

# IOWA ARCHEOLOGY NEWS



Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society

Founded 1951

Volume 49, No. 4

Issue 172

Winter, 1999

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## Clovis and Beyond Conference

By Kris Hirst

Over Halloween weekend, I and Eloise Ramirez of the Highway Archaeology Program at the OSA attended the Clovis and Beyond conference, along with 1,200 other people. The conference was held at the Sweeney Convention Center, right down town in Santa Fe, New Mexico; and the weather was just wonderful, except for a brief snow shower on Friday noon.

The conference consisted of 33 papers, 35 poster papers and 31 exhibits. Eloise and I remained glued to our seats throughout all the papers, because most of the information was so interesting and new to us. Every lunchtime I found myself munching on a bratwurst and elbowing the rest of the crowd aside to get a look at the most incredible collection of artifacts I have ever seen. Although there were artifacts from such famous Clovis sites as the Naco site (Arizona), the Colby site (Wyoming), the Aucilla River sites (Florida), Blackwater Draw (New Mexico), Bull Brook (Massachusetts), the Keven Davis Cache, the Richey (or East Wenatchee) Cache (Washington), Lange-Ferguson (South Dakota), and the pre-Clovis Cactus Hill site (Virginia), to name just a few, the Fenn Cache, an incredible collection of 56 enormous Clovis blades, including the only crescent ever found in association with Clovis materials, stole the show.

The papers covered topics from DNA research to public policy, from climate change to colonization, and presented more ideas new to me (although not new to everyone there) than I could shake a stick at. Several pre-Clovis sites were discussed in papers or in posters, including a half-dozen mammoth butchering sites in southeastern Wisconsin excavated by David Overstreet at Marquette University; the Big Eddy site in southwestern Missouri, excavated by Neal Lopinot of Southwest Missouri State University; and La Sena, excavated by Steve Holen of the University of Nebraska and Dave May of University of Northern Iowa in southwestern Nebraska.

Eloise and I enjoyed the trip very much; maybe more so because of the long Amtrak ride that took us there and back. Santa Fe is lovely in October, and the meeting was all anyone could ask for. Abstracts from the papers at Clovis and Beyond are available at their website: <http://www.clovisandbeyond.org> and I'll be presenting several articles on the conference for my own website: <http://archaeology.about.com>

# IAS Announcements

## Events-Education-News

### IAS Honorary Lifetime Members for 2000

Congratulations to our new Honorary Lifetime Members. All have been IAS members for 30 years as of 1999. We appreciate the dedication and contributions of **Sheila Hainlin** (Des Moines, Central Chapter member), **Robert Hall** (University of Illinois-Chicago), and **Patricia O'Brien** (Kansas State University, Manhattan).

### *Welcome to New IAS Members in 1999*

Iowa Archeological Society membership for 1999 totaled 494 members, including 37 new members:

Kathy Andersen, Iowa City  
Joe Anderson, Des Moines  
Pat Brown, Danville  
Antony Clifton, Des Moines  
Jesse Cozad, Adel  
J. Douglas Dawson, Chicago, IL  
Mary Diehl, Indianola  
Tim Dunn, Aloha, OR  
Jackie Ericson, Garden Grove  
Fr. Michael J. Erpelding, Fort Dodge  
George Goeldner, Ames  
Steve Gustafson, Bettendorf  
Harold and Mary Hensel, Cedar Rapids  
Julie and Henry Holt, Scotch Grove  
Steve Ingersoll, Plymouth  
Diane Kaufman, Iowa City  
Kira Kaufmann, Des Moines  
Pam Larson, Boone  
Edward J. Lueck, Sioux Falls, SD

Craig A. Malvin, Monona, WI  
Tim McAndrews, Aliquippa, PA  
Elizabeth W. McCracken, New York, NY  
Thomas C. Olthafer, Cuba City, WI  
Joanne Peterson, Waverly  
Clay Phillips, East Peru  
Jim Prouty, Ames  
Joshua D. Reynolds, Sioux City  
Michael and Beverly Robinson, Humboldt  
Christine Roy, Hampton  
Leslie Ruggles, Oskaloosa  
Christopher M. Schoen, Cedar Rapids  
Rosa Snyder, Clive  
Betty Sorg, Coralville  
Lin Stephens, Rock Island, IL  
Kim and Scott Tyo, Marion  
Steven Van Kleeck, Hampton  
Carolyn Wellso, Mount Vernon

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## IAS Fall Meeting

Both the meeting site and the day provided a beautiful setting for the October 9th meeting. Over 50 IAS members enjoyed the morning activities at the Hitchcock Nature Area. Informative, short presentations were given, including: *OSA & Archaeology Month Update*, Bill Green; *Excavations at the Manteno Townsite*, Jonathan Sellars; *Ancient Mounds*, George Horton; and *1999 CIC Field Survey at Living History Farms*, Doug Jones. Nancy Osborn Johnsen capped off the morning by giving the very insightful and informative presentation *It's Not "The Titanic" - But "Underwater Archaeology" Does Occur on the Great Plains...The Excavation of the Civil-War Era Steamboat Bertrand*. A guided tour of the Bertrand Museum, with a behind the scenes tour of the lab, was the highlight of the afternoon at the DeSoto Wildlife Refuge and Visitor Center.

## "Iowa's Archaeological Past"

University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, Iowa

Lynn M. Alex's long-awaited, new book *Iowa's Archaeological Past* is now scheduled for release in May of 2000. Iowa has more than eighteen thousand archaeological sites, and research in the past few decades has transformed our knowledge of the state's human past. Examining the projectile points, potsherds, and patterns that make up the archaeological record, Lynn describes the nature of the earliest settlements in Iowa, the development of farming cultures, the role of the environment and environmental change, geomorphology and the burial of sites, interaction among native societies, tribal affiliation of early historic groups, and the arrival and impact of Euro-Americans. In a final chapter Lynn examines the question of stewardship and protection of Iowa's archaeological resources. *Release May of 2000, 420 pages, 20 color and 81 b&w photos, 59 drawings, 32 maps, 7 x 10 inches, \$49.95 cloth, \$29.95 paper.*

# “Are Neandertals Our Ancestors?—Possibly”

By Lynn Alex

Iowa Archeological Society members from as far away as Ames, Davenport, Dubuque, and Des Moines, joined an audience of about 100 on October 28, 1999, at Macbride Hall Auditorium on The University of Iowa campus to hear Dr. Erik Trinkaus describe the latest fossil evidence regarding the Neandertals and their relationship to early modern humans in southwest Europe. Considering that Vice President Al Gore and the satirical “Capitol Steps” were in town at the same time, the turnout for the presentation was a gratifyingly respectable one.

Dr. Trinkaus, Washington University, St. Louis, a world renowned scholar on the Neandertals and a member of the National Academy of Science, is part of an international team studying the skeletal remains of a human burial unearthed last year at the Portuguese site of Abrigo do Lagar Velho, north of Lisbon, and radiocarbon dated to 24,500 B. P. The burial represents a youngster of about four years of age who was found covered in red ocher and wearing shell ornaments. In Dr. Trinkaus’ view, the skeleton appears to display a mix of traits characteristic of both Neandertal and early modern humans, suggesting that it represents a hybrid. Since even the latest Neandertal remains in western Europe to date no later than about 30,000-32,000 B. P., Dr. Trinkaus believes that this child does not represent a first generation offspring of a Neandertal and an early modern human (a “love-child” so to speak), but rather a descendant of individuals who had interbred centuries if not millennia before. Such interbreeding implies that socially and culturally Neandertals and the very earliest modern humans were perhaps more alike than generally thought.

In response to questions from the audience, Dr. Trinkaus displayed a healthy skepticism about the present state of DNA evidence and its relevance to human evolutionary

studies. He noted that the recent announcement that Neandertal DNA is very different from that of modern humans is not particularly surprising, and that extracting DNA from ancient, rare, and in some cases very fragile skeletons remains difficult. DNA studies that compare Neandertal to early modern humans and might show their degree of similarity have yet to be conducted. In his estimation, the relationship between the Neandertals and early modern humans is likely to have been a complicated and varied one across the geographical range in which the two are found. Thus it may not be a question of a simple displacement or replacement of Neandertals by early modern humans coming out of Africa. In some regions, Neandertals may have survived longer and may have interbred with early modern humans, in others, early modern humans may have displaced or replaced Neandertal populations quite rapidly. In either case, it is unlikely that today’s human populations would display genetic material identifiable as Neandertal in origin.

Dr. Trinkaus’ visit was cosponsored by the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist, the Anthropology Department, Medical Museum, Museum of Natural History, and the Department of Geoscience at the University of Iowa, the Iowa State University Archaeology Laboratory, and the Iowa City/Coralville Convention and Visitors Bureau. While a request had been made to the Museum of Natural History to have Dr. Trinkaus’ presentation videotaped, this was not done. For those wishing to learn more, a text, *The Neanderthals: Of Skeletons, Scientists, and Scandal*, by Erik Trinkaus and Pat Shipman, published in 1994, is still in print. It provides an historical account of the discoveries of Neandertal fossils and their interpretation.

## “FYI”

Starting with this issue of the Newsletter, we begin a new feature entitled “FYI” which will briefly address something archaeological that readers may have wondered about. This time we answer the question:

### “Neandertal” or “Neanderthal?”

The question has arisen as to whether it is “Neandertal” or “Neanderthal,” most of us being more familiar with the latter. The original fossils were discovered in the Neander Valley near Dusseldorf, Germany, in 1856. In old German, *thal* (pronounced *tal*) means valley, hence Neanderthal. The fossils were originally christened *Homo neanderthalensis*, a separate species from *Homo sapiens sapiens*. Later, scholars who favored a closer taxonomic affinity to modern humans dubbed them *Homo sapiens neanderthalensis*, suggesting a difference at the subspecies level. At the beginning of this century, German orthography (spelling) changed and the *th* construction was simplified to *t*. Since the original scientific naming was made prior to the change in orthography, many scholars adhere to the old spelling, *neanderthal*, while others prefer the update, *neandertal*. The debate still rages over whether they belong to a separate species or subspecies within our own genus. (from *FYI*, Faculty and Staff News, University of Iowa, Oct. 15, 1999, Vol. 37(5):1.)

# 1999 Central Iowa Chapter Field Survey at Living History Farms

By Douglas W. Jones

During the month of May, the Central Iowa Chapter conducted a Field Survey at Living History Farms in Urbandale. The goals of the survey were to 1) provide opportunities for IAS members, interested public, and staff at Living History Farms to learn about and participate in supervised archaeological fieldwork; 2) provide an opportunity for IAS members to work toward the completion of the Site Surveyor Certification; and 3) provide Living History Farms information on the types and locations of archaeological sites on their property for interpretive purposes as well as for future planning considerations.

Thirty-seven people participated in the Field Survey. Between 150 to 175 acres of agricultural fields at Living History Farms were pedestrian surveyed, and 17 new archaeological sites were identified and recorded during the survey. Both prehistoric and historic archaeological sites were identified. The prehistoric sites represented extremely small resource extraction areas or isolated finds. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the prehistoric sites; however, one tool, a scraper, was recovered at one of the sites. Prior to the survey, no prehistoric archaeological sites had been identified on this property or surrounding property which had been previously surveyed. The results of this survey indicate that prehistoric human populations did utilize this area on an apparently infrequent and temporary basis.

The historic archaeological sites represent two abandoned road segments, two former farmsteads, several historic artifact scatters, and one site associated with the early development of Living History Farms. One of the former historic farmsteads may be associated with the Martin Flynn farm, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Martin Flynn was a prominent Des Moines businessman and was internationally known as a Shorthorn cattle breeder and as a contractor for railroad grade construction. He formerly owned a large portion of the current Living History Farms property and managed a large dairy operation on the farm. The former historic farmstead identified during this survey may be a house for the "hired man or men" employed by Martin Flynn on the farm.

One of the most important results of the survey is the recognition that the landscape of the current Living History Farms property has been significantly altered during the last 150 years. Many of the landscape alterations were

most noticeable in the western portion of the property and were related to the development of agricultural activities throughout time such as the clearing of timber stands, the tiling of wetlands, the creation of agricultural terraces to control erosion, and the removal of the field fences to create large fields. The construction of Interstates 35 and 80 through the current Living History Farms property in 1957 further altered the landscape. It continues to affect the Living History Farms landscape directly and visually as sprawling commercial and residential developments now surround the Living History Farms property. Even the development of the property as a "Living Museum" altered the landscape as interpretive sites (such as the 1900s farm and the Ioway Village) and roads were created on the property. As we documented during the survey, some of these interpretive sites were abandoned and now are archaeological sites. All of the landscape alterations that have occurred at Living History Farms presented a very difficult situation for mapping identified archaeological sites during the survey as the current locations of new structures, current roads, and current agricultural terraces were not included on any of the available maps of the property.

The 1999 LHF Survey was very successful. Survey participants experienced "typical" things that occur on archaeological surveys, and they learned a considerable amount about how to identify, record, and interpret archaeological sites. Also, survey participants were able to visit a number of the Living History Farms interpretive sites in order to learn about the types of artifacts and features, which could be present at archaeological sites dating to the respective time periods.

A well-deserved "Thank You" is extended to Joe Anderson (Living History Farms) for arranging and guiding the lunch time tours of the interpretive sites. I would also like to thank all of the participants for their efforts and for making the survey so successful as well as an enjoyable experience. Special thanks go out to Mike and Nancy Heimbaugh for all of their efforts in coordinating this event.

The 1999 LHF Field Survey was unable to complete all of the available agricultural fields at Living History Farms because there was just too much land too cover and not enough time. Plans have been tentatively made for another Field Survey at Living History Farms next Spring to continue working on the survey. Details on the 2000 LHF Field Survey will be forthcoming in subsequent newsletters.

**Digging for Understanding:**  
**1999 University of Iowa Field School Activities at the**  
**Broken Kettle (13PM1) and Broken Kettle West (13PM25) Sites, Plymouth County, Iowa**

By **John F. Doershuk, Larry J. Zimmerman, Todd M. Kapler, Richard L. Fishel, and William Green**

During the summer of 1999, the University of Iowa experimented with a field school<sup>1</sup> from within its American Indian and Native Studies Program (AINSP) designed to blend Indian concerns about the way in which archaeology studies the prehistoric past directly with archaeological field methods training. Why? Because we believe that archaeology needs to be accountable to those whose past it studies, a position expressed in the ethical codes of organizations such as the World Archaeological Congress and the Society for American Archaeology. The genesis of the course lies with Larry Zimmerman<sup>2</sup>, current director of AINSP. In early 1999, Todd Kapler of Cultural Heritage Consultants from Sioux City, Iowa, received a contract with the Plymouth County Engineer for an extensive Phase II test of a road project near the edge of a well known Great Oasis village, 13PM25, the Broken Kettle West site (BKW). Kapler, Zimmerman, and Doershuk agreed that the BKW project might make a good one for the AINSP field school.

The AINSP Steering Committee, comprised of Indian and non-Indian faculty, staff, and students, conditionally agreed to sponsor the course pending notification of tribes in the area and permission from the Indian Advisory Committee to the OSA. Zimmerman began to build an advisory board for the field school while Doershuk and Kapler worked with the SHPO on a research design for the Phase II and contingencies for full data recovery. The participation of the field school was viewed by SHPO as an integral part of the research design.

Zimmerman invited a number of American Indians to serve on a national board, but especially those who had experience working with archaeologists, worked in areas related to archaeology and tribal cultural preservation, or were archaeologists themselves. By the time the field school started, this board included:

**Leonard Bruguier, Inhanktonwan (Yankton Sioux)**  
Director, Institute of American Indian Studies, University of South Dakota

**Roger Echo-Hawk, Pawnee**  
Repatriation Coordinator, Denver Art Museum

**Lance Foster, Iowa**  
Historical Landscape Architect, National Park Service, Santa Fe

**Julie Lakota, Lakota**  
Archivist, Oglala Lakota College

**David Liberty, Umatilla**  
(formerly) Confederated Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Cultural Resources Protection

**Dawn Makes Strong Move, Ho-Chunk (Winnebago)**  
(formerly) Ho-Chunk Legislative Branch  
**Steve Russell, Cherokee**  
Visiting Judge, State of Texas and Assistant Professor, Social and Policy Sciences, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

The board's task was ill defined, but generally involved suggesting and providing readings, raising questions about the research design, and for those who were nearby, agreeing to visit the site and talk with students.

### **The Field School**

With SHPO approval of the research design, the field school began with 13 students who came from across the country. The school started on June 28th and ran six weeks through August 6. John Doershuk and Richard Fishel provided daily instruction, with Todd Kapler assisting and coordinating quality of fieldwork on BKW. The daily field instruction was standard archaeological field training. Videos on a range of archaeological topics from stone tool manufacture to excavations at Cahokia supplemented readings and field experience. Generally, the approaches to training varied little from field schools in which most of us and several of the advisory board members had been trained. Students also read materials on the Great Oasis and Mill Creek complexes.

The American Indian concerns were carefully integrated into this process with videos, discussions, and visits from Indian people. *Stepping Stones to Common Ground*<sup>3</sup> provided core readings, with additional materials from Echo-Hawk, Liberty, and Russell, as well as additional materials about archaeological ethics. Numerous evening and rain-day videos provided constant fodder for discussion. Titles ranged from *Bones of Contention* to the CBS *60 Minutes* segment on Kennewick Man.

The primary approach, however, was active contact with Indian people at least once a week. During the first week, Scott and Reva Barta from the American Indian Movement of Sioux City met one evening with students. Scott Barta performed a sage-burning ceremony to open the evening, explaining its significance in his belief system to the students. Reva Barta told the students that scientists have no business digging up the sites of Indian villages or studying their past. Scott was less adamant, but demanded that students pay careful attention to Indian concerns, showing respect for the artifacts. He asked that the students consider carefully the reburial issue from the perspective of indigenous peoples. Student responses varied from hurt and anger to contemplation, with one noting that she had never met a person who hated something that she loved. She also noted

that she needed to hear such a point of view. The evening was a challenge for all.

The next week, Dawn Makes Strong Move, a trained archaeologist who works on cultural preservation issues for the Ho-Chunk nation, visited the field school. In the classroom, she spent about three hours discussing the problems of archaeology and being a Native archaeologist, then spent the rest of the day at the site visiting with each student individually or in small groups.

During week three the students were asked to consider the importance of oral tradition and to understand that Indian people are part of the contemporary world, not just that of prehistory, having contemporary concerns. The class visited the Oral History Center at the University of South Dakota. Its director, Leonard Bruguier, gave a lecture on oral history, played several tapes, and showed the students around the center.

Brian Molyneaux of the USD Archaeology Lab gave a tour of the lab and a demonstration of GIS. The rest of a long day was spent on the Yankton Sioux Reservation. Starting in the old agency town of Greenwood, the students met with Tessa Lehto, editor of the tribal newspaper *The Sioux Messenger*, and Louis Golus and Cliff Johnson of the tribe's Environmental Protection Unit. Lehto discussed the tribe's effort to restore traditions. Johnson discussed the tribe's current environmental issues including cleanup and protection of cultural resources. Golus then took the students out to the tribe's bison herd and talked about its efforts to build a herd, bison behavior, and a range of associated issues.

Leonard Bruguier took the group to two tribal cemeteries for a lecture on Yankton Sioux history, and visits to St. Paul's Church in Marty with its heavily syncretic Catholic and Nakota themes, the Ft. Randall archaeological site, and the tribal casino concluded the day.

Week four was a mix of activities, with field trips to the Dixon Site (Oneota), Sanford Museum in Cherokee Iowa, and the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village. By this time field testing at BKW had been completed. Twenty-two 1-x-1-m squares and one 2-x-3-m unit near the southern end of the site demonstrated that the road project was only on the extreme periphery of the site, with the bulk of the materials recovered near the south end. There was simply no reason to continue testing the areas, so the landowners, Don and Shirley Banks, generously allowed us to do some excavations at a heavily disturbed Mill Creek site across Broken Kettle Creek, the Broken Kettle Site (13PM1). This site is an extensive and deep Mill Creek midden that has been looted, explored by antiquarians, excavated several times, and suffered disturbance from various livestock operations over the last century. WPA excavations by Ellison Orr had recovered large quantities of artifacts and

faunal remains. Dale Henning later worked at the site. However, important questions remain regarding site stratigraphy, formation processes, subsistence patterns, and interaction networks.

The students excavated six 1-x-2-m units during weeks four through six of the field school. Most of our units cut through prior disturbances, but demonstrated that the site still contains intact materials and superb preservation. Mark Anderson of OSA visited the site and gave instruction in GPS while helping to pinpoint the locations of excavation units. The students were thrilled to find a wide range of Mill Creek pottery, stone tools, animal bones, and other materials.

Week five involved a visit by OSA Indian Advisory Committee members Maria Pearson and Howard Matalba, Dawn Makes Strong Move, and representatives from the Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board and the State Historical Society of Iowa. The visitors toured the site and talked individually with students. The following day, these same visitors and the students toured the Blood Run National Historic Landmark, a late period Oneota village in Lyon County, Iowa and South Dakota.

The final week of the field school included a visit to the Omaha and Winnebago Reservations. Omaha tribal historian Dennis Hastings generously invited us to his home where the students saw the video *The Return of the Sacred Pole*, discussed the repatriation of sacred objects from the Peabody Museum, and saw plans for the new tribal museum. They were joined by Professor Karl Reinhard from the University of Nebraska. Reinhard took the class to a nearby historic Omaha site and discussed the archaeological materials from the area as well interpretations of Omaha culture change as evidenced in osteological materials.

## Summary

We are still digesting the results and impacts of the field school. Kapler is handling analysis of the limited remains from BKW. Doershuk, Fishel, Green and the UI students from the field school are processing and cataloging the copious BK material. Soil samples have been floated but not yet sorted, although scanning has revealed corn, squash, chenopodium, and a range of other plants suggesting a botanical assemblage that is as variable in this Big Sioux phase site as in any of the Little Sioux Mill Creek sites.

We have begun plans for a similar field school in the summer of 2000. Bill Green has singled out the Fort Atkinson locality in northeast Iowa as extraordinary in terms of the wealth of its historical documentation and the richness and diversity of its archaeology. Our field school will emphasize excavation at sites that are important components of the Neutral Ground landscape, a U.S. Government-

established buffer zone created to control regional indigenous populations. The 1840 establishment of the Fort Atkinson military post and forced relocation of the Winnebago from Wisconsin to the Neutral Ground (administered by the Turkey River Subagency) created a short-lived but complex cultural landscape that witnessed varied interactions between native groups including the Winnebago, Meskwaki, and Sioux; these native groups and U.S. Military and Subagency personnel; and subsequent post-military occupations of the Fort Atkinson area. Planning meetings with the Fort Atkinson Historic Preservation Commission, Effigy Mounds National Monument, Iowa Department Natural Resources, Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board, Ho-Chunk Nation, Meskwaki Nation, and other interested parties have already been held and will continue into the spring.

Based on feedback from the students, as well as the Native Americans involved, the 1999 field school seemed a resounding success. One disappointment was that no Indian students signed up for the field school. Part of this is suspicion, certainly, but some of it is simply poor

advertising on our part. For the 2000 version, we will be actively recruiting Ho-Chunk and Meskwaki students who may be especially interested in the Historic period.

Such field schools are no panacea to problems between Indians and archaeologists but may move us toward an ethnocritical archaeology in which Indian people become full partners in archaeological research. These efforts also promise to heighten students' awareness of Indian concerns, a sensibility this next generation of archaeologists will need in order to form future partnerships.

<sup>1</sup> For photos, a full course schedule, and reading list see <http://www.uiowa.edu/~ainsp/fschool/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> Zimmerman, by an interesting twist of fate, had previously excavated at the Broken Kettle West site in 1967 with Drexel Peterson.

<sup>3</sup> Swidler, Nina, Kurt Dongske and Roger Anyon, (editors) 1997 *Native Americans and Archaeologists: Stepping Stones to Common Ground*. Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press.

## Meave G. Leakey Lecture at ISU

By Joseph Tiffany

On Tuesday, November 2, 1999, Iowa State University students, faculty and Iowa Archeological Society members had the rare treat of attending a public lecture at Iowa State by noted paleoanthropologist Meave G. Leakey. Leakey discussed her 30 years of research in East Africa, specifically in the Lake Turkana basin in Kenya. Leakey told the audience about the many changes that have occurred since she began work in 1969. Then, the mere description and reporting of a hominid find was important. Now, she notes, much more information is available on early humankind so that each new find receives careful scrutiny and must undergo exhaustive comparative analysis prior to publication. The result is publication of new finds lags well behind their discovery.

Leakey is the head of the Division of Paleontology of the National Museums of Kenya. She is married to Richard Leakey the son of the late Mary and Louis Leakey. The Leakey family is internationally acclaimed for their numerous discoveries of the fossils of early humankind and related sites. Leakey reviewed some of this work in her talk including such sites as Laetoli where in 1978 footprints of early bipedal (upright walking) hominids (biological classification which includes fossil and modern human forms) were found by Mary Leakey in volcanic deposits

dating over 3.6 million years ago. She also discussed Richard Leakey's remarkable discovery of a nearly complete skeleton of an early human form, *Homo ergaster*, a fossil related to *Homo erectus*. Known as Lake Turkana Boy, this find dates between 1.5 and 1.9 million years ago.

Leakey focused most of her talk, however, on her joint discovery of another important early hominid form, *Australopithecus anamensis* from the site of Kanapoi at Lake Turkana. Reported in 1995, this bipedal hominid has many ape-like features in the recovered lower jaw and maxilla. This specimen dates to over 4 million years ago and puts the dating of human evolution and bipedalism back almost 500,000 years earlier than previously believed. The relationship of this find with another recent find, *Ardipithecus ramidus*, from Ethiopia is not well understood.

At the end of the lecture, Leakey took several questions from the audience regarding bipedalism, comparative research with chimpanzees, dexterity and development of the human hand, and the place of the many East African finds with regard to evolutionary theory. Leakey's work on our earliest ancestors continues, and her presentation certainly allowed the audience to get, as she put it, "some feel of the excitement of the work we do."

# LITHIC COLLECTION ANALYSIS PROJECT REPORT

## For the State Historical Society of Iowa Artifact Collection

By Mark L. Anderson

A little over a year ago I was approached by the Central Chapter of the Iowa Archaeology Society for assistance in a lithic identification project. This project is a joint effort between the State Historical Society of Iowa, the Central Chapter of the Iowa Archaeological Society and the Office of the State Archaeologist, to better understand the artifacts comprising the collections held at the SHSI Museum, Des Moines. The goal of the project is to conduct an inventory of individual artifacts housed in the SHSI collections and provide a basic analysis of multiple metric, morphological, and typological attributes of the assemblage for public use.

The artifacts are composed of donations made to the SHSI by Iowa residents from all areas of the state. The collections contain just over 2,000 artifacts, primarily flaked tools and projectile points but also some ground stone and cobble tools. A set of data sheets was created to encode metric and non-metric data in an Excel spreadsheet format. A space was also provided for a tracing or sketch of each artifact as well. A 50 sample chert collection was assembled from the OSA chert type collection for use during the project. This part may be very useful considering that not all the donated collections are clear about being solely from Iowa. Chert typing may be the tool that allows a more positive assessment of local or out-of-state origin to some of the artifacts in the collections. The only analysis task yet to complete is a verification of the chert typing that is admittedly the most difficult part since chert is so varied and differences can be subtle. The chert type collection will then become a part of the permanent artifact display showing both the artifacts and the raw materials they are derived from.

As of November 1st, roughly 40 percent of the data sheets have been entered into Excel. When data sheet entry is complete (est. January 2000), this spreadsheet will likely be imported into Microsoft Access, another database program that provides additional options for interpretation that Excel does not offer. The data sheets have been completed by volunteers from the Central Iowa Chapter,

whom all deserve a large round of applause for many hours of work necessary to record information on over 2,000 artifacts. The artifacts were organized in drawers that were then assigned to the volunteers who worked individually and together to accomplish this sizable task. After entering many of these data sheets the quality of recorded data is impressive and the information should provide an excellent tool for evaluating the SHSI collection as a whole.

The results will be used not only to more fully appreciate the SHSI collections but also to provide the visiting public with an opportunity to access and use a professionally prepared artifact collection. A publicly accessible artifact collection of this type would be a first for the Midwest, a positive use of an existing and previously little used SHSI collection and a fine addition to the new education section of the museum in Des Moines. This assemblage will allow the avocational archaeologists, teachers, and a plethora of others from across the state and region access to an analyzed artifact assemblage for comparative and educational purposes, as well as for the simple visual enjoyment of the precision, skill and beauty of prehistoric tool manufacture.

Several people have played integral parts in this project and deserve thanks. Mike and Nancy Heimbaugh were instrumental in establishing the contacts from the Central Iowa Chapter and organized the work end of things. Jerome Thompson, SHSI curator, provided a workroom with tables and other project supplies, access time on the weekends for the volunteers, and other support along with completing the display at the museum. Tony Wright, recent ISU graduate, assisted in the formulation of the project data sheets and planning details during the early stages. Michelle Nebergall, U of I undergraduate, assisted in creating the Excel spread sheets used for data entry. The Central Iowa Chapter members of the IAS deserve the greatest thanks, they have graciously volunteered so many hours completing the data sheets for each and every artifact and their continuing interest insure to see the project through. Thanks to all.

### IAS 50th Anniversary Committee

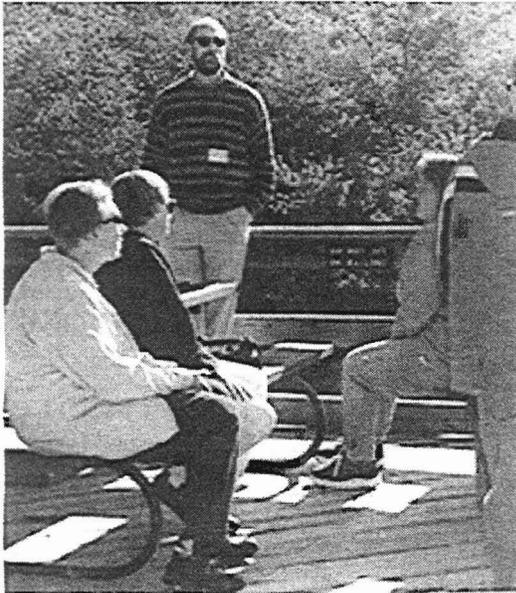
At the Fall IAS Meeting the 50th Anniversary Committee met for a review of the questionnaire results submitted by IAS members. The results were ranked from most appropriate (first) to the least appropriate (last). The following is a list of some of the most requested activities:

Create a special volume, similar in scope to an IAS Journal issue, that focuses specifically on the history and accomplishments of the IAS and its members. Conduct a membership drive, utilizing the IAS anniversary and the Society's accomplishments as a theme to increase membership.

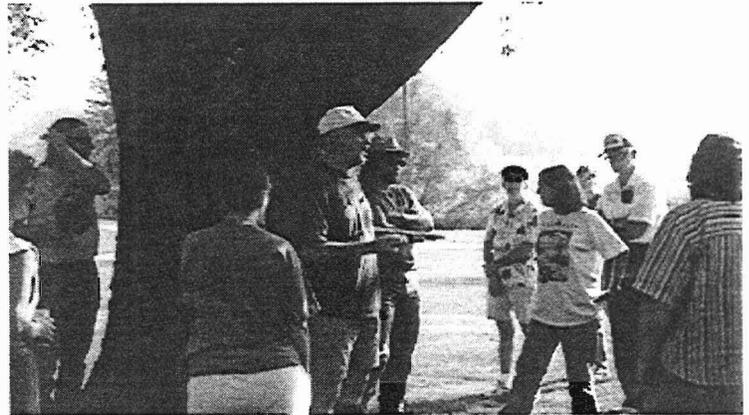
Have each IAS Chapter prepare a history or summary of its members and accomplishments. The collected chapter histories could be published in either the Journal or in Newsletter issues. Sponsor a special meeting or conference to celebrate the IAS Anniversary. Such a meeting could include special papers related to the IAS history, and a banquet or party to celebrate the Society's accomplishments.

The above are by no means the only ideas. Other suggestions included a special poster honoring the 50th Anniversary, IAS 50th Anniversary hats or t-shirts and a new IAS logo.

# IAS In Pictures



**Mike Perry (standing) giving an informal presentation on the Nebraska phase at Fall 1999 IAS Meeting.**



**Anton Till, center, archaeologist and member of the Southeast Chapter of the IAS, presenting to chapter members at the Montrose Cemetery.**

**Nancy Osborn Johnsen presenting on the excavation of the Bertrand at the 1999 IAS Fall Meeting. Nancy's talk was a great preview for the guided tour of the Bertrand Museum at the DeSoto Wildlife Refuge and Visitor Center.**



**Mary Raker and Museum Technician Jennifer Stafford at the Bertrand Museum Laboratory. Mary is on the left and Jennifer is on the right.**



## **Oneota Body Sherd**

Mr. Matt Graesch, ISU Geology major from Urbandale, Iowa, found this Oneota body sherd on the Raccoon River near Booneville, Iowa. The specimen depicts the "nested chevron" design common on Central Iowa Oneota pottery (Osborn 1982). Although water worn, there is also a small node associated with the design that may have been part of a loop handle or lug on the vessel body which is another decorative feature of the Moingona phase pottery observed on Oneota ceramics from such sites as Howard Goodhue (13PK1). This sherd is apparently the first reporting of Oneota pottery from the Raccoon River drainage (Gradwohl 1974:96). The specimen (pictured at right) was drawn by ISU Anthropology student Atena Bryne.

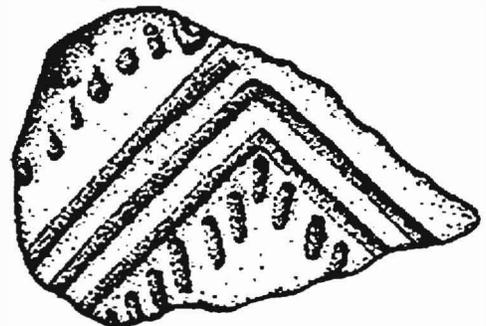
References:

Gradwohl, David M.

1974 Archaeology of the Central Des Moines River Valley: A Preliminary Summary. In, Eldon Johnson

(editor), *Aspects of Upper Great Lakes Anthropology: Papers in Honor of Lloyd A. Wilford*, pp. 90-102. Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.

Osborn, Nancy M.  
1982 The Clarkson site (13WA2), an Oneota manifestation in the Central River Valley. *Journal of the Iowa Archaeological Society* 29:1-108.



**Moingona phase Oneota body sherd found on the Raccoon River.**

# IAS Chapter News

## Blackhawk Regional Chapter

At the September meeting Gene Winter showed the members a variety of bows he had made using traditional methods. Dr. Michael Shott, Professor of Anthropology, UNI, reviewed methods of preserving, storing and cataloging an archaeological collection in October. Volunteers will utilize these methods while cataloging artifacts from a regional Iowa site. Dr. Robert Dise summarized Greco-Roman archaeological contributions for the November meeting.

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

## Paul Rowe Chapter

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

## Northwest Chapter

The Northwest Chapter had a lab session at the Sanford Museum for their meeting Saturday, November 13th meeting from 10:00 till noon. The next meeting will not be till January 15th at the same time and location.

**Contact Jason Titcomb or Linda Burkhart**  
Sanford Museum, 117 E. Willow  
Cherokee, IA 51012  
(712) 225-3922

## Quad Cities Archaeological Society

Dr. John Walthall, Illinois DOT, gave the chapter a presentation on the Dalton point type and the people who made and used them for the October 26th meeting. He asked members to bring their Dalton, Paleo and Early Archaic points to the meeting as a "trade" for his presentation, as he was especially interested in those points found in eastern Iowa and northwestern Illinois. The November 30th meeting featured Mary Hedman of the University of Illinois. She gave a slide presentation on the artifacts found at the Historic Sauk village site excavated by the University of Illinois in Rock Island Co., IL.

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

## Southeast Iowa Chapter

In September, archaeologist Anton Till, assisted by Corps of Engineer officials, led a field trip looking for clues to the past along the shore line of Lake Red Rock. The field trip October 23rd featured a historical site in the Ottumwa area. A review of the October field trip (as well as other outings during the year) and identification of "finds" were the highlights of the November meeting held at the Bennett Regional Training Center of the Indian Hills Community College Campus.

The Southeast Iowa Archaeology Chapter has a number of IAS clothing items for sale. There are T-shirts (\$15.00-\$20.00), hats (\$10.00), sweatshirts (\$20.00-\$23.00), and kerchiefs (\$5.00). Several sizes are available. Contact Bill Anderson, Box 51, Richland, IA 52585, or call (319) 456-3911.

**Contact Anton Till**  
16388 Second St., Hedrick, IA 52563  
(515) 655-7500

## Central Iowa Chapter

Tom Charlton, Professor of Anthropology, U of I, spoke at the September 26th CIC meeting. His historic archaeology topic, "Farmstead Archaeology," featured the Plum Grove Farm and the Secrest Barn Farm sites. In October several members enjoyed the IAS Fall Meeting at the Hitchcock Nature Area. November's meeting featured Dr. Joe Tiffany of ISU. He gave a presentation on Iowa pottery and identified samples of some of the pottery collections that CIC members brought to the meeting.

**Contact Mike Heimbaugh**  
3923 29th St., Des Moines, IA 50310  
(515) 255-4909  
paleomike@msn.com

### CHAPTER HISTORY

The IAS 50th Anniversary Committee needs your assistance. A recap of your chapter's history will help the Iowa Archeological Society celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Please begin working toward this goal. If you have any questions, please contact the Editor of *Iowa Archeology News*. Thank you.



## STAFF ATTEND FALL CONFERENCES

### PLAINS CONFERENCE

At the 57<sup>th</sup> annual Plains Anthropological Conference held at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, many OSA staff members presented papers detailing recent research

**Cowan Symposium** Several OSA papers were presented in a symposium on the Great Oasis Cowan Site which was excavated by OSA in 1998. **John Doershuk**, symposium chair, led off with a description of the entire scope of work at the site. Former OSA staff member Toby Morrow described the excavations and features, and also presented a second paper on the lithic analysis for the site. **Mark Anderson** explained the application of GPS (global positioning systems) to the location of Cowan. **Tim Reed** illustrated the applicability of GIS (geographic information systems) to study spatial distributions of artifacts throughout the site. **Rich Fishel**, with Jason Weinreich, discussed the implications of Cowan's ceramic motifs and designs. **Bill Green** co-authored a paper with Mike Dunne using archaeobotanical analysis to describe western Iowa Great Oasis agriculture. A discussion on Great Oasis osteology and burial practices was contributed by **Shirley Schermer**. **Steve Lensink** and **Joe Tiffany** summarized the Cowan session, presenting current thoughts on Great Oasis' status in "time and space."

**Other Sessions** In other Plains Conference sessions, **Lynn Alex** and **Joe Tiffany** synthesized past research on two Great Oasis cemeteries, the West Des Moines and DeCamp sites, in central Iowa. **Mike Perry** introduced preliminary results from the Shaw-Tee Fan site in Fremont County, in an examination of in situ Middle Woodland deposits in southwest Iowa. **Joe Artz**, using the completed half of Iowa's site records, explored site distribution patterns. Hardin County's Allen Fan site were the subject

of geoarchaeological investigations by **James Collins** and **Rolfe Mandel**.

In a session on Public Archaeology and Native American Issues, **Larry Zimmerman**, **Doershuk**, **Fishel**, and **Green** presented a paper on the need for understanding between American Indian concerns and archaeological field methods. **Fishel** also contributed a paper on the lithic assemblage of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Dixon Oneota site in Woodbury County.

**New Officers Elected** The Plains Anthropological Society selected OSA's **Joe Artz** and **John Hedden** to serve as president and treasurer respectively for next year. **Lori Stanley** of Luther College was elected vice-president.

### MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Other OSA staff members traveled east to participate in the 45<sup>th</sup> Midwest Archaeological Conference at Michigan State University in East Lansing. **Bill Green** presented a paper examining cartographic, historical, and archaeological evidence for Ioway settlement locations between 1650 and 1837. He utilized an 1837 Ioway Indian map of the upper Midwest and eastern plains. **Blane Nansel** also attended and was a participant in the ceramic workshop.

## NEW STAFF AT OSA

**LIEN VU** Lien joined OSA in October as the Highway Archaeology Program's Account Clerk. Lien was born in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City), Viet Nam and worked as a lawyer there before coming to the United States. After the takeover of the Communists in 1975 life there became difficult. Desiring more freedom, she and her 18 month old daughter Tuyet arrived in Iowa City in 1981 sponsored by her brother who was in medical school at the University. She returned to school for degrees in business and computer. Lien is now married to **Sankar Barmah**, a research scientist, and has adopted the five children of her deceased sister. Lien, who is an accomplished cook, claims she likes to keep herself busy, especially with projects helping other family and friends.

**KIMBERLY DICKEY** In her new position in the OSA lab, Kimberly will be in charge of assisting with work on col-

lections and equipment. She is an Iowa City native and attended the University of Connecticut and University of Arizona, earning her degree in Anthropology, with an emphasis in archaeology and a minor in African studies. Returning home to Iowa City, she began work at OSA in 1995 on several projects as a temporary field technician for **Rich Fishel**, **Mark Anderson**, and **Julie Morrow**. She also managed incoming artifacts for the OSA laboratory. During fall seasons she continued returning to the southwest doing research on cliff dwellers with the Arizona State Museum. **Kimberly**, her husband **Todd**, and two year old son **Jacob** now live on a farm near **Atalissa**

## OSA ARCHAEOLOGIST MOVING TO TEXAS

**Susan Snow**, project archaeologist with OSA's General Contracts Program, will be leaving January 1 for Texas. Susan has worked at OSA since 1991, heading such projects as surveys along Highway 151 in Jones and Dubuque Counties, the Dubuque Southwest Arterial route, Phase II testing along the Avenue of the Saints in Clark and Lewis Counties, Missouri, and excavation at the Thompson-Ballard site in Ames. Since 1995 she has also been active on University Staff Council and the Cedar Rapids Historic Preservation Commission. She and her daughter **Jennifer** will be moving to San Antonio, where Susan will become park archaeologist for the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park in San Antonio.

**New Look for OSA Web Site**  
OSA's site on the World Wide Web has been redesigned by **Ket Quang**, under the supervision of **Lynn Alex** and **Bill Green**, to make it easier to find information. The address remains the same:  
[www.uiowa.edu/~osa/index.htm](http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/index.htm)

# Archaeology Items of Interest

## News Items

### SAA and BLM Agreement

The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) signed an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The agreement will enable the two organizations to develop and enhance programs for public education in archaeology and Native American involvement in archaeology.

### GSB Land Cover Map of Iowa

The Geological Survey Bureau (GSB) has a preliminary version of a land cover map for Iowa. Most of the images are from 1992. The results of the land cover map are: 60% of the state covered by row crops, 30% by grasslands (including pasture, hay land, prairie and wetland vegetation) and 7% forest lands. Urban areas, including pavement, buildings and other large structures account for 1%. Water bodies and small areas account for 2%. (*Iowa Geology* 1999, No.24)

## Archaeology Book

### *Archaeology of Prehistoric Native America, an Encyclopedia*

Edited by Guy Gibbon.

A comprehensive introduction to the first peoples of the Americas. Prepared by the leading names in the field, this fascinating work is the complete resource on the precontact cultures of Native America. Featuring more than 750 entries, numerous maps, illustrations, and a detailed Reader's Guide. SC. 942pp. list price \$165. Available at most book stores.

### New Website for Archaeological Conservancy

The Conservancy, which also publishes the quarterly magazine *American Archaeology*, has unveiled its new home page on the World Wide Web. The site features Conservancy activities, tours, information on their magazine, and links to other sites. The address is:

[www.americanarchaeology.com](http://www.americanarchaeology.com)

## Calendar of Events

### March 3-4, 2000 17th Annual Visiting Scholar Conference.

SIUC/CAI Visiting Scholar conference theme is "Power in Multi-scalar Perspective". For information contact Maria O'Donovan, Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Faner 3479, Mailcode 4527, Carbondale IL. 62901. Website: [www.siu.edu/~cai/vs.htm](http://www.siu.edu/~cai/vs.htm).

### March 18, 2000 Education Event

Hosted by the Southeast Iowa Chapter of the IAS. This Archaeology Workshop will be held at Indian Hills Campus, Ottumwa, Iowa. Contact: Bill Anderson at (319) 456-3911

### April 15, 2000 Iowa History Forum

The State Historical Society of Iowa will hold the annual history conference, the Iowa History Forum. For more information contact Roger Munns at 515-242-5194.

### Membership Information

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

### Membership Dues

<u>Voting:</u>		<u>Non-Voting:</u>	
Active	\$15	Student (under 18)	\$7
Household	\$18	Institution	\$20
Sustaining	\$25		

### 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.

All materials for publication should be sent to the Editor: Michael Heimbaugh, 3923 29<sup>th</sup> St., Des Moines, IA 50310. Phone (515) 255-4909. E-mail: [paleomike@msn.com](mailto:paleomike@msn.com)

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<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa>

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