



Louisiana Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER

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

Volume 33, No. 2

Fall 2005

FROM THE EDITOR

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society will be held in Monroe, February 24-26, 2006, at the Atrium Hotel. The meeting announcement and call for papers are included in this issue. This year's guest speaker will be Dr. George Milner, Professor of Archaeology/Anthropology and Interim Head at Penn State University. Dr. Milner is the author of *The Moundbuilders: Ancient Peoples of Eastern North America*. There will be a reception with refreshments on Friday night and a banquet on Saturday. A social with cash bar will follow the banquet at 8 pm. The theme of this year's meeting will be Mounds. (See page 8, this issue, for more information on this year's meeting.)

The minutes from the August Executive Committee Meeting held in Natchitoches are included, as well as a submission from President John Polk. Bulletin Editor Chip McGimsey, has provided three book reviews as well.

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter (Winter issue) is December 24th. If anyone has anything they'd like to see in the newsletter, please send it along. Thank you for your continued contributions and participation in the LAS.

Cherie Schwab
Newsletter Editor

FIELD SCHOOL

The UL Lafayette Archaeology Field School will be visiting several sites this winter, December 12 - January 9, 2006.

I received approval from the landowner's attorney to work at Patterson (SMY10). We are planning to excavate two 1-x-1-m units in the midden (east of mound A) and shovel test around and between the mounds. We will also go to Bayou Rouge (SL3), another large, impressive mound site in St. Landry Parish. If you would like to visit these sites during field school, I can send an schedule/itinerary and directions.

We just acquired a Geometrics Cesium Magnetometer and will be giving it a test run, possibly at Avery Island. If you know of anyone with magnetometry experience or training who might be willing to assist us for a couple of days or if you need more information on the field school please contact me at markrees@louisiana.edu or 337-482-6045.

Mark Rees

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

My, my — where has the time gone? My last three and a half years as vice president and president of the LAS have really flown by. This was alright when I was 16, but now, at 75, I am ready to join Ponce de Leon's expedition. Overall, it's been a good time working with a good executive committee to do some good things. I will mention a few projects below.

In 2004 a flyover using thermal imaging was made of the area near the Waterford Nuclear Power Plant and in the Taft area of St. Charles Parish. The flyover was sponsored by the St. Charles Historical Foundation and was funded by a grant from the Dow Chemical Company. The imagery is now on disk and will be kept in the LAS archives. Anyone doing research in that area may access the disk by contacting Carl Kuttruff or John Polk.

Last month I sent letters to all State libraries asking them to become Institutional members of LAS. The response has been good. We have five new members so far and are expecting more.

One of my goals when taking office was to increase membership in the LAS. I am still working on ways to recruit high schools as institutional members. One promising possibility is a grant from Mrs. Patrice Junius, Outreach Coordinator, U.S. Department of the Interior. I wrote her a letter earlier this year. I am also attempting to have archaeology placed on the Senior Project list in St. Charles Parish. I believe such projects as these could bring more members. I welcome input from anyone with ideas on increasing membership.

Plans for the field school are still alive. Approval of funding for the field school was considered by Cytec Chemical Company at its budget meeting this August. Pursuant to adequate funding, the possible date of the field school would be the third week of October, 2006 and would likely work like this:

1. Earth Search would conduct the field school
2. LAS would schedule school visits and be responsible for guides to the and the lab.
3. Cytec would provide guided tours of the plant.

In order to make the field school work, we need to know how many people would be interested in attending the school and how many volunteers would be willing to donate a day or so of their time as guides. A place to stay will be provided for volunteers. If you would like to attend or to volunteer, please contact John Polk at 985-785-2281 or e-mail him at archaeog@aol.com.

The ongoing saga of the purchase of a digital camcorder continues. For some time now, the Executive Committee has been evaluating camcorders to determine which one would best meet the needs of the LAS. The Executive Committee, at its most recent meeting, tabled making a purchase, hoping that future technology would enable us to efficiently record papers straight to a disk. I plan to retire from recording the meetings after the 2006 Annual Meeting in Monroe. Joe Saunders and John Guy will take my place and I know they will do a (Steven Spielberg) good job.

The Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy, a very worthwhile organization in which many LAS members are involved, has recently reorganized and is fully functioning again. The LAC Board of Directors conducts its meetings immediately following the LAS Executive Committee meetings. I hope that everyone in LAS will consider joining LAC and help save the past for the future.

Until next time,

John Polk
LAS President

**Newsletter
Submission
Deadline
Winter Issue
December 24th**

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

**August 6, 2006
Grand Ecore Visitors Center,
Natchitoches, Louisiana**

**Reported by
Maureen Downey**

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society met Saturday, August 6, 2005 at the Bennett Johnston Waterway Project Visitor Center at Grand Ecore near Natchitoches, Louisiana. President John Polk called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Members present were:

John Polk – LAS President
Ellen Ibert – LAS Vice President/President-Elect
Joe Saunders – LAS Past President
Maureen Downey – LAS Secretary
Josetta LeBoeuf – LAS Treasurer
Chip McGimsey – LAS Bulletin Editor
Cherie Schwab – LAS Newsletter Editor
Junior Doughty – Web Editor
John Guy – LAS Representative at Large
Rogers Serpas – LAS Representative at Large
Margarette G. Cheramie – CLAC Representative
Lena Polk – Delta Chapter Representative
Reca Jones – Northeast Chapter Representative

MINUTES

Reca Jones made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2005, meeting of the LAS Executive Committee held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chip McGimsey seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

REPORTS

President

President John Polk welcomed everyone. He then reported on results of his efforts to enlist libraries as institutional members. So far five libraries have become new institutional members of the LAS. He also

stated that he had recently received correspondence from Ms. Patrice Junius, Outreach Coordinator for the U.S. Department of the Interior, in which she said she plans to follow-up on his request regarding a grant to cover memberships for area high schools by presenting it at the Department's next budget meeting. He next gave the Committee a report on the field school. The Committee approved the field school proposal. John will present the proposal along with a request for a grant for funding to Cytex, St. Charles Parish.

Vice President

Ellen Ibert said that the West Louisiana Archaeology Club was attempting to secure non-profit status. She asked for clarification of the relationship between the LAS and chapters of LAS. After discussion, John Polk asked if she would explore the matter further and report to the Committee at the next meeting. Ellen also requested that the LAS form a grant writing committee since she feels that the Society could be eligible for grants. Ellen explained some of the requirements and then suggested that an announcement be placed in the Newsletter asking for a volunteer to serve as grant writer for the Society.

Treasurer

Josetta LeBoeuf gave the Treasurer's Report. The LAS checking account balance is \$7,993.33. She remarked that Bulletin expenses and bulk mailing fees were two of the main expenses for this past period.

Membership

Josetta LeBoeuf said the LAS had recently received two new out-of-state memberships, both from students. She suggested the LAS be more aggressive in recruiting students as members of the Society and requested that the Committee address her proposal.

Bulletin Report

Chip McGimsey asked Cherie Schwab to report on the mailing of Bulletin No. 26, 1999. Members should be receiving their copies shortly. Cherie said that there have been many problems with the present printing company and that she was investigating new ones. Chip requested submissions for the next Bulletins.

Newsletter Report

Cherie Schwab said that the next Newsletter should be published early in September. The dead-

line for submissions is the last weekend in August.

Web Site

Junior Doughty reported that the web site was receiving an average of 72 hits a day.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Delta Chapter

Lena Polk was recently appointed Delta Chapter Representative. She reported on the latest Delta Chapter meeting. Plans are to change the meeting location.

Central Louisiana Archaeology Chapter

Margarette Cheramie reported on the CLAC's latest activities and described some of the excellent speakers that the Chapter has had recently. As usual, CLAC planned many exciting events for Archaeology Week.

Baton Rouge Chapter:

Josetta LeBoeuf reported for Baton Rouge Chapter. She stated that she has resigned as program chairperson for the Baton Rouge Chapter effective the end of this year. The Baton Rouge Chapter continues to have interesting monthly meetings and Josetta invited everyone to attend.

West Louisiana Archaeology Club

John Guy reported that with the help of boy scouts, the WLAC has successfully completed work on the site in Merryville. Effective September of this year, the club's meeting time will be changed from the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. to the third Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The club is geared up for Archaeology Week with plans for an informative series of speakers at Fort Polk.

Northeast Chapter

Reca Jones outlined plans for the upcoming 2006 Annual Meeting to be held in Monroe. It is going to be a good one!

New Chapter in Lafayette

Much work is being done on organizing the new Lafayette Chapter. A report on progress will be made at the next meeting.

ONGOING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2006 Annual Meeting

Joe Saunders and Reca Jones reported on the 2006 Annual Meeting. They have made much progress on arrangements for the meeting. George Miller from Penn State is to be the guest speaker. They plan to invite societies from neighboring states to attend the meeting. Information on the meeting is included in the Fall newsletter.

Purchase of Digital Camcorder

Ellen Ibert gave the report on camcorders. The Executive Committee discussed her findings and decided to postpone purchasing a camcorder until next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Saucier Award

Discussion was opened on the Saucier Award. A call for nominations for the award was to be placed in the Fall newsletter. John Polk appointed a committee consisting of Chip McGimsey, Josetta LeBoeuf, and Junior Doughty to review the nominations.

Archaeology Week Contribution

Josetta LeBoeuf requested that the LAS make the same contribution to Archaeology Week as they have in the past. But she asked the contribution be made specifically to reimburse travel expenses for Archaeology Week speakers. Ellen Ibert made a motion, seconded by Junior Doughty, that the LAS contribute \$200 to Archaeology Week to reimburse speaker travel expenses. Reca Jones amended the motion to state that the LAS contribute \$250.00 to Archaeology Week for speaker travel expense. The amended motion was seconded by John Guy and was passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Josetta LeBoeuf announced that Archaeology Week would be October 2-8, 2005.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be November 5 in Amite, Louisiana.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Junior Doughty and seconded by Ellen Ibert to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously and President John Polk adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

**Review of *The Westo Indians: Slave Traders of the Early Colonial South*,
by Eric E. Bowne. University of Alabama Press. 2005
By Chip McGimsey, University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

I have to admit at the outset that I knew, and still know, very little about the Indian and colonial history of the 1600s along the East Coast. This book is a fascinating introduction into this period that is written in a story-telling framework that avoids much of the technical lingo common to professional books. It is also very short, only 115 pages with an extensive appendix that includes all of the primary documents cited in the book.

The Westos were originally members of the Erie tribe, living around the Great Lake of that name in the 1630s. They established a trading network with the Susquahanna Tribe on Chesapeake Bay, trading beaver pelts for European goods, including guns. But the European demand for beaver rapidly led to plummeting supplies and many groups, especially the Five Nations Iroquois, found it more profitable to take them from their neighbors. In the Beaver Wars of the 1640s and 1650s, the Erie were forced out and in 1656 moved to southwestern Virginia, beyond the reach of their enemies. Here they made contact with the English, who desired both beaver pelts, but also slaves to work their tobacco fields. The Erie were one of the first Tribes to take up slave-raiding as a major element in their trade with Europeans. Over the next 20 years, the Erie settled in Georgia and South Carolina (becoming known to Europeans there as the Westos) and raided into Spanish Florida for slaves. They dominated trade with the English in this region, in large part because they were initially much better armed than the other Tribes in the region. Their arms advantage did not last long and in a series of conflicts around 1680, the Westos were decimated (many being sold into slavery themselves). Most survivors moved back to the Great Lakes, taking up residence with the Seneca, but a few families were living in several Creek towns in the early 1700s.

The author takes a broad, historical approach to examine several critical factors that allowed the Erie/Westos to attain, and later lose, their powerful position in the Carolina trading network. The first factor is the strategies developed by the Indian Tribes themselves to deal with the Europeans, particularly in regards to what the Europeans wanted (first beaver and then also slaves), and what the Indians could get in return (trade goods but especially guns). The ability to get the latter was largely dependent upon the different colonization strategies of the various European powers. As the book makes clear, the Tribes were active players in this game and were not simply pawns of the Europeans. A second critical factor is the different European colonization strategies. French, English and Dutch colonies interacted differently with Native Tribes than did the Spanish (the Spanish did not sell/provide guns to Tribes) and this left those Tribes allied with the Spanish at a severe military disadvantage when conflicts arose. A third critical factor was the development of the plantation system in Virginia and the Carolinas in the 1660s and 1670s.

This system was largely imported from the Barbados where a slave-based plantation economy was dominant, so when those same families established plantations in Carolina, they needed a steady supply of slaves. For 20 years, the Westos were ideally placed to take advantage of this situation and to control the slave trade in the Carolinas.

For this reviewer, this book opened my eyes to the extent of slave raiding and selling by Native American Tribes during the Colonial period. The book notes that until 1715, Carolina exported more slaves than it imported. It also attempts to consider the impact of this slaving economy upon the subsequent history of Tribes. The book also notes the conflicts between colonists and their European overseers as to how to deal with the Indians and how the colonists covertly and overtly ignored the European dictates. The author notes that Tribes could adopt one of several possible political strategies to cope with the effects of colonization (including disease, slaving and expropriation of land). The story of the Westos illustrates how one Tribe employed one of these strategies and what the consequences of that choice were. This book is a fascinating introduction into the complicated history of this time and place. I think many members of the Society would find it of great interest.

**Review of *Mississippi Archaeology Q & A*, by Evan Peacock.
University Press of Mississippi. \$48.00 hardback, \$18.00 paperback.
Order at www.upress.state.ms.us/catalog/Spring2005.
Reviewed by Chip McGimsey, University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

This small book (a total of 150 pages printed on a 8.5 x 6.5 inch format) is a wonderful addition to archaeology's efforts to reach out to the general public. In a series of short, 5-10 page, chapters, Peacock answers the basic questions people have about archaeology. These chapters include Why Do We Do Archaeology?, Did You Find Any Gold Yet?, Who Were They?, Can The Government Take My Stuff Away?, What Can I Do To Help? Each is written in a very clear, conversational, non-technical style appropriate for a very broad audience. Perhaps my only complaint is for a greater emphasis on the fact that government cannot take artifacts or site from private citizens - Peacock goes to some length to explain the rare situations where it can happen and I'm afraid this may overwhelm the main message of this chapter. There are also short sidebar articles explaining more technical subjects such as flint-knapping, dating, and site destruction, or illustrating examples of different kinds of sites. The book ends with chapters on What Can I Do to Help? and How Can I Learn More?

I recommend that everyone buy several copies of this book and keep them available to hand out to people we meet who are interested in archaeology. Simply slip a page into the book containing the contact information for Louisiana and this book will serve as a great introduction to archaeology and cultural resources for folks in Louisiana.

This book will be available for purchase at the Silent Auction during the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Review of *The Archaeology of Ocmulgee Old Fields*, by Carol I. Mason, with a new foreword by Marvin T. Smith and a new preface by the author. University of Alabama Press. 2005.

Reviewed by Chip McGimsey, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

This volume presents Carol Mason's 1963 PhD dissertation and is published as one of the "Classics in Southeastern Archaeology" series by the University of Alabama Press. The foreword by Marvin Smith notes (2005:ix):

 this volume is one of the most outstanding works to come out of the 1960s. In many ways, it was way ahead of contemporary archaeological studies of contact period archaeological sites, and it still provides useful data forty years later. By any measure, it is a classic study.

In 1939-1941, a Works Progress Administration (WPA) crew conducted extensive excavations at the Ocmulgee National Monument near Macon, Georgia. The site is a multi-component Mississippian mound and village center, but also has a major historic Creek occupation. The latter occupation occurred between 1670 and 1715 and is known from early traders accounts as one of the Lower Creek towns on the Ocmulgee River. Swanton (1922) identifies the site as the village of Hitchiti Town, while Mason presents a detailed argument it was the site of Ocmulgee Town.

The site, and the WPA excavation, are particularly important because they exposed the remains of an English (Carolinian) trading post at the site and excavated nearly all of it. Mason's book focuses on the archaeology of this part of the site. She also presents a thorough discussion of the history of this period. Her review, although obviously not including results from more recent studies (see review of *The Westoes* elsewhere in this newsletter as one example), places the site and the trading post in a context that illuminates its historical and archaeological value.

WPA excavations present a considerable challenge for analysis and interpretation. The use of large numbers of generally inexperienced excavators, together with the standard excavation techniques of the day (rapid shoveling without screening) provides one limitation. A second limitation is the often inconsistent curation of the collection and records in the intervening years. Together, these factors combine to create substantial gaps in the archaeological record and limit our ability to document or interpret what was found. Having had some experience with similar collections here in Louisiana, I am impressed with the information Mason is able to pull from the extant records.

The trading post consisted of a pentagonal-shaped palisade located only feet from the important Lower Creek Trading Path. The excavations revealed the trail to be a deeply incised path that was still visible many years after the site was abandoned. Several small buildings may have been present inside the palisade, although the data is inconclusive. In addition, several Creek houses and a number of burials were found that are thought to be contemporary with the post. Mason presents a thorough description of all these features. She also presents a detailed description of the European and Native American artifacts recovered from these contexts. This aspect of the report is particularly useful because the site is still one of the few historic Creek villages that can be tied to specific interval of time.

This report was written in 1960, consequently it does not address many issues of current interest among historic / contact period archaeologists. However, as Marvin Smith points out in his new forward, there are very few recently excavated contact period sites, and particularly trading posts, that contain the wealth of archaeological and architectural data that Ocmulgee Old Fields does. For these reasons, Mason's volume is very useful to anyone interested in the archaeology and history of the contact period and the development of the early colonial / Native American trading economy.

This volume will be available at the LAS Silent Auction during the 2006 Annual Meeting in Monroe.

Attention Archaeology Week Volunteers!

Did you travel at your own expense to lead an Archaeology Week event this year?

The LAS recognizes the importance of your service for a successful Archaeology Week. Each year the organization contributes \$200-250 to Archaeology Week to show our support. This year, the Executive Committee decided to reimburse Archaeology week participants for up to \$50 for travel expenses. Please send your request for reimbursement to:

Josetta LeBoeuf
9364 Rainford Rd
Baton Rouge, LA 70810
josieaz@bellsouth.net

Please include a brief description of the event (e.g., where it was held, how far you traveled to get there).

The amount reimbursed will depend on the requests received.

33rd Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society

February 24-26, 2006

The Atrium
Monroe, Louisiana

Mounds will be the theme of the annual Louisiana Archaeology Society meeting to be held in Monroe, February 24-26. The Atrium Hotel and Suites (318-325-0641; <http://www.theatrium.biz>), 2001 Louisville Ave., in downtown Monroe has been selected as the convention center. Registration will begin at 1 p.m. Room check in is at 3 p.m. Room prices are \$65.00 for queen, double, or King. A suite is \$85.00 and a suite with a pool view is \$109.00.

There will be two tours of the Ancient Mounds Heritage Area and Trails on Friday, February 24, starting at noon. One tour will be along the west side of the Ouachita River in Catahoula Parish and the other will be near Highway 65 in Tensas Parish. Each tour will caravan and should take between 3 and 4 hours.

Registration begins at 1 p.m. on Friday and the book room will be ready at 3 p.m. There will be some snacks and a free keg Friday night. Breakfast will be served at the Atrium's Restaurant, The Brandy House. Tony's Restaurant is located next door to the Atrium and opens at 6 a.m. There are other nearby restaurants.

Papers will be presented in two sessions on Saturday, and a morning session on Sunday. If possible, papers on mounds in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi are preferred, but any topic will be accepted.

On Saturday the program will begin at 8 a.m. Coffee will be available. There will be a break for lunch. As usual we will have the business meeting at the end of Saturday's presentations. Dinner will begin at 7 p.m. followed at 8 p.m. by the keynote speaker.

Dr. George Milner, Professor of Archaeology/Anthropology and Interim Head at Penn State University will be this year's keynote speaker. He is the author two books related to mounds, *The Moundbuilders: Ancient Peoples of Eastern North America* and *The Cahokia Chiefdom: The Archaeology of a Mississippian Society*. We are fortunate to have Milner for a keynote speaker. This portion of the program is open to anyone who wishes to attend. Following the speaker at 8 p.m. will be a social with a cash bar. If any beer is left in the key from Friday night, it will be free.

Sunday morning papers begin at 8 a.m. and will continue 11 a.m.

Pre-registration is \$20 and \$25 on site. For information contact joe saunders at 318-342-1899, or saunders@ulm.edu.

Call For Papers

33rd Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society
February 24-26, 2006
Atrium Hotel
Monroe, Louisiana

To submit a paper for presentation, you can:

1) submit a title and abstract electronically via the LAS website; go to www.laarchaeology.org and click on 2005 Annual Meeting

2) submit a title and abstract via email to saunders@ulm.edu.

3) mail your title and abstract to:

Joe Saunders
Regional Archaeology Program
Dept. of Geoscience
University of Louisiana at Monroe
Monroe, LA 71209

Presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes. A slide projector and digital projector with laptop will be available for participants use. Speakers wishing to use Powerpoint must load their presentations before the session or bring their own laptop.

Abstracts are due January 27, 2005

Name _____

Address _____

Affiliation _____

Abstract _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL

For year* _____

- Regular Membership Annually \$20.00
- Associate Membership Annually \$5.00
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Names of Associate Members _____

* All memberships are for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Regardless of the time of year during which you join the society, you will receive all publications for the year specified.

Back Issues of LAS Bulletins, \$15.00 each. Orders of 10 to 14 copies, \$13.50 each; orders of 15 or more copies, \$12.75 each.

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| #1 <input type="checkbox"/> 1974 | #10 <input type="checkbox"/> 1983 | #19 <input type="checkbox"/> 1992 |
| #2 _____ 1975 (out of print) | #11 <input type="checkbox"/> 1984 | #20 <input type="checkbox"/> 1993 |
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Back Issues of LAS Special Publications:

- SP #1 Stone Points and Tools of Northwestern Louisiana (1981, Reprinted 2000) \$4.00
- SP #2 LAS 10th Anniversary Issue (1984) (out of print)
- SP #3 Louisiana's Archaeological Radiometric Database \$4.00

Optional Donation:

Roger T. Saucier Memorial Fund \$_____

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Send payment to:
Josetta LeBoeuf
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Information for Subscribers

The *Newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society* is published three times a year for the society by Coastal Environments, Inc., Baton Rouge. Subscription is by membership in the Louisiana Archaeological Society. Annual membership dues are \$20.00 for individuals, libraries, and institutions, \$5.00 for associates (relatives of individual members), and \$12.00 for students. Life membership dues are \$200.00 for individuals. Sustaining membership dues for individuals or institutions are \$300.00. In addition to the newsletter, members receive one issue per year of the bulletin *Louisiana Archaeology*. Membership requests, subscription dues, changes of address, and back issue orders should be directed to the Treasurer. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the Newsletter Editor and do not necessarily reflect society policy.

Information for Contributors

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

Web Site

www.laarchaeology.org

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