DID YOU KNOW?

Louisiana is full of archaeological treasures

Unlike the natives of Mexico or Peru, Indians of this area left no huge stone pyramids to entice archaeological notice. Only recently have we begun to interpret and appreciate the prehistoric people of Louisiana.

Our state, for example, contains one of the most important prehistoric sites in the U.S., the fascinating animal-form mounds at Poverty Point, in northeast Louisiana. USL is very active in studying Louisiana archaeology. USL archaeologists have been working at Poverty Point for several years, and they will return there this May to continue their studies. Not long ago USL archaeologists investigated the discovery of mastodon remains at Jefferson Island. Previous mastodon discoveries have been made in Opelousas and near the Trappey’s canny in Lafayette.

At one site in southern St. Landry Parish, USL students and faculty are now analyzing Indian mounds that may contain the earliest pottery produced in Louisiana. They are also investigating an important mound cluster near Henderson.

In an earlier survey of the Bayou Vermilion basin, USL researchers found a very dense pattern of Indian settlement along the bayou. So dense, in fact, that the USL Center for Archaeological Studies recommended that parts of the Vermilion be set aside as a preservation area.

If you know of Indian mounds or unusual prehistoric remains, please alert Dr. Jon Gibson, who directs the USL Center for Archaeological Research, at 231-6045.

by John T. Landry
President,
USL Alumni
Board of Governors

Sponsored by the USL Alumni Association