

Iowa Archeology News



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2003 Hitchcock Investigations

Douglas Jones

Keys-Orr Award

to Joseph Tiffany

David M. Gradwohl

Oneota Mound Construction:

John Henry Mound

Colin M. Betts

10 Easy Ways to Support Archaeological Preservation

Tim Weitzel

What's the Point?

Typology

IAS Announcements

2003 Archaeology Month

IAS Chapter News

UI-OSA News

Archaeology Items of Interest

Middle Mississippian Site Discoveries in the La Crosse Locality

By Danielle M. Benden and Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt

Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

We are reporting on two archaeological sites along the Mississippi River that we believe Iowa Archaeological Society members will find of interest. Both contain evidence for Middle Mississippian cultural presence in the Upper Mississippi Valley. The earlier of the sites is the Fisher Mounds Site Complex located near the village of Stoddard, about 15 miles south of La Crosse. The Mississippian component here appears to represent a site unit intrusion into a boundary area between two terminal Late Woodland groups. The more recent site is called Iva, and has produced evidence of direct interaction between Middle Mississippians and the local terminal Late Woodland population to the north of La Crosse. Such contacts are well documented with the Mill Creek culture of northwest Iowa, and the Hartley Fort (13AM103) State Preserve in northeast Iowa. The Wisconsin sites appear to be part of regional cultural evolution that led to the development of the Oneota tradition found throughout Iowa.

The Mississippian materials are of considerable interest. The Middle Mississippian tradition in the Upper Midwest was centered at the Cahokia World Heritage site in the American Bottom that is opposite St. Louis. From A.D. 1050-1200 (calibrated), the American Bottom was home to the largest group of native peoples in the United States. Thousands of people lived at the major center of Cahokia, and maintained many nearby satellite towns and mound complexes. Cahokia's power and dominance extended over much of the Upper Midwest (Tiffany 2003). Between A.D. 1050-1200, Middle Mississippian people and ideas spread from Cahokia into the Upper Midwest, often reflected in direct contact with local terminal Late Woodland people and other groups. Sites such as Aztalan (47JE1) in southeastern Wisconsin, Fred Edwards (47GT377) in southwestern Wisconsin, and the aforementioned Hartley Fort and the Mill Creek culture have all produced distinctive shell-tempered Middle Mississippian pottery, some of which is red slipped, along with locally made grit-tempered ceramics. Some of the pottery exhibits mixed attributes such as grit-tempered vessels with Middle Mississippian vessel shapes and decoration (common to Mill Creek) or local ceramic types that are shell tempered, such as the Chamberlain ware-like rim reported from the Midway village site (47LC19) north of La Crosse (Boszhardt 1996:135). Other artifacts of Mississippian derivation include gaming pieces such as chunky stones, marine shell beads and pendants, and ear ornaments (Long-Nosed God maskettes, ear spools). Interestingly, many of these sites were surrounded by wooden stockades, perhaps suggesting a period of social competition, warfare, or both. This is also the period when intensive corn agriculture became established in the Prairie Peninsula. By about A.D. 1200 (calibrated), both Late Woodland/Mill Creek and Middle Mississippian cultures vanished from most of the Midwest to be replaced by the Oneota Culture. The Iva

(cont. from page one)

(47LC42) site is within the Sand Lake Archaeological District, an area of intensive late prehistoric Oneota (700- 400 B.P.) habitation centered on a floodplain that was tilled into ridged fields using bison scapula hoes (Boszhardt 1997). Past investigations in the Sand Lake District have produced minor amounts of Paleoindian (10,000 B.P.), Archaic (9,000-2500 B.P.) and Woodland (2,500-1000 B.P.) materials, and a trace of Middle Mississippian artifacts. Although a few Middle Mississippian rim sherds had been found in the Sand Lake District in the past, no archaeological evidence had been found for a Middle Mississippian occupation in the Sand Lake District until the discoveries last fall at the Iva site.

The Iva site has been developed into a residential subdivision but, because it lies relatively low on the landscape, fill was brought in, which has buried most of the site, preserving it for the future. Working with local developers the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) was able to conduct test excavations at the site. Thirty pit features were identified from MVAC's initial site excavation. Four pits were situated within in the impact area of a utility corridor and were excavated. All produced typical Oneota artifacts. Soon thereafter, two MVAC members, Todd Riechert and Pat Smetema, collected artifacts from the scraped construction back dirt piles and brought a large Middle Mississippian rim sherd to MVAC.

MVAC archaeologists returned to the site in December to sample some of the remaining features to determine if any dated to the Middle Mississippian period. Several shallow basin pits containing evidence of intensive burning were located in the central portion of the site, and one of these produced both Middle Mississippian and terminal Late Woodland pottery, along with dog bones. The Late Woodland pottery is a distinctive regional type called Angelo Punctated. Angelo Punctated is grit-tempered and decorated with zones of carefully trailed lines that are bordered by rows of punctations (Boszhardt 1996). The Middle Mississippian pottery is shell-tempered; has sharp, angular shoulders with trailed curvilinear decoration, the exterior vessel surfaces are distinctively burnished with a high polish, and they have rolled lips (Figure 1). Mississippian pottery with these characteristics from Cahokia is called Ramey Incised or Powell Plain (the undecorated form) and represents a horizon marker of Mississippian expansion across the Midwest dating primarily from A.D. 1100 to 1200.

Figure 1. Middle Mississippian Pottery from the Iva Site.



As the weather turned excavations were halted until this spring, when additional Middle Mississippian and Late Woodland pottery sherds were found in the same pit. One of the Middle Mississippian rims is engraved with a Forked-Eye motif, a classic Middle Mississippian art style that is often depicted as a chevron emanating from the eyes of warriors or birds. One of our colleagues has suggested that the Ramey design illustrated in the upper vessel in Figure 1 may depict Halley's Comet, which appeared at A.D. 1066. In addition, a carved stone ear spool that would have been inserted into a stretched ear lobe was found on the surface of the site. The ear spool is made of a purple pipestone that appears to be from the Baraboo Hills near Devils Lake in Sauk County, Wisconsin; several similar ear spools were found at Aztalan. Ear spools are also reported from Mill Creek culture sites.

Excavations conducted in the habitation area at the Fisher Mounds Site Complex (47VE825) near Stoddard, Wisconsin in the summers of 2001 and 2002 by MVAC encountered previously unidentified Middle Mississippian artifacts from the American Bottom, perhaps Cahokia itself (Benden 2003). These artifacts include red slipped pottery tempered with limestone, shell and grog, as well as a chunky stone and a flake tool assemblage composed of Crescent Hills Burlington and Ste Genevieve chert (Koldehoff 1990). These materials are commonly associated with Mississippian sites in the American Bottom, but had never before been documented in the La Crosse locality (Figures 2-4). The red slipped pottery appears to be of a form that is earlier than similar examples reported to the north at Trempealeau, Wisconsin (Green and Rodell 1994), and the Fisher Mounds materials may prove to be the earliest manifestation of Middle Mississippian peoples in the Upper Mississippi River Valley yet reported. Two carbon-14 dates associated with the Mississippian materials have been obtained from charred plant remains from habitation features at the Fisher Mounds Site Complex. These dates are 900 ± 70 B.P. (UGA 11558) and 998 ± 60 (BGS 2417), with calibrated intercepts at A.D. 1022 and 1030, respectively. This non-local artifact assemblage may provide clues as to how Middle Mississippian peoples may have moved, proselytized, traded and interacted with local terminal Late Woodland peoples. Stoddard is approximately 795 river miles away from Cahokia, suggesting very purposeful activity on the part of early Mississippians in the La Crosse locality.



Figure 2. Red slipped vessel in situ at the Fisher Mounds Site Complex.

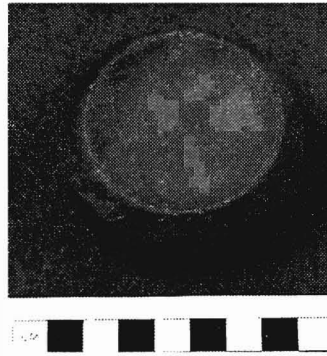


Figure 3. A Chunkey Stone from the Fisher Mounds Site Complex.



Figure 4. Exotic chert from the Fisher Mounds Site Complex.

The finding of Middle Mississippian materials at the Iva and Fisher Mounds Site Complex will enhance our understanding of Mississippian expansion to the Upper Mississippi Valley, and the transition from local terminal Late Woodland peoples to the Oneota culture. The presence of both red-slipped pottery at the Fisher Mounds Site Complex and Ramey style pottery in the La Crosse locality indicates two types of Middle Mississippian ventures into the Upper Middle Mississippi Valley. The first, around A.D. 1025-1050, appears to be Middle Mississippian settlement established in a “no-man’s land” between two adjacent Late Woodland groups. The second, at around A.D. 1100 included direct interaction between Mississippians and the northern of the two Late Woodland groups. The latter scenario is supported by two locally-made, grit-tempered, rolled rim “Ramey-like” vessels and two examples of Angelo Punctated pots with Mississippian style angular shoulders at the Iva site, along with probable imported Ramey vessels. The presence of dog bones in the same pit, along with burned rock suggests a special feast, a common way of sharing between different ethnic groups. The red slipped pottery, chunky stone, and exotic lithics at Fisher Mounds points to perhaps the earliest contact made regionally by Mississippians in the Upper Mississippi Valley. In the summer of 2003, additional testing will be conducted by MVAC in Stoddard, La Crosse, and Trempealeau in order to further explore the movements of prehistoric Middle Mississippians in relation to local groups.

Editor’s Note: See the related feature *In the News*, “The Birth of the Oneota?” in the Summer 2003 issue of *American Archaeology* 7:07.

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**2003 Hitchcock Property Archaeological
Investigations at Lewis, Iowa
by Douglas Jones**

The State Historical Society of Iowa, Department of Cultural Affairs, sponsored an archaeological survey of properties formerly associated with the Rev. George Hitchcock and his family in the vicinity of Lewis, Iowa, during May 4, 5, and 6, 2003. Rev. George Hitchcock is a significant historical figure in southwestern Iowa for his involvement in the Underground Railroad during the 1850s and early 1860s. He served as an Underground Railroad conductor and his house was an important Station on the Underground Railroad in southwestern Iowa. The Hitchcock House, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places and currently being nominated as a National Historic Landmark, is one of the few historic properties that remain at Lewis today that are associated with the Rev. George Hitchcock and his family. For more information about the Hitchcock House, please check out the following website <http://www.hitchcockhouse.org/>.

The survey coordinator was Douglas Jones (Archaeologist, State Historical Society of Iowa). The archaeological investigations were conducted in support of the preparation of the National Historic Landmark nomination which is being prepared by Leah Rogers, Principal Investigator at Tallgrass Historians, L.C. The goal of the archaeological investigations was to determine whether archaeological deposits at the Hitchcock House and/or the former Hitchcock cabin site may be considered as significant contributing elements to the overall historical significance of the properties associated with Rev. Hitchcock and his family.

The archaeological investigations consisted of:

- a pedestrian and metal detector survey of the agricultural field where the Hitchcock cabin is believed to have been located was conducted on Sunday, May 4. The purpose of the survey work was to identify the location of the Hitchcock cabin site.
- remote sensing activities were conducted at the Hitchcock House on Monday, May 5 and at the purported Hitchcock cabin site on Tuesday May 6 by archaeologists from the Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service.
- Both the Hitchcock House yard and the purported location of the Hitchcock cabin site were mapped using a laser transit by archaeologists from Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service, Office of the State Archaeologist, State

Historical Society of Iowa, and Tallgrass Historians, L.C. along with a cadre of volunteers..

The results of these archaeological investigations are still being analyzed. However, some preliminary results can be shared at this time. The State Historical Society of Iowa will be recording two new archaeological sites. The first archaeological site will be the location of the Hitchcock House. The second may contain the former location of the Hitchcock Cabin site. It also contains a historic component associated with a later farmstead occupation and at least one prehistoric component dating to the Late Archaic period. There may be additional prehistoric components represented at the site. Analysis of the collected artifacts has not yet been completed.

Additional archaeological investigations are being planned for this fall to further investigate the site of the purported cabin site. Once again, we will be seeking volunteers to assist in the investigations. Details on the investigations will be forthcoming in subsequent newsletters.

The State Historical Society of Iowa would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who participated this spring during the investigations. Special appreciation is extended to the Office of the State Archaeologist; Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service; Tallgrass Historians, L.C.; and to the Hitchcock House Advisory Board, and to Dick and Ilene Rhodes for all of their hospitality and assistance.



Steve DeVore, Archeologist, MidwestArcheological Center, National Park Service, conducting remote sensing activities at the Hitchcock House.

Dr. Joseph A. Tiffany
Iowa Archaeological Society
2003 Keyes-Orr Distinguished Service Awardee
Presented by David M. Gradwohl,
IAS Spring Meeting, May 24, 2003

Joe Tiffany has had a long and distinguished career in archaeology, accomplished some outstanding work in Iowa archaeology, and contributed in many ways to the IAS for more than 25 years.

Born on a farm near Maxwell, Iowa. After completing his high school work, he was accepted by the University of Iowa where he majored in anthropology and graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

From Iowa City he went on to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he was a protégé of Dr. David Baerreis, a luminary well known to members of the IAS. He completed his PhD and returned to Iowa to work at the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City. At the OSA, Joe worked effectively in the area of cultural resource management, but played a large role in working with Dr. Duane Anderson in revising the Iowa Burial Code as a sensitive policy in dealing with Native American burials.



**David Gradwohl presents Joe Tiffany with the IAS 2003
Keyes-Orr Distinguished Service Award**

Subsequently, Joe obtained a position at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and by 1993 was a full Professor of Anthropology there. In 1994, Joe came to Iowa State University to fill the position from which Dr.

David Gradwohl retired. He was hired as an Assistant Professor and promoted to Associate Professor in 1997. In 2002, the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse offered Joe a position as Full Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Mississippi Valley Archaeological Center. Joe's impressive garnering of research funds, prodigious publications, mentoring of many graduate students and service activities at the state and national levels were attractive to LaCrosse, and Wisconsin's gain of Dr. Joe Tiffany was Iowa's loss.

Throughout the years, Joe has been an active member of the Iowa Archeological Society. He has served several times on the IAS Board of Directors, was IAS President 1997-2002, and on the IAS editorial board for some 10 years. He was editor of the *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society* and contributed papers to the *JIAS*. He served as Director of the IAS certification Program from 1977-1986. He also participated in and assisted with the activities of the Central Iowa Chapter of the IAS.

It was particularly appropriate that Joe receive the Keyes-Orr Distinguished Service Award. Few if any, are as familiar as Joe with the archaeological collections and database assembled by Dr. Charles Reuben Keyes and now housed at the State Historical Society in Iowa City. For it was Joe who was the Principal Investigator and compiler of the finder's guide to the Keyes Archaeological Collection in 1981.

Beyond that, Joe has been an active member and officer in the Plains Anthropological Society, the Council on Museum anthropology, the Society for American Archaeology, and the American Anthropological Association.

Joe Tiffany has distinguished himself not only on the state but the national level. While accomplishing all this, his service to the professional and lay archaeological communities has been strong and constant. He is most worthy of receiving the honor of the Keyes-Orr Distinguished Service Award from the Iowa Archeological Society.

Oneota Mound Construction: Evidence from the John Henry Mound (13WH105)

by Colin M. Betts

Luther College

Included in the traditional taxonomic definitions of the Oneota (AD 1200-1725) and Late Woodland (AD 400-1000) manifestations has been an emphasis on the notion that one primary difference between the two cultural periods is that people of the Late Woodland period built earthen mounds, while those of the later Oneota tradition typically did not. However, evidence both new and old has brought this original assumption into question. Recently, funds provided by the Iowa Archeological Society were used to document the existence of a mound built during the Oneota tradition in northeast Iowa. This evidence is considered alongside additional indications of Oneota mound building to illustrate that this practice continued well beyond the termination of the Late Woodland period.

The John Henry Mound (13WH105) is a low mound located along the Upper Iowa River in Winneshiek County, Iowa. The site is located on the primary terrace along the outside (east) bank of an oxbow of the Upper Iowa River, recorded as having been part of a group of three to four mounds, since destroyed by erosion. The single remaining mound on this site was excavated in 1977 by Luther College Archaeological Research Center personnel under the direction of David Benn in anticipation of its impending destruction through erosion (Benn and Bettis 1977). The only materials recovered within the mound consisted of a small chert core, two shell tempered Oneota-like sherds found cupped inside of each other on top of the central platform, and a large piece of wood charcoal. Detailed geomorphological analysis conducted by indicated that all of these items were deposited at the time of mound construction - there was no evidence of later disturbances or intrusions. With the exception of the shell-tempered potsherds, every other aspect of the mound conformed to the Woodland pattern of constructing mounds. Without the benefit of radiocarbon analysis of the wood charcoal located in the mound, the investigators assumed that although it was definitely Oneota in origin, although it was assumed to date to the earliest stages of the Oneota tradition, circa 1000 AD.

Because of the immaculate context of the charcoal and sherds available through the careful excavation and accompanying geologic analysis, the John Henry Mound represented a perfect case through which the original hypothesis that the mound represented an Oneota construction could be tested through radiocarbon analysis. In the spring of 2002, with funds provided by the Iowa Archeological Society, a sample of the wood charcoal from the sub-mound feature was submitted for radiocarbon analysis. The uncalibrated result was 270 ± 70 BP (ISGS 5115). A two-sigma calibration for this date indicate that the mound was likely constructed sometime in the 16th or

17th centuries AD, during the terminal period of Oneota tradition occupations in northeast Iowa. Although clearly verifying the original interpretation that the mound had been constructed by peoples of the Oneota tradition, rather than dating to the earliest stages of the tradition, it instead appears to have been constructed during the last century or so of Oneota occupations in northeast Iowa. By itself this date seems somewhat surprising, yet when put within the context of additional evidence for post-Late Woodland mound building in northeast and northwest Iowa, it is easily explained as part of a long-standing tradition of Oneota mound construction in the state.

In addition to the John Henry site, The Hartley Fort (13AM104) in Allamakee County also has well documented evidence of Oneota mound construction. Although the site is primarily defined by the presence of a rectangular enclosure associated with a 12th century AD terminal Late Woodland occupation, at least four conical mounds were constructed within the enclosure. The excavation in 1964 of one of the mounds located on the south embankment revealed extended burials, including one associated with an Oneota vessel (McKusick 1964). Stratigraphic evidence clearly indicated that it had been constructed after the fort was abandoned. Radiocarbon dates obtained from the mound indicate construction sometime during the 13th to 17th centuries AD, consistent with the date from the John Henry mound (McKusick 1964; Boszhardt et al. 1995).

Although less secure than the evidence from John Henry and Hartley Fort, McKusick's 1969 excavations at the nearby Grant Village (13AM201) site also yielded evidence potentially indicative of Oneota mound construction (McKusick 1973). This Oneota village, dating to the Pammel Creek phase (AD 1300-1400), contained the remains of several large longhouse structures (Hollinger 1995; McKusick 1973). In two instances McKusick noted an overlap between the placement of the houses and mounds. Working under the assumption that the mounds predated the houses, McKusick (1973) assumed that the mounds had "spread out" over time and originally had not overlapped the houses a great extent. An alternative hypothesis offered is that the mounds post date the houses and represent additional, albeit circumstantial, evidence of Oneota mound construction.

The evidence presented above also correlates well with related Oneota occupations in northwest Iowa. Perhaps the most obvious examples of Oneota mound construction comes from the protohistoric occupations at the Blood Run site (13LO2) in Lyon County. French accounts and archaeological research indicate that the site was likely a regional exchange center, affiliated in part with the Ioway and Oto, who had recently moved to the area from northeast

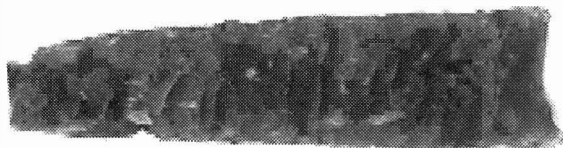
Iowa. A series of investigations conducted at the site since the 1970's have confirmed the protohistoric attribution, yielding diagnostic artifacts of European manufacture. In the late 19th century, archaeologist T.H. Lewis reported no fewer than 275 conical mounds ranging in size from 5 to 18 meters in diameter, roughly 60 of which are currently visible (Henning 1985; Lueck et al. 1995). Although no systematic investigation of the mounds has been conducted, all 11 excavated to date have provided confirmation that they were constructed during the protohistoric period. In addition to the presence of European-manufactured goods both in the mound fill and associated with burials, stratigraphic analysis indicated that they were built on top of 17th and 18th century midden deposits (Benn 1988; Harvey 1979).

The radiocarbon date from the John Henry Mound, when combined with evidence from other sites in northeast and northwest Iowa, indicates that rather than being restricted to the Woodland Period, mound construction, although in limited numbers, continued into the protohistoric period. Although the meaning and practice of mound ceremonialism surely did not remain entirely static during the transformation from the Woodland to Oneota cultural patterns, it is important to recognize that this behavior spanned the Woodland-Oneota transition in northeast Iowa and only fully disappeared with European contact some six centuries later. The recognition of this fact is important as a starting point from which to understand both the traditional connotations as well as any new meaning that this behavior may have had to members of the Oneota tradition.

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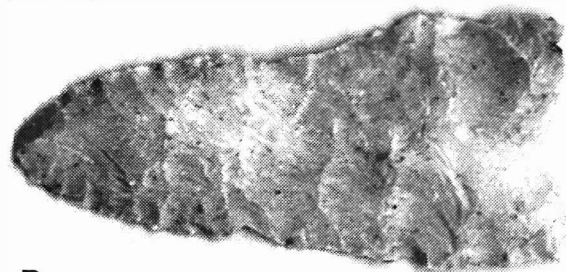
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What's the Point?



A

Width = 1" Length = 3" (Actual size)



B

Width = 1 1/2" Length = 2 1/2" (Actual size)

Try to identify the above projectile points found in Iowa and send your responses to the attention of the Editor Mike Heimbaugh at: paleomike@msn.com

TEN EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVATION

BY TIM WEITZEL

10 EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVATION:

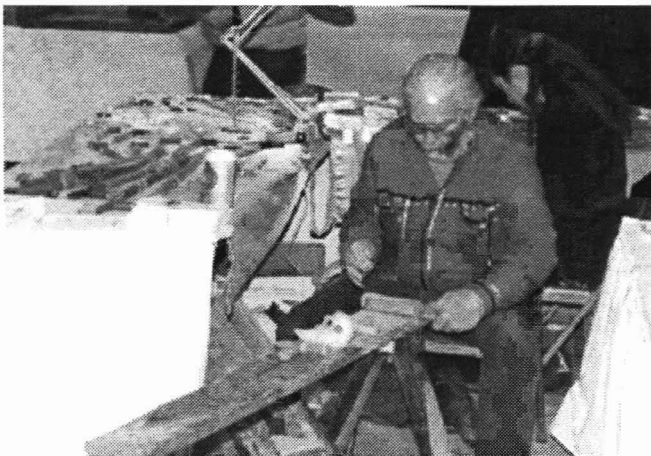
1. VISIT A MUSEUM OR PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE.
2. DON'T BUY OR SELL ARTIFACTS.
3. RECORD THE LOCATION OF ALL ANY ARTIFACTS YOU FIND.
4. REPORT ANY ARTIFACTS OR SITES YOU FIND TO THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST.
5. MAINTAIN YOUR IAS MEMBERSHIP.
6. READ BOOKS AND JOURNALS ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY AND PREHISTORY.
7. JOIN OTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS THAT SUPPORT ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVATION.
8. SUPPORT THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND STATE PRESERVES BOARD.
9. ATTEND EVENTS DURING IOWA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.
10. REPORT ANY ACTS OF VANDALISM OR LOOTING AT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.

ADDITIONAL STEPS TO TAKE TOWARD ARCHAEOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP:

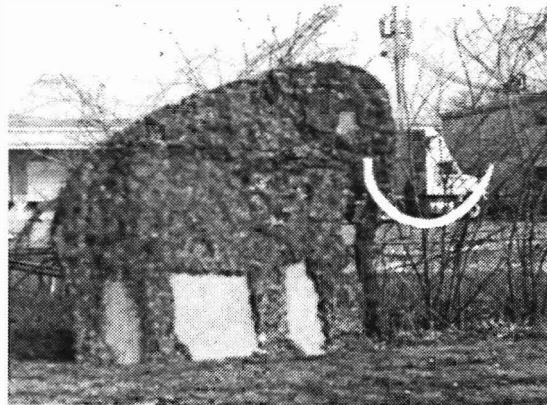
1. JOIN YOUR FRIENDS ON AN IAS FIELD SCHOOL.
2. BECOME A CERTIFIED ARCHAEOLOGIST.
3. ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN THE IAS.
4. ENCOURAGE YOUR TOWN OR COUNTY BOARD TO ADOPT PROCEDURES TO IDENTIFY AND PROTECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES.
5. GENTLY ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBORS TO PROTECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND REPORT THEIR COLLECTIONS.
6. ENCOURAGE YOUR SCHOOL BOARD TO INCORPORATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES INTO SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM.
7. WRITE TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO SUPPORT ARCHAEOLOGY AND SITE PRESERVATION.
8. PLACE PRIVATELY HELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES INTO CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.
9. HOST AN IOWA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH EVENT.
10. SEEK OUT ARCHAEOLOGY BOOKS FOR YOUR CHILDREN.

IAS at the Cedar Valley 2003 Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, March 15th

The IAS joined in the fun at the show in mid March. State Archaeologist Beth Pauls and Tom Harvey did a program entitled "Artifact or Not?" Lynn Alex gave a presentation on "Effigy Mounds." "Exotic Stone Tools in Iowa" was given by Ferrell Anderson. Mark Anderson, talked on the "Sources of material for stone tools made in Iowa," Doug Jones presented "Fish Weirs," and Steve Lensink gave the topic "Stone Tools through time." A large crowd attended the two days of the show.

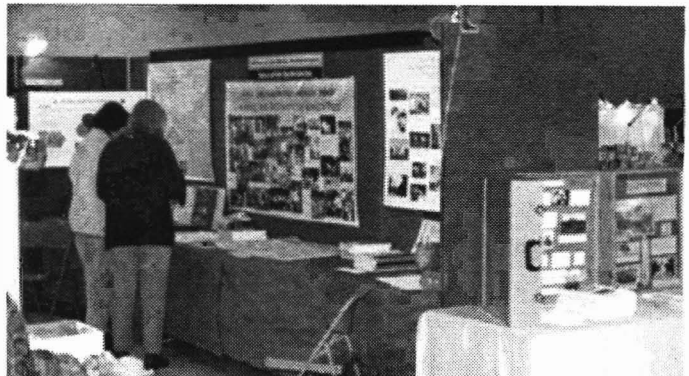


Pipe maker Bud Johnston at the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society 2003 Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show



"Woolly Mammoth" target used for atl-atl demonstrations and practice at the 2003 Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

In addition to the presentations the UI-OSA and IAS had a informational display booth (below) that was frequented by a number of the show's attendees.



IAS Announcements

Events-Education-News

IAS Spring Meeting, May 24th at UNI

The IAS Spring 2003 Annual Meeting was held at the Center for Energy & Environmental Education, UNI Campus in Cedar Falls. The day began with the Annual Business Meeting. Mike Perry reported current membership at 408 with 38 new members included in that count. Lynn Alex reported that the Fall meeting will be held in the NW part of the state and hosted by the Northwest Chapter. The Lewis and Clark Expedition will be the main focus of the meeting. Members discussed their concerns for the archaeological remains beneath the proposed location of the new Science Center in Des Moines. Elections were



Lynn Alex announces Fall IAS meeting plans.

held and the IAS officers whose terms had expired. Elected were Bill Anderson as President and Lynn Alex as Vice President. Directors elected Tom Chadderdon, Don Raker, Barbara MacDougall and Nancy Heimbaugh.

Dr. Robert Hall also gave a brief presentation on **"William Jones, the first American Indian Anthropologist."** Several IAS members gave short informative presentations including: **"Absorbency and Thermal Conduction of Primitive Ceramic Replicas: Assessing Variation**

in Clay Sources and Tempering Materials, Phase III" by Amy Marquardt; **"Bonaparte Pottery Project"** by Maria Schroeder; and **"CIC Living History Farms Project"** by Doug Jones. Ruth Haan finished the morning informative presentations with a talk on the **"Butler Center"** and its history.

The Keyes-Orr Award was presented to Dr. Joseph Tiffany for his many contributions to the study of Iowa archaeology and his outstanding service to the Iowa Archaeological Society. The group enjoyed sack lunches, had a good chance to look around the Center for Energy & Environmental Education and visited during the lunch break.

The main presentation for the afternoon was given by Dr. Robert L. Hall, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. **"An Archaeology of the Soul: North American Indian Belief and Ritual,"** is one of his most fascinating, recent publications.

A tour of the Butler Center and the Clay Prairie Preserve finished up the day for the IAS members.



Amy Marquardt reports on her pottery materials Phase III project.

Kansas State University Field School Opportunity

Some IAS members may be interested in an academic archaeological field school Brad Logan and Lauren Ritterbush will be offering through Kansas State University this summer.

The Kansas Archaeological Field School will offer as two academic field sessions this summer through Kansas State University. Session I ran May 19-June 6, 2003, under the direction of Dr. Brad Logan. Fieldwork was focused on National Register Testing of two sites in Leavenworth County, northeastern Kansas. Excavations were conducted at the Evans site containing one or more buried components and the Scott site, a Late Prehistoric (Steed-Kisker phase) habitation site.

Session II, July 28-August 15, under the direction of Drs. Lauren Ritterbush and Brad Logan, will be conducted in Jewell County, north-central Kansas. Research there will focus on Late Prehistoric interaction of native (Central Plains tradition) and migrant (western Oneota or White Rock phase) populations who settled in the White Rock locality. Tuition and fees (room, board, supplies) for each session are \$681 (3 undergraduate credits). Students must apply to the instructor prior to acceptance and enrollment, which is through the Division of Continuing Education (no out-of-state tuition). For further information visit: <http://www.ksu.edu/sasw/anthro/kafs.htm> or contact Lauren Ritterbush (lritterb@ksu.edu; 785-532-6828) or Brad Logan (blogan@ksu.edu; 785-532-2419)

IAS Chapter News

Black Hawk Regional Chapter

William Graves from the University of Iowa gave a presentation over his recent research on *Ancestral Pueblo Villages in Central New Mexico* in April. In May David Gradwohl gave a talk on the *Jewish Cemeteries of Des Moines*.

Contact Lisa Beltz

1804 W. Ridgewood Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 268-0865
Lisa.Beltz@uni.edu

Central Iowa Chapter

Archaeology of the Gillett Grove Oneota Site, Clay County, Iowa was presented by John Doershuk, RPA, Director, General Contracts Program, OSA for the March chapter meeting. The chapter discussed taking a field trip to the Council Bluffs/Omaha area in July. *Technologies in Archaeology* was the topic given by Joe A. Artz, Geographic Information Coordinator, OSA for the April 19th CIC meeting. In May several CIC members attended the IAS Spring Meeting in Cedar Falls.

Contact Michael Heimbaugh

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

Southeast Iowa Archaeology Chapter

The SE Chapter planned to investigate a number of archaeological sites during the summer.

Contact Angela Hopkins

1149 145th Street, Pella, IA 50219
(641) 626-4170
ash@kdsi.net

Quad City Archaeological Society

Contact Ferrel Anderson

1923 East 13th St., Davenport, IA 52803
(319) 324-0257
andersonfe@msn.com

Northwest Chapter

In April the Northwest Chapter took a caravan trip to Earl Storm's south of Sanborn to take a look at a buffalo wallow and some artifacts he found on his farm. In May the chapter took a trip to the Lewis & Clark Interpretative Center in Sioux City. They also visited the Sergeant Floyd River Museum.

Contact Linda Burkhardt

Sanford Museum
117 E. Willow, Cherokee, IA 51012
(712) 225-3922
sanford@cherokee.k12.ia.us

Paul Rowe Chapter

Contact Dennis Miller

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

Ellison Orr Chapter

April 27th Colin Betts of Luther College demonstrated archeological flotation to recover carbonized plant and animal remains using a mechanical Flot-Tech machine. Informal discussions of how archeologists use the information obtained to reconstruct prehistoric subsistence were held. In May at-l-atl demonstrations were given as part of a daylong event.

Contact Lori Stanley, (319) 387-1283

or Joe B. Thompson, (319) 387-0092

Orr Chapter, PO Box 511, Decorah, IA 52101
jiaseditor@hotmail.com

Keyes Chapter

Contact Keith Young

11236 Co. Rd. E17, Scotch Grove, IA 52310
(319) 465-6393 or e-mail:
pekoyoung@n-connect.net.

THE CONTACT PERIOD IS THE SUBJECT FOR THIS YEAR'S *IOWA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH* (IAM) "WE SAW THEM COMING," SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH OCTOBER 19. TO HOST AN IAM PROGRAM, CONTACT LYNN ALEX (LYNN-ALEX@UIOWA.EDU) OR CHECK OUT THE WEB SITE AT WWW.UIOWA.EDU/~OSA

UI-OSA NEWS

A SPECIAL SECTION
OF THE IOWA
ARCHEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER



I-SITES UPDATE

In May, 2003, UI-OSA officially launched I-Sites, an on-line GIS and database for Iowa archaeology. This event is a landmark in the history of the Iowa Site File, the state's master inventory of archaeological sites. Development of I-Sites was funded with a grant from the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. Many of you may already have used I-Sites' public interface (<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/gisatosa>) to explore the location of archaeological sites in Iowa to the 1 x 1 mile section.

In the past year, we've gradually added features that are intended for use by professional archaeologists including connections to an on-line version of the Iowa Site File database, and an Internet Map Server that displays exact locations and boundaries of sites. To protect site location confidentiality, this portion of the database (dubbed I-SitesPro) is password protected and available to registered users only. Information about registration can be found at <http://www.its.uiowa.edu/state-arch/regfulluser.html>. Presently, 62 professionals representing 24 firms, consultants, colleges, and agencies from 6 states are using **I-SitesPro** to assign numbers to new sites, file site forms, and conduct database searches, all of which are tasks that used to require phoning, mailing, or traveling to Iowa City. With **I-Sites**, current data needed to do research and make decisions is available more quickly and efficiently than ever before.

Try I-Sites! Whether you're a professional consultant with a proposal deadline, or a fourth-grader doing homework on the prehistoric past of your home county, we think you'll find **I-Sites** a quick and friendly way to get the information you need.

Joe Artz and **Colleen Eck**, who manage the Iowa Site File at OSA, are looking

forward to extending the functions offered by I-Sites in coming years. Your comments and suggestions can help improve the websites, and can send by email to osa-gis@uiowa.edu.

Newsletter Introduced

UI-OSA has just launched a quarterly newsletter entitled *The Archaeological Steward*. Designed to encourage public participation in archaeological preservation, the inaugural volume offers guidelines for documenting artifact collections. Future issues will address the care of artifacts and photographs, site recording, student mentoring, and site preservation. The publication is available on the web at www.uiowa.edu/~osa.

Archaeology at the StateFair

OSA will be part of the University of Iowa's booth at this summer's Iowa State Fair in Des Moines on Sunday, August 10. OSA's contribution will be Archaeology in Iowa, highlighting what is known about the state's archaeology from projects in all 99 Iowa counties. Authentic demonstrations of ancient technologies and interactive computer mapping of archaeological sites will be featured. The booth provides a kick-off event to promote Iowa Archaeology Month 2003 to thousands of fair-goers.

Iowa Archaeology Month 2003

The Contact Period is the subject for this year's *Iowa Archaeology Month* (IAM) "We Saw Them Coming," September 20 through October 19. IAM receives major financial sponsorship from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities, IAS, the State Historical Society of Iowa, UI-OSA, and the Midwest Archaeological Center-National Park Service. To host an IAM program, contact Lynn Alex (lynn-alex@uiowa.edu) or check out the web site at www.uiowa.edu/~osa

Poster Wins Award

The Iowa Archaeology Month 2002 poster, "Containers through Time," placed third, behind California and

Wyoming in the SAA's annual archaeology week poster contest. This is the second year in a row that Iowa's poster has ranked third in the nation. The poster shows the historic diversity of storage, from prehistoric pottery to metal lunch boxes.

OSA STAFF AT SAA

OSA staff members contributed papers at the April's annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Lynn Alex and **Shirley Schermer** introduced OSA's *Time Capsules from the Past: Resource Boxes on Iowa Prehistory*. These teaching kits utilize Iowa prehistory and archaeology to assist educators in teaching concepts in math, science, language arts, and social sciences.

In their *Reorganization of the Lithic Raw Material Assemblage at the Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist: An Improved Framework for Lithic Analysis*, **Mark L. Anderson** and **Dan G. Horgren** detailed their work realigning the assemblage with the geologic column of Iowa, to represent geophysical regions, and to afford a more systematic and consistent approach to lithic identification.

In the area of geoarchaeology, **Joe Alan Artz** presented a paper on *The Meaning of Potential: Assessing Habitability within Prehistoric Landscapes*. He contends that any geoarchaeological models, to be meaningful and cost effective in CRM, should be grounded in a understanding of where sites have, and have not, been encountered in the regional geoarchaeological record.

Beth Pauls' Earthlodge Symbolism: Exploring a "Structuring Structure" Textually and Archaeologically explores the concept of "home" using the summer earthlodges of the Hidatsa as an example. Textual interpretations of home symbolism may be important for archaeological analyses of activity areas, cultural affiliation, and gender roles.

Archaeology Items of Interest

MVAC Books

Deep Cave Rock Art in the Upper Mississippi Valley, by Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt - \$24.95

The book covers the story of the discovery, protection and recording of two ancient rock art sites, which form the largest concentration of pictographs in the region. This fully illustrated book presents all of the current research on these caves, and treats the reader to a compelling mystery, where the solution resides in archaeology and Native American traditional knowledge.

Twelve Millennia: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, by James L. Theler and Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt - \$27.95

Jim and Ernie's book provides an overview of 12,000 years of human past in the Upper Mississippi River Valley. The book begins with an introduction to

archaeology and a history of the archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River, followed by a summary of the environment of the valley since the end of the ice age. The book then tells the story of Native American cultures from the Ice Age when humans lived alongside mammoths and mastodons, through the Woodland cultures and into the days of the Oneota, up to the era of European contact and the end of prehistory. Appended are a summary of the animal bone remains from archaeological sites in the Driftless Area, a brief synthesis of regional rock art, and a guide to archaeological sites and museums that are open to visitation.

Order information may be found at:
<http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/involved/order%5Fform.htm>

Iowa Archaeology Month

Iowa Archaeology Month 2003 will be held September 20-October 19. The theme this year is "Contact," particularly the period just prior to the passing in 1804 of the Corps of Discovery along what would be Iowa's western border.

The intention is to highlight what is known of the Native peoples of Iowa just prior to this time and how by then they had already been impacted by Euroamerican contact for at least one hundred years. Programming includes plans to explore evidence from archaeology, documents, and oral tradition. The annual feature such as the "artifact road show" will be expanding this year to include a panel of experts in fossils, rocks, and artifacts as well as the technology demonstrations.

Watch for the **Archaeology Month Calendar** to be mailed to IAS members later this summer.

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

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