INDIAN ARTIFACTS — These are a few of the potsherds, or pottery fragments, found by students of Vermilion Parish enrolled in an archaeology excavation project this summer. They were found during a surface search of an Indian mound in Pecan Island. Experts believe the fragments date to the Marksville period, almost 2,000 years ago. The decorated piece in the upper left is a rimsherd that was stamped while the clay was still wet. (Photo by P.C. Piazza)
FUTURE LOUIS LEAKEYS? — These students in Vermilion Parish’s Talented and Gifted (TAG) program are learning the archaeological process firsthand by digging an Indian mound in Pecan Island. Who knows, they may make an important discovery like famous anthropologist-archaeologist Louis Leakey. Their method is to scoop dirt into the screened sieve and shake it through. The large particles, some of them pottery fragments, remain. (Photo by P.C. Piazza)
Archaeologist Jim Moorehead uses a knife, a piece of string and a leveling tool to exactly measure the depth of each section dug. He says precision is a must. The work is slow and meticulous, as thin layers of dirt are removed one at a time. Moorehead is hired as consultant for a project sponsored by the Vermilion Parish School Board and the state. The digging is going on at Pecan Island about 50 miles from Abbeville. (Photo by P.C. Piazza)