

# Iowa Archeology News



## Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society

Volume 49, No. 1

Issue 169

Spring, 1999

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### THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Joe Tiffany

Mike Heimbaugh (Newsletter Editor) suggested I write the membership and tell everyone what the Board and Society has been up to recently and what some of our plans are for this coming year. I am happy to do so.

We have accomplished several goals we set last July, but I think the most important news is our growing membership. Robin Lillie, Membership Secretary, tells me that our final 1998 membership was 514! This includes 64 new members and represents an 8 % increase over the 475 members we had the year before. Current paid-up members through February 3, 1999 were 375 people including 13 new members. These numbers are fantastic. Robin has a "system," and believe me, it works.

More good news. Our Treasurer, Linda Forman, has consolidated our financial resources and reported at the last board meeting that the Society now has over \$20,000 invested and making more money. For the first time, in a long, long time, the Society has solid financial footings. Now, having said that, we still need your help and support; nobody is off the hook yet. It is certainly a refreshing change though. Dave Carlson, Dick Slattery and I were commiserating after the board meeting that it was not that long ago when we were passing the hat to keep the organization solvent.

The board has been busy. I developed a Briefing Book for the board members with help and input from many. The book is set up like a normal operations manual (three-hole punched sheets in a binder with an index and dates on each item for easy updating) and contains as much of the Society's on-going business and activities of which we could think. Now board members have at their finger tips information on committee assignments, past activities and the like that formerly lay either in the collective memories of some of us, or was not readily accessible, or both. We will update the briefing book annually. I hope it will be a help to current and especially new board members who come to that responsibility without much of an idea of what is expected of a board member, or a history of the society's past business.

The board has established several new committees. These include a committee on Resolutions; National Register; National Landmark and State Preserves; Certification and Field Schools; Education, and at the last board meeting, an I.A.S. 50th Anniversary Committee. The purpose of this committee is to plan activities for the 50th anniversary of the Iowa Archeological Society in 2001. Board Member Jonathan Sellers is chairing the committee. Some of the activities and events under consideration include:

1. Organize an archive project for the Society
2. Prepare photo essays for the Society's publications.
3. Collect and disseminate oral histories about the Society from its members.
4. Develop displays and exhibits about the Society.
5. Prepare articles for the Society's publications about the history of the organization and the individuals who helped promote the Society, its general welfare and goals for Iowa archaeology.
6. Focus both Society meetings that year on anniversary themes.
7. Obtain a Governor's Proclamation regarding the Society and its 50th anniversary.
8. Organize Archaeology Month events and activities around the Society's anniversary.

Jonathan and the board are looking for your help and ideas. Don't be shy. Give Jonathan a call or drop him a line at: Consulting Archaeological Services, PO Box 686, Creston, IA 50801, (515) 333-4607. We are all very excited about the prospect of a year of activities focused on the I.A.S.'s 50th anniversary. Please contact Jonathan and volunteer your time and share your ideas.

More good news. In the Fall 1998 Newsletter, Shirley Schermer reported on the Society's Cahokia Trip. I was teaching a field school at Lakeside Laboratory and could not attend, something that I regret since I have gotten nothing but positive feedback on the trip. Our kudos to Shirley. The attendance at the Fall and Spring meetings of the I.A.S. was excellent. We had 80 people registered for the Spring meeting and 100 for the Fall meeting at OSA in Iowa City. State Archaeologist Bill Green told the board in our recent meeting that OSA has garnered funds to hire an Educational Coordinator at OSA. This position has been vacant for lack of funding for many years. Although only partially funded at the present time, this position is great news for the Society and Chapters. Lynn Alex has been named the new coordinator. She will also help develop Archaeology Month, the outgrowth of the very successful Archaeology Week program of the last few years, as well as promote public archaeology programs statewide.

Sadly, we have lost two I.A.S. Lifetime members. Keyes-Orr award recipient and friend, Dale Gifford passed away in June 1998, and in January, we lost retired University of Illinois Professor, Charles Bareis. Chuck ran the Illinois Archaeological Survey

for many years and was instrumental in coordinating the massive highway archaeological salvage in and around the Cahokia site in the American Bottom that resulted in so much of what we now know about this World Heritage site. We will miss both.

The Society has several irons in the fire at the moment. Coming up is our Spring Meeting at the Putnam Museum in Davenport. We are having a luncheon and luncheon speaker this year rather than an evening banquet, and several field trips are being planned. Our speaker will be Dr. James Theler of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Jim is a nationally recognized expert in faunal analysis and the Woodland cultures of the upper Mississippi Valley. He is actually an old Iowa hand, having worked at OSA, and I know Jim is planning an entertaining and informative talk for us. Information on the Spring meeting will be mailed to the membership in the near future.

We may have anywhere from one to three field school opportunities for I.A.S. members. Watch for developments in the Newsletter or in a mailing. Finally, remember the upcoming 50th anniversary and activities. The Society needs your suggestions and support to make this event a memorable one.

See you in Davenport!

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**The IAS Spring Meeting will be May 1, 1999 at the Putnam Museum in Davenport Iowa. There will be a morning session, a luncheon, and field trips for the afternoon. Program details and registration will be mailed to all IAS members.**

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### 1999 Central Iowa Chapter Field Survey at Living History Farms

The Central Iowa Chapter of the Iowa Archeological Society and Living History Farms will co-sponsor an archaeological survey of 200 acres of agricultural fields at Living History Farms in Urbandale, Iowa, during two weekends in May (May 15-16 and May 22-23). The survey will consist of surface collections of the fields to identify and record archaeological sites. The survey activities will run from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM and orientation sessions will be held at 9:00 AM each day prior to beginning survey activities. There is a one-time registration fee of \$20.00 for participation in the survey. There will be a pre-survey training session beginning at 1:30 PM, on April 18, 1999, at the New State Historical Building in Des Moines. This field school will be useful to IAS members seeking site surveyor certification. Please contact Mike Heimbaugh at (515) 255-4909 for additional survey and registration information.

### Iowa Archeological Society Sponsors Archaeological Fieldschool at Wickiup Hill, Linn Co. Iowa

The Iowa Archeological Society is sponsoring an archaeological fieldschool at Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center Area in Linn County, Iowa between April 10-18, 1999. Sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., rain or shine. The instructor will be Leah Rogers working in conjunction with the Office of State Archaeologist. Credits for field certifications can be earned by IAS members. The fee for participation is \$15.00/day for a minimum of two consecutive days. There will be a membership mailing with registration form or call you may call Leah Rogers at (319) 895-8330 for more information.

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### Nominations Needed for the "IAS Profiles"

*IAS Profiles* is a new feature of the "Iowa Archeology News". The purpose is to highlight an avocational member, their interest, archaeological experiences, and/or collections. Anyone interested in nominating a member for the feature "IAS Profiles" in the Fall 1999 issue, please contact the editor.

### IAS Nominations Sought

The IAS Nominating Committee is seeking nominations of individuals to serve in the following positions. You may suggest any IAS member, including yourself, for these positions. Please submit all names to Bill Green, IAS Nominating Committee Chair, OSA, 700 - Clinton St. Building, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242-1030, or email Bill-Green@uiowa.edu.

#### Offices needing to be filled:

- A. President, 1-year term, 1999-2000  
Current President: Joseph A. Tiffany
- B. Vice-President, 1-year term, 1999-2000  
Current Vice-President: Richard G. Slattery
- C. Secretary, 3-year term, 1999-2002  
Current Secretary: Donna Julseth
- D. Treasurer, 3-year term, 1999-2002  
Current Treasurer: Linda Forman
- E. Membership Secretary, 3-year term, 1999-2002\*  
Current Membership Secretary: Robin Lillie
- F. Directors whose terms expire in 1999 (positions for 1999-2002) Current Directors: David Carlson, Mary Helgevold, Doug Jones, Jonathan Sellars

\* Note: The Membership Secretary was elected in 1995 for a 3-year term. Nominating committee head Bill Green neglected to place this position on the 1998 election slate. Therefore, it appears on the current slate with a recommendation that this election be for a full 3-year term (1999-2002) so that the Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary all are up for election together every three years.

## The Cowan Site: A Great Oasis Component in Northwest Iowa

By John F. Doershuk and Toby A. Morrow

Last year we provided introductory remarks about work-in-progress on the Cowan site (13WD88) in two short *OSA News* sections of this newsletter. Fieldwork was conducted beginning in April of 1998 and ended in July, lab processing commenced in earnest during August, and analyses and report writing occupied us through January of this year. Our investigation is now complete, the draft report is under review by the Iowa DOT and SHPO, and we can offer the following summary conclusions.

The Cowan site is located on a terrace in the Floyd River valley northeast of Sioux City, Iowa. The entire site is contained within the right-of-way for the proposed U.S. Highway 75 bypass. Geomorphological study by Rolfe Mandel revealed that the site is situated on a late Gunder terrace laid down between ca. 6000-4000 BP. This terrace surface has not aggraded appreciably since that time although the adjacent floodplain has in-filled considerably. Thus, the archaeological materials recovered at the site were deposited on a stable surface that has changed little even as the surrounding landscape was transformed through natural flooding events and human-induced changes related to river channeling, road construction, and mechanized agriculture.

The Cowan site is comprised of a single prehistoric component known to archaeologists as Great Oasis. This culture represents one of the earliest and most widespread manifestations of settled communities across the eastern Great Plains. Nine radiocarbon dates have been processed for the site (two AMS, seven standard), these yield a weighted mean of 955 RCYBP (range 910-990 +/- 70 BP) which most likely calibrates to the end of the eleventh century AD, although possibly to the early twelfth century. One of the dates was produced from scrapings of carbonized material

found on the inside of the small complete pot illustrated in this article (Figure 1). Although it is impossible to pin down exactly when the Cowan site was occupied, it is clear from the archaeological data recovered that the site was intensively used for just a brief period, perhaps of only a few years duration.

A total of 613 m<sup>2</sup> was hand excavated at the site. A magnetic survey using a Cesium Gradiometer was conducted by John Weymouth (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) prior to the excavation. This effort met with variable success in locating subsurface features but was important because it accurately predicted the location of a number of large important features. These became the focal point of our early excavation effort. A total of 71 features were excavated, most of them pit features (Figure 2). Four bell-shaped storage pits on the site had intentionally fired interiors. No definitive house floors were noted; however, the differential distribution of daub across the site suggests the former locations of three houses in the central part of the site.

A total of 4,600 chipped stone artifacts (including cores, flaking debris, and tools) were recovered. The chipped stone tools exhibit an intensive degree of reduction and tool recycling. Lithic raw materials present in the chipped stone assemblage indicate direct or indirect contact over a broad area ranging from northern Kansas/southern Nebraska to eastern Wyoming, west-central North Dakota, and southeast Iowa. Ground stone and cobble tools from the site include celts, many abraders, and several fragments of manos and metates. Over 32,000 pottery sherds including 585 rims were found. The rim sherds recovered from the site consist mostly of Great Oasis Wedge Lip and High Rim forms with small numbers of S-shaped rims, miniature vessels, and Chamberlain-like sherds. Burned earth and daub proved considerably more ubiquitous than expected (over 62,000 pieces!), in part because these materials had been severely fragmented by plow action and other taphonomic agents. All told, over 87 kg of these materials were recovered. Faunal remains included 32 modified pieces and over 11,000 other bones or fragments. These represent a wide range of mammal, bird, and fish species. The species composition suggests a predominantly open prairie environment with riverine and marsh habitats but relatively little timber. The small assemblage of worked bone from the site includes awls, a scapula knife, a scapula hoe, an unfinished digging stick tip, an unfinished fishhook, and a matting needle.

The carbonized plant remains recovered from flotation samples (1600 liters of feature fill were flotation processed) underscore the importance of cultivated plants in the subsistence economy of the Cowan site residents. As noted by Michael Dunne, who conducted the floral analysis for the Cowan project, the overall picture of domesticated plant use at Cowan agrees well with patterns noted at other Great Oasis sites. However, the Cowan site archaeobotanical assemblage provides a larger and more diverse database. Large amounts of corn and domesticated goosefoot were recovered and both of these occur in over 80 percent of the samples. These two crops apparently formed the basis of subsistence at the site. The apparently low frequency of corn cobs at Great Oasis sites has been pointed out and questions have arisen about whether Great Oasis people actually raised corn or traded for it. There is little doubt that the Cowan site residents grew corn locally. While less common than kernels,

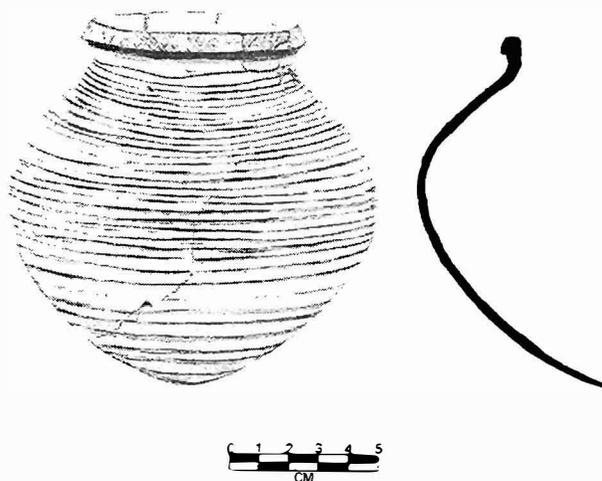


Figure 1. Complete Great Oasis pot from Feature 67.

corn cob and cupule fragments are nearly as ubiquitous as kernels in the Cowan site features. Other known or suspected cultigens in the assemblage include pepo squash, sunflower, marshelder/sumpweed, erect knotweed, and maygrass/reed canary grass. The recovery of a few tobacco seeds is a first for Great Oasis.

The Cowan site investigation yielded an impressive array of archaeological data useful in the interpretation, synthesis, and explanation of Great Oasis culture as well as the prehistory of northwest Iowa and its surrounding region. As documented in our full report, the decision to invest in large-scale, intensive data recovery excavation at this site yielded a remarkable assemblage of artifact, feature, ecological, spatial, geomorphological, and chronological data that will be of lasting importance to understanding Iowa's past and which should prove of interest to all concerned with Plains/Midwest archaeology.

Be sure to visit the Cowan Website at <http://www.uiowa.edu:80/~osa/research/research.htm> to learn more about our investigation and to see lots of images of artifacts and excavated features.

### Recent Excavations at the Eisele's Hill Locality Muscatine County Part I

by  
David W. Benn and Joe B. Thompson  
Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.

Excavations by Bear Creek Archeology, Cresco, Iowa, for the Iowa Department of Transportation at four prehistoric sites (13MC15, -134, -136, -169) in the Eisele's Hill locality (Figure 1) produced evidence of human occupations dating back thousands of years. Eisele's Hill, named for a former landowner, is a cluster of ridge spurs and a hanging valley in the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River valley along U.S. Highway 61 west of Muscatine, Iowa. Much of the land in this locality was never broken by the plow, and some native oaks and prairie plant species still grow in the area. Because artifact and data analyses are ongoing, this article briefly reviews what was discovered by fieldwork on the three upland sites during the spring and summer of 1998. A forthcoming article will summarize excavation results from 13MC15, the McNeal Fan.



Figure 1. Location of Eisele's Hill locality.

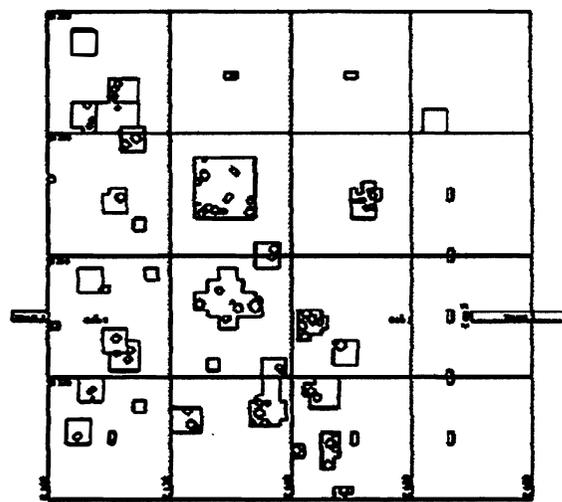


Figure 2. Data recovery area at the Cowan site showing 20-x-20-m grid, geomorphological trenches, excavation blocks, and feature locations.

#### 13MC169

Positioned on an unplowed loess-mantled ridge summit on the south side of Highway 61, at least 1,165 sq. m of this site was investigated by machine removal of the sod and shovel-skimming the AB/AE soil horizons (Figure 2). All 9,736 artifacts were piece-plotted with a total station (laser transit), and the excavation block produced 160 features. Most of these features were shallow pits and thin hearths associated with Late Woodland occupations, but a few deeper roasting pits were present as well. At least two relatively discrete scatters of cord decorated pottery from the AB/AE horizons appear to mark Late Woodland (Louisa phase) habitations along the ridge crest. A few Early Woodland period artifacts also came from this part of the soil profile, but it appears that the excavation block largely missed this earlier Woodland component. Underlying but mixed with the Woodland component at a depth of approximately 15-45 cm below surface (B1-B2 horizons) was a heavy scatter of artifacts from numerous preceramic occupations. We opened several hundred square meters in these Archaic components and exposed several roasting pits and fire-cracked rock features. Some of the characteristic artifacts include a Nebo Hill point (Late Archaic period), a variety of side-notched points (Middle to Late Archaic periods), and full and three-quarter grooved axes. A large assemblage of cobble tools also was recovered. Excavations merely sampled this massive, but very mixed, Archaic site which appears to cover much of the ridge crest in the manner of other Middle-Late Archaic sites in Iowa.

#### 13MC134

This unplowed site was positioned on small bench of an upland spur on the north side of Highway 61. Block excavation involved shovel-skimming 291 sq. m in six 8 cm levels below the sod layer. The block yielded 5,234 piece plotted artifacts and 23

cultural features consisting of unprepared hearths, small pits, a few deep roasting pits, and a large portion of a broken pot. Late Woodland, Early Woodland, and Middle Archaic components were partially stratified within (respectively) the AE, E, and B1/B2 soil horizons of the alfisol (forest soil) on this site. Two late Late Woodland habitation scatters were the most well preserved components, because they were the final occupations on this location. On a relatively level site surface a 5 m diameter depression resembling a “house” basin was sectioned by an exploratory trench. Expansion of this trench by block excavation exposed the entire extent and surrounding environs of a small Late Woodland house with a single central post, a south doorway, and an exterior activity area. The second Late Woodland habitation locus was partially exposed on the eastern side of the block. Diagnostic artifacts associated with these occupations include triangular, corner-notched, and side-notched arrow points and at least six vessels of cord decorated pottery (Burris ware). The Early Woodland period scatter in the E soil horizon was more diffuse than the Late Woodland component, owing to late prehistoric pit digging, and the Archaic components were too scattered to be defined in the bottom levels of the site. But diagnostic artifacts, including large numbers of Black Sand pottery sherds (Early Woodland period) from more than two vessels and three side-notched projectile points (Middle to Late Archaic periods), are evidence for the presence of earlier components.

#### 13MC136

This site was positioned in a hanging valley, where the McNeal Mound Group also is located, on the northern side of Highway 61. A “hanging valley” is a small drainage whose stream base level has been abandoned by downcutting of the master stream, in this case the Mississippi River, and therefore the valley is left “hanging” above the main valley. Excavation in the 13MC136 habitation midden recovered more than 17,000 piece-plotted artifacts and less than 30 cultural features (hearths and small pits) in 295 sq. m of excavation block. Investigation by shovel-skimming this unplowed site extended to a maximum depth of 48 cm (B2 horizon) below ground surface, with a marked drop in artifact density below approximately 45 cm. This site had the highest artifact density of the four sites in the Eisele’s Hill locality, indicating repeated occupations occurred in a small area. One of the questions we would like to answer about this site is its relationship to the nearby mound group—e.g., was this the habitation site for the builders? Preliminary analysis of the maps indicates that two late Late Woodland habitations (houses) may be present in the A/AE horizons. Deeper components dating to the Early Woodland and Archaic periods also are present. The earlier components were in a very mixed context, however, with the dense artifact scatter of mostly chert debitage making it difficult to separate components not associated with the pottery scatters.

#### Summary

The BCA excavations at the Eisele’s Hill locality produced evidence for numerous Woodland and Archaic occupations at all



Overview of site 13MC169 excavation.

three upland sites. At least one late Paleo-Indian point was recovered, and the presence of Middle Archaic peoples is well documented on the upland ridge, bench, and hanging valley sites. Local artifact collectors are, of course, equally well informed about this site distribution pattern. Occupations dating to the Late Woodland period are the most numerous and visible in the archeological record, and this is the case for most of the Upper Mississippi Valley. The high profile of Late Woodland sites is the result of two factors: a great many of these small habitation sites were created, and very few are deeply buried in the alluvium of the valley. As analyses progress in the forthcoming months, we will have more to say about prehistoric life at the Eisele’s Hill locality. (Editors note: Part II will be in the next issue.)

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#### In Memoriam: Charles J. Bareis (1929-1999)

The Iowa Archeological Society notes with sadness the death of Charles (Chuck) Bareis. Chuck joined the Iowa Archeological Society in 1966 and stayed an active member for 31 consecutive years. He became an Honorary Life Member of the IAS in 1998.

Chuck was an archaeologist and a member of the Department of Anthropology faculty at the University of Illinois. He received wide acclaim for organizing and directing one of the largest set of archaeological studies ever conducted in North America, the FAI-270 project in the American Bottom near Cahokia. Chuck also organized and oversaw research projects throughout Illinois in his 30 years as Secretary-Treasurer of the Illinois Archeological Survey. His summer field schools at Cahokia were training grounds for many of the region’s leading archaeologists. The high regard in which Chuck’s colleagues held him is shown in the monumental volume of 52 articles that honored him upon his retirement in 1993. A 564-page special issue of the journal *Illinois Archaeology* entitled “Highways to the Past: Essays on Illinois Archaeology in Honor of Charles J. Bareis.”

*Bill Green, State Archaeologist*

# IAS CHAPTER NEWS

## Blackhawk Regional Chapter

December 7th, Dr. Shott described how modern pottery and other material artifacts become a part of the archeological record. The people, culture, and architecture of the ancient metropolis of Cahokia was the theme for a chapter movie night in January. The Cahokia theme continued for the February meeting when club members and Dr. Shott shared their slides, pictures, and stories of the city of mounds.

Contact Stephen Lee  
404 Greeley St.  
Nashua, IA 50658  
(515) 435-4927

## Northwest Chapter

*"Cahokia Mounds Ancient Metropolis"* was shown to members at the January meeting. February 20th, Charles Trimble, born and raised on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and President of the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Historical Society presented a tribal view on native lands and sacred sites. The talk also presented an uplifting spiritual perspective on the Indian sense of place.

Contact: Linda Burkhart  
Sanford Museum 117 East Willow  
Cherokee, IA 51012  
(712) 225-3922

## Paul Rowe Chapter

The February 6th meeting was held at Glenwood. The chapter watched the video *"Bones of Contention."* Dick Krueger gave a talk on making and using authentic Indian drums, and Mike Bare demonstrated primitive bow and arrow manufacturing - including a Mongol composite horn bow.

Contact Dennis Miller  
31126 Applewood Rd.  
Silver City, IA 51571  
(712) 525-1007  
Farming99@aol.com

## Central Iowa Chapter

John Whittaker, Grinnell College Anthropology, gave the presentation *"Life on Red Peak"* at the CIC January meeting. In the last 15 years, John has led 8 summer excavations and field schools with Grinnell students on Sinagua sites around Flagstaff. *"Paleoindian and Early Archaic Geoarchaeology of Central Iowa: Land Before Corn"* was presented by Dr. Art Bettis, Geology Department of the University of Iowa at the February meeting. Dr. Bettis explained geology's role in archaeological discoveries.

Contact: Mike Heimbaugh  
3923 29<sup>th</sup> St.  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
(515) 255-4909  
paleomike@msn.com

## Southeast Iowa Chapter

Anton Till gave a presentation on how to identify artifacts that are real opposed to those that are hoaxes for the February 16th meeting. Plans are being finalized for field trips in March and April.

Contact: Anton Till  
16388 Second Street  
Hedrick, IA 52563  
(515) 655-7500

## Quad Cities Archaeological Society

The January meeting was a show and tell featuring significant surface finds. Finds included an archaic blade cache, Hopewell hemispheres, and Late Woodland burial wafers. *"Mississippian Art"* was presented by Larry Conrad, Director of the Western Illinois Archaeology Laboratory for the February meeting. The Quad Cities Chapter meets at 7:30 pm on the last Tuesday of the month at the Black Hawk State Historic Site in Rock Island.

Contact: Ferrel Anderson  
1923 East 13<sup>th</sup> St.  
Davenport, IA 52803  
(319) 324-0257

## Iowa Archeological Society's 50th Anniversary

The Society is gearing up for the IAS 50th Anniversary in the year 2001. The newsletter *Iowa Archeology News* will be publishing a history of the Society's organization and the individuals who helped promote it. If you or anyone you know would like to submit an article or pictures for publication, please contact the editor.

## Archiving the Iowa Archeological Society

The Iowa Archeological Society is archiving any and all materials relating to the association's business and minutes from past years. Anyone possessing such documents or related items who would like to submit it to the archives for future reference contact: Robin Lillie at the Iowa Archeological Society The University of Iowa, 700 Clinton Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52242 or contact the editor.



## OSA EDUCATION COMMITTEE PROMOTES PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY AND OUTREACH

Formally organized in 1995, this volunteer committee of OSA staff members has been working to promote archaeology in the schools and among the general public. Members of the committee are Lynn Alex, Adjunct Research Archaeologist; Mark Anderson, Survey Archaeologist; Shirley Schermer, Burials Program Director; Julianne Hoyer, Documents Curator; and chair Tim Weitzel, Site Records Coordinator. The group also receives advice and consultation from Bill Green.

The committee has attempted to help coordinate the scattered and disparate efforts of staff to provide the much requested information—whether by OSA staff speakers, resource materials, or referral to outside sources—on Iowa archaeology.

The committee has assisted in a number of specific activities. Four public brochures on prehistoric technology and culture history were printed. An exhibit was created for the Iowa State Fair, in conjunction with the UI Department of Anthropology. An OSA webpage provides information and updates on research and events. Papers and talks were coordinated for classrooms, professional meetings, and public groups. Iowa Archaeology Week, as a major statewide program, continued to improve and expand under the direction of Tim Weitzel.

However, the most important aspect of the committee's work has been planning toward the formal institutionalization of education and public outreach into the activities of the office. Such work had always been a part of its state mission. The specific goal was to add a staff position to OSA, finally providing a consistent educational presence both to coordinate current activities and develop new programs. Happily, this goal was realized in February with the hiring of the public education coordinator. The position has temporarily been funded by the UI Arts and Humanities Initiative. It is expected that future grants will enable the OSA to continue this needed staff position.

## Lynn Alex to Head OSA's Education Activities

Lynn Alex, who has made many contributions to the archaeology of both Iowa and South Dakota and is a familiar face and friend to many IAS members, has taken over as OSA's Public Archaeology Coordinator. Lynn first worked at OSA in 1975 as a public education director and immediately began her contributions to public archaeology. She wrote the OSA Educational Series on the prehistoric cultures of Iowa, helped produce several film strips, and developed archaeology correspondence courses. She continued the tradition of IAS field schools, heading the excavation at the Helen Smith site in Louisa County in 1976. She wrote *Exploring Iowa's Past: A Guide to Prehistoric Archaeology*, which became a very valuable resource for the non-professional archaeologist.

In 1976 Lynn moved to South Dakota when her husband Bob became State Archaeologist. She taught classes at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, expanded her interest in Midwestern archaeology to Plains archaeology by working on numerous CRM projects and field schools, and continued being a resource person for local classrooms and organizations.

After Bob's death, she married OSA archaeologist Steve Lensink and moved back to Iowa City with her children Allison and Brendan. Since her return, she has been an invaluable resource for OSA's educational efforts. She has updated her original book, and the revision, *Iowa's Archaeological Past*, is now in press. She has made many presentations to schools, public groups, and professional meetings; led field trips; and, with Steve, co-directed three IAS field schools.

## Johnson County History Talk

Cynthia Peterson, Survey Archaeologist for OSA's General Contracts Program was the featured speaker at a public program February 4 at the Coralville Public Library. Cindy presented the results of 1998 excavations at one of the Johnson County's first claim cabins. Built in the late 1830s by fur trader John Gilbert, the cabin was next to the town of Napoleon, the first county seat, just south of Iowa City.

The excavation yielded remains of two storage cellars, two hearths, and associated items such as pottery and china fragments, burned bones, bottle pieces, burned bones and seeds. People were especially intrigued with Cindy's sharing of more unique artifacts like the trade beads, tinkler earring, and hawk bell. This excavation revealed much about the daily lives of the first Euro-American settlers and their interactions with the nearby Meskwaki villages of Poweshiek and Wacoshashe. Information on these excavations was published in OSA Contract Completion Reports 563 and 611.

## GIS UPDATE

Joe Alan Artz, since 1989, a project archaeologist with the Highway Archaeology Program, has assumed new duties as the OSA's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator. He will oversee the implementation of GIS technology at OSA, which will expand and extend the office's ability to display, query, and analyze map data. He will be assisted by newly hired GIS technician Heidi Lack. She previously worked on OSA's Cowan site project.

His first major task will be to digitally record the locations of all recorded archaeological sites—over 18,000 of them—currently in the Iowa Site File. The result will be an "electronic map" of the state's archaeological resources that can be used by planners and researchers to interactively display and analyze the distribution of sites across the Iowa landscape. The digitized site locations will be linked, via computer, with the Iowa Site File database, further expanding our abilities to query and analyze the existing site records.

In addition, the GIS will be able to display site locations in relationship to a host of other geographic "layers" such as streams, soils, city boundaries, and even computer-aided design (CAD) plans for proposed highway projects. OSA is developing the site location layer in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office, which will develop layers for archaeological survey areas and historic architectural sites. The digitization project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA) through a grant from the Iowa DOT to the State Historical Society.

## Calendar of Events

### April 10-18, 1999

The Iowa Archeological Society is sponsoring an archaeological field school at the Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Area in Linn County, Iowa between April 10-18, 1999. For more information call Leah Rogers at (319) 895-8330. There will be a special mailing to the membership regarding registration.

### April 18, 1999

The Central Iowa Chapter of the Iowa Archeological Society will have a pre-survey training session beginning at 1:30 PM., on April 18, 1999, at the State Historical Building in Des Moines, Iowa. This training session is in preparation for the 1999 Central Iowa Chapter Field School Survey at Living History Farms. Contact Mike Heimbaugh for further information at: (515) 255-4909 or [paleomike@msn.com](mailto:paleomike@msn.com).

### April 23-24, 1999

Iowa Academy of Science annual meeting will be in Ames Iowa. The anthropology section will have a symposium on the recent findings at the Cowan site. Jason Titcomb, ISUAL and NWIAS Chapter president will present a paper on Oneota in Northwest Iowa.

### May 1, 1999

The Iowa Archeological Society's Spring Meeting will be May 1st at the Putnam Museum in Davenport, Iowa. There will be a morning program, a luncheon, and afternoon field trips. Details will be mailed to all IAS members.

### May 6, 1999

The program "Wild Edibles" will be held at Thomas Mitchell Park, Shelter No. 1 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. Learn how to identify, cook, and even enjoy common "weeds". *Preregistration required.* Contact the Polk County Conservation Board at Jester Park, Granger, Iowa for more information.

### May 15-16 and May 22-23, 1999

The 1999 Central Iowa Chapter Field Survey at Living History Farms will run two consecutive weekends. Co-sponsored by the Living History Farms the field survey will be from 9:00 am to 4:00 PM each day. For registration information contact Mike Heimbaugh at (515) 255-4909 or e-mail at [paleomike@msn.com](mailto:paleomike@msn.com)

### May 23 to June 18, 1999

Lakeside Lab course; Nature of cultural and environmental evidence in archaeology, emphasis Iowa. Contact Michael Shott at the University of Northern Iowa.

## News Items

### Effigy Mounds National Monument

Effigy Mounds National Monument will celebrate its 50th Anniversary this year! The proclamation that established Effigy Mounds as a National Monument was signed October 25th 1949 by President Harry S. Truman. Plan a visit to Effigy Mounds this year and help celebrate the 50th Anniversary.

### DeLorme Topo USA

This CD-ROM is for those of you with computers that will allow you to print detailed topographical maps. The software includes four CDs which include information on the entire United States. The CDs are in four different regions with Iowa being in the North-eastern Region. Now there is no excuse for not filing those site reports. Available at your local retailer.

### Archaeology on the Great Plains

Edited by W. Raymond Wood, this book explores in detail the cultural history of the Great Plains. Contributors include George C. Frison and Dale R. Henning. Published in 1998 by the University Press of Kansas 2501 West 15th Street, Lawrence, KS. 66049.

### Membership Information

Contact Membership Secretary, Iowa Archeological Society, University of Iowa, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, IA 52242-1030.

### Membership Dues

#### Voting:

Active	\$15
Household	\$18
Sustaining	\$25

#### Non-Voting:

Student (under 18)	\$7
Institution	\$20

### Newsletter Information

The Iowa Archeological Society is a non-profit, scientific society legally organized under the corporate laws of Iowa. Members of the Society share a serious interest in the archaeology of Iowa and the Midwest. *Iowa Archeology News* is published four times a year.

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