

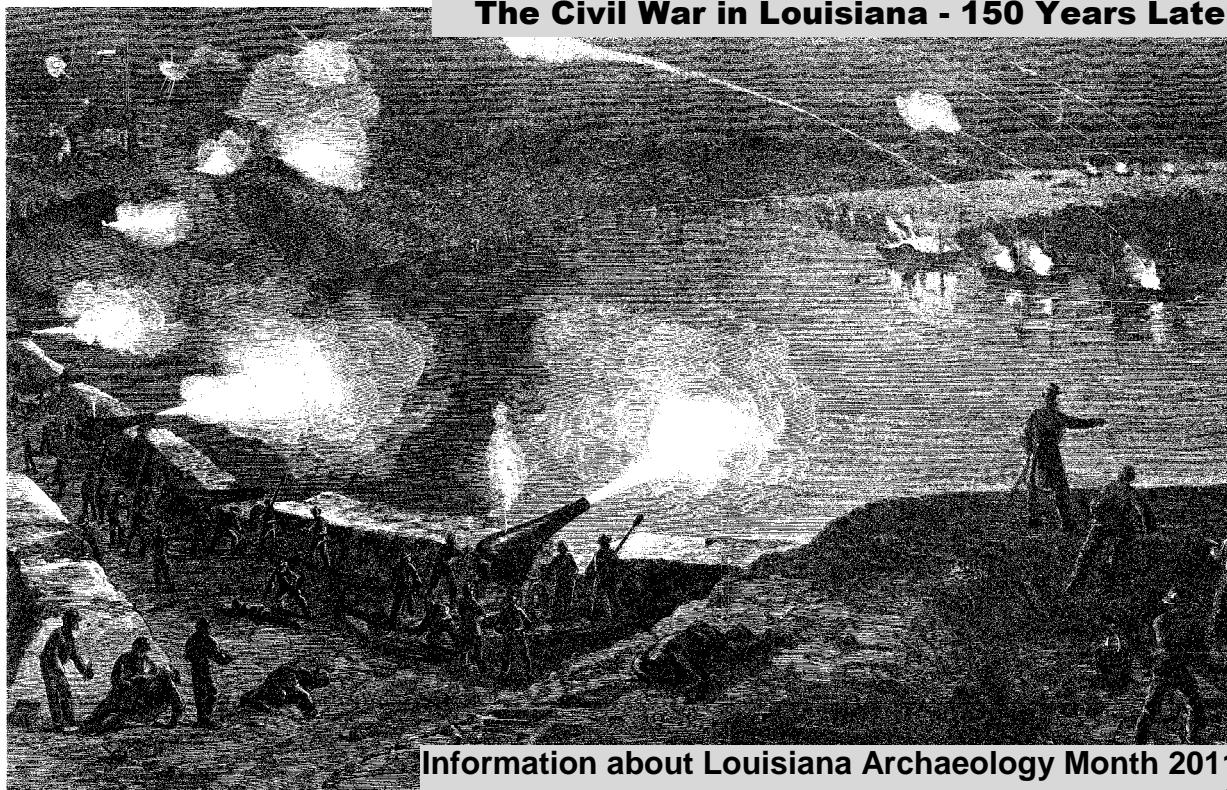


# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall 2011

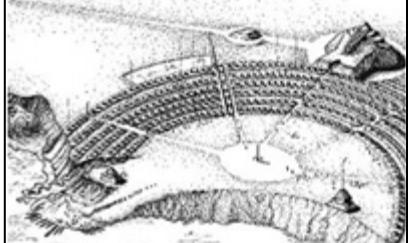
Vol. 39, No. 2

**October is Louisiana Archaeology Month 2011  
The Civil War in Louisiana - 150 Years Later**



Information about Louisiana Archaeology Month 2011  
on page 2

National Park Service  
nominates  
Poverty Point to UNESCO  
as a World Heritage site!!  
See page 5



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**Front Page Illustration:** Bombardment of Port Hudson, Louisiana by Admiral Farragut's Fleet, March 14-15, 1863. Illustration from April 16, 1863, Harper's Weekly. Courtesy of the Louisiana State Library

## Louisiana Archaeology Month 2011

The American Civil War, 1861 to 1865, was the costliest war in our country's history. Louisiana, as an important part of the Confederate States of America, came to be the scene of numerous battles, fortifications, and shipwrecks that are now archaeological sites. With the arrival of the sesquicentennial of that struggle, it is fitting that this conflict be the theme for Louisiana Archaeology Month 2011. There will be special events at Civil War sites in Louisiana, some of which have a very distinctive archaeological component.

The Louisiana Office of State Parks will provide many of the programs with Civil War themes for Louisiana Archaeology Month 2011 with events at **Mansfield State Historic Site**, **Port Hudson State Historic Site**, **Audubon State Historic Site**, **Centenary State Historic Site**, **Forts Randolph and Buhlow** and **Fontainebleau State Park**. Check either the Louisiana Division of Archaeology website or the Office of State Parks website for updates and schedule changes:

[www.crt.state.la.us/archaeology](http://www.crt.state.la.us/archaeology)  
[www.crt.state.la.us/parks/icalendar.aspx](http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/icalendar.aspx)

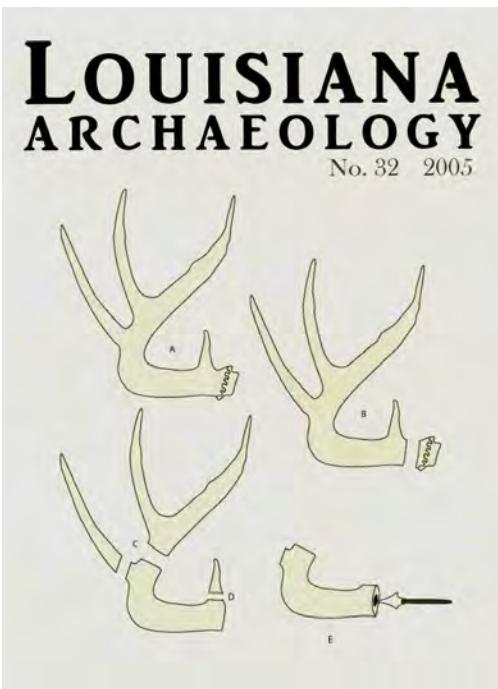
In addition to Civil War themed activities, there will also be other programs that concern archaeological sites or themes in Louisiana. Non Civil War archaeological tours and activities will take place at places like the Marksville State Historic Site, Fort St. John Baptiste State Historic Site, Bogue Chitto State Park, Palmetto Island State Park, Lake Darbonne State Park, and Poverty Point State Historic Site, among other venues. Again, please check the Louisiana Division of Archaeology's website continuously for a complete and up-to-date list of Louisiana Archaeology Month activities: [www.crt.state.la.us/archaeology](http://www.crt.state.la.us/archaeology).

1. Battle of the Head of Passes *October 12, 1861*;
2. Battle of Baton Rouge *August 5, 1862*;
3. Battle of Bayou Bourbeux *November 3, 1863*;
4. Battle of Blair's Landing *April 12–13, 1864*;
5. Battle of Calcasieu Pass *May 6, 1864*;
6. Battle of Donaldsonville I *August 9, 1862*;
7. Battle of Donaldsonville II *June 28, 1863*;
8. Battle of Fort Bisland *April 12–13, 1863*;
9. Battle of Fort De Russy *March 14, 1864*;
10. Battle of Forts Jackson & St. Philip *April 18–28, 1862*;
11. Battle of Georgia Landing *October 27, 1862*;
12. Battle of Goodrich's Landing *June 29 – June 30, 1863*;
13. Battle of Irish Bend *April 14, 1863*
14. Battle of Kock's Plantation *July 12–13, 1863*
15. Battle of LaFourche Crossing *June 20–21, 1863*
16. Battle of Mansfield *April 8, 1864*
17. Battle of Mansura *May 16, 1864*
18. Battle of Milliken's Bend *June 7, 1863*
19. Battle of Monett's Ferry *April 23, 1864*
20. Capture of New Orleans *April 25 - May 1, 1862*
21. Battle of Plains Store *May 21, 1863*
22. Battle of Pleasant Hill *April 9, 1864*
23. Siege of Port Hudson *May 22 to July 9, 1863*
24. Battle of Stirling's Plantation *September 29, 1863*
25. Battle of Vermillion Bayou *April 17, 1863*
26. Battle of Yellow Bayou *May 18, 1864*

## Civil War Battlefields in Louisiana

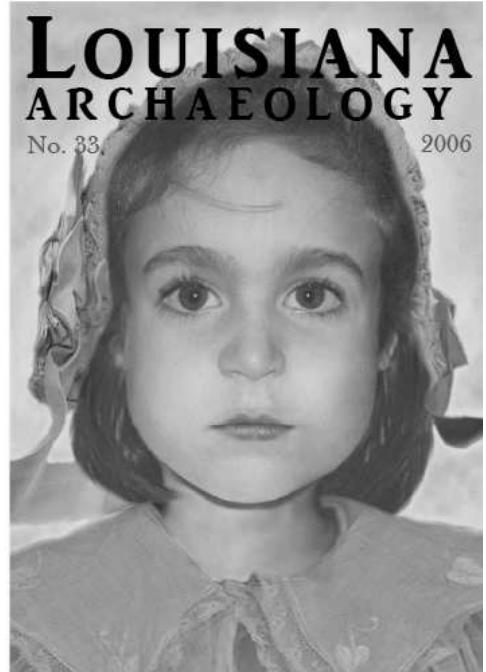


**Students and volunteers work on an LSU archaeological project to pinpoint the location of an ammunition magazine at Federal Battery 8 at the Port Hudson Battlefield.**



The LAS Bulletin, *Louisiana Archaeology*, is still lurching forward in its efforts to get back to the future!! The 2005 bulletin was mailed to folks who were LAS members that year in July, 2011 and many of you received the 2006 bulletin with this newsletter. The 2007 issue of *Louisiana Archaeology* should be available at the LAS annual meeting in Baton Rouge, Feb. 24-26, 2012.

If you think you were a LAS member in '05 or '06, but did not receive your bulletin, feel free to contact me at [archaeoman.jones@gmail.com](mailto:archaeoman.jones@gmail.com)



## 2012 LAS Annual meeting Feb. 24-26



The 2012 Annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) will be held in Baton Rouge, LA on Feb. 24-26, 2012, at the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge. Located at the Acadian Thruway exit of I-10 in Baton Rouge, the Radisson is very obvious with its orange and yellow colors arranged in a striking style. You really can't miss it!!

Details will be available in the next LAS newsletter and on the LAS website. Program chairman is Dennis Jones. If you wish to participate in the meeting's program this year with a presentation or poster, please contact him at [djones@crt.la.gov](mailto:djones@crt.la.gov).

Jeff Girard entertaining the troops in Leesville



The West Louisiana Archaeology Club meets the fourth Monday of every month at the Vernon Parish Library in Leesville, LA. The Aug. 22 meeting hosted Jeff Girard, the NW Regional Archaeologist, as he spoke about the Conly Site (16BI19) that is on the National Register of Historic Places since 2001. An article about Jeff's and others' work at the Conly Site was published in *Louisiana Archaeology* for 2005.

The Central Louisiana Chapter of LAS meets the second Thursday of each month at the Ball Municipal Building on Hwy. 165 north of Ball, La. at 7:00 pm. The following speakers have recently made wonderful presentations:

April-George Avery- *Fort Dolores at St. Augustine, Florida*

May-David Palmer- *Marsh House Slave Quarters at Avery Island*

June-George Riser- *Poverty Point: A UNESCO World Heritage Site*

July- Tim Philips -*Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps in Louisiana*

## Rogers Robert Serpas Sr.



SERPAS Rogers Robert Serpas, Sr., age 78, passed away on Wednesday, July 6, 2011. Beloved husband of Marilyn Loar. Father of Rogers, Jr. and Kent Serpas. Grandfather of Andrew, Riley and Stratton Serpas. Son of the late Marguerite Rogers and Marcel H. Serpas. Brother of Geary M. Serpas. He attended Newman and Behrman High Schools, Louisiana State University, University of New Orleans and served in the Armed Forces. He retired from Union Carbide in 1992 after 21 years of service, was an active member of Sons of the American Revolution, the Los Isleños Heritage and Cultural Society, Sons of Confederate Veteran's Louisiana Division, General Society of the War of 1812 and National Society of the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims [as well as LAS]. A native of Algiers, LA and a resident of Hahnville, LA for the past 39 years.

## Dr. Malcolm Webb

Anthropologist Malcolm Webb died in his home on Saturday, April 23, 2011 shortly after being diagnosed with leukemia. Malcolm was born on August 1, 1935 in Wilmington, DE, the second son of Frank A. Webb III and Sara Coffin Webb. Beginning in the fourth grade, his education took place at The Church Farm School, a boarding school in Glen Loch, PA, where Malcolm was consistently at the top of his class. He displayed a talent for history and geography, especially with regard to classical antiquity. He went on to the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his BA in Anthropology in 1957, and the University of Michigan, where he earned his PhD in Anthropology in 1964. His dissertation, *The Post-classic Decline of the Petén Maya*, was widely cited by later researchers. His research interests encompassed, but were not limited to, the origins of the state, economic anthropology, Southeastern American Indians, the origins of religion, and human evolution. He taught at LSU in Baton Rouge and at Southwestern in Lafayette before coming in 1962 to New Orleans to teach at LSUNO (later UNO). Malcolm was the first anthropologist hired by the university, and in subsequent years he developed the Anthropology program at UNO, where he remained until his retirement in 1999, continuing to teach the occasional class until Hurricane Katrina. He was chairman of the Anthropology Department for most of that time.

Devoted to UNO and its students, Malcolm was tireless in recruiting Anthropology majors, a number of whom went on to earn PhDs in top Anthropology programs. Malcolm Webb was a devout Christian and a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church. His faith was fundamental to his life and worldview. He was a Biblical scholar with an encyclopedic knowledge of church history and theology. From the time of his arrival in New Orleans he attended Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, now The Chapel of the Holy Comforter. He was active as a lay reader, Sunday school teacher, usher, and vestry member, and at the time of his death was on the Advisory Board. Books were the fabric from which Malcolm Webb's life was woven. Although he did not learn to read until the age of nine, from that time on he was rarely seen without a book. Among his favorite nonfiction authors were William H. McNeill and Will Durant. His tastes in fiction were wide-ranging; he particularly enjoyed mystery, horror, fantasy, and perhaps most of all, children's literature. Among his favorite authors were Chaucer, Shakespeare, Dickens, Agatha Christie, Tony Hillerman, H.P. Lovecraft, C.S. Lewis, Lewis Carroll, J.K. Rowling, L. Frank Baum, and Edith Nesbit. Malcolm Webb was a kind, gentle man who loved pigs, jokes and ghost stories. Malcolm is survived by his wife Nancy, his sons Michael, Peter (Pat), Joel (Siriwan), and his grandchildren Jennifer, Joanna, and Carl, as well as Panda, Scooter, Saki, Sherman, and his special favorite, Ivan.



[www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov)OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
**U.S. Department  
of the Interior**

**Editor's Note:** This is a copy of a press release that the U.S. Dept. of Interior issued in July 2011. It is a major step in the journey for Poverty Point site getting the recognition it deserves-the World Heritage List.

# News Release

## Salazar Proposes Poverty Point, Frank Lloyd Wright Buildings for World Heritage List Nominations

WASHINGTON - Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today announced he will propose the prehistoric earthworks of **Poverty Point** in Louisiana and a collection of Frank Lloyd Wright buildings to be considered as U.S. nominations for the United Nations' World Heritage List.

The list, administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, recognizes cultural and natural sites of universal importance such as the Grand Canyon in Arizona, the Taj Mahal in India, and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

"World Heritage Sites are unique places of natural beauty and historic and cultural importance that are celebrated by people of all nations," Salazar said. "The remarkable prehistoric earthworks of **Poverty Point** connect us to those who inhabited our land thousands of years ago, while the buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright are a testament to one of the world's foremost architectural geniuses. They deserve to be recognized as World Heritage Sites."

"Designation as a World Heritage Site is how the international community shines a bright light on the places that should be special to all of us," said National Park Service Jonathan B. Jarvis. "For the United States, our nominations are a way to share what we value as a people, the places that define our society. That so many national parks have been honored with this distinction is high praise to the American people who set these places aside for all to cherish for all time."

The Department of the Interior will consult with the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage in making a final decision on the submission of nominations to the World Heritage List.

The final decision on inclusion on the list will be made by the World Heritage Committee, composed of representatives from 21 nations and advised by the International Council on Monuments and Sites. The U.S. nominations will likely be formally nominated to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2013, for possible inclusion on the World Heritage List in 2014.

**Poverty Point** State Historic Site and National Monument in Louisiana has an extensive collection of prehistoric earthworks constructed 3,100-3,700 years ago. The vast complex of structures, including an integrated complex of earthen mounds, enormous concentric ridges, and a large plaza, may be the largest hunter-gatherer settlement that ever existed.

# Company donates site to conservancy

May 12, 2011, The News Star, Monroe, LA, by Stacy Temple, stemple@thenewsstar.com

A piece of Ouachita Parish history will be preserved for years to come thanks to the generous donation of a gas company. Cadeville Gas Storage LLC., a subsidiary of Cardinal Gas Storage Partners, recently deeded 30 acres of land known as the Plum Creek Archaic Site (16OU172) to The Archaeological Conservancy. Plum Creek is south of West Monroe in Ouachita Parish. The site is already registered with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and has been excavated several times by officials with the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Gary Stringer, the head of the department of atmospheric science, Earth science and physics, said the announcement is great news for the area because it will allow the unique site to be preserved. "This is wonderful because this means we will be able to preserve it," Stringer, said. "It will be fenced in so we can do future studies." Past archaeological investigations and radio carbon dates have determined that Native Americans were living at the Plum Creek site as long as 5,400 years ago.

The Plum Creek site is a Middle Archaic Period (ca. 3500 B.C.) site, and the area is named after a timber company that once owned the land. The archeological site was discovered by Bryan Davis and later investigated by Louisiana regional archaeologists Joe Saunders and Reca Bamberg-Jones in 1997.

The site differs from the Watson Brake Mound site, even though the two are near of each other. The Watson Brake site has mounds whereas the Plum Creek site does not, officials said. Stringer said the Plum Creek site is believed to have been a hunting and fishing camp of sorts for Native Americans who inhabited it. More than 200 baked clay objects were recovered from the area. These objects are made of clay that had been heated hard in a fire. The objects are believed to have lined cooking surfaces and fire pits. The site also is covered in fire-cracked rock, an exploded stone used in cooking. Fire-cracked rock is common on archaeological sites of this time period, officials said. "There is an abundance of fish remains, snails and mussels there," Stringer said. "This makes us think Plum Creek was probably a camp. It has no mounds, but a really rich midden. In it, we found all types of remains." Cardinal Gas Storage Partners has proposed to construct Cadeville Gas Storage in a depleted underground reservoir in Ouachita Parish. The business is already constructing two new salt cavern natural gas storage facilities, one in Franklin Parish and the other in Bienville Parish.

Jessica Crawford, southeast regional director for The Archaeological Conservancy, said the donation ensures the Plum Creek site will remain intact and the studies will continue to yield valuable information about the people who once occupied the land. "We have known about this and the important information it holds for several years," Crawford said. "It has always been our hope that it would be preserved. This is a great gift to future generations, and a perfect example of business and conservationists working together."

The Archaeological Conservancy is prepared to hold the title indefinitely and will make the site available to professional researchers, Crawford said. The Archaeological Conservancy will make all findings and information public.

The Archaeological Conservancy is a nationwide, nonprofit organization specializing in preserving archeological resources. The conservancy currently owns more than 400 sites all over the country, including 16 sites in Louisiana such as the Lower Jackson Mound on Bayou Macon near Poverty Point and the Gibson Mound in Terrebonne Parish.



Example of geometric shaped baked clay objects recovered from the Plum Creek site (16OU172).  
Source: *American Archaeology*, magazine of the Archaeological Conservancy.



## NSU anthropology professor at head of the class after 50 years

Alexandria Town Talk, August 10, 2011

NATCHITOCHES -- A one-year appointment has turned into a 50-year career at Northwestern State University for Professor of Anthropology Hiram F. "Pete" Gregory. "I'm pleased to have been able to be here for such a length of time," said Gregory, who began working at Northwestern on Sept. 15, 1961.

"I am grateful to have good health and to have so many good friends over the years. I came here when I was 23 as a temporary instructor and planned to go back to LSU for graduate school. I liked it here, then a position opened up in anthropology and geography, and I stayed."

He is believed to be the longest-serving employee in Northwestern's 127-year history, working at the institution for almost 40 percent of its tenure. Gregory has taught thousands of students who have gone on to become anthropologists, archeologists, nurses, teachers, businesspeople, professionals and even university presidents. "Having had the good fortune of taking anthropology under Dr. Gregory when I was a student at Northwestern, I can attest to his teaching excellence and caring concern for students," said NSU President Randall J. Webb.

"But his influence extends far beyond the walls of Northwestern, to include work with professional organizations, colleagues in the field and constituent groups in need of information or assistance. He is an exceptional professional and person, and Northwestern is a far better place for his presence on our faculty and faithful service for 50 years. It will be even better if he remains a pillar of this fine university for many years to come."

Gregory grew up in Ferriday, and from an early age, he was drawn to the field of anthropology and archaeology. "I grew up with an interest in American Indians due to a long family connection, and I was able to see things and meet people from different backgrounds so I was getting an avocational education in both fields," he said.

Gregory earned a bachelor's in anthropology and a master's in geography at LSU. He later received a master's and doctorate in anthropology from SMU. After graduating from LSU, Gregory learned about a job at Northwestern.

Being just 23 initially had some disadvantages for Gregory. One spring, "I went to the bookstore to pick up my cap and gown for commencement, and one of the staff in the bookstore told me to be careful and not drop or wrinkle Mr. Gregory's cap and gown." He said the rewarding part of the job is working with students and people of different backgrounds and cultures.

"I like what I do. The students have been really good," said Gregory. "They have been an amazing bunch. Our students are as good as I could have anywhere, and they have gone on to do remarkable things. There is no other place I could go to and find so many distinctive cultures including American Indians, Creoles and Hispanics, African-Americans and Anglos," he said. "Anthropology has a message. We live in a multicultural world, and you have to understand people of different cultures and backgrounds. By living in Natchitoches, you can experience that every day."

## Oil spill cleanup turns up trove of Indian relics

CAIN BURDEAU, Associated Press, July 18, 2011, Baton Rouge Morning Advocate

CAMINADA HEADLAND, La. (AP) — Cleanup after the BP oil spill has turned up dozens of sites where archaeologists are finding human and animal bones, pottery and primitive weapons left behind by pre-historic Indian settlements — a trove of new clues about the Gulf Coast's mound dwellers more than 1,300 years ago. But they also fear the remains could be damaged by oil or lost to erosion before they can be fully studied.

So far, teams of archaeologists hired by the oil giant have visited more than 100 sites and sent back a growing list of finds to labs for radiocarbon dating and other tests, though extensive excavations haven't been done. Scholars have also accompanied cleanup crews to make sure they don't unwittingly throw away relics. The disaster that began when the Deepwater Horizon exploded in April of 2010 has highlighted the urgent need to protect the sites, but a government scientist says neither their discovery — nor the money to study them — would have come as quickly without the spill.

"We're filling in gaps. There is some pioneering archaeological work going on as a result of the oil spill," said Larry Murphy, lead archeologist for a council of government agencies and trustees overseeing the oil cleanup. He said uncovering the sites, many of them prehistoric, represents "a great leap in cumulative knowledge" about Native Americans in coastal Louisiana, who have been less studied than their counterparts in other regions.

Still, the oil represents an added threat to an area that already was under siege from land loss and rising sea levels. Oil has contaminated some artifacts and can interfere with radiocarbon dating, a primary technique for determining the age of an object. Many shores are still scattered with tar balls.

Louisiana's state archaeologist, Charles McGimsey, said the extent of the oil damage to artifacts isn't known, but he doesn't expect it to be disastrous. The Associated Press was given a rare glimpse of several sites in June during a guided tour of the Caminada Headland by land warden and amateur archaeologist Forrest Travirca III. The beaches are closed to the public, and the locations of archaeological sites are being closely guarded to prevent looting.

Prehistoric artifacts had been found and recorded on the headland before the spill, but not to the extent now being done. Travirca began finding more of them while keeping watch for BP's black oil last summer on a remote stretch of beach that looks onto the silhouettes of oil rigs and platforms. The headland was one of the hardest-hit spots.

"I was walking on marine shell, rangia clam shell, walking out on a point I know, when I looked down, found a pot sherd, and then I started finding more and more," Travirca recalled. Travirca, of coastal Louisiana Indian heritage himself, works for the Wisner Foundation, a New Orleans-based public land trust that owns vast tracts of the headland. He's also a member of the Louisiana Archeological Society, and has submitted his research to it.

Travirca believes many artifacts he's finding come from middens, or mounds where families lived and buried their dead. Perhaps, he says, some of the dwellings were built along a meandering bayou that's been lost to sea level rise and land loss. Many artifacts appear to be washing in.

Archaeologists say the sites date to around 700 A.D., well before the earliest known European contact in the 1500s. Remains of larger Indian villages are known to have existed further inland, which would make the sites here more like a suburban neighborhood, he theorized. "To me it would have been like a small subdivision," Travirca said as he walked the sands and looked for artifacts. "You would have had three, four family units, huts; the women making pottery, the men making (weapon) points."

As he walked, pointing out tar balls left over from the BP spill, his eyes scanned the beach, awash in driftwood and trash from oil platforms and shrimp boats — hard hats, propane tanks, a tied-up trash bag full of waste from an offshore kitchen. Amid the debris, he spotted something. He leaned over and picked up what looked like a piece of brown wood.

Continued from previous page



Gerald Herbert / ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Forrest Travirca III looks at an ancient pottery sherd he found as he walks along Port Fourchon Beach searching for artifacts from Pre-historic American-Indian settlements in Caminada Headland, La., Tuesday, June 28, 2011. The sites were discovered last summer during the intense cleanup of the headland's beaches after the BP oil spill. Since then, archaeologists have found human and animal bones, fragments of pottery, primitive weapons and other items scattered over the beaches here. Archaeologists say the sites date to at least 700 A.D., well before European contact in the 1500s.

"That's a piece of pottery," he said, inspecting the smooth curved fragment in his hands. "You see this piece has been in the water a while. You see that barnacle right there."

So far, archeologists have limited their examination to the surface of the sites here, scouring the beaches at low tides. They have found deer antlers that probably were used as spear heads, decorated pieces of pottery and gar fish scales that might have been used as darts. Human bones have been reburied in keeping with the wishes of the Chitimacha tribe, which has links to the ancient settlements.

Richard Weinstein, an archaeologist who specializes in coastal Louisiana Indians, said sites have been documented on the headland since the 1950s. He has reviewed artifacts and evidence gathered since the BP spill. He said the preponderance of deer bones and antlers found since the spill is fascinating because it indicates the area was once forested with ridges.

"The fact that the Indians in the area were hunting deer to the extent that these guys did makes it very interesting because the coast we have there today is busted-up marsh," he said. "There aren't that many stands of trees and vegetation left." He said coastal Louisiana is covered in Indian mounds that were organized around a complex society. He also says they could have stretched onto land that's now offshore. "We're not talking about a bunch of hunters and gatherers who didn't know what they were doing," he said.

BP and the archaeologists it hired through the consulting firm HDR Inc. declined to comment. They referred questions to state and federal officials. McGimsey, the Louisiana state archaeologist, said he would like to map good sites more thoroughly and excavate where possible. Archeologists with the government BP and tribal organizations are trying to figure out what steps to take next.

As part of its responsibilities to clean up the oil spill, BP is paying for laboratory work to identify and preserve artifacts. Under the law, BP is required to restore the ecosystem it has damaged, but there is no provision to force companies to restore archaeological sites damaged by a spill, McGimsey said. However, BP has been required to make sure the cleanup does not damage archeological sites, he said.

"Whenever the cleanup crews go out there, shoveling up tar balls, archeologists go out there to make sure artifacts aren't thrown away," he said. With erosion eating away at south Louisiana, Travirca said it was urgent to preserve and investigate the ancient cultures that lived here. In many other places, coastal sites have been lost to the Gulf. "We've lost insights into the who, the why, the where of these people," Travirca said, as he walked the beach on the lookout for artifacts. "Extremely little work has been done in coastal Louisiana. We've just touched the surface."

## Archaeologists give tentative name to shipwreck

By Wes Helbling, Bastrop Daily Enterprise, August 1, 2011

BASTROP — Professional archaeologists may have finally solved the mystery behind a sunken steamboat in Bayou Bartholomew that has intrigued local residents for decades.

Dennis Jones with the state Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, Division of Archaeology and Allen Saltus Jr. with Archaeological Research Inc. conducted the first formal study of the site Friday.

As a result of their work, the sunken vessel can now be confirmed as a steamboat and will be recorded with the state archaeologist's office.

The shipwreck had been exposed for a few weeks during the recent drought. By Friday, the boat was once again submerged and buried in sand.

Jones and Saltus determined the boat's dimensions -- close to 150 feet long and up to 17 feet wide -- by marking the unseen perimeter with metal probes and then mapping it in sections via tape measure and graph.

In addition to the size, Saltus, who specializes in underwater archaeology, found several hidden clues that may help identify the boat.

"This vessel shows evidence of burning," he said, noting a charred piece of cross planking that has become detached from the hull. Evidence of burning has caused past visitors to wonder if this could be the Jim Barkman, which was captured and burned by U.S. Col. E.D. Osband in 1865. Saltus noted the wreck is too large to be the Barkman, which only measured 93 feet in length.

Saltus found the possible ruins of a metal boiler midship, and evidence at the stern to indicate this was a sternwheel boat. That rules out another proposed candidate, the Bastrop, which was a side-wheeler.

We've eliminated those two boats," said Saltus. "Based on preliminary observations, I would say it fits the Big Horn."

According to published records, the Big Horn was a 312-ton sternwheeler built in New Albany, Ind. in 1865. Measuring 152 feet in length, the Big Horn sank in Bayou Bartholomew in 1873 after its lime cargo caught fire.

Enterprise writer Paul Rawson, who visited the sunken boat in 1980 and became the first to document it, listed the Big Horn as one of several sinkings recorded by Capt. Elisha Austin and published in the Monroe Bulletin in 1881. Austin had not recorded the locations of any of the sunken boats he named.

Rawson writes of the Big Horn, "Since this was such a large boat it would be especially interesting to find the remains, although the resultant acids [from the lime] may have destroyed most of the boat."

Saltus emphasized the Big Horn is still a tentative candidate. Friday's data and collected artifacts will be used in further historical research.

Regional Archaeologist Dr. Joe Saunders and Poverty Point Assistant Station Archaeologist Fran Hamilton accompanied the team to the site.

"It's a different kind of archaeology," said Saunders, who specializes in terrestrial studies. "The state does try to record these sites. They've provided important documentation that will help to protect [the boat] and maybe lead to future work here."



**This square-shaped nail is one of a handful of artifacts collected from a sunken steamboat in Bayou Bartholomew on Friday [7/29/2011] to be used in further research.**



**Dennis Jones (left) and Alan Saltus look over remains of steamboat wreck in Bayou Bartholomew, 7/29/2011.**

## A Plaquemine Brushed vessel from the Riddle Mounds (16WF4)

By Chip McGimsey and Charlie Bollich

The Riddle mound group (16WF4) is situated along the banks of Thompson Creek in West Feliciana Parish. It was first described by Dr. George Beyer (1896:26) as a group of five mounds, all of them apparently flat-topped pyramidal forms, although of varying sizes. Beyer excavated into two of the mounds, including the largest mound. Here he found three burials, one of which had a “plain Indian type” pipe; he concluded that these burials were intrusive into the mound and did not represent the original constructors. Other than the pipe, he did not report any artifacts.

More recently, the site was surveyed by Jones and Shuman (1986), and only one mound remained (believed to Beyer’s Mound 4). The others had been destroyed either by cultivation or by borrowing for construction fill for the Illinois Central Railroad spur that runs along the east side of the site. The site was also visited by Southeast Regional Archaeologist Chris Hays (1997) who under-took some limited shovel testing around the remaining mound. Although no diagnostic artifacts were recovered during this effort, tabulation of surface collections curated at the LSU Museum of Natural Science identified Late Archaic, Marksville and Cole Creek components.

Charlie Bollich visited this site several times during the 1950s and 1960s. He noted the presence of three mounds, interpreted as Beyer’s Mounds 1, 4 and 5. Bollich’s field notes for 2 November 1957 indicate a sixth possible mound may have been located just west of Mound 1 along the bluff edge but had been destroyed by construction of a nearby gravel-washing machine. This mound does not appear on Beyer’s map. In a subsequent 1958 visit, he notes that nearly all of the area east of Mound 1 and south of the two big mounds (Mounds 4 and 5) “has been greatly altered by dredging operations for gravel”. He also noted

a possible stained earth midden around Mound 1. Bollich’s artifact collections (now curated at the Division of Archaeology) include some incised sherds with Marksville-like lines, but the majority of decorated ceramics reflect a Coles Creek and Plaquemine occupation (Plaquemine Brushed, Maddox Engraved, Harrison Bayou Incised, Coles Creek Incised, French Fork Incised and Mazique Incised [McGimsey 2005]).

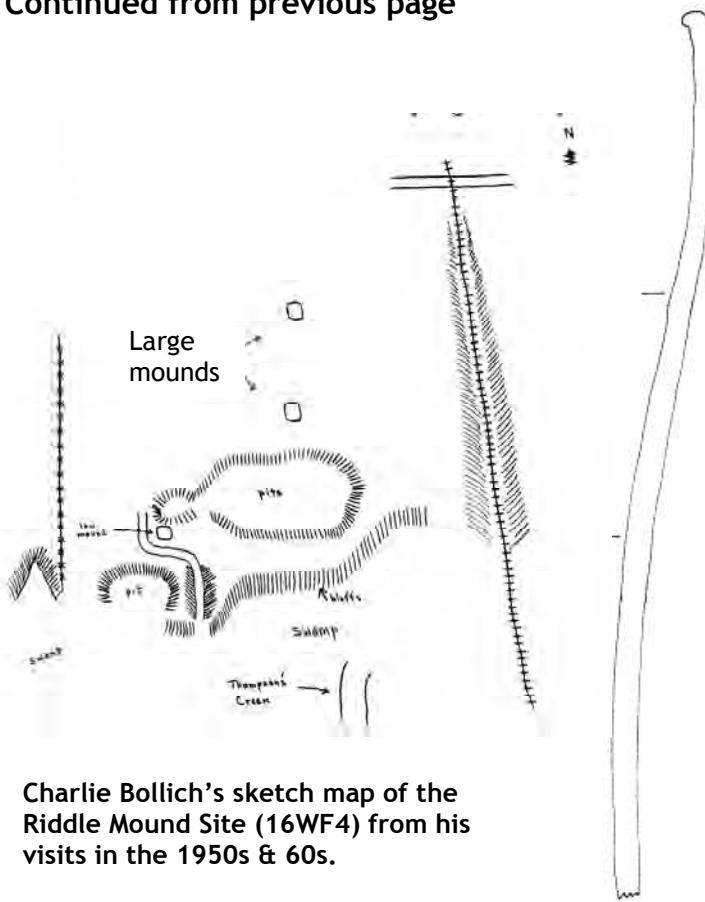
During a visit on March 24, 1967, Bollich recovered a substantial section of a Plaquemine Brushed vessel from an eroding cut. This cut lay about 75 m south-southeast of the two large mounds and was about 1.0-1.15 m high. This cut was apparently made during construction of the railroad spur. The vessel section was found about 30 cm below the ground surface, apparently in the “upper subsoil”.

The vessel section is part of a large open-mouth jar. The rim diameter is approximately 24 cm, and the body diameter at its widest point is 28 cm. This vessel section presents a substantial view of the overall brushed design. The rim is rounded, plain and just slightly bent outward. A series of oblique brush strokes begin immediately below the lip and covers the upper half of the decorated zone; the brushing is done with a 4-tine brush approximately 7 mm wide. Below that, a zone of similar width exhibits horizontal brush strokes using the same tool. This horizontal brushed zone is overlaid by paired brush strokes placed at an oblique angle. One final horizontal brush stroke defines the base of the brushed zone. Immediately below the brushed zone a series of regularly spaced irregular to semi-triangular punctates approximately 4 mm in width form a horizontal line that defines the base of the decorated zone. Below this, the vessel exterior is smoothed.

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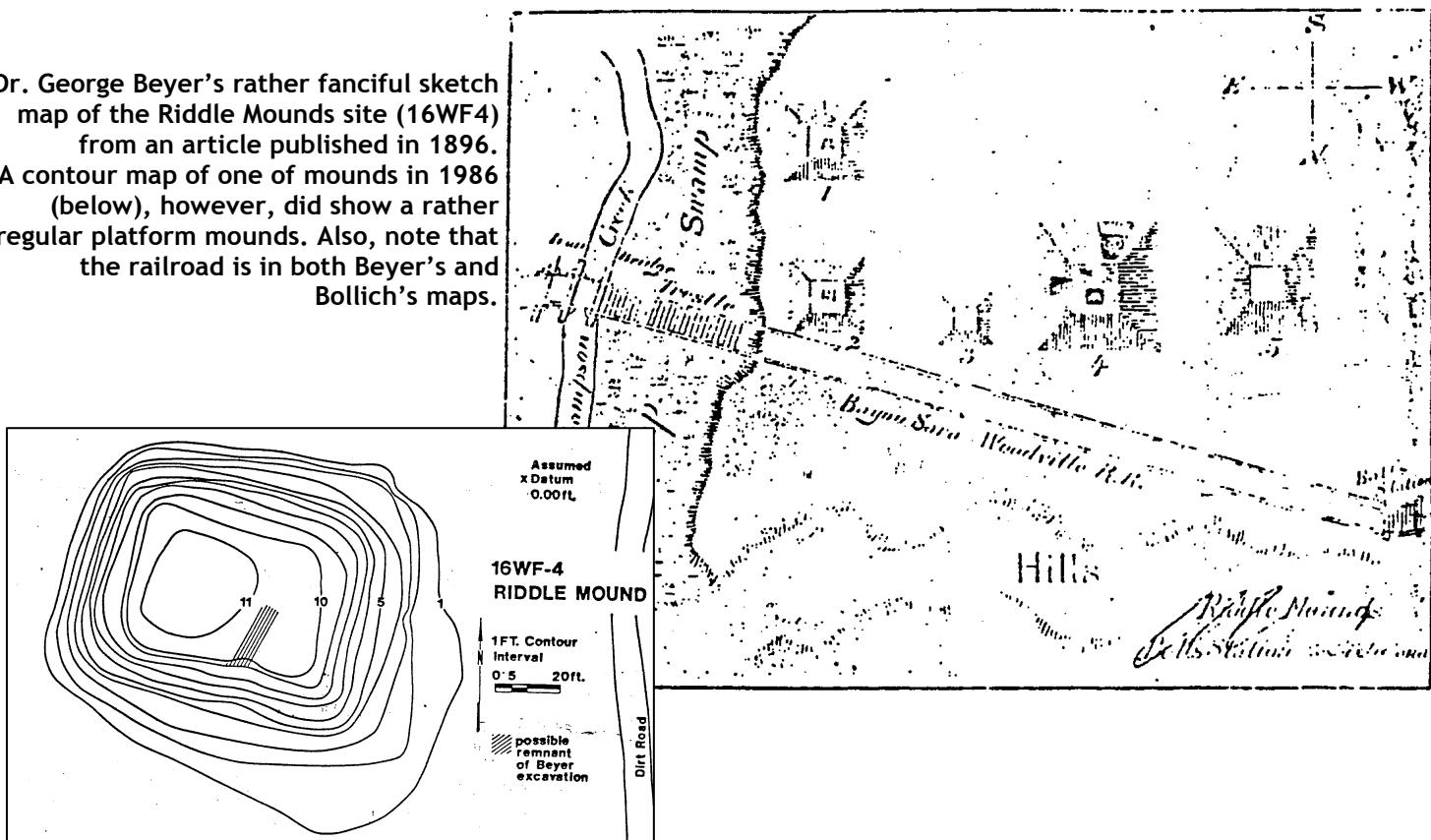


Charlie Bollich's sketch map of the Riddle Mound Site (16WF4) from his visits in the 1950s & 60s.



Photograph of portion of Plaquemine Brushed vessel collected by Charlie Bollich from the Riddle Mound site in 1967.

Dr. George Beyer's rather fanciful sketch map of the Riddle Mounds site (16WF4) from an article published in 1896. A contour map of one of mounds in 1986 (below), however, did show a rather regular platform mounds. Also, note that the railroad is in both Beyer's and Bollich's maps.



## RECENTLY DISCOVERED PREHISTORIC MOUNDS IN ST. BERNARD PARISH

By Richard S. Fuller, Coastal Environments, Inc. & Barry R. Wharton, HDR, Inc.

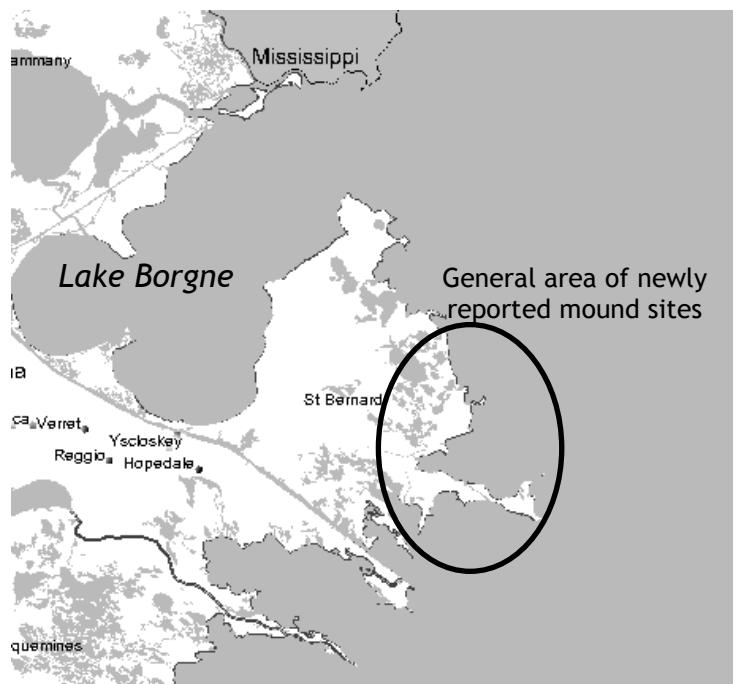
As part of the response efforts following the Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill Event, BP's archaeologists lead by HDR, Inc. and its subcontractors—Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI), Earth Search, Inc. (ESI), Geo-Marine, Inc., MRS Consultants, LLC, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) and Wiregrass Archaeological Consulting, LLC—conducted a series of cultural resource surveys and monitoring missions along the northern Gulf Coast. These missions were performed in conjunction with shoreline cleanup assessments in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and northwestern Florida.

An important part of this effort has been the use of high-resolution satellite imagery. While reviewing those images for eastern St. Bernard Parish, HDR archaeologists Alvin Banguilan (Project Lead) and Laura Dreibelbis detected what appear to be two previously unrecorded mound sites, since designated Acorn Mounds (16SB185) and Live Oak Bayou Mounds (16SB186). The images for each of these locales seem to show three circular features delineated by distinctive changes in vegetation. For the Live Oak Bayou locale, the photo shows another small, faint circular feature in the terrain between the western and northern rises that might represent a fourth rise.

Subsequent archival and historical map research by HDR archaeologist Barry Wharton and CEI archaeologists Thurston Hahn, Rich Weinstein and Richard Fuller provided support for the interpretation of these locales as probable prehistoric mound complexes. A Louisiana Coastal Topographic sheet (T-sheet) from 1859 depicts three circular elevations, together labeled "Acorn Mound," in the precise location, arrangement and orientation as the features shown in the satellite image. Another T-sheet, dated 1857, shows a geodetic survey station in the area near Live Oak Bayou where the satellite imagery indicated a second set of three circular features. Although the sheet doesn't show any actual mounds, it's likely that the station was set on top of a relatively high spot that stood out from the surrounding low marsh.

The original 1845 plat maps for the two locales provide additional evidence that these features are cultural and probably prehistoric in origin. With the kindly assistance of Brandi Newman of the Louisiana Division of Administration, Office of State Lands, Barry Wharton located the original field notes for these surveys.

In 1845, GLO deputy surveyors E.D. Richardson and A.J. Howell noted a "Mound of Live Oaks" on the north bank of Live Oak Bayou during their traverse of a small distributary of the bayou. Then, while running another traverse line along the north bank of Live Oak Bayou itself, they described "two small shell mounds here ... [with] Live oak trees on them small." Two versions of the 1845 plat for this location show these were in the immediate vicinity of the three features we're referring to as the Live Oak Bayou Mounds. They support the theory that one of those mounds was the subsequent location of the geodetic station shown on the 1857 T-sheet. The Live Oak Bayou Mounds Locale has yet to be surveyed, although the features have been photographed from the bayou.



Approximately 3.5 miles south, during their traverse along the north bank of an unnamed bayou (possibly a distributary of Martinbox Bayou), Richardson and Howell noted another mound in the same township. Their field notes describe a "mound & trees" on the south bank. Their accompanying plat showed this was in the vicinity of the three features labeled "Acorn Mound" on the 1859 T-sheet.

An on-the-ground survey and shovel testing investigation by HDR archaeologist Shawn Fackler and ESI archaeologist Dan Leard provides further evidence that the Acorn Mounds are cultural in origin. High resolution satellite photography for this area had revealed the presence of three circular features approximately 150 m inland from Keelboat Pass and about 25 m from the southeastern shoreline of the unnamed bayou. During the mission, the team performed a pedestrian survey of the shoreline in the vicinity of the Acorn Mounds locale. They then continued their survey inland to inspect the potential mounds and perform limited subsurface testing on each of the features.

The visual inspection indicated the rises are not natural geomorphological features and are likely to be the tops of prehistoric mounds. Currently, each is approximately 20 m in diameter and rises approximately 50 cm above the surrounding marsh surface. Undoubtedly, the greater portions of these mounds have subsided, leaving only the slight elevations evident today. Each is densely covered with black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*), which doesn't grow anywhere else on the surrounding marsh.

The team excavated a single shovel test in the center of each mound to inspect the subsurface soils for possible cultural resources. The shovel tests were excavated to the water table, which was reached at a depth of 50 cm below the surface. No cultural material was encountered during the subsurface testing; however, the shovel tests in the eastern and western mounds revealed two distinct soil layers. The top layer was natural marsh silt, very dark gray in color. The bottom layer consisted of light brown clayey soil. The shovel test in the eastern mound

## Continued from previous page

revealed the change from dark gray marsh soil to the light brown soil occurred approximately 20 cm below the surface. The western mound shovel test encountered the light-brown clayey soil at 40 cm below the surface. The subsurface of the southern mound consisted entirely of fine gray marsh deposits to at least 50 cm below the surface, beyond the point where water flooded the shovel test. Thus, the light brown clayey soil, if present in this location, is presumed to have subsided to a depth below the current water table.

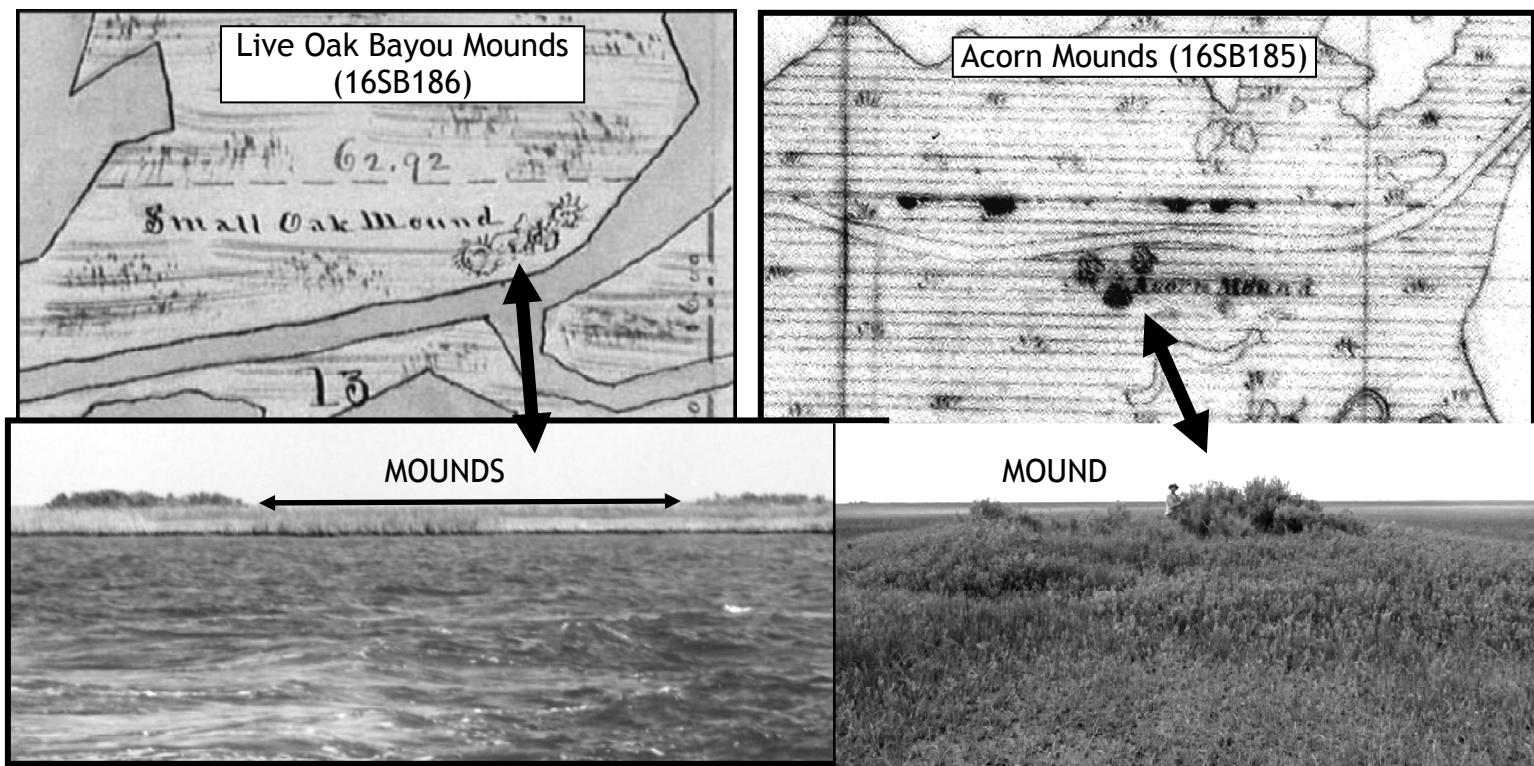
These newly recorded sites are located on two different branches of the former La Loutre distributary channel and are associated with the La Loutre lobe of the St. Bernard delta complex (Gagliano 1984; Saucier 1994; Wiseman et al. 1979). The lobe is believed to have been active as early as 3000 to 4500 years ago. Archaeological sites associated with it typically date to Tchefuncte or later

(Wiseman, et al. 1979). However, the majority of the recorded sites associated with the eastern portion of the La Loutre lobe feature Late Marksville, Coles Creek, or Mississippian components. Sites so far identified in the vicinity of the Acorn Mounds and Live Oak Bayou Mounds have yielded predominately Late Marksville (Magnolia phase) and Coles Creek (Bayou Ramos and Bayou Cutler phase) pottery.

Although no artifacts have been reported for the two sites so far, existing archaeological and geomorphological data for this part of the La Loutre distributary system suggest they may date ca. A.D. 200-1000. Interestingly, during that time period, ceramics from this region tend to show ever increasing interactions with and influences from coastal cultures in southern Alabama and northwestern Florida. In fact, a sherd of Wakulla Check Stamped, a type considered to be a marker of Weeden Island culture to the east, was recovered from an shell midden located on Keelboat Pass about 150 m east of the Acorn Mounds.

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Historic maps showing the locations of two newly rediscovered Indian mound sites, 16SB185 & 16SB186, in the marshes of St. Bernard Parish, as well as recent field photographs of some of the mounds. The Google Earth images that led to rediscovery of these mounds unfortunately do not reproduce well in black and white, and are not presented here.

## Kisatchie Ranger District, Kisatchie National Forest, Natchitoches Parish

By Geoffrey R. Lehmann, Kisatchie Ranger District, [glehmann@fs.fed.us](mailto:glehmann@fs.fed.us)

August 2011. If there was a theme here it might be “The Year of the Fire Tower” for the Kisatchie Ranger District (KRD) of the Kisatchie National Forest (KNF). First the Kisatchie Fire Tower was accepted on the National Historic Lookout Register and the Red Dirt Fire Tower was accepted on the Former Fire Lookout Register. After completing our timber management related surveys we turned our attention to recording the two tower locations as archeological sites.

The Kisatchie Fire Tower (ca. 1952) once had a residence for the lookout, but was removed after aerial detection supplanted the towers about 1982. The Youth Conservation Corps constructed a multi-purpose building on site in 1976. The District is in the slow process of replacing rotting wooden steps and cab interior with *in-kind* materials. We intensively shovel tested the 2.5 acre compound with the help of District Heritage Resource Technician Jonathan O’Gorman and had it mapped by the District’s new engineering technician, Darrell Mills.

The Red Dirt Fire Tower was built by CCC Camp 1491 in 1937. The fire tower was dismantled and removed to Ft. Sill as an observation tower in 1983. The CCC established a “side camp” at the tower site. Our intensive shovel testing over about 12 acres revealed somewhat more construction at the side camp than we had anticipated, suggesting a resident population unlike the temporary one at the Fullerton Fire Tower Site in Vernon Parish. Our work was aided by last fall’s Wrangler Fire, a lightning started wildfire, which cleared a good bit of the massive understory and provided a substantial impetus for conducting work there.

We covered some 250 acres of timber management surveys, primarily in Compartment 58 on the southwest side of the District. We also surveyed about 4.5 miles of fire lines in the rugged southeast corner of the district, and recorded the remnants of what appear to be a portable sawmill operation on Red Creek. We also made some significant updates to the District site files, building on several seasons of upgrades, and began to correct numerous errors in the KNF electronic database.

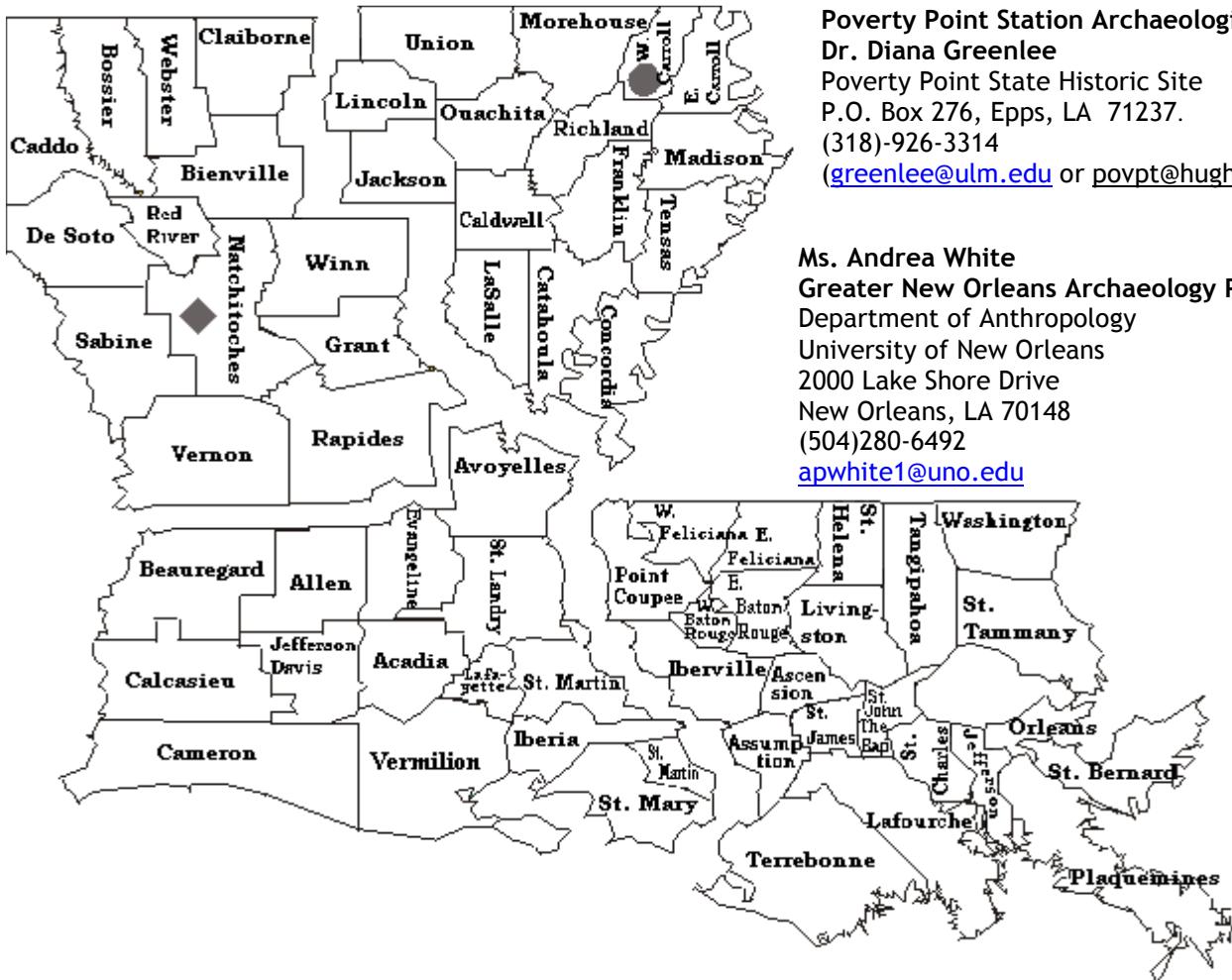
This summer the KRD hired 3 archeological aides to assist in a dedicated field survey season. J.D. Cox from NSU, Jennifer Hopkins from ULL, and Jennifer Stevens from LSU spent 10 weeks shovel testing in the longleaf pine uplands of Natchitoches Parish. Living quarters were provided in the form of several FEMA trailers, affectionately known as “Dogwood Estates”.

For the third summer in a row the Kisatchie Ranger District saw temperatures regularly pass 100 degrees, to the point where the mid-90’s now seems mild. Thanks to J.D., Hopkins and Jen for keeping a good sense of humor while accomplishing a lot of difficult work.



Left to right -  
Jennifer Hopkins,  
Jennifer Stevens and  
J.D. Cox enjoying  
the good times that  
only Kisatchie  
National Forest can  
provide!!

# Regional Archaeology News



## Northwest Region

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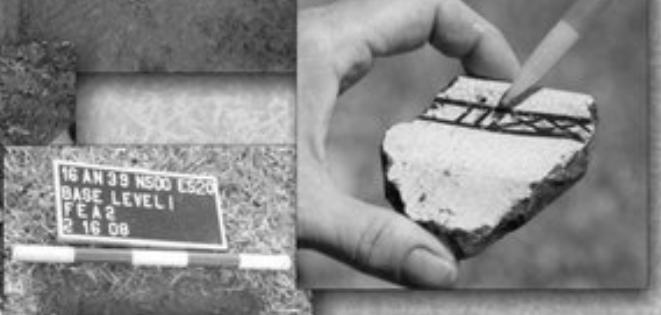
# Archaeology at Galveztown 2011

Summer Field School  
 ANTH 2016/4021 (3-6 Credit Hours)  
 Instructor: Dr. Rob Mann  
 Department of Geography and Anthropology  
 Louisiana State University



**July 5-August 5, 2011**

Ever wonder what life was like in Spanish Colonial Louisiana? Join us for a five week excavation of the Spanish Colonial site of Galveztown. Galveztown was founded on the banks of the Amite River, near its confluence with Bayou Manchac, and was occupied from 1778 to about 1820 by settlers from the Canary Islands. Students will learn archaeological methods including excavation, mapping of features and profiles, maintenance of field records, and much more.



16 AN 39 NS00 E520  
 BASE LEVEL 1  
 FEA 2  
 2 16 08

Tuition & Fees per LSU Fee Schedule  
 for Summer 2011



For more information contact Dr. Rob Mann  
 at [rmanne1@lsu.edu](mailto:rmanne1@lsu.edu)  
 (225) 578-6739

**Editor's note-** This poster announced the LSU field school for the Galveztown site (16AN39) for the summer of 2011 run by Rob Mann, Southeast Regional Archaeologist. The LAS can expect additional information about this Spanish colonial site in future LAS publications and presentations. Rob reports he had a good student crew and that they have accomplished many of the research goals he had for the session. Meanwhile, check out the Facebook page: *Archaeology at Galveztown-2011 Season*.

## Poverty Point to Paris & Back

In June, 2001 Poverty Point Station Archaeologist Diana Greenlee attended the World Heritage Committee meeting in Paris, France, to learn more about the process of adding sites to the World Heritage List. This will strengthen the World Heritage nomination that she is preparing for Poverty Point State Historic Site. Diana was an official U.S. delegate, and she was able to observe the nomination consideration and to hear the specific concerns and recommendations of the 21 Committee members.

By the time nominations reached the World Heritage Committee, they had already been examined by one or both of two expert bodies: ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites) and IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature). Both had assessed the nominations for mixed (cultural and natural) properties. These two committees provided technical comments and recommendations to the World Heritage Committee.



Diana Greenlee showing us she really was there!!

At the meeting, the World Heritage Committee approved 25 properties for listing: 21 cultural sites, 3 natural sites, and 1 mixed site. The Committee "referred" or "deferred" a number of other nomi-nations, requesting more information or more protection of the properties before the listings would be reconsidered. Following ICOMOS and IUCN review, but before the Committee meeting, several countries voluntarily withdrew their nominations. For more information about the World Heritage process, see [www.whc.unesco.org](http://www.whc.unesco.org).

## Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program Update

By Diana M. Greenlee and Fran E. Hamilton

Drs. Michael Hargrave and Lewis Somers came to Poverty Point SHS this June to further our geophysical understanding of the site's structure. Somers used his Geoscan Research MSP40 cart-mounted resistance system to survey potential aisle ways cutting through the northern ridges. Unfortunately, extremely dry soil conditions hampered the success of our efforts; we will try again this winter. Hargrave used his dual magnetic field gradiometers to broaden his and Dr. Berle Clay's already significant survey area. A preliminary investigation of the "dock" area of the site (the area in the SE quadrant of the site that slopes gently down to Bayou Maçon) revealed more circular magnetic anomalies.

Dr. Rinita Dalan and six students from Minnesota State University Moorhead also traveled to Poverty Point State Historic Site in June for their Geoarchaeology Field School. Dalan, who has been involved in geophysical research here since 2007, collaborated with Assistant Station Archaeologist, Fran Hamilton, to complete the excavation of Block 2 on the southwestern plaza. Block 2 is part of the effort, begun in 2009 as a University of Louisiana at Monroe-Mississippi State University joint field school, to investigate different circular magnetic anomalies identified in the plaza by Hargrave and Clay. Block 2 was placed to sample a highly magnetic trench feature.

The results of the excavation of the two  $1 \times 1$  m units in Block 2 are especially interesting because of how different that block was from the other three previously-completed excavation blocks. Whereas the features in the other units had few artifacts, Block 2's pits were filled with many Poverty Point Objects (PPOs) and PPO fragments.



Lewis Somers (L) and Mike Hargrave (R) use a lawnmower to pull the Geoscan Research MSP40 cart-mounted resistance system at Poverty Point.



Soils expert Thurman Allen and Diana Greenlee use the soil probe on the first day of field work in Block 2.

**Continued from previous page**

There was no evidence of heating to indicate these were cooking features. Unlike the postholes found in the other units, the pits in Block 2 were not flat-bottomed or straight-sided, so they are clearly not the same type of posthole features found in the other units. Stay tuned for more updates as we analyze the artifacts, sediment samples and plant remains.

Thirty-five rootballs were turned up by wind thrown trees from the storm that occurred in the overnight hours of 26 April 2011. The Station Archaeology Program intends to make processing these rootballs a priority over the coming fall and winter. Anybody who is interested in participating in the project should contact Fran Hamilton (318-926-3314; [Hamilton@ulm.edu](mailto:Hamilton@ulm.edu)) for more information. Thanks to Ellen Ibert, John Guy, Leslie Guy, Jylene Livingood, Pam Melder and George Riser for their rootball work this spring!



**Minnesota State University Moorhead crew photo. Back row, left to right: Rinita Dalan, Fran Hamilton, Ben Werth, Blake Clerico, Front row, left to right: Katie Jacobson, Lynsee Langsdon, Sara Kram, Jessica Sharp.**

## **Excavations Update Data for Poverty Point's Mound C**

**By Dr. Anthony Ortmann, Murray State University**

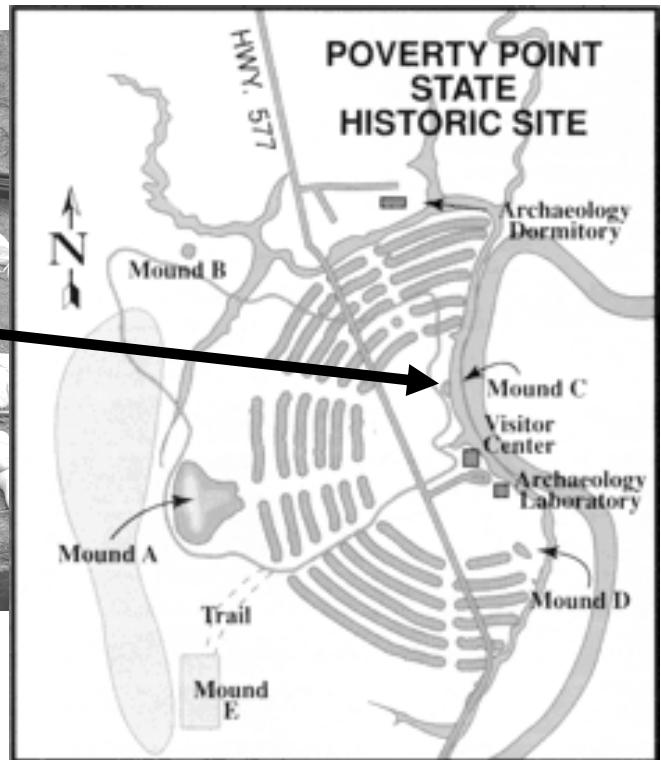
Recent excavations at the Poverty Point site tested the function and construction history of one of the site's most unique architectural features. Between May 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Anthony Ortmann (Murray State University) and Lee Arco (Washington University in St. Louis), with the assistance of eight undergraduate students, undertook a small-scale research project at Poverty Point's Mound C. This mound was previously excavated by C. B. Moore in 1913, again by Jon Gibson in 1983, and later by Anthony Ortmann in 2001. While the results of those excavations were informative, they also generated numerous questions about the construction and use of Mound C.

The 2011 excavations in Mound C were designed to specifically test the pace of mound construction, determine the types of activities that were undertaken in this portion of the Poverty Point site, and examine the relationship between the mound and the adjacent plaza. Previous excavations had revealed that the mound was constructed as a series of thin platforms separated, in some cases, by thin accumulations of cultural debris. Ultimately the entire feature was covered with a relatively thick mound cap. To determine the lateral extent of individual construction stages or platforms within the mound, Gibson's 1983 test pits were re-excavated as well as one of Ortmann's 2001 test pits. A series of new test pits were then excavated, connecting these older test pits, to provide a six meter wide profile near the center of the mound. Additional test pits excavated near the western edge of the mound revealed that the mound was most likely constructed before the plaza was artificially raised.

Analysis of the data collected during this summer's research is still ongoing, but the results of the research look promising. Students are currently involved in analyzing microartifact samples from the surfaces of the platforms comprising the lower portions of the mound. This research should provide greater insight into the nature of activities carried out on these surfaces than traditional macroartifact analyses does. In addition, micromorphology samples from the junctions between construction platforms are currently being prepared and should provide important information about how long each platform surface may have been exposed during the construction of the mound. The Mound C project also provided an excellent opportunity for the field school instructors and students to interact with the public. Short presentations about the excavations were provided to visitors to the Poverty Point State Historic Site and they were given opportunities to not only view the excavations in progress, but also to ask questions about the research project and the site in general.



Students excavating portions of Mound C for Dr. Anthony Ortmann's field school at the Poverty Point site (16WC5) during the summer of 2011.



*"I'm a hunter-gatherer-hoarder."*

**Dr. Joe Saunders Retires as NE Regional Archaeologist**

By Nancy Hawkins-LA Division of Archaeology

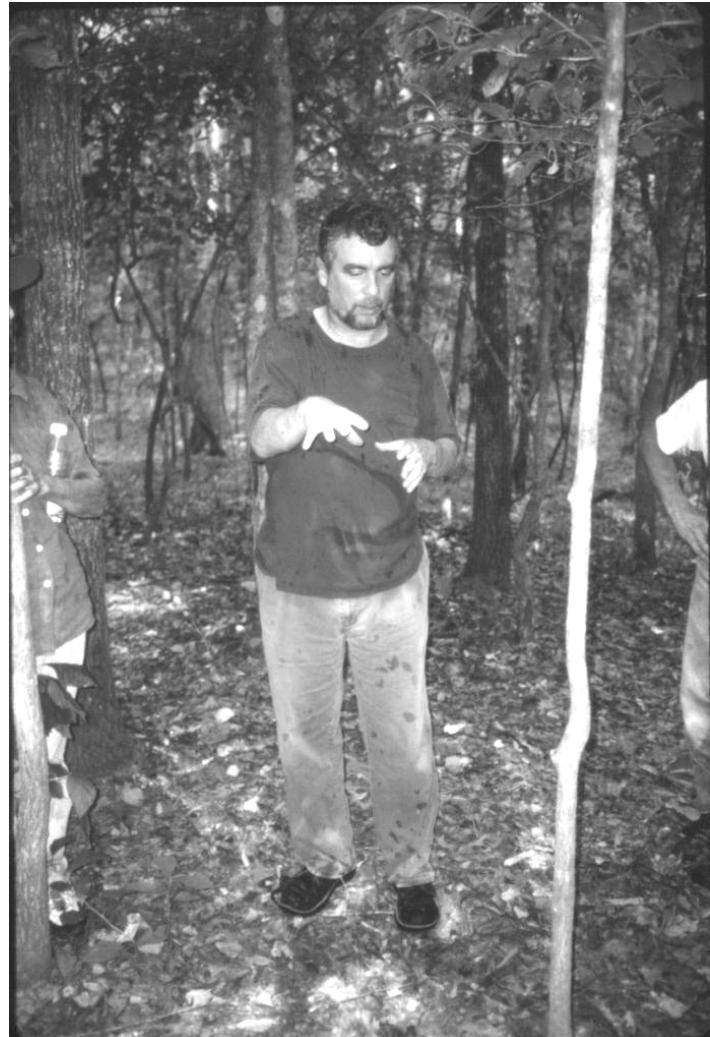
Northeast Regional Archaeologist Joe Saunders will retire at the end of September, 2011 after 21 years in the position. Joe began work November 15, 1989, as Louisiana's first Regional Archaeologist. (Northwest Regional Archaeologist Jeff Girard started about two weeks later!) The Northeast Regional Archaeology Program is based at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, in the Department of Atmospheric Science, Earth Sciences & Physics.

As regional archaeologist, Joe has been responsible for meeting with landowners who have sites on their property, recording previously unreported sites and providing updated site information on known sites, synthesizing information about the archaeology of the area, and presenting information to the public.

During his tenure as regional archaeologist, Joe recorded 335 archaeological sites for the first time, and he submitted updated and expanded information for 176 previously recorded sites. The total number of sites that he recorded or updated is 511. He also prepared the lengthy National Register of Historic Places nomination forms for about a dozen key sites in his region. Seven of these sites have been listed on the National Register thus far, and others are likely to be listed in the future.

One hundred and thirteen of the sites where Joe worked are prehistoric mound sites. He recorded, mapped, cored, and determined the probable age of these sites, vastly expanding the number of mound sites in northeast Louisiana and informing us of their cultural affiliations. Joe directed the Ancient Mounds Initiative, which identified, documented, and interpreted the 39 mound sites that were appropriate for including on the Ancient Mounds Driving Trail of Northeast Louisiana. He prepared the maps, wrote the text for the guidebook, and provided the content for the historical markers at each site. He also created a detailed guide for all of the owners of the mounds on the trail. The manual includes maps, archaeological information, and historical marker text for all the sites.

Joe's scientific contributions have extended beyond northeast Louisiana, and even beyond Louisiana as a whole. Through his meticulous excavation and coring projects, he definitively demonstrated that mounds were built before Poverty Point. Prior to his work, some archaeologists had suggested that Indians built mounds during the Archaic period, but Joe's research in northeast Louisiana proved the age of Louisiana's oldest mounds. His study of Watson Brake, Frenchman's Bend, Hedgepeth, Hillman's Mound, and others showed that these mounds were constructed more than 4,500 years ago.



**Joe Saunders describing an excavation unit at the Watson Brake site (16OU175) during his investigations there in 1998.**

Joe has been a passionate advocate for site preservation and has worked tirelessly with landowners and with preservation organizations. He served as president of the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy, and he has worked with the national Archaeological Conservancy. Largely through his advocacy, The Archaeological Conservancy has purchased 12 sites in northeastern Louisiana, protecting them for future generations.

Although Joe is best known for mounds research, he has also worked at non-mound prehistoric sites, as well as colonial, plantation, farmstead, and other historic sites in northeast Louisiana.

He plans to continue living in Monroe after retirement, staying involved with archaeological endeavors in the area. Fran Hamilton, who is the Assistant Poverty Point Station Archaeologist, will serve as interim Northeast Regional Archaeologist through June 30, 2012.



**The 2012 LAS Annual Meeting, Feb. 24-26, 2012.**

The Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Put it on your calendar and make plans to be there. More detailed information will soon be available at the LAS website and in the next newsletter.

**Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Archeological Society  
Holiday Inn City Center, Fort Smith  
September 30 - October 2, 2011**



**Exhibition Opening  
September 25, 2011**

Friends of the LSU Textile & Costume Museum Annual Meeting 1:00  
Public Reception, 2:00  
Opening Program, 2:30  
Lobby, Human Ecology Building  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge



*Dressed for Eternity*

*Mid-Nineteenth Century Burial Dress in Louisiana*

An exhibition in the  
LSU Textile & Costume Museum  
September 25, 2011, through May 31, 2012



**SEAC 2011  
68TH ANNUAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 2-5, 2011 AT  
The Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront  
Jacksonville, Florida  
More information at [www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annualmeeting](http://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/annualmeeting)**



The purpose of the Caddo Conference Organization is to develop, promote, and enhance interest in the archaeology, history, and ethnology of the Caddo people and the Caddo area of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. The Caddo Conference as an annual gathering of archaeologists and Caddo Indians dates to 1946 and a journal has been published since 1989, but formal organization is new in 2011. A Board of Officers is in place, a web site has been launched, and the Center for Regional Heritage Research at Stephen F. Austin State University is our institutional host. I invite you to join and receive the benefits of CCO membership! -- Mary Beth Trubitt, CCO President

Caddo Conference Organization  
Stephen F. Austin State University, Box 13047 SFA Station,  
Nacogdoches, TX 75962  
[www.caddoconference.org](http://www.caddoconference.org)

**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	_____
	Subtotal	_____

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

Back Issues of LAS Bulletins, *Louisiana Archaeology*, are available for \$15.00; Special Publications are available for \$4.00.

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