

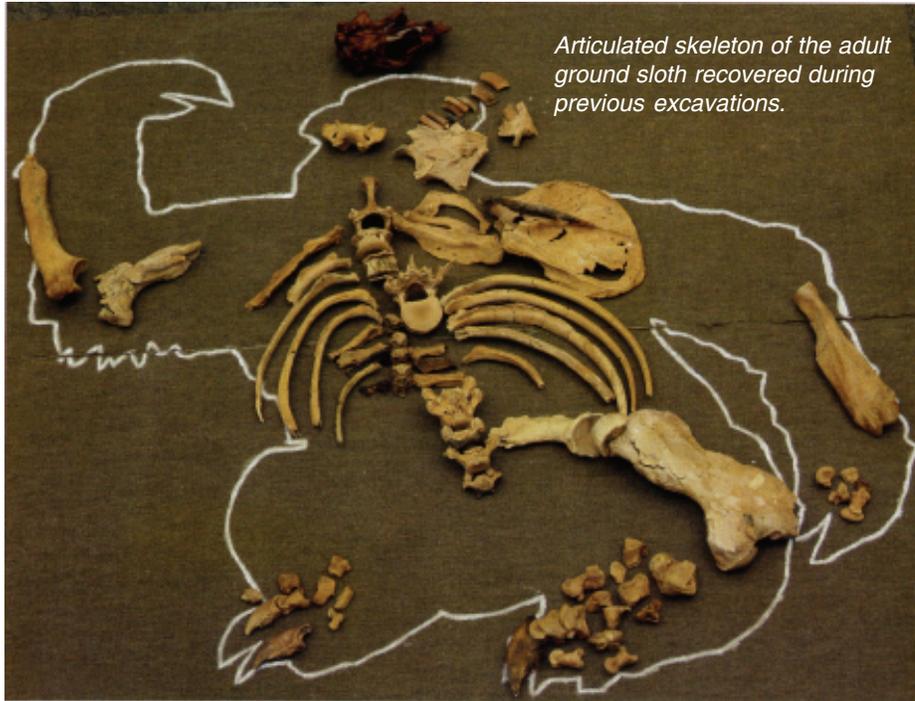
Newsletter of the *Iowa Archeological Society*



Est. 1951

Issue No. 201, Vol. 57, No. 1

Spring 2007



Articulated skeleton of the adult ground sloth recovered during previous excavations.

North bank of the West Tarkio

Creek. After two uneventful digs producing a grand total of one bone, a last minute probing detail in the spring of 2006 located two bones in the middle of the creek—a small vertebra and a large heel bone. To allow us to explore the creek bed, Mather and Sons used an excavator to divert West Tarkio through the abandoned north bank excavation. This left the old stream bed slightly exposed. After reinforcing the new excavation area with a sand bag levee (we were flooded out twice), volunteers removed over-levee flood deposits. Two hours later a shoulder blade, about a quarter of the size of an adult's and clearly that of a juvenile animal, was discovered. This was followed in short order by another shoulder blade of the same size, several small ribs, a collar bone, and a distal humerus. All were from a very young "baby" ground sloth. Twenty three elements of the youngster were uncovered that weekend. The next assault by the excavation team yielded increasing numbers of juvenile sloth bones including more ribs and a pelvic element. The situation went from the strange—finds of associated sloth parents and young are unknown—to the bizarre when a third juvenile sloth

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Below. Kathyne Clark and son Ben of Colfax, Iowa. Ben is holding the baby's shoulder blade; mom, the adult's.



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One Sloth Becomes Three

*Tarkio Valley Jefferson's Giant
Ground Sloth Excavations Reveal
Adult and Two Juveniles*



**Holmes Semken
and
David Brenzel**

The following account continues the saga of the giant ground sloth project noted in the *Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society*, Issue 190. In 2002 Bob and Sonia Athen first reported this site eroding from their land along West Tarkio Creek, Page County, to Holmes Semken, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geosciences, The University of Iowa. Teamed with The University of Iowa Museum of Natural History and volunteers from the Iowa Archeological Society, Dr. Semken's 13 expeditions have revealed the unexpected!

In 2002 Bob and Sonia Athen first reported this site eroding from their land along West Tarkio Creek, Page County, to Holmes Semken, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geosciences, The University of Iowa. Teamed with The University of Iowa Museum of Natural History and volunteers from the Iowa Archeological Society, Dr. Semken's 13 expeditions have revealed the unexpected!



Aaron Last (left), Iowa City Regina High School and Alex Bryk, Penn State University excavate within the coffer dam created to retain Tarkio Creek.

shoulder blade, this one smaller than the first two, was uncovered.

We now have the second most complete adult sloth known, with 90 elements recovered. The remains are partially intermingled with two very young sloths. Depending on which ribs go with which juvenile, the West Tarkio excavations have provided the second most complete baby sloth ever found.

If the combination of one baby with an adult is unique, what can you say about two juveniles and an adult? This association raises a lot of questions about sloth biology. Does the association reflect a parent and its offspring or a social group of possibly related individuals? Modern tree sloths only have one slowly maturing offspring at a time, and they parent well over two years. How far should we go with the tree sloth analogy? Could this association of adult and juveniles reflect gregarious sloth behavior? Why did the three

sloths perish together? One of the juveniles has a partially healed puncture wound on a rib. Did the injured baby force the sloth unit to "circle up" and leave them vulnerable to other physical threats or biological distress? Preliminary analysis of the pollen suggests a climate more modern-like than glacial. So it seems the animals lived toward the end of the Ice Age or perhaps immediately after. Was climatic change a factor in the sloths' demise? At this time, we have more questions than answers.

A soon-to-be-submitted National Science Foundation grant proposal requests funds for detailed core analyses of the sediments to better understand stratigraphic and paleoecological processes. The grant also proposes measuring the oxygen isotope ratios, which can reveal paleo-temperatures, and determining carbon isotope ratios for use in both dating and shedding light on diet. DNA studies will also be done with the

hope of establishing possible relationships among the sloths. Computerized axial tomography (CAT) scans conducted by The University of Iowa's Department of Radiology confirm that we can look into each sloth bone. Radiology staff will also collaborate with scientists from the Department of Biomedical Engineering to work on ground sloth

bone mechanics and statistically separate the ribs for each juvenile.

Deposits adjacent to those containing the two juveniles remain to be excavated, and we plan to extend the dig's 20-x-40-foot cut into the south bank after the creek bed area is cleared. There is plenty of excitement still under ground at the dig. IAS volunteers have been major players in this project and an inspiration to many neophyte volunteers on both technique and enthusiasm. We hope to see many of you on future digs at this exciting site!



Life-size reconstruction of the Jefferson's giant ground sloth, *Megalonyx jeffersonii*, in Iowa Hall at the Museum of Natural History, The University of Iowa.

Visit www.uiowa.edu/~nathist/Site/sloth/index for detailed reports on each expedition. The web site also provides a sneak preview of CAT scans produced by the Department of Radiology, The University of Iowa.



Bone scapulas in situ.

What's the Point?

Identify the artifact picture to the left (shown life size). The artifact is from the River Mill Farm site in Guthrie County. Send your responses to Lynn Alex at lynn-alex@uiowa.edu. Answers will be listed in the next issue!



The Harry Cooper LaRue Collection

Dale Clark

The Iowa Archeological Society does not condone the buying and selling of artifacts:

"The Society shall not be used for buying, selling, or trading of artifacts except for scientific purposes"
(Article II, Articles of Incorporation of the Iowa Archeological Society).

The purchase and investigation of the LaRue Collection as described below is helping to preserve the scientific value of these materials.

Both my wife, Joetta, and I are avid artifact collectors. As of September of 2005, we had never bought any artifacts. We also had made a rule that we never would buy. But things were about to change. One Saturday afternoon my wife had gone to garage sales in Chariton, Iowa. I was at home on the couch for a relaxing afternoon. When Joetta returned, she had several large bags of artifacts. I asked her, "What have you done? We had a rule that if we wanted artifacts we would bend down and pick them up. It will mean more to us if we know they are authentic and we can document them for future studies." Joetta replied, "Please let me tell you about them first before you say anymore."

At this garage sale, Joetta met a lady, Darlene LaRue Bower. She was the one who owned the artifacts. The artifacts were her grandfather's, they didn't interest her, and they were only taking up space in her basement. My wife Joetta assured me that Darlene was sincere about the collection, so she brought all the nice pieces home with her and explained, "If this collection was Darlene's grandfather's, and it was authentic, it needed to stay together."

Joetta also added that there was more to the collection, and that if I wanted it, I would have to go back myself. I thought about it for a while and decided to at least talk to Darlene to get any possible history about the artifacts. When we got there, Darlene's family treated us like family—good people! After talking to Darlene about the collection, there was no doubt in my mind that it was old, authentic, important, and needed to be kept together.

We talked to Darlene for more than an hour, gathering as much information as we could. I knew the collection meant nothing without information on who collected it, where it was collected, and when it was collected. Darlene told us that the collection was her grandfather's, Harry Cooper LaRue, and she was told by her family that he liked to hunt in Lucas County, Iowa, the county in which he lived. We also learned that he died in 1950. This gave me the basic information that I needed to find out about Harry LaRue and the provenience

of his collection.

After talking to family members who still lived in the area, it appeared that, while a small part of the collection was split among them, we had the bulk of it. The family remembered that Harry got very excited when a certain professor came down to discuss his findings and go artifact hunting with him. It seemed to be the greatest thing on earth for Harry when this happened. The family didn't know the professor's name. They did say that Harry took his hobby very seriously, and, that while he collected in

a number of places, he preferred to hunt the White Breast Creek area.

The next step for me was to find out the identity of the professor. After emailing the Office of the State Archaeologist to see if anyone had heard of a professor who would fit the description, the answer came back from Mike Perry—Charles Reuben Keyes. What a find, Mike! Not only did Mike find the connection, he found correspondence between LaRue and Keyes dating

—continued on page 4



Dale Clark is the most recent certified site surveyor in the Iowa Archaeological Certification Program. His discovery of the LaRue collection and the link to Charles R. Keyes inspired him to try to relocate the sites in Lucas County that LaRue documented. After reading the documents in the Keyes Collection pertaining to LaRue, Mike Perry noted in a letter to Dale (dated September 28, 2005) that LaRue seemed fairly well educated and that Keyes relied on people like LaRue to develop records of sites and the prehistory of Iowa. Mike also observed that a fair amount of the LaRue collection was not found on the LaRue farm or even within a mile or two of it. LaRue visited the Chariton River and White Breast Creek periodically and also collected Oneota materials during a trip to northeast Iowa. Mike suggested to Dale that there was enough detail in the documents to identify and type some of the material in the LaRue collection and to relocate a number of the sites using topographic maps, historical plat maps, and aerial photographs. Dale has his work cut out for him, but has embarked on a very worthwhile project.

between 1933 and 1945. These letters describe sites that LaRue had found by himself or sites that Keyes and LaRue had found and investigated together. Keyes and LaRue both described and drew pictures of stone artifacts and pottery from these sites. In some cases, they identified the county and section in which sites were found and provided a description of nearby landmarks. This correspondence is important in documenting the collection.

When Mike Perry told me about the *Keyes' Collection: A Finders Guide*, I had never heard of it. The *Guide* was compiled by Joe Tiffany in 1981 and is an index to the papers, correspondence, and collections documented by Charles R. Keyes. The library in my little home town was able to get a copy on loan for me. In the *Guide*, I found the name that I was looking for—Harry Cooper LaRue—and a description of some of his findings. Mike told me that it would be important to the collection and to him if I could relocate the sites described in the letters between LaRue and Keyes. So in 2006 my nephew, Ivan McNeff, and I did just that. The first site we picked was Wheeler Bridge. Looking the area over with the aid of a topographic map, it seemed to be a perfect spot for a campsite—a place where White Breast Creek and a feeder creek meet. Even though the land is no longer tilled, we were able to spot the site location from some distance away. A ridge 6–7 meters above the floodplain ended at a point where the two creeks meet. The ridge was long and semicircular in form. According to the older plat books, a Wheeler family owned the land surrounding both creeks at the time that Keyes and LaRue were corresponding.

Now Ivan and I were determined to find evidence of the site, and our best bet was to hunt the creek. In the creek bed at the end of the ridge, we found three nice artifacts—a diagnostic projectile point, a triangular-shaped agate knife, and an unusual leaf-shaped point. Hunting up and down the stream, we found a few additional flakes but no diagnostic pieces.

We now believe that we have found one of the many sites documented by LaRue and Keyes. We will continue to try to relocate and document the sites of the LaRue collection of Lucas County, Iowa. Thank you Mike Perry!

Letter from Harry C. LaRue to Charles R. Keyes

Chariton, Iowa
July 18, 1927
5

Dr. Charles R. Keyes,
Mt. Vernon, Iowa

Dear Dr. Keyes:

We received your letter of June 30, also "The Palimpsest", which contains such an interesting and instructive account of your activities in Northeastern Iowa in the summer of 1934. I wish to thank you for this magazine and I would have enjoyed being with you, in spite of the heat.

We greatly enjoyed your visit and will feel alighted if you should pass through here without stopping with us.

I am sending the clippings dealing with people in Southern Iowa, which I was unable to find the morning you left here. You will note that one of them deals with the activities of Mr. Hammer, who discovered the effigy mound south of Chariton, as ~~set~~ set forth by Mr. Colton (in the clipping previously sent).

I also enclose a clipping dealing with a find in Okla. because it is of very recent date.

Since you were here I have seen some mounds located about three miles Northeast of the ones I showed you. They are on a high ridge, in a timber pasture. One is round, about fifty feet in diameter and five feet high. It has a hole the size of a barrel in the center where someone started to open it years ago. The other is on the same ridge, about one hundred yards away. It was probably a duplicate of the other, but has been used as a mellen patch and is much flattened. It shows no signs of spade work. I am told that there are others near these, but did not ~~see~~ see them.

To-day I investigated a ditch, located ten or more miles from here, in the Northeast part of this county, in which territory I had not previously searched for Indian relics. Conditions were poor, as there had been but little rain recently. I found some arrow and potsherd specimens, which are similar to those found near here.

We are planning to be in Mc. Gregor during the time you are there and are looking forward to field trips, even if it necessitates missing some other part of the program, as our main interest is in archaeology.

Hoping to see you again soon, we remain,

Very truly yours,
H. C. LaRue
H. C. LaRue



President's Message

Recognizing Our Strengths

Robin Lillie

As human beings, we often view the future as a series of obstacles to be overcome, goals yet to be reached, or tasks not yet completed. We don't always reflect on our accomplishments—those important steps along the way to the next task, the newest goal. IAS Board members work long and hard to turn an idea into reality, finish a needed job, and promote the Society. Most of their work is accomplished with little or no recognition. As the end of my term as president of the IAS nears, I feel it is important to reflect on and acknowledge individuals and events that deserve recognition.

Thank you to all the IAS Board members who served during the past year for your efforts on behalf of the IAS—Nancy Heimbaugh (vice-president), Steve Lensink (Interim State Archaeologist), Kathy Dice (secretary), Tom Harvey (treasurer), Mike Perry (journal editor), Alan Hawkins (membership secretary), Mike Heimbaugh (newsletter editor), and the intrepid group of directors Lynn Alex, Ferrel Anderson, Jerry Baker, Chad Burroughs, Dale Essick, Fred Gee, George Horton, Molly Ketchum, Mark Mertes, Don Raker, Jason Titcomb, and Linda Zintz.

Thank you to this board for putting together an ambitious work plan with the aim "to promote, educate, and inform; strengthen local chapters; and build alliances." Following are some of the many highlights of this past year's accomplishments.

- The IAS Board formulated a subcommittee to explore ways the Board can assist local chapters and keep chapters vital. An indirect windfall of these efforts was the addition of a new local chapter, the Iliniwek Chapter of the Missouri Archaeological Society. Their members express a strong interest in Iowa archaeology and are wholeheartedly welcome.
- The IAS endorsed the Department of Natural Resources' *Teaming with Wildlife Project* and supported efforts by John Palmquist to have Iowa's Governor declare a *Native Iowa History Week* to recognize the tribe for which our state is named.
- The IAS display got a good workout,

being used in a half-dozen events around the state and promoting our society in diverse venues. It is slated for continued use during 2007.

- IAS members participated in events around the state. One example occurred in January 2007 when Don Raker demonstrated flint knapping and Lynn Alex gave a talk at Winterfest, the annual meeting of the Iowa Association of County Conservation Board Employees in Waterloo.
 - The IAS financially supported three field projects: Van Buren and Guthrie County field schools and lab experiences (June and August—ongoing, 2006) with IAS participants, and a salvage excavation in Glenwood (November—ongoing, 2006). The Glenwood project and related activities involved over 800 students, with about 50 high school students participating directly in the excavations. Several professional archaeologists and IAS members volunteered their time at the project.
 - Cherie Haury-Artz is the new coordinator of the Iowa Archaeological Certification Program. Many thanks to Lynn Alex for serving over eight years in this position. During her tenure, 10 individuals received 11 certificates.
 - The IAS participated in initial discussions about a statewide site stewardship program with the possibility of developing a Site Steward Certification program.
 - The IAS Spring Meeting is just around the corner on April 21–22 in Iowa City. Check out the agenda in this *Newsletter*. The meeting incorporates the goals of this year's work plan, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will participate. This year's fall meeting will be emphasizing Oneota sites as they relate to the Ioway, in conjunction with the theme of this year's Iowa Archaeology Month *Maps, Material Culture, and Memory: On the Trail of the Ioway*. The IAS provides \$2,500 in support to Iowa Archaeology Month.
- As we look ahead, let's not forget where we have been and what we have done. Let's also remember that we build on the legacy of our strength as an organization of individuals dedicated to inform, educate, and preserve Iowa's archaeological heritage.



New Prairie Heritage Center Combines Natural and Cultural History

Charlene Elyea

The O'Brien County Conservation Board is pleased to offer a new attraction for people living in and visiting northwest Iowa. The Prairie Heritage Center, a 4,786-square-foot environmental education center, was opened for public use on November 28, 2006. The Prairie Heritage Center provides environmental education relating to the prairie and our region, preserves and protects our prairie heritage, and encourages opportunities for recreation and historic exploration.

Visitors entering the center step into the tallgrass prairie as they are greeted by a 6½-foot bison in the center of a prairie diorama. Other exhibits within the rotunda highlight the prairie and the changes that have occurred in the landscape over time. Some of the displays focus on geology, the Mill Creek culture, early white settlement history, and prairie ecology. The University of Iowa's Office of the State Archeologist has been exceptionally helpful in assisting with background information, photographs, and artifacts for the Mill Creek culture exhibit. This has been a rewarding partnership that will result in a valuable visual experience for the center's visitors.

The Prairie Heritage Center is located just off Highway 10 between the towns of Peterson and Sutherland. A large brown sign on Highway 10 will direct travelers one mile north on Yellow Avenue. The center's hours are Wednesday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

For more information contact:

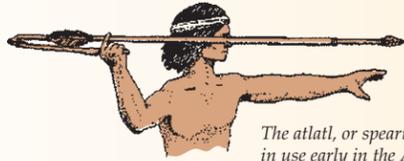
Charlene Elyea, Naturalist
O'Brien County Conservation Board
4931 Yellow Avenue
Peterson Iowa 51047
712-295-7200
occb@iowatelecom.net
Visit the website at
www.prairieheritagecenter.org.

Iowa's Archaeological Timeline

Central Iowa Edition



The earliest known people to live in Iowa made fluted spear-points called Clovis and Folsom.

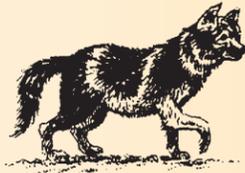


The atlatl, or spearthrower, was in use early in the Archaic period, increasing the distance a spear could travel, and the force of its impact.

Mammoth teeth and bones have been discovered in the central Des Moines valley. Did Paleoindian people hunt them here as elsewhere?



Milling stones, known from local sites, reflect the growing importance of nuts and seeds.



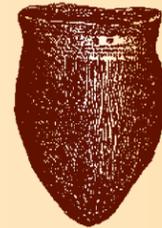
Evidence of the earliest domesticated dogs in Iowa (5400 BC).

Turin site, Monona County, earliest known burials in Iowa; this point type was found among the grave goods. (3400 BC).

Mantanzas points of the mid to late Archaic occur on benches, blufftops and terraces in the Des Moines valley.



Native copper from Lake Superior was used to make tools in Archaic times; this tanged point was found in Louisa County.



Pottery became widespread in Iowa after 500 BC.

Small points found in late Woodland sites indicate use of the bow and arrow.



Shell-tempered Oneota pottery occurs at village sites in central Iowa.



First Black Hawk Purchase (1832)



Meskwaki and Sac ranged as far west as the central Des Moines valley by the mid-1700s.

1st Regiment of Dragoons explores the Des Moines valley (1835)

11,500 BC 10,500 BC 8500 BC 5500 BC 3000 BC 800 BC 200 BC AD 300 900 1250 1673 1832 1842 1860 1885

Early Paleoindian

Late Paleoindian

Early Archaic

Middle Archaic



Late Archaic

Early Woodland

Middle Woodland

Late Woodland

Oneota

Historic



Dalton points are a common type of late Paleoindian discovery in central Iowa.



Nuts and other wild plants were increasingly important foods for the occupants of central Iowa during the Middle Archaic.



Gast Spring site, Louisa County, evidence of earliest known house in Iowa. (4500 BC)



Cultivation of goosefoot as a food crop began during Late Archaic times; corn was not important until after AD 800.

Stemmed points like this Waubesa are common on Early Woodland sites.



Boone Mound on the Des Moines was perhaps the largest Middle Woodland mound west of the Mississippi River.



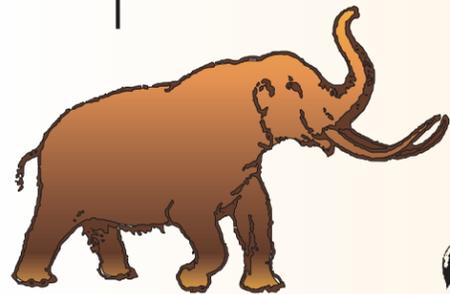
Saylorware, a type of late Woodland pottery in the central Des Moines valley.



Meskwaki and Sac displaced from Iowa (1845) although a group of 200 briefly escape into southern Boone County.



Archaeological study of central Des Moines area sites such as Coalport and Noah Creek has provided details of the 19th-century pottery industry.



Clovis hunters, earliest known people to live in North America, made fluted points and hunted the mammoth and mastodon.



White-tailed deer become an important food animal as prairie woodlands are established across Iowa in the Holocene.



Ground stone axes came into widespread use early in Middle Archaic times as activities like woodworking became more important.



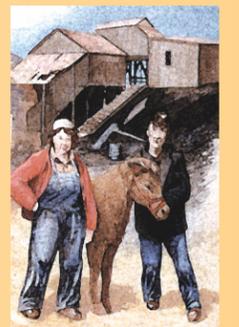
Numerous Great Oasis sites occur in the central Des Moines and Racoon river region.



The French arrive along the Mississippi (AD 1673).



Effigy Mounds were built by Late Woodland groups in northeast Iowa.



Coal mining sites are evidence of this important industry of the late 1800s.

Based on an original design by Armadillo Arts.



Education at Glenwood Site 13ML590

Lynn M. Alex

In the last issue of the *Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society* (199 & 200), Jason Titcomb reported on the archaeological excavation at site 13ML590 in Glenwood last fall and the opportunity it afforded the local community and students to experience archaeology firsthand. What might have been a confrontational situation became an occasion for cooperative problem solving among diverse interest groups as well as a chance to help recover the past for over 800 K–12 students and their teachers. In the end, the project met the goal of providing local youngsters with a personal connection to history and, hopefully, instilled a sense of heritage stewardship. Glenwood educators witnessed how archaeology can be an appealing conduit for teaching a variety of subject areas.

Alerted by local avocational archaeologists to the presence of the site on the spot chosen for its new high school, the Glenwood School District acted responsibly when it arranged a survey and test excavation of the area (Sellars and Ambrosino 2006). Since the new school construction had no federal connection, the District was not required to conduct additional research under current historic preservation laws. When potentially significant archaeological remains were discovered, however, the District



proved willing to further cooperate. Conversations began among Stan Sibley, Glenwood School Superintendent; Shirley Frederiksen, Golden Hills Resource and Conservation Development (RC&D); construction engineers; Steve Lensink and Lynn Alex, The University of Iowa's Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA); Dan Higginbottom, State Historic Preservation Office; and the Jason Titcomb and Linda Burkhart, Sanford Museum. The result was a project to salvage additional archaeological information from the site and at the same time involve local teachers and students in a way that met the following educational goals:

- reinforce the importance of local history and instill a preservation ethic;
- provide Glenwood educators an opportunity to utilize archaeology to "teach across the curriculum" with activities that supported teaching objectives in social studies, math, science, language arts, and art;
- present archaeological inquiry as a means to foster understanding of past cultures, improve social studies and science education, and enhance citizenship education; and
- introduce K–12 students to the fundamentals and processes of archaeology, encourage understanding of Iowa's past cultural diversity, and present the Glenwood project as a successful example of problem-solving.

With the financial support from the OSA obtained as the result of an emergency Resource Enhancement and Protection-Historical Resource Development Program grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa, the project was underway. Additional support from Golden Hills RC&D, the Sanford Muse-

um in Cherokee, and the Iowa Archeological Society all made the excavation a success.

In early October before the excavations began, Jason Titcomb and I met with a group of Glenwood teachers eager to take part in the project. At that time we presented background information on archaeology and the research planned at the site, and offered suggestions as to how archaeological activities might fit into the fall curriculum. The group included Dee Fenske, fourth and fifth grade science and sixth grade science club sponsor; Tom Berke, sixth grade physical science; Todd Killion, sixth grade social studies; Dan Jones, eighth grade earth science; Adam Giafoglione, eighth grade American History; Russell Crouch, tenth grade world history; Eric Smith, tenth grade world history; Buck Larsen, Glenwood Alternative High School; Kevin Farmer, West Elementary School principal; and Stan Sibley, Glenwood School Superintendent.

Later in the month I returned to Glenwood to make presentations to student assemblies and to classes in grades 4–6, 8, and 10, and at the Alternative High School. At these sessions, students were introduced to:

- *Fundamentals of archaeology.* What is archaeology, what archaeological techniques would be used at 13ML590, and why? How do these methods incorporate concepts of math and science?
- *Iowa and southwest Iowa prehistory.* How does 13ML590 fit into Iowa history and the history of Native American people in Iowa?
- *Citizenship.* Why are we doing the project at 13ML176? How did parties with multiple interests work together to make the project successful and save information for the future? How do we help preserve and protect the past?

Steve De Vore, National Park Service archaeologist at the Midwest Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, demonstrated to eighth and tenth grade students the geophysical techniques used at 13ML590. Sam Davis, IAS member, showed students examples of local artifacts from his collection. On-site interaction between archaeologists, teachers, students, and IAS volunteers helped translate the fundamentals of archaeology into an experiential learning opportunity. High school students document-

ed the experience for school venues including the newspaper and yearbook. As an additional enrichment activity, Sarah Horgen, Education Coordinator at the University of Iowa's Museum of Natural History, discussed the paleontology and findings at the West Tarkio giant ground sloth project.

In the end, 825 students in grades 4–10 participated in the project. Initial responses by students and educators have been very positive. Future educational endeavors at Glenwood stemming from the project include:

- in-school presentations by archaeologists on project results;
- professional development opportunities (in-service) in archaeology for teachers;
- an archaeology camp, September 2007;
- inclusion of an archaeology/paleontology component in the sixth grade science club;
- professional presentations and papers at local and national archaeology and education conferences;

- a permanent interpretive exhibit in the new Glenwood High School facility; and
- inclusion of the Glenwood project as a lesson in a new Iowa archaeology handbook for teachers.

I thank all parties involved in this project including IAS members and others who assisted with the fieldwork. Special thanks to Glenwood area educators who rearranged their busy schedules and to Glenwood students who proved enthusiastically receptive!

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- Sellars, John R., and Leslie A. Ambrosino
2006 Archaeological Investigations at Site 13ML590. City of Glenwood, Mills County, Iowa. Report CAS-654. Consulting Archaeological Services, Creston, Iowa.
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 2006 Glenwood Archaeology Project. *Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society* 199 and 200:3–5.

Archaeoastronomy, Sky Lore, and Iowa Prehistory

George Horton

Two thousand and six was a good year! It was a big surprise to receive the Keyes-Orr award. Thank you Iowa Archaeological Society and the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) for all. My presentation, "A Hopewellian Buffalo Tale," at the Midwest Archaeological Conference went well. I plan to follow up with a new talk in 2007. As viewed on the web these days, there is much happening on the subject of archaeoastronomy. The National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA), for example, has been investigating the parallels between Lakota star knowledge and NASA's knowledge of space and astronomical events (see <http://sunearthday.nasa.gov/2005/na/lakota.htm>).



Supernova in Galaxy NGC 4526

In Iowa we are fortunate to have the traditional Meskwaki with their vast knowledge of both Woodland and Plains tradition star lore. The Fox Nation shares many star constellations with other tribes. My own research focuses on Iowa's prehistoric sites. My goal this year is to work with Jim Collins and the OSA on the idea of a buffalo constellation as reflected in mound patterns.

I also hope to write something on the bison petroglyph at Fish Farm Cave as drawn by Ellison Orr. This petroglyph could be a prehistoric star chart depicted in the image of a buffalo calf. My latest project includes collaboration with Robert Mutel, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Iowa.

NASA has suggested that astronomical events witnessed worldwide between A.D. 2 and A.D. 7 may have

2006 New Members

Amy Ashcraft, Aspinwall
 Scott Bennett, Ankeny
 Zachary Bennett, Des Moines
 Katie Cantu, Newton
 Dan Casteel, Cincinnati
 Paul Channels, Odessa, Missouri
 Liz Cooks, Iowa City
 Dean Dickerson, Anita
 Tim Diebel, Des Moines
 Ron Duple, Lehigh
 Rhett Felix, Bloomington, Illinois
 Bob Grady, Cedar Rapids
 Guthrie County Historical Village, Panora
 Jonathan Hansen, West Des Moines
 Philip Hecht, Ft. Madison
 Karen Himes, Council Bluffs
 Susan Hudson, Clive
 Steve Kroeger, Casey
 David Lamb, Des Moines
 Scott Laube, Indianola
 Shirley Messer, Ladora
 Minnesota Office of the State
 Archaeologist, St. Paul
 Mary Mortensen, Guthrie Center
 Sandra Mortensen, Guthrie Center
 John Murphy, Algona
 Murray Community School, Murray

Curtis and Tina Nepstad-Thornberry, Panora
 Deborah Newman, West Burlington
 Paul Nugent, Jefferson
 John O'Toole, St. Paul, Minnesota
 Jacob Panek, West Des Moines
 Dorothy Potthoff, Jefferson
 David and Rebecca Primus, Mt. Auburn
 Jeffrey Puck, Rock Island, Illinois
 Ryan Raker, West Des Moines
 Victor and Dianne Rathje, Amana
 Rose Rohr, Monticello
 Alexis Ruda, Iowa City
 Tiffany Schlieff, Fonda
 Branden Scott, Ames
 Peggy Semke, Grand Junction
 Steve Siegel, Urbandale
 Mark Stenson, Marshalltown
 Bonnie Styles, Springfield, Illinois
 Ginalie Swaim, Iowa City
 Stephen Wagner, Sparta, Wisconsin
 Michael Wright, Marion
 Wiladene Yankee, Muscatine
 Yeates Family, Iowa City
 John Zach, Ely
 John Zeitler, Des Moines

30 Year Member

Larry R. Abbott, Schell City, Missouri, since 1977

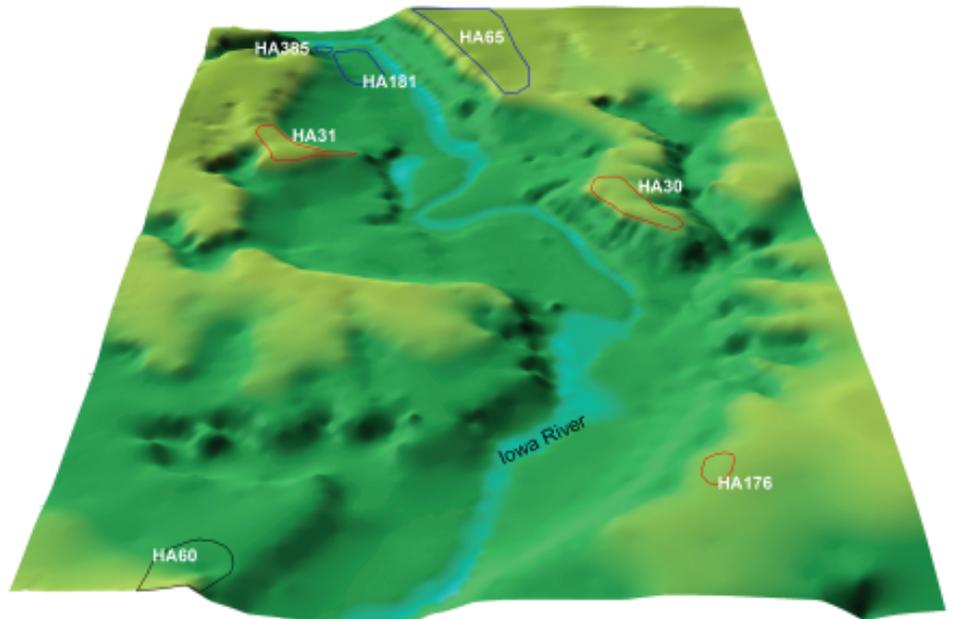
—continued on page 10

Folkert Mound Group Revealed

Restoration and Non-Destructive Mapping of Hardin County Mounds

James Collins
and
William Whittaker

In spring 2006, Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) archaeologists Bill Whittaker and Jim Collins spent about two weeks at the Folkert Mound Group in Hardin County making a fine-grained topographic map of the site and performing a ground penetrating radar survey of each of the 27 mounds at the site. The work was done within the context of the management plan developed by the Hardin County Conservation Board in consultation with the OSA Burials Program and the OSA Indian Advisory Council. This project was partially supported by a Resource Enhancement and Protection-Historical Resource Development Program grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI). The grant was secured by Rod Scott of the Hardin County Historic Preservation Commission and is being



- Mound Group
- Woodland Site
- Unidentified Prehistoric

Oblique image showing relationship of Folkert Mound Group (13HA30) to the Iowa River Valley (view north).

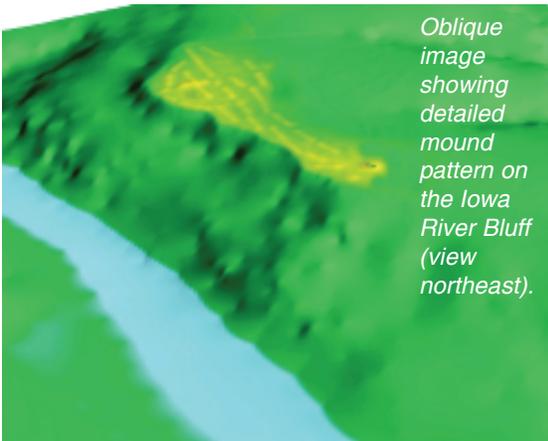
administered by SHSI archaeologist Doug Jones.

Prior to mapping, personnel from Hardin County Conservation Commission, with assistance from Nancy Slife's Conservation Management class at Ellsworth College, cleared the site of rank invasive vegetation that included nearly impenetrable components of locust and multiflora rose. Other OSA staff, including Joe Artz, John Doershuk, Chad Goings, and Shirley Schermer, along with Hardin County Conservation Executive Director Duane Rieken, assisted at the site with rehabilitation of a decades' old pothole in one of the mounds. Stratigraphic information was recovered prior to filling the crater with clean and clearly distinctive soil. Subsequent to fieldwork, Bill used global positioning system and geographic information system software to generate the images shown here. These images are based on topographic data recovered at the site. Bill and Jim are currently completing provisions of the grant which will include a formal report of investigations and a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Folkert Mounds.

Archaeoastronomy continued

inspired myths and legends. Here in Iowa at that time, we see the spread of Hopewell mound and earthwork construction. Did Middle Woodland peoples witness events such as a nova or supernova, a comet, or the triple conjunction of planets that were translated into mound architecture and alignments? Such ideas could have been transmitted over the generations becoming part of the customs of later Effigy Mound building peoples who viewed similar astronomical events.

While such research remains somewhat speculative, I hope that by examining a triple conjunction of evidence—documented mound patterns, astronomical data, and American Indian sky lore—some intriguing hypotheses may result. I thank Alice Kehoe, retired professor, Marquette University, and Pat O'Brien, Professor Emeritus, Kansas State University, for their assistance.



Oblique image showing detailed mound pattern on the Iowa River Bluff (view northeast).



Oblique image of Folkert Mound Group with significant vertical exaggeration (view east)



A triple planetary conjunction.

IOWA LITHIC SOURCING NOW ONLINE

Mark Anderson and **Dan Horgen** have added a new dimension to their in-house lithic raw material assemblage, a primary resource for lithic identification and analysis. They welcome you to the Lithic Raw Material Assemblage web page, a new addition to the OSA website. The assemblage itself is based on macroscopic identification elements including geological references, physical samples, mapped source locations, and a visual basic script program (VBS). These combine to form a geographic information systems database for comprehensive statewide lithic identification and analysis. The VBS program allows you to see chert samples from around the state while the accompanying county maps show where known sources for the chert types exist. There is also a wealth of geological background information courtesy of the Iowa Geological Survey.

Portions of this site are still under construction but we hope you will investigate what is posted and return often for updates and improvements. Anyone who wonders just what kind of raw material a point is made out of should check out: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/lithics/>.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICES PROGRAM NEWS

GISP welcomes two new faces to their staff. **John Hall** is cleaning up old General Land Office plat maps of Iowa in order to georeference them. John, who is originally from Elkader and received his degree in anthropology from the University of Iowa (UI), has previously worked in various capacities at OSA while a student and participated in three different independent studies with **John Doershuk**. Graduate student **Bryan Kendall** has also joined OSA as a work study student and is working on the site file digital records.

OSA is also pleased to welcome back **Colleen Eck**, Site Records Manager, from maternity leave. Everyone congratulates Colleen and husband Christopher on the birth of their son Ambrose!

Joe Artz, GISP Director, and **Bryan Kendall** will be traveling to Portugal this summer to do GIS work with UI anthropology professor Katina Liliou.

GENERAL CONTRACTS PROGRAM INVESTIGATION COMPLETED

During October and November, 2006, **Cindy Peterson** led field investigations at the Richardson-Jakway Historic Site in rural Buchanan County, Iowa, south of the City of Aurora. The Buchanan County Conservation Board (BCCB) received funding assistance through a grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa's Historical Resource Development Program, which is funded through Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection Program. Archaeological fieldwork involved the daily assistance of AmeriCorps member Tony Bengston, and volunteer Delbert Wilson. An additional 40 local volunteers also assisted throughout the project.

Fieldwork involved excavations around the Richardson-Jakway house, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house was constructed by Abiathar Richardson in 1851, and stands today in remarkable condition. Excavation revealed the presence of 15 features, including a collapsed cellar, walking paths, a well, and a probable summer kitchen. Artifacts were plentiful and included ceramics, medicine bottles, clay smoking pipes, a pewter spoon, and hand-wrought kettle hooks.

Across the road from the house is the former town of Buchanan, also known as Mudville, which enjoyed a heyday from 1857 to 1880. Today, all above-ground traces of the town are gone, and the site is now a farm field. Controlled surface collection of 40 former town lots

revealed at least seven lots contain substantial quantities of archaeological materials.

The BCCB plans to use the information generated by the present study to develop interpretive displays and trails, signage, brochures, and educational curricula. Most of the former town site is private property, but the house is situated within Jakway Forest Park. During the summer, the house is often open weekends for public tours.

NEW IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER EDITORS

For the coming year, **Lynn Alex** and **Steve Lensink** will serve as editors for the *Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society*. Electronic submissions should be sent to lynn-alex@uiowa.edu, or mailed to the University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. Color photographs are welcome. If you have questions about digital photographs, such as resolution and size, contact Steve at 319-384-0738 or steve-lensink@uiowa.edu.

STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST SEARCH

In March the University of Iowa completed interviews of candidates seeking the position of OSA Director and State Archaeologist. Each candidate spent two days on campus meeting with University staff and administrators, OSA staff, and members of the OSA Indian Advisory Council and OSA Advisory Committee. All candidates presented an informal luncheon talk on their research as well as a formal presentation on their vision for the OSA. The Vice President for Research is expected to make a selection in the near future.



OSA's lobby with its new spotlit display wall, currently featuring Iowa Archaeology Month posters from the last 14 years.

IAS ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Saturday & Sunday April 21–22, 2007
The University of Iowa, Iowa City

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, Room 140, Schaeffer Hall, University of Iowa

Lot or on-street, metered parking in downtown Iowa City or in the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) lot.

8:00 am Registration, coffee/donuts

9:00 am **Welcome/Recent Projects in Iowa Archaeology**—featuring archaeologists from across the state including Lowell Blikre (Bear Creek Archaeology), John Doershuk (OSA), Colin Betts (Luther College), Jon Sellars & Leslie Ambrosino (Consulting Archaeological Services), Leah Rogers (Tallgrass Historians L.C.), Jason Titcomb (Sanford Museum), and a student report on the Rivermill Site field school.

11:00 am **Business Meeting**

11:30 am Presentation of the Keyes-Orr Award

LUNCH BREAK 12–1:30 p.m.

1:30 pm Holmes Semken and David Brenzel, *The Tarkio Valley Ground Sloth Site: An Update on the Ongoing Excavation*

2:30 pm Campus tours—the Museum of Natural History lab (including sloth bones, artifacts, and other cool stuff), the Paleontology Repository (Trowbridge Hall), newly remodeled Old Capitol Museum.

5:00 pm **Reception in Iowa Hall of Museum of Natural History, Macbride Hall**—hosted by Sarah Horgen and David Brenzel

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

8:00 am Coffee/donuts and open house at the OSA.

Cars may be parked in the OSA lot on Sunday.

9:30–noon **Workshops** (choice of 2, preregistration strongly recommended, see mailing for details).

Workshop 1: Ground-truthing the Iowa Archaeological Site Record Form at Woodpecker Cave.

Workshop 2: Archaeological Collections Workshop, Museum of Natural History, Room 11, Macbride Hall, University of Iowa.

Farewell from Mike Heimbaugh



After almost nine years as editor of the *Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society*, I regret that I must step

down due to some problems with my health. It has been a privilege to have worked with so many fine IAS members and professionals, and I thank all for their contributions and assistance. I feel for now that I need to take a break, and I appreciate that Lynn Alex and Steve Lensink are willing to step into the role of co-editors.

Membership Information

Contact Membership Secretary, Iowa Archeological Society, University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, Iowa 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 nonprofit, 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. The *Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society* is published four times a year. All materials for publication should be sent to Editors Lynn M. Alex and Stephen C. Lensink, University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1030.

Email: lynn-alex@uiowa.edu or steve-lensink@uiowa.edu.

IAS website: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS/iashome.htm>

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