

Iowa Archeology News



Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society

Est. 1951

Volume 56, No. 3 & 4

Issues 199 & 200

Fall & Winter, 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Everyone Has a Role in
Archaeological
Stewardship:
Conservation Easements**
Shirley J. Schermer

Some Useful Web Links

**Glenwood Archaeology
Project**
Jason M. Titcomb

**Real & Mythical
Elephants**
David W. Benn

**Report on IAS Field
Work in Southern Iowa**
Maria Schroeder

**Wonderful Opportunity
in Archaeology for
Educators**
Lynn M. Alex

**IAS Spring Meeting
April 21, 2007**

IAS Announcements

UI-OSA News

**Archaeology Items of
Interest**

National Award to Gilbert High School History Club for Preservation Efforts and "Digging Up the Past" by Lynn M. Alex, OSA

Hard work by the History Club of Gilbert Community School and the efforts of their teacher-sponsor, Nancy Peterson, paid off this past year when the Save Our History program of the History Channel presented the group with an award from their *National Honors Program* and \$1,000 for their efforts to research and preserve knowledge of the historic coal-mining community of Zenorsville, Iowa. Gilbert is a bedroom community north of Ames with a modern population of about 1,000 people. Nancy Peterson has taught there since 1984. Zenorsville in its heyday, 1878–1900, was about half this size. Today it is a ghost town hidden beneath the ground and under the timber on farmland four miles west of Gilbert. Some descendants of the original residents still live nearby; some of their ancestors, the last of Zenorsville's citizens, currently repose in area cemeteries.

The Gilbert High School History Club adopted Zenorsville as a means to learn how to research the history of their area. They've shared their discoveries with their community via a history gallery set up in the school's library during annual Gilbert Days and a community field trip to the site. These efforts have now inspired the formation of a local historical society and may foster a new community center containing a library and museum. The club has also shared what they've learned with an even younger generation—local elementary students invited to a sort of history fair at the site. The younger students were guided through a series of learning stations developed by the Club where they could take part in activities that demonstrated aspects of field archaeology and local history.

The Office of the State Archaeologist became aware of the History Club project in 2003. Lynn Alex and Nancy began interacting and Lynn offered guidance for the Club's activities, making two visits to Gilbert and Zenorsville to assist. Lynn also put Nancy in touch with Matt Donovan, cultural resources team member at the Iowa Department of Transportation, and archaeologist Adam Meseke, Tallgrass Historians, L.C. Matt and Adam live in the Ames vicinity and readily agreed to assist the Club. Since Adam had completed his M.A. degree from Iowa State University with a thesis topic focusing on nineteenth century Iowa coal mining communities, he was a fountain of information. Matt introduced the students to historic records at the Boone County Historical Society, sources with which he is intimately familiar. Both Adam and Matt assisted the students in understanding the importance of controlled surface survey and mapping, and demonstrated the use of global positioning system equipment. Ultimately the students learned about many aspects of archaeological methodology including the establishment of a grid, screening, artifact plotting, recording, and developing hypotheses about how the original inhabitants of Zenorsville lived based on artifacts and features.

The History Club has begun to research documentary sources available for studying historic communities and to learn how to collect data from the county courthouse. They've interviewed the great granddaughter of one of the original coal mine owners and begun documenting the history of a coal miner's family.

The Save Our History program recognizes preservation organizations, teachers, and students for their commitment to exploring and preserving local history. In her thank you letter to the Save Our History program on behalf of the Club, Nancy stated:

I believe that all history is local history to at least someone; that is why local history is so important. It can be used to explain, it can be used to appreciate, and it can be used to instill a renewed sense of belonging. The citizens of Gilbert, the community I am working with to "dig up" their past, are very appreciative of

the time and energy that I and the students in my history club have spent learning and sharing their local history. Gilbert is a bedroom community of Ames, home of Iowa State University, and many of the residents of Gilbert were surprised by the rich history that their town does have. This has renewed a sense of pride in the town. A historical society is being started and a plan is being devised to create a community center that will house a library and a museum. The Save Our History Grant from the National Honors Program will be used by the Gilbert School and the Gilbert History Club to continue to support our local history. It is like "a shot in the arm" to boost our enthusiasm for our local history projects and a validation of our efforts thus far. The Gilbert community, the Gilbert students, and I thank you for granting us this award.

Everyone Has a Role in Archaeological Stewardship: Conservation Easements

Shirley J. Schermer

Office of the State Archaeologist

Landowners are encouraged to voluntarily care for and protect archaeological sites whenever possible and to consider compatible use options for property containing important sites. Many Iowa landowners are already good stewards. These owners value archaeological sites and make every effort to maintain and protect them and would like to see that protection continue long after they are gone. Agencies and landowners in Iowa occasionally have been able to institute long term protection and preservation measures through local, state, federal, and private mechanisms. A useful tool that can supplement existing laws includes one available to private landowners—conservation easements.

A conservation easement is a flexible tool for permanent resource protection on private land and a means of achieving a balance between growth and preservation.

- The land remains in private ownership.
- The size, shape, and content of land-use restrictions can be tailored as appropriate to include natural or cultural features for which the landowner wishes long-term protection.
- A landowner donates (with potential tax

breaks) or sells an easement to a second-party "holder."

- Conservation easements are attached to the title of the land, and they legally bind all present and future owners of the land.
- Easement holders can be a private organization or a government agency that is interested in preserving significant natural and cultural characteristics of the land.
- In accepting a conservation easement, the easement holder agrees to monitor and enforce the easement restrictions in perpetuity.
- Agencies and organizations that are easement holders suggest setting up some kind of stewardship or endowment fund to cover these costs through the years.

In 2002, the Iowa legislature modified the section of the Code of Iowa dealing with conservation easements (Chapter 457A), adding the State Historical Society and the University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) to the list of authorized easement holders; adding "agriculture," "open space," and "cultural resources" to the list of features or conditions

that may be preserved by a conservation easement; mandating perpetual enforceability; and clarifying “natural resources” to include “archaeological and historical resources.”

In Iowa the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) has a long history of working with landowners in setting up conservation easements and other types of long-term preservation. Several important archaeological sites have been included in conservation easements facilitated by the INHF. These include Four Mounds in Dubuque, several of the Adams mound groups in Clayton County, Capoli Bluff mound groups and Paint Rock in Allamakee County, and properties in the loess hills of western Iowa. The INHF also has

played critical roles in the acquisition of significant archaeological properties such as Mines of Spain, a portion of the Blood Run National Historic Landmark site, and additions to Effigy Mounds National Monument. More information on conservation easements and other landowner options can be found on the INHF web page: www.inhf.org/easement.htm.

Everyone has a role in on-going preservation through collaborative efforts with a public who values the past, landowners with a stewardship ethic, supportive descendant groups, and cooperative agencies and organizations. Contact me for other ways you can help [319-384-0740; shirley-schermer@uiowa.edu].

SOME USEFUL WEB LINKS

For more information on conservation easements and other preservation options, go to: **Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation** <http://www.inhf.org/forlandowners.htm> and the National Park Service publication, *Strategies for Protecting Archeological Sites on Private Lands*:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/pad/strategies/index.htm>

For information on the Archaeological Conservancy, go to:

<http://www.americanarchaeology.com/aaabout.html>

For information on Iowa’s burials program, go to:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/burials/index.html>

For information on pioneer cemeteries or the State Association for the Preservation of Iowa Cemeteries, see:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~iasapc/>

For information on Iowa’s State Historic Preservation Office, go to:

<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dca/shsi/preservation/index.html>

For a variety of publications on cultural resources, many of them available on-line, go to:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/publications.htm>

Also check out the Society for American Archaeology’s Education for the Public web page:

<http://www.saa.org/public/home/home.html>

Glenwood Archaeology Project by Jason M. Titcomb Sanford Museum

During this past fall several organizations worked together to provide an opportunity for both archaeological research and public excavation of a site slated for destruction. The site, 13ML590, is located in the area of a proposed new high school for the Glenwood Community School District. For this particular construction project current state or federal laws did not require any archaeological work to be conducted.

Multiple organizations cooperated in the organizing and funding of the excavations and providing an opportunity for Glenwood community students to ex-

perience and learn about archaeology that is in their backyard. The Sanford Museum led the field research component of the project under direction of Jill Titcomb and myself. During the preliminary stages, Steve Lensink and Lynn Alex with the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) worked with the Glenwood Community School District proposing several ideas and formulating a viable plan. Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Inc., from Oakland, Iowa, helped with obtaining grant funding for the educational components of the project. The Iowa Archeo-

logical Society also became involved by co-sponsoring an adult field school. Lastly, a REAP Historical Resource Development Program emergency grant was awarded by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The project was unique in that multiple organizations were involved in providing an opportunity for high school students, adult volunteers and archaeologists to work together. It was also unusual because over 50 Glenwood students assisted with the fieldwork and over 500 students toured the excavations.

13ML590 is a small habitation site situated on a high terrace overlooking Keg Creek. The site had been known to local collectors in the Glenwood area, and was recorded by William Billeck in 1993. In early 2006, test excavations by Jonathan Sellars and Leslie Ambrosino established the site as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (Sellars and Ambrosino 2006). The test excavations yielded a diverse amount of material and appeared to be Late Woodland, dating ca A.D. 700–900.

The landscape of the site area has changed historically; previously, most of the site was in standing timber. However, by 1996 the site had been cleared and leveled. Portions were bulldozed to create an earthen berm along the edge of the terrace. Once cleared the area was then used as a prairie plant nursery.

Fieldwork began in mid-October and continued into November. Initially, Steven De Vore of the MidwestArchaeological Center, National Park Ser-

vice (NPS) in Lincoln, Nebraska, conducted a geophysical survey. Following the survey, a test strategy was designed to maximize data collection. The upper portion of 13ML590 had a disturbed historic deposit (Sellars and Ambrosino 2006) so part of the site was mechanically cleared to remove the historic overburden. The mechanical stripping was monitored and specific areas were shovel tested based on the NPS recommendations. The Glenwood students excavated the western portion of the site in standard 2 x 1 meter units. The central portion was the focus of a team of researchers and IAS field school participants (Figure 1).

In general, the site has a low density of cultural material suggesting short-term usage and single household occupations, but we recovered a diverse amount of material including lithic and pottery assemblages, groundstone tools, daub, charcoal, bone, and shell. Preservation was fair as most of the bone and shell was very fragmented. The majority of the material culture was from the Late Woodland period, however, two rim sherds possessed decoration indicative of the Middle Woodland-age Rowe ware, and suggesting multiple Woodland period occupations.

The ceramic assemblage was consistent though two S-shaped rims were recovered; of these one had single cord-impressed decoration. The remainder of the rim sherds date to the Late Woodland period. The rims have a slight flare in most cases and very little deco-



Figure 1. Intrepid volunteers enjoy a beautiful fall morning searching for features and artifacts.

ration. Rim decoration consisted of simple exterior or interior tool impressions on the lip of the vessels. The ceramic assemblage is predominately grit tempered with cord-roughened exteriors though some of the cord-roughened body sherds have been smoothed over. Additionally, two shell-tempered body sherds have been noted during laboratory processing.

The chipped stone tool assemblage is rather limited. Three projectile points have been recovered from the site. Several utilized flakes were observed and one end scraper was found. The lithic assemblage consists mostly of local chert, though other material such as Knife River Flint and Burlington chert were identified.

During excavation, several features were identified. Some of these features correlated well with the geophysical survey. The majority were small pits, however three hearths were discovered.

Modification of the site area historically was fairly widespread. The upper level of the site contained material like brick, glass, and nails. Test units also uncovered areas that had been previously dug with either a backhoe or bulldozer. One unit had bulldozer tracks still impressed in the soil that was later filled in with debris. In addition to the prehistoric features, a brick foundation was uncovered in the eastern portion of the site. The foundation and historic artifacts are mainly from the twentieth century. Historic records and maps reveal nothing about the structure, however, below the

terrace is the location of a former farmstead and the foundation was perhaps an associated outbuilding. Debris related to this structure had been pushed across the site to form the berm. This splay of historic debris caused interference with the geophysical survey and as a result, some of the areas recommended by the NPS turned out to be historic.

While the site has seen modification and some portions are already destroyed, intact archaeology was present. Our unit excavations encountered preserved features and an area with charcoal mottling and burned earth. This mottled area also had a higher clay content that is not normally associated with soils typically found on this landform. The clayey soil was potentially brought to the site from a different area as part of a building episode. Unfortunately, no post molds were found associated with this deposit to indicate a well-defined house structure. Several charcoal and soil samples were taken for radio-carbon dating and paleobotanical analysis. This part of the project is on going and further analysis results will be in future newsletters.

Reference Cited

Sellars, J. R. and L. A. Ambrosino
2006 *Archaeological Investigations at Site 13ML590, City of Glenwood, Mill County, Iowa*. Report CAS-654. Consulting Archaeological Services. Creston, Iowa.

Real and Mythical Elephants

by David W. Benn

Bear Creek Archeology, Inc.

Elephants are not native to the New World, but Americans know all about these magnificent animals because there are zoos and childhood stories about Babar. Most people also know something about extinct elephant species from the work of paleontologists and by viewing museum displays. But, there were no zoos or museum dioramas a thousand years ago, so when prehistoric Native Americans found monstrous bones eroding from riverbanks, what did they make of fossil animals that had been gone from the Western Hemisphere for 9,000 years or more? Native Americans knew the world through oral traditions, and this is where we must look to gain insights into their beliefs. This paper is a brief inquiry into the ancient mythology of ice age elephants.

I recently stepped into the subject of extinct animals after a Bear Creek Archeology crew excavated many pieces of mammoth or mastodon bones from the Dailey site (13PK854), a Great Oasis component (yes, Great Oasis!) in the central Des Moines River valley. The

Phase II testing of this site was sponsored by the Rock Island District Corps of Engineers. The 29 fragments of bone had been salvaged by Great Oasis knappers from a partially mineralized skeleton, no doubt eroding from glacial outwash sediments in the valley. Although no teeth were present to indicate species, some bone fragments had been flaked, and others had been used as scraping and burnishing tools (Figure 1). Given that Native Americans had intimate knowledge about the natural environment, we must assume that Great Oasis people recognized these giant bones came from a creature no longer living on the earth. They must have had mythical explanations for such creatures, just as modern people and television perpetuate myths about Bigfoot or the Loch Ness "monster."

Let's begin with a world perspective of the myths, then narrow the search to the mid-continent of the United States. Many indigenous peoples in Siberia once believed in mythical mammoths that lived underground and created the Earth by throwing up dirt with their

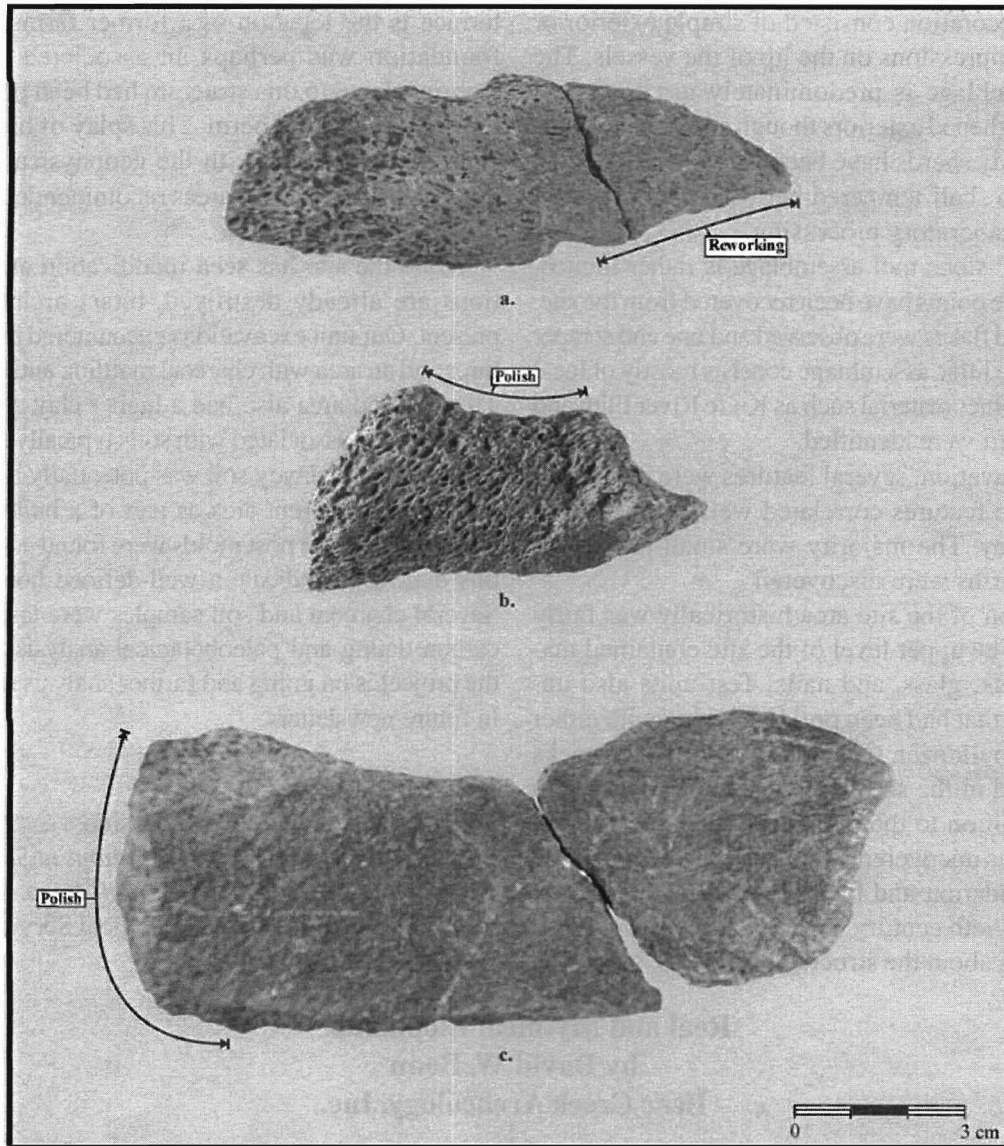


Figure 1. Modified mammoth/mastodon bone from 13PK854: a) “notched” pointed object; b) polished fragment; c) tabular piece of surface bone with polished end. (Photo by Derek Lee)

tusks and making lakes with their footprints (Serikov and Serikova 2005:9). Some of these creatures took the form of giant human beings. Shamans are known to have deployed the supernatural powers inherent in extinct fauna by collecting and grinding their bones for medicinal and magic applications (op. cit.:14). Mammoths and mastodons had been intensively hunted for at least 200,000 years by Paleolithic people in portions of eastern Europe and trans-Russia, and Ice Age fauna may have lingered there well into the Holocene era. Thus, Ice Age elephant mythology survived more or less intact to be recorded in the modern era. Across Russia there numerous finds of teeth, bones, and worked fossils of extinct megafauna as well as objects made of mammoth ivory from prehistoric graves and other offerings, suggesting

widespread reverence for the fossils of extinct creatures (op. cit.:11–12; Mayor 2000).

Dozens of archaeological sites in the Western Hemisphere have produced mammoth and mastodon bones, but most of these are not demonstrable kill sites (Grayson and Meltzer 2002). While the evidence for elephant hunting in North America continues to be hotly debated in the archaeological literature, it is certain that Paleoindians and their progeny curated mammoth, mastodon, extinct bison, sloth and even dinosaur bones (see below) for shaping tools or for magical purposes. Aside from obvious bone tools such as shaft straighteners, projectile foreshafts, choppers, and picks, the characteristic knapping attributes of chipped stone are also present on flakes of mammoth/mastodon bone: e.g., bulbs of percussion, hackle marks on ventral surface, negative flake

scars, and percussion preparation at the platform (Hannus 1997). Knapping attributes are present on some of the flaked bone from 13PK854 (Figure 1). Nearly all of the flakes and tools in the published literature were made from green (fresh) bone of extinct fauna, indicating that Paleoindians extracted that bone from recently deceased animals. Our interest focuses on *fossil* bones, since this is where mythology is embedded in the guise of “fossil legends” (Mayor 2005:xxix).

Adrienne Mayor conducted a world-wide search for fossil legends, and compiled her findings in two books (Mayor 2000, 2005) which offer a plethora of examples of prehistoric fossil collecting. She described only one fossil find from Iowa: a report that the Lewis and Clark expedition found the petrified jawbone of an enormous lizard-headed fish (*Saurocephalus lanciformis*) in a cavern near the confluence of the Soldier and Missouri rivers in Harrison County. This fossil could only have come from the Niobrara chalk in western Nebraska or Kansas (Mayor 2005:187). It is assumed that a Native American collected and transported this fossil eastward. Indeed, the fossil beds of the High Plains were familiar sources to both prehistoric Indian and historic fossil collectors for yielding bones of dinosaurs and extinct mammals. Closer to Iowa, the Big Bone River (now Pomme de Terre River in Benton County, Missouri) was famed by the historic Osage Indians as the place where monsters had a terrible battle and were killed as offerings to the Great Spirit (Mayor 2005:200). These mastodon bone deposits were dug, and nineteenth century promoter Albert Koch displayed a skeleton. Subsequently, the University of Missouri conducted excavations in the same deposits (Phillips Spring) near the Rogers Shelter excavation (Wood and McMillan 1976). Mayor (2005:29, 68) related that the Iroquois of New York often went on expeditions to gather “earth medicine,” i.e., bones of giant game to be used as hunting medicine. In a similar vein, Algonquians of the northeastern United States and Canada actively collected and traded fossil ivory, saying “bones found under the earth” were ancient monsters killed by their culture hero *Manabozho* (Mayor 2005:9). Likewise, the Creek Indians fashioned amulets of “horn” sawed off “monster” bones found in old water holes (i.e., sinkholes) (ibid.). In 1775, Thomas Jefferson questioned Delaware Indian elders about heaps of mastodon fossils from a famous bone bed on the Ohio River in Kentucky, which had been known for centuries to Native Americans. Later, Jefferson hoped that Lewis and Clark would discover living mastodon herds in the far West (Mayor 2005:xxxiii, 57).

Jefferson was a scientist with a humanist perspective (he was a Unitarian), but vast numbers of his contemporaries believed that fossil bones represented animals wiped out by biblical Noah’s Great Flood. This

is similar to the type of mythic explanation for fossil animals that is sprinkled throughout the relatively sparse ethnographic accounts provided by Native Americans. For example, the earliest Dakota Sioux references to the horned water monster, *Unktehi* (various spellings), which dated as early as Father Hennepin’s visit during the 1680s and continued through the nineteenth century, refer to a four-footed monster like an elephant (with tusks) and also to serpents and winged monsters (Mayor 2005:233). Many Cheyenne myths include accounts of battles between thunder beings and water monsters, with the horned water monster being associated with fossils, especially elephants, as well as large sea creatures we know today as salt water dinosaurs and fossil crocodiles (Mayor 2005:211). Southern Quebec natives identified huge bones as coming from “underwater horned monsters,” which may have been a reference to *Uktena* (Mayor 2005:13, 27). Additionally, it is possible that the Iroquois “Giant Buffalo” was a mythical version of the extinct elephant (Mayor 2005:23). Many Indian records, like these, are fragmentary and the descriptions of animals are too vague to determine species, because so much of this oral tradition vanished with the disruption of native cultures beginning in the seventeenth century. One of the most complete accounts of a Pawnee shaman links manipulation of the fossils with a myth and life as a hunter (Mayer 2005:169–171). Young Bull (a.k.a. White Hawk, Captain Jim), last of the Pawnee fossil bone doctors in about 1855, told of being a member of a healing medicine society based on manipulating fossils. He related the story of obtaining a large leg bone for a medicine bundle from Swimming Mound, a famous source for the bones of sea-going lizards and extinct mammals probably situated on the Republican River in western Nebraska. Young Bull stated that ingesting infusions of fossil bone were said to make men strong like the “giants” of the past and would make them successful bison hunters and warriors. Today, fossil bones collected by Indian practitioners are obtained to fulfill a vision for special uses like healing and personal power (Mayor 2005:299).

Given the ubiquity of various fossil myths, let us return to the bones from the Dailey site and speculate how the Great Oasis folks might have perceived fossil elephants. Let’s begin with two facts. 1) Great Oasis people hunted bison in central and western Iowa, therefore an experienced hunter/butcherer would have realized that mastodon/mammoth bones came from creatures *much* larger than buffalo. Depending on their second-hand knowledge about the American continent transmitted by word of mouth, Great Oasis people

probably realized that this enormous creature's bones did not represent a living creature on earth but belonged to the mythical realm. 2) Great Oasis people chopped and flaked mammoth/mastodon bones into tools. They did not treat human bone in a similar manner (as raw material), thus it follows that they are not likely to have believed fossil elephant bones came from "giant humans" like the Siberian myth (above). The questions we can ask are: Did Great Oasis people believe those bones possessed "magical power" based on the creature's mythical origins, and was that power transferred to the bone tools? To answer these questions, we need to excavate more of the Dailey site and recover as many mammoth/mastodon bone fragments and tools as possible from within their functional contexts. Then, we might be able to relate those functional contexts to social contexts within the community and develop some insights about Great Oasis mysticism. Are there any unusual (rare) tools, or was elephant bone used for everyday domestic functions like cutting and scraping? Was elephant bone crushed and ground into powder for preparation of magical infusions (by a shaman)? Was elephant bone shared between households in the Dailey community? Does elephant bone appear with other rare materials in "ideological" contexts (e.g., altars, graves) at other sites? Ultimately, can we as modern humans transcend the notion of animal bones as mere raw material and place ourselves in a mindset that sees fossil elephants

as mythical creatures, such that we too can fully appreciate the archaeological record?

Acknowledgement: Thanks go to Branden Scott (BCA) for pointing the author to some useful literature and helping with editorial revisions.

References Cited:

- Grayson, Donald K., and David J. Meltzer
2002 Clovis Hunting and Large Mammal Extinction: A Critical Review of the Evidence. *Journal of World Prehistory* 16(4):313–359.
- Hannus, L. Adrien
1997 Mammoth Bone Flake Tools from the Lange/ Ferguson Site, South Dakota. *Proceedings of the 1993 Bone Modification Conference, Hot Springs, South Dakota*, edited by L. A. Hannus, L. Rossum and R. P. Winham, pp. 220–235.
- Mayor, Adrienne
2000 *The First Fossil Hunters*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.
2005 *Fossil Legends of the First Americans*. Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford.
- Serikov, Iu.B., and A.Iu. Serikova
2005 The Mammoth in the Myths, Ethnography, and Archeology of Northern Eurasia. *Anthropology & Archeology of Eurasia* 43(4):8–18.
- Wood, W. Raymond, and R. Bruce McMillan (editors)
1976 *Prehistoric Man and His Environments: A Case Study in the Ozark Highland*. Academic Press, New York.

Report on IAS Field Work in Southern Iowa by Maria Schroeder Office of the State Archaeologist

Commencing in August of 2006, the IAS began support of a research project in Van Buren County. The project's goal was to have IAS volunteers actively involved in the steps necessary to collect archaeological data and record the information in a professional manner so it could be shared in a public domain. The project is still active and the following is a description of the goals achieved thus far and projection of remaining work.

During the weekend of August 26–27, Maria Schroeder and Mark Anderson led a crew of nine IAS volunteers on a survey of property owned by IAS member Mike Bresnahan. On the morning of August 26 each member was given a packet containing a copy of "Iowa's Archaeological Timeline;" a sample of the 1:24,000 topographic map for the area to be surveyed; a copy of the 2002 infrared aerial map of the area with an overlay of soil types expected to be found; early historic plat maps including a copy of the General Land Office plat of the area; a general schematic of the state of Iowa depicting historic Indian tribes and the 'zones' in Iowa associated with the individual tribes at the time of American western expansion; a table containing metric conversions; graph paper; writing implements and a clipboard. All of the information was reviewed and the usefulness of these research tools was demonstrated.

Following this introduction to research materials, field work began on approximately 40 acres of recently tilled farmland. Volunteers were organized into transects for provenience purposes. They collected artifacts and labeled collection bags according to transects surveyed. Preliminary results indicate five different sites in the area surveyed. The largest site appears to be over 3,100 square meters, and may be an early Archaic site. Two shovel tests excavated by volunteers on this site were negative for artifacts below the plow zone.

All materials collected were transported to the lab at the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City. Starting the weekend of Jan. 20, 2007 volunteers began processing the materials. This activity will continue for several weekends. Volunteers will participate in officially recording the sites following OSA Site Records guidelines. The lab weekends will also include more detailed lithic analysis with the help of Mark Anderson. Once the materials have been processed, recorded and labeled, all will be returned to the landowner.



IAS members standing on a large Early Archaic site in Van Buren County, Iowa.

Wonderful Opportunity in Archaeology for Educators

**Lynn M. Alex
Office of the State Archaeologist**

The Office of the State Archaeologist for many years has been working with and inspired by the archaeology education program at the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (MVAC). A number of Iowa teachers have already benefited from the programming offered by MVAC. Recently MVAC received a large grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to provide 25 K-12 teachers with three weeks of study of Upper Mississippi Valley archaeology, including how native societies adapted and evolved over the past 12,000 years. The institute will be led by Connie Arzigian and Bonnie Jancik, with guest lectures and tours led by MVAC archaeologists Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt, Jim Theler, and Kathy Stevenson, as well as Bob Birmingham (former State Archaeologist, now with Friends of Aztalan State Park), and retired educator LeVern DeVries. The Institute will run from July 9 through July 27, 2007, and will be held on the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse campus, with field trips scheduled to archaeological sites across the state.

Although the institute will be based in Wisconsin, Iowa teachers would greatly benefit from this opportunity. Participants will explore the archaeological record and the indigenous cultures as well as the process of archaeological discovery and interpretation. Besides being a fascinating story, the archaeological record of the Upper Mississippi Valley provides a laboratory within which to examine how we have come to know what we do about the past, and how archaeologists move from potsherds and projectile points to insights into how people lived, adapted to their surroundings, and changed through time. Participants will learn about the nature of the archaeological record, including its strengths and limitations, through exposure to actual archaeological excavations and laboratory work, and discussion of how we can infer information from cultural remains. Through authentic research experiences and inquiry-based projects, teachers will learn to make relevant connections between in-depth archaeological, anthropological, historical, literary, and cultural content and their classroom teaching.

Teachers interested in participating in the Institute can find more information at:

<http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/neh.htm>

IAS Announcements

Events-Education-News

Keyes-Orr Award Past Recipients

1977	Don Spears	1992	D. E. (Pid) and Thelma Pidcock
1978	John and Barb Feeley, and Ruth Thornton	1993	Deb Zieglowsky Baker
1979	David Carlson	1994	Dennis Miller
1980	Mildred Wedel and Henry Field	1995	Shirley Schermer
1981	Arnold Roggman	1996	Joe Beals
1982	D. D. Davis	1997	David M. Gradwohl
1983	Pat and Paul Williams	1998	Dale & Marian Gifford
1984	Betsy Lyman and Gary Valen	1999	W. D. Frankforter and Jim Pilgrim
1985	no award given	2000	Merle Simonsen
1986	Alton K. Fisher, Richard Slattery	2001	Reynold Ruppe (posthumous); Chuck (posthumous) and Shirley Smith
1987	Duane Anderson	2002	William Green and Robin Lillie
1988	no award given	2003	Joe Tiffany
1989	no award given	2004	Adrian Anderson (posthumous)
1990	Dale Henning	2005	Lynn M. Alex; Michael and Nancy Heimbaugh
1991	Arlo Johnson	2006	George Horton

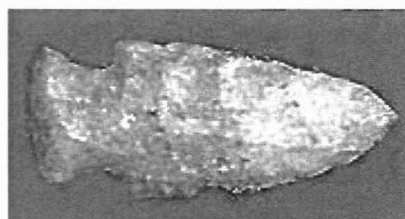
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
THE ANNUAL IAS SPRING MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 21,
IN IOWA CITY
AT THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST
AND
THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
AN EXCITING PROGRAM AND
INTERACTIVE FIELD TRIPS ARE PLANNED.
DETAILS WILL BE MAILED

Try to identify the Iowa artifact pictured to the right. Please email your responses to IAN Editor Michael Heimbaugh: paleomike@msn.com

OR Mail to: Mike Heimbaugh
3923 29th St.,
Des Moines, IA 50310-5849.

The point featured in the IAN Summer issue is thought to be a *Lost Island*. Bob Moats of Estherville, IA, sent the correct response.

What's the Point?



Length - 2" Width - 7/8"

UI-OSA NEWS

A SPECIAL SECTION
OF THE IOWA
ARCHEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY EWSLETTER



Ongoing Search for State Archaeologist

The University of Iowa's search for the new State Archaeologist continues. The Search Committee has reviewed applications and will conduct interviews in February and March. **Steve Lensink**, Interim Director, and **Shirley Schermer**, Burials Program Director, represent OSA on the search committee, which is chaired by Glen Storey of the UI Anthropology Department.

EUROPEAN TRIP

Joe Artz, Geographic Information Coordinator, and **Shirley Schermer**, Burials Program Director, are planning to travel to Kosova in April. They will be meeting with archaeologists and setting up a Memoranda of Understanding between the University of Prishtiana and the University of Iowa promoting international collaboration on geographic information systems and human osteology.

NEW SEASON OF OSA BROWN BAGS

OSA's informational and often entertaining Brown Bag series continues with presentations in the office's lab Fridays at noon. IAS members and other people from the university community and general public are always encouraged to join OSA staff in learning about a wide variety of archaeology related topics during these informal lunches.

Presentations so far this year have been varied. From the OSA, **John Cordell** talked on the Keyes Collection catalogs, **Mark Anderson** gave a historical and archaeological overview of his Caribbean sailing trip, and **Lynn Alex** talked on her walking tour of Britain's Hadrian's Wall. Guest presenters have included Marshall Owens, curator of the Bertrand Shipwreck Museum, on the museum's current research, and Dave Benn, Bear Creek Archaeology, on eastern Iowa Archaic sites.

From the IAS, Fred Gee talked on the Rivermill Field School, George Horton on a Hopewellian Buffalo Tale, and Ferrel Anderson on a historic Sac site in Rock Island County, Illinois.

Up and Coming Brown Bags

February 23: John Hedden and Dan Horgen, Office of the State Archaeologist, Historic Euroamerican Farmstead Sites of Iowa: Identifying the Population instead of Looking at the Random Sample.

March 9: K. Kris Hirst, Archaeology on the Internet: About.com and Beyond!

March 23: Atlantis: New Revelations (DVD) an episode of the History Channel program Digging Up the Truth. Part 1 of 2 (second part to run March 30, followed by a discussion of the episode).

March 30: Atlantis: New Revelations (DVD), an episode of the History Channel program Digging Up the Truth. Part 2 of 2 (followed by a discussion of the episode).

April 6: Mark Anderson and Lane Shields, Office of the State Archaeologist, Electronic Iowa One-Call Submissions.

April 13: Stephanie Drumheller, Department of Geology, Crocs, Gators, and Bite Mark Taphonomy (tentative title).

April 20: Fred Gee, Bethsaida: The Lost City by The Sea of Galilee.

May 11 (date tentative): Joe Artz and Shirley Schermer, Office of the State Archaeologist, Report on trip to Kosova.

Check out the OSA Web Site for any additions or changes.

www.uiowa.edu/~osa/

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEWS

New Certification Program Coordinator

Cherie Haury-Artz, new staff member at OSA will coordinate the Iowa Archaeological Certification program. Lynn Alex will work with Cherie over the next few months to make the transition. Cherie has a B.A. in Anthropology from State University of New York at Potsdam and an M.A. in Anthropology from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Most of her research has been done on the plains in Oklahoma, Kansas, North and South Dakota and includes faunal analysis, use and identification of lithic resources, rock art, and environmental adaptation of prehistoric cultures. She also has a special interest in public education and outreach and has spent a great deal of time giving presentations in schools and teaching classes for College for Kids through Grant Wood AEA and the WINGS, CHESS, and other programs for UI Belin Blank Center. **Mark Anderson**, highway archaeologist at OSA, will assist with efforts to revamp the certification program. IAS members are invited to send comments and suggestions regarding certification to Cherie care of the OSA. Those interested in certification should contact Cherie.

Committee Appointment

At the invitation of Anita Walker, outgoing director of the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, **Lynn Alex** will join historians and educators in serving on a new Iowa Studies Committee. The committee was established by state legislation passed last year that recognized the need for students to have an appreciation for Iowa through the study of the state's history, government, and Iowa's citizens' record of civic responsibility and engagement. Committee duties include the implementation of an Iowa studies professional plan and curriculum for Iowa teachers and students and the development of partnerships with nonprofit organizations to support Iowa studies statewide.

Archaeology Items of Interest

IAS Lab Work

Rivermill Farm Project Lab Work: The artifacts from the **Rivermill Farm** project in Guthrie County recovered in the IAS-sponsored field project last spring are ready for washing, sorting, cataloguing and analyzing at the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City. A few bags have produced some unexpected delights. Lab work can count towards certification for those enrolled in the program. Fred Gee plans to drive from Des Moines on occasion to continue the analysis, thus carpooling might be possible. **Anyone who would like to assist with these materials, please contact Lynn Alex (319-384-0561; lynn-alex@uiowa.edu) to schedule a time.**

A Dog's Find

According to the **BBC NEWS**, a black lab named Rowan recently made an "unusual find." The dog unearthed a Neolithic stone axe head at the Drum Estate in Aberdeenshire. The find dated back thousands of years. The dog's owner, Alec Gordon, states that he and his dogs were "walking through the wood, and we arrived at a spot where we normally stop. One of them (Rowan) dropped a stone which she'd been carrying." He went on to say, "I wonder if she knew it was something special because when she dropped it, she dropped it on my foot. It's not every day you get an axe dropped on your foot." Shannon Fraser, regional archaeologist for NE Scotland, said: "I think it's really exciting because we have not had finds from Drum Estate." Nor had there been finds from the Neolithic period (4-6,000 years old).

Land Bridge Theory Disputed

University of Texas researcher Michael Collins and other scientists have been digging up artifacts from Chile to Texas for more than 20 years. Their finds convince them the first Americans didn't walk across the Bering land bridge, but came by boat, and arrived much earlier than previously thought.

Collins first became convinced of "pre-Clovis" ancestors in 1967, after discovering burned mammal bones with butcher marks at the Cueva Quebrada site in Val Verde County, TX. Carbon dating of charcoal put the bones at 14,000 years old. He also worked on Chile's Monte Verde site where artifacts were discovered to be at least 1,000 years older than those at the Clovis sites. Over time, scientists have begun to accept the Texas site, and the "tide of opinion has begun to turn," Collins said.

For more information go to:

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/global-includes/printstory.jsp?path=news/metro/stories/MYSA011307.04B>

Membership Information

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

Membership Dues

Voting:

Active	\$20
Household	\$25
Sustaining	\$30

Non-Voting:

Student (under 18)	\$9
Institution	\$30

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 Editors Lynn M. Alex and Steven C. Lensink, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 S. Clinton St., University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242. Email Lynn-Alex@uiowa.edu or Steve-Lensink@uiowa.edu. IAS Web Site: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS/iashome.htm>**

**Iowa Archeological Society
The University of Iowa
700 Clinton Street Building
Iowa City, IA 52242-1030**



**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 45
Iowa City Iowa**