



# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2012-2013

Vol. 40, No.3

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**The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS)  
February 22-24, 2013 at the Lafayette Hilton shown above  
on the banks of the Vermilion River.  
Join your friends and colleagues for a weekend discussing  
the archaeology of the Bayou State.**

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New Orleans

# Louisiana Archaeological Society

39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

February 22-24, 2013 at the Lafayette Hilton



## Conference Hotel and Arrangements

The annual LAS meeting will be held February 22-24, 2013 at the Lafayette Hilton. There will be a reception at the Hilton from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Friday, February 22. Exhibits, book sales and a silent auction will be held from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, February 23. The LAS business meeting will be at 5:00 pm on February 23, to be followed by the banquet at 7:00 pm. Dr. Ian Brown will deliver the Keynote address on "The Archaeology of Salt and Why It's Important."

A limited number of discounted rooms will be available until February 1, 2013, or until the LAS group of rooms is sold out, whichever comes first (2 double beds: rates from 89.00 USD/night; 1 king bed: rates from 99.00 USD/night). The Lafayette Hilton has set up a web site for the LAS meeting. Use the following link to reserve a room online or call the hotel (Lafayette Hilton, 1521 West Pinhook Rd, Lafayette, LA 70503; Telephone: 337-235-6111). The LAS Group Code is SAA. Use the code and group name to receive the special group rate.

[http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/L/LFTLHHF-SAA-20130222/index.html?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/L/LFTLHHF-SAA-20130222/index.html?WT.mc_id=POG)

## Registration and Banquet

Pre-registration is only \$15 and the banquet is \$40 per person (\$50 for pre-registration and the banquet if paid by February 8, 2013). On-site registration after Feb. 8 will be \$20. Banquet seating is limited, so make your reservations early! Send pre-registration and banquet fees to the LAS Treasurer, Julie Doucet, 8863 Bayside Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70806 (email: [jdouce6@lsu.edu](mailto:jdouce6@lsu.edu)), or register online at: <http://www.laarchaeology.org/annual.html>.

## Paper and Poster Submissions

The Program Chair invites you to submit a paper or poster title and abstract for the annual LAS meeting in Lafayette. The deadline for submitting titles and abstracts is **February 8, 2013**. Abstracts should be limited to 100 words or less. Paper presentations will be limited to 20 minutes. A PC laptop and digital projector will be available for PowerPoint presentations. Posters will be displayed concurrently during the presentations on Saturday, February 23.



*Dr. Ian Brown, University of Alabama, is the keynote speaker for the 2013 LAS Annual Meeting during the banquet Saturday, Feb. 23.*

## **The Archaeology of Salt and Why it's Important**

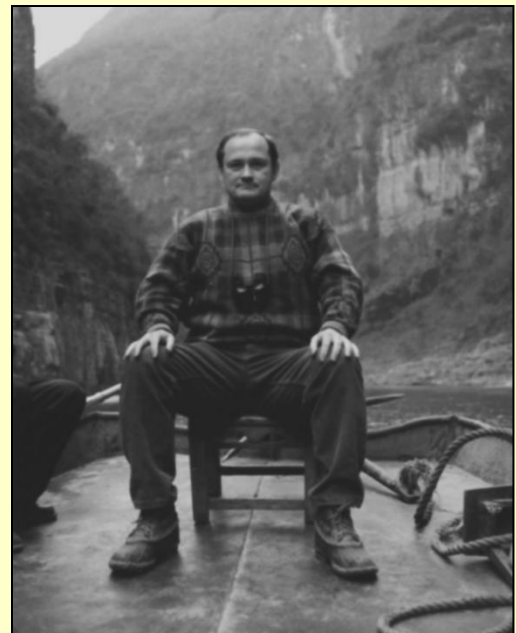
Dr. Brown will be speaking about the role salt has played in world prehistory and history. He became interested in this subject in the late 1970s while working on Avery Island in Louisiana and ended up writing a monograph on salt production and use among the Native Americans of eastern North America. It is important to remember that salt is more than just a condiment. Although it figures prominently in foodways throughout the world, its production and use extends far beyond the realm of cuisine.

Salt is arguably one of the most important mineral resources that exist with regard to human societies. Ancient salines, where brine bubbles forth from the ground, were highly valued by peoples of the past and, as such, they often were closely guarded. Kings and chieftains are known to have fought for control of salt sites, because in many societies salt served as a form of currency. Salt was important in the economy of Bronze and Iron Age cultures throughout Europe. Some of the earliest cities were established as centers for the salt trade, and many of the earliest roads were made for the transportation of this commodity. But salt has had many other usages beyond diet.

It often has a social function, as in Medieval Europe where salt was a symbol of fraternity. In other regions of the world, salt has been employed in the cleaning, bleaching, and dyeing of fabrics, in the leather industry, in the working of precious metals, in the conservation of oils, in mummification, and even in cheese-making. One of its prime functions has been to preserve meat and fish. If the old adage is true that an army "moves on its belly," then it was salt that preserved the food to fill the belly. Drawing from experience in the U.S., England, Germany and China, Dr. Brown will offer in this talk a glimpse as to why salt is integral to our understanding of the past.



**Disco refugees working at the Salt Mine Valley site (16IB23) at Avery Island, Louisiana in 1978. Ian Brown is front row and center.**



**Ian Brown pursuing the study of salt in China along a tributary of the Yangtze River, 1999.**



I plan to present a paper on my Mardi Gras adventures in Mamou at the LAS meeting in Lafayette.  
What about you?

### CALL FOR PAPERS

If you have research or want to share your archaeological insights with your colleagues and friends, think about giving a presentation at the next LAS Annual Meeting. Contact Mark Rees, the 2013 LAS Program Chairman, at [rees@louisiana.edu](mailto:rees@louisiana.edu) with your title and abstract (100 words or less). Please put "LAS Meeting Submission" in the in the subject line. Email is preferred, but titles can also be submitted by mail to:

Mark A. Rees, LAS Program Chair  
Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology & CAPS  
P.O. Box 40198  
University of Louisiana  
Lafayette, LA 70504-0198

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### ATTENTION SHOPPERS!!

In an effort to get archaeological information better distributed and free up storage space, the LAS executive committee has voted to sell all available LAS bulletins at **\$5.00** apiece at the annual meeting. That's right shoppers, only five dollars. If you have a particular article you always wanted to read, now is the time to buy.

### LAS SILENT AUCTION

The LAS will hold its annual fund-raising Silent Auction during this year's annual meeting. During the last six years, Society members have raised over \$5000 for the Society and helped avert possible dues increases. We are delighted to accept anything (books, reproduction artifacts, art) related to archaeology, anthropology, geology, biology and other natural sciences, as well as handicrafts, jewelry, art and other items that you think would be of interest to members of the LAS. Those of you contemplating cleaning out your bookshelf, attic, or garage, think of the LAS before tossing that item into the trash. One person's trash can be another's treasure. Questions and comments can be directed to Chip McGimsey [cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us](mailto:cmcgimsey@crt.state.la.us) or 225-219-4600 or to Mark Rees [rees@louisiana.edu](mailto:rees@louisiana.edu). Please let them know if you are donating items so that sufficient table space and bid sheets will be available. Happy Bidding!

### NEW LAS TREASURER

As of November 2012, LAS has a new treasurer. Long-time LAS member Julie Doucet has agreed to take on this largely thankless job. She is available at [jdoucet9@cox.net](mailto:jdoucet9@cox.net) for all who have questions about membership and dues. She takes over for Jason Emery who has been the LAS treasurer since 2009. Thanks, Jason, for keeping track of the LAS funds.-Dennis Jones



# Poverty Point polishing World Heritage application

**MONROE NEWSTAR**  
**10/14/2012**

**BY ZACK SOUTHWELL**



**Diana Greenlee stands at the big mound at Poverty Point near Epps. She discusses the status of the UNESCO application. / Margaret Croft/The News-Star**

The process to have Poverty Point named as a World Heritage site remains full-steam ahead, officials said.

Diana Greenlee, station archaeologist at Poverty Point State Historic Site in West Carroll Parish, said everything is running smoothly.

"We are on schedule," Greenlee said. "We have submitted the draft nomination, through the National Park Service Office of International Affairs, to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris for a technical review."

Greenlee said that review focuses mainly on the completeness of the nomination. "For example, 'Have we addressed all of the critical components of a nomination?'" Greenlee said.

## **Good company**

The U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage List includes fewer than 1,000 sites, and among them are the Grand Canyon, the Taj Mahal in India, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Great Wall of China and the Statue of Liberty.

Poverty Point is a vast complex of earthen mounds and ridges built by inhabitants more than 3,500 years ago. The 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.

Fran Hamilton, an assistant Poverty Point Station archaeologist, has said Poverty Point is one of the oldest communities in the United States. Next to Mason Bayou, it was in its heyday in 1700 B.C. For comparison, Native Americans were living as hunters and gatherers at Poverty Point more than 500

years before the Trojan War, 300 years before King Tut became pharaoh of Egypt and about the same time that, driven by famine, some Hebrews followed Abraham's great-grandson Joseph, son of Israel (also called Jacob), into Egypt.

Poverty Point was discovered as an archaeological site in the 1950s when archaeologist James Ford noticed what appeared to be earthworks when he was looking at an aerial photo of the area taken in the 1930s.

The photo showed a plaza, several mounds, distinct ridges and a road, Hamilton said. To date, archaeologists have only excavated about 2 percent of the site. What they know is that this was a major hub for Native Americans. It was an area incredibly rich in wildlife, fish, nuts and other foods.

Mound A, the largest on the site, is the second largest earthwork in the U.S. Relics unearthed have included beads, soapstone bowls, figurines and cooking balls. The cooking balls predate anything else like them found in the U.S., Hamilton said. "And so cooking balls found elsewhere are referred to as Poverty Point objects because they were first discovered at the Poverty Point site," Hamilton said.

Cane casts discovered on site have lead archaeologists to surmise that cane and mud huts were used as shelters.

## **Questions remain**

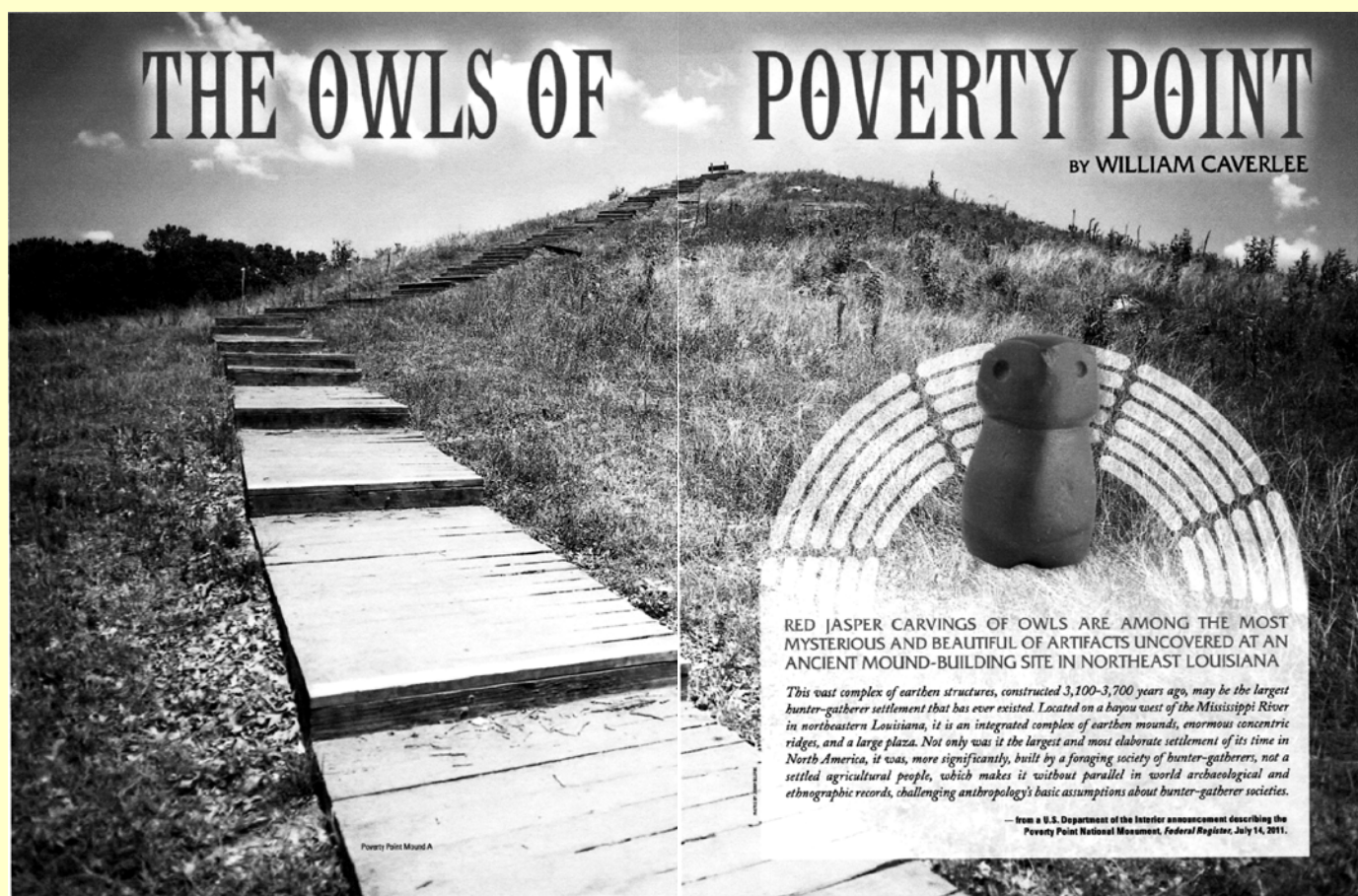
What they don't know about the Poverty Point site is exactly who lived there, what it was called, what was traded and why it was built in the swamp.

## Continued from previous page

The soil is very acidic and so not a single human bone has been found at the site. Though most Native Americans in and around Louisiana believe they have a deep connection to these natives, they don't have any historical information.

Assuming that it is determined to be complete, Greenlee said the draft will next be forwarded to the U.S. Federal Interagency Panel on World Heritage. "They will make the final recommendation in November as to whether or not the United States should proceed with the nomination," Greenlee said. "If they recommend that we proceed, then we will have the document printed and bound prior to its January 2013 submission to the World Heritage Centre."

Greenlee said she expects a group of experts to visit the site next summer to make an evaluation. "They will evaluate the site for its 'Outstanding Universal Value' and to see how well it is managed and protected," Greenlee said. "The experts will forward their recommendation to the World Heritage Committee, which will decide to inscribe, defer, refer, or decline at their meeting in the late spring of 2014."



*Speaking of Poverty Point, the 2012-2013 winter issue of Louisiana Cultural Vistas, the quarterly publication of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) contains an article about Louisiana's premier prehistoric site with a focus on the red jasper owl effigies that have been found at the site. Written by William Caverlee and with photographs by Jenny Ellerbee, this article, along with the entire issue, can be viewed and downloaded for free at the LEH website: [www.leh.org](http://www.leh.org).*

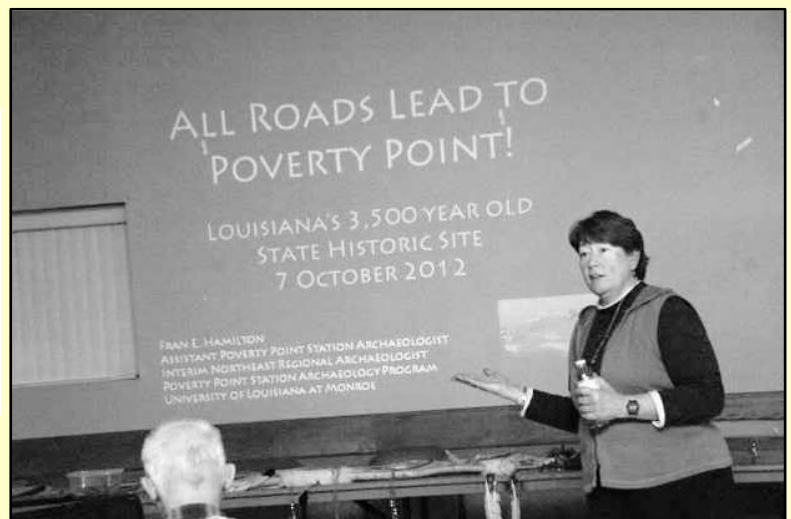


**Archaeology Day held Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012 at the Ball Senior Center, Ball La., was part of Louisiana Archaeology Month 2012. Photographs and captions were on the website for the Alexandria Town Talk, Monday Oct. 8, 2012. Photographer Melinda Martinez – [mmartinez@the towntalk.com](mailto:mmartinez@the towntalk.com)**



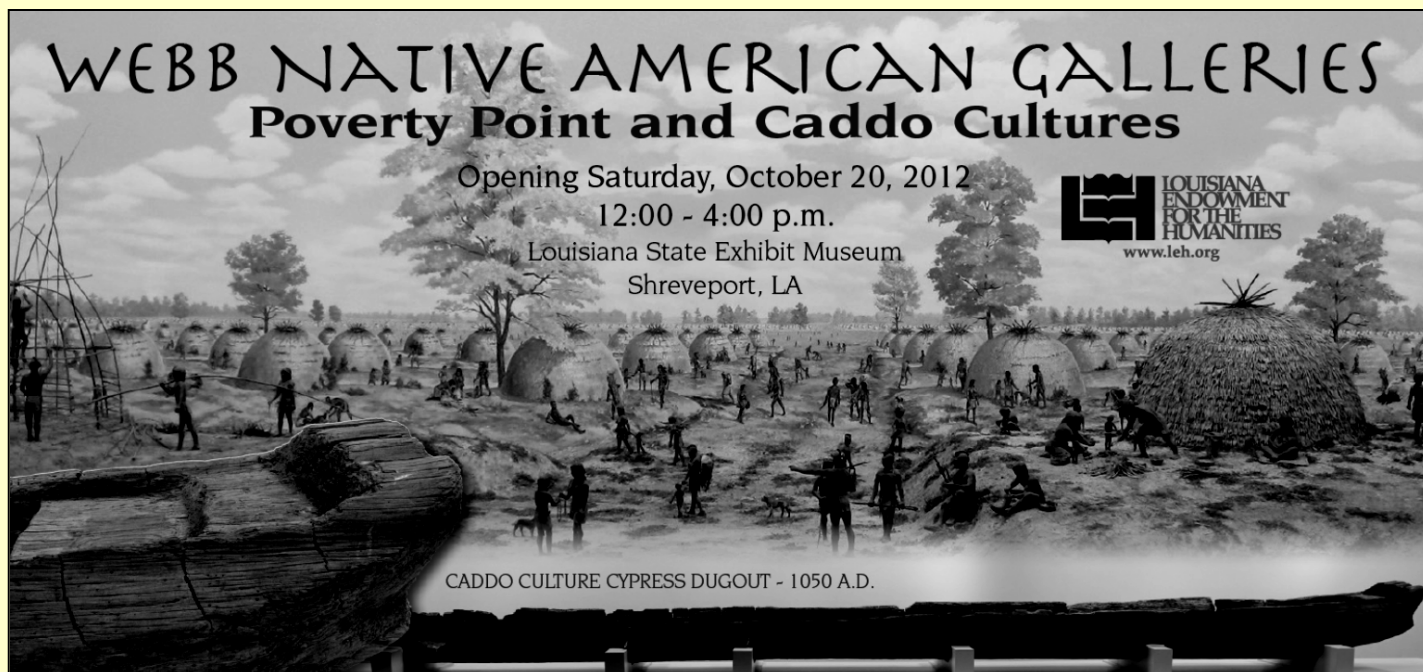
*Wesley Buskie (left) and his father Steve Buskie watch as Julian Thompson, a flintknapper from Jonesville, works on a piece of rock during Archaeology Day activities.*

*Fran Hamilton, Poverty Point assistant station archaeologist, was the guest speaker for Archaeology Day Sunday. Hamilton gave a presentation on Poverty Point which is up for a World Heritage nomination.*



*Julian Thompson. A flintknapper from Jonesville, works on a piece of rock during Archaeology Day held Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012 at the Ball Senior Center.*





## LOUISIANA STATE EXHIBIT MUSEUM PRESENTED THE GRAND OPENING OF THE WEBB NATIVE AMERICAN GALLERIES: POVERTY POINT GALLERY OF THE CADDO NATION

The Friends of LSEM, Inc. announced the opening of the long-awaited renovation of the West Wing Native American Galleries. Renamed by the Governing Board of LSEM in honor of Dr. Clarence H. Webb, the new exhibit will display artifacts from the Poverty Point and Caddo Cultures in north Louisiana. The museum director, Wayne Waddell, invited the public to attend the opening of “Archaeology and the Native Peoples of Louisiana” on Oct. 20.

The exhibit’s most exciting feature is the Caddo Culture dugout, a 1,000 year old vessel carved from a single bald cypress tree. Discovered in the banks of Red River, the dugout measures almost thirty-one feet in length, and is truly an impressive sight. There will be hands-on demonstrations on tool making by the Chipalottas and gallery talks with archaeologists. There will also be a video telling the story of how the dugout came to the museum. Phil Cross, member of the Caddo Nation, who is an expert in working with wood, will relate his experience making bows and dugouts. The program is supported by a grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“We are so enthusiastic about the renovation and pleased to present these two new galleries to host an exhibit featuring a family with deep ties to our state,” Museum Director Wayne Waddell said. “The Caddo Nation is an integral component in the history of Shreveport and northwest Louisiana.” The exhibit will be on display during regular museum hours: Monday through Friday, 9 am until 4 pm. The museum is located at 3015 Greenwood Road, between Hearne and Jewella Streets in Shreveport. *-From Facebook posting for Louisiana State Exhibition Museum, Shreveport.*



## 2012 Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Baton Rouge

By Richard Weinstein, Rebecca Saunders, David Kelley

The 69th Annual Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) was held in Baton Rouge from November 7 through November 10, 2012, at the Hilton Capitol Center. A total of 581 people registered for the conference and occupied just about all of the hotel rooms at the Hilton, plus numerous rooms at the Hotel Indigo and the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel. This was the third time that the conference had been held in Baton Rouge. The first time was in 1940 and the second time was in 1997. Louisiana State University hosted the 1940 conference, while Coastal Environments, Inc. (CEI), LSU, and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology hosted both the 1997 and 2012 conferences. Rich Weinstein, Becky Saunders, and David Kelley served as conference organizers.

The 2012 conference included 13 symposia containing 155 papers that covered topics such as bioarchaeology, Native American art and iconography, the theory of ritual deposition, remote sensing, Mississippian beginnings, and bridging history and prehistory, as well as the archaeology of specific locales such as the Cahokia region, Crystal River, central Alabama, western North Carolina, the Caddo area, and archaeology in U.S. National Forests. There also were 112 papers presented in 13 general sessions, 51 posters, three workshops, and a plenary session that included eight archaeologists who presented their personal thoughts on the nature of archaeological theory.

The SEAC Native Affairs Liaison Committee held a session concerning Southeastern Indigenous Archaeology and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in the 21st Century, while the Student Affairs Committee held workshops that addressed Participatory Engagement in Archaeology. These were *The Sustainable Empowerment of Multiple, Interested Voices* as well as *Possibilities within a CRM Environment*. The latter took place during the annual student luncheon with long-time SEAC archaeologists (and possible future employers) Bob Austin, David Morgan, and Tim Perttula discussing CRM archaeology from their respective points of view.



As usual, the Students Affairs Committee hosted a reception during the afternoon of Nov. 8, and this was followed by the main evening reception for all members (and hangers on) at the Louisiana State Museum. Free food and drink was provided to all who attended that reception, and everyone was able to visit the museum and its numerous exhibits. The annual SEAC Dance took place Friday night, Nov. 9 at the Hilton, with the New Orleans-based band *Mixed Nuts* performing to everyone's pleasure.

A book/exhibit room featured 19 universities, firms, and individuals who offered thousands of books and other archaeology-related items for sale. Also on display in the book/exhibit room were the hundreds of publications and other objects donated to SEAC as elements of the Student Paper Prize, a major award presented to the student whose paper at the conference is deemed the best of those in the competition. This year's prize amounted to several thousand dollars' worth of books and merchandise and is always one of the highlights of the conference.

Following the completion of the paper presentations on Saturday, Nov. 10, folks were offered the option of taking three afternoon excursions: the famous Marksville site in Avoyelles Parish, several plantation homes in St. Francisville, and a walking tour of historic sites in downtown Baton Rouge. Participants of all three tours, along with others who decided to spend Saturday evening in Baton Rouge, were treated to a Cajun dinner at the USS Kidd Veterans Memorial and Museum.

Overall, SEAC 2012 was a highly successful endeavor that brought together archaeologists from all over the United States for four days of learning, fun, and camaraderie. Baton Rouge provided an excellent venue for the conference and, by all accounts, those who attended greatly enjoyed their time in Louisiana's capital city.





## Mayans Cooked Food with Clay Balls

**Rounded clay balls found in Mexico reveal an ancient Mayan cooking technique.**

By [Rossella Lorenzi](#)

<http://news.discovery.com/history/maya-clay-balls-121129.html>

Thu Nov 29, 2012 10:10 AM ET

Planning a last supper party on December 21? To celebrate the Mayan way, you might need several clay balls.

That's one way the Maya cooked their food, according to U.S. archaeologists who have unearthed dozens of rounded clay pieces from a site in Mexico. Conducted with the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) and Millsaps College's financial support, the excavation of a kitchen at Escalera al Cielo in Yucatán revealed 77 complete balls and 912 smaller fragments. About 1-2 inches in diameter and more than 1,000 years old, the clay balls contained microscopic pieces of maize, beans, squash and other root crops.

The finding supports the hypothesis that the balls "were involved in kitchen activities related to food processing," archaeologists Stephanie Simms, Francesco Berna, of Boston University, MA, and George Bey of Millsaps College, MS, wrote in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*: "This is the first time fired clay balls have been studied in the Maya area and, to my knowledge, no one has documented the use of clay balls in modern Maya cooking," Simms told Discovery News.

Located in the Puuc Maya hills of Yucatán, Escalera al Cielo was an elite residential settlement that was rapidly abandoned sometime near the end of the Terminal Classic period (800-950 A.D.), as shown by ceramic vessels, stone tools, personal adornments, and other material assembled on the floors.

"We know much about the nature of ancient Maya kings and queens, but this type of study helps see how the Maya worked in the kitchen, what kinds of tools they used and the ways they might have prepared their cuisine," Bey,

the project co-director along with archaeologist Tomás Gallareta Negrón and anthropologist William Ringle, told Discovery News.

To better understand the meaning of the fired clay balls, the researchers used a suite of microscopic techniques and experimental replication. The tests revealed that the balls were produced from local clay in a standardized set of sizes.

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***"Fired clay balls have been described from a variety of archaeological contexts worldwide, particularly in the Lower Mississippi River Basin and southeastern United States and in areas of southwest Asia where clay is abundant but stone is not."***

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"They were fired at a fairly low temperature and were used repeatedly in the kitchen," Bey said. Most likely, the fired clay balls were either placed directly into pots of food to cook or heat it, or used in pit (*pib* in Mayan) oven cooking installations. "This cooking method involves digging a shallow pit, lining it with stones or clay balls, building a fire on top and waiting until it is reduced to embers," Simms said.

The process continued by placing whole roots, squash fruits or packets of food wrapped in maize on the hot stones. Everything was then covered with earth and leaves to seal in heat. Cooking took from one hour to up to a day or more.



**Continued from previous page**

The experimental tests showed "how the ancient Puuc Maya manipulated materials available to them to produce objects that potentially represent a staple of every Puuc Maya kitchen inventory, maybe even representing a local cooking technique and cuisine," Simms said.

Fired clay balls have been described from a variety of archaeological contexts worldwide, particularly in the Lower Mississippi River Basin and southeastern United States, and in areas of southwest Asia where clay is abundant but stone is not. Similar clay balls were also unearthed in the Neolithic village of Catalhoyuk in Turkey, where they were found in hearths and interpreted as cooking or heating implements.

Charles Kolb, an anthropologist, archaeologist and senior program officer in the Division of Preservation and Access at the National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington DC, agrees that Bey and colleagues "have provided logical inferences of artifact use."

"The fired clay balls show multiple heating episodes rather than just one firing. A single firing might suggest the use of these balls as 'sling stones' or offensive weaponry, but their size would connote other uses," Kolb told Discovery News. "The multiple firings of these balls point to uses in culinary activities with these fired clay balls substituting for stones," he added.

### **A Finely Made Plummet from Avoyelles Parish**

By Jim Fogleman,  
LAS Foreign Correspondent  
Morrow, LA

Upon returning from vacation last summer, Henry Deshotel, an old friend dropped by. He said that he had been out watering some newly planted cypress trees on his land near the Avoyelles/St. Landry parish boundary and had found an interesting object. Recognizing that his find was significant, he then proceeded to my house to show me, knowing that I would be interested in it and have information on it.

The object turned out to be a beautiful and complete hematite plummet (Figure.1). The plummet is 83 mm (3 1/4") tall and 3 cm (1 1/8") at its greatest diameter. 8 mm (1/4") from the top is a narrow groove less than 2 mm wide and 1 mm deep that completely encircles it. The artifact is minimally magnetic with a mass of 146 grams and a specific gravity of 4.9. While the plummet is smooth, it does have 'veins' that appear as if eroded onto its surface. A few small crystals sparkle in isolated areas especially along the 'veins'.

A few days later, I visited the area where this plummet was found. It was on a ridge of the Teche-Mississippi near what is now an "under-fit" stream called Bayou Jack. The plummet appeared to have been found about 1 meter below the surrounding land surface along the slope of a recently excavated pond. Even with excellent surface visibility, I was unable to find any other artifacts, with the exception of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century plate fragment. So this plummet is an isolated find.



*Figure 1: Henry Deshotel's Plummet.*

The Teche-Mississippi meander, now occupied by Bayou Jack and Bayou Rouge, has numerous associated sites ranging in age from Tchefuncte to Historic. The nearest identified site is the Kirby Bordelon Mound site (16SL33) about 2 km downstream where a few ceramics were found. This site also contained semi flexed burials atop a conical mound with associated greenstone beads. Just to the north of the mound was an area of flakes and dart points suggesting that the mound was early, perhaps pre-Tchefuncte.

Approximately 1 km to the north of the plummet's location is the Deshotel Hay Field which is an unreported lithic and ceramic scatter with arrow points. Other plummets (Figure 2) have been found

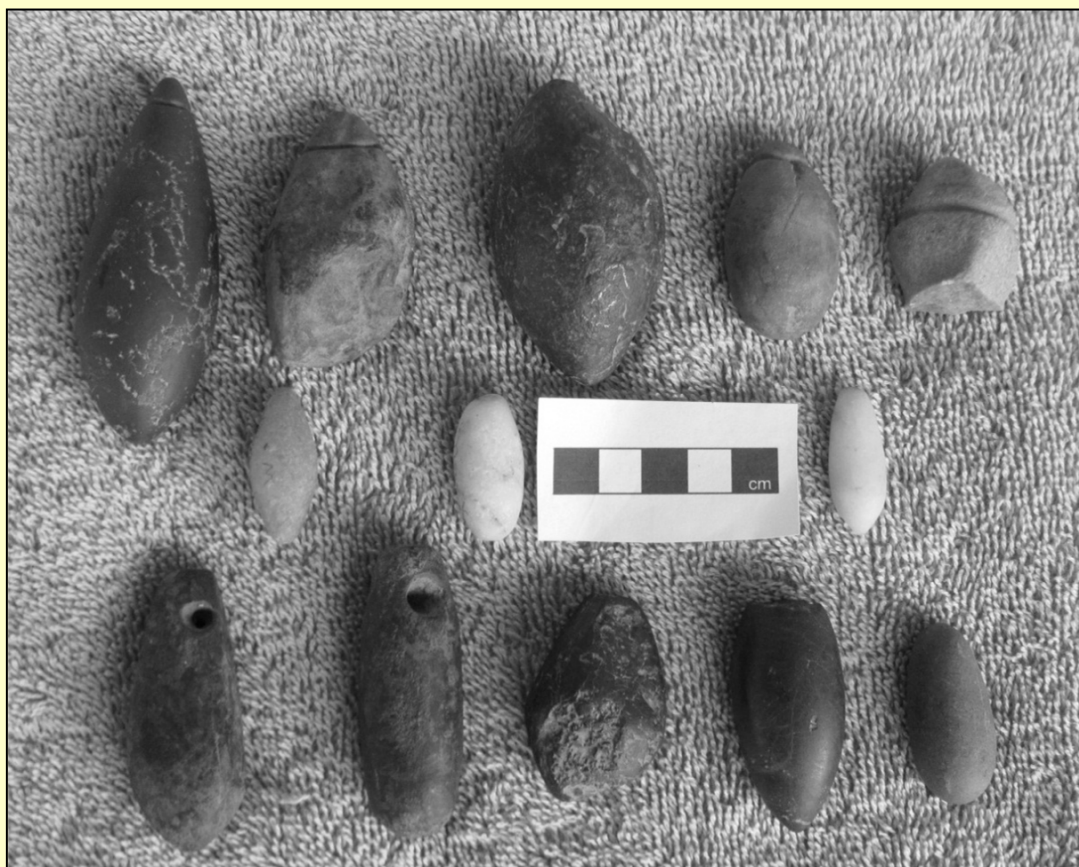
## Continued from previous page

so at several nearby sites. The Savage site (16 AV 66), a huge Tchefuncte site about 2 km to the north, the Becky site about 3 km south, and the now destroyed Bayou Current Mound (16SL27) about 15 km southeast with Marksville to Coles Creek components, Peche Rouge South (16SL28) 13 km to the south which is primarily a Coles Creek site with an apparent Late Archaic Component. The Stelly Mounds [16 SL1] a Middle Archaic mound group 12 km to south, and the Hicks Site (16 SL 4), a Tchefuncte site 7 km to south. The plummets from Hicks are no longer available for viewing [the informant died and I am using my memory of them, which is dubious data!] Another related artifact type is what I call “quartzite mini-plummets” (See Figure 2). Three plummets have been recovered from the one from the X-site (16 SL155) a small Tchefuncte site 6 km to the south, most closely resembles a small well shaped plummet. Another found nearby appears to be a preform. The double pointed mini-plummet is from Straw Lake West

(16SL164), a Tchefuncte site located about 4 km to the east. It appears to have been heavily pecked on to get its unusual symmetry.

Of the 15 plummets in the area surrounding the Deshotel plummet, five are from the Middle Archaic, three from Tchefuncte sites, two are isolated finds and one is from a multi component site that may be Marksville based on the finding of a copper bead, and 1 [8%] is from a probable late archaic site. All three of the quartzite mini-plummets are from Tchefuncte sites. Of all of the plummets, the Deshotel one is by far the best crafted. All of the other grooved plummets in no way approaches the symmetry of the Deshotel plummet.

It appears that the Deshotel plummet is indeed a ‘Spot Find’ but a find of such artistry deserves some note, hence this article. As I told the finder, I have looked unsuccessfully for decades to find a perfect plummet and he finds one while watering a tree. There must be a moral there, but it escapes me.



*Figure 3:*

*Top Row left to right: Henry Deshotel, Savage, Becky, B. Current, Peche Rouge*

*Middle Row left to right: X site [preform], X site miniplummet, Straw Lake ‘double pointed’*

*Bottom Row Stelly Mds. Plummets; first 2 drilled hematite, next 2 magnetite, and last one stone.*



### Prehistoric Plummets Found in Teche-Mississippi Channel near Avoyelles/St. Landry Line

<i>Site</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Drilled</i>	<i>Grooved</i>
<i>Deshotel</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Hematite</i>		<i>1</i>
<i>Savage</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Hematite</i>		<i>1</i>
<i>Becky</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Hematite</i>		
<i>Bayou Current Md.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Hematite</i>		<i>1</i>
<i>Stelly Mounds</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Hematite/Magnetite/Stone</i>	<i>2</i>	
<i>Peché Rouge</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Stone</i>		<i>1</i>
<i>Hicks</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Hematite/Magnetite (?)</i>		
<i>X Site</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Quartzite</i>		
<i>Straw Lake West</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Quartzite</i>		

**Editor's note:** The most frequent interpretation of these artifacts is "These objects were ground from heavy lumps of magnetite, hematite, limonite, and occasionally other stones. Shaped like plumb bobs or big teardrops, plummets often had encircling grooves or holes drilled in the small end to aid in attachment. Some archaeologists consider plummets to be bola weights, but they were more likely weights for cast and gill fishing nets." Jon Gibson, *Poverty Point: A Terminal Archaic Culture of the Lower Mississippi Valley*.

However, a recent article in *The Journal of Archaeological Science*, by Lipo et al. that was reported in an LAS newsletter earlier this year, proposed that these artifacts were weights for looms and thus an indication of weaving technology during the Archaic period.

### Recent Work at Chatsworth Plantation

Fieldwork began in October for continued archaeological investigations at the Chatsworth Plantation site (16EBR192) in East Baton Rouge Parish. Earlier investigations involved a portion of the site that once included the "Big House" and attendant buildings, as well as a portion of the slave quarters area. The current project involves the sugar mill or sugar house at the plantation.

This work is part of compliance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservations Act by Pinnacle Inc. that runs the new L'Auberge casino. Once the work at the sugar house is finished, the remaining portion of the project of the slave quarters area will also be excavated. This project is being conducted under the auspices of LSU Rural Life Museum in Baton Rouge. —Dennis Jones



**Top photo:** Weary archaeologist appears to beseech the gods of Louisiana vegetation for mercy. **Bottom photo:** View of cleared portion of the sugar house dating to mid-1800s with L'Auberge Casino in the background.



## 2012 Field Work at Drake's Salt Works Complex (16NA11/17 & 16WN30)

By Velicia Bergstrom  
KNF Archaeologist

Once again, volunteers from across the country joined archaeologists from Kisatchie National Forest on Widdish Island at Upper Lick, a portion of the Drake's Salt Works Complex site. We returned this fall with 20 volunteers to work September 28 to October 6. With us was Paul Eubanks, a PhD candidate from University of Alabama who is doing dissertation research on the topic of prehistoric salt mining in Louisiana. He arrived a week early to visit other salt lick sites in the region with one of the volunteers to assist him in his endeavors.

At Widdish Island, we expanded an earlier excavation, Unit B, to a 3 X 3m unit and began to open up other 3 X 3m units E, G and H. Units E and H are to the southwest of a feature we explored last year and we were hoping to determine the extent of this midden. And then, as the Bible says, "the rains came." It was reported that 11" fell and this kept us from our work for two days. We had to motorboat to the landform to discover that it had shrunk. All of the units we had opened up were under water. So we moved the upper part of the landform. Naturally we had recorded everything and in Unit K a dark staining, either from a

midden or from a hearth was partially recorded. I wanted to excavate this area at some point, just not this year! What we had really wanted to do was to determine the size and nature of the midden. Two new features were documented this year, however.

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*"And then, as the Bible says, 'the rains came.' It was reported that 11" fell and this kept us from our work for two days."*

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In Unit B, a shallow pit of fired clay earth was found and we also visited the Little Lick portion of the site and did some documentation there. This was my first visit to this part of the Drake's Salt Works Complex and I now know where the shell tempered pottery is coming from. Again a field lab was put together at the site and another 30 bags of artifacts were washed and dried along with the collections that Mr. Eubanks had made. These are all now at the University of Alabama where analysis is underway.

Mr. Weeks, Mr. Williams and Mr. Franklin, adjoining land owners to the site, are all in favor of research taking place in their portions of this unique, special, and significant site and that it be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. That is an endeavor we are now beginning to undertake.



*Although they did not last for forty days and forty nights, the rains in late September left much of the Drake's Salt Works Complex under water.*



*The fine crew of 2012 volunteers working at the Drakes Salt Works included Todd Snodgrass, Steven Waylet, John Crawford, Tina-Louis Stokes, Richard Riley, Mary Kreitzer, Gil Kane, Danny Cain, Kathleen Gregorie, Gail Pendus, Paul Eubanks, Izzy Washburn, Joanne Bennedetto, Art Kreitzer, Margaret Allen, Dennis Normand, Rhonda Fore, Greg Fore, Jessica Hettinger, Jere Bush, and Velicia, Bergstrom.*

### **Heritage Resource Work in the Kisatchie Archaeology “Zone” in 2012**

By Daniel Cain, Zone Archaeologist, Kisatchie National Forest

The calendar year 2012 was busy on the “Zone” in Kisatchie National Forest. For those unfamiliar with the term – or those thinking it may refer to something akin to a “National Register District” – the “zone” is merely an administrative unit. In this case, the Heritage Programs of three Ranger Districts are managed by a single individual (the author, actually). In these days of limited government budgets, this is a common arrangement in the U.S. Forest Service. With the help of privately-owned CRM firms, the survey needs on zones are easily covered. On the Kisatchie, the zone includes the Caney, Calcasieu, and Winn Ranger Districts (RD’s), which include portions of seven Parishes in central and northwest Louisiana.



*KNF and Caddo Nation survey team members (l to r), Daniel Cain (KNF), Michael Williams, Gerald Mason, Randy Cozad, Lance Ware (crew boss), Brandon Roughface, and Brent*



**Continued from previous page**

An ongoing Phase II excavation continues at Drake's Salt Works (16WN31) in Winn Parish. Most recently, the overburden was mechanically stripped from a 4-x-6 m portion of a prehistoric Caddo salt making feature as part of a Passport In Time project. The feature is characterized by an approximately 15 cm thick deposit of burnt soil and plain, grog-tempered sherds. The horizontal boundaries of the feature have yet to be determined, as flash-flooding interrupted the project. Work and analysis continue on this unique feature, and will be published upon completion.

A survey of over 4,500 ac on the Winn and Calcasieu Ranger Districts (RD) was completed by one of our contractors this year. A total of 25 new sites were recorded, and 9 previously known sites were revisited. Of these 34 sites, 6 were recommended as having Undetermined NRHP status, and will be protected by the USFS. Surveys conducted by USFS personnel and their partners are referred to as "in-house" surveys. In our continuing partnership with the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, approximately 5,000 ac and 22 mi of proposed fireline corridors were surveyed on the Winn, Caney, and Catahoula RD's. A total of 42 new sites were identified, and 11 previously recorded sites were revisited. Recommendations for these sites are provisional, as the analysis is incomplete for a number of them. Many of the new

sites can be described as low-density lithic deposits that produced few diagnostics. These represent one of the most common site types encountered in the forested uplands of the Kisatchie.

The lithic assemblage from each new site will be analyzed as a single unit of analysis, recording multiple attributes of each artifact. Many of the new sites were recorded in several clusters occurring in one of four small watersheds in Grant Parish. In order to derive as much data as possible from these, the combined assemblages from each watershed will also be analyzed as single units of analysis. Given the paucity of diagnostics associated with these sites, variation (or lack thereof) between watersheds will be viewed as a unitary prehistoric phenomenon. Upon submission, the final report may of course be viewed online courtesy of the good people at the LDOA.

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***"The Kisatchie National Forest is proud to continue its partnership with the Caddo Nation, and is proud to be a part of Louisiana's archaeological community."***

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The Kisatchie National Forest is proud to continue its partnership with the Caddo Nation, and is proud to be a part of Louisiana's archaeological community. We hope to provide innovation as well as good stewardship in our management of the portion of Louisiana's cultural heritage that lies within the forest, and appreciate the support of our surrounding communities!



*Veteran Caddo Nation survey crew member Randy Cozad, on right, discusses soil properties with fellow crew member Brent Cozad.*

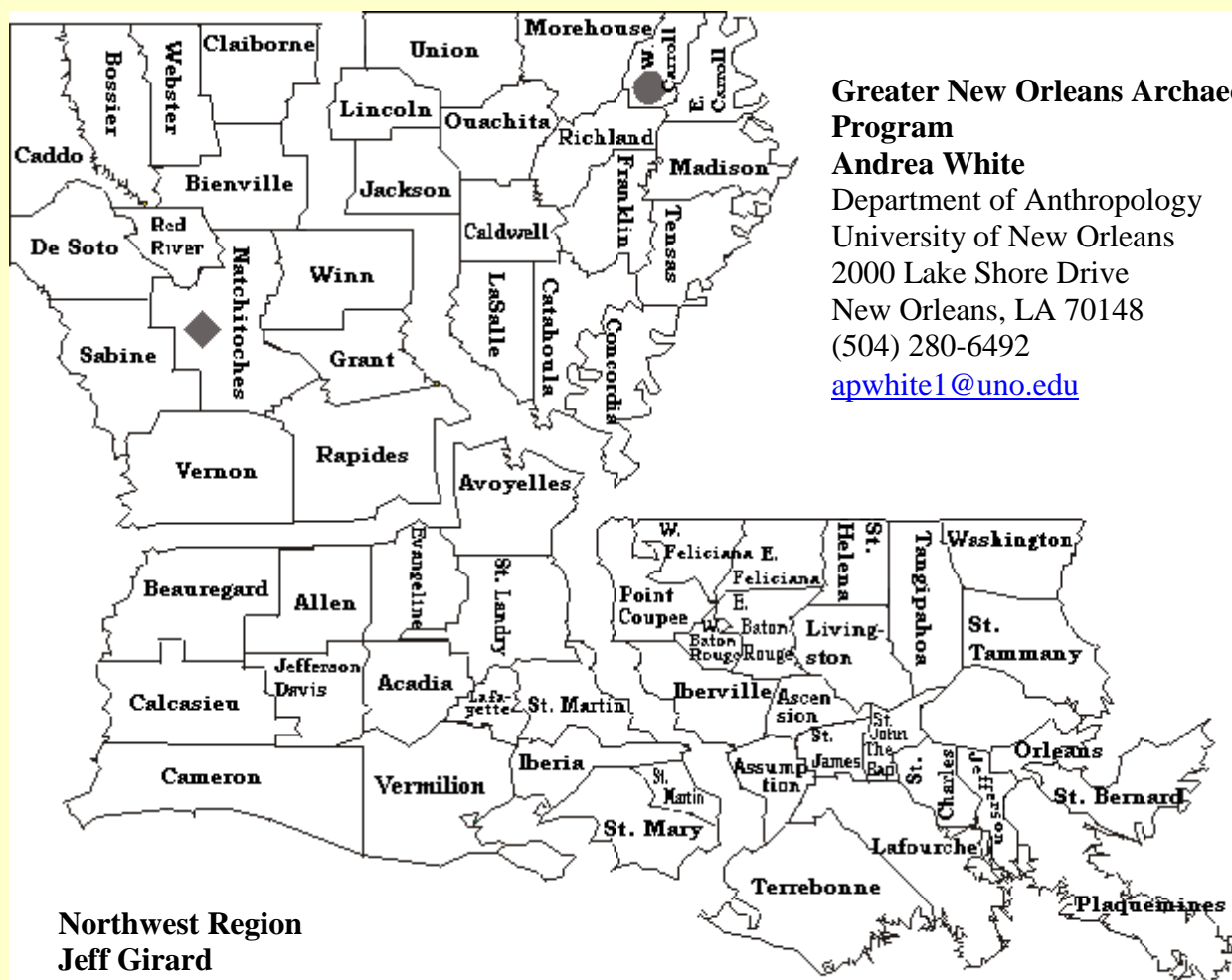


# REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

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## Looking for a *Cave* in Southeast Louisiana? Shovel Testing at The Lang-Jourdan House Site (16ST248)

By Rob Mann, Southeast Louisiana Regional Archaeologist, LSU, Baton Rouge

In October 2012, a shovel test pit (STP) survey of the Lang-Jourdan House site (16ST248) was conducted by the LSU Regional Archaeology Program. The data recovered will form the basis of a M.A. thesis for LSU graduate student Matthew Chouest. The crew for the project included several members of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society as well as graduate and undergraduate students from LSU.

The Lang-Jourdan House is a ca. 1852 raised Anglo-Creole cottage (Figure 1) built for J. B. Lang, a New Orleans tobacco merchant originally from Luxembourg. Lang used this house on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain in St. Tammany Parish as a summer home. The house was continuously occupied until it was damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In 2011, the house was moved off its original site and is currently being restored and will eventually be opened to the public as a museum (Figure 2).

I was contacted by Ms. Adele Foster of the Old Mandeville Historic Association about doing an archaeological survey of the property where the Lang-Jourdan house originally sat. In particular, we were interested in relocating a semisubterranean brick feature known as a *cave* (French for cellar), which was located beneath the raised

floor of the western most *cabinet* of the original Lang house. This brick-lined feature was in use throughout the history of the house and may have we were interested in relocating a semi-subterranean brick feature known as a *cave* (French for cellar), which was located beneath the raised floor of the western most *cabinet* of the original Lang house. This brick-lined feature was in use throughout the history of the house and may have we were interested in relocating a semi-subterranean brick feature known as a *cave* (French for cellar), which was located beneath the raised floor of the western most *cabinet* of the original Lang house. This brick-lined feature was in use throughout the history of the house and may have Our STP survey focused on relocating the exact location of the Lang-Jourdan House and associated features such as the *cave* and the detached kitchen. We excavated a total of 17 STPs. Modern fill, brought in after the house was moved, covers much of the house location down to a depth of ca. 25 cmbs. Below that, we did find evidence of intact deposits, including a partially intact brick feature in STP 4 and substantial brick rubble in STP 3 interpreted the remains of the *cave* (Figure 3). Intact sheet midden deposits were located in STPs 15 and 16 that may be related to both the *cave* and the detached kitchen. Further testing of the *cave* and the detached kitchen area are scheduled for January 2013.

*Figure 1: An 1866 rendering of the Lang-Jourdan house by artist P. N. Judice. From collection of the New Orleans Notarial Archives, Detail, Plan Book 9, Folio 21.*







*Figure 2: The Lang-Jourdan house after being moved and partially restored. Photo courtesy of Ms. Adele Foster.*



*Figure 3: STP 4 at the Lang-Jourdan house site showing brick feature believed to be the cave.*

## Survey and Exploratory Excavation at the Lutzenberger Iron Foundry, New Iberia

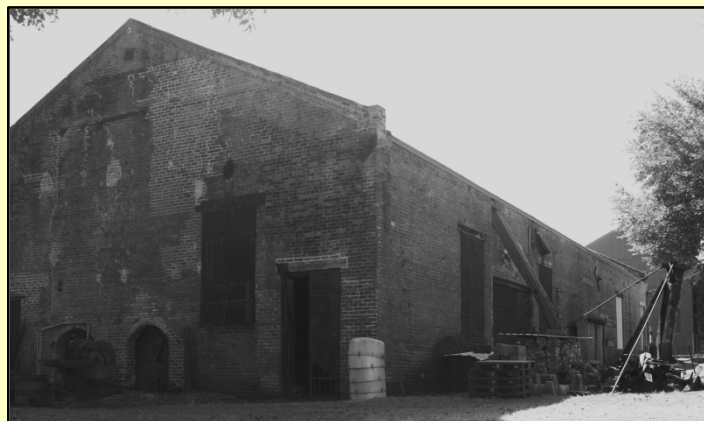
David T. Palmer, Southwest Regional Archaeologist, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

During the late fall of 2012, the Southwest Regional Archaeology Program investigated the archaeological resources of the Lutzenberger Iron Foundry in New Iberia. We did this through systematic shovel test pits outside of the foundry building and the excavation of a 1-x-1 meter unit inside the building.

The Lutzenberger Iron Foundry is located in New Iberia, LA and consists of a brick foundry building on Bayou Teche and a pattern shop across the street (Figure 1). It was founded by German immigrant F.S. Lutzenberger in 1871 as the "F.S. Lutzenberger Iron Foundry and Machine Shop." At the time, he employed 40-50 men. They worked with cast or "pig" iron, producing cast parts for steam boats and sugar mills.

The original foundry was downstream from its current location, and may have been destroyed in a fire. After this, the current structures were built in their present location ca. 1882. Some of the wooden pattern molds (Figure 2) are still housed in the attic of the pattern shop, which is currently the JEM products business location. The foundry building and pattern shop have been documented as part of the HAER (Historic American Engineering Record) program, and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1998). The HAER recording was done by architecture faculty and students from ULL.

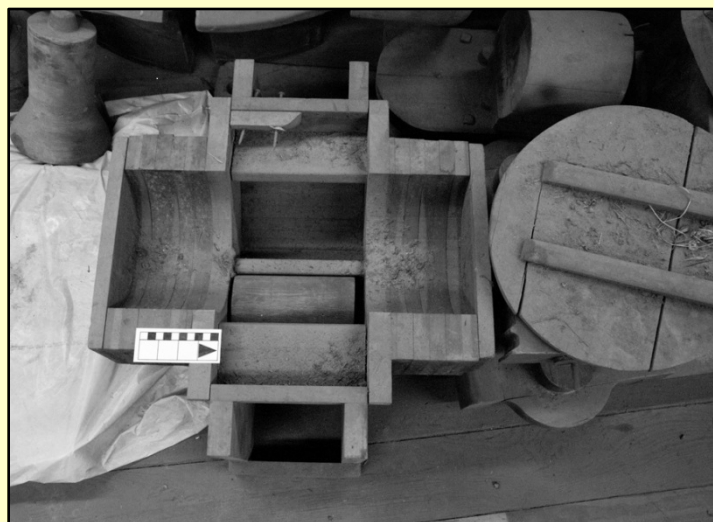
This investigation came about through the efforts of Dr. Shane Bernard, historian for McIlhenny Company and Avery Island. Dr. Bernard has been researching the location of the colonial Nueva Iberia settlement, and identified this property as potentially being part of that site. I was interested in any evidence of Spanish colonial Nueva Iberia as well, but also wanted to determine the archaeological resources present at the foundry site itself. We did not identify any evidence of the original Nueva Iberia, but were able to determine that intact deposits relating to the iron foundry were present. These included copious quantities of iron slag, coal clinker and fragments, as well as glass and other material. Occasionally, we found iron objects that were recognizable as mis-molded parts that had



*Figure 1: Lutzenberger Iron Foundry, New Iberia*

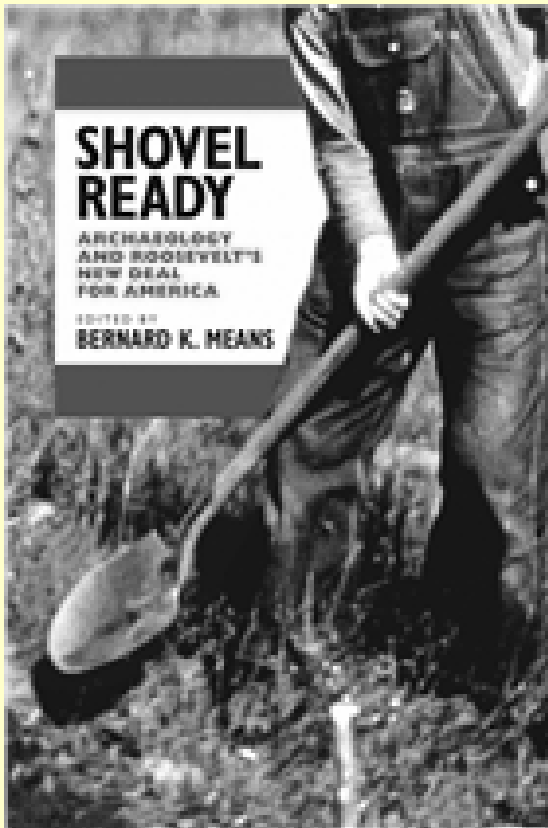
been discarded. We placed a 1-x-1 meter unit inside the building against the east wall and overlapping a doorway. Through this unit we uncovered a prepared brickbat and brick dust floor surface, the wall foundation and the original builder's trench, below a thick layer of black foundry dirt. Although only a tiny window into the archaeology of the site, through this project we have established that archaeological remains relevant to the 19th century iron industry in south Louisiana are present and in good condition at the site.

Many thanks to the landowner, Mr. Reving Broussard, his son "Beef" Broussard, and the other members of the Broussard family, for allowing us to work on their property and being such gracious hosts. Thanks also to Dr. Shane Bernard for initiating this project, and to volunteers Nichole Barney, Mikey Chouest, Taylor Coen, Jim Fogleman, James Fogleman, and Caleb Walls.



*Figure 2: Wooden pattern molds in attic of foundry*





University of Alabama Press

**Shovel Ready: Archaeology and Roosevelt's New Deal for America**, Edited by Bernard K. Means

*Shovel Ready* provides a comprehensive lens through which to view the New Deal period, a fascinating and prolific time in American archaeology.

In this collection of diverse essays united by a common theme, Bernard K. Means and his contributors deliver a valuable research tool for practicing archaeologists and historians of archaeology, as well as New Deal scholars in general.

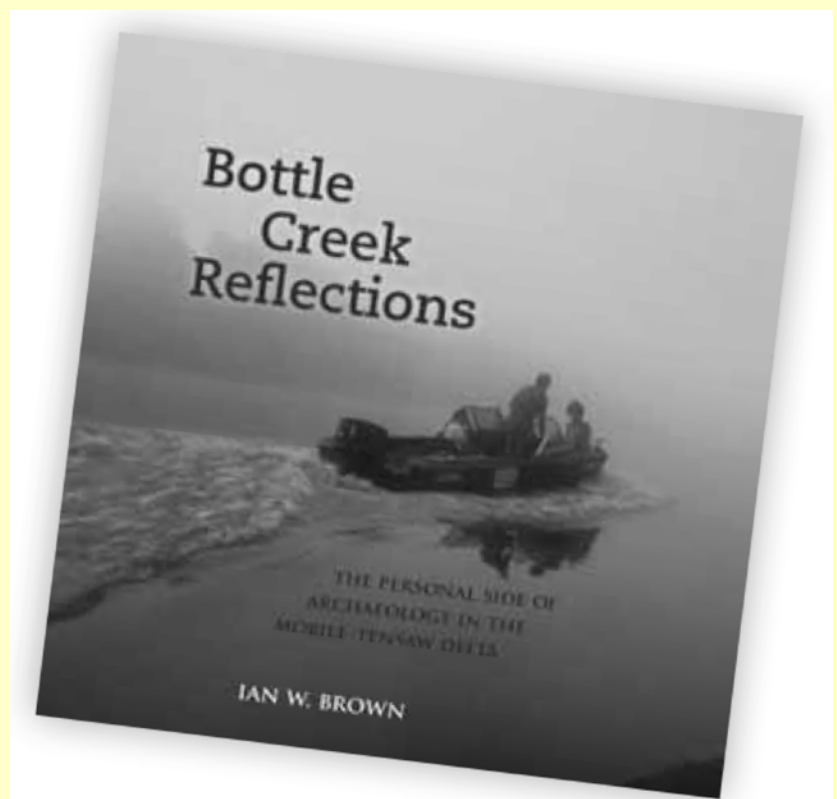
To rescue Americans from economic misery and the depths of despair during the Great Depression, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created several New Deal jobs programs to put people to work. Men and women labored on a variety of jobs, from building roads to improving zoos. Some ordinary citizens—with no prior experience—were called on to act as archaeologists and excavate sites across the nation, ranging in size from small camps to massive mound complexes, and dating from thousands of years ago to the early Colonial period.

**Borgo Publishing** ([www.Borgopublishing.com](http://www.Borgopublishing.com))

**Bottle Creek Reflections: The Personal Side of Archaeology in the Mobile-Tensas Delta**

By Ian W. Brown,

This book is a voyage of discovery into the past. Its author charts the waters of Alabama's Mobile-Tensaw Delta as he explores the Bottle Creek site, the principal late prehistoric mound center of the Pensacola Culture. This site, now a National Historic Landmark, was the scene of three seasons of archaeological fieldwork in the early 1990s. Ian Brown and his team of investigators not only provide a vivid picture of what swamp archaeology is like at the "trowel's edge," as seen from the day-to-day perspective of doing archaeology, but they offer the swamp itself in all its majesty, glory, and danger. This is a book about life in the swamp, both now and then. Any who follow in the wake of the Bottle Creek boat must do so with ample caution and due reflection.



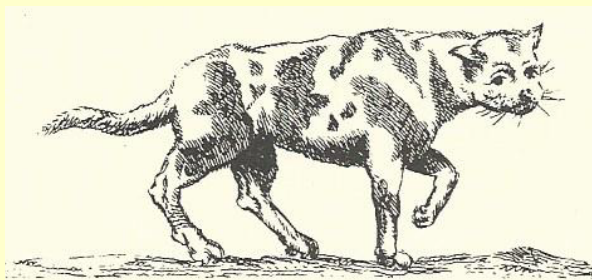
## East Texas Archeological Conference

The 20<sup>th</sup> East Texas Archeological Conference will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2013, at the Ornelas Activity Center, 3402 Old Omen Rd., across Spur 248 from the University of Texas at Tyler. The hours are 9 am until 4 pm. Registration begins at 8:30 am and admission is \$10 at the door.

F. Kent Reilly III, PhD., Professor and Director of the Center For the Arts and Symbolism of Ancient America, in the Department of Anthropology, Texas State University (San Marcos, Texas), will be our Keynote speaker. The title of his talk will be "The Braden Style and Sacred Bundles: The Function of Ideological Exchange in the Early Mississippian Period." To present a paper, submit an abstract and a paper title to Dr. Timothy K. Pertulla: [tkp4747@aol.com](mailto:tkp4747@aol.com)

## CADDO CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2013 Caddo Conference will be held at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma on February 22-23. Check [www.caddoconference.org](http://www.caddoconference.org) for more information.



## The Historic New Orleans Collection's 18<sup>th</sup> annual Williams Research Center Symposium

## Seeking the Unknown: Perspectives of Louisiana's Natural History

*With moderator Robert A. Thomas,  
professor and director.*

*Loyola University Center for Environmental Communication*

February 23, 2013

Hotel Monteleone, 214 Royal Street

## 2013 Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA) Tupelo, MS February 15 - 17, 2013

Hilton Garden Inn, Tupelo  
363 East Main Street  
Tupelo, MS 38804  
662-718-5500

King and Queen/Queen rooms are  
\$89 plus tax per night.

Meeting Registration: \$15.

The Historical Blue Moon is hosting a banquet Saturday night. It is located at 202 Main St., Verona, MS 38879, 662-810-7174. Tickets will be \$20 per person and includes food, beverage, and live entertainment by "The Southern Flare Band."





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If possible 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 Web Site**

[www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org)

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