



# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2018/2019

Vol. 46, No.3



**2019 Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society**

**February 15-17, 2019**

**Shreveport Convention Center**

**400 Caddo Street**

**Shreveport, LA**

**Details – Page 2**

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

## LAS 2019 ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

**DATE:** February 15-17, 2019

**PLACE:** Shreveport Convention Center, 400 Caddo Street, Shreveport, LA 71166 [www.shreveportcenter.com](http://www.shreveportcenter.com)

**HOTEL:** Hilton Shreveport, 104 Market Street, Shreveport, LA 71101 (connected to the Convention Center) [www.shreveport.hilton.com](http://www.shreveport.hilton.com); [www.facebook.com/hiltonshreveportla](https://www.facebook.com/hiltonshreveportla) Also at LAS website.

**RESERVATIONS:** Single or Double \$109; Triple \$119; Quad \$129; plus \$8/day parking fee for adjacent parking garage. Reservations must be made by February 1, 2019. Go to <https://book.passkey.com/go/LAArchaeologicalSociety> or (318) 698-0515. Also at LAS website.

**MEETING REGISTRATION:** \$40 (\$45 after February 1) - Available online at LAS website.

**BANQUET:** \$35 –Available online at LAS website

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

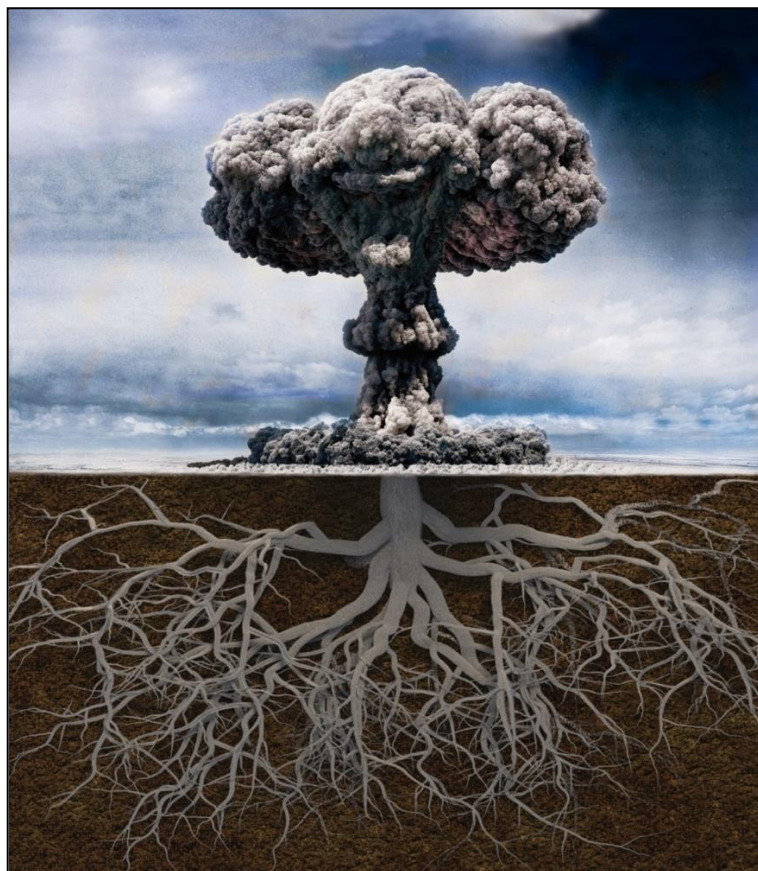
Friday, February 15: Executive Committee Meeting 4-6 pm; Registration and Reception 6-8 pm

Saturday, February 16: Presentations 8 am – 4 pm; Banquet 6 pm -9 pm;

Keynote Speaker: T. R. Kidder, Washington University in St. Louis. His title is “The Tangled Roots of the Anthropocene: Archaeology, Climate Change, and History in Ancient China”. See below

Sunday, February 17: to be announced

**PRESENTATIONS:** send abstracts to David Jeane, Program Chair, [djeane@centurytel.net](mailto:djeane@centurytel.net) or 305 Hickory Street, Springhill, LA 71075



### The Tangled Roots of the Anthropocene: Archaeology, Climate Change, and History in Ancient China

The Anthropocene concept recognizes the dawning of a new geologic epoch—the age of humans—caused by global human transformation of the Earth and its atmosphere. For geologists, the Anthropocene begins with the detonation of nuclear weapons. This characterization, though, tells us nothing of how humans developed the social, economic, technological, and moral capacities that allow us to change nature at a global scale. Archaeological and environmental data from ancient China demonstrate that the Anthropocene developed slowly over thousands of years. In this context, the Anthropocene describes a process where we have changed social, political and even religious practices and behaviors and thus entered a new environmental dynamic with the Earth’s natural systems. This novel relationship is not an abstraction, but rather a matter of compelling global concern. To understand the Anthropocene we must grapple with its histories and causes.

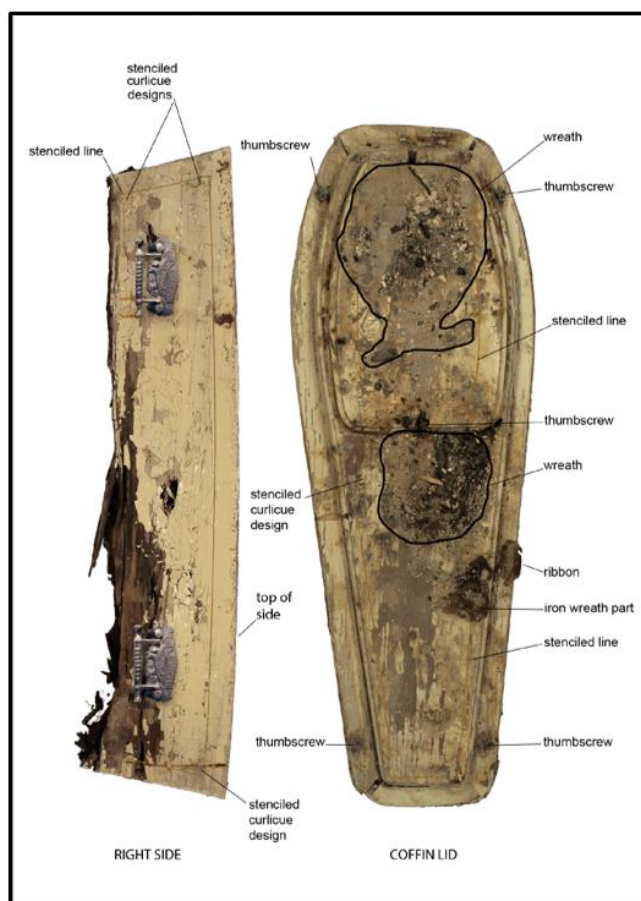
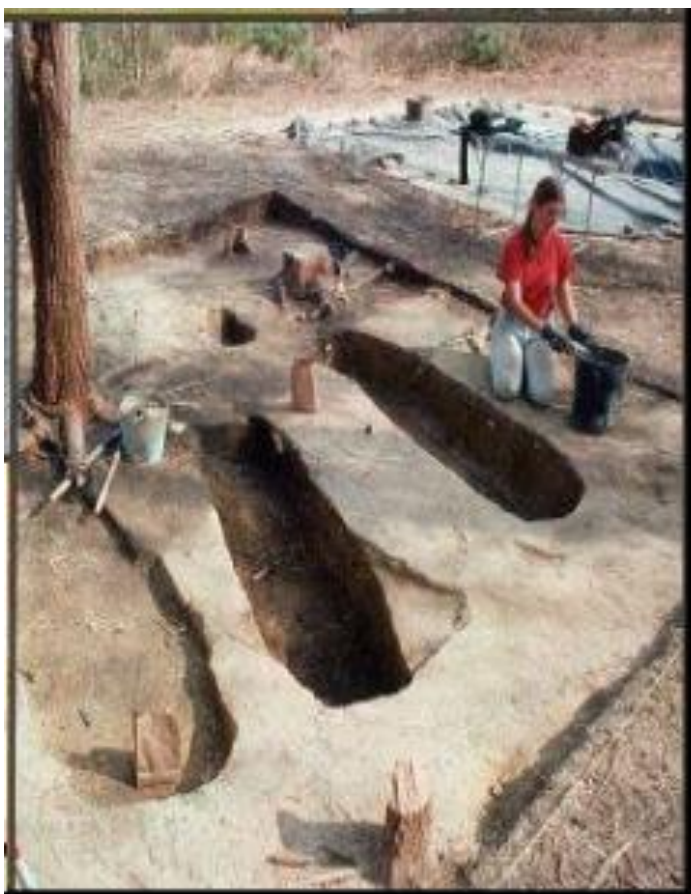
## LAS CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Northwest Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (NWLAS)

Dr. Jeremy Pye, Principal Investigator with the Shreveport Office of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA) made a presentation to the NWLAS on December 13 the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Bossier City.

Dr. Pye's presentation was entitled "Secrets of the Grave: 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Burial Container Construction and Decoration." The analysis of the burial containers (coffins) and the identification of types and styles of materials used in their construction and decoration can help establish the chronology for burials, which becomes important where grave markers have been lost or moved from their original locations. Also, the analysis of the materials and decorations can reflect socio-economic class, status, and the level of community involvement in the funeral process. Such analyses can also chronicle the development of the professional funeral industry from the late 1800s to the present.

Jeremy Pye joined CRA in 2013 and is responsible for the management of field personnel and daily project operations, as well as technical writing of project reports and proposals. He holds a Ph.D. in anthropology with more than 14 years of archaeological experience in many regions of the United States, including the Southeastern, Midwest, Southwest, West, and Great Plains states. His primary areas of interest include historic bioarchaeology, archaeoparasitology, and archaeological geophysics. With regard to the study of historic mortuary contexts, Jeremy is particularly focused on mortuary merchandise and burial container construction in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and has amassed a physical and digital comparative library of approximately 1,000 period trade catalogs, 2,000 patent records, and 300 archaeological cemetery relocation reports.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Pamela June Johnson Melder**, 49, of Zachary, LA, passed from this life on Thursday, October 18, 2018 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Pamela, daughter of Rev. Roy Lee and Myrtle June (Brewer) Johnson, Sr. was born on June 2, 1969 in Dallas, Texas.

Pamela grew up in Little Cypress/Orange, Texas, and DeRidder, Louisiana. She was a graduate of DeRidder High School and Louisiana College as well as McNeese State University. She was employed with H & E Equipment Company of Baton Rouge, LA where she was IT Manager. Pamela was a member of the Louisiana Archeological Society. She loved to hike and go to Disney World. She was also a Docent at the LSU Rural Life Museum in Baton Rouge. She loved to read and loved pets.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Allen Melder of Zachary, LA; two brothers, Lee Johnson of DeRidder, LA, John Johnson of Houston, TX; and parents, Rev. Roy Lee and June Johnson, Sr. of DeRidder, LA.



Many volunteers at Poverty Point, unless they are part of a dedicated group, are a “one and done” phenomenon. Pam Melder was a repeat-volunteer for the Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program. She worked on several rootballs (clearing dirt away from the roots of fallen trees and helping to map and refill the holes) and she participated in two Screen-A-Thons: Archaeology Month water-screening marathons. She was ever enthusiastic, kind to a fault, always sharing interesting stories about all sorts of things. And, she kept coming back despite the weather: heat and humidity (and lots of bugs) in August; bitter cold and biting winds in October; cool rain in March.

– Diana Greenlee, Poverty Point World Heritage Site Station Archaeologist.

Pam was an original member of my “Galveztown Crew” (2008-2010) and went on to help me with many other field projects. In 2008 the BRLAS was basically moribund. It was Pam and the rest of the Galveztown Crew (John and Janelle Hickey, Jeanne Bergeron, Kathy Henderson, Althea Rasti, Jim and Darla Johnson, Myrna Arroyo) that brought the BRLAS back from the dead and breathed new life into the group. Pam, in particular, was instrumental in making sure that there were refreshments at the meeting. More than that, though, Pam was the definition of an avocational archaeologist. She loved to do field work and became an excellent and engaged field archaeologist. I am sure she will be missed by all.

– Rob Mann, former Southeast Louisiana Regional Archaeologist.

**Ben Kleinpeter**, the former head of Baton Rouge-based Kleinpeter Farms Dairy, died Wednesday at the age of 91.

Kenny Kleinpeter, general manager of the dairy, said his father died in his sleep. Even though Ben Kleinpeter had stepped down as president of Kleinpeter Farms 14 years ago, he still played an active role in the business. "He was there half-a-day yesterday," Kenny Kleinpeter said.

Ben Kleinpeter's grandfather, Sebastian, and father, Leon, started the dairy in 1913 at the family farm near Highland and Perkins roads. As the middle child out of 11 children, he started working for the dairy at a young age. "If there was a dirty job, I did it and I never complained," he told *The Advocate* earlier this year. He had just been named recipient of the Grace "Mama" Marino Lifetime Achievement Award from the Baton Rouge Epicurean Society for his contributions to the local food scene.

Kleinpeter eventually moved on to milking the 125 cows the dairy had. He would wake up at 2 a.m. so he could "religiously" start milking the cows by 3 a.m. He would then repeat the process in the afternoon, for seven days a week. "I was very particular about quality," he said. "My cows' udders were very clean and they were always healthy. Our milk was top notch."

When Leon, also known as "Papa" retired in the mid-1960s, he gave stock in the dairy to his five sons. In 1987, Ben Kleinpeter bought out his four brothers and took control of the business. "He was instrumental in the development and success of Kleinpeter Farms Dairy," Kenny Kleinpeter said.



In 1998, Ben Kleinpeter returned the dairy to its roots, buying a 514-acre farm near Montpelier that would house all of the cows. The dairy expanded to the point where more than 1,200 cows lived there.

"I always took great pride in the Kleinpeter name with the dairy business because our quality was so good," Ben Kleinpeter had said. "We always relied on word-of-mouth. We gave good service 24 hours a day. ... We built good relationships with our customers, and they would push Kleinpeter milk. Eventually, we wiped everybody else out."

*-Baton Rouge Advocate, October 31, 2018.*

D. Benjamin Kleinpeter, who passed away in October 2018, at the age of 91, was best known as the owner of Kleinpeter Farms Dairy of Baton Rouge; as a philanthropist; and as a gastronome. What is perhaps not as well known is that he was a benefactor of Louisiana archaeology.

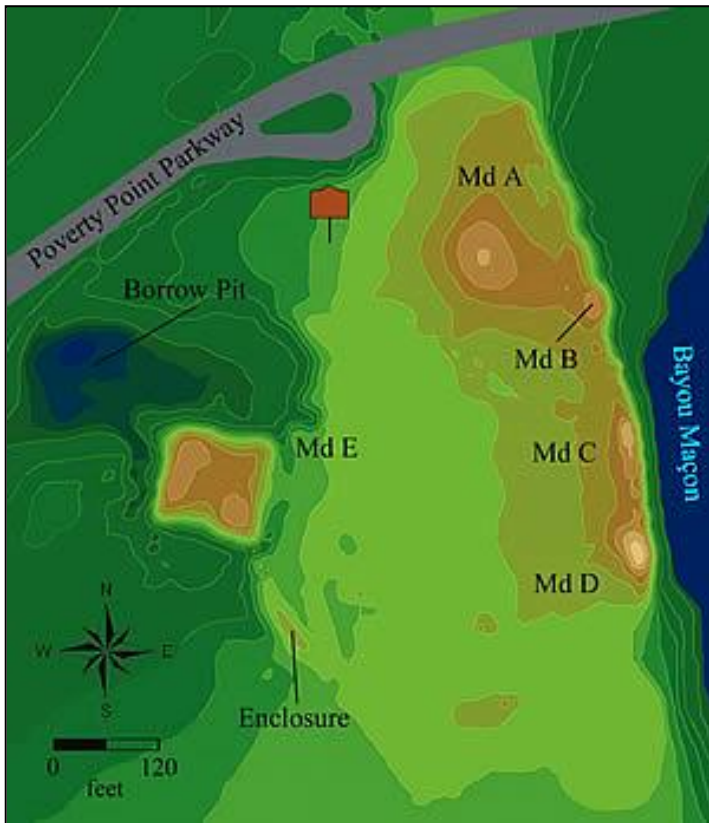
In 1990, he enrolled in an LSU leisure class on Louisiana Archaeology taught by Dennis Jones and Malcolm Shuman. In one of the lectures, mention was made of the important multi-mound Kleinpeter site at the confluence on Bayous Manchac and Fountain in East Baton Rouge Parish. The location had recently become part of the Country Club of Louisiana and the mound area had been subdivided into house lots. Thus, one of the state's pre-eminent sites was in imminent danger of destruction. When Ben heard that funds were lacking for the site's excavation, and interested in exploring an archaeological location that bore his family's name, he approached Jones and Shuman after class and offered to donate \$10,000 of his own money and to see that it was matched by \$10,000 from the Baton Rouge Area Foundation (on which he sat as a board member), for the purpose of excavations.

This project was carried out in the summer and fall of 1990, with Jones and Shuman joined by the late Carl Kuttruff, and ably assisted by a number of volunteers. One the crew, Joe F. Stevenson, received his M.A. from LSU on the basis of his analysis of faunal materials from the site. In the course of the excavations, Ben provided refreshments (Kleinpeter milk and orange juice, of course) to the crew and also provided everyone with a blue Kleinpeter cap. When then report had been prepared and peer-reviewed (by no fewer than four colleagues!), Ben learned that for it to be published as a monograph by the Louisiana Geological Survey would require an additional thousand dollars. This sum he gladly provided and in 1994 the report became LGS's Anthropological Study No. 5.

In recent years our paths seldom crossed but when they did he was always the same genial, enthusiastic Ben who had come forward years before to help save an important part of the state's prehistoric legacy.

*-Malcolm Shuman, SURA, Inc.*

## LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH – OCTOBER 2018



**Contour map of the Marsden Mounds Site**

On October 26-28, 2018, volunteers participated in the clearing of Mound E at the Marsden Mounds site to enhance the view of the site for the public. Weather cooperated and the mission was accomplished as seen in the pictures below!

The Marsden Mounds site is a group of five mounds and parts of an earthen embankment. On the grounds of the Poverty Point Reservoir State Park, this site is open to the public and is accessible by foot.

Four of the mounds (Md. A–Md. D) are along the east edge of Maçon Ridge, and an embankment apparently connects three of them. The largest mound (Md. E) and another portion of the embankment are in a wooded area about 300 feet to the southwest; it's a 13-foot-tall platform mound, measuring 150 feet square at its base and about 130 feet square at the summit. The other mounds are only 3 to 5 feet tall.

Poverty Point period artifacts found under the mounds suggest that people lived here as early as 1500 BC. Charcoal from a hearth under one of the smaller mounds dates to AD 400-1200 (Troyville-/Coles Creek periods).



# THE CITY BENEATH THE CITY

*St. Anthony's Garden, New Orleans, Louisiana • Preserving the Past*

While Louisiana Archaeology Month 2018 had a variety of activities throughout the state, the poster this year commemorated the tricentennial of the founding of New Orleans and the St. Anthony's Garden site located behind St. Louis Cathedral.



Beneath St. Anthony's Garden lays a portion of the 300-year history of New Orleans.  
The French-Spanish Colonial Collection, 1794-1812



In 2008, archaeologists discovered this preserved history in a small portion of the yard and shared it with the community.



Today, the grounds of St. Anthony's Garden continues to protect the history of Royal Street and New Orleans.

Photo courtesy of the Garden of Intercultural and Special Studies at St. Louis and St. Charles.



Excavation in progress.  
Photo courtesy of Dr. Shannon Darity.



Zinc- and nickel-plated crucifix from the mid-to-late 18th century.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Shannon Darity, taken by Jennifer Steiner.



Hand-built clay pipe fragments from the early-to-mid 18th century.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Shannon Darity, taken by Heidi Steiner.



Possible blown glass ice cream goblet from the mid-18th century.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Shannon Darity, taken by John Heenan.



Hand-painted child's play dish set and doll head from the mid-19th century.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Shannon Darity, taken by The 'N' Co.



Bone domino and clay marbles from the mid-19th century.

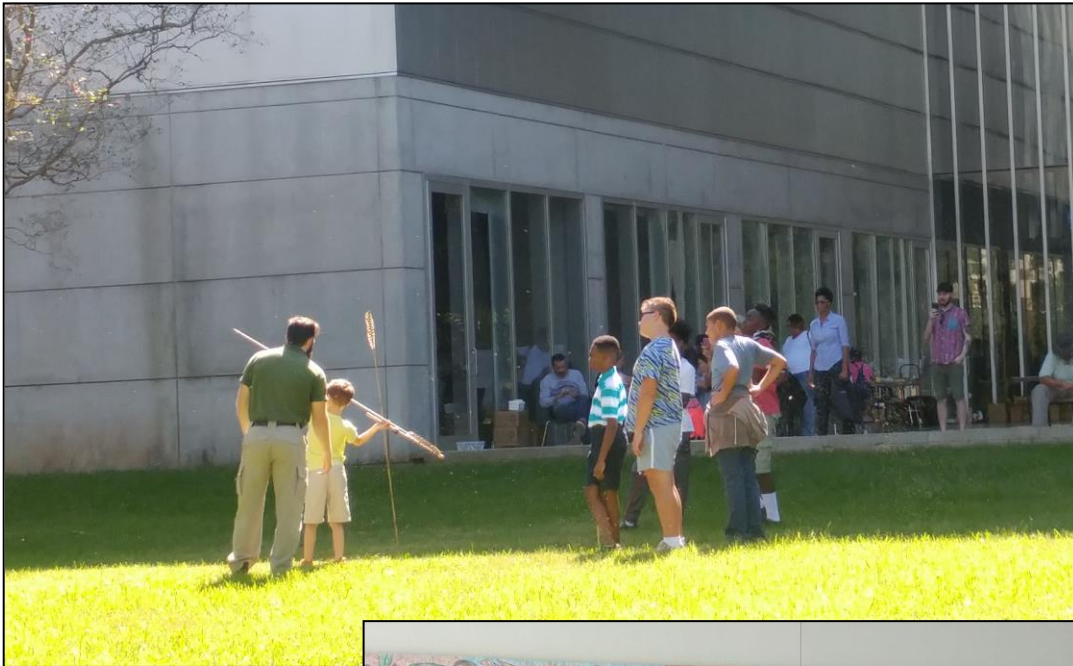
Photo courtesy of Dr. Shannon Darity, taken by Peter Johnson.

## WHAT'S BENEATH YOUR FEET? • LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH 2018 •

The City Beneath the City is a national archaeological trail of the city developed by the LAC Department of Archaeology with the White Center for New Orleans Studies at UNO, available at the New Orleans Historical site.

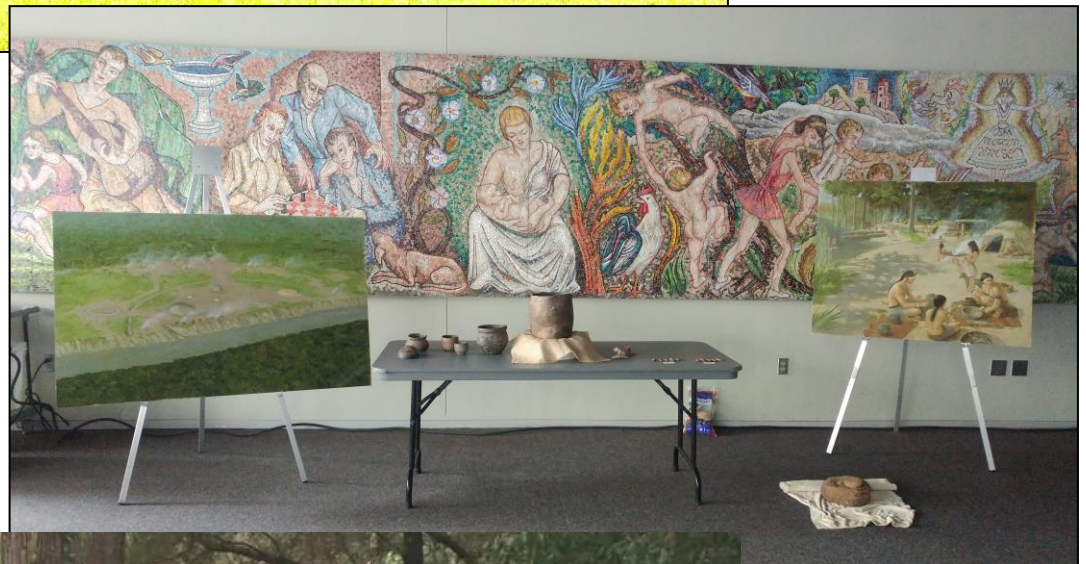


Events for Louisiana Archaeology Month took place throughout the state in diverse venues. These included lectures, artifact identification sessions, flint knapping demonstrations, site tours, and more. Most events were well attended and reached many communities.



*Atlatl throwing instruction during the “Living in the Past” program at the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge on October 13.*

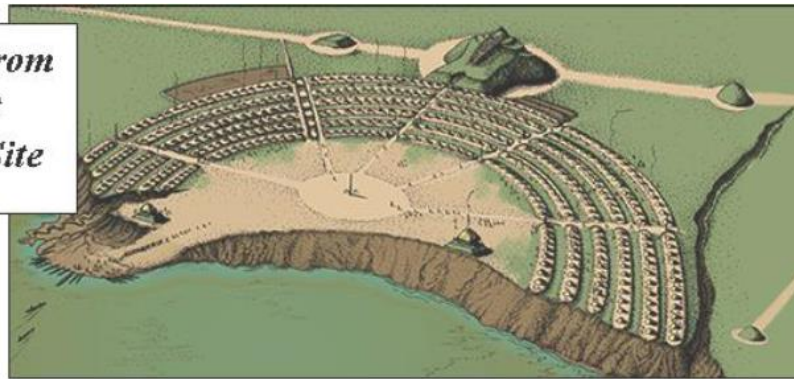
*Artifact and Painting Exhibit at the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge during “Archaeology Talks” program on October 6.*



*Staged excavations for planted artifacts at the Children’s Museum St. Tammany Parish in Mandeville.*

## FIELD NOTES AND CURRENT RESEARCH

*Research News from  
the Poverty Point  
World Heritage Site*



### Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program Update

By Diana Greenlee, Station Archaeologist,  
Poverty Point World Heritage Site

This past summer, archaeologists with the Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program continued working on the Poverty Point Compatible Use Zone survey project. Here is a brief report on one newly recorded site: the Hard Bargain site (16WC126).

The Hard Bargain site is located in West Carroll Parish on the eastern edge of Maçon Ridge, overlooking Bayou Maçon and the Mississippi River floodplain. This locale was first visited in early 2010 by Diana Greenlee and Joe Saunders, after being alerted to the appearance of a mound-like topographic elevation visible in the state's LiDAR data (Figure 1).

They noted that the vegetation associated with the rise was different from that on the surrounding land; that it was an unusual feature of the landscape in this location; and that it was apparently not a modern construction. They returned with soil scientist Thurman Allen to further examine the possible mound. The soils generally appeared to be natural, except for one or two small lumps of basal clay material encountered at depths considered "out of place." Although the results were inconclusive, there was no additional follow-up at that time as gullies and agricultural fields prevented taking a probe truck to the locale. In addition to the topographic high which initially piqued the interests of archaeologists, there is also a topographic low located roughly 160 meters to the northeast that may be a borrow pit.

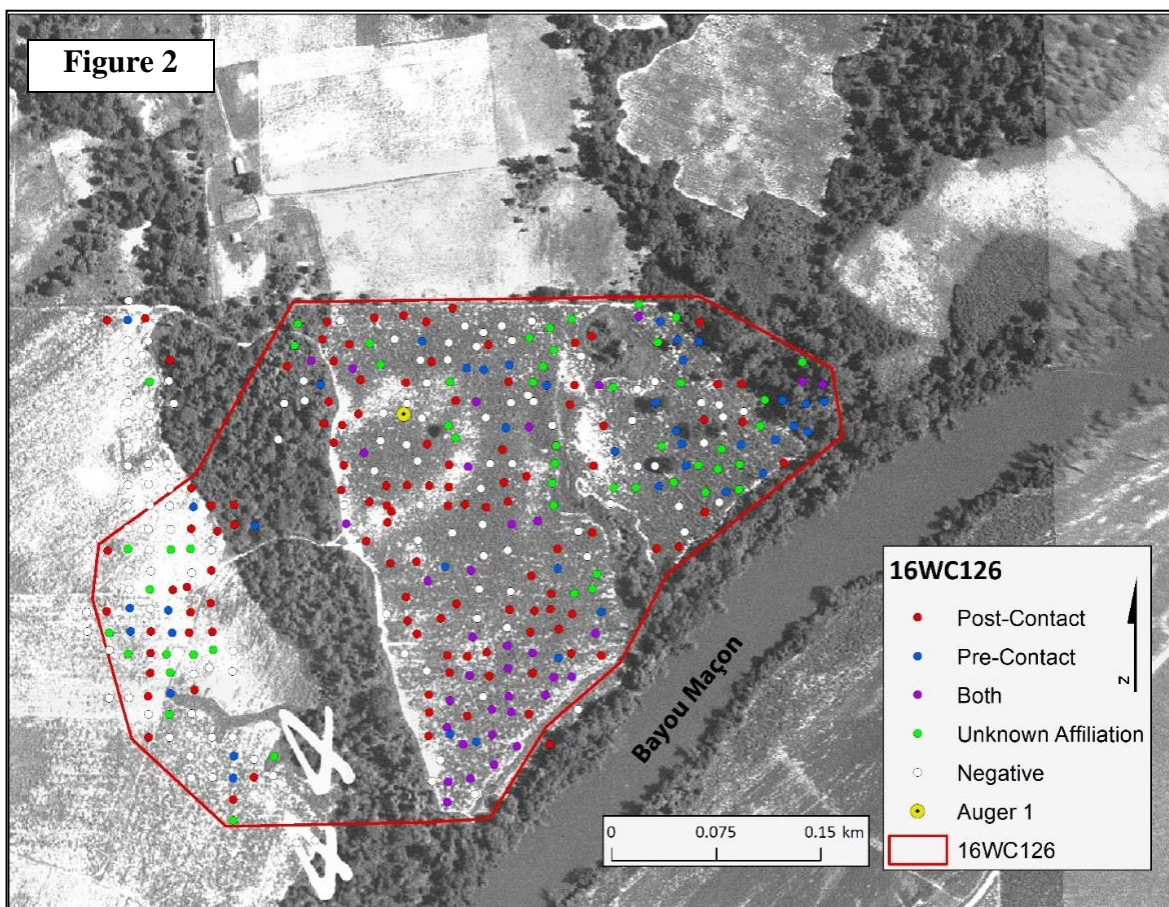
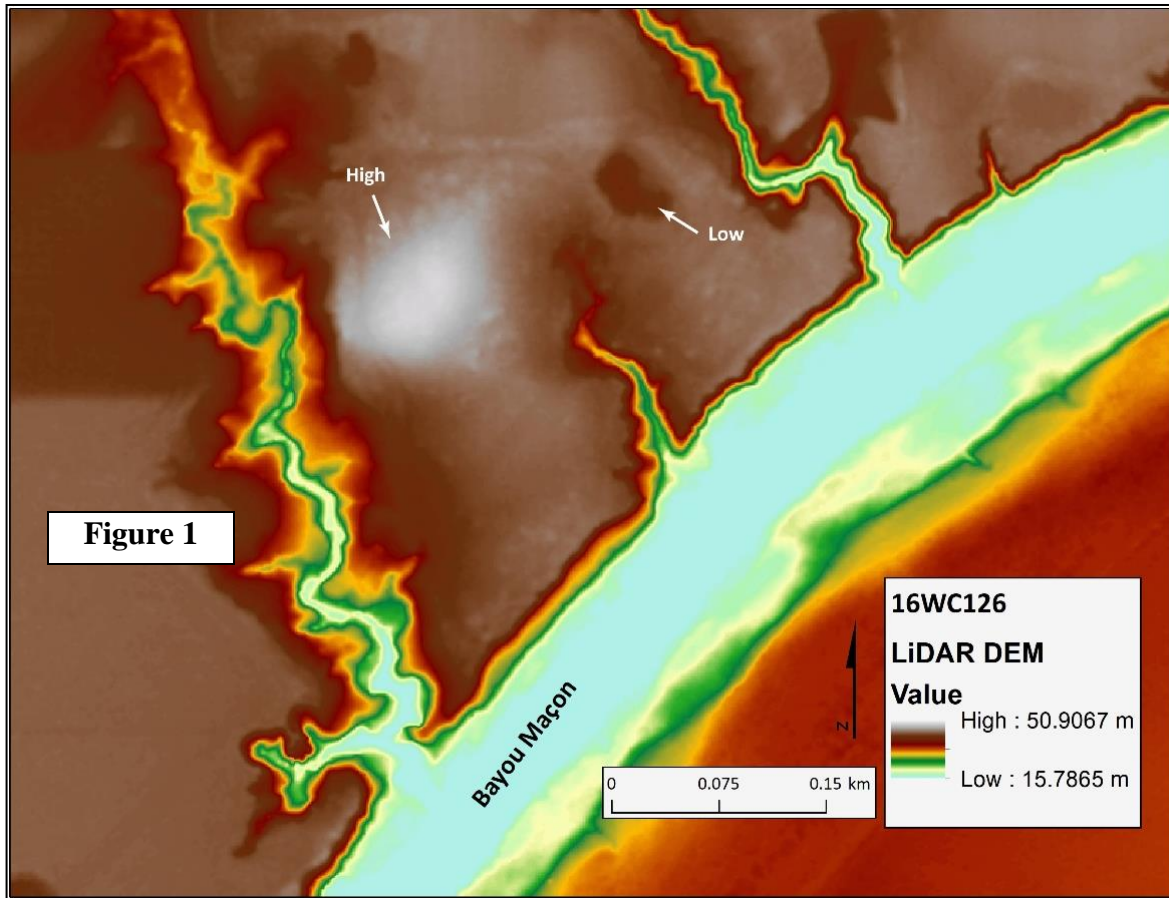
In May 2017, the Mississippi State University archaeological field school that was

assisting Dean Nones and Alesha Marcum-Heiman with the Poverty Point Compatible Use Zone survey began shovel-testing at this location. They set out forty shovel test pits (STPs): one of the STPs was positive for Pre-Contact materials, seven were positive for Post-Contact artifacts, and three contained both; no cultural materials were recovered in the remainder. In 2018, staff, students, and volunteers continued the survey. Participants included David Bingham, Tarey Carter, Diana Greenlee, Caleb Hutson, Edison Pearce, Michel Pujazón, Matthew Radermacher, Simon Sherman III, Michael Tarpley, Rebecca Wallace, and Alisha Wright. An additional 326 STPs were excavated, bringing the total for this area to 366 tests.

The excavated soil from each STP was screened through 1/8" mesh screens. All debris retained by the screen, not just the recognized artifacts, was brought back to the laboratory where it could be washed and sorted. Many STPs that were deemed to be "negative" in the field turned out to be positive when the screen debris was examined in the laboratory. The overall rate of positive STPs within the boundary of 16WC126 is 72.7% (Figure 2).

16WC126 is considered a single site (34.4 acres) with Pre-Contact and Post-Contact components (Figure 3). The Pre-Contact material culture includes pottery sherds, chipped stone, ground magnetite, and daub. The pottery is mostly undecorated Baytown Plain *var. unspecified*, with one decorated sherd of Rhinehart Punctated (Rich Weinstein, personal communication). A microblade fragment and a non-diagnostic biface were also recovered. The Post-Contact material includes pottery, glass, brick, asphalt, metal, and plastic. Artifacts of unknown affiliation include fired earth fragments and unmodified stone.

*Continued page 12*





*Continued from page 10*

The temporally diagnostic Pre-Contact artifacts belong to the Poverty Point and Woodland periods. A microblade and sixteen fragments of “exotic” raw materials (Fort Payne and Burlington cherts, novaculite, magnetite, and quartzite) that are typically associated with the Poverty Point culture are spread across the site. The absence of artifacts often associated with domestic sites of the Poverty Point culture (e.g., Poverty Point Objects, perforators, plummets) suggests this location was likely not a habitation at that time, but perhaps used as a peripheral campsite on the greater Poverty Point landscape. Artifact density maps show that Pre-Contact pottery is concentrated along the eastern edge of Macon Ridge. Pre-Contact artifacts are found around the possible mound, but not on or in its “platform.”

The only temporally diagnostic Post-Contact artifacts recovered are an antebellum period rim sherd of blue feather-edged pottery (Figure 3) and an RC Cola bottle and a brass “Western 410” cartridge (Industrial and Modern Era). Artifact density maps identified two Post-Contact artifact clusters that include brick, nails, glass, and pottery, suggesting they are residential remains. The 1959 Mitchener and 1986 Epps topographic maps and a 1938 Tobin aerial photograph (Figure 2) show structures in the general vicinity, but they are located well north of the site. The artifact clusters, if residential remains, would have to pre-date the 1938 Tobin aerial photograph or, less likely, post-date the 1938 aerial, but were removed before the 1959 Mitchener map. Or, they may represent dumps of material, perhaps intended to slow erosion.

The 1938 Tobin and 1998 USGS aerial photos show that this locale was in cultivation for at least sixty years. Not surprisingly, there is a relatively thin A horizon over much of the site, consistent with agricultural-related erosion and deflation. No buried deposits were observed; the possible mound and borrow pit may be the only intact features. The positive STPs which were dug into the possible mound recovered mostly Post-Contact artifacts. No evidence of construction fill was observed. A bucket auger was used to examine the mound sediments, penetrating deeply enough to reveal a buried A horizon, if there was one. There was not. This is not unusual for constructed mounds, however, as earthworks are often placed directly on truncated subsoils (meaning the original natural A horizon has been removed). There was a thick layer of compact, gray, silty E material at about 177-192 cmbs, the depth where the natural ground surface “should” have been. Although gray silt is often found at the base of earthworks, it is not clear that it is always a cultural deposit. If the downward movement of water through an earthwork is stopped by a dense layer, like a natural subsoil, it may move laterally, stripping minerals and leaving “clean” gray silt. Presumably the same phenomenon could occur within an erosional remnant or some other sort of natural rise.

Analyses of soil samples (e.g., grain size, phosphorus, organic matter) from the auger are consistent with the rise being a cultural deposit, however 2” solid soil cores and magnetic susceptibility data will hopefully provide more definitive evidence in the future. If the rise at 16WC126 is an earthwork, the next step will be to determine its age.

## New Radiocarbon Dates for the Monte Sano Site

By Dennis Jones, LAS Editor

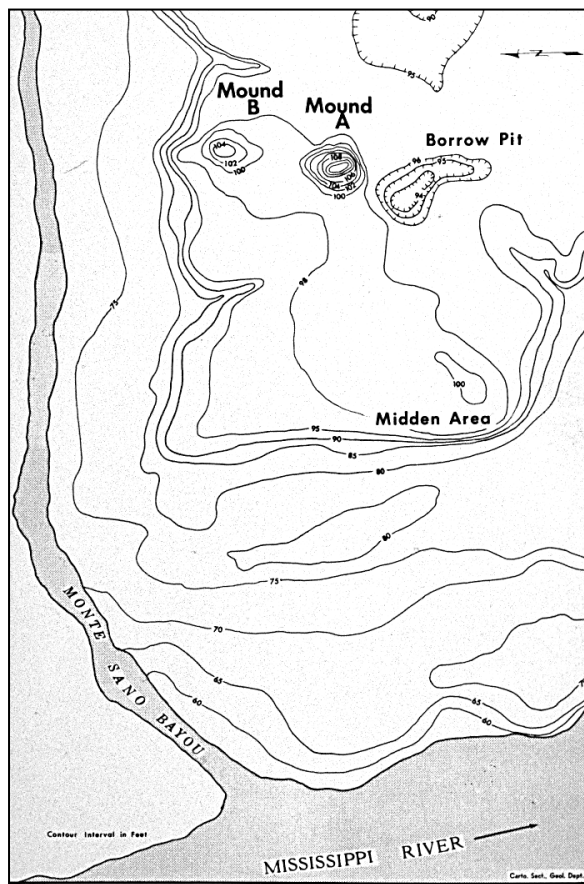
The Monte Sano site (16EBR17) was destroyed more than 50 years ago by the expansion of an industrial plant in Baton Rouge. This prehistoric site consisted of two conical mounds and a midden area perched on the edge of a natural terrace on the east bank of the Mississippi River just south of where the small Monte Sano Bayou ran into the river.

Before the mounds were leveled, however, the management of Allied Chemical contacted Dr. William G. Haag to conduct salvage archaeological investigations. Joined by a visiting James A. Ford and others, the archaeologists mapped the mounds, collected artifacts and recorded stratigraphic profiles as trenches were excavated through the mounds by a bulldozer in March of 1967,

The initial thinking by Haag, Ford, and others were that the mounds dated to the Poverty Point period. Dr. Haag had also collected samples for radiocarbon dating. He dutifully submitted a sample of charcoal from a well-documented provenience within Mound A. The date returned by that sample, 6220 $\pm$ 140 BP, indicated that this mound dated to the Middle Archaic period (ca. 8000 to 5000 BP). At that point in the archaeology of the Lower Mississippi Valley and the Southeast, such a date for a mound was “unthinkable.” The notion that earthen mounds were constructed during the Middle Archaic did not fit any of the paradigms or models that archaeologists had constructed.

Fast forwarding to the present, several Middle Archaic mound sites had been recorded, especially in northeast Louisiana. Sites such as Watson Brake, Frenchman’s Bend, and the Hedgepeth Mounds, among others have presented sufficient evidence to make Middle Archaic mound building a recognized prehistoric phenomenon. A second radiocarbon sample from Mound A was submitted by Dr. Chris Hayes in 1995 while he was the Southeast Louisiana Regional archaeologist that corroborated the early date obtained by Haag. Hayes also got a date of 4440 $\pm$ 60 BP for Mound B in 1995.

In the fall of 2018, Steve Fullen, with the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, obtained funding for additional dating of radiocarbon samples



*Contour map of the Monte Sano site*

from the mounds at the Monte Sano site. A calibrated AMS date performed by Beta Analytic, Inc. from charcoal in Mound B rendered a date of 4440  $\pm$  30 BP, which was almost identical to the date for this mound obtained by Hays. A sample of cremated bone from a secure and well documented provenience at Mound A at the Monte Sano site yielded a date of 6500  $\pm$  30 BP. This third date from Mound A further indicates that this was the oldest known mound in North America!

The 2017 issue of *Louisiana Archaeology*, the scholarly bulletin for the LAS, will focus on the Monte Sano site and its implications for archaeology in the state and the region. It will posthumously publish an article on the excavations at the site by Drs. William G. Haag and Carl Kuttruff, as well as an article on the artifacts recovered from Monte Sano. Unfortunately, this edition of *Louisiana Archaeology* is still in progress because of continuing research into some of the artifacts as well as the new radiocarbon dates. Thus, it will not be available at the 2019 annual meeting of the LAS in Shreveport as originally planned. The oldest known prehistoric mound in Louisiana and North America deserves as thorough a presentation as possible!

## LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

### World renowned archaeologist lends expertise to find Shreveport founder

<https://www.ktbs.com/news/arklatex> Nov 21, 2018

Dr. Buckley is one of the leading archaeologists in the world. His travels recently brought him to Shreveport. Dr. Buckley teaches at the University of Leicester in the UK, but he's best known for being the man who found the final burial site of King Richard III. Fans of Shakespeare know all about the infamous monarch, but for more than 500 hundreds of years no one knew where he was buried, until an investigation and intense search were conducted by Dr. Buckley and his team below the streets of Leicester.

"What's so great about this story is that it has so many scientific techniques that we utilized to prove who the person was that we found at the site and also that this individual was one of the most controversial monarchs of medieval England. He was immortalized in Shakespeare's plays," Dr. Buckley told KTBS.

Dr. Buckley entertained history buffs of all ages at LSUS. He went into detail about the grueling work needed to find King Richard's body and the exhaustive search for public records that helped tip them off to the location. In the winter of 2012 their hard work paid off, when the king's body was found in a small unmarked grave under a parking lot. The King Richard's skeleton showed a number of injuries, two of which could have easily caused his death.

Dr. Richard Buckley added, "It's so unusual if not unique to be able to actually dig up an individual and prove who it is through scientific study. It's just unheard of and unfortunately people

think that you can dig up a burial and we'll be able to tell who they all are, you won't. This is a combination of everything coming together at the right time."

"I thought what he said was very interesting! I'm really a nerd when it comes to history and I was very intrigued with everything that he was saying," said LSUS student Angela Vaughn.

Local historians, like Dr. Gary Joiner and Dr. White knew they could use Dr. Buckley's help in their own search for the remains of Shreveport founder William Bennett. While Dr. Buckley was in town visiting, his expertise was put to work. Several tests have already been conducted, including GPR or ground penetrating radar. Surprisingly it didn't turn up just one possible burial plot, but 27.

Dr. Gary Joiner of LSUS said, "Before he went out there, I laid out my geographical information system, map, and database and showed him how it looks. We also looked at prior photographs and his first thought and comment was brilliant, that makes so much sense."

Once on scene near the historic Oakland Cemetery, Dr. Buckley immediately began to draw comparisons between this former burial plot to the conditions he dealt with six years ago in Leicester. He acknowledged that research is only a part of the search, excavation is another. Dr. Buckley advised the historians and archaeologists working in Shreveport to pay extra close attention to where and how they dig. In order to find King Richard, Buckley deployed a new method of digging trenches in diagonal clusters instead of making them perpendicular to the streets.

"We have the same issue here. Our soil type is almost the same type as Leicester, England. We have almost the same environment. Their temperatures are a little colder than us. It all depends what we hope to find. We could find skeletal remains," said Dr. Joiner.

Researchers say Dr. Buckley's visit to Shreveport has not only inspired them in the search for William Bennett, but it's also given them new insight as to how to go about it. If someone as infamous as King Richard III can be tracked down, finding William Bennett is just a matter of time.



*Audience enjoys lecture by Dr. Richard Buckley*

## YouTube videos on Louisiana's indigenous people helped Pierre Part man unearth a 1,500-year-old Chitimacha canoe

By Terry L. Jones, Baton Rouge Morning Advocate,  
Posted September 20, 2018

BELLE ROSE — YouTube videos about the indigenous people of south Louisiana piqued Jamie Ponville's interest in Native American culture last year. Three days into his binge-watching, he came across a dugout canoe that members of the Chitimacha tribe used more 1,500 years ago.

"I find this boat. It's the strangest thing ever," the 41-year-old land excavator said. "I think it was meant to be."

Ponville, of Pierre Part, where he runs a trucking and excavation business, found the canoe while digging in his commercial dirt pit at Belle Rose last Oct. 27. He first spotted a V-shaped pattern 30 feet deep in a pit and suspected it could be from antiquity. He took special care with digging up the rest of it.

The state archeologist and members of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana are praising Ponville for his forethought that day. They say he stumbled upon the oldest canoe that has been discovered in the state.

"We did get a radiocarbon date on the canoe (and) the tree it was made from was cut down somewhere between 450 and 620 A.D.," said Charles "Chip" McGimsey, the state archaeologist and director of the Louisiana State Division of Archaeology. "We haven't identified the wood yet but I'd bet a lot of money that it's cypress."

Ponville's discovery came shortly after a 34-foot-long, 600-year-old canoe was discovered in June 2017 near Red River in Caddo Parish.

Ponville's canoe is a 15-foot-long fragment of a dugout canoe no more than 2 feet wide.

Kimberly Walden, the historical preservation officer for the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, said the discovery of buried Native American artifacts is fairly common, which is why they often ask that archaeological surveys are done in advance of construction projects.

*Continued on next page*

***Two views of the Native American canoe discovered in Belle Rose.***



Walden said the Chitimacha, which currently have a reservation in St. Mary Parish, were the largest and most powerful in the Gulf region between Texas and Florida before the influx of French in the 1700s.

"We were so happy he had the knowledge and wherewithal to stop and investigate while he was digging," Walden said. "Some people would have thought that was just a log and kept on digging. I think this was definitely meant for him to find and him only."

Ponville carefully carved out the outline of the canoe with his excavator after he first unearthed it last year, then used a shovel to dig up the rest of the artifact. "My heart was about to jump out my shirt," Ponville said. "I was scared at first. I didn't want to call anyone and tell them about it and chance my livelihood being shut down since I found it. I thought I may not be able to dig in my pit anymore."

But state officials told him the canoe was his since he found it on his property. From there, more calls were made and samples were taken to discover its origins

In the meantime, the canoe had to be re-buried to preserve it from harm. After initial test

results came back; Ponville had to decide what he wanted to do with his historical treasure.

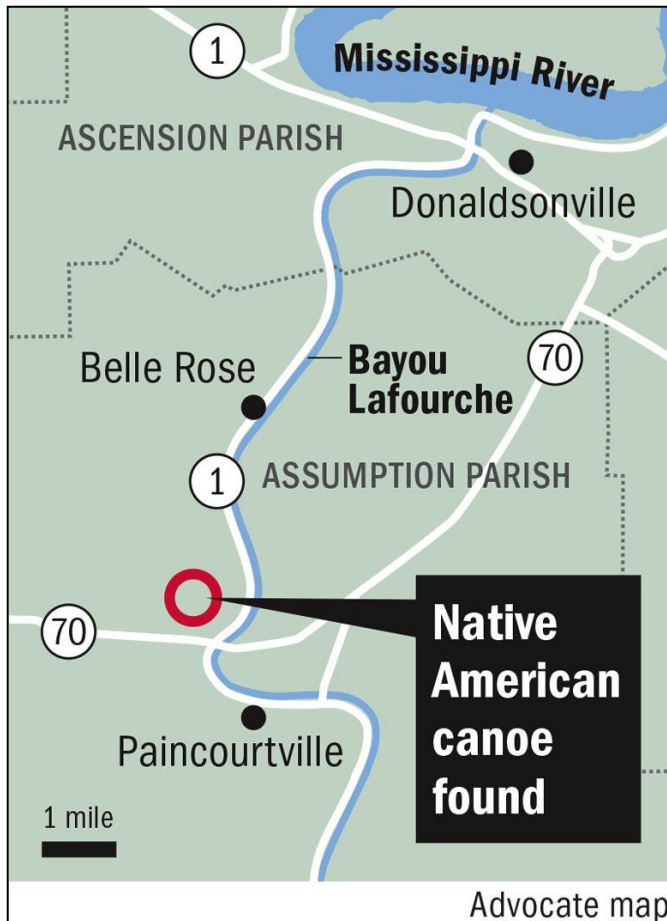
"We put plastic down on top of it; the whole point is to keep it wet and moist," McGimsey said. "It's been underground and completely water saturated, and if you let it dry out, with wood, it just splits and cracks."

Ponville, along with state officials and members of the Chitimacha tribe's tribal council, re-excavated the canoe Sept. 15 after Ponville made the decision to transport it to Texas A&M University where it will undergo a three- to five-year conservation process — which Ponville is paying for.

Ponville isn't sure what he'll do with it once he gets it back, but he has initiated several conversations with the Chitimacha tribe and state officials about temporary loaning it to museums for others to see.

Walden was quick to offer the tribe's museum. "We have a collection of canoes of various ages," Walden said. "He hasn't ruled it out as of yet, however, at this point it sounds like it wouldn't be a long term loan because he does want the canoe to travel so as many people as possible can see it."

*This canoe was also mentioned in an article by Dr. Chip McGimsey in the LAS newsletter one year ago: Vol. 45, No. 3.-Editor*



*Dugout canoe removed from the field where it was excavated. The discoverer, Jamie Ponville, is on the far right. Image from WAFB-TV report, September 16, 2018.*

## Mandeville officials aim to protect archaeological site from development

By Sara Pagonas, Baton Rouge Morning Advocate |  
DEC 22, 2018 - 5:30 PM  
SPAGONES@THEADVOCATE.COM

Centuries before it drew boaters and nature lovers, Mandeville's Bayou Castine was home to Native Americans. They left pottery shards and other traces of their presence, some of them predating the birth of Christ.

But residents of modern-day Mandeville have differing opinions about the historical importance of a city-owned tract at the intersection of Monroe and Colbert streets that was once an ancient settlement.

And that's likely to mean a showdown next month between Mandeville City Council members and an adjacent homeowner who is interested in buying a portion of the land.

Known as Pottery Hill, the 3-acre waterfront property is more distinguished by its towering live oak tree than pottery fragments in the dirt. But in 2006, a previous owner sought to develop the land, and a survey conducted at the time found clam shells, eight pottery shards and an arrowhead associated with cultures dating from around 1700 B.C. to 1 A.D., according to a 2007 report in *The Times-Picayune*.

The city bought the property in 2007; a step that City Councilwoman Lauré Sica said was aimed at ensuring the site would be protected.

She introduced an ordinance this month to include Pottery Hill on the city's Historic Resources Survey. The ordinance, which was unanimously approved by the Historic Preservation District Commission on Thursday, will go back to the City Council for adoption at its Jan. 10 meeting. Sica said including the land on the survey will provide an additional layer of protection, since any development proposed for it would have to be approved by the preservation commission.

But Josh Buchholz, who wants to buy a portion of the land from the city, said that designation is not justified by the facts. "What the city's doing is clearly wrong," he said.

A survey completed by SURA Inc., a Baton Rouge archaeological consulting firm, found there is no archaeological significance to the site, Buchholz said. But the commission "didn't even look at it," he said. "The vote was stacked against me."



According to a Sept. 19 letter to Mayor Donald Villere from SURA, the materials recovered during the 2006 survey "were insignificant in terms of their archaeological value."

They included three flakes from prehistoric stone tools, a fragment of a glass bottle and a porcelain rim shard that the SURA consultant, Malcolm Shuman, referred to as "historic."

But only a portion of the land yielded anything that qualified it for inclusion on the city's Historic Resources Survey, Shuman said, and that part is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Buchholz said people mistakenly think the entire property is listed.

Advocates of preserving the site say the register listing doesn't provide protection anyway. Ren Clark, a member of Mandeville's Planning and Zoning Commission, pointed to a letter the state archaeologist sent to Buchholz in April.

The presence of an archaeological site, even a site that is listed on the National Register, does not convey any restrictions or limitations on what the landowner can do with that property," Chip McGimsev wrote.



*Photograph of the Pottery Hill site in Mandeville, La. at the end of Monroe St. Bayou Castine is in the background.*



*Above: Pontchartrain type projectile point. Left: deer humerus recovered from Pottery Hill site (16ST48). Artifact photos from SURA Inc. report and not in Advocate article.*



Clark said the site should still be protected. "There needs to be a new zoning designation that really talks to protected areas," he said.

Ultimately, it's up to the City Council whether to sell the land, Villere said. But if that were to happen, he predicted, the city would take steps to ensure nothing would be built where any archaeological findings were made.

"I do think there certainly should be some protection," Villere said. "We should have some buffering of the property and some no-build provision."

Even without evidence of earlier habitation, the land is a critical and sensitive area that the city

would want to protect for drainage purposes, the mayor said.

Villere doesn't see city ownership as necessary to protect the land, however, noting that many historic sites are privately owned. "I don't think the city needs to own every bit of (historic) property," he said. If Buchholz would be willing to accept a covenant restricting building or tree-cutting on the site, "that would be reasonable," Villere said.

But Sica doesn't want the city to sell any portion of the land. "I absolutely feel the city is the best steward to preserve the site," she said. A plaque has been ordered to mark the area, and Sica said she'd like to see benches placed there.

## SITE PRESERVATION NEWS



### **The Archaeological Conservancy Purchases the Mount Bayou Mound in Catahoula Parish**

Mount Bayou Mound (16CT12), located in east-central Louisiana, is a six foot mound dating to as early as AD 700, the beginning of what archaeologists refer to as the Coles Creek culture. The Coles Creek people were socially complex, but did not practice maize agriculture. Instead, they were expert hunters, gatherers, and foragers. Coles Creek people are considered socially complex in part because they constructed mound sites throughout the southern portion of the Lower Mississippi Valley. Ceramics made by Plaquemine people, who date to about AD 1200 and who also built mounds, have been found at Mount Bayou Mound as well.

Though the ceramics found at Mount Bayou Mound suggest it was occupied by the Coles Creek and Plaquemine, both peoples inhabited sites that usually consisted of three or four mounds. Mount Bayou, however, has only one mound. There are other sites in the area that consist of single mound also and excavations have revealed that they date to the Marksville culture, which dates to approximately AD 100. Since no field work other than surface collections have taken place at the Mount Bayou site, it's impossible to be certain when the mound was built.

The owner of the property was in the process of clearing the land in order to subdivide it, when he discovered the six foot mound. He contacted an archaeologist who confirmed that it was a previously recorded site and suggested the owner contact the TAC. The owner agreed to sell the one-acre site to us for & \$7000 plus closing costs.

*-Jessica Crawford, Southeast Regional Director,  
The Archaeological Conservancy*

*Many LAS members know that the saga of the Natchez Indians in the 18<sup>th</sup> century extended into Louisiana from their tribal heartland in the vicinity of Natchez, MS. Check out LAS Bulletin No. 41 for 2014 as an example. The Facebook posting below by Jessica Crawford, Southeast Director for The Archaeological Conservancy, describes the situation regarding an important archaeological site. I think the LAS membership will be as interested in the situation as I am. -Dennis Jones.*

**Jessica Fleming Crawford  
on Facebook at 3:02 AM (!!)** 12/20/2018

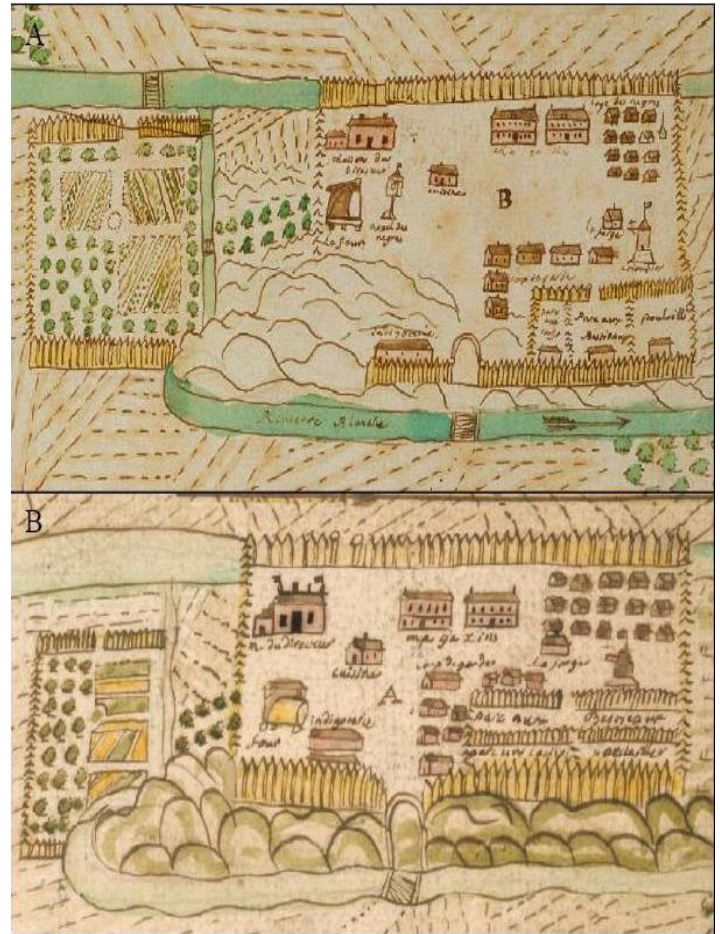
Adams County still owns what archaeologists and local historians have always called, the "IP Site" (because the International Paper plant was there- state site number 22AD588), the last tiny bit of the 1700's White Earth Concession (Terre Blanche) and an important part of French Colonial Natchez. The Terre Blanche and the St. Catherines Concessions were the region's earliest plantations and where the very first enslaved Africans were brought into the area. What remains of the Terre Blanche Concession was documented by archaeologists with the Lower Mississippi Survey in 1971.

In 2016, one of those archaeologists, Dr. Vincas Steponaitis, Director of the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at UNC Chapel Hill, along with Dr. Tony Boudreaux, Director of The Center for Archaeological Research at Ole Miss, and retired archaeologist John O'Hear, returned to determine if the site was still intact. It is!

We (people who care about the history of Natchez) have known about this site for a while and the fact that other than Fort Rosalie and the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, the rest of French Colonial Natchez has been destroyed. Unfortunately, even after they've been presented a report and told what is there, the Adams County Board of Supervisors "denies any historical significance." I'd be concerned if my County Supervisor felt that way about a site like that, but I'm from the Delta, where we have ZERO French Colonial sites, so they seem a little special to me. It also seems like a one would think that a community that was mostly built on the backs of the enslaved, and even carried through difficult times by the tourism industry resulting from slave labor, would at least want to preserve a few acres of the place where it all began. Or maybe not.

Technically, because it's important and is County owned (that's you, people of Natchez & Adams County) this site should be a State Historic Landmark. Ride by there right now and see if it looks like they're treating it the way a SHL should be treated. The Archaeological Conservancy is willing to buy it, but not for the \$34,000 an acre price they're throwing out- because as a State Historic Landmark, it cannot be developed or even sold without approval of MDAH, so we cannot and will not pay the value of industrial land that can be developed.

The archaeology there isn't like a Delta site, where it's a foot or so below the surface. The remains of a 1720's French homestead are just a few inches beneath

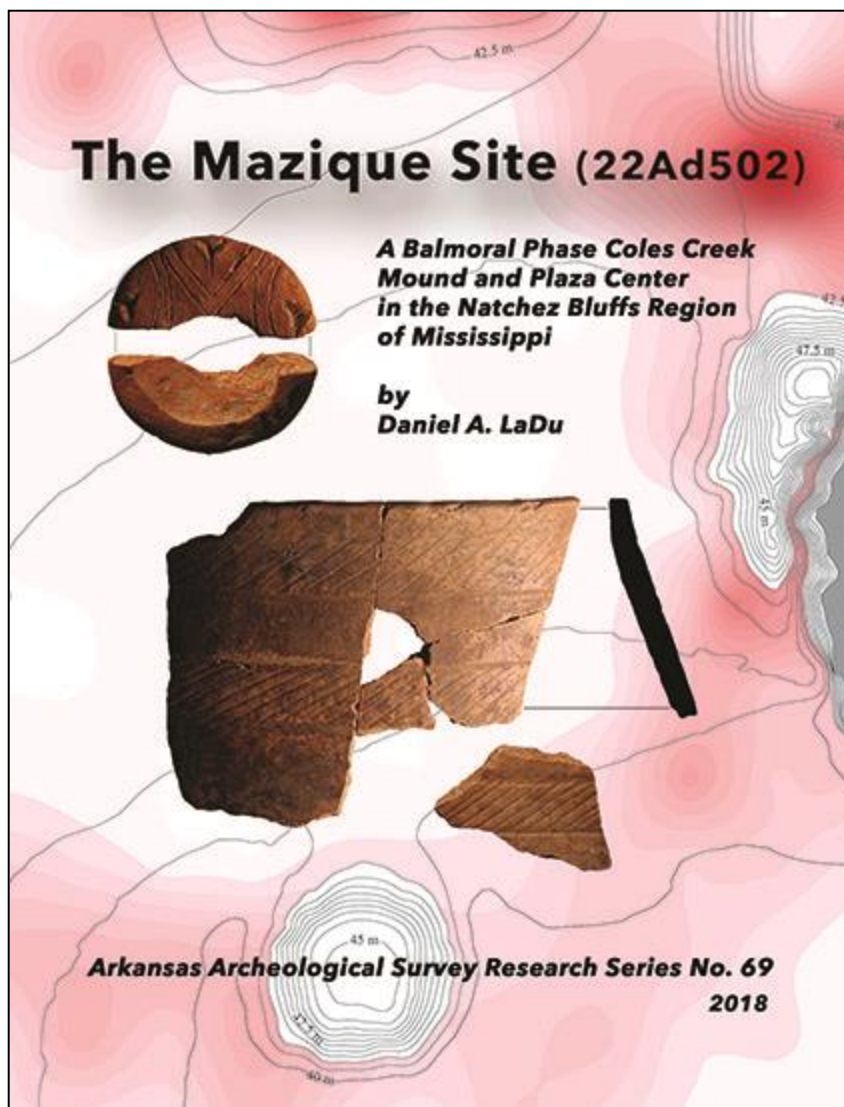


***Natchez area trade concessions as they appeared on 18<sup>th</sup> century French colonial maps.***

the surface. I thought we were past the days of publicly owned sites being destroyed by the people who should be protecting them.

The County will continue to push over trees and run heavy equipment over it until it's destroyed and we and MDAH are forced to accept its loss. That's cool. I'm going to make sure everyone knows. I'm on the schedule to discuss this at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society in Natchez in February. And yes, I'm up at 3:00 am. I'm editing to add that I don't know why trees are being removed & stuff pushed around on the site. It could very well be Southwest Electrical Power Association is about to put poles right across the heart of the site. They may have a right-of-way. That's an issue as well. But the land still belongs to Adams County and the comment to me that "the county denies any historic significance" tells me that it doesn't matter what I or the Mississippi Department of Archives and History says. They are going to do what they want. And there is no person more qualified on this planet to say that site is historically significant than Vin Steponaitis. No one!

## BOOKS OF INTEREST FOR LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY



### **The Mazique Site (22Ad502): A Balmoral Phase Coles Creek Mound and Plaza Center in the Natchez Bluffs Region of Mississippi**

by Daniel A. LaDu

**Arkansas Archaeological Survey  
Research Series No. 69, 2018**

**ix + 233 pp., 104 illus.**

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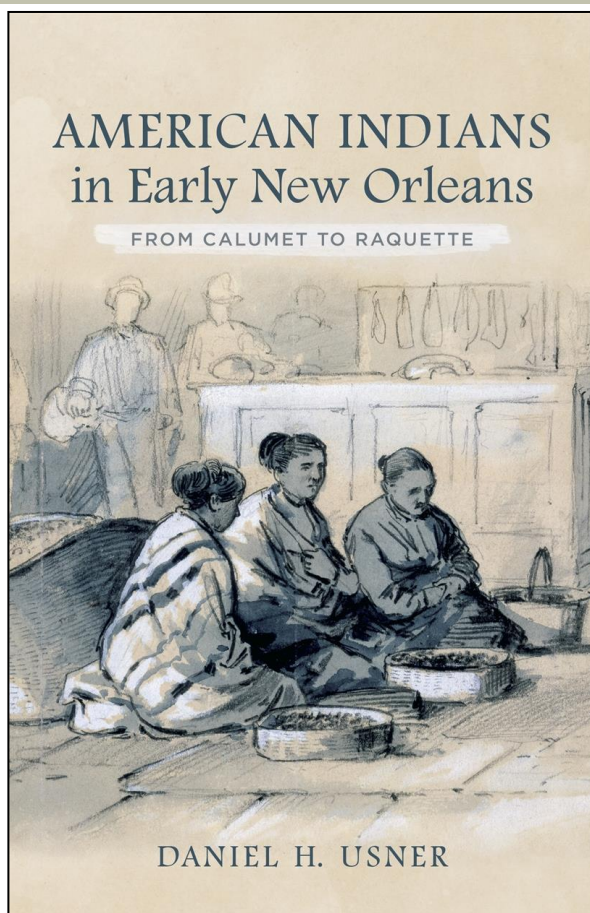
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### ABSTRACT

The Mazique site (22Ad502) is a late prehistoric mound and plaza center located in Adams County, Mississippi. Previous archeological collections identified both Coles Creek (AD 750–1200) and Plaquemine (AD 1200–1650) components, making Mazique an ideal vantage from which to inspect the changes wrought by the Coles Creek/Plaquemine transition. The primary objective of this research was to determine which model of Plaquemine origins best accounts for the circumstances observed at this civic-ceremonial complex and in the Natchez Bluffs region: the External Stimulus model or the Internal Development model.

In 2012 and 2013, members of the University of Alabama's Gulf Coast Survey shovel-tested nearly 13 acres of the site and excavated another eight contexts. The results presented herein reveal that Mazique is a remarkably complete Balmoral phase (AD 1000–1100) mound and plaza complex that was abandoned during the Gordon phase (AD 1100–1200) and experienced only ephemeral Plaquemine reoccupation during the Mississippi period (AD 1200–1650).

When the intrasite circumstances observed at Mazique are considered from the intraregional scale of the Natchez Bluffs and the interregional scale of the Coles Creek/Plaquemine heartland, it is apparent that neither External Stimulus nor Internal Development offers a unifying explanation of Plaquemine origins. However, instead of representing antithetical theoretical positions, I believe that External Stimulus and Internal Development actually express complementary forces at work within a broader network of contact and communication, and that the Coles Creek/Plaquemine transition is more aptly modeled as the convergence of the Coles Creek and Mississippian interaction spheres.



**American Indians in Early New Orleans:  
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From a peace ceremony conducted by Chitimacha diplomats before Governor Bienville's makeshift cabin in 1718 to a stickball match played by Choctaw teams in 1897 in Athletic Park, American Indians greatly influenced the history and culture of the Crescent City during its first two hundred years.

In *American Indians in Early New Orleans*, Daniel H. Usner lays to rest assumptions that American Indian communities vanished long ago from urban south Louisiana and recovers the experiences of Native Americans in Old New Orleans from their perspective.

Centuries before the arrival of Europeans, American Indians controlled the narrow strip of land between the Mississippi River and present-day Lake Pontchartrain to transport goods, harvest resources, and perform rituals. The birth and growth of colonial New Orleans depended upon the materials and services provided by Native inhabitants as liaisons, traders, soldiers, and even slaves. Despite losing much of their homeland and political power after the Louisiana Purchase, Lower Mississippi Valley Indians refused to retreat from New Orleans's streets and markets; throughout the 1800s, Choctaw and other nearby communities improvised ways of expressing their cultural autonomy and economic interests—as peddlers, laborers, and performers—in the face of prejudice and hostility from non-Indian residents. Numerous other American Indian tribes, forcibly removed from the southeastern United States, underwent a painful passage through the city before being transported farther up the Mississippi River. At the dawn of the twentieth century, a few Indian communities on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain continued to maintain their creative relationship with New Orleans by regularly vending crafts and plants in the French Market.

In this groundbreaking narrative, Usner explores the array of ways that Native people used this river port city, from its founding to the World War I era, and demonstrates their crucial role in New Orleans's history.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Daniel H. Usner is the Holland N. McTyeire Professor of History at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of *Indians, Settlers, and Slaves in a Frontier Exchange Economy: The Lower Mississippi Valley before 1783*; *American Indians in the Lower Mississippi Valley: Social and Economic Histories*; *Indian Work: Language and Livelihood in American History*; and *Weaving Alliances with Other Women: Chitimacha Indian Work in the New South*.

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