

# Newsletter of the *Iowa Archeological Society*



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## Fort Madison Redux IAS Members Team with OSA to Explore the Old Fort



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Program Announcement



John F. Doershuk

For two days in April and one full work week in August, OSA researchers John Doershuk, Joe Artz, and Bill Whittaker—with the generous help of many volunteers including IAS members—searched for evidence of the War of 1812 battlefield and Black Hawk's ravine associated with the original Fort Madison (13LE10). The focus of the investigation was the area long covered by thick urban fill west of the fort proper. This area, once a portion of the Scheaffer Pen Company employee parking lot but now under ownership by United States Holding LLC, had never before been subject to archaeo-



Volunteers (left to right) Linda Langenberg (OSA), Chuck Block (IAS), and Ronnie Harrison (IAS) screening matrix from the suspected fort-era battlefield deposits.

logical investigation. The work was made possible by a partnership among United Holdings, the City of Fort Madison, the State Historical Society of Iowa (and a Historical Resources Development Program—HRDP—grant from this organization), and the OSA.

Volunteers included many OSA staff as well as IAS members Ronnie and Linda Harrison, Duane and Myrna Sherwood,

—continued on page 2



*View to the north of current conditions at the original Fort Madison battlefield. Highway 61 is in the foreground. The houses in the background face south along G Avenue. The now-buried Black Hawk's ravine runs roughly north-south just right of the blue minivan.*

Karen Sparrow, Chuck Block, Dave Moehn, and Phil Hecht. Phil's work in organizing these volunteers and tracking their time—a crucial source of match for the HRDP grant—is especially appreciated. John Hansman and Eugene and Connie Watkins of Fort Madison also contributed valuable effort to the project. The work could not have been accomplished as quickly, safely, and accurately without the excellent assistance provided by Claude Turpin, the city backhoe operator assigned to help us.

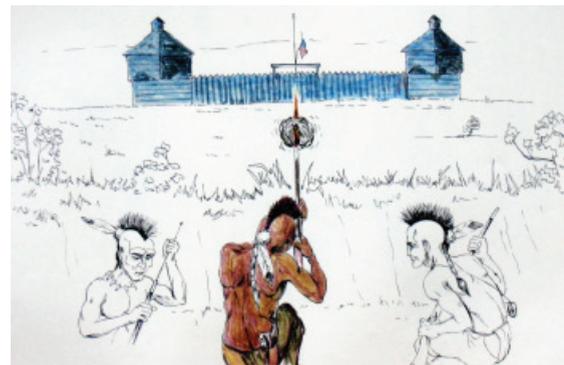
The goal of the project and the basis for the grant funding was to apply geoarchaeological and archaeological field techniques to investigate whether the project area—as documented in numerous historical sources—contains intact fort-era archaeological

deposits, including Black Hawk's ravine which reportedly served as the western edge of the battlefield.

According to historical documents, the ravine lay 100 paces west of the fort. It was reportedly sufficiently deep to provide more than adequate cover for American Indian forces bent on driving out the U.S. military stationed at the fort. The army unsuccessfully attempted to clear the ravine edge so as to control use with raking gun fire from the fort. Construction of a blockhouse at the ravine edge was undertaken but never completed.

Initial results of the field work indicate that portions of the block contain significant intact fort deposits, especially in the southeastern quadrant, but that post-fort era buildings have eradicated battlefield-associated deposits from much of the area. We discovered that at least portions of the ravine are in situ and preserve fort-era materials.

The processing and analyses of the field data will extend through the fall and much of the coming winter, but it is already clear the investigation



*In his 1833 autobiography, Black Hawk claimed personal responsibility for shooting down the U.S. flag flying over Fort Madison from his position in the adjacent ravine, shown here in artist Sindelar's portrayal of this event.*

will refine the National Register of Historic Places site boundary and provide needed data for development of a comprehensive preservation management plan of this nationally significant resource. A future *Newsletter* issue will contain more details on the results.

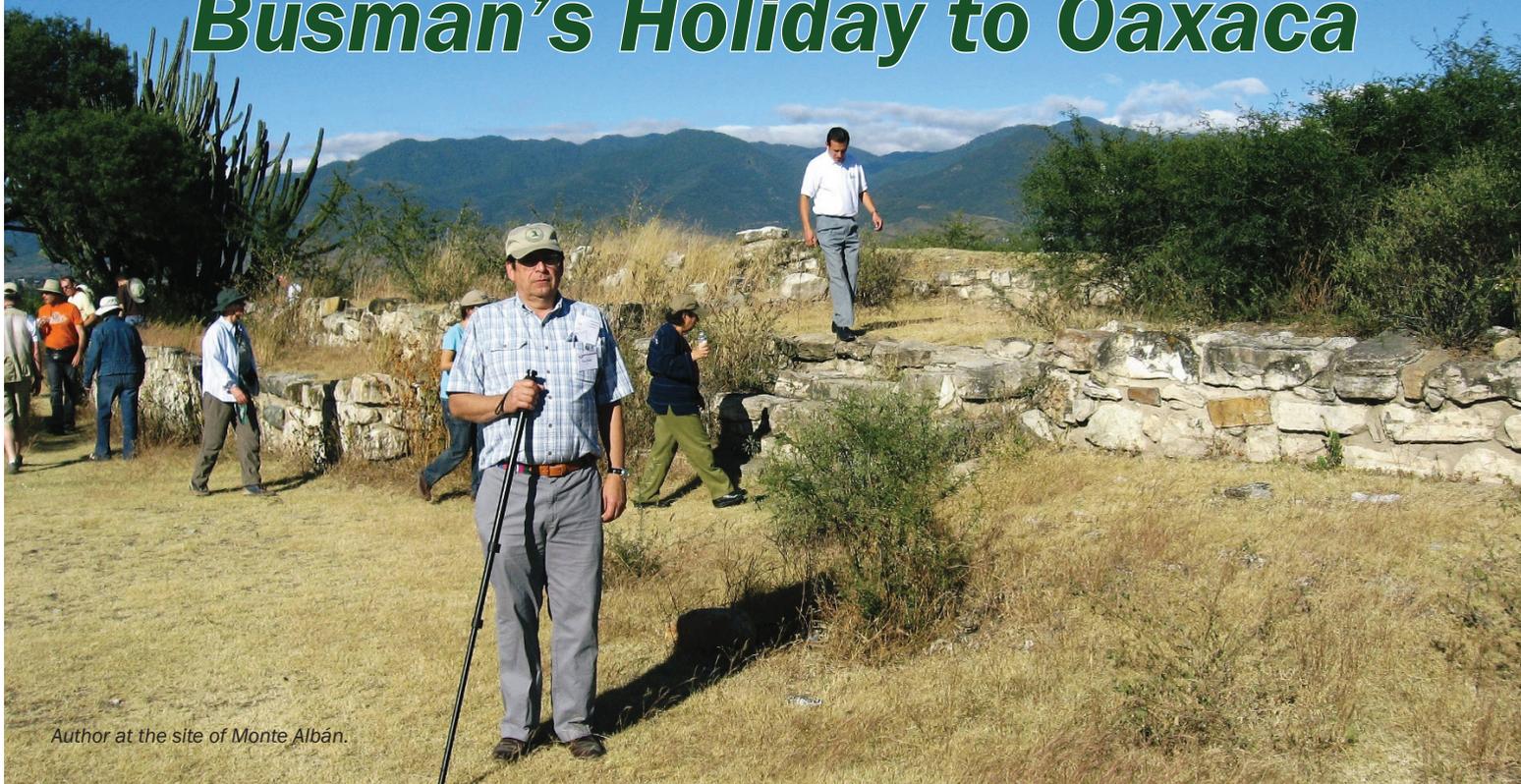


*Franklin Sindelar's artist reconstruction of the not-yet completed Fort Madison, riverbank, and ravine as they appeared in 1808–1809. The ravine was used by American Indians intent on driving out the U.S. military from the area.*



*Right. OSA staff member Joe Artz inspecting deeply buried stratigraphy within the preserved ravine west of the fort.*

# Busman's Holiday to Oaxaca



Author at the site of Monte Albán.

Don Raker

LAST FALL 2008, I was fortunate to join a tour to Oaxaca (pronounced wa-ha-ka), Mexico, sponsored by the Archeological Conservancy. Located about an hour by plane south of Mexico City, Oaxaca lies well away from U.S.-Mexican border unrest. In addition to archaeology, we explored villages of weavers, wood carvers, and potters where I saw artisans creating their artistic works. Other cultural highlights included visits to a cochineal farm (red dye) and a mescal distillery (similar to tequila). The tour was scheduled during the famous Day of the Dead holiday

(similar to All Saints Day), when people flock to graveyards, and celebrate their ancestors with food and drink all night long.

The major archeological attraction near the city of Oaxaca is Monte Albán, the huge ancient city of the Zapotec people. Neither Aztec, Mayan, nor Olmec, the Zapotec are still the largest ethnic



group in Oaxaca State, speaking about five dialects. We visited other Zapotecan cities such as Mitla and Dainzu, but Monte Albán was preeminent. I had read about Monte Albán in my grade school years, and remembered that it was very old and very important in Mesoamerica. I did not imagine, however, that it was so big. It sits on top of a mountain overlooking a fertile valley. You can put several American football fields in its plaza which is surrounded by huge pyramids, mounds, buildings, and ball courts. I knew of the Mexican ball courts, but then our tour leader told me that there were over 200 ball courts in the southwestern U.S. Two hundred of them? That intrigued and compelled me to research this new information. Sure enough, on my later visit to Arizona, I saw ball courts in Phoenix, Mesa, and Casa Grande.

The ball game was played throughout Mesoamerica, indeed reaching as far as Arizona. The Spanish were both amazed and disgusted by the ball game, since in some versions players were sacrificed at the end. The heavy, bouncy rubber ball was something foreign to the Spanish, who were fascinated by this new material. They took some natives back to Spain to perform the ball game for the royal court.

Apparently each culture had different rules of the game, and, unlike our basketball courts, ball courts were not strictly standardized in size and shape. The balls were often quite heavy and could cause a

nasty bruise, so players wore a variety of padding similar to that of our catchers or hockey players. The ball was never struck with the hands, using instead the hips, legs, gloved fist, or even a bat or racket. Apparently there were high stakes royal games as well as sporting games for the common people, with wagering common. You could lose your kingdom or a whole lot of cocoa beans.



I highly recommend this tour. This is the second one sponsored by the Archeological Conservancy which I have joined. They do a fine job, and \$200 of the price goes to their preservation work. The Oaxaca and Day of the Dead tour is as good as it gets, combining archaeology, art, and culture. The local guide is a lady from Brooklyn, New York, who married a resident physician, is fluent in Spanish, and very knowledgeable about local culture. If interested, she can arrange a tour or language program for you.

# HAVE TROWEL—WILL TRAVEL

## ONE SUMMER, TWO FIELD SCHOOLS

Fred R. Gee

AS AN IAS CERTIFIED FIELD TECHNICIAN, I am always looking for dig opportunities. Thus, I was excited to volunteer for two weeks at the University of Northern Iowa's field school project at Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Cedar Falls, June 8–26, 2009. The field school was directed by archaeology professor, Donald Gaff, in his second year at UNI. The on-site portion of the field school was a continuation of a six week course for UNI students, and we worked at the site from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The field school expanded excavation of a bluff-top campsite (13BH164) identified in the summer of 2008 from a 2-x-4-m unit to a 6-x-7-m area. The excavated area was relatively shallow with a plow zone thickness of 12–15 cm and the total depth of 30 cm. Excavation, however, was painstakingly slow due to the proliferation of roots from the surrounding trees. It seemed like we spent almost as much time cutting roots as excavating!

Artifact concentration was sparse to moderate, with finds consisting of pottery sherds, knapping flakes, chunks of chert, limestone pieces, some charcoal, fire-cracked rock, and an occasional biface. A firepit was identified in one of the units—unfortunately, not mine! Although relatively shallow, it produced multiple sherds, fire-cracked rock, chert, and charcoal. Four large sherds were similar to Late Woodland Madison ware. Two of the sherds fit together and may match others removed from the pit area. My best find was a large,



Field School members excavating at 13BH164.

loaf-shaped stone with grooves and pitting that appears to have been used as both a mano and pounding stone. Mapping the final day revealed 65 postholes which may indicate multiple structures built over numerous occupations. Based on artifacts, the site has been dated to ca. A.D. 500. The working hypothesis suggests the location was a maple syrup gathering and processing site.



Author excavating at Mound 34.

I found working with Donald Gaff and his students on this project very rewarding, and look forward to returning again next year. It is his plan, and that of Hartman Reserve, to make the field school an annual offering for UNI students and continuing education, and to open it up to more volunteers. If so, this would provide an excellent opportunity for IAS members to participate in a field school. Interested persons should look for announcement of next year's field school on either the OSA or UNI website, or contact Donald Gaff at [donald.gaff@uni.edu](mailto:donald.gaff@uni.edu). Gaff and his students will be presenting poster papers on their fieldwork at the upcoming Midwest Archaeological Conference in Iowa City on October 17, as well as possible future IAS meetings. This field school and Donald Gaff's enthusiasm and interest may also lead to the revival of IAS's Blackhawk Chapter.

Later in July, I participated in my fifth season of excavations at Cahokia Mounds outside of East St. Louis, Illinois. The first two years I worked on the West Palisade project, which sought to verify the location of the western portion of the massive

wooden palisade which surrounded 200 acres at the heart of the Cahokia site including Monks Mound. The previous two seasons, and this year, I participated in the Mound 34 project under the direction of John Kelly and Jim Brown. I was there for two weeks (July 13–24) of the excavation season, which started May 26 and was later extended through August (maybe because of the unusually temperate weather).

Mound 34 excavation days were from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. When it rained, work switched to the nearby lab where volunteers helped wash and sort previously excavated artifacts. That provided an opportunity to see the kinds of things coming out of the entire season's project. On rare occasions, volunteers assisted with flotation of specially excavated and bagged soil, something I did in 2004.

During my first day at Cahokia Mounds this year, another repeat volunteer and I opened a new 1-x-1-m unit on the southwest corner of an area excavated by Mary Vermil-

lion's field school from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville at the northeast corner of the North Palisade and northeast of Monk's Mound. Their excavations had revealed a possible bastion and a thick layer of ash at a depth of 1 m. My partner and I spent the day laying out and documenting the new unit and excavating it to a depth of 30 cm. We were surprised by the amount of artifacts, primarily chert and sherds, in this deep plow-zone layer. The second day, we returned to Mound 34.

The recent Mound 34 project has focused on re-excavating the mound and adjacent areas, virtually destroyed by amateur pot-hunting and bulldozer excavations in 1956. These excavations unearthed a wealth of artifacts and identified multiple Mississippian structures beneath the mound, including two copper working areas. Kelly and Brown began work at Mound 34 in 1998, with the goal of relocating the 1950s excavations, previously identified ceremonial fires and refuse pit, and the copper workshops. A copper workshop was mostly excavated in 2008, and the 2009 project focused on looking for wall-trench structures

and ceremonial fires in areas south and east of the workshop.

Prior to my arrival, a copper-workshop-related hearth and deep circular pit with a circular trench at its base had been partially excavated. During my first week, a 1-x-2-m unit was opened to the east of the pit, and I helped take down a 1-x-.5-m unit in an adjacent area of backfill from the 1950s excavations. The unit was a mixture of soil types heavily interspersed with areas of "ceremonial fire" deposits, and was very productive of artifacts including a partial shark's tooth; whelk shell and drilled whelk shell beads; a section of a highly polished celt blade; pottery sherds including rims in a variety of colors and thicknesses; chert chunks and flakes; bird, fish, and animal bones; fire-cracked rock; limestone; and charcoal. A larger whelk shell, bits of copper, a square section of a two-sided blade, and two small points were also

found in the 1-x-.5-m unit to my left.

Excavation in my unit, like that at Hartman, was slow but for a very different reason. At Hartman it was cutting roots; at Mound 34 it was filling multiple 10-liter bags of ceremonial fire deposits from successive levels for flotation in the lab. Hopefully, flotation will provide further evidence of what the inhabitants ate and what climatic conditions were like. At a depth of 110–130 cm, we encountered light soil which could possibly be a portion of the platform surrounding the mound.

Next, I removed a section of an east-west balk left between the copper workshop and the 2008–2009 excavation area. This was also a very productive area and offered up another drilled whelk shell bead; section of a light brown turtle shell; a variety of rims and sherds; chert chunks and flakes, one of which gave evidence of a knapped cutting edge; charcoal; multiple leg bones of a

large mammal, possibly deer; fire-cracked rock; and limestone. In the day-and-a-half I had to work on this unit, I was able to excavate it to a depth of 80 cm, leaving two sizeable bones and a possible rodent nest to be recovered by my successor.

These two weeks at Mound 34 were two of the most enjoyable and rewarding of any project on which I have participated, and like Hartman, I look forward to returning in 2010. The Mound 34 project welcomes volunteers—some of whom work a few days, others for huge chunks of the summer. Interested persons may find more information about the Mound 34 excavation project and volunteer opportunities on the Cahokia Mound website [www.cahokiामounds.com](http://www.cahokiामounds.com). The volunteer information and application form will probably be posted on the website in late winter or early spring 2010, with a registration deadline in late April.



## Meet Max Madsen Future Archaeologist

BUDDING ARCHAEOLOGISTS come in pint to gallon sizes. One of the former variety vis-



ited OSA on August 17, 2009, to claim part of his winnings from a summer writing contest sponsored by KCRG-TV9. The contest challenged eastern Iowa youngsters to describe, "What I Want to Be When I Grow Up and Why." Max Madsen, age 7, son of Kim and Joe Madsen, was one of nine winners who received a bucket of prizes including a cash gift certificate, tickets to Adventureland Park, a featured spot on TV, and the chance to job-shadow within the profession of their choice. "In 50 words or more," Max wrote:

When I grow up I want to be an archeologist. Even when I was graduating from preschool I told everyone at my graduation this is what I want to be. Do you know why I want to be an archeologist? I saw a cartoon character in a movie when I was three, then I saw Indiana Jones and that made me want to be it too. And now I have all Indiana Jones movies except for the 4<sup>th</sup> one, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull." When it was Halloween I dressed up like Indiana Jones with a hat, whip, and everything. Last summer I dressed up every day and went everywhere that way. When I have my friends over I like to pretend to be Indiana Jones a professor-archeologist. When I become an archeologist I will get past booby traps, explore temples, and find hidden treasures.



After examining OSA's field equipment, sorting artifacts, and inspecting the Artifact Repository, Max tried his hand at spear-throwing with an atlatl. He departed well prepared to guide his mother past the booby traps of I-380 and on to explore the temples and find the hidden treasures of his Cedar Rapids neighborhood. Good luck, Max!

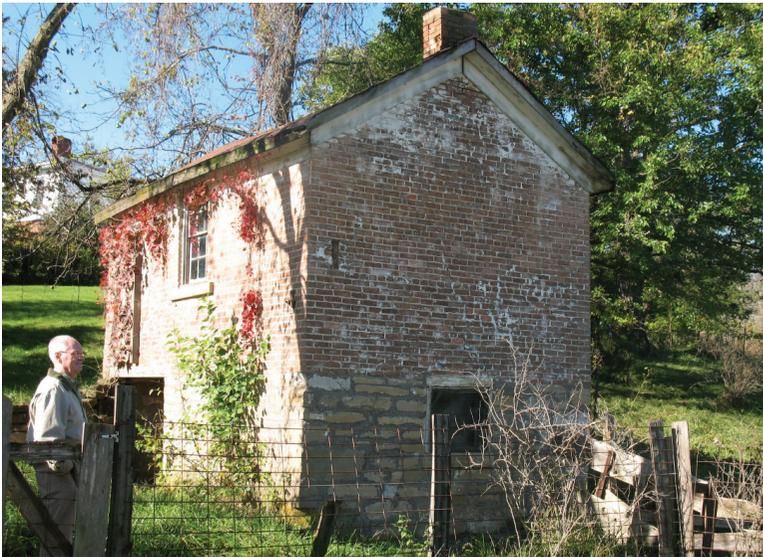
—LYNN M. ALEX

# Camp Harlan

## Best Preserved Civil War Camp in Iowa

Marlin R. Ingalls

IN TWO YEARS, Americans begin commemoration of the Civil War sesquicentennial. During April 2009, the architectural history staff of the OSA evaluated an old brick and stone building, called the springhouse, and an associated archaeological site that bore witness to Iowa's early role in this conflict.



Paul Juhl, Iowa City historian, at the 1857 springhouse. View is to the south.

Located on a farm just outside of Mt. Pleasant in Henry County, the springhouse and surrounding farm hosted a "mustering camp," originally called Camp Harlan, for the Fourth Iowa Volunteer Cavalry and the Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry from 1861 to 1862. Mustering camps were organized to train and house local recruits. The camp site included the entire farm with its springhouse, farmstead, barns, and surrounding grounds. The springhouse was the camp's primary source of clean water.

### Camp Harlan

Senator James Harlan of Mt. Pleasant organized Camp Harlan in 1861. Harlan convinced U.S. Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, to create a mustering ground for soldiers near the Senator's home. Harlan also felt that southeastern Iowa had many fine horses, and thus the Fourth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Cavalry was created. President Lincoln made the proclamation naming the camp in honor of the Iowa Senator on July 23, 1861. Lincoln's authorization was given in a letter from Secretary Stanton

to Iowa's Governor Samuel Kirkwood on October 12, 1861. There were to be twelve Iowa companies.

The site selected was on what was then called the Swan farm, situated along the Courtland Road, the main western route leading into Mount Pleasant from Fairfield and on to Burlington, and paralleling the railroad. The Swan farm had just been constructed around 1857, and the family allowed the camp to set up on its land. Swan had once been a "hosteller" in his native Pennsylvania.

Camp Harlan was to house and train the Fourth Regiment. The first recruits reached the open meadow on October 16, 1861. There were no blankets, uniforms, equipment, or barracks. Their first task was to build 20 barracks buildings measuring 20 by 80 feet and high enough to hold three tiers of bunks. A kitchen and stables were also

built. At first the officers stayed in the large farmhouse.

The Fourth Regiment left for St. Louis, February 26, 1862. Early on they participated in battles at Helena, Wittsburg, and Milliken's Bends. Later they saw action at the major battles of Vicksburg, Montavillo, Six Mile Creek, Ebenezer Church, Selma, and Fike's Ferry. After their departure from Iowa, the camp stood empty for a short time.

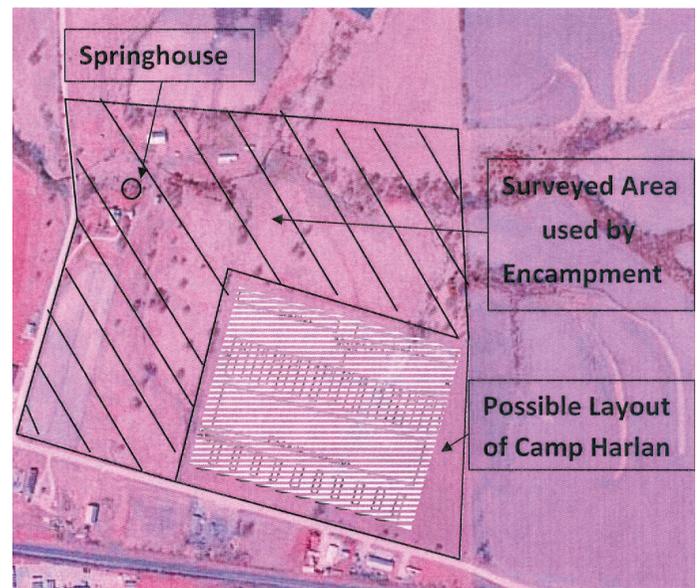
The newly mustered Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry trained at the same spot. The Twenty-fifth Iowa consisted of 972 officers and men, and they mustered on September 27, 1862, using the same barracks erected by the Fourth

Cavalry. The camp's name was changed to Camp McKean. The Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry left in early November of 1862. They engaged in battles at Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, Walnut Bluff, Chattanooga, Campion, and Ringgold. They also fought at Chickasaw Bayou and Young's Point, then on to Jackson and Canton, Mississippi. Later they fought at Lookout Mountain, and from there went to Missionary Ridge at Gettysburg. Towards the end of the war, they joined Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas to Richmond, and finally returned to Washington.

Camp Harlan's most important surviving connection to the Swan farm is its springhouse. This building sheltered a spring-fed water source from which the 1,200 men and their horses were watered. While the men waited for their buckets and kettles to fill at the springhouse, some of them carved their initials in the soft red brick and limestone slabs over the springhouse front. Some of this historic graffiti remains today. The field east of the house was the site of the Camp buildings.

### Archaeology Survey

In the spring of 2009, archaeologists from the OSA, staff members from the State Historical Society of Iowa, and volunteers investigated the area of Camp Harlan. The camp area had been under cultivation for a number of years. Field conditions were rainy and the surface muddy, but visibility was good.





Springhouse landowner Dorothy Hueme (holding the dog's ball) is joined by State Historical Society of Iowa staff members (left to right) Charles Scott, Mary Bennett, and Isabel Wildberger during the field survey visit.

The site surface had never been subjected to a professional archaeological reconnaissance survey, although the location is well known to local collectors, and the remaining surface material was expected to be low. The team set up pedestrian survey transects at 5-m intervals running north-to-south across the camp site. Transects were also swept with metal detectors. Artifacts such as ceramics and glass were observed but not collected. Metal artifact locations

were flagged to note distributions and concentrations. These visual and remote sensing survey methods—along with historical documentation, oral history, and personal communication—establish the camp's high potential for buried, intact archaeological features and deposits. The results are promising. At present, the archaeological site of Camp Harlan is considered to be the best preserved Civil War camp site in Iowa.

## What's the Point?

Forty years ago, Mark R. Karrer discovered this point in a washout while walking beans on his father's farm northeast of Sioux City in Woodbury County. The object is shown life-size in Mark's beautiful photograph.

Guess the material, age, and point type, and send your responses to Lynn Alex at [lynnalex@uiowa.edu](mailto:lynnalex@uiowa.edu).

*Last issue's winners.*

The biface illustrated in the last issue is considered to date to the Early Archaic period (circa 9500–8500 B.P.) and is believed to be made of Blanding chert. Our "experts" felt it may represent a Dalton preform, however, submissions by IAS members who guessed either a Graham Cave preform (Joseph Tiffany) or Stanfield blade (Dave Harvey) are also acceptable.



## A 35-year Collection



I HAVE BEEN COLLECTING artifacts for about 35 years now. I started when I was eight years old and found my first point, a Waubesa, by accident at a spot where our bulldozer pushed out an old fence line. I was walking across this area and stumbled upon it. Not knowing what it was for sure, but curious because of the shape, I showed my parents. They explained to

me that it was a spear point that the Indians used to hunt with. I was immediately hooked and started walking the tilled fields and creeks on my parents' farm near Sabula every chance I could.

A majority of my artifact hunting has been on my parents' farm less than a mile from the Mississippi River back waters. There a large creek flows through the center of the farm with several smaller ones branching out from it. This apparently was

a good location. Judging from the different points and pottery found, it appears people hunted and camped here for thousands of years

I like and appreciate anything I find, but some of my favorites are a copper point, chunky stone, fully-grooved axe, Clovis point, and two plummets. The copper point, one of the plummets, and the fully-grooved axe were found just this year.

My wife Nan also enjoys looking for artifacts and found her first complete celt this spring. We enjoy collecting both prehistoric and historic artifacts. There was once an 1830s log cabin on the farm along with a couple other early farmsteads.

We've both been members of the IAS for many years, and I participated

in two field schools, one led by Blane Nansel at Gast Farm and the other at Hartley Fort with Fred Finney. I volunteer for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and am a horticulturist for Bickelhaupt Arboretum in Clinton.

I have really enjoyed collecting Indian artifacts and have learned a lot about them by visiting OSA. A special thanks to Michael Perry and other staff members for taking the time to identify, age, and explain how they were used.

—DAVID HORST



Plummet (above), copper point (below), and chunky stone from the author's collection.

# John Palmquist Enjoys Traveling Native American Trails



Jan Castle Renander\*

FORTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO, John and Charlotte Palmquist moved to their farm southeast of Red Oak. Not too long after that John's journey down Native American trails began. It started when he found some broken arrow heads on his farm.

"I starting finding artifacts on this place about 40 years ago," John explains. "I always wondered who they belonged to and how those people lived. But I had no way of finding out."

That was long before the Internet, email, and electronic resources. John's only way to learn more about the artifacts was to talk to people. But where does a southwest Iowa farmer go for information? In 1974 John gambled and made face-to-face contact with Duane Anderson at the Sanford Museum in Cherokee.

"We didn't think to call ahead or anything like that. We just loaded up four kids in the car, no air conditioning, on a summer day and took off," John recalls with a smile. "Fortunately, he was there and did have time to see me. And he told me things

about my collection that I never knew was available."

"He took me under his wing for about 10 years and he mentored me. That connection was priceless. He became Iowa's State Archeologist about six months later. I owe a lot to that visit."

John's association with Anderson opened several doors for him. He volunteered on other Native American sites during the summers and continued to expand his knowledge. An important factor in his education was his association with the IAS. He soon created a hand-drawn timeline to track the movements of Native American tribes over the course of thousands of years.

"The oldest points I've found here on our farm date to 7000 BC or 9000 years old," John explains. "So there were people living here, off and on, at least 7000 years ago. There might have been hundreds of years when no one was here."

As John continued his journey, he learned that the Oneota splintered into several tribes: Winnebago, Oto, Osage, Kansa, and Ioway. He developed a keen interest and passion for the Ioway whose members lived in southwest Iowa.

"When members of the Ioway tribe come here to visit I tell them 'Welcome home' " John says.

In the 1800s, the Ioways were moved out of Iowa and into reservations in Kansas and Oklahoma. John became acquainted with the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

"We had always enjoyed going to Ioway pow-wows in White Cloud, Kansas, and one night we were sitting in the bleachers when someone tapped me on the shoulder. Emil Campbell, who was a tribal elder, was just greeting members of the audience. He was like that. He could talk to anyone."

Campbell and John struck up a conversation and a friendship that has lasted for years.

"We call each other brother," John smiles.

John said he always was bothered by the fact that the archeologists studying Native American heritage were all white. Native Americans were not studying their own ancestors.

"I always wondered why the Native Americans were not sharing their knowledge with the archeologists," John explains.

"It took me years to realize that the question should be asked in reverse. Why were the archeologists not sharing what they find with the Native Americans?"

John elaborates that many Native Americans have no deep knowledge of their heritage, because over the generations that heritage was worn away. As the white settlers tried to "civilize" the Indians, they stripped away their culture. In addition, schools taught a biased view of Native American history.

"This is my fifth grade history book," John says, holding a worn red book. "Everything in it about Native Americans is wrong. It was written to create prejudice and hatred. In movies Native Americans were portrayed as ignorant and always warriors, like they were all foaming at the mouth."

That prompted John to step carefully as he continued his pursuit of knowledge about the Ioway. He did not want to offend either side, but he wanted to know more. He needed the help of the established archeological community, but he also wanted to share what he was finding with the Ioway.

"Members of the Ioway tribe knew nothing about their history in Iowa," he says. "I became very frustrated. My policy has always been to keep a low profile and not to come across as the white man who knows it all. For years all the white men they dealt with were interested in money. How to make money off the Indians. I didn't want to be that way."

In early July 2004, John met film-makers Kelly and Tammy Rundle. Tammy grew up in Sioux City. The Rundles had recently completed a documentary, "Villisca: Liv-

Tammy and Kelly Rundle, producers of **Lost Nation: The Ioway**, received a Proclamation from Iowa Governor Culver declaring October 4-10, 2009, **Native Ioway History Week**, recognizing and honoring the Ioway tribes—Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma.



ing with a Mystery," on the Villisca axe murders and were looking for another project. John had just done a program on the Ioway at the History Center in Red Oak. Soon, the Rundles had a new project. The result is *Lost Nation: The Ioway* by Fourth Wall Films. The documentary premiered in October 2007. To date it has been shown in more than 50 Midwestern cities. The credits listed on the DVD's case cover include "Project inspired by John Palmquist."

In 2005 John was made an honorary member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and in 2007, an honorary member of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma. He sees his efforts more as a bridge between the traditional archeological world and the Ioway tribes.

"My career as an amateur archaeologist has permitted me to work with Native American culture as well as with the archaeologists."

The gathering of Ioway tribal members

in Des Moines for *Lost Nation's* premiere was the largest gathering of the tribes since they were forced out of Iowa onto reservations. In fact the gathering of the Iowa Tribe from Kansas and Nebraska and the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma was the first gathering of the two tribes since their split, years earlier. Both events occurred because of John's dedication and slow, plodding journey.

"I feel like I've accomplished something," he says. "It's been an interesting journey from finding that first arrowhead 40 some years ago."



If you're interested in learning more about the Ioway or purchasing a copy of *Lost Nation*, the DVD is available from the Fourth Wall Films website, [www.ioway-movie.com](http://www.ioway-movie.com).

(\*Modified from an article that first appeared in Jan's Corner, [KMAland.com](http://KMAland.com).)

## Carl William Dieters (1918-2008)

A friend and strong supporter of northwest Iowa archaeology, Carl Dieters, died at his home near Larchwood, Iowa, August 29, 2008. With his passing, for many of us a vital part of visiting and working on the Blood Run-Rock Island National Historic Landmark is now gone. Carl, his wife Tracy, and their eight children resided in the middle of the Blood Run site on the Iowa side. From that vantage point, they greeted crews of archaeologists and visitors to the site from the early 1960s through the turn of the century. Access to the central part of Blood Run was most easily gained through their farm, so for four decades they usually knew who was on that part of the site.

Seeing Blood Run is best done from the air; one can view only parts and pieces when standing on the ground. I first saw the whole of Blood Run in July, 1964, when Carl insisted that we take a ride in his single-engine plane. Of course, I thought I knew enough about Blood Run from reading accounts and studying the available maps plus via the excavations we were then conducting for the Center for Climatic Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Besides, I was just a bit concerned about flying, having a strong tendency toward air sickness. But Carl convinced me that this was something I had to do. One evening just before sunset we boarded the plane tethered in a soggy alfalfa field near the house, our cameras at the ready. Carl hit the starter...nothing. Not to worry, the battery was down; he would start it by hand, which he did. We taxied to the far side of the field and took off waving to the assembled Dieters' family and archaeologists below. Soon we were flying southward across Blood Run Creek where the

Ruud mounds—about 50 visible—stood out cleanly in the slanting sunlight. Easing farther south, we circled over the John Long farm and several large mounds, then turned north paralleling the Big Sioux River for three miles. Here the northernmost part of the site is marked by several more large mounds on the Leuthold property. This was a great photo op, the light perfect, so I clicked away with my cameras and another sent aloft with me by a jealous crew member. Too soon we landed, and I knew Carl had given me an experience I would never forget. And, no airsickness! The photos came out well enough with one exception—I snapped the crew member's photos with the lens cap on.

Carl wanted everyone to appreciate Blood Run's importance, and as it attained greater public awareness in the 1980s, he promoted it further. Hauling up to 200 people across Blood Run Creek on strings of flatbed trailers pulled by tractors, he led tours to a high spot overlooking the Ruud mounds. Here, assisted by a loudspeaker, an archaeologist would describe the site and discuss its importance. Some trips were attended by influential persons from both Iowa and South Dakota, certainly contributing to the purchase and preservation of portions of the site in both states. Public tours emanating out of the annual Granite Threshing Bee into the early 1990s were planned, led, and paid for by the Dieters.

To say that Carl was busy was an understatement. In addition to raising eight children, farming and flying, he and Tracy had a custom-hauling business with five over-the-road trucks (all the children learned to drive), were avid bowlers for over 40 years and members of the nearby Grandview Covenant

Church. In addition, Carl was a long-time member of the Cattlemen's Association, Larchwood and Sioux Fire Board (25 years), Lyon and Sioux Rural Water District (12 years), Lyon REC Board (8 years), Larchwood Elevator Board (6 years), and a lifetime member of the Granite Threshing Bee. Here he often displayed some of his antique tractor collection. He was instrumental in helping pass a bond for the construction of the new West Lyon School and in bringing rural water to Lyon and Sioux counties. A staunch party member, he claimed at one time to be the only Democrat in Lyon County. Perhaps this political loneliness inspired Carl's delight in caring for at least 12 orphaned deer over the years. Dieters' visitors came to expect a very tame deer languishing on the stairwell landing or gracing the front porch. Everyone, and certainly the orphaned deer, felt welcome at Carl and Tracy's.



One of Carl's orphaned deer helps bail at the Blood Run site.

For the host of itinerant archaeologists who were drawn to Blood Run, the Dieters' door was always open, and Carl was always a generous source of local information, access, and encouragement. We have lost a good and kind friend.

—DALE HENNING

## Loess Hills Communities to Host Archaeology Receptions

OSA archaeologists will describe recent discoveries in the Loess Hills at back-to-back public receptions in seven western Iowa counties this November. Over the past year the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Council led by Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development, a nonprofit organization based in Oakland, Iowa, sponsored the research as a step in identifying important cultural resources along the Loess Hills Scenic Byway.

IAS members, local residents, and landowners helped archaeologists identify and test excavate a number of important new earthlodge sites, and community organizations opened their doors for public meetings, research, and educational events. The public receptions this fall will showcase what was found and invite ideas about how best to interpret and preserve sites for the future. The following meetings have been scheduled.

### Pottawattamie County

Monday, November 2, 2009, 5:00 p.m.  
Meeting Room A & B  
Council Bluffs Public Library  
400 Willow Avenue  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

### Mills County

Monday, November 2, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Glenwood Senior Center  
20 North Vine  
Glenwood, IA 51534

### Fremont County

Tuesday, November 3, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
Gathering Place  
Corner of Cass and Ohio streets  
Sidney, IA 51652

### Harrison County

Wednesday, November 4, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
Ruth's Country Inn  
386 Magnolia Street  
Magnolia, IA 51550

### Monona County

Thursday, November 5, 2009, 7:00 p.m.  
Monona County Conservation Board  
318 East Iowa Avenue  
Onawa, IA 51040

### Woodbury County

Monday, November 9, 2009, 5:00 p.m.  
Sioux City Main Public Library  
529 Pierce Street  
Sioux City, IA 51101

### Plymouth County

Monday, November 9, 2009, 7:30 p.m.  
Westfield Community Building  
Corner of Union and Linden streets  
Westfield, IA 51062

—LYNN M. ALEX



## Fort Atkinson, 1840s



## NEW Guided Walking Tour Brochure and Teaching Trunks on Fort Atkinson

EVER FIND YOURSELF WANDERING AROUND a historic site a bit dazed and confused, even with the benefit of signage? Visitors to historic Fort Atkinson in Winneshiek County might never have that problem again thanks to the efforts of Al and Lu-Anne Becker, and the Fort Atkinson Historic Preservation Commission. Funding from the Winneshiek County Community Foundation provided support for a new walking tour brochure and traveling teaching trunks. The brochure—written and designed by Chérie Haury Artz and Angela Collins of OSA—summarizes the history of the fort and offers descriptions of its buildings and features along with snippets about the lives of the soldiers living there in the 1840s and their Ho-Chunk wards.

A large water color painting by Deanne Wortman depicts the fort in its heyday. Numbered stops guide visitors to the location of the few extant or reconstructed structures including blockhouses, North Barracks (now the Museum), and stockade; remnants of archaeological features like the cistern excavated by Marshall McKusick in the 1960s; and more ephemeral surface outlines such as the officers' privies. Images of small things lost or forgotten—dominoes, a jaw harp, buttons—rediscovered by archaeologists, help recreate a sense of the Fort's residents and their everyday lives. A short list of "brain teasers" (What creepy crawly plagued everyone at the Fort?) chal-

lenges visitors to test what they've learned using the brochure as a guide.

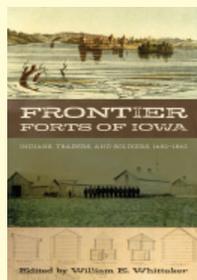
The teaching trunks contain period artifacts, replicas, and educational resources. Lessons and activities are compatible with social studies and history units taught in the elementary grades on Iowa's Peoples, Native People of Iowa, and the Westward Movement. Items relate to life at the Fort, 19<sup>th</sup>-century pioneer life in Iowa, and native Ho-Chunk culture. Of particular appeal is a lesson and activities based on the book, *Child of the Sun—Na So Rah Sooch*. This account by Mary Wilcox Burnett, a child living in the Neutral Ground, recreates the author's interactions with the Ho-Chunk in the 1840s. As a complement, the trunks contain a copy of Diane Young Holliday's recent *Mountain Wolf Woman: A Ho-Chunk Girlhood*.

The brochure is available at the Fort Atkinson site and the Fort Atkinson community library, and may be downloaded as a PDF from the OSA website under "Learn About Iowa's Past," [www.uiowa.edu/~osa](http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa). The trunk is one in a series of *Time Capsules from the Past*, loaned by OSA to teachers and organizations statewide. One of the trunks will remain in Fort Atkinson for use by local educators. For more information search under "Education Program" at the OSA website [www.uiowa.edu/~osa](http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa).

—LYNN M. ALEX

University of Iowa Press  
Announces Book on Iowa Forts  
Edited by OSA's William Whittaker

At least 56 frontier forts once stood in, or within view of, what is now the state of Iowa. The earliest date to the 1680s, while the latest date to the Dakota uprising of 1862. Some were vast compounds housing hundreds of soldiers; others consisted of a few sheds built by a trader along a riverbank. Regardless of their size and function—William Whittaker and his contributors include any compound that was historically called a fort, whether stockaded or not, as well as all military installations—all sought to control and manipulate Indians to the advantage of European and American traders, governments, and settlers. *Frontier Forts of Iowa* draws



extensively upon the archaeological and historical records to document this era of transformation beginning with the 17<sup>th</sup>-century fur trade until almost all Indians had been removed from the region.

By focusing on the archaeological evidence produced by many years of excavations and by supporting their words with a wealth of maps and illustrations, the authors uncover the past and connect it with the real history of real places. In so doing, they illuminate the complicated and dramatic history of the Upper Midwest in a time of enormous change. Past is linked to present in the form of a section on visiting original and reconstructed forts today.

Contributors to the volume include Gayle F. Carlson, Jeffrey T. Carr, Lance M. Foster, Kathryn E. M. Gourley, Marshall B. McKusick, Cindy L. Nagel, David J. Nolan, Cynthia L. Peterson (OSA), Leah D. Rogers, Regena Jo Schantz, Christopher M. Schoen, Vicki L. Twinde-Javner.

To order your copy, visit UI Press at [www.uiowapress.org](http://www.uiowapress.org).

Foreman-Griffeth Site  
(13MM8) Canoe Finds New  
Home in Red Oak

The canoe discovered in 1975 jutting out of the east bank of the East Nishnabotna River by Jim Griffeth and Ron Foreman, then both from Red Oak, Iowa, has a new home as part of a specially-designed exhibit at the Montgomery County History Center. The exhibit features both portions of the famous canoe, reunited through the efforts of Dave McFarland, Montgomery County Historical Society Director. This is the first-ever museum display with interpretive information for the entire canoe, an extremely rare type of archaeological find. Duane Anderson wrote a report in 1976 describing the canoe and its discovery. Duane was able to document only two other canoe discoveries in Iowa. I am not aware that any other archaeological finds of canoes in the state have been made since.



In March 2009, Dave McFarland contacted me to request loan of the portion of the canoe donated by Jim Griffeth to the OSA. Dave indicated he was in discussion with the owner of the other extant portion of the canoe, Gene Eschelmann, about including both portions in the new exhibit. An arrangement was reached, and the new exhibit was opened in June in time for the

annual Red Oak "Junction Days" history event. The canoe exhibit was complimented by a showing of the film by Kelly and Tammy Rundle, *Lost Nation: The Ioway* and my presentation about the context of the canoe discovery and information about the Oneota culture, the ancestors of the Ioway.

Dave McFarland recently shared with me that in August IAS member John Palmquist brought Ioway tribal elders to visit the canoe display. They seemed to be well pleased, but agreed they would like to see more things about Ioway culture included and be credited with creating the canoe. Given that the radiocarbon date generated for the canoe falls right around A.D. 1700, and that the Ioway were known to have used what is now southwestern Iowa during this time, it is likely that the Ioway may have been responsible for making the craft.

The new exhibit also caught the attention of Ron Foreman when he visited Red Oak (Ron has lived out-of-state for some time). Ron volunteered to Dave that he had photographs of the canoe taken while it was still in the riverbank. It proved fortuitous that Dave and I had discussed in June that all known photographs of the canoe in situ had disappeared—Dave requested that Ron make his photos available for digital scanning and restoration, the results of which are shown here (circle marks canoe).

—JOHN F. DOERSHUK



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

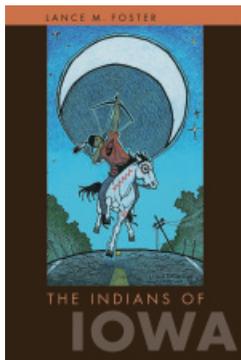


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## Two New Publications on Iowa's Past from University of Iowa Press

### **The Indians of Iowa**

by Lance M. Foster



The story of the Indians of Iowa is long and complicated. Illustrated with maps and stunning original art, Lance Foster's absorbing, accessible overview of Iowa's Indian tribes celebrates the rich native legacy of the Hawkeye State. It is

essential reading for students, teachers, and everyone who calls Iowa home.

### **A Guide to Projectile Points of Iowa**

by Joseph A. Tiffany

The two beautifully illustrated parts depict a total of 61 full-size stone point types in color by archaeological period. References are provided for those wishing to learn more about each type shown. Archaeologist Joseph Tiffany lists the stone type for each point as well as its estimated range of use based on calibrated radiocarbon date, catalog number, and the county where it was found. By providing actual-size color images of the typed points, each part is very easy to use in the field, lab, or classroom.



### **Membership Information**

Contact the Membership Secretary, Iowa Archeological Society at The 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 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. The *Newsletter* is published four times a year. All materials for publication should be sent to Editors Lynn M. Alex and Stephen C. Lensink, The University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1030. Email: [lynn-alex@uiowa.edu](mailto:lynn-alex@uiowa.edu) or [steve-lensink@uiowa.edu](mailto:steve-lensink@uiowa.edu). When submitting articles, please provide text, captions, tables, and figures separately. All digital photographs should be at least 300 dpi at full size. Graphics, if supplied digitally, should be high-resolution tiff or eps files. Paper versions of articles and photos are also acceptable.

### **IAS web site**

[www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS/iashome.htm](http://www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS/iashome.htm)

### **Program Announcement**

Recent Research on the Late Ice Age Hunters of Iowa

Matthew G. Hill

Department of Anthropology, Iowa State University

November 12, Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center, 10260 Morris Hills Road, Toddville, Iowa

Evidence relating to the initial human occupation of Iowa at the end of the last Ice Age some 13,000 years ago by hunters associated with the Clovis archaeological culture is extremely sparse. Matthew Hill, ISU, will relate how the recently (re)discovered Carlisle Cache offers new information on Clovis landscape, lithic technology, and mobility patterns, with broad implications for the peopling of the New World.

Cost is \$2.50/adult, \$1/child 16 and under, or \$5/family. For more information contact Gail Barels, Conservation Education Specialist, Linn County Conservation Department, phone 319-892-6488.