



# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2017/2018

Vol. 45, No.3



Look inside for details about  
the 2018 LAS Annual Meeting  
in Metairie, LA

NEW ORLEANS

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

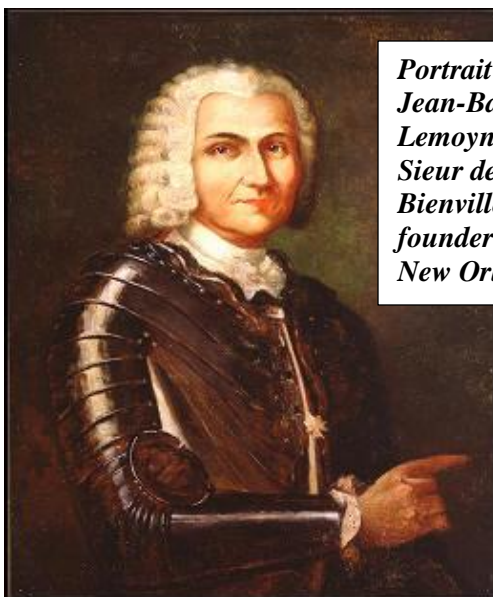
**The 2018 LAS Annual Meeting  
Comfort Inn and Suites, Metairie, LA  
February 16-18, 2018**

New Orleans will celebrate its 300<sup>th</sup> year in 2018. This unique city predated the founding of the United States by decades and was the real jewel of the Louisiana Purchase when this country acquired the city from Napoleon's France. To commemorate the tricentennial of the Crescent City, the 2018 annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) will be held in the New Orleans area.

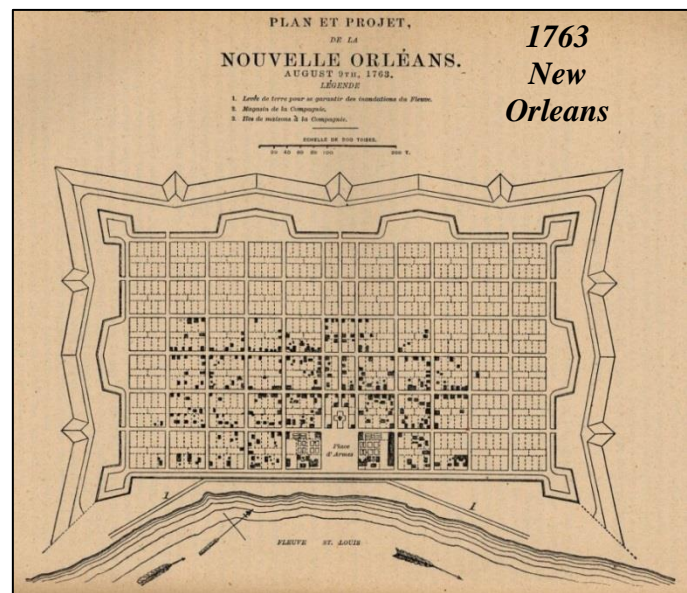
While the program for this LAS meeting will involve presentations about the historic and prehistoric archaeology of Louisiana, we hope to also have many that are focused on the New Orleans area. Please make plans to attend this year's meeting and pass the word on to your friends and colleagues. Details about the meeting are presented in the following pages and postings at the LAS website and Facebook page will provide updates as the meeting dates draw near.

The year's program chair is Nathanael Heller. Nathanael is a long-time LAS member and currently works for R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates in New Orleans. Contact him at [nheller@rcgoodwin.com](mailto:nheller@rcgoodwin.com) with the title and abstract of your presentations for the meeting. He's accepting abstract submissions until Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.

There will be a reception at the conference hotel, the Comfort Inn and Suites in Metairie, on Friday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, presentations and banquet are to be held on Saturday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, and a site tour will take place on Sunday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. Additional details about the meeting are presented in the following pages and postings at the LAS website and Facebook page will provide updates as the meeting dates draw near.



*Portrait of  
Jean-Baptiste  
Lemoyne,  
Sieur de  
Bienville,  
founder of  
New Orleans*



*Dec. 20, 1803  
ceremony in New  
Orleans transferring  
Louisiana Purchase  
territory to the  
United States.*



**Louisiana Archaeological Society  
2018 Annual Meeting  
Metairie, LA**

**Friday 2/16/2018 through Sunday  
2/18/2018**

**Comfort Inn & Suites - Metairie  
2601 Severn Avenue, Metairie, LA 70002**

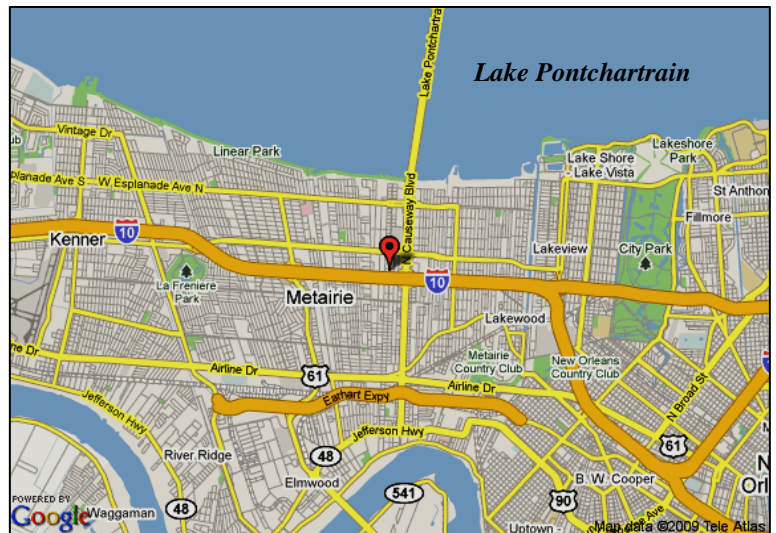
**Phone (504) 888-9500  
Fax: (504) 885-8474**

**Accommodations:**

Room Type	Rate
Deluxe King	\$124.99
Deluxe Double	\$124.99
Executive Suites	\$159.99

**Reservations:**

May be made through the hotel website  
[www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/GA2FJ4](http://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/GA2FJ4)  
 or by calling:  
 Hotel Direct Number: (504) 888-9500  
 Group Code is **Louisiana Archaeological Society**



**Registration:**

Pre-registration \$35.00 and is open until **January 31<sup>st</sup> 2018**.  
 Registration at the door will be \$40.00.

**Banquet:**

The \$40 banquet fee includes a New Orleans style buffet with a cash bar. Some seats will be available day-of, but please try to register for the banquet when you pre-register for the meeting.

**Keynote Speaker:**

Dr. Shannon L. Dawdy, University of Chicago.  
*The Shifting Archaeological Landscape of New Orleans: 1718 to 2018.*

**Conference Program Chair:**

Nathanael Heller, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.  
 Please send presentation titles and abstracts to [nheller@rcgoodwin.com](mailto:nheller@rcgoodwin.com).  
**Accepting abstract submissions until Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.**



*Dr. Shannon Dawdy  
working at the St. Louis  
Cathedral in New Orleans.*

**Silent Auction Time Again!**

It's an LAS tradition! There will be another silent auction during the LAS annual meeting. While books are the most common thing that members donate to this fund raising activity, other items are also possible. Please contact Chip McGimsey at [cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov](mailto:cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov) to arrange your donations or to get the answers to any questions you might have.

**MAIL IN**  
**LAS 2018 Annual Meeting Pre-Registration Form**  
 February 16-18, 2018  
 New Orleans, Louisiana

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

*If registering for more than one person, please provide the following information:*

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

	Qty	Total
Meeting Pre-registration: \$35 per person	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
Banquet: \$40 per person	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ _____
<b>Total Meeting Pre-registration</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

*Pre-registration ends **January 31, 2018**. Meeting registration at the event is \$40 per person. Banquet is limited to 65 guests, so reserve your seat(s) now.*

**Mail pre-registration form to:**

Beverly Clement  
 Treasurer  
 215 N. Gladys St. #416  
 Leesville, LA 71446

Established 1974

***Form and check must be received by January 31, 2017 to get pre-registration price.***

Online Registration for the 2018 LAS Annual Meeting also available at the LAS website:  
[www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org](http://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org)

## LAS CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS



**John M. Connaway**, a long-time LAS member, who has spent most of his career working in Mississippi, received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) held in Tulsa this past November. The citation for the award reads in part:

*John is entering his 51st year working for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. He has spent that time working out of the Clarksdale office and has done more work in the Yazoo Basin than any other single archaeologist. Many of the sites he has salvaged, Oliver, Austin, and Carson, to name three of the most important, were threatened by modern agricultural practices. In all three, he mobilized a crew of volunteers including academic archaeologists, graduate students, avocational archaeologists, and field schools to conduct a remarkable amount of archaeology on a very small budget.*

*When his volunteers can't make it, he works alone. The resultant collections of carefully curated artifact assemblages and meticulous field notes have provided material for two or three generations of graduate student theses. There are few archaeologists who know their region as well as John and nobody who is better at shovel shaving!*

Congratulations, John, from your friends in LAS!



**Brian Ostahowski**, the current president of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, and Katherine A. Jennings were married on Oct 28th 2017.

The ceremony was in the French Quarter and included a second line parade after the ceremony! Congratulations to Brian and Katherine from the LAS.



**Valerie Feathers** will become the new president of the Baton Rouge chapter of the LAS in 2018. She is taking the reins from **Julie Doucet** who has ably served as BRLAS president during recent years.

Valerie is pictured here with Robert Twily head of Seagrant at LSU as she received a student award in 2015 for a Coastal Communications Clip contest. Val also recently completed her defense for her PhD from LSU for her work at an ancient Maya salt work site in Belize.

BRLAS meets the last Wednesday of every month, Jan-Oct, 7 pm at the Bluebonnet branch of EBR Parish Public Library.

## News from the Northwest Louisiana Archaeological Society chapter- By John "Tad" Britt

On August 10, we had a standing room only crowd at the Sci-Port Museum in Shreveport where Jeff Girard gave an overview on the discovery and recovery of the prehistoric 33 foot long cypress dugout canoe (right) recently found on the Red River.

On October 12, the NW LAS chapter welcomed Dr. Robert Z. Selden, Jr. from the Center for Regional Heritage Research at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX. Selden gave a presentation on 3-D scanning of Caddo pottery vessels. These included Belcher Engraved and Smithport Plain bottles. Selden characterized the shape, form, size, and asymmetry attributes for these artifacts. Examples of his 3-D scans can be found online at: [https://sketchfab.com/zac\\_selden](https://sketchfab.com/zac_selden).

And on December 14, the NW LAS Chapter held an artifact ID meeting at the Bossier Parish Library-Aulds Branch. Members and their friends were invited to bring in prehistoric ceramics and stone tools, as well as historic artifacts composed of metal, glass, ceramics, and even plastic items for ID. Several archeologists were on hand to offer their interpretations.

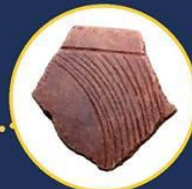


## Northwestern Louisiana Archeological Society

NW LAS members and their friends are encouraged to bring in prehistoric and historic artifacts -- stone tool and Native American Pottery, as well as historic materials such as ceramics, glass, metal, plastic, and other interesting items for identification and analysis.

14 December 2017  
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Bossier Parish Library - Aulds Branch  
3950 Wayne Avenue  
Bossier City, LA 71112



*Zac Selden doing 3-D scan of ceramic vessel in his lab.*



### Upcoming Volumes of *Louisiana Archaeology*

The 2016 issue of the LAS bulletin, *Louisiana Archaeology*, is currently being formatted and should be available for distribution to attendees at the 2018 LAS annual meeting in Metairie. LAS members for 2016 unable to attend the meeting will receive their copies in the mail.

The contents of this bulletin are: “The Myth of the Effects of Black Drink in North American Native Populations” by James Alan Green, “Opportune Testing of Human Skeletal Analysis Techniques on the Remains of a Known Individual Unearthed in East Baton Rouge Parish by the Great Flood of 2016” by Christine Hallings and Ryan Seideman, and “Sweet Home Alabama: Evidence for a Historic Native American Occupation at the Chatsworth Plantation site (16EBR192)” by Dennis Jones and Donald P. Bourgeois.

The 2017 LAS bulletin is currently being edited for publication in 2018. This issue is dedicated to the Monte Sano site (16EBR17) in Baton Rouge that was once on a terrace overlooking the Mississippi. Destroyed in 1967 by chemical plant construction, salvage excavations directed by Dr. William Haag of LSU produced radiocarbon dates that indicated this site had the oldest known prehistoric mound in the United States.



*One of the illustrations in the LAS bulletin for 2016 that shows the so-called black drink being made and served to the Timucua chief and council during a meeting in the public square of a village in 16<sup>th</sup> century Florida.*

#### **Resolution Read by Richard A. Weinstein at the Annual Business Meeting Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) Tulsa, Oklahoma, 2017**

Whereas, Louis Carl Kuttruff, Jr., who died on July 23, 2017 in Baton Rouge, LA at the age of 73, was a long-time member of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC), and;

Whereas, Carl earned his B.A. (1965) at Louisiana State University (LSU) under his mentor William G. Haag, and his M.A. (1970) and Ph.D (1974) degrees at Southern Illinois University (SIU), and;

Whereas, Carl worked as an archaeologist for over 51 years in such disparate places as Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin within the United States, as well as Oaxaca, Mexico, the Philippine Islands, Wake Island, Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands outside the U.S., and;

Whereas, Carl was a skilled field archaeologist with extensive experience as an operator of mechanical excavators who believed that “dirt doesn’t lie”, and;

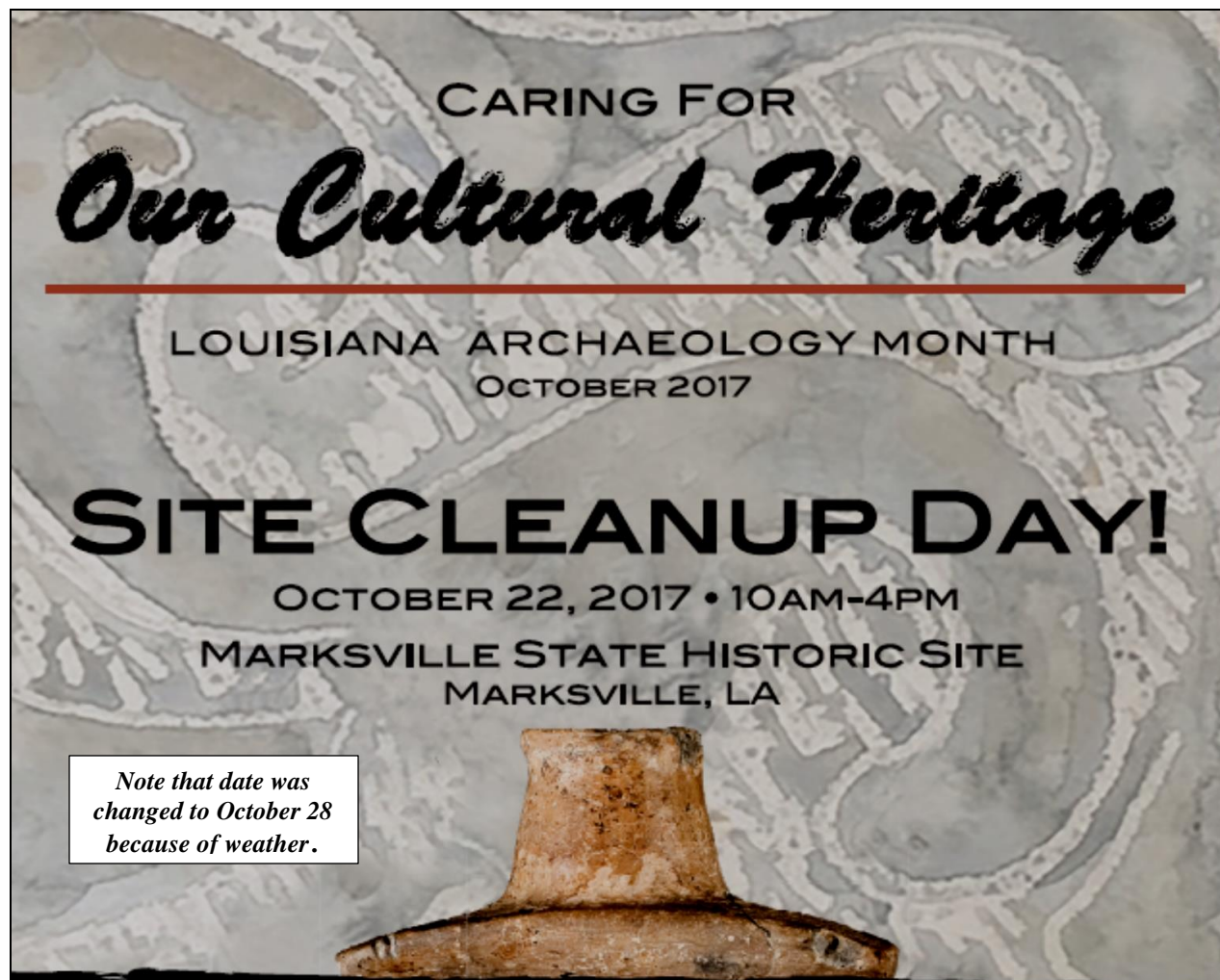
Whereas, Carl’s influence included teaching young archaeologist by example and scholarly contributions to the study of prehistory, history, fortifications, World War II in the Pacific theater, and;

Whereas, Carl excavated such sites as Fort Loudon and Mound Bottom in Tennessee, Poverty Point and Monte Sano in Louisiana, the Oaxaca Valley in Mexico, and the Kwajalein Atoll and Corregidor Island in the Pacific, among many others, and;

Whereas, Carl was first introduced to his wife of almost 50 years, Jenna Tedrick Kuttruff, at a SEAC conference,

Be it hereby resolved that the Southeastern Archaeological Conference recognizes Carl Kuttruff’s contributions to archaeology in the Southeast and other parts of the world and extends its heart-felt condolences to his widow, Jenna.

## PRESERVATION NEWS



**Louisiana Archaeology Month 2017  
Marksville Site Clean-Up Day, October 28, 2017**

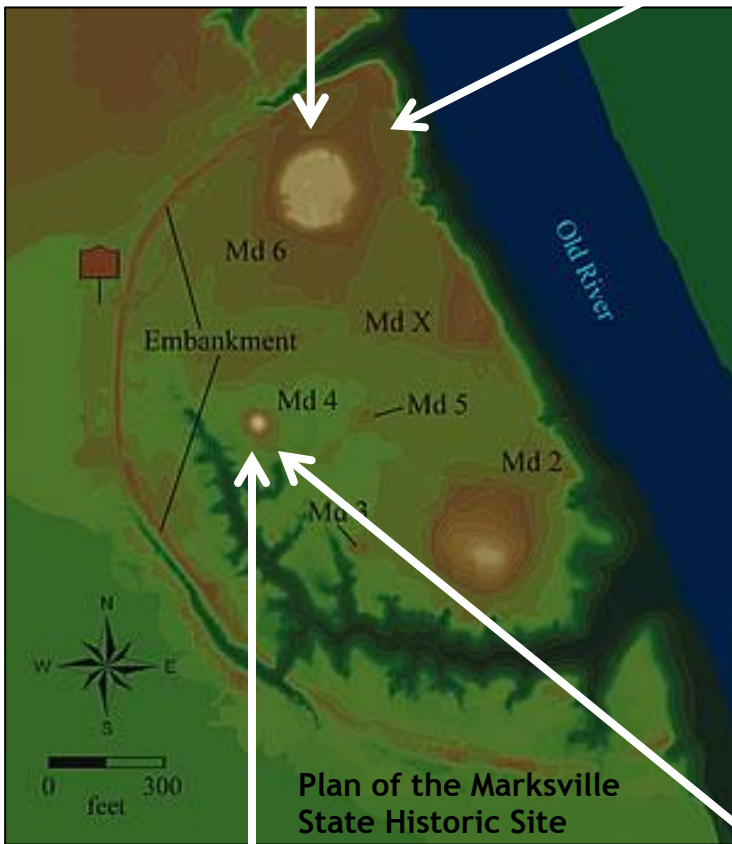
Louisiana Archaeology Month 2017 was a huge success this year with several public presentations and volunteer activities throughout the state. One event hosted by LAS, in partnership with the US Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana State Parks, and the Office of Cultural Development, was a clean-up day initiative at Marksville State Historic Site, in Marksville, LA. Originally scheduled for October 22, strong storms on that weekend forced the event to be rescheduled for October 28.

It was a breezy and chilly morning, but 20 determined volunteers showed up with their clippers, rakes, machetes, and weed whackers ready to tackle the heavy growth on the Marksville Mounds. Efforts were focused on two of the mounds at the site: conical Mound 4 and the larger, circular platform Mound 6. Volunteers from all over Louisiana worked diligently to remove the heavy vines, shrubs, and small trees that had started taking over the mounds. This great work now allows State Parks to be able to better manage the weed problem and hopefully plant new grass seed to help the mounds from continued deterioration.

By the end of the day, Mound 4 was completely uncovered and all overgrowth was removed from it. Mound 6 was a bit more challenging, but about 60% of the side walls were cleaned and cleared of overgrowth as well as a big portion of the mound platform was mowed and cleared of small trees and thickets. The last portion of the day was spent picking up and removing the debris piles. In addition to the work done on the mounds, signs located throughout the park were scrubbed and cleaned. Future clean-up efforts at Marksville are expected to be coordinated by LAS in cooperation with Louisiana State Parks.

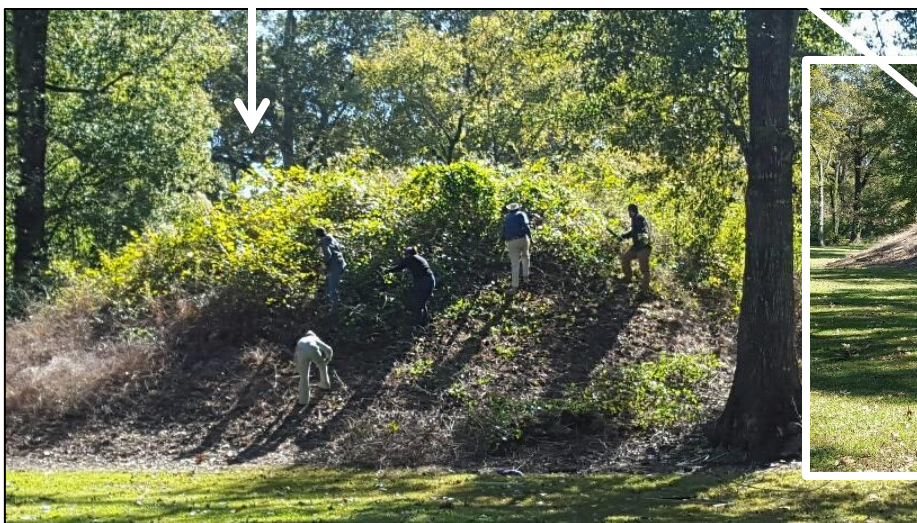
*-Beverly Clement, 2017 Louisiana Archaeology Month Coordinator*





Here are scenes from the LAS sponsored clean-up day at the Marksville site. The weather was more cooperative on Oct. 28 than the originally planned Oct. 22 and Mounds 4 and 6 are in much better shape now.

Attractive and comfortable T-shirts supporting the event will be on sale at the LAS annual meeting. The number and available sizes are noted below.



**More photos are posted on the LAS Facebook page!**

## FIELD NOTES AND CURRENT RESEARCH

### LAS Research Project at the Lac St. Agnes Site (16AV26)

By Julie Doucet, Velicia Bergstrom, Paul French, and Valerie Feathers

The Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) conducted a limited survey, testing, and excavation project at the Lac St. Agnes site (16AV26) from 16 October through 3 November 2017. The Lac St. Agnes site (Figure 1) is located in Avoyelles Parish, about 11 miles north of Marksville, LA, near a lake bearing the same name.

During prehistoric occupation, the site was situated near a variety of environmental niches and adjacent to important navigable waterways such as the Mississippi and Red rivers. In historic times the site has been planted in soybeans. Today the site is protected by a nine acre easement granted to the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy (LAC).

The LAS project was planned as part of the Louisiana Archaeology Month 2017 with a public outreach as an important component to the project. A call for volunteers went out to LAS members and the public and local LAS chapters informed their members of the opportunity to participate. The resulting crew fielded inquiries from folks across the state and hosted many visitors during the project. Thus; the public outreach was an immense success.

However, much work remains to be done, such as artifact analysis and the public outreach component of the Lac St. Agnes project will continue as we process artifacts from the site. So please stay tuned for your opportunity to participate.

### Earlier Research

This site was initially recorded in 1939 by Robert S. "Stu" Neitzel during a WPA survey of Avoyelles Parish. Alan Toth excavated a portion of the mound in 1972, as well as three test pits in the area west of the mound. In 1988, Dennis Jones and Malcolm Shuman, then archaeologists with the Louisiana Geological Survey, mapped and surface collected at the site. Chip McGimsey, then Southwest Regional Archaeologist, cored the center of the Lac St. Agnes mound in 2003. A sample of charred wood and cane from the base of the mound was submitted for a radiometric assay. The results of the assay indicated the mound was built sometime between AD 700 and 900, making it about 1300 years old.

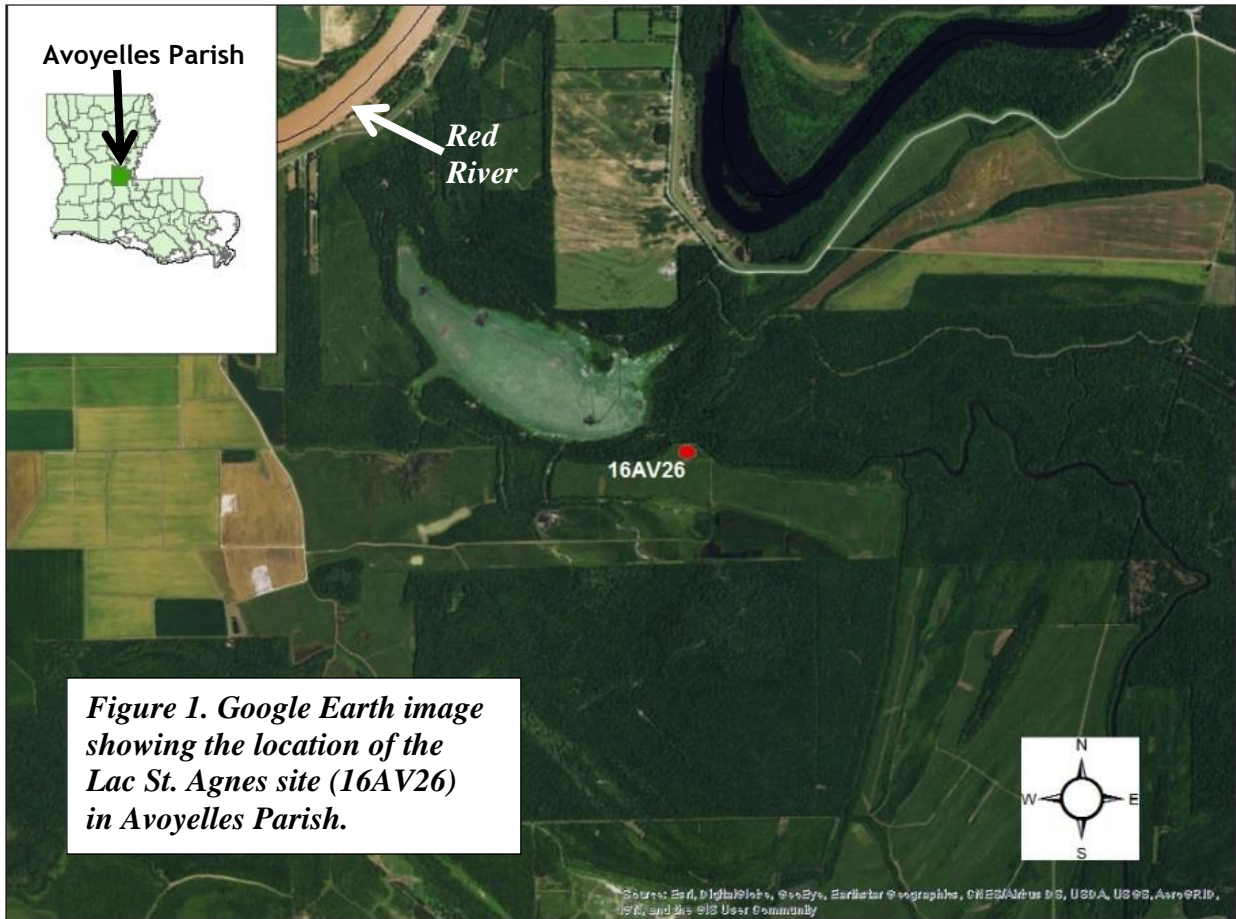
In 2010 and 2011, Christopher Rodning of Tulane University, with Tulane graduate students, conducted additional fieldwork at the Lac St. Agnes site. The Tulane researchers gathered LiDAR data and conducted a gradiometer survey of the site, which resulted in a detailed contour map of the site and identified subsurface anomalies west of the mound worthy of further investigation (Figure 2).

### LAS Project-Preliminaries

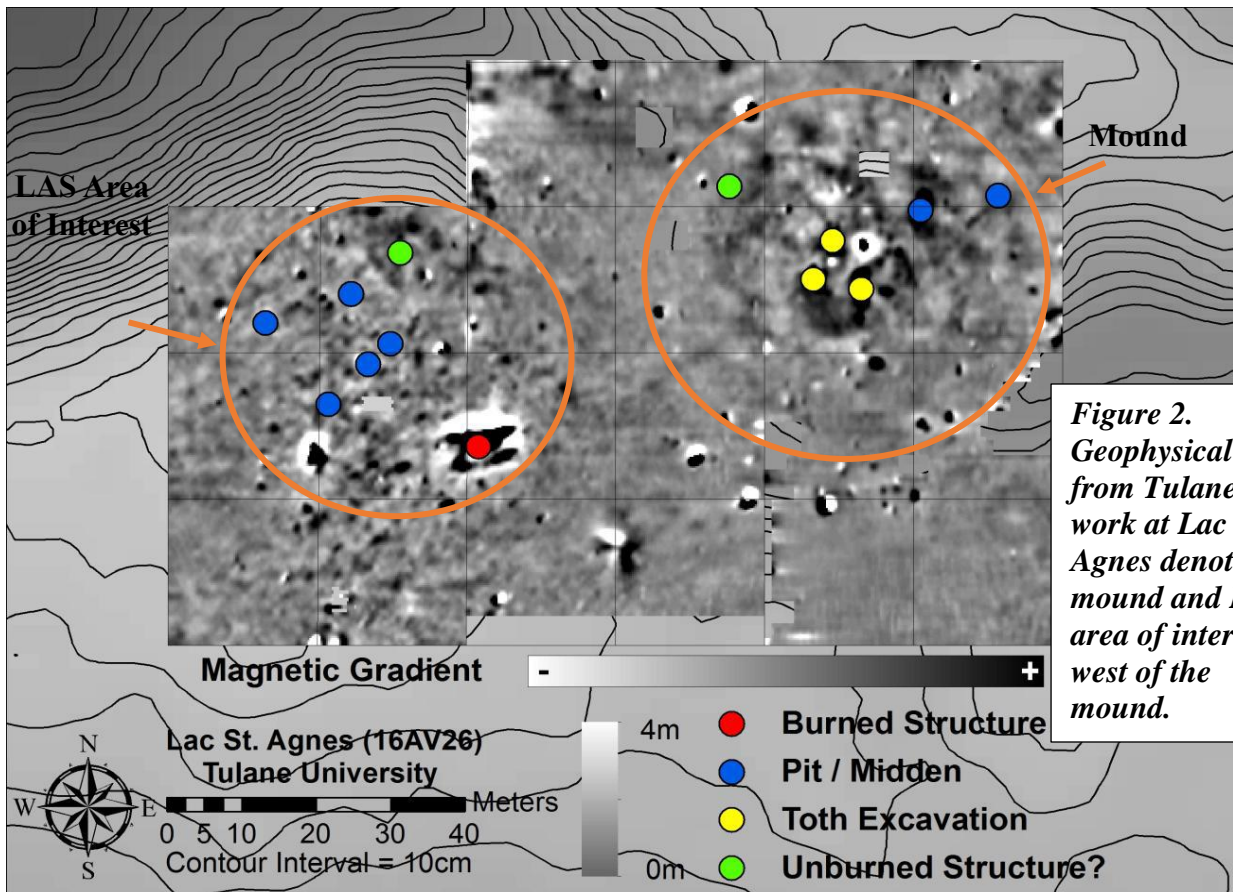
The goal of the 2017 investigations was to ground truth the areas of interest west of the mound noted by the Tulane researchers. To accommodate as many volunteers as possible, two phases of work were planned. Each phase lasted five days with survey and testing conducted from October 16-20 and excavations carried out October 30 - November 3. Eight volunteers participated: Julie Doucet, Velicia Bergstrom, Paul H. French; Valerie Feathers, John Guy, Sara Cody, Michele Smith and Jennifer Innerarity. Doucet and Bergstrom are co-directors of the project

While preparing for the first phase of fieldwork at the Lac St. Agnes site, it was noted that the anomaly map (Figure 2) produced by Tulane did not line up with the arbitrary grid system that was set up for their 2011 survey. Additionally, gauging from the aerial photo of the Tulane survey, it appeared the staked datum did not match what was seen on the ground. Because of these two issues, the LAS crew was unable to use that image to pinpoint the location of the Tulane anomalies.

To account for this, the site datum had a new high accuracy GPS point taken and this point was put into a Geographic Information System (GIS), which allowed for a new grid system. With this new LAS grid, several additional ground points were triangulated using long tapes. These points were then used to establish LAS grid points close to the area of the anomalies recorded by the Tulane researchers. The GPS datum was also used to create an arbitrary grid system that mimicked the original Tulane grid. Using the updated Tulane grid, the image produced from the mag survey was georeferenced again. The newly aligned image then had its anomalies transcribed onto the LAS grid, which gave us a starting point for our project at the site.



*Figure 1. Google Earth image showing the location of the Lac St. Agnes site (16AV26) in Avoyelles Parish.*



*Figure 2. Geophysical data from Tulane work at Lac St Agnes denoting mound and LAS area of interest west of the mound.*

### Testing Phase

The initial plan was to shovel test on a 5-meter arbitrary grid; however, problems breaking through the drought-hardened soil caused us to rethink our strategy. The LAS team came up with a new strategy that would focus on testing areas near the Tulane anomalies west of the mound. Using the newly acquired GIS grid information provided by Paul French, each potential anomaly was plotted in the field and then shovel tested. Anomaly 1 (Tulane's unburned structure) was close enough to one of the LAS's 5-meter arbitrary shovel tests. This shovel test revealed a high artifact density within a dark midden soil, suggesting we may have been close to the anomaly.

Six additional tests were dug in the area west of the mound and all shovel tests were positive for cultural material. However, while the shovel test near the Tulane "burned structure" yielded artifacts there was no evidence of a large burned area (see Figure 2). Further work with a soil probe may determine why signs of a large burned structure were not observed.

The LAS crew enjoyed tremendous support during the survey and testing phase of the project. Dirk Dupuy, who manages the land, crops, and hunting camp for the Dupuy family, owners of the site, visited daily and participated in the work at the site as well as provided equipment and supplies (Figure 3).



*Figure 3. Dirk Dupuy (left) and Sara Cody*

Marc Dupuy, Jr., Debbie Dupuy Didier, and Cindy Smith visited us in the field to make sure we had all we needed. Also, The Marksville Weekly News, paid homage to Louisiana Archaeology Month with a series of articles by Raymond Daye about archaeology. Mr. Daye visited us during fieldwork and he interviewed the LAS volunteers, along with Division of Archaeology staff, about the history of the site. Stuart Braud, LAS life member, Marksville native, and participant in the 1972 Toth investigations, visited and offered information on that previous investigation of the site. Jeff Girard, LAS Vice President and former Northwestern Regional Archaeologist also dropped by and provided assistance and expert opinions on ceramic decorations found at the site (Figure 4).



*Figure 4. Jeff Girard (left, seated), lends a hand in the work, while John Guy (center) is screening, and Paul French digs one of the shovel tests.*

### Excavation Phase

Tulane's Anomaly 1 seemed to be the best candidate for further testing and two meter square test units were placed with hopes of defining a sub-surface feature. Test Unit 1 (TU1) was placed in the approximate center of the area as delineated by soil probes, and Test Unit 2 (TU2) was positioned on the possible western edge of the feature. Each test unit was excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels while noting potential changes in soil color and texture. Artifact density was highest between 10-30 cmbs and, as expected, was mostly associated with the darker midden-like soil. No features, however, could be discerned.

The excavation phase of the Lac St. Agnes project also enjoyed a busy visitors schedule. These included many members of the Dupuy extended family: Marc Dupuy, Jr., his wife Mrs. George Alice Dupuy, Jr., along with three of their daughters, Debbie Dupuy Didier, Cathy Dupuy Bennett, and Pam Dupuy. Shanti Odom (Marc's granddaughter) organized a field trip for the Dupuy great grandchildren and was accompanied by her children Samuel, Isaac and Judah Odom. Julia and Liam Didier (niece and nephew); and, Will Brittain (nephew) also came by. You can certainly tell these youngsters inherited the same passion for archaeology from their great grandfather, Marc Dupuy, Jr., as each pitched in to screen and excavate in the units (Figure 5).

Other visitors included Native American freelance journalist Stacy Pratt, staff members of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, and longtime LAS member Jim Fogleman. Dirk Dupuy was invaluable again in our work at the site with regular visits to assist with excavation and logistical needs.



**Figure 5. Marc Dupuy, Jr.'s great grandchildren learn to screen.**

A visit from the staff of the Division of Archaeology included Chip McGimsey, Rachel Watson, Ashley Fedoroff, and Emily Dale. We had the opportunity to speak with them about various aspects of the site and received valuable input on our methods, preliminary findings, and future endeavors for the site. An added bonus was the extra hands at the screens (Figures 6 and 7). We were certainly fortunate to have so many visitors pitch in to help with the project.



**Figure 6. Division of Archaeology staff help John Guy at the screen: Ashley Fedoroff (white hat), Rachel Watson (pink shirt), and Emily Dale (maroon shirt). Others in the photo are, Pam Dupuy (back to the camera), and Michele Smith (far right bottom).**



**Figure 7. Marc Dupuy, Jr (center) and Mrs. George Alice (left) watch their great grandchildren work at the Lac St. Agnes site along with Chip McGimsey, State Archaeologist, visiting with other staffers of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology.**

### What's Next?

This article is preliminary information about the LAS research project at the Lac St. Agnes site. Both phases of the project yielded many diagnostic artifacts (Figure 8). In the future, we will organize events to process recovered artifacts through a workshop on cataloging and labeling. This task will be essential before we begin the analysis. Following the workshop, LAS will coordinate a workshop on prehistoric ceramic analysis.

Additionally, a ceramics workshop is planned to experiment with different clays, tempering materials (inclusions in the clay), and firing methods to not only get a feel for how Native Americans made ceramics, but also to determine if the prehistoric ceramics excavated during this project were made from local or non-local clays.

The LAS research project at the Lac St. Agnes site will provide opportunities to learn more about this intriguing site, as well as preserving the rich prehistory of Louisiana. All who are interested are invited to participate. Stay tuned and join us as this project continues.

### Acknowledgements

This project was made possible through monetary support from the Louisiana Archaeological Society and support in expertise, supplies, and equipment from the United States Forest Service through the efforts of Velicia Bergstrom (USFS Forest Heritage Program Manager) and Paul H. French (USFS Zone Archaeologist).

Accommodations and logistical support were provided by Marc Dupuy, Jr. on behalf of the Dupuy Land Company. We would have had a rough time of it indeed were it not for the daily support of Dirk Dupuy with his participation and logistical assistance. We also gratefully acknowledge the public support from Avoyelles Publishing and Raymond Daye of the Marksville Weekly News. This project would not have been a success were it not for the inexhaustible energy and enthusiasm from the project volunteers: Julie Doucet, Velicia Bergstrom, Paul H. French, Valerie Feathers, John Guy, Jr., Sara Cody, Michele Smith, and Jennifer Innerarity.



*Figure 8. Some of the artifacts from the Lac St. Agnes site that need to be processed and analyzed making for further volunteer opportunities for LAS members.*

## 2017 Summer Field Work on the Kisatchie Ranger District

By Geoff Lehmann, Kisatchie National Forest, Natchitoches Parish

This year Lauren Fontaine and Sam Wright from LSU, along with Hailey Berry and Marissa Hebert from UL-Lafayette joined me for 10-weeks of archeological field survey on the Kisatchie Ranger District (KRD). Participating agreements between the three institutions provide students the opportunity for hands-on experience as a field crew conducting Phase I archeological survey of proposed KRD projects.

This summer we began survey of the North Bobs Creek project and, aided by an effective growing season prescribed fire, completed about 870 acres of the project area, along with non-project areas to fill in the gaps. Bobs Creek is a small watershed draining high, steep hills on the east side of Kisatchie Bayou. We discovered three new prehistoric sites, and revisited five previously recorded sites.

Along with the primary goal of training the students as we conduct real-world Phase I archeological survey, the KRD exposed them to the variety of operations conducted by a Federal land managing agency. These include wildlife biology (with a focus on the endangered Red Cockaded Woodpecker), recreation, controlled burning, and timber management.

During the course of our survey work, we discovered a lightning-caused wildfire, radioed it in, and observed the initial attack operation to suppress it. "Fire Archaeology" is a growing subfield. For more information on it, check out: <http://firearchaeology.com/Home.html>.

We also maintained three "abandoned" cemeteries that the Kisatchie Ranger District now keeps up, and cleared vegetation within two others where the responsible cemetery organization has been inactive. Cemeteries on the KRD are the heritage resources that attract the most public interest. Congratulations to Hailey, Lauren, Marissa and Sam for doing a great job in trying conditions!



*Marissa Hebert, Lauren Fontaine, Hailey Berry and Sam Wright, this year's Phase I crew for the Kisatchie Ranger District in Kisatchie National Forest.*

**Recent Work at the Natchez Fort Site**

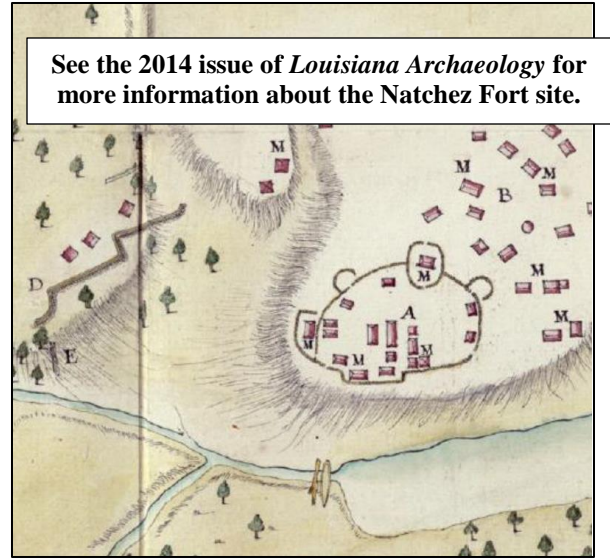
By David Watt, Anthropology Dept., Tulane University

In late October archaeologists from Tulane returned to the site of the Natchez Fort (16CT18) near Sicily Island, LA with the goal of locating remains of Fort Valeur (the French name for the fort the Natchez built) and continuing a comprehensive surface collection across the site.

The intent of this expedition was to also utilize ground penetrating radar (GPR) and magnetometry equipment, provided by the Tulane Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Operated by Dr. Cindy Ebinger and Sarah Oliva, we hoped to locate structural remains of the Natchez Fort. Results from this study are still in the early phases of analysis, though we are excited at the series of anomalies found at the site by the geophysical equipment.

While still requiring extensive excavations to confirm the preliminary results, I am confident that parts of the fort remain intact for excavation. Equally as exciting is the prospect that a considerable portion of French siege works remain at the site. The analysis of the geophysical survey should be complete by the end of the year.

The work at this site could not have been done without the welcoming landowners who allowed us to come out to their properties. And of course, I am thankful for the help from colleagues at Tulane who have offered their efforts and expertise.



*Detail from a French map showing the Natchez Fort and surrounding features. The French captured hundreds of Natchez Indians at this site after a 1731 military siege carried out in response to the deaths of over 200 French during the so-called Natchez Massacre of 1729.*

**Recent Surface Collected Artifacts from the Natchez Fort Site**



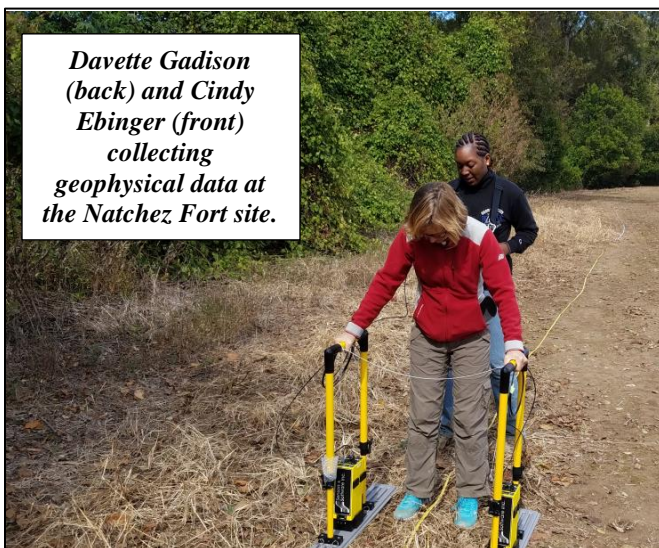
*European trade beads*



*Lead musket ball*



*Lithic projectile point fragments*



*Davette Gadison (back) and Cindy Ebinger (front) collecting geophysical data at the Natchez Fort site.*



*Tulane crew at the Natchez Fort Site: l-r, Davette Gadison, Cindy Ebinger, Sarah Oliva, David Watt, Liz Chamberlain, and Luke Auld-Thomas.*



### More Dugouts Up the Creek, but this time with a Paddle!

By Chip McGimsey, Louisiana State Archaeologist

In the 10 years I've been State Archaeologist, I've received very few calls about dugout canoes. Suddenly, in the last five months, three canoes have been discovered, along with a paddle! The first canoe was found last June and was reported upon in the last LAS Newsletter. This canoe, the largest found in LA, dated to 1300-1413 AD and is undergoing conservation at Texas A&M.

The second canoe (16AS126) was discovered in late October at a commercial dirt pit south of Donaldsonville, LA. Mr. Jamie Ponville exposed what he immediately thought was the end of a dugout as he dug with a trackhoe some 20-25 ft below the surface. Quick shovel work revealed that he had indeed found a canoe. Rachel Watson and I visited several days later and documented the canoe. It is a fragment, about 5 m long, and is severely beaten up (Figure 1). The original length is unknown, and because it has been flattened by the weight of the overlying sediment, the original cross-section shape is uncertain. Currently, the shape is a broad U configuration, but I suspect it was originally more straight-sided with a rounded bottom. The walls and bottom are about 4 cm thick. One end of the canoe is complete (Figure 2). Likely made of cypress, a radiocarbon date returned a calibrated age of 430-622 AD, making it the oldest known canoe from Louisiana. A decision on what to do with it has not been made at this time.

The discovery of this canoe is remarkable, given its position so deep below the surface and the serendipitous exposure with a trackhoe. All credit goes to Mr. Ponville for watching while he was digging and for immediately recognizing what he had found. At the moment, it is not clear what old river or bayou channel the canoe lies in. It may be in an old Bayou Lafourche channel or perhaps an earlier Mississippi River distributary channel. It lies in a massive bed of fine sands and silty clays, with a number of embedded large tree trunks. Given the fragmented nature of the canoe, it clearly had been tumbled around for a long time before it eventually settled and was buried.

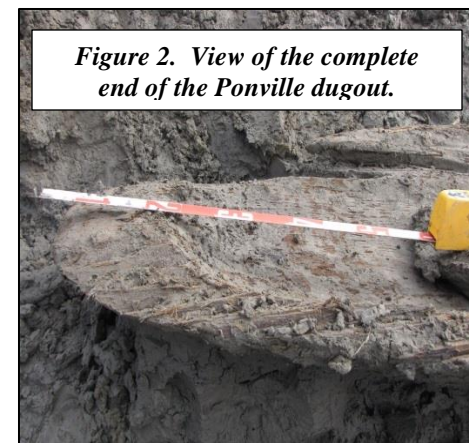
The third canoe was from the Atchafalaya Basin in St. Mary Parish. I have not been able to visit this dugout yet, as the water levels in the basin haven't dropped enough to expose it again. Based upon pictures provided by the discoverer, it is a historic-era plank canoe. But it has been lying in the Basin for so long that a large cypress tree has extended its roots around the canoe. We hope to document this canoe as soon as the water levels permit.

The biggest surprise of the year, however, was the discovery of a hand-carved wooden paddle (Figure 3). Like the Ponville dugout, it also was found during an excavation some 20 ft below surface in the Red River valley near Shreveport. The paddle is 86 cm long, with the paddle measuring 37 cm and the handle 49 cm. The handle is 3 cm wide at the upper end and slowly expands to 7 cm wide where it meets the blade. The blade is 19-20 cm wide and exhibits a 4 cm wide bevel on both edges and faces. Both the blade and handle are 2.5 cm thick, except where the blade thins to 0.5 cm thick at the edge. The paddle is in remarkable condition with only a small fragment missing from the upper 25 cm of the handle. Portions of the handle look worn, almost polished, perhaps indicating where hands had gripped it. There are no obvious manufacture marks, except one possible axe/adze mark at the end of the blade. A radiocarbon sample from the paddle dates to the post-contact period, with an 82% likelihood that it dates between 1650 and 1875 AD. There is an 18% likelihood that it was made after 1916, however. This late date does not discount American Indian manufacture, but it also could be from a European explorer or an 1800s settlement in Shreveport area as well. Conversations are ongoing as what its ultimate disposition will be. It is a unique and remarkable item, the only known historic paddle ever recovered in Louisiana, a state with many streams.

*Figure 1. View of the Ponville dugout with complete end in foreground.*



*Figure 2. View of the complete end of the Ponville dugout.*



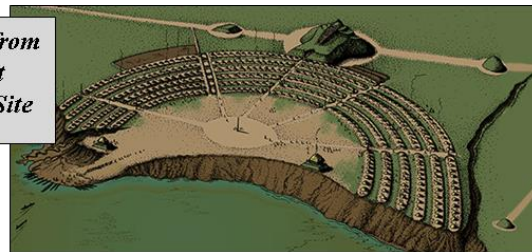
*Figure 3. View of the Shreveport paddle.*



**Poverty Point Update**

By Diana Greenlee, Station Archaeologist

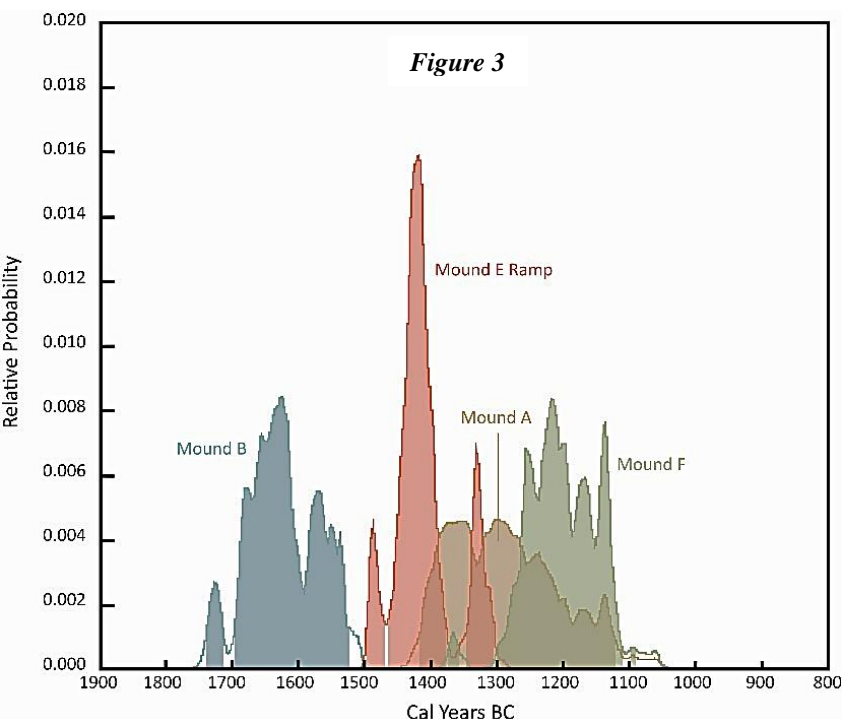
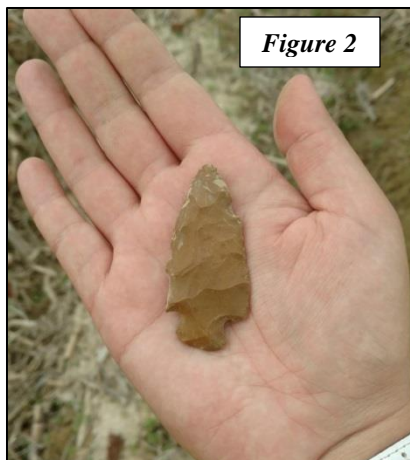
*Research News from  
the Poverty Point  
World Heritage Site*



The Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program is continuing to investigate the landscape around the Poverty Point World Heritage Site. (See *LAS Newsletter* 45(1) and 45(2) for more information about this project.) Matthew Radermacher and Rebecca Wallace (Figure 1)

have stepped in to lead the effort this year. They will be out walking fields, locating and collecting artifacts, through the winter and spring, whenever weather, field conditions, and hunting seasons permit. So far, they have located several historic house sites, an unusual spatially isolated cluster of chert cobbles, and a few scattered prehistoric lithics (Figure 2). LAS members and others who wish to assist with the survey should contact Poverty Point Station Archaeologist Diana Greenlee at [greenlee@ulm.edu](mailto:greenlee@ulm.edu) or 318-926-3314.

As reported in the *LAS Newsletter* 45(2), a tiny piece of charred botanical material from the surface beneath the fill of the Mound E ramp was submitted for radiocarbon dating. The calibrated age of 1496-1305 BC represents the maximum age of the mound – it can't be older than the youngest radiocarbon sample beneath it. The actual construction age could be more recent. Based on this date, however, the time span for the construction of Mound E fits chronologically between Mounds B and A (Figure 3), and that is consistent with the characteristics of soil development for the three earthworks.



*Figure 1. Rebecca Wallace (left) and Matthew Radermacher (right) examine artifacts from a historic house site in East Carroll Parish.*

*Figure 2. A Maçon-like projectile point found during recent survey southwest of Poverty Point World Heritage Site. Photo by Rebecca Wallace.*

*Figure 3. Distribution of radiocarbon dates from Mound B, the Mound E ramp, Mound A, and Mound F at Poverty Point WHS. There is a 95% chance that the dated event (death of the plant) falls within the color-coded area(s) for each mound, and the taller the peak, the more likely the event happened in the corresponding year(s).*

*Figure 4. Poverty Point Collections Manager, Alisha "Lisa" Wright, gives photographer Diana Greenlee the "stink eye" for interrupting her while washing artifacts from Bienville Parish donated by Kelly Tindall. The artifacts will be transferred to the Division of Archaeology for use as a teaching collection.*

## LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

### We're searching to reclaim what was lost': In museum archives a tribe urgently seeks proof of its past

By Sarah Kaplan, November 11, 2017, Washington Post

Their ancestors fled the Trail of Tears and found refuge nearly 200 years ago on an island on Louisiana's Gulf Coast. But now that home on Isle de Jean Charles is slipping into the sea, a consequence of coastal erosion, subsidence and climate change. Frequent floods and increasingly ferocious storms have washed away heirlooms, destroyed houses, scattered families.

Once more, the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Indians face displacement. This time, though, they aim to confront it on their own terms.

A key to their success may lie amid a collection of ancient artifacts and faded photos nearly 1,200 miles away. There, at a Smithsonian Institution facility in Suitland, Md., three generations of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaws just spent a week painstakingly sifting through materials from their tribe's past. They were looking for evidence to supplement their petition for official "acknowledgment" from the federal government — a decades-old effort that has gained new urgency as the state of Louisiana moves to resettle the last island residents.

"We are searching to reclaim what was lost," said Chantel Comardelle, a 35-year-old Terrebonne Parish employee who dreams of running a tribal museum

The artifacts are proof of where her people have been and how they have endured — the kind of details the government requires to establish connection to a historic tribe.

But the Smithsonian's collections also contain a century-old mistake that has hindered their bid for recognition. To take control of their future, the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw must not only resurrect the past — they must correct it.

Comardelle, the tribe's executive secretary; her father, Deputy Chief Boyo Billiot; and her great-uncle, Chief Albert Naquin, arrived at the Smithsonian as part of its Recovering Voices community research program. The initiative invites native scholars to learn from and contribute to the collections of the National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of the American Indian.

"We want to trace our roots," the 71-year-old Naquin told the staff who greeted them. Naquin charts his heritage back to members of the Choctaw tribe who lived in what is now Alabama and Mississippi. In the 1830s, they were among the tens of thousands of Native Americans who were brutally uprooted from the



southeastern United States and marched to Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Thousands died from cold, starvation and cholera during what one Choctaw chief called "a trail of tears and death."

Somehow, somewhere in Louisiana, a few Choctaws escaped and traveled south, mingling with white settlers and members of other tribes, mixing their traditions with new practices picked up on the coast. One native woman married a Frenchman, and together they settled Isle de Jean Charles — a lush, low-lying sliver of land that for more than 100 years was reachable only by boat.

Isolated on their island, the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw were mostly protected from the forces that devastated other native communities: land seizures, racial violence, and the forced placement of children in often abusive boarding schools. Naquin was 7 when the first road was built connecting Isle de Jean Charles to the mainland. "If you see a car coming," his mother used to warn him, "go hide." "We hid for a long time," he said.

Most of the Smithsonian artifacts were gathered by early-20th-century researchers conducting "salvage anthropology," as Recovering Voices program assistant Judith Andrews terms it. Convinced that Native Americans were destined to die out, these scientists chronicled cultures with a clumsy "graveyard mentality."

That is part of why the Smithsonian so values visits like the one made by Naquin's group, Andrews said. The tribe members' insights will help improve records — adding context and nuance that anthropologists overlooked when they visited communities generations ago.

*Continued next page*



***A single road, which rising seas are making increasingly perilous, bisects the Louisiana island that the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Indians have called home since the early 19th century. (Heather Stone)***

*Continued from previous page*

Though most of the materials predate Naquin and Billiot, the version of the Louisiana coast they represent is not so different from the place where both grew up. A broad Choctaw basket collected in Mississippi resembles the sifters that Naquin's family used when catching shrimp. A 122-year-old dugout canoe, hewed from the dark wood of a cypress tree, looks just like the ones in which Billiot's uncle plied the waters of their bayou. Two squinting men in a yellowed photograph reminded Comardelle of a family who once lived up the road.

Holding these objects, Billiot said, "feels like coming back home." The connection to such anthropological artifacts offers "an identity trajectory that can be proven," explained Gwyneira Isaac, director of the Recovering Voices program. "It allows them to say, 'These materials, these techniques, this way of life is our way of life.'"

Yet the collections also offer stark reminders of how much the trio's memories have fragmented and the land that sheltered and sustained their people has changed. Naquin and Billiot examined a basket woven from cypress splints. "We used to have one just like that," the chief said, gently lifting it with two gloved hands.

"Do you still make them?" a curator asked. No, responded Billiot, who is 65. Cypress no longer grows on Isle de Jean Charles. The encroaching saltwater has choked all the trees, rendering them skeletal and gray.

Since 1955, 98 percent of the island's land mass has been lost to the sea. High tides and strong winds routinely submerge the lone road to the mainland. Naquin was forced to leave in 1974, after Hurricane Carmen destroyed his home and made it impossible for him to drive to work. Billiot followed in 1985, the year two storms struck in rapid succession, producing mold so bad that Comardelle, then 4 years old, developed breathing problems.

Not long after Naquin became chief in 1996, the Army Corps of Engineers offered to help move his community someplace less vulnerable. Naquin initially reacted with alarm, fearing that "it would be a modern-day Trail of Tears." But then he considered how his life had changed since he had moved off the island; he hadn't lost a piece of furniture in two decades. So many others had also fled — why not build a home they could all flee toward?

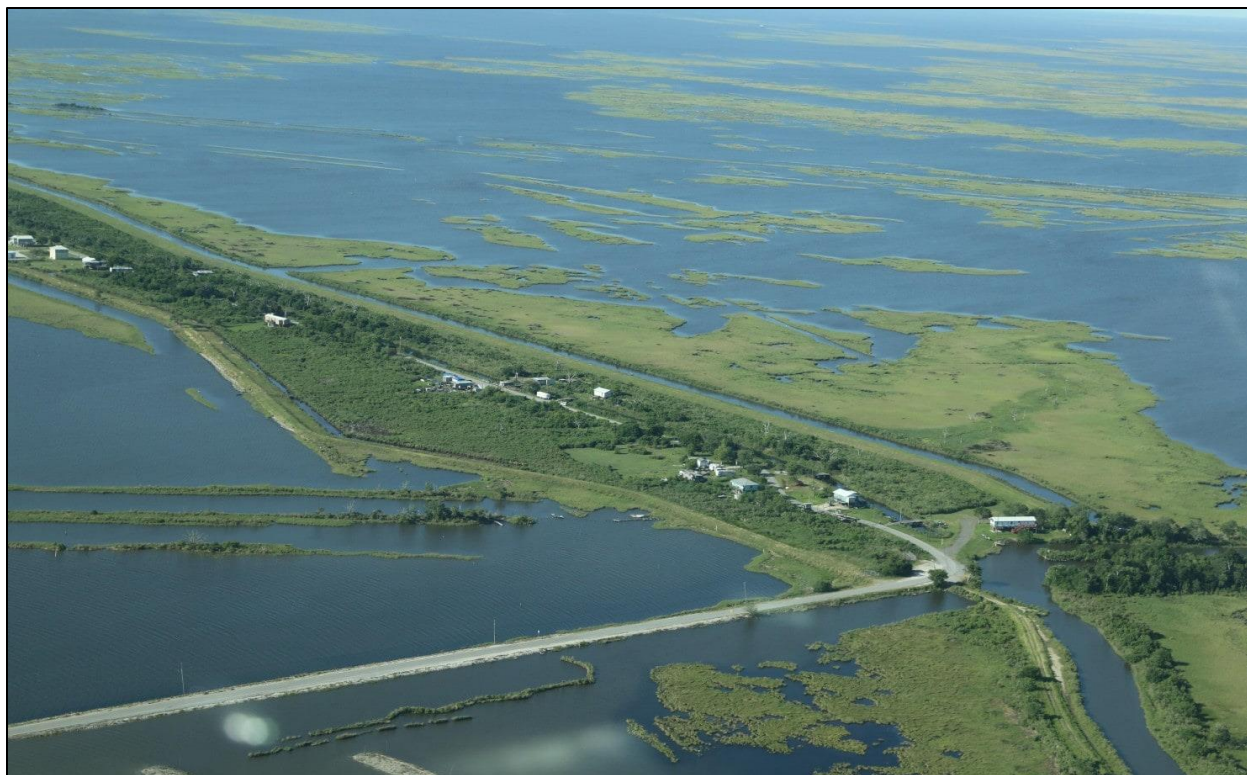
After two failed attempts, last year the tribe was awarded a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development: \$48 million to relocate the 25 remaining families — including Naquin's sister and Billiot's nonagenarian parents. A location for the new community has not been selected; the state is considering several sites about an hour's drive inland.

After two failed attempts, last year the tribe was awarded a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development: \$48 million to relocate the 25 remaining families — including Naquin's sister and Billiot's nonagenarian parents. A location for the new

*Continued next page*



*Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Chief Albert Naquin, left, and Deputy Chief Boyo Billiot examine elaborate nesting containers at a Smithsonian Institution facility in Suitland, Md. (Photo by Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)*



*An aerial view of the Isle de Jean Charles, which has lost 98 percent of its land mass in the past six decades. (Heather Stone)*

*Continued from previous page*

A location for the new community has not been selected; the state is considering several sites about an hour's drive inland.

In their application for HUD funding, Naquin, Billiot and Comardelle laid out an idyllic vision: hurricane-proof houses arranged in the same pattern as the buildings on the island, and not just for tribe members leaving the island but for more than 200 other families who have long been scattered across the state. There would be a grocery store where the community could gather for gossip and coffee and beignets. Comardelle, who is taking online classes for a certificate in museum studies, would direct a tribal museum preserving the culture and ecology of the island they left behind.

It's unclear how much of that vision will become reality. The resettlement grant is being administered by Louisiana's Office of Community Development, and not always according to the tribe's preferences. In September, officials hired an architecture firm to design the new community — a move that Naquin and Comardelle

said replicates work the tribe has already done and needlessly spends precious resources.

The desire to have more say in the resettlement process has raised the stakes of the tribe's bid for federal acknowledgment. In 2015, the Bureau of Indian Affairs found that the group hadn't sufficiently demonstrated a link to a historic tribe. The rejection noted that "they do not claim descent from the Houma tribe, although . . . members and ancestors have been called 'Houma' Indians since at least 1907."

That mix-up was spawned by Smithsonian anthropologist John Swanton, who visited southeast Louisiana at the turn of the 20th century and misidentified many of the people he encountered. Sitting in the archives, looking at a photo Swanton appeared to have mislabeled, Naquin grimaced. "Swanton just tore us up," he lamented. "He created a monster we can't fix."

But reference archivist Caitlin Haynes handed the group a correction form. "Just write down what you know," she said, and the museum will amend the record. "We want you guys to be the authorities."

## **Local government to honor victims of 1887 massacre of blacks**

By Janet McConnaughey, The Associated Press

Posted Nov 14, 2017 at 3:39 AM, [houmattoday.com](http://houmattoday.com)

One hundred and thirty years after white mobs massacred black laborers and their families to end a sugar strike, a Louisiana parish government is expected to approve a resolution to mark the attack's anniversary and honor its victims.

John DeSantis, who wrote a book about the incident, says he recently learned that the resolution is on the Lafourche Parish Council agenda Tuesday evening in Thibodaux. The resolution requests a moment of silence at noon Nov. 23 in memory of the victims and encourages continued exploration of the history of the Reconstruction-era massacre to help bring about justice and reconciliation.

On Nov. 23, 1887, white mobs in Lafourche Parish went door to door for more than two hours, shooting unarmed blacks, to end a month-long strike by sugar plantation field hands. After his book was published in 2016, DeSantis and descendants of both victims and plantation owners created a committee to raise money for an archaeological survey to learn if there's truth to local tradition of the location of a mass grave "and to have any remains exhumed and buried in consecrated ground.

**They need to raise about \$24,000 to get an initial archaeological survey by the Public Archaeology Lab at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.** [*Emphasis added-Editor*] Fundraising so far is "horrible," DeSantis said Monday in a telephone interview from Thibodaux. He'd thought that social justice-oriented groups might be interested, but was told their money is going to the living.

DeSantis said he has turned over \$1,000 so far to the ULL Foundation, which has set up an account for the project. "As we get small donations ... we're going to pass it to the ULL Foundation in thousand-dollar increments so we don't make them crazy," he said. A class at Nicholls State University will soon be presenting its plan for a social media campaign to the Louisiana 1887 Memorial Committee, DeSantis said.

He said the parish and the city of Thibodaux, which presented a similar proclamation in September, are setting a shining example at a time of racial division nationally. "The opportunity to talk about the past and how it relates to the future, I think helps bring us here locally to where America needs to be with all of our aspects of our past," DeSantis said. "I think it is something that aids the spirits of those who were lost and ... those who were involved with perpetrating" the victims and the victimizers."



*Scene of cutting sugar cane on a south Louisiana plantation in the late 1800s.*

## **RECALLING 1950 DISCOVERY OF TUNICA WARRIOR'S GRAVE**

Sat, 10/07/2017 - 5:00am Raymond Daye  
Avoyellestoday.com

### **Series: Louisiana Archaeology Month**

{Editor's Note: October is Louisiana Archaeology Month. This is the first of a series of archaeology-related articles to help celebrate Avoyelles' history -- and pre-history -- and those men and women who are dedicated to researching and preserving those links to our past.}

Over 200 years ago, a young Native American man was buried with his prized possessions -- a rifle, a long knife, and his silver-adorned vest.

About 140-150 years later, an Avoyelles Parish farmer unearthed a rifle barrel while working in his field. He called an archaeologist, who excavated the site to learn more about Native American burial customs in the early days of Avoyelles Parish.

The discovery was made in November 1950. The farmer was 28-year-old war veteran Sam Neck. The researcher was renowned archaeologist Robert S. Nietzel, who had done extensive work at the Marksville Mounds from 1938-41. The man in the grave was in his mid-20s when he died and, based on the silver plates that had once been sewn on his vest, was a warrior just like Neck.

### **UNCOVERING THE PAST**

The field was located in an area that had once been granted to the Tunica Indians. Nietzel thought the man might be from that tribe, but he needed to expose the burial pit to uncover evidence to support that theory.

Nietzel painstakingly removed the topsoil and saw the outline of a burial pit taking shape. He carved the ground to a depth of 16 inches, brushing away the loose soil with a whisk broom. There he found the skeleton of an adult male, a rifle barrel by his side and a 13-inch bone-handled knife partially under his skull lying crossways on the body.

Nietzel found fragments of cypress and square nails in the pit -- many still in position --

*Continued next page*



*This Nov. 26, 1950 Times-Picayune photo shows the remains of a Tunica warrior, rifle by his side and knife under his head. The article at the time reported some items were removed to be positively identified and preserved before the remains were once again covered. Best estimates are that the man was a 25-year-old warrior who died in the early 1800s. {Photo by Cyrus Burley}*

*Continued from previous page*

which told the archaeologist part of the story of the young warrior's funeral.

Based on those few clues, Nietzel theorized the man had been buried in a cypress box in a full-length grave. His head was to the northeast and his feet were to the southwest -- consistent with Indian burials. He was placed into a cypress box that was slightly too short for his 5 ft., 6 in. frame, based on the position of the leg bones found in the grave. Nietzel said the man was "a young Indian, a warrior I'd say, not more than 25 years old."

The arms were extended next to his sides. The .44 caliber rifle had a 44.5-inch long, octagon-shaped barrel encased in copper and was resting on the right arm with the copper-encased butt near his right ear. The metal of the lock and breech had disintegrated.

Nietzel said the copper plates on the rifle butt and side of the stock were in excellent shape. Several copper cleats that had held the ramrod were found under the barrel. Pieces of the wooden stock were also found. The rifle was unique and superior in quality to most used in the early-to-mid 19th Century Avoyelles.

Nietzel had hoped to find ammunition or flints in the burial site, as it was customary for those items to also be included in Native American burials of that era.

## SILVER BANDS

Perhaps the most important clue to the young warrior's past was the four thinly beaten strips of silver that were lying across the chest. They had double perforations at the ends, indicating they had once been sewn to a shirt. Horace Pierite, the leader of the Tunica Tribe at that time, told Nietzel the Tunica adorned the shirts of their braves in that way in the 1800s. The Tunica migrated from the Yazoo Valley in Mississippi and settled in Avoyelles between 1784 and 1804.

It was determined that the latest date for the burial would have been around 1858. However, if the man in the grave were a Tunica -- as all clues indicated he was -- it could have been considerably earlier, Nietzel said at the time. Some other items found in the burial pit, including fragments of an iron pot, were removed for identification and preservation.

The young warrior's body was not disturbed. Horace Pierite stood vigil as the grave was covered. There is no marker and no document showing where on the Tunica-Biloxi tribal lands this lone grave is located.

John Barbry, the tribe's director of development and programming and its Language & Culture Revitalization Program, said he has heard

*Continued next page*



*Continued from previous page*

stories of the warrior's grave on the tribe's lands, but there is no documentation about the research done at the site. The information used to write this article is from a New Orleans Times-Picayune article written by Ruth B. Sanchez of Marksville.

#### A SIMILAR SITE

NSU Professor Pete Gregory has worked several archaeological digs in Avoyelles. He was unaware of the 1950 Nietzel dig, but said the grave sounds similar to one he worked on as a graduate student in the early 1960s.

"The one I dug was on tribal land, which was a sweet potato plot then, behind where the tribe's museum is located now," Gregory said.

#### **Looting at the Lake**

Leesville Daily Leader, Posted Dec 2, 2017 at 4:04 PM

Vernon Lake sits upon a significant archaeological site containing Native American artifacts. And it's being looted. Now that the lake has been drained for repair work on the dam, some local residents have been digging for and taking items such as arrowheads and spearheads.

The bottom of the lake is state land, said Scotty Delaney, Senior Agent with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This fact makes the removal of such items illegal. According to the Office of Cultural Development, the law states: "No person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface or attempt to excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise any archaeological resource located on state lands unless such activity is approved by the agency with ownership responsibilities."

The penalties for any person violating these provisions can be found guilty of a misdemeanor. "Upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or by both," the law states.

President of the West Louisiana Archaeological Club (WLAC) of Leesville and former president of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS), Johnny Guy of Anacoco, has been diligently following approved procedures in order to properly identify notable areas on the exposed bottom of Vernon Lake. Since the WLAC has begun their work, 13 new sites have been discovered. "That's just so far," said Guy. "We have maybe ten percent done."

The tribe(s) that occupied this part of what is now Vernon Parish would have been nomadic, hunting and fishing, then moving when resources became depleted. Access to water would have made this area attractive to Native American tribes. The soil of the region is not conducive to farming, preventing a more permanent lifestyle for the tribes of the region.

Five men of various, but similar backgrounds and interests in areas of archaeology and anthropology, including a hobbyist and a supporter, headed out this morning to the prehistoric site on the exposed bottom of Vernon Lake.

Little orange flags peppered the landscape, poignantly described by a six-year-old as a scene from "The Lorax" with the seemingly endless span of tall gray stumps emerging from the lake bottom. Another described the scene as looking like a different planet—surreal.

Venturing out into this landscape, the group scattered in different directions looking for evidence of artifacts from another time. Bits of stone flakes resulting from making arrowheads, spearheads, and other tools, or "little chips," as Guy called them, are marked with flags indicating an area that may be rich with other items below the surface.

"That one was more elaborate," he continued. "We worked it for the tribe and turned all of the artifacts over to them."

The man in the later burial site also wore the silver bands on his chest but had two rifles, two knives, silver headbands and other ornaments. "He was obviously someone of importance in the tribe," Gregory said.

The man was also buried with a small box of personal treasures that included U.S., French and Spanish coins that allowed archaeologists to date the burial between the late 1700s and 1805, Gregory said.

The similarities to Gregory's site and Nietzel's also bolster the argument that the warrior unearthed in 1950 died in the early 1800s.

Right now the WLAC members are scoping the situation. “We are just registering sites for the state of Louisiana database,” Guy said. “This is diagnostic, not picking.” Archaeologist Nathan Mountjoy said the goal is to “find, identify, and protect.”

When an intact arrowhead turned up on the surface of the land, Mountjoy made a preliminary assessment to determine it originated from a tribe that existed around 4000-6000 years ago in what is now Texas. This would be the Middle Archaic Age in that region, according to Mountjoy.

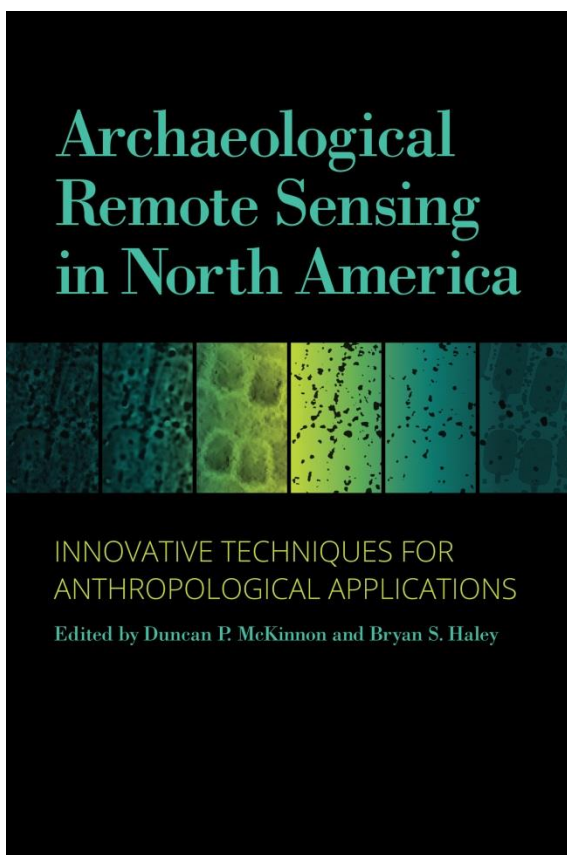
Being caught taking, or having taken, a relic such as this arrowhead is against the law not only because it is property of the state, but because removing artifacts from a prehistoric site results in the immediate disturbance and contamination of historical evidence. These areas need to be studied so current and future generations can learn about who and what came before them.

“We can just rely on the public to know they can’t dig or move artifacts from the property,” Delaney said. “If you see someone doing that, notify the authorities to let us know what’s going on.” To report this kind of activity, call the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Monday through Friday at 318-487-5634 or Operation Game Thief at 800-442-2511.



*Photos from Vernon Lake near Leesville in Vernon Parish. Clockwise from above: signs of looting in the exposed bed of Vernon Lake (photo by Johnny Guy); recovered projectile point (photo by Rickie Smith of Leesville Daily Leader); and members of WLAC surveying the exposed bed of Vernon Lake (photo by Johnny Guy).*

## BOOKS OF INTEREST FOR LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY



***Archaeological Remote Sensing  
in North America:  
Innovative Techniques for  
Anthropological Applications***  
Edited by Duncan P. McKinnon  
and Bryan S. Haley

Hardcover, 2017. 304 pp.  
71 B&W figures  
978-0-8173-1959-5  
Price: \$59.95

The University of Alabama Press  
<http://www.uapress.ua.edu>

This book presents the latest on the rapidly growing use of innovative archaeological remote sensing for anthropological applications in North America.

Updating the highly praised 2006 publication *Remote Sensing in Archaeology*, edited by Jay K. Johnson, *Archaeological Remote Sensing in North America: Innovative Techniques for Anthropological Applications* is a must-have volume for today's archaeologist. Targeted to practitioners of archaeological remote sensing as well as students, this suite of current and exemplary applications adheres to high standards for methodology, processing, presentation, and interpretation.

The use of remote sensing technologies to address academic and applied archaeological and anthropological research problems is growing at a tremendous rate in North America. Fueling this growth are new research paradigms using innovative instrumentation technologies and broader-area data collection methods. Increasingly, investigators pursuing these new approaches are integrating remote sensing data collection with theory-based interpretations to address anthropological questions within larger research programs.

In this indispensable volume, case studies from around the country demonstrate the technically diverse and major remote sensing methods and their integration with relevant technologies, such as geographic information systems (GIS) and global positioning systems (GPS), and include various uses of the "big four": magnetometry, resistivity, ground-penetrating radar (GPR), and electromagnetic induction.

The study explores four major anthropological themes: site structure and community organization; technological transformation and economic change; archaeological landscapes; and earthen mound construction and composition. Concluding commentary from renowned expert Kenneth L. Kvamme overviews the practices, advances, and trends of geophysics and remote sensing in the past decade.

Duncan P. McKinnon is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Central Arkansas and a research associate at the Center for American Archeology. He has been published in *American Antiquity*, *Southeastern Archaeology*, *Arkansas Archeologist*, *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology*, and *Caddo Journal*.

Bryan S. Haley is an archaeologist and terrestrial/marine remote sensing specialist in the New Orleans Office of Coastal Environments, Inc. He specializes in prehistoric and historic Native archaeology in the southeastern United States. His sixteen years of remote sensing experience includes work on projects in twenty-three American states, Central America, South America, and Europe.



# THE Caddos AND THEIR Ancestors

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE NATIVE PEOPLE  
OF NORTHWEST LOUISIANA

JEFFREY S. GIRARD



Taking an archaeological perspective on the past, *The Caddos and Their Ancestors* traces human cultures in northwest Louisiana from the end of the last ice age, through the formation of distinctly Caddo culture in the 10th century A.D., and into the early 19th century when Caddo culture was supplanted by the formidable influences of the emerging modern economic and political world.

Author Jeffrey S. Girard examines how Native Americans altered their lives to cope with the dynamic physical and social environments in which they were embedded. Descriptions and illustrations of the remnants of houses, mounds, burials, tools, ornaments, and food found through archaeological studies of Native American sites illuminate this long overdue examination of a key cultural and historical force in Louisiana's history.

***The Caddos and Their Ancestors:  
Archaeology and the Native  
People of Northwest Louisiana***

By Jeffrey S. Girard

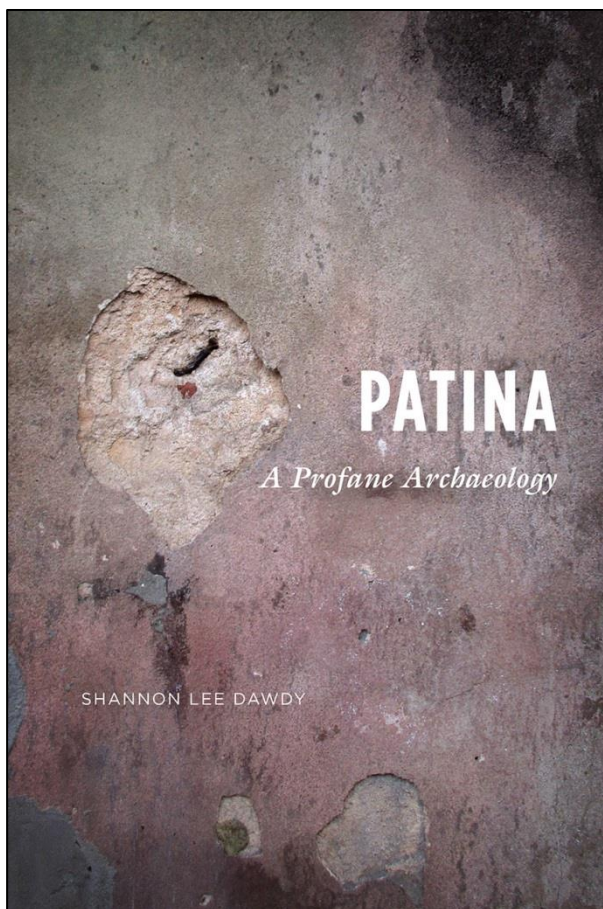
160 pages / 7.00 x 10.00 inches /  
30 halftones, 12 maps, 21 charts  
Ebook available.

Southern History | Archaeology |  
American Native Studies

\$29.95 Hardcover /  
9780807167021 / to be published  
in April 2018 by LSU Press.  
Go to: <https://lsupress.org>



Jeff. Girard, author of *The Caddos and Their Ancestors: Archaeology and the Native People of Northwest Louisiana*



## **PATINA: A PROFANE ARCHAEOLOGY**

By Shannon Lee Dawdy

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, the world reacted with shock on seeing residents of this distinctive city left abandoned to the floodwaters. After the last rescue was completed, a new worry arose—that New Orleans’s unique historic fabric sat in ruins, and we had lost one of the most charming old cities of the New World.

In *Patina*, anthropologist Shannon Lee Dawdy examines what was lost and found through the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. Tracking the rich history and unique physicality of New Orleans, she explains how it came to adopt the nickname “the antique city.” With innovative applications of thing theory, *Patina* studies the influence of specific items—such as souvenirs, heirlooms, and Hurricane Katrina ruins—to explore how the city’s residents use material objects to comprehend time, history, and their connection to one another.

A leading figure in archaeology of the contemporary, Dawdy draws on material evidence, archival and literary texts, and dozens of post-Katrina interviews to explore how the patina aesthetic informs a trenchant political critique. An intriguing study of the power of everyday objects, *Patina* demonstrates how sharing in the care of a historic landscape can unite a city’s population—despite extreme divisions of class and race—and inspire civil camaraderie based on a nostalgia that offers not a return to the past, but an alternative future.



**University of Chicago Press**  
**216 pages | 24 halftones | 6 x 9 |**  
**© 2016**

**Paper \$27.50** ISBN:  
 9780226351193  
 Published May 2016

**Cloth \$82.50** ISBN:  
 9780226351056  
 Published May 2016

**E-book \$27.50**  
 About E-books ISBN:  
 9780226351223  
 Published May 2016

## MEETINGS, FIELDWORK, EXHIBITS, WEBSITES, ETC.



*Landscapes, Entrepôts, and Global Currents*  
**Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) 2018 New Orleans,  
 Louisiana January 3-7, 2018**

The SHA 2018 Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology Committee invites you to New Orleans, Louisiana to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Crescent City.

The 2018 SHA Conference will be held at the New Orleans Marriott, located on Canal Street at the edge of the historic French Quarter. Go to <https://sha.org/conferences> for more information.



**2018 Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS):  
 Celebrating 300 years of New Orleans**

**Comfort Inn and Suites Metairie  
 2601 Severn Avenue, Metairie, LA 70002**

**Friday 2/16/2018 - Executive Committee Meeting/Reception  
 Saturday 2/17/2018 – Presentations, Banquet, Keynote Address  
 Sunday 2/18/2018 – Site tour**

**See page 3 of this newsletter, LAS website, & Facebook page  
 for details and updates.**



**The 2018 Mississippi Archaeological Association** annual meeting will take place in Biloxi, Mississippi, March 2-4, 2018. Hosted by Coastal Environments, Inc., at the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum. There will be an informal reception (location TBA) March 2, presentations and the banquet, March 3, at the museum.

**Hotel:** A block of 40 rooms is available at the Margaritaville Resort Biloxi. Rates are \$139-\$159/night. When making reservations, reference Mississippi Archaeological Association to receive the discounted rate. For room details and directions to the hotel, please visit <https://www.margaritavilleresortbiloxi.com/>

**Call for Papers:** The 2018 MAA meeting call for papers is now open. Presentations limited to 20 minutes and can include all archaeological projects relevant to the state of Mississippi. Please submit a title and abstract to Haley Streuding, [hstreuding@coastalenv.com](mailto:hstreuding@coastalenv.com), no later than February 16, 2018.



**The National Park Service's 2018 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled *Current Archeological Prospection Advances for Non-destructive Investigations of the Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site (16AVI), Louisiana***, will be held May 21--15, 2018, at the Marksville State Historic Site in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana.

The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with on-hands use of the equipment in the field. There is a registration charge of \$475.00. Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center's web page at <http://www.nps.gov/mwac/>

For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873; tel: [\(402\) 437-5392](tel:(402)437-5392), ext. 141; fax: [\(402\) 437-5098](tel:(402)437-5098); email: [steve\\_de\\_vore@nps.gov](mailto:steve_de_vore@nps.gov).

**Louisiana Archaeological Society  
Membership Application and Dues Renewal**

For Year \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category

Regular.....	\$20.00	_____
Associate.....	\$5.00	_____
Student.....	\$12.00	_____
Life.....	\$200.00	_____
Sustaining.....	\$300.00	_____
Institutional (Museums, Libraries, Agencies (etc.) .....	\$20.00	_____
	<b>Subtotal</b>	_____

**Member Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Back Issues of LAS Bulletins are \$8.00, but discounts are available for large orders. Out of print bulletins are available at the LAS website for free download.

#1- 1974 - out of print	#13 - 1986 ( )	#25 - 1998 ( )	#37 - 2010 ( )	#41 - 2014 ( )
#2 - 1975 - out of print	#14 - 1987 ( )	#26 - 1999 ( )	#38 - 2011 ( )	#42 - 2015 ( )
#3 - 1976 - out of print	#15 - 1988 ( )	#27 - 2000 ( )	#39 - 2012 ( )	#43 - 2016 ( )
#4 - 1977 - out of print	#16 - 1989 ( )	#28 - 2001 ( )	#40 - 2013 ( )	
#5 - 1978 - out of print	#17 - 1990 ( )	#29 - 2002 ( )		
#6 - 1979 - out of print	#18 - 1991 ( )	#30 - 2003 ( )		
#7 - 1980 ( )	#19 - 1992 ( )	#31 - 2004 ( )		
#8 - 1981 ( )	#20 - 1993 ( )	#32 - 2005 ( )		
#9 - 1982 ( )	#21 - 1994 ( )	#33 - 2006 ( )		
#10 - 1983 - out of print	#22 - 1995 ( )	#34 - 2007 ( )		
#11 - 1984 ( )	#23 - 1996 ( )	#35 - 2008 ( )		
#12 - 1985 - out of print	#24 - 1997 ( )	#36 - 2009 ( )		
			Subtotal	_____

Special Publications	
#1 Stone Points of NW LA	\$4 ( )
#3 Radiocarbon Dates	\$4 ( )
#4 Petit Anse Project	\$40 ( )

Optional Tax Free Donation:	Roger T. Saucier Memorial Fund _____
Send to:	Membership, Publications, and Donation
<b>Beverly Clement, LAS Treasurer</b>	Total: _____
<b>215 N. Glady's St. Apt. 416</b>	<b>Make Checks Payable to:</b>
<b>Leesville, LA 71446</b>	<b>Louisiana Archaeological Society</b>
<b>www. laarchaeologicalsociety.org</b>	

**Information for Subscribers**

The Newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological 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 LAS 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 editor or authors and do not necessarily reflect society policy.

**Information for Contributors**

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

Dennis Jones, LAS Editor

1801 Ormandy Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70808

[archaeoman.jones@gmail.com](mailto:archaeoman.jones@gmail.com)

Articles should be submitted by email, preferably in Microsoft Word. Digital images are encouraged. Please send in TIF, JPG, or Word format. Contact editor via email with all questions.

**LAS OFFICERS**

President-Brian Ostahowski, New Orleans

Vice President-Jeff Girard, Shreveport

Secretary-Megan Kenney, Baton Rouge

Treasurer-Beverly Clement, Leesville

Editor-Dennis Jones, Baton Rouge

Webmaster-Paul French, Natchitoches



**Editor – Louisiana Archaeological Society**  
1801 Ormandy Dr.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808