for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (ca. 1930+); it was briefly used as a church during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It burned in 1990. Below that is ~ 33 cm of culturally sterile river silt likely deposited on the now buried 19<sup>th</sup>-century ground surface when the channel for the lock was cut and the spoil spread out over both banks of the lock channel between 1895 and 1909. The buried A horizon was approximately 20 cm thick and contained diagnostic 19<sup>th</sup>-century artifacts in each of the six STPs that were able to reach that depth (one STP was halted at 30 cmbs due to a large cypress timber that covered most of the STP). Diagnostic artifacts include a variety of 19<sup>th</sup>-century ceramic types (e.g., pearlware, whiteware, and ironstone), mold-blown olive green, aqua, and amber glass bottle fragments, ceramic "Prosser" buttons, ceramic doll parts, a bone die, and a multitude of machine cut nails (Figure 4). A significant amount of faunal material was also recovered, including oyster shell and several identifiable cuts of meat (e.g., ham steak and pork chop).

Historic maps reveal that several structures were located on the west end of site. Most prominently, a livery was located in the general vicinity of our STPs. A large structure that is almost certainly the livery building is present on an 1854 map of Plaquemine. This structure is identified as "J.H. Herberts Livery" on an 1885 Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Plaquemine. Another large structure was built east of the livery sometime between 1885 and 1891, when it appears on another Sanborn map. The west side of the building was used as a general store while the east side of the building seems to have been used as an undertaker's shop as it is simply labeled "coffins" on the map. This building may be near the easternmost STPs excavated on our grid. An 1896 Sanborn map indicates that the east side of the livery building had been converted to a grocery and bar and small section of the west side of the building was being used as barber shop. The large building to the east is divided between a dry goods store on the west side and the undertaker's shop on the east side.

Significantly, the 1896 Sanborn map is the first to show that construction of the Plaquemine lock was underway. By 1906 Sanborn maps show that the old livery building was gone and that the dry goods store in the building next door had been converted to a furniture store. The undertaker's shop was still in operation. Six years later, the 1912 Sanborn map reveals that the furniture store was then vacant, though the undertaker's shop still occupied the east half of the building. By 1925 all buildings had been removed and the lot was vacant. Sometime between 1925 and 1930 the community hall (later known as the youth center) was built on the lot.

**Continued on following page**



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These maps indicate that there were numerous buildings present within the confines of the current project area, of which only the western half has been shovel tested. A significant number of cultural activities were likely associated with these structures and these activities should be reflected in the archaeological record. The results of the shovel test project demonstrate that intact 19<sup>th</sup>-century deposits are indeed present within the project area. The data are so far too limited to begin to relate these deposits to specific buildings or activity areas. For example, no artifacts that could definitively be associated with such distinctive businesses such as the livery (e.g., horse tack) or the undertakers shop (e.g., coffin hardware) have yet been identified. I hope that the shovel test survey be expanded to include the eastern half of the project area. I also would like this be followed by additional testing to determine the nature and extent of the intact subsurface deposits present on this intriguing site, which holds the potential to inform on the daily material life of this vibrant working class neighborhood.

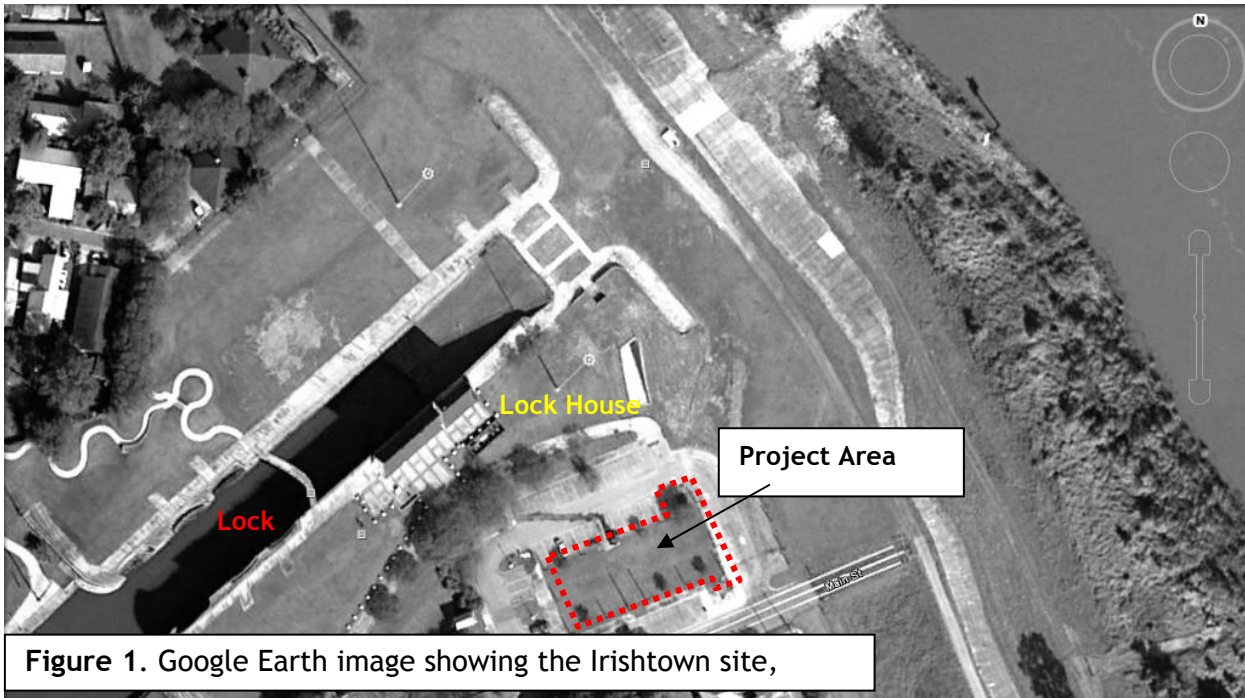


Figure 1. Google Earth image showing the Irishtown site,

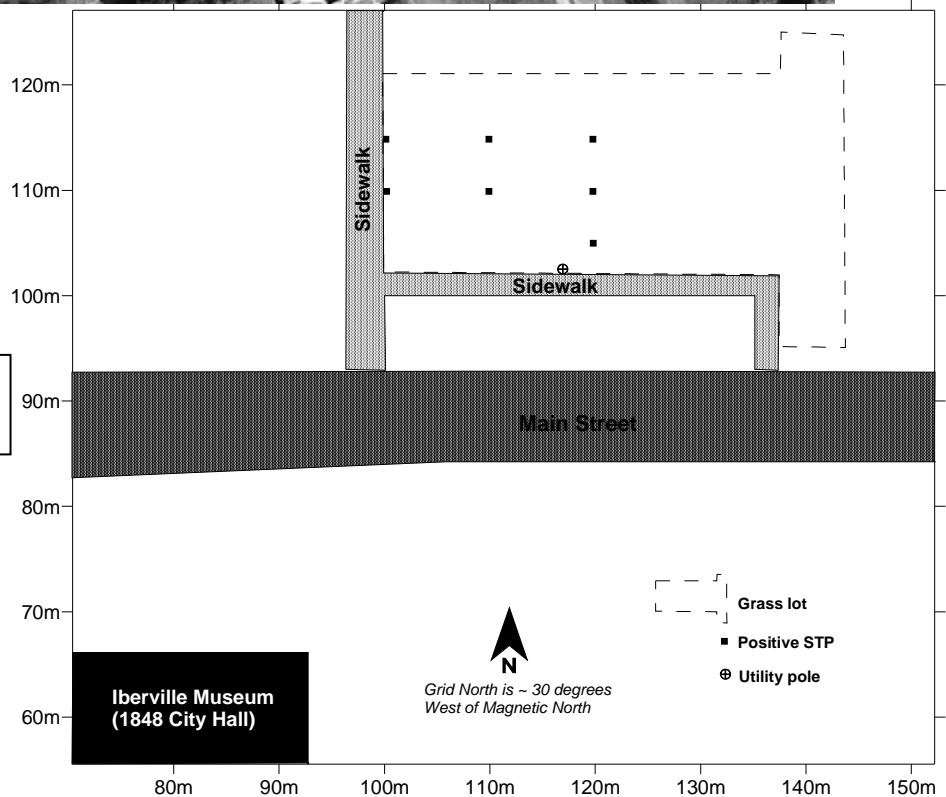


Figure 2: Irishtown (16IV180) site and STP map.

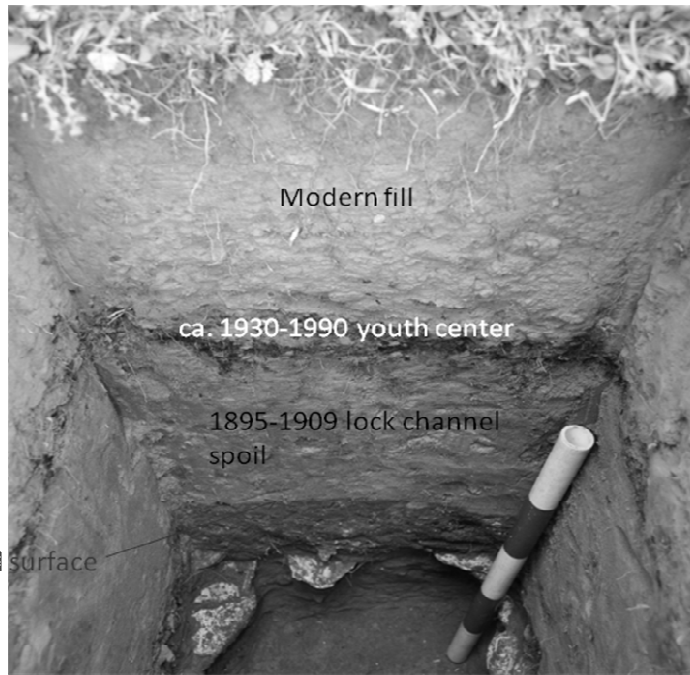


Figure 3. STP Profile at Irishtown (16IV180).



Figure 4: Artifacts recovered from the Irishtown Site



## Poverty Point Update

Diana M. Greenlee, Poverty Point Station Archaeologist  
University of Louisiana at Monroe

### Plaza Excavations Continued

This past summer, the Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program re-opened one of 2009's unfinished 1 x 2 m excavation blocks within the southwestern plaza at Poverty Point State Historic Site (SHS). The purpose of the excavation was to investigate the ring-shaped magnetic anomalies detected by Drs. Michael Hargrave and Berle Clay. We completed excavation of the unit with the assistance (Figs 1 and 2) of summer intern Joseph Smith (Mississippi State University) and volunteers Monica Tromp, Amy Commendador-Dudgeon (both from Idaho State University) and Lura Glatzer (Millsaps College). The unit contained two complete and four partial pit features (Fig 3); the features were relatively round, deep, straight-sided, flat-bottomed, and filled with nearly sterile soil, much like the plaza postholes identified by Dr. William Haag in 1973 and 1975 (Haag 1986). We believe that the posts were pulled and the holes were filled because the pit fill is distinctively different in color and texture from the surrounding soils and because there is no evidence of organic matter that one might expect if a post had decayed in place. Some of the features intersect or are only a few cms apart, indicating that rebuilding took place. Neither the pit cuts nor their fills extend above the natural fragipan subsoil (IIBx) horizon, indicating that the uppermost portion of the original natural soil must have been removed, either through cultural activities or erosion (Fig 4). Sometime after the use of the postholes was discontinued, silt loam fill (Bw) was brought in, blanketing both the natural subsoil and the filled postholes and raising the level of the plaza in this area by about 75 cm.



Fig 1. Joseph Smith measuring the depth of Feature 30 in Block 1 at Poverty Point. Photo by Noreen Sellars.



Fig 2. Amy Commendador-Dudgeon bisecting Feature 30. Photo by Monica Tromp.

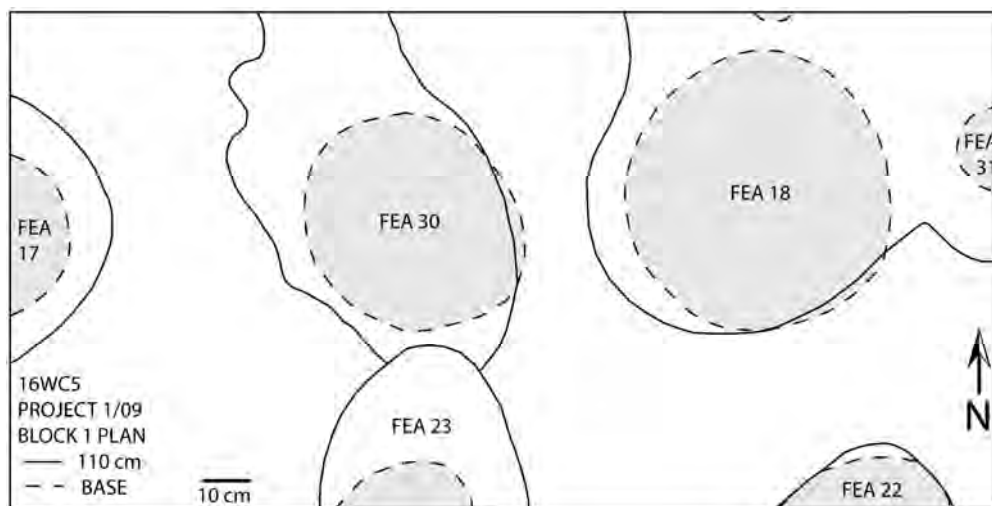


Fig 3. Plan map of Block 1 at about 110 cm below surface. Shaded areas reflect feature shapes at their bases.



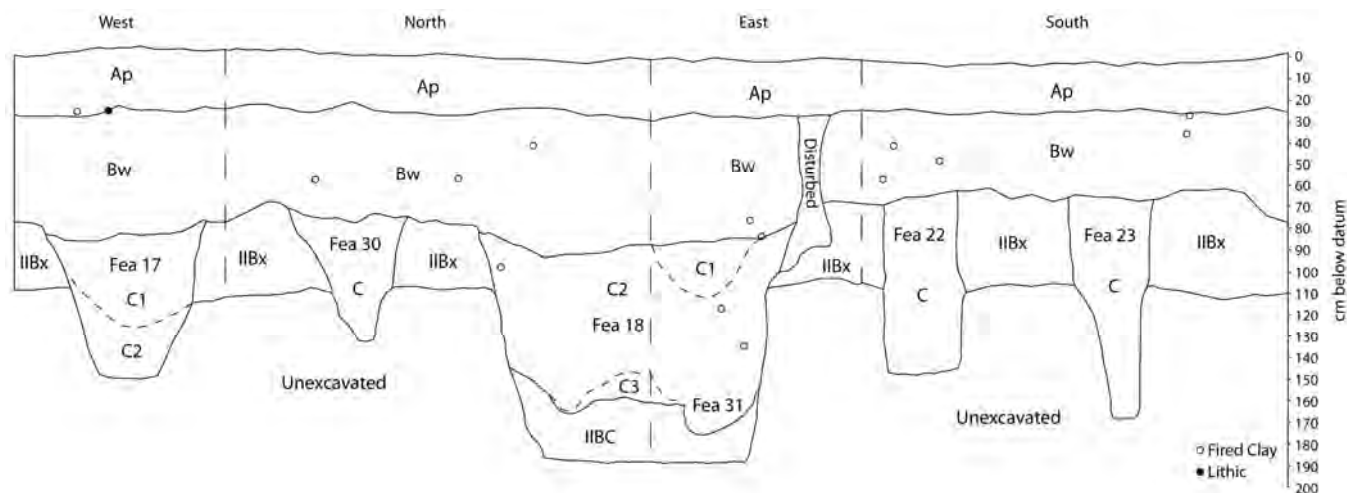


Fig 4. Profile of Block 1 walls. Ap = plowzone; Bw = cultural fill; IIBx = natural fragipan horizon; C = feature fill; IIB/C = transition to natural C horizon

### Obsidian Research

Four fragments of obsidian have been recovered from surface/near-surface contexts at Poverty Point. The status of ongoing analyses was summarized previously in the *LAS Newsletter* (37[3]:24-25). At that time, two fragments were identified as coming from the same geochemical source, but that source did not match any known geochemical sources in the western US, Mexico or Mesoamerica. Results were not available for two other obsidian fragments.

Since then, the other two fragments have been analyzed by Richard Hughes of Geochemical Research Laboratory. Each came from a different geochemical source and neither corresponds to known sources. This means that three compositionally distinct sources are represented among the four fragments found at Poverty Point and we cannot, at this time, identify any of those sources.

Because the contexts of the finds were not securely prehistoric, these fragments could be recent introductions to the site. To assess the relative age of the fragments, all four were submitted to Tom Origer of Origer's Obsidian Laboratory for obsidian hydration analysis. Obsidian hydration analysis relies on the observation that when a surface of obsidian is exposed to atmospheric moisture, the material begins to absorb water, creating a band of increased density known as a hydration band. The thickness of a band depends on factors like time since exposure, ambient temperature and the composition of the obsidian. If the obsidian was flaked 3,500 years ago, the surfaces will have well-developed hydration bands; no hydration bands will be visible if the obsidian was flaked recently, within the past 70 years or so. No hydration bands were observed on the Poverty Point fragments, meaning the surfaces were exposed recently. All four obsidian fragments were likely brought to Poverty Point by modern knappers.

### Tree Removal Project

In an effort to stem (no pun intended!) future damage to the earthworks by wind thrown trees and to improve site visibility at Poverty Point SHS, the Office of State Parks has arranged to have all of the trees removed from the mounds (Mound A, B, C and E). The process involves gentle logging strategies to remove the trees with minimal ground disturbance, followed by immediate seeding of the exposed ground surface to encourage growth of a protective, stabilizing grass cover. To date, Mounds B, C and E have been cleared of trees; work on Mound A continues, contingent upon the weather.

### Poverty Point World Heritage Initiative Update

On 18 August, Poverty Point SHS hosted an informal meeting to (1) introduce John Stubbs, Vice President for Field Projects for the World Monument Fund, as an advisor to the World Heritage Initiative, (2) discuss progress to date on the Initiative, and (3) elicit support from local citizens. Organized by George Riser, the event included about 25 individuals, many from the Monroe/West Monroe area. One anticipated outcome is the organization of a "Friends of Poverty Point" group in support of the World Heritage effort.

### Poverty Point World Heritage Initiative (continued)

Eleven international and national experts on a range of topics, including the World Heritage nomination evaluation process, archaeological heritage management, site conservation, site interpretation and enhancing visitor experience, participated in either a forum held at Poverty Point SHS in late September or a second mini-forum in November 2010. All attendees agreed that Poverty Point is worthy of the World Heritage List, and we received excellent advice regarding preparation of the nomination dossier. Our panel of experts included:

1. Doug Comer – Principal, Cultural Site Research and Management; Co-President of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management
2. Phyllis Ellin – Historian, Office of International Affairs, National Park Service
3. Julie Ernstein – Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Heritage Resources Program, Northwestern State University of LA
4. John Jameson – Senior Archeologist and Program Lead, Technical Assistance and Partnerships, Southeastern Archeological Center, National Park Service; Vice-President for Interpretation Methods and Policy, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Interpretation and Presentation of Cultural Heritage Sites
5. John Koepke – Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Center for World Heritage Studies, University of Minnesota
6. Ian Lilley – Professor of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, University of Queensland, Australia; Secretary-General of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management
7. Mike Russo – Archeologist, Southeastern Archeological Center, National Park Service
8. Helaine Silverman – Professor of Anthropology, Landscape Architecture, Art History, Recreation, and Sport and Tourism, University of Illinois; Director of the Collaborative for Cultural Heritage and Museum Practices
9. John Stubbs – Vice President for Field Projects, World Monument Fund
10. Willem Willems – Professor and Head, Faculteit der Archeologie, Universiteit Leiden; Co-President of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Archaeological Heritage Management
11. Tim Williams – Senior Lecturer, Institute of Archaeology, University College, London; Editor-in-chief, *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites*

### Hands-On Workshop on Elemental Non-destructive XRF

The Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program hosted a 2-day workshop on the use of handheld x-ray fluorescence (XRF) analyzers with Dr. Bruce Kaiser, Chief Scientist at Bruker Elemental in October. These analyzers provide a relatively quick, non-destructive approach to determining the composition of materials. According to Bruker's website (<http://www.bruker-axs.com/workshop.html>): "The purpose of the workshop is to provide all those that attend a good knowledge of XRF (x-ray fluorescence) physics, and how to apply this technique to the elemental analysis of anything." A range of materials (obsidian, PPOs, magnetite, wood, galena) was analyzed at the workshop.

### Grant Awarded for Copper Conservation

The National Endowment for the Humanities will support efforts to conserve copper artifacts at Poverty Point with a Preservation Assistance Grant. The funding will be used to evaluate the condition of all 178 copper artifacts, including the acquisition of x-ray images for assessing the structural integrity of the objects. Then, appropriate treatment plans for cleaning the objects will be developed. Finally, a stable microenvironment for long-term storage will be established. The project is scheduled to begin in January and will last most of the year.

### References

Haag, William G.

1986 Excavations at the Poverty Point Site: 1972-1975. *Louisiana Archaeology* 13:1-36.



## Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) Annual Meeting

**January 21-23, 2011, Alexandria, LA**

This year's meeting will be held at the **Alexander Fulton Hotel** in downtown Alexandria, Louisiana. A block of rooms will be available and plans are currently underway for the silent auction, field trips, and of course the banquet with a keynote speaker. Check LAS website for details or go to page 2. [www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org)

## EAST TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The **18th Annual East Texas Archeological Conference** will be held on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at the *Ornelas Activity Center*, 3402 Old Omen Rd., across Spur 248 from the University of Texas at Tyler. The hours are 9 AM until 4 PM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM and admission is \$10 at the door

The ETAC was established to bring together people interested in the archeology of our area. This is an opportunity for professional archeologists, avocational archeologists, and members of the general public to visit with each other about their shared and common interest in the region's cultural heritage.

For more information contact Mark Walters: [mwalters@wildblue.net](mailto:mwalters@wildblue.net)

To present a paper, contact Tim Perttula: [TKP4747@aol.com](mailto:TKP4747@aol.com)

## 53rd Annual Caddo Conference, March 25-26, 2011 Location: Fort Smith, Arkansas

The 53rd Caddo Conference will be held on 25 and 26 March 2011 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Co-sponsors for the Conference are the Arkansas Archeological Survey and University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. Program Chairman is Arkansas Archeological Survey archeologist Dr. Mary Beth Trubitt, who can be reached at [trubitm@hsu.edu](mailto:trubitm@hsu.edu), and PO Box H-7841-HSU, Arkadelphia, AR 71999-0001.

Arrangements Coordinator is Dr. Ann M. Early, who can be reached at [amearly@uark.edu](mailto:amearly@uark.edu), and 2475 North Hatch Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72704.



## 2011 Maya Symposium and Workshop *The Rise of Maya Civilization*

**February 11-13, 2011**, New Orleans Museum of Art and Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. <http://mari.tulane.edu/TMS/index.html>

The Middle American Research Institute and the Stone Center for Latin American Studies are proud to present the Eighth Annual Tulane Maya Symposium and Workshop. This year's symposium titled "The Rise of Maya Civilization" will focus on new research being conducted throughout the Maya area that is elucidating how the ancient Maya developed complex society.

Activities will include a keynote lecture hosted at the New Orleans Museum of Art by Dr. Richard Hansen, a viewing of the Pre-Columbian collection at NOMA, workshops on Preclassic Maya art and iconography, an exhibit titled *Encounters with American Antiquity: Artists, Explorers, and Scholars at the Maya Ruins* displaying publications by 19th century scholars of the ancient Maya from Tulane University's Latin American Library, and much more. We invite you to join us in New Orleans, LA, February 11-13, 2011 at Tulane University and the New Orleans Museum of Art to learn of the recent developments in Maya studies as they relate to the broader topic of Mesoamerican studies.





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### Information for Contributors

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

Dennis Jones-LAS Editor

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

Email: [archaeoman.jones@gmail.com](mailto:archaeoman.jones@gmail.com); office phone: (225) 342-6932

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.

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## Louisiana Archaeological Society

406 Tricou St.

New Orleans, LA

70117