



NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2006

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LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

OCTOBER 1-7, 2006



INDIAN VILLAGE
AVOYELLES PARISH, 2000 YEARS AGO

Louisiana Archaeology Week 2006 Schedule Inside

LAS CHAPTER NEWS

Baton Rouge LAS Report-Stephanie Perrault

The Baton Rouge Chapter of LAS has continued to meet monthly. At each meeting we've had good fortune with a wide variety of informative and entertaining speakers. They are:

May 26

Steven Fullen

LSU Museum of Natural Science

"Tchefuncte Pottery Revisited"

June 28

Carey Coxe

BREC Magnolia Mound Plantation

"The Archaeology of Magnolia Mound Plantation"

July 26

Paul Heinrich

LSU Geological Survey

"Cultural Effects of the St. Helena Impact Crater"

August 30

Holy Tunkel

LSU Department of Geography and Anthropology

"The Archaeology of Medicine: Excavation of an Antebellum Plantation Hospital"

Dr. Jay Edwards of LSU Dept. of Geography and Anthropology is scheduled to speak at the September meeting, and Norm Davis will round out the program in October, giving a presentation about Poverty Point and archaeoastronomy.

West Louisiana Archaeology Club-Leesville John Guy

The West Louisiana Archaeology Club meets on the third Thursday of every month except for October and December, The meeting time is 6:00 PM and is located at the Museum of West Louisiana, 803 South 3rd Street in Leesville La.

August guest speaker was Dr. Charles Allen of Fort Polk. His topic was *The Use and Applications of Switch Grass*.

September 21, Bob Neuman to be the guest speaker. The meeting will start at 6pm at the Museum of West Louisiana.

Point of Contact is John Guy, Phone 337-238-3277 or E-mail Catherineguy@earthlink.net.

Central Louisiana Archaeology Chapter (CLAC)- Alexandria/Pineville- Nancy Affeltranger

April's speaker was Charlie Affeltranger talked on "The Battle of Savo Island" reportedly the most severe defeat inflicted on the U.S. Navy during its proud history. One thousand Allied lives were lost.

In May, Dr. George Avery compared five models of ancient skulls: Australopithecus, Homo habilis, and Homo sapiens.

Dr. Frank Schambach showed beautiful examples of large Caddoan pots in a slide show in June.

For September's meeting, Dr. Chip McGimsey will speak on Marksville times.

Delta Chapter

I received the following email on June 4, 2006 that might be of interest to Delta Chapter members, I have not received any further information-Dennis Jones.

Dear Dennis Jones:

Hello, I am Lucretia McBride, President of the Delta Chapter LAS. We now have a new email address: dclarcaeology@bellsouth.net. Delta Chapter LAS has new monthly meeting place, date and time. We will now meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. for the remainder 2006 calendar year (except for October, which will meet on the second Saturday at 1:00 p.m.) at the St. Charles Parish Library in Luling, Louisiana.

I am still working on the new website and will inform you of the web-address as soon as I get it completed. Other arrangements for this month's speaker is under way, I'll keep you posted as soon as they are completed.

Thanks for your inquiry and call me if you need more information.

Cordially;

Lucretia McBride

A sad duty of the LAS newsletter editor is inform the membership of the passing of those who have done so much for the archaeological community in Louisiana. Below is the obituary for Tom Eubanks that ran in the August 27, 2006 issue of the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate. The photo of Tom was provided by the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. Also presented here are the personal reminiscences by Jenna Kuttruff for Marie Standifer. Jenna provided the photograph of Marie. Dennis Jones-ed.

Thomas Hales Eubanks, Ph.D.



Thomas Hales Eubanks, Ph.D. Louisiana's State Archaeologist passed away at 9:30 am. on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2006, after battling pancreatic cancer. He enjoyed and respected nature, and was an accomplished photographer, an avid supporter of human rights, a lover of astronomy, and a preservationist. Dr. Eubanks was born in Nashville, Tenn., on July 28, 1949, and spent his early years in Cincinnati, and when only 15 started working at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History.

He went on to earn three anthropology degrees: a B. A. from Eastern Kentucky University and an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the University of Florida. Dr. Eubanks was trained as a historic archaeologist, and specialized in the plantation era of the Southern United States and Caribbean. During his studies, Dr. Eubanks excavated several 18th and 19th century sugar factories and rum distilleries on the West Indian island of Tobago. His career included working as an assistant to the State Archaeologist of Georgia. Subsequently, Dr. Eubanks worked as a historic preservation consultant for the Tobago House of Assembly in the West Indies. He also directed the University of Florida's Tobago Archaeological Program.

After moving to Baton Rouge in 1994 to become state archaeologist, Dr. Eubanks also served for the last three years an adjunct assistant professor of anthropology at LSU. He also served on the Louisiana Archaeological

Survey and Antiquities Commission. Dr. Eubanks also chaired the Louisiana Ancient Mound Heritage Area and Trails Commission, and the Louisiana Unmarked Burial Sites Board. In 2003, he was selected as president of the National Association of State Archaeologists, a post he held until his death.

Dr. Eubanks focused much of his energy on building strong working relationships with Native American tribes. He was instrumental in the recent creation of the Louisiana Ancient Mounds Trail. Numerous organizations have acknowledged the importance of his work. They include the Native American Historical Initiative, the Chitimacha Tribal Council, the Caddo Nation, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, the Louisiana Archaeological Society, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The Louisiana Army National Guard also honored him for his work, including his involvement with the Native American Keepsake Cemetery.

He is survived by his life partner, Ray Brinkman of New Orleans; nephew Robert W. Eubanks III; niece, Lean Ann Eubanks; sister-in-law, Sandy Eubanks; aunt, Marge Hales; and four cousins, Genny Williams, Becca Ganic, Mary Turek and Catie Hales. He was predeceased by his parents, Robert W. and Ann Eubanks. Mr. Brinkman is planning a memorial service for Dr. Eubanks and will announce details later. Those wishing to make a gift in honor of his life and work may contact the National Archaeological Conservancy, which has set up a special fund in his name, the American Cancer Society of Baton Rouge or the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Condolences can be sent to: Ray Brinkman, 600 Wooddale Blvd., Apt. 263, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. A memorial will be held Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. at the Louisiana State Museum 660 N. Fourth St., in Baton Rouge.

Donations can be made to: American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718 (www.cancer.org) 1-800-ACS-2345 or The Archaeological Conservancy 5301 Central Avenue NE, Ste 902, Albuquerque, NM 87108. www.americanarchaeology.com/ 505- 266-1540. Please be sure that people note that the donations are made in Tom's memory.

Notes on Marie Standifer

Jenna Tedrick Kuttruff
September 7, 2006



The sudden death of Marie Standifer on September 6, 2006, has made me extremely cognizant of not only my own mortality, but also the value of dear friends and how much they enrich our lives. I have known Marie for nineteen years now, having met her while interviewing for my current faculty position at Louisiana State University in November 1987. Marie contacted me the next fall shortly after my arrival to Louisiana and our friendship grew over the following years because of common interests, research collaboration, and participation in various professional organizations.

Marie was born in Michigan in 1931, received her BS in horticulture from Michigan State University in 1953 and her MS in Botany from the University of Wisconsin. She worked as a plant anatomist for the USDA from 1954 to 1959 while taking courses for a PhD in plant pathology. She completed all course work and research for the degree, but left in 1959 before taking her comprehensive exams. She married Leon Standifer in 1957. Leon and Marie have lived and worked in both Liberia and Malaysia over the years. They moved to Louisiana in 1961 when Leon took a position at Louisiana State University. In 1980, when her children were in college, Marie enrolled in course work in archaeology at LSU and began her work as an archaeobotanist.

As a plant anatomist and archaeobotanist, Marie became extremely knowledgeable about the use of plants by Indigenous Americans. When I met her she was focusing her research on plants used as foodstuffs. She soon brought the cordage that had been recovered from Bayou Jasmine to my attention and she added a new focus to her work, that of plants used as textile

fibers. Unfortunately, the identification of the plant used to produce the Bayou Jasmine cordage eluded her even though she searched relentlessly for many years. Over the years, Marie studied the plant fibers used in textile remains from many states throughout the Eastern US. Marie was an excellent researcher. She was particularly thorough in her literature searches and was always sharing information about textiles that she found as she searched through her sources for information on plants.

Marie was always very public service minded. She believed in sharing her knowledge with anyone who was interested and regularly presented programs to the Girl Scouts and at various public activities such as Earth Day. Marie's enthusiasm for learning about the past brought joy and understanding not only to her but to others with whom she shared her knowledge. She and her husband Leon donated a historic site that was situated on their property to the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy so that it would be preserved for posterity. Marie has been a long-time member of the Louisiana Archaeology Society and her contributions to LAS as well as the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy have been many. LAS members have been able to benefit from her knowledge and expertise and enjoy her true gusto for life.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, September 16 at the University United Methodist Church at 3350 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. The family is also exploring memorials in Marie's honor in lieu of flowers, such as a scholarship fund or donations to a charity. More information will be forthcoming.

Memorial Contributions to LAS

John Polk, the sitting President of the LAS, passed away on March 27, 2006. The following people made financial contributions to the LAS in John Polk's honor:

Cindy Cannon, Marie Bush, Bill and Maureen Downey, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers Serpas, Irma Brou and Family, The Families of Jan Snow Johnson and Charlie Snow, Charlisa Moore, Robert Neuman and Kass Byrd, Mr. and Mrs. Wolfgang Robert Schmidt, St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne, Carl and Jenna Kuttruff, The Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy.

Submitted by Josetta LeBoeuf, LAS Treasurer

DOTD PROJECTS IN LOUISIANA

Liz Davoli

Environmental Impact Specialist

Earth Search, Inc. completed archaeological excavations at the Troyville site in Jonesville in August. These excavations were being done for the DOTD and within the required right-of-way for the new Black River Bridge. This area is located between Front Street and the Black River. The area to be excavated was first cored and then excavation units were placed based on the results of the coring. Numerous pit and posthole features were identified during hand excavation and mechanical stripping. Both ceramics and lithics were recovered. Analysis will soon begin and we hope to learn about the use and occupation of this site since no large-scale excavations have ever been conducted at Troyville.



View of Earth Search excavations at the Troyville site in Jonesville, La



Excavation revealing wooden coffin lid of historic burial at the Filhiol Mound site (16OU2).

Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA), with the assistance of Mary Manhein and staff from LSU's F.A.C.E.S. lab, excavated and removed a total of 16 burials that were located within the required right-of-way for the widening of US 165 in Ouachita Parish south of Monroe. SURA discovered these historic burials during the data recovery excavations in 2005 on the prehistoric component at the Filhiol Mound site (16OU2).

DOTD recently recorded the remains of the Pointe Aux Herbes Lighthouse foundation near the Orleans Parish terminus of the westbound I-10 Twin Span structure. The foundation consists of brick and wood that extends from just below the surface of Lake Pontchartrain to approximately 4 feet below the surface. This foundation is within the required right-of-way of the new eastbound I-10 Twin Span structure and will be destroyed during construction.

ANTICIPATED JOB OPENINGS AT THE LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY

The Division of Archaeology anticipates filling several positions in the near future. For information, please contact the person listed.

State Archaeologist– requires Ph.D. in anthropology with a specialty in archaeology plus four years of professional level experience in New World archaeological research, administration, or management. Contact Robert Collins (225) 342-8200; rcollins@crt.state.la.us.

Archaeologist 2 (1 permanent position working with Heritage Education)– requires a master's degree in anthropology with a specialty in archaeology, plus two years of professional level experience in New World archaeological research. Especially desirable are additional experience in K-12 education and/or journalism. Contact Nancy Hawkins (225) 342-8170; nhawkins@crt.state.la.us.

Archaeologist 2 (2 positions for up to two years working with Section 106 Review)– requires a master's degree in anthropology with a specialty in archaeology, plus two years of professional level experience in New World archaeological research. Especially desirable are experience with GIS or experience with underwater archaeology. Contact Duke Rivet (225) 342-8170; drivet@crt.state.la.us.

Regional Archaeology News



Northwest Region

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Northeast Region

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WORK AT THE DELRIE SITES

Jeffrey S. Girard, Northwest Regional Archaeologist

A cluster of small prehistoric sites is located in southern Natchitoches Parish on the family property of Tommy Delrie, a member of the Central Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society. Tommy has collected numerous sherds and stone artifacts suggesting that the sites were occupied intermittently from at least the Middle Archaic period to about the 15th century A.D. The sites are of particular interest because the archaeological record of the Red River drainage between Natchitoches and Alexandria is not well known, and the area lies on the border between the Caddo cultural area in northwestern Louisiana, and a cultural area with closer ties to the Lower Mississippi Valley in the central part of the state.

The Delrie sites are situated at the western edge of the floodplain, on a series of ridges and benches in sandy deposits of Tertiary age. The largest artifact collection is from 16NA416. Included are several side-notched and expanding stem dart point forms, including the types Evans and Sinner. Woodland period occupation is represented by sherds of the type Churupa Punctated and Marksville Incised. Most of the pottery, however, is similar to that recovered at the 15th century Fish Hatchery2 site (16NA70) located near Natchitoches. Both Caddo and Plaquemine types are present.

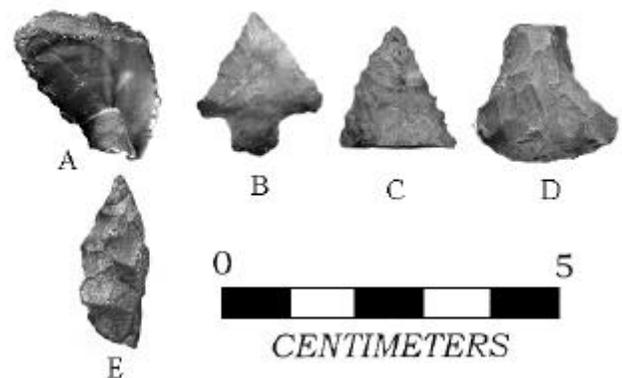
Last fall and spring, Tommy and I excavated several test pits in two of the smaller sites (16NA614 and 16NA615) located in relatively level bench settings on a high ridge southeast of 16NA416. We recovered mostly undecorated sherds and chipping debris. A few sherds with single incised lines from 16NA614 suggested an Early Coles Creek period occupation. Site 16NA615 had similar sherds, but also a few brushed and punctated specimens similar to the later occupation represented at 16NA416. Also likely relating to the late occupation was an arrow point and broken perforator.

We encountered a buried deposit at 16NA615, about 50 cm below the present surface. A small pit feature containing small chunks of charcoal originated from the buried surface. Because of the depth, we thought it likely that the feature related to the early occupation of the site. However, radiocarbon analysis of the charcoal [384±46 B.P (UGA-01286; charcoal; $\delta^{13}\text{C} = -26.00\%$); cal A.D. 1438-1635] indicates that the feature dates to about the same time as the Fish Hatchery 2 site and the late prehistoric pottery.

The Delrie sites are in excellent condition and additional investigations with the participation of LAS members are planned for the future.



Tommy Delrie screening fill from shovel tests at 16NA615.



Stone artifacts from site 16NA615

NOTES AND NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST REGION

Chip McGimsey, Southwest Regional Archaeologist

Usually the summer is spent writing the annual report and trying to clean up the past 12 months activities before the new season starts in September. This summer was certainly dedicated to those activities but there were a couple of interesting field opportunities that are worth noting.

The first opportunity is actually a left-over project from a year ago. In August 2005, I spoke with a Mr. Theriot in Grand Isle about a dugout canoe he had recently found. We had made plans to get together to see it but Katrina also wanted to see the pirogue and beat me to it by three days. I did not attempt to contact Mr. Theriot again until July of this year. Amazingly, the canoe survived both Katrina and Rita. My friend Jim Delahoussaye and I made it down to Grande Isle and spent a very nice afternoon looking at this dugout.

Mr. Theriot found the vessel lying partly in the drainage ditch alongside La. 1 near town the day after Hurricane Cindy (August 2005) had come ashore. It apparently had washed out of the marsh somewhere and floated to this spot. The vessel was intact except for a small area of the stern platform which had been broken off (but was recovered). After a year of sitting out in the rain and sun, it has developed a severe split down the center but is still holding together.

The vessel is carved from a single log, probably cypress, and is 6.33 m long, 0.65 m wide and 0.30 m deep. The stern has a 0.55 m long platform while the bow has a 0.35 m platform. The walls and floor are between 2.0 and 3.0 cm thick and at both interior ends; there are scalloped burn marks from the construction. Curiously, there are six irregular holes cut into the floor (two paired sets of 2, and two sets of single holes), spaced more or less evenly along the floor about one meter apart. These are not cut with a metal drill as the holes are oval and expand outward. It is not clear what the purpose of these holes is. There is also a larger hole cut into the bow platform, perhaps for a mooring rope, and a set of holes cut into the vessel wall (one on each wall) at the approximate center of the vessel and just below the top.

The vessel appears to be of Native American origin. A sample of the vessel was taken for wood identification and for a radiocarbon date should funds become available later this year. It is similar in overall style to other dugout canoes that have been found in coastal parishes over the last 10 years, several of which have dated to the AD 1200 – 1500 period.



**View of the Theriot pirogue.
Photo by Jim Delahoussaye**

The second project is also a continuation from earlier years. Lake Anacoco is a 2,800 acre lake in western Vernon Parish that has been drawn down several times over the 12 years I have been here. In these earlier drawdowns, numerous volunteers and I have managed to survey nearly all of the lake bottom, recording 204 sites and testing six of them. This year the lake is only being drawn down halfway for two months in an effort to improve fish habitat. We are taking advantage of this opportunity to revisit all of the known sites (at least those above water) and record accurate GPS coordinates for each. It also allows us to inspect each site for new diagnostic artifacts that may have washed out during the last six years under water. Much of this work is being done by Roger and Delma Briggs of Leesville in cooperation with the author. Although most of the sites have not yielded any interesting artifacts, several have produced points and decorated sherds. Figure 1 shows a few of the projectile points found at the lake site, spanning the Early to Late Archaic periods, and are typical of those found during earlier surveys. Figure 2 illustrates some of the decorated sherds from the lake. Ceramic decorations in this part of the state tend to be an eclectic mix of styles borrowed from the Coles Creek/Plaquemine people of the Lower Mississippi Valley and Caddo communities along the Red and upper Sabine Rivers. While some sherds are recognizable as Lower Valley types (Figure 2 upper left and lower left), others are more clearly derived from Caddo types (the bottom center and right sherds). Particularly interesting was finding a considerable part of a vessel section lying on the surface of one site (Figure 3). The decoration consists of a 4-comb brush that was used to create vertical

Southwest Region report (continued)

zones on the body, and oblique zones on the neck. This vessel does not look like any defined type in either region, although it clearly has affinities with brushed decorations common in both areas in the late prehistoric period. Who knows what we'll find on our next visit to the lake.

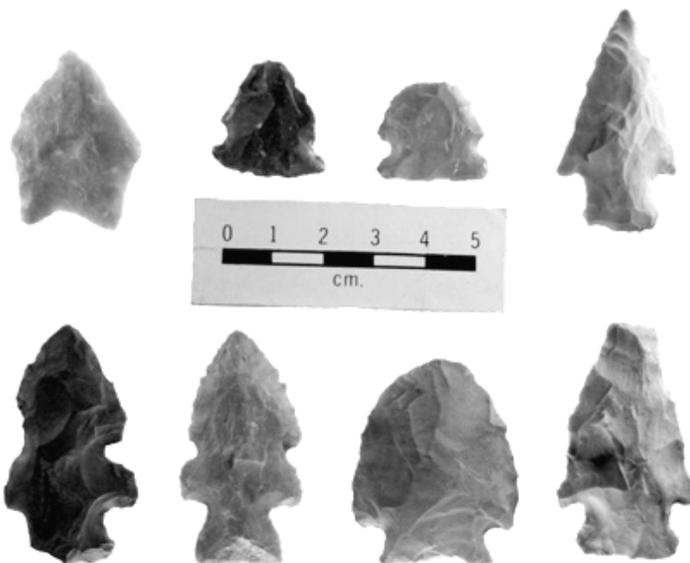


Figure 1. Projectile points found at Lake Anacoco. Top row, left to right: San Patrice, 16VN1673; Early Archaic side-notched, 16VN2573; Early Archaic side-notched, 16VN1710; Kent, 16VN1678; bottom row, left to right: Evans, 16VN1781; Evans, 16VN2573; Middle Archaic, 16VN1628; Middle to Late Archaic, 16VN1678



Figure 2. Sherds from Lake Anacoco. Top row, left to right: Evansville Punctated, var. *Rhinehart* rim, 16VN1780; Pease Brushed Incised, 16VN1780; bottom row, left to right: Mazique Incised, var. *unspecified*, 16VN1782; center and right sherds are a decorative style similar to Military Road Incised; 16VN1782.



Figure 3. Two portions of a reconstructable vessel section from 16VN1780

Northeast Region Report-Joe Saunders

A great deal of activity in this part of the state:

- 1) Surveys Unlimited Research Associates (SURA) and LSU's F.A.C.E.S lab excavated historic burials and a prehistoric borrow pit at the Filhiol Mound site (16OU2).
- 2) Butch Lee continued his excavations at Troyville for DOTD. His work exposed a number of features in an intact midden deposit. Features included postholes and pits.
- 3) T.R. Kidder continued his research at Poverty Point. He, and two graduate students from Washington University, cored Mounds A and C to recover material suitable for radiocarbon dating.
- 4) Dr. Diana Greenlee accepted the position of Station Archaeologist at Poverty Point. She has completed her move to Louisiana and is working at Poverty Point.
- 5) A landfill operation is being planned in Catahoula Parish near Cowpen Slough (16CT147), Middle to Late Archaic site with human burials. A DEQ meeting was held in Harrisonburg so that concerns about the project could be presented by the citizens of Catahoula Parish. Chief Norris, of the Jena Choctaw Tribe, voiced the tribes concern that important buried archaeological sites might be destroyed by the excavation of the landfill pits. She requested a subsurface survey of the area before work begins on the project. (*More on this below.ed.*)
- 6) Joe Saunders, Recca Jones, Susan Hollis, and John Norris began a survey around the swamp near Watson Brake. Seven very small sites were recorded; each appears to date to the Middle Archaic. Large camp sites were expected, but not found.

SOUTHEAST REGION NEWS
L'HERMITAGE PLANTATION (16AN24)
SHOVEL TEST PROJECT
Holly Tunkel and Rob Mann

Introduction

L'Hermitage Plantation (16AN24) is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, approximately 1.75 miles east of Darrow in Ascension Parish. The main house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The current owners of the Hermitage, Dr. Robert and Susan Judice, purchased the property in 1959. With plans to turn the property into a plantation house museum in the near future, the Judices expressed interest in an archaeological investigation of the property in order to determine the location and function of structures that are no longer standing.

Multiple historic buildings from other properties have been relocated to L'Hermitage and various other land-disturbing activities have occurred or planned in preparation for the opening of the museum. Because planned disturbances are to occur in the summer of 2006, there was a sense of urgency to investigate portions of the plantation that may be impacted. Under the supervision of Dr. Rob Mann and Holly Tunkel, limited shovel testing was conducted on the property between May 17 and May 20, 2006. The objectives of this project were to determine the location of a structure thought to be the plantation hospital and to examine an area thought to have been part of the slave/workers quarters. Information gleaned from these investigations was then used to guide further archaeological research at the site. This work was conducted by Dr. Paul Farnsworth and Holly Tunkel as part of Louisiana State University's summer archaeological field school held at the site in June and July 2006. The field crew for the shovel testing project included Lucinda Freeman, Stephanie Perrault, Steve Fullen, and Cory Sills. We were also assisted by a group of Boy Scouts (Marshall Watts, Jared Chapman, Matt Selig, Gaines Hanks, Nicholas Leo, Adam Francise, and Michael Chapman) under the supervision of Yvonne and Tommy Watts. Their work at the site is part of their requirements for earning their Archaeology Merit Badge.

Historic Background

Marius Pons Bringier (1752-1820) acquired the unimproved land where L'Hermitage was built in 1804 and transformed it into an indigo and tobacco-producing plantation. Bringier appointed his 15-year-old son, Michel "Doradou" Bringier (1789-1847) manager of the land, the crops, and the enslaved labor force. Upon his engagement in 1812, Doradou purchased the property

from his father. Construction of the expansive two story home began that year and was completed in 1814 (Cooper 1961; Gleason 1982; Sternberg 1996). The Louis Bringier and Family Papers, in the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections of Hill Memorial Library at Louisiana State University, holds land inventory documents dating to 1833 that describe the outbuildings and plantation holdings. Included in the inventory are two 40 square-foot buildings described as the kitchen and the hospital, and ten 30 square-foot buildings listed as quarters for "60 laborers and 20 children." A Mississippi River Commission map that dates from 1879-1880 illustrates the location of the main house and outbuildings including square buildings flanking the back of each side of the main house (Figure 1). The building on the east is believed to be the kitchen, which means that the building opposite it on the west side of the main house should be the hospital. A double row of 12 cabins is clearly located in the field east of the main house, two of which were added between the years of 1833, the year of the land inventory, and 1879, when the Mississippi River Commission map was drawn (see Figure 1).

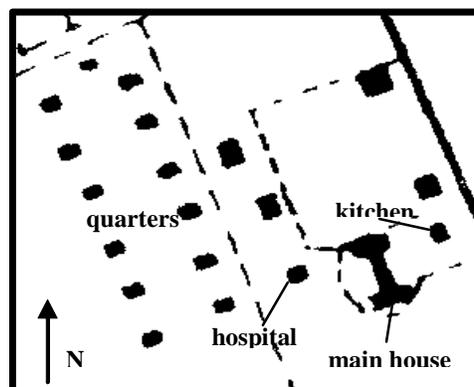


Figure 1. Excerpt of 1880 Mississippi River Commission Map showing the layout of L'Hermitage Plantation, not to scale (Mississippi River Commission 1880).

One of four historic buildings previously relocated onto the L'Hermitage property is a house belonging to the Judices' son that was placed on the east side of the main house in the back yard. According to the Judices, who have owned the property for nearly 50 years, the porch of the building covers the remnants of a fireplace, thought to be associated with the kitchen building. Since the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) map indicates that the kitchen

Southeast Regions (continued)

and hospital were symmetrically located on either side of the main house we measured the distance from the fireplace to the edge of the main house, approximately 31 meters (102 ft) and then measured out the same distance on the east side of the main house and exactly opposite the known location of the fireplace.

Field Investigations

We designated this the "Plantation Hospital Area" and laid out a 15 x 15 meter grid. Shovel Test Pits (STPs) were placed on the grid at five meter intervals. We excavated a total of 15 .30 x .30 meter STPs in the Plantation Hospital Area (Figure 2). Possible features were located in STP #2 (a possible pit feature), STP #8 (a possible brick pier), STP #12 (a brick pier) and STP #15 (a brick pier) (see Figure 2). Profiles of STPs located on the west half of the Plantation Area grid exhibited a zone of mostly sterile sandy soil with brick and mortar flecking overlain by a modern A-horizon and underlain by a buried A-horizon, indicating a possible flood episode. All soil was screened in the field, and all slate fragments, cinders, and clinkers were collected, while only brick and mortar larger than a quarter were collected and later counted and weighed in the lab. A total of 945 artifacts were recovered from this area, including architectural-related materials such as brick, mortar, roofing slate, machine-cut square nails, and flat glass; cooking/heating-related artifacts such as coal, coal-cinders, and coal-clinkers; well-preserved faunal remains such as shell (*Rangia* and oyster), avian, and wild and domesticated mammal such as deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), and horse (*Equidae*); and domestic detritus such as vessel glass and historic ceramics.

One hundred-ten ceramic sherds were recovered from the Plantation Hospital Area, including plain and decorated refined earthenwares (e.g., pearlware, whiteware, pearlware/whiteware), redware, stoneware and a single sherd of Rouen Plain faïence brune sherd. The manufacture dates of these ceramics are in accordance with the known occupation dates for the hospital but positive identification of the function of the structure will require further investigation. The relative lack of domestic ceramics is perhaps suggestive that the structure represented by the piers uncovered in STP numbers 12 and 15 did not function primarily as a domicile. Other notable artifacts recovered from the Plantation Hospital Area include a bisque toy fragment from STP #11 and a compound, layered, faceted, Kidd and Kidd (1970) Type III clear,

A second STP grid was established in a pasture west of the L'Hermitage Plantation house on property owned by the Duplessis family (Figure 2). Here a 10 x 10 meter grid was laid out in order to investigate the area where the MRC map shows a double row of cabins, which we called the "Quarters Area." Six of the 9 possible STPs were excavated on the Quarters Area grid. A total of 1007 artifacts were recovered from this area, including architectural-related materials such as brick, mortar, roofing slate, machine-cut square nails, wire nails and flat glass; cooking/heating-related artifacts such as coal, coal-cinders, and coal-clinkers; well-preserved faunal remains such as shell (*Rangia*), avian, reptile—including turtle (*Testudines*) and snake (*Colubrid*)—fish, and wild and domesticated mammal such as cow (*Bos taurus*) and deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*); and domestic detritus such as vessel glass (olive green, aqua, clear, solarized-amethyst), lamp chimney glass, and historic ceramics.

A total of 80 ceramic sherds were recovered from the Quarters Area, including plain and decorated refined earthenwares (e.g., creamware, pearlware, pearlware/whiteware, whiteware, whiteware/ironstone, ironstone), redware (clear lead glazed, manganese glazed and thin-bodied with white slipped interior), yellowware, stoneware (salt glazed and Albany slipped), and porcelain. Other artifacts of interest from the Quarters Area include two ceramic Prosser buttons dating to 1840+ from STPs 20 and 25. Both are 4-hole sew-through buttons, one is a pie crust style and the other is a dish style (see Sprague 2002). A clay stub-stemmed, horse effigy or figurine pipe was recovered from STP 19 (Figure 3). The pipe is made from off-white clay, which does not appear to be from a local source. The interior of the pipe bowl is heavily charred, suggesting that this pipe was well-used. The tip of the snout is missing. This pipe is unique in that unlike most figurine pipes, the effigy does not face away from the smoker when being smoked. The horse's upside down neck is the bowl and the horse's open mouth, facing the smoker, would have held the reed stem used to smoke the pipe. A sheared off piece of pewter or lead is embedded in the horse's forehead and it appears to be original to the pipe; perhaps from an ornate headdress, or perhaps it was used to attach the pipe to a lanyard of some sort so that the pipe could be worn around the neck. If the latter is true, this would be the only way that the effigy would be identifiable as a horse when seen by others. The origins of this pipe are unclear. Initial speculations about the pipe's origin included

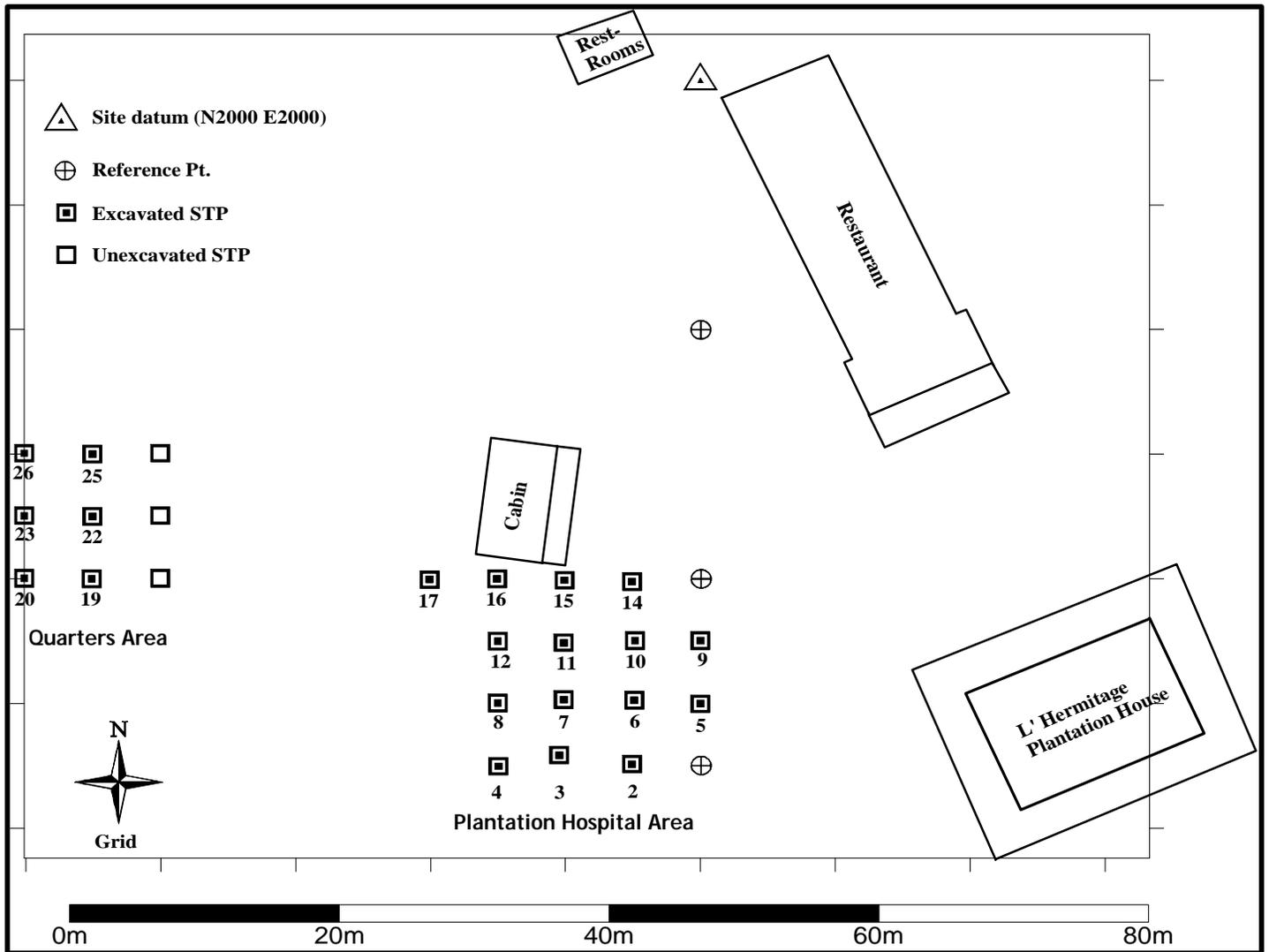


Figure 2: Shovel Test Placement map of L'Hermitage Plantation (16AN24)

suggestions that it could be African in origin, but this seems unlikely as effigy pipe forms are not common among West African peoples (Ann Stahl pers. comm., 2006). More likely is that it is of a style that Pfeiffer (1982:132) refers to as “fancy pipes.” These pipes were typically made by European firms, especially French firms such as Fiolet and tend to date from the second half of the 19th century through the early 20th century. Fiolet, for example, produced at least 1200 different shapes of stub-stemmed pipes in 1851 (Pfeiffer 1982:132). This fits well with the rest of the assemblage recovered from STP #19. The majority of the ceramics recovered are plain ironstones, one with a J. and G. Meakin black, printed backmark. This mark post-dates 1851, and vessels with this mark have been recovered from archaeological contexts dating to the 1870s and 1880s (Praetzellis et al. 1983:57).

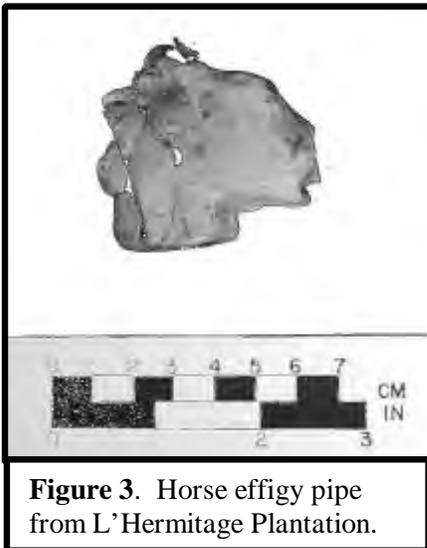


Figure 3. Horse effigy pipe from L'Hermitage Plantation.

Results in the Quarters Area were less conclusive regarding the exact locations of individual structures. However, the manufacture dates of the ceramics from the Quarters Area are consistent with a late 19th century to the early 20th century occupation, which is in turn consistent with the clear depiction of a substantial cluster of domiciles on the MRC map. Further investigations in this area should center on locating individual structures and yard areas. All artifacts recovered during the shovel test investigations at L' Hermitage Plantation will be returned to the Judice family once all analyses have been completed.

Conclusion

The shovel testing project at L'Hermitage Plantation (16AN24) was successful in identifying at least one antebellum structure in the Plantation Hospital Area. Further investigation is required in order to confirm that this was actually the plantation hospital. The results of the LSU fieldschool excavations are currently being analyzed. This study will hopefully be able to make this confirmation. Additional excavations have also taken place in the Quarters Area, and the analyses of these investigations are underway.

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PLAQUEMINE MOUNDS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT (PMAP) COMPLETES ITS THIRD YEAR

Mark A. Rees-Department of Sociology and Anthropology-University of Louisiana-Lafayette

The Plaquemine Mounds Archaeological Project (PMAP) at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette concluded its third year of investigations in June of 2006. Funded by the Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund (BORSF) Research Competitiveness Subprogram, research has focused on poorly-known Indian mound sites in south-central Louisiana associated with Plaquemine culture of the Mississippi period (ca. A.D. 1200 – 1700; Neuman 1984:258-271). The study area encompasses portions of present-day St. Landry, Lafayette, St. Martin, Iberia, and St. Mary parishes. Plaquemine sites in this region are culturally affiliated with the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana. Of the 77 mound sites presently recorded in the study area, many have been destroyed and nearly all are damaged or endangered.

PMAP researchers and students have revisited 44 mound sites during the past three years, produced detailed topographic maps of 10 sites, and conducted test excavations at four major multi-mound sites (16SL3, 16SM5, 16SM38, and 16SMY10) in conjunction with three UL Lafayette winter intersession archaeology field schools (Rees 2003; Rees et al. 2004). Collections were processed and catalogued during the spring semesters by students enrolled in archaeological records courses. At the end of each semester the students reported on the preliminary results of the field school. The analysis of collections from these sites is ongoing. Core samples (4 cm diameter) were collected from six sites with a mechanized Giddings Rig loaned by the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. Radiocarbon analyses of samples from the four sites investigated by the field school have been completed and a series of 21 dates are now available.

The goals of the PMAP were briefly described in the Spring 2003 *LAS Newsletter* (Rees 2003). Plaquemine culture, as well as its possible connections to preceding Coles Creek and contemporaneous Mississippian cultures, has been largely defined based on models developed from investigations in the Lower Yazoo and Natchez Bluff regions (Rees and Livingood 2006; e.g., Brain 1989; Brown 1985; Williams and Brain 1983; cf. Weinstein 1987). Needless to say, the Atchafalaya Basin is a world apart from west-central Mississippi and the loess hills of the Natchez. Characterizations of relatively smaller mound sites in the western Atchafalaya Basin as culturally marginal or peripheral to a Plaquemine "heartland" do not add much to our understanding of the peoples who lived here and

constructed the mounds (Jeter and Williams 1989:205-217). This project has consequently aimed to generate essential information on site habitation, community organization, subsistence, and regional chronology.

Another major objective of the project has been to generate knowledge and awareness of the urgent need to conserve and appreciate these sites as part of the irreplaceable cultural heritage of Louisiana. One of the sites first studied (16SM38) has been purchased by the Archaeological Conservancy and other sites are currently under consideration (Gruber 2005). Property owners have more often than not been among the strongest proponents of protecting the mounds from unwanted destruction. At several sites where property owners are not resident among the greatest impediments to conservation has been the senseless damage wrought by all terrain vehicle (ATV) enthusiasts. When a thousand-year old ceremonial mound center is more well known by local residents for its vertically-challenging ATV trails and massive mud holes it seems we have fallen short of our ethical responsibilities for public education and outreach (e.g., Herscher and McManamon 1995; Jameson 2003; SAA 2005). A key yet underutilized ingredient may be cultural and eco-tourism in the service of cultural resource management, historic preservation, and heritage conservation (e.g., Saunders et al. 2006).

PMAP test excavations were most recently conducted at Patterson (16SMY10) and Bayou Rouge (16SL3) during the UL Lafayette archaeology field school offered on December 12, 2005 through January 9, 2006 (Figure 1). These sites are located on opposite ends of the study area – in eastern St. Mary and northern St. Landry parishes – making the often tiresome daily field school commute all the more protracted. Based on preliminary results the time and effort expended by the students was extremely worthwhile. Our investigations at these two sites are briefly summarized in the remainder of this article, including the results of recent radiocarbon analyses.

Patterson (16SMY10)

The Patterson mound site is recognized by the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana as the village of Qiteet Kuti'ngi Na'mu, referred to by Swanton (1911:344) as Tca'ti Kuti'ngi na'mu (Rees 2006; cf. Brightman 2004:643). Little is actually known about this site, although archaeologists appear to have known about the mounds for nearly a century (Moore 1913:19; Weinstein et al., ed. 2003:141-143). McIntire (1958:79, 128) identified a Coles Creek occupation based on surface-collected ceramics and the site's location on the Teche Ridge. Phillips (1970:920-923,



Figure 1. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette 2005-2006 Archaeology Field School Crew (left to right): Jesse Davis, Rebecca Richard, Preston Guidry, Christopher Messa, Dan Stock, Kyle Newman, Joshua Ordoyne, Taylor Lasley, and Ahndi Meyers.

PMAP (continued)

950-951, Figures 446 and 447) associated the Patterson mounds with the Medora and Delta Natchezan phases of the Mississippi period (cf. Neuman and Servello 1976:64-65). More recent investigations have produced evidence for human interments in the largest mound sometime between A.D. 1763 and 1820, raising questions regarding mound reuse and possible cultural continuity (McGimsey and Cring 2003:200-205; Rees 2006).

The Patterson mounds were first mapped by the PMAP crew during the 2003 – 2004 archaeology field school. Three mounds are laid out around a central plaza. The largest of the mounds, Mound A, is approximately 2.8 meters (9.2 ft) high. It is located around 25 meters (82 ft) southwest of Mound B. Mound C, the lowest of the three, appears badly eroded and is located southeast of Mound B. PMAP investigations in December of 2005 focused on an elevated area southeast of Mound A, long suspected to be a midden. Two 1-by-1-meter test units were placed at high points along the midden. An organic-rich midden soil was encountered, with high concentrations of *Rangia cuneata* shell and artifacts, particularly grog-tempered Baytown Plain pottery sherds. Two 50-by-50-cm test units were excavated mid-way between mounds A and C within the plaza and one 50-by-50-cm test unit was placed northwest of Mound A. These 50-by-50-cm units produced few artifactual remains and evidence of a historic component potentially associated with Moro Plantation

Bayou Rouge (16SL3)

Bayou Rouge has until recently received little attention from archaeologists, despite the impressive size and excellent condition of the mounds (Rees 2006). Based on surface collections it has been described as a “classic Coles Creek” mound center (Jones and Shuman 1991:62; Neuman and Servello 1976:23). Brief investigation of a tree-fall on Mound A produced Coles Creek Incised pottery sherds, as well as more recent types such as Harrison Bayou Incised (McGimsey 1998:87-89). Habitation areas and associated midden had yet to be identified prior to the UL Lafayette field school.

The PMAP crew produced a contour map and collected core samples from the mounds in April of 2004. At approximately 4.8 meters (15.7 ft) high, Mound A is the tallest mound at the site. It is located northeast of Mounds B and C, which are positioned along the bayou at fairly regular intervals from Mound A. Both B and C seem to have been constructed as multi-stage platform mounds (Jones and Shuman 1991:49-57). Mound D is a low, sub-structural platform west of Mound C. The 2005 – 2006 UL Lafayette field school excavations examined stratigraphy within Mound D and elevated surfaces along the bayou. Two 1-by-1-meter test units were excavated adjacent to an old silage trench near the center of Mound D. Unsurprisingly these units were relatively devoid of domestic refuse or residential debris. Four 50-by-50-cm units

PMAP (continued)

were placed along the bayou and one was excavated southeast of Mound D. A residential midden or buried A-horizon with higher concentrations of ceramics was identified in each of the units along the bayou.

Radiocarbon Dating

Recent radiocarbon analyses of samples from Patterson and Bayou Rouge provide an interesting indication of site chronology and mound construction. Two previous radiocarbon dates from Patterson suggested the shell midden was deposited sometime between A.D. 1290 and 1450 (Beta-190918, 2 sigma calibration) and that Mound A was constructed sometime after 1010 ± 40 years before present (Beta-190919, 2 sigma cal A.D. 980 – 1050 and A.D. 1100 – 1140). This *terminus post quem* for the construction of Mound A was based on Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) analysis of charred material from what appeared to be a sub-mound surface (Rees 2006). The age of the midden at Patterson is largely substantiated by the results of two recent AMS analyses of charred wood samples from excavated test unit proveniences. The first returned a conventional radiocarbon age of 610 ± 50 BP (Beta-217792, 2 sigma calibration of A.D. 1290 – 1420). The results for the second sample were earlier, with a radiocarbon age of 970 ± 60 BP (Beta-217793, 2 sigma calibration of A.D. 980 – 1200). These dates indicate a Plaquemine habitation and transitional Coles Creek-Plaquemine *terminus post quem* for the construction of Mound A.

Six AMS dates from Bayou Rouge similarly suggest a transitional Coles Creek-Plaquemine habitation and mound construction. Two samples of charred wood from a residential midden or buried A-horizon in test units along the bayou produced conventional radiocarbon ages of 960 ± 70 BP (Beta-217798, 2 sigma calibration of A.D. 970 – 1230) and 900 ± 50 BP (Beta-217799, 2 sigma calibration of A.D. 1020 – 1250). Two additional charcoal samples were collected from a single soil core placed through the summit of Mound A. These samples may represent burned surfaces, features within the mound, or perhaps material re-deposited as mound fill. The first produced a conventional radiocarbon age of 870 ± 40 BP (Beta-217794, 2 sigma calibration of A.D. 1040 – 1260). The second had a conventional age of 790 ± 40 BP (Beta-217795, 2 sigma calibration of A.D. 1180 – 1290).

Two small samples of charred wood were recovered from the excavation of the lower levels of Unit 1 at the base of

Mound D. The first, from Level 19, produced a conventional radiocarbon age of 820 ± 50 BP (Beta-217796, 2 sigma calibration of A.D. 1060 – 1080 and A.D. 1150 – 1280). The sample from Level 20 yielded a conventional radiocarbon age of 750 ± 40 BP (Beta-217797, 2 sigma calibration of A.D. 1220 – 1300). The context of these samples is uncertain, having been recovered from the mound fill. The four AMS dates from Mounds A and D generally coincide however, despite being located at opposite ends of the site. This suggests Native Americans constructed the mounds at Bayou Rouge sometime between A.D. 1040 and 1300. The two latest date ranges (Beta-217795 and Beta-217797) overlap almost entirely during the thirteenth century (2 sigma calibration of A.D. 1180 – 1300). The dates for the residential midden or buried A-horizon are slightly earlier but also correlate with a late Coles Creek or transitional Coles Creek-Plaquemine habitation, ca. A.D. 970 to 1250.

Conclusion

The Plaquemine mounds project at UL Lafayette completed its third year of investigations in June of 2006. Of 77 mound sites recorded in the study area, 44 sites were revisited. Topographic maps were produced for 10 sites and field school excavations were carried out at four major multi-mound sites (16SL3, 16SM5, 16SM38, and 16SMY10). The resulting database represents a substantial addition to our knowledge of mound sites in the region and is generating information on Native American societies associated with Plaquemine culture of the Mississippi period (ca. A.D. 1200-1700), as well as the Coles Creek-Plaquemine transition. There is no more opportune time for conducting this research, as many of the mound sites in the study area are endangered.

Although the initial processing and cataloguing of collections from excavations at the four mound sites has nearly been completed, analyses are ongoing. Artifact assemblages from Patterson (16SMY10) and Bayou Rouge (16SL3), recently excavated by the UL Lafayette archaeology field school, will provide comparative data for examining site habitation and community organization. The majority of the collections are comprised of pottery sherds, primarily Baytown Plain. Relatively few lithic artifacts have been recovered, although small flakes of chert have been identified in water-screened soil samples. Among the more unusual artifacts from the field

PMAP (continued)

school excavations at Patterson were two well-preserved fishing hooks fashioned from bone (Figure 2). Archaeobotanical analysis is being performed on samples from Portage (16SM5) and Portage Guidry (16SM38), and has already begun to provide information on subsistence.

Radiocarbon dates are among the most significant data generated thus far by the PMAP, including the 10 dates discussed here. Such dates are essential for producing a more well-defined regional chronology. Mound construction and associated habitation in the study area appear to have occurred during a transition between the late Coles Creek and early Mississippi periods, a time long associated with the emergence of Plaquemine culture. This study seems as yet to lend support for the indigenous development of Plaquemine culture, rather than its hypothesized origins as a Coles Creek-Mississippian hybrid (Brain 1989; Kidder 1998; Rees 2006; Rees and Livingood 2006; Williams and Brian 1983). The debate is far from over however, and consideration of a progressively more refined regional chronology will likely shift the discussion from broad cultural generalizations to more specific, local-level political and economic interactions.



Figure 2: Bone Fish hooks

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Editor's Note

I attended the Mid South Archaeological Conference in Jackson, MS June 3-4, 2006. One of the presentations I enjoyed the most was by Tim Schilling on the Mott Mounds site. This a very large multimound site on the Tensas River in NE Louisiana. Tim, who has an M.A. from LSU, is studying the site as part of his Ph.D. research at Washington University at St. Louis where T.R. Kidder is his major professor. I asked Tim to submit something for this newsletter. He did, but space does not allow its publication in this issue. Please look for it in the next LAS newsletter. It's a very impressive site and Tim is doing good work. - Dennis Jones

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY'S LATEST LOUISIANA ACQUISITION

Jessica Crawford

Southeast Regional Director-

The Archaeological Conservancy

The Archaeological Conservancy recently signed a contract to purchase Mound A at the Insley site (16FR3). Insley is a large mound site on the banks of Bayou Macon in Franklin Parish. It is not known exactly how many mounds originally existed at Insley, however, reports mention as many as 10. Presently, only 3 mounds have been verified. The largest of these is Mound A, which is approximately 5 ½ meters high. Chronology for the mounds is still somewhat uncertain, but surface collections from various portions of the site have yielded artifacts ranging from Poverty Point through Cole Creek.

In 2003, Dr. Joe Saunders and Recca Jones began mapping Insley. They returned to the site in 2004 with soil scientist, Thurman Allen and with the assistance of John Norris and Susan Hollis, cored Mounds A and K. Although built on loess soil, little of it was used in the construction of Mound A. The fill was characterized as clay, silty clay and, silty clay loam. Charcoal was obtained at 555 cm and returned an AMS a one-sigma assay of AD 898-1013 ± 45. Mound K, which is approximately 3 meters high, was also cored and a charcoal sample was obtained and has been submitted for dating. (Dr. Joe Saunders, personal communication, 2006)

The Insley site is on Louisiana's Ancient Mounds Heritage Trail and was recently featured in the SAA's *Archaeological Record*. Joe and Recca, who have been extremely helpful in letting us know about sites that are good candidates for acquisition, brought Insley to the Conservancy's attention. We hope to acquire additional tracts at Insley until the entire site is preserved.

KNF FIELD WORK OPPORTUNITY

The Kisatchie National Forest is hosting a PIT (Passport In Time) project on the Caney Ranger District October 16-22, 2006.

In the early spring of 2004, a timber sale was in process on the Caney Ranger District. A forest service contracting officer (also trained in heritage) noted that there were artifacts appearing in one of the timber skid trails. He had the timber company halt their process and contacted the Winn Ranger District Archaeologist and the Forest Heritage Program Manager.

These areas had had archaeological survey prior to timber sale contract, but as luck would have it, this site and many other sites were overlooked in the survey. The National Forest Districts pooled their resources and initiated another archaeological survey of the area, but the sites became too numerous to allow the timber sale to be completed. Consequently, the survey ceased. As a result, there are several areas where site delineation needs to be completed. This will be the primary focus of this project. Please join us to learn the rest of the story!

For more information please contact:

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Official Business

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2006
Pineville, Louisiana

The Executive Committee of the LAS met Saturday, June 20, 2006 at the USDA Forestry Service Conference Room in Pineville, LA. President Ellen Ibert presided. Members present were Ellen Ibert, President; George Riser, Vice President/President Elect; Joretta LeBoeuf, Treasurer; Maureen Downey, Secretary; Chip McGimsey, Bulletin Editor; Dennis Jones, Newsletter Editor; Junior Doughty, Web Site Editor; John Guy, Representative at Large; Margarette Cheramie, CLAC Representative; Recca Jones, NE Chapter Representative; Nancy Affeltranger, CLAC President; Marc Dupuy; Velicia Bergstrom; Scott Wehner; and Ann Wehner.

- Revised Minutes of the March 3, 2006 meeting were approved.
- George Riser was appointed Vice President/President Elect.
- Joretta LeBoeuf submitted the Treasurer's Report: checking \$8,491.01; CD \$8,905.92; 178 members.
- Dennis Jones reported plans for Newsletter and discussed distribution methods for the Newsletter.
- Chip McGimsey stated that submissions are needed for the Bulletin.
- Junior Doughty reported an average of 112 hits a day for the web site. Additional content for the site was discussed.
- Baton Rouge Chapter: Joretta LeBoeuf announced Stephanie Perrault is program chairperson. Recent activities included participation in Earth Day and washing of Sims Site artifacts.
- NE Chapter: Recca Jones reported for the Chapter and suggested formal chapter guidelines be formulated.
- CLAC: Nancy Affeltranger described recent well-attended programs held by the CLAC.
- WLAC: John Guy reported the finalization of the formation process.
- Ellen Ibert will finalize the purchase of LAS video equipment.
- A grant writing committee, directed by Ann Wehner, was created. Volunteers are needed to serve on the committee.
- The 2007 Annual Meeting will be in Lake Charles, LA.
- The next Executive Committee meeting will be 11:00 a.m., August 26, 2006, Kisatchie National Forestry Complex, Pineville, LA.
- Ellen Ibert adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY

Board of Directors' Meeting

Pineville, Louisiana
June 10, 2006

Ellen Ibert called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m., Saturday, June 10, 2006 at the USDA Forestry Service Conference Center in Pineville, Louisiana.

Present were Ellen Ibert, Maureen Downey,

Marc Dupuy, Joretta LeBoeuf, Scott Wehner, Ann Wehner, Velicia Bergstrom, and Dennis Jones.

Minutes of the March 3, 2006, LAC meeting held in Monroe, Louisiana were approved.

Marc Dupuy remarked on correspondence with Mr. Brady Fontenot of the First Federal Bank of Louisiana confirming Scott Wehner as the new LAC treasurer. Scott Wehner declared the process necessary to becoming the new treasurer was completed.

Dennis Jones volunteered to update the LAC brochure.

Marc Dupuy stated that while Mr. Kurt Feigley is still agreeable to the donation of the archaeological conservation servitude at "McGehee's Camp," the site still needs to be visited for verification.

For the benefit of new members, the LAC as an organization and its purposes was discussed.

The next meeting of the LAC will be held after the LAS meeting at approximately 12:30 p.m., August 26, 2006, at the USDA Forestry Service Conference Center in Pineville, Louisiana.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

Minutes reported by Maureen Downey, Secretary

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND ANTIQUITIES COMMISSION

June 13, 2006 Meeting

The Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in the Capitol Annex Building, 1051 North Third Street, Conference Room 238A, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Members Present:

Mr. Gregory DuCote, Mr. Marc Dupuy, Jr.
Mr. James Fogleman, Dr. George Riser

Members Absent:

Ms. Pam Breaux, Dr. Thomas Eubanks
Dr. Heather McKillop, Col. Joey Strickland

Others Present:

Mr. Robert Collins, Ms. Jessica Dixon
Mr. Jeff Girard, Ms. Nancy Hawkins
Ms. Shirley Lang, Dr. Rob Mann
Dr. Chip McGimsey, Mr. Duke Rivet
Ms. Karen Richardson, Dr. Joe Saunders
Ms. Rachel Watson, Ms. Sherry Wagener,
Ms. Rachel Watson, Ms. Cheraki Williams

Welcome & Introductions

Dr. George Riser called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. He announced that Dr. McKillop was unable to attend; she was conducting fieldwork out of the country.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the Commission Meeting held December 13, 2005.

MOTION: *A motion was made by Mr. Marc Dupuy and seconded by Mr. James Fogleman, to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2005, Antiquities Commission Meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.*

Old Business

No old business was reported



New Business

Permit Request– Additional Coring Mound A, Poverty Point (16WC5)

Mr. Duke Rivet submitted Dr. T.R. Kidder's request for a permit extension for additional coring of Mound A at Poverty Point. Louisiana State Parks sent a letter of support for the project. Approximately 70 core samples were previously taken from that location and Dr. Kidder would like to take approximately 30 more samples from the main mound and the ramp to try to determine its age and construction sequence. This work would be for 5 to 7 in days in July if approved.

MOTION: *Mr. Marc Dupuy made a motion to approve Dr. Kidder's request for the permit extension. Mr. Greg DuCote seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

Personnel Update

Ms. Nancy Hawkins stated that she was happy to announce the return of Dr. Rob Mann as the Southeastern Regional Archaeologist and that Ms. Karen Richardson will be serving as recording secretary for future Commission meetings. Ms. Jossetta LeBoeuf resigned from the Division of Archaeology to pursue a career in teaching. Her position will be filled in the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Hawkins will interview the top candidate for the Poverty Point Archaeologist position next week. The State Archaeologist position has been advertised in the *Society for American Archaeology*. Commission members were asked to contact Robert Collins with the names of any prospective candidates for the position. Ms. Pat Arnold resigned from the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs. Col. Joey Strickland has been assign to fill the position.

Gold Mine Site Collection Donation

Dr. Chip McGimsey and Ms. Sherry Wagener have worked together to have three collections donated to the State of Louisiana. The first collection was donated by Mrs. Gretchen Bonnin from the town of Welch. It is from excavations conducted in the 1970's in Jefferson Davis Parish and consists of 10 boxes. These represent the largest excavated collections in the southwest region of the state. The second donation came from Mr. Charlie Bollich of Crowley, Louisiana. His collection covers eighty-five sites from across south Louisiana and consists of approximately 40 boxes. The Gold Mine Site (16RI13) consists of 174 boxes. It was discovered in 1978 on a cattle farm in Richmond Parish by avocational archaeologists. Roughly 20% of the mound was excavated which contained over 200 burials dating from ca. 800 AD.

Antiquities Commission (continued)

The collection consists of 39 boxes of artifacts, 47 boxes of water screened and soil samples, and 88 boxes of human remains. There are nearly 5500 pages of associated records and over 500 photographs.

MOTION: *Mr. Greg DuCote made a motion that the owner of the Gold Mine collection be presented with a certificate of appreciation for her generous donation. Mr. Marc Dupuy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

Legislation Update

Unmarked Burial Sites Board

Mr. Duke Rivet announced that House Bill 791 proposes to abolish inactive boards and commissions. The bill would abolish the Unmarked Burial Sites Board, which has not met in the past ten years. The duties of the Board would pass to the Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. The Division of Archaeology and the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission would advise the Secretary as necessary.

Annual Update

Northeastern Regional Archaeology Program

Dr. Joe Saunders spent much of the past year mapping mound sites for the upcoming *Ancient Mounds Trail Guide*. He received a grant from the Louisiana Endowment of the Humanities to display the black and white photographs of Winslow Walker's 1931 and 1932 excavations at the Troyville Site in Catahoula Parish (16CT7). Dr. Saunders has recently been working at the Troyville Site. He located a feature at Mound 4 that contained a dense concentration of sherds, approximately 1300. All were partial vessels. He concluded the feature was probably a trash pit. Also, Dr. Saunders has been surveying around the Watson Brake Mounds in Ouachita Parish (16OU175). Numerous core samples have been taken for pollen analysis. His goal is a complete recording of sites in the vicinity.

Northwestern Regional Archaeology Program

Mr. Jeff Girard reported on his survey of Lake Bistineau in Webster Parish. The lake was drawn down for the second year, enabling recording of sites normally inundated. His primary focus was on Potter's Pond (16WE76), a salt extraction locale that was occupied during late prehistoric times and in the 19th century. The site contains large quantities of shell-tempered pottery, most of which are bowls. Mr. Girard discussed the Mounds Plantation site (16CD12) in Caddo Parish. Portions of Mound 5, excavated in 1960 by Dr. Clarence Webb, revealed numerous burials of Caddo leaders dating to the early 12th century. Most of the mound has since been plowed away. The artifacts are on long-term loan to the Bossier History Center. Mr. Girard is working with the Center and the Caddo Tribe on an exhibit displaying the continuity of ceremonies. His testing along the remaining rise revealed that the sub-mound deposits remain undisturbed. One corner of another probable large burial pit has been exposed.

Louisiana Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan

Mr. Robert Collins announced that over the next several months, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office would be seeking public input for the Comprehensive Plan for the next five years focusing on the changing needs of the state. Mr. Collins provided a list of responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Officer, as set forth by the National Historic Preservation Act for all states. He asked that all responses be directed to his office.

Other Business

Mr. Duke Rivet provided an update on the historic burials found during Phase III excavations at the Filhiol Mound Site (16OU2). Ads have been placed in the local newspapers in an attempt to notify living relatives of the deceased. Malcolm Shuman and Dennis Jones will perform the excavations. The remains will be taken to the LSU FACES Lab. Ms. Nancy Hawkins presented a preview of the 2006 Archaeology Week poster. Mr. Rivet announced that Mr. Marc Dupuy had a trail named after him.

There being no further questions, comments, or other business to bring before the commission, Dr. Riser entertained a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: *A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Greg DuCote and seconded by Mr. James Fogleman. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.*

The following is a submission to the LAS newsletter from an interested member of the public. The project discussed is currently undergoing a review process addressing environmental and cultural resource concerns- Dennis Jones

LARTO LAKE LANDFILL

By Jo-Iles Edwards

In the 1970's and 1980's William S. "Bill" Baker of Jonesville, LA, a charter member of LAS, surfaced hunted and recorded sites in Catahoula Parish. He recorded around 250 sites. When he died in 1988, his collections along with his notes were donated jointly by his wife, Pat Baker, and Louisiana Delta Plantation to LSU and are housed at the Museum of Natural Science.

Bill worked for Louisiana Delta Plantation and the majority of his collection was found there. The manager of the farm was Norman Haigh. Bill and Norman explored many areas of the farm as it was cleared for agricultural farming. Drainage ditches were altered to protect areas that could be significant. The location of the plantation is in the lowlands of Catahoula Parish.

A controversy is occurring in Catahoula Parish today over a landfill in this lowlands area proposed by Two Rivers Recycling, LLC. It is located on private land owned by Agri-South Group, LLC and King Brothers Partnership who now have the former Louisiana Delta Plantation.

The disposal sites Cell 1 through Cell 5 will be located in Sec. 23-26 of T4N R5E of Catahoula Parish. According to the La. Division of Archaeology, this means that the Cowpen Slough site will be outside the 1,000 ft. location of the Cells. State law places a "magical" 1,000 ft. as the cut off point for significant impact. However, an existing farm road, called the Access Road on plans for the landfill, will be used for travel between Two River's office and disposal area (Cells). This road passes over Cowpen Slough, and between the Mayes Mounds site. C. B. Moore explored the mound site in 1913. The use of the soil for levees, covering of the waste, and the 15 ft. deep, 21-acre stormwater detention area will be closer to Cowpen Slough than the cells will. In fact, the drainage from the stormwater detention area will drain through Cowpen Slough. Of interest here is that agricultural and flood water flowing through this slough caused the bank erosion that resulted in the original discovery of human remains at the Cowpen Slough site.

We know there were archaic burials at Cowpen Slough (Ramenofsky, 1986; Mires 1989), In 1913, C. B. Moore states his excavations of the Mayes Mound produced 377 skulls taken from 23 pits. This mound dates later than the

the nearby burials at Cowpen Slough were below the current land surface.

The planned excavation of soil use for these cells within the facility perimeter (5,400 acres including the buffer zone) will significantly impact not only these known sites, but also the unknown archaeology. Bill Baker located and recorded 15 sites, along with the two Mayes Mounds, that all lie within the perimeter of the facility and whose fates rest in the hands of the owners

This landfill is enormous. Each cell will be 3,000 square ft with a center apex of 300 ft., pyramid shaped. Imagine this: the Superdome could be put inside the center of a Cell and lack seven feet touching the top of it and be surrounded by 1160 ft. of trash and soil around it. The digging of the area soil to form a 15 ft. levee around the perimeter of each cell and then to cover this mass every 30 days with 6 inches of soil is astronomical. The archaeological history of this area will be dug up and lost forever.

Norman Haigh flew over the site area and took photographs. It appears that the Cowpen Slough site has been altered within the last couple of years when pipes in the Cowpen Slough drainage ditch were replaced and the road elevated. From the photograph, it appears that the road was moved and the archaeological burial site was used as borrow to build up this Access Road over Cowpen Slough Drainage Structure. (This is the structure through which the facility runoff will enter Larto Bayou.). The site needs to be assessed as to what damage did occur to these unmarked burials.

Chairman Earl Barbry of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe and Chief Christine Norris of the Jena Choctaw Tribe are asking for a Phase I and Phase II assessment of the area under Section 106 before permitting of the Two Rivers landfill by the LDEQ.

In a letter that Dr. Ramenofsky's wrote to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), she states, "Excavating and moving earth for road construction, let alone constructing the cells, storm water detention center, and levees may well damage existing, as well as undocumented antiquities." Also, at an August 24, 2006 LDEQ public hearing meeting, Dr. H. F. "Pete" Gregory told about the richness

and importance of this area in archaeological knowledge, much of it yet to be explored.

On a personal note: My name is Jo Iles Edwards. I worked for Louisiana Delta Plantation in the 1970's and 1980's during the Cowpen Slough excavations. Bill Baker was my friend and co-worker for many years. He spent his decades searching the plowed fields and undeveloped areas in Catahoula so the future generations could better understand and appreciate the past. This extensive and wonderful history of Native Americans could be dug up and destroyed for a landfill that should never have even been considered in this low lying, over-flow area of Louisiana. Bill would expect each and every one of us to use our contacts and resources to save and preserve this history.

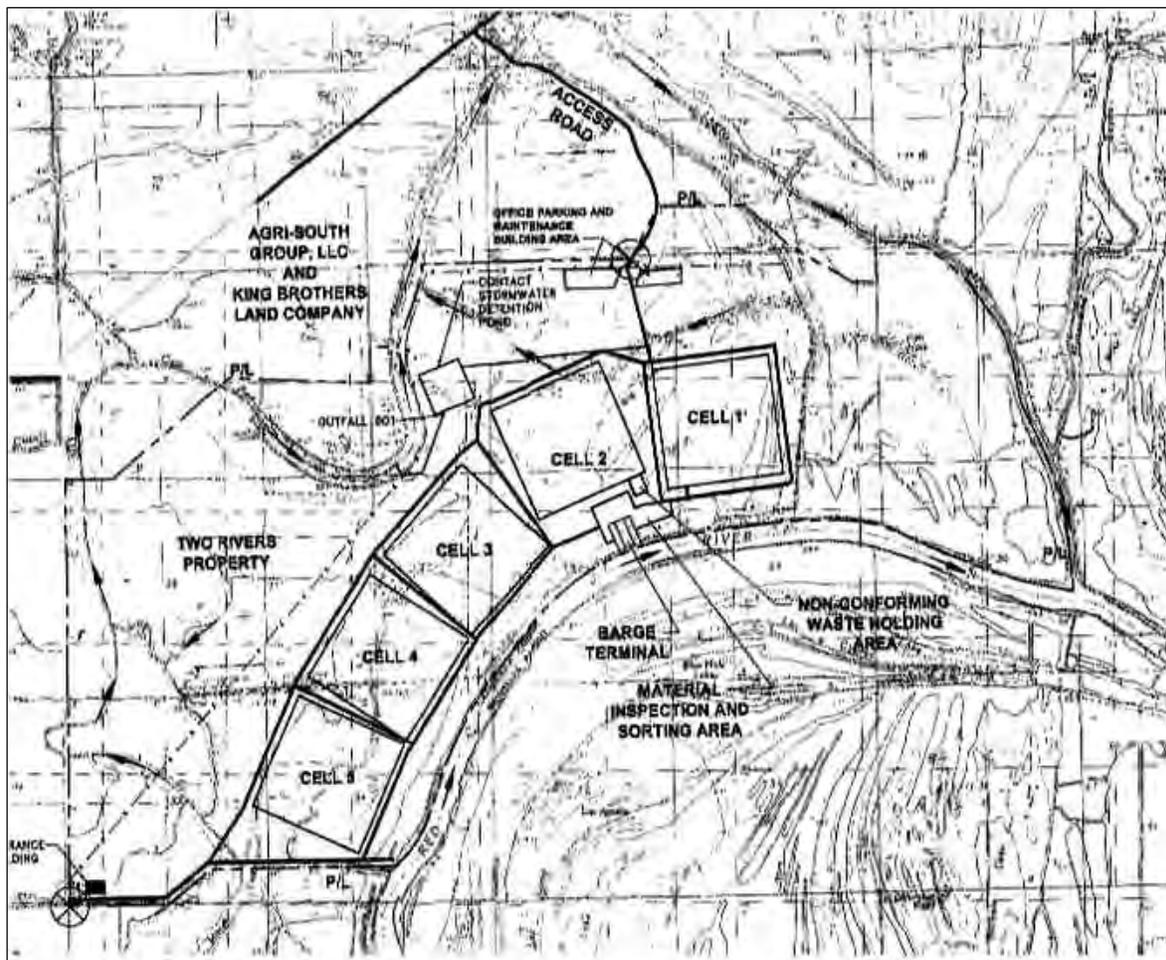
The person to contact to comment on this proposed landfill is Ms. Soumaya Ghosh, LDEQ, Public Participation Group, P. O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313, referencing AI#: 131943, Activity#:PER20060001, Two Rivers Recycling, LLC Landfill Permit Application, Catahoula Parish, LA.

The controversy surrounding this landfill project and the Cowpen Slough site was the subject of a recent newspaper article in the Alexandria Town Talk that can be accessed at the internet address below-Dennis Jones

<http://www.thetowntalk.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060804/NEWS01/608040320/1002>

References Cited:

- Ann Marie Wagner Mires,
1989 *What Means These Bones: Studies in Southeastern Bioarchaeology*, edited by Mary Powell, Patricia Bridges and Ann Marie Wagner Mires.
- Moore, C.B.
1913 *Some Aboriginal Sites in Louisiana and in Arkansas*, Vol XVI.
- Ann F. Ramenofsky,
1986 *Foraging, Collecting, and Harvesting*, edited by Sarah Neusius, SIU Center for Archaeological Investigations, Occasional Paper 6. Carbondale, IL.



Map of proposed landfill in Catahoula Parish

MEETINGS AND EXHIBITS

Mobile's Exploreum Museum premiers exhibit on Pompeii.

For the first time, Gulf Coast residents will be able to experience "a day in Pompeii" without leaving the region. Mobile's Gulf Coast Exploreum will host the major exhibition "*A Day in Pompeii*", January 12 to June 3, 2007, in collaboration with the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei. *A Day in Pompeii* features hundreds of exceptional objects that lay buried under almost 30 feet of volcanic material for over 17 centuries. Excavation of the site began about 1738. On display in the Exploreum's gallery will be brightly-colored, room-sized frescoes, marble and bronze sculptures, exquisite jewelry, gold coins and everyday household items. All evoke the richness, culture, and bustle of daily life in the Roman Empire's favorite vacation resort.

Society for American Archaeology (SAA) 2007

April 25 –29, Austin, Texas

The Hilton Austin (approximately 32 steps from the door of the hotel to the door of the Austin Convention Center) is the headquarters hotel for the 72nd Annual Meeting. Hilton Austin Hotel, 500 East 4th St., Austin, Texas 78701. Reservations Cutoff Date: March 22, 2007.

Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC)

November 8-11, 2006

Double Tree Hotel, Little Rock, AR. 424 West Markham, Little Rock, AR, 72201

501-372-4371 fax 501-372-0518. Room rates are \$91 plus tax.

Parking included for overnight guests. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel directly or calling Central Reservations at (800) 222-TREE

Identify the Southeastern Archaeological Conference to get the group/convention rate

Arkansas Archaeologist Society (AAS)

September 22-24, 2006, Little Rock, AR

Holiday Inn Presidential Conference Center, 600 Interstate 30, Little Rock.

501-375-2100 or 866-900-7625. Friday reception at Old State House Museum for special viewing of exhibit: *Sam Dellinger and the Raiders of the Lost Arkansas*. 7 pm. Keynote Speaker is Dr. David Mayer Gradwohl, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, Iowa State University. His talk is titled *My Life in the Cemetery: Personal, CRM, and Ethnoarchaeological Ruminations*.

Midwest Archaeological Conference

October 12-15, 2006. Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Urbana, Illinois.

The Louisiana Archeological Society (LAS) Annual Meeting

February 9-11, 2007

Lake Charles, LA. The Isle of Capri Hotel & Resort, a modern, 481 room facility on the Westlake side of Lake Charles. Room rates are \$40/ night weeknights and \$70/ night weekends. A banquet will be scheduled for Saturday evening. Cost-wise, the hotel offers a variety of banquet types. Attendee comments and questions are appreciated at this time. Contact Scott Wehner at: guitaran@cox.net

This is also the first announcement for papers. Presenter /author comments on paper topics will be greatly appreciated. Further details will be provided in the next edition of the LAS Newsletter and/or the LAS website. Abstracts must be provided by close of business Friday, January 26, 2007, in order to prepare programs.

Meetings and Exhibits (continued)

Silent Auction

Once again, the LAS will hold a SILENT AUCTION at the 2007 Annual Meeting in Lake Charles. Over the last two years, LAS members have been very generous, raising over \$1,600 for the LAS with their purchases. This money has enabled the Society to remain financially stable, produce the Newsletter and Bulletin, and helped us dodge the specter of increased membership dues. We hope the members will continue to support the Society by contributing items for the auction and bidding aggressively on the items put up for bid.

Items for the auction can be sent to Chip McGimsey, or brought to the annual meeting. Please let Chip know what you are bringing so that we can have the proper number of tables and tags available. We would love to have anything remotely dealing with anthropology and archaeology, Louisiana history, artwork, and other materials that you think would be of interest to the membership. Contact Chip McGimsey at 337-482-5198 or mcgimsey@louisiana.edu if you have any questions or comments.

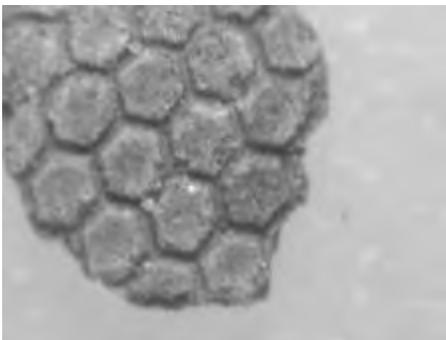
Editor's Corner

Unfortunately, obituaries have been a prominent part of the first two issues of the LAS newsletter that I have edited. While it's important for members of the archaeological community to note the passing of its members, perhaps in the future, I can inform the membership about more pleasant milestones. If you, or someone you know, involved with archaeology in Louisiana obtains a degree, has a child, gets a new job etc. let the membership know through the newsletter.

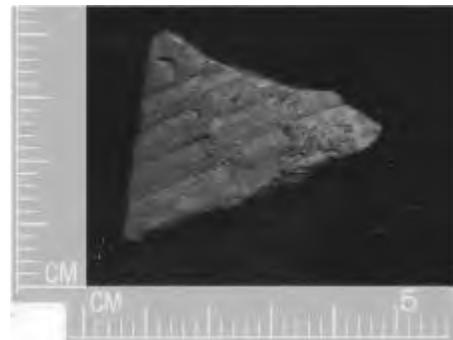
In that vein, LAS members should know that Josetta LeBoeuf, LAS Treasurer, has resigned from the Louisiana Division of Archaeology in order to pursue a career in education. She is now teaching Earth Science at Capital Middle School in Baton Rouge. Everyone who is acquainted with Josetta knows she will bring the same level of energy and commitment to this new career that she did for Division. Fortunately for all of us, she plans to stay on as the LAS Treasurer.

One of the Josetta's tasks at the Division of Archaeology was to organize Louisiana Archaeology Week. With Tom Eubank's death and Josetta's departure, no one at the Division was able to take on the task of organizing the event like it has been done in the past. Fortunately, however, the four Regional Archaeologists and others have put together a fine program of tours, talks, and exhibits that showcase Louisiana's past. Rather than a special mailing of Louisiana Archaeology Week events, this newsletter contains a list of venues and times for the various activities. I strongly suggest, however, that before you attend an event, you should call the contact person listed or check the LAS website or the website of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. Those internet addresses are: www.laarchaeology.org and www.crt.state.la.us/archaeology/homepage/

Finally, only one person, Nancy Affeltranger, offered an opinion on the mystery image presented in last issue (below). She proposed that the image was the skin of an armadillo. She was very close. It is a digital microscope image of burnt reptile skin that was recovered from a prehistoric midden deposit at the Filhiol Mound site during data recovery in 2005. It was found in a float sample by Nicole Harris, Lab Director for Surveys Unlimited Research Associates, Inc. (SURA). Maybe Nancy can do as well with this issue's mystery. YOU try too!!!! See below.



Microscope image of burnt reptile skin from midden at 16OU2.



What type and/or variety of sherd is this? Clue: Coles Creek affiliation in NE Louisiana.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES RENEWAL

For year*

Regular Membership	Annually \$20.00
Associate Membership	Annually \$5.00
Life Membership	\$200.00
Sustaining Membership	\$300.00
Student Membership	Annually \$12.00
Libraries & Institutions	Annually \$20.00

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name _____

Organization (optional) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

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. Available Bulletins are:

#1(1974), #3(1976), #7(1980), #8 (1981), #9 (1982), #10 (1983), #11 (1984), #12 (1985), #13 (1986), #14 (1987), #15 (1988), #16 (1989), #17(1990), #18(1991), #19(1992), #20(1993), #21(1994), #22(1995), #23(1996), #24(1997), #25(1998), #26 (1999).

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 \$ _____ -

Make checks payable to:
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Send payment to:
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LAS Treasurer
9364 Rainford
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Check www.laarchaeology.org for additional information

Information for Subscribers

The Newsletter of the Louisiana Archeological Society is published three times a year for the society. Subscription is by membership in the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS). Annual membership dues are \$20 for individuals, libraries, and institutions. \$5.00 for associates (relatives of individual members) and \$12 for students. Life membership dues are \$200 for individuals. Sustaining membership dues for individuals or institutions are \$300. 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

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Dennis Jones-LAS Newsletter Editor

Snail mail: 224 W. Parkland Dr, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Email: archaeoman2003@yahoo.com

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

LAS Web Site

www.laarchaeology.org

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