Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society

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Fall & Winter 2011

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FOOD PRIZE

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The Des Moines Library Fountain Rises Again Now Integral Part of the World Food Prize Building

Bill Whittaker and Cindy Nagel

Last year we discussed the fate of the Des Moines Library Fountain in the Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society (13PK372; Whittaker and Nagel 2010), and how there seemed to be no real plan to preserve or rebuild the large pieces of the 1905 Beaux Arts fountain that were excavated in 2004. We are happy to report that the font pieces we excavated have been incorporated into the facade of the renovated Library, which will now serve as the headquarters of the World Food Prize. The World Food Prize was created in 1986 by Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970, and is dedicated to honoring people who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world. The World Food Prize will be headquartered in the beautiful library building along the Des Moines River, itself a relic of a turn-of-thetwentieth-century rebirth of downtown Des Moines.

The main fountain was destroyed in 1955 because it was considered an eyesore, but the carved stone font, basin, and surrounding stonework was carefully buried in the levee, where it remained preserved for almost 50 years. The pieces have been incorporated into the base of the rebuilt east staircase, close to where they originally stood. The finished project will closely echo the original, with a stone arch, columns, and similar setback. Our deep thanks to the City of Des Moines, the World Food Prize, and Neumann Construction for making this possible.

Reference:

Whittaker, William E. and Cindy L. Nagel

2010 Lost Fountains: When Des Moines Aspired to be the "City Beautiful". *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society* 57: 1–14.







Top: ca. 1910 photo of library with fountain showing people gathered around the font.

Above: font being rebuilt in 2011.

Far left: undated photo of fountain.

Left: 2004 excavation of font basin.

Right: plan and 2004 excavation photo

Historical photos from the Public Library of Des Moines; modern photos from the Office of the State Archaeologist.



Prehistoric Fiber Sources in Iowa



Colin Betts

Textiles, consisting of cordage and woven fabrics, represent one of the most integral and central aspects of human technology. Even today, textiles play an important role in our own lives, ranging from high tech carbon fiber and Kevlar composites to the cotton shirts on our backs. Archaeological evidence from Upper Paleolithic occupations at the Pavlov and Dolní Vêstonice sites in Eastern Europe provide indications that humans have possessed the ability to turn plant fibers into both cordage and woven fabrics for at least 25,000 years. Unlike betterpreserved stone and pottery industries, however, textiles are an elusive part of the archaeological record, especially in Iowa.

Only in special situations where the textiles were buried in association with copper items (and preserved through copper salts), deposited in dry environments such as rock shelters, or impressed in wet clay prior to firing are we able to catch a glimpse of this central aspect of prehistoric lifeways in Iowa. The most consistent record of this technology in the state occurs as impressions on Late Woodland pottery. These impressions range from simple cord-impressed decorations, such as on Lane Farm vessels, to highly complex and sophisticated fabrics found on the Madison Fabric Impressed pots. These impressions provide a unique and rare opportunity to study this aspect of

prehistoric technology.

During the fall semester of 2009, students in my Prehistoric Technology course at Luther College embarked on an attempt to reconstruct the textiles represented in the Late Woodland pottery. One of the central parts of this study involved identifying the plants likely used as fiber sources as well as the processes involved in turning the raw plants into cordage or yarn suitable for weaving. Previous archaeological work on this topic along with accounts of historic period Native Americans textile industries, especially those focusing on the Chippewa, Menominee, and Anishinaabe peoples, played a central role in this process. These sources



Students with bundles of nettles (from left to right: Ben Harkins, Brian Nowosatka, Anne Morris, Cat Crowns, Ryan Klompenhower, Wyatt Sandberg)

pointed to three major sources of fiber (or bast) most likely to have been used in the state of Iowa during prehistoric times: wood nettles, dogbane, and basswood trees. As was undoubtedly the case during prehistoric times, these three species are abundant today, particularly in northeast Iowa. Nettles (as anyone who has had the misfortune of encountering) grow in dense stands abundantly in damp woodlands, particularly along river bottom areas while dogbane can often be found growing in stands in roadside ditches. Basswood trees are commonly found growing on the

fiber strands are found immediately below the outer 'skin' or bark. These fibers can either be separated mechanically or by using the natural process of decomposition. In the first instance, the stems are split and the inner woody pith layer and outer skin or epidermis is peeled off in a tedious and time-consuming process. Our experience showed that this technique was the most effective for extracting the highest yield of nettle and dogbane fiber. The second approach, known as retting, involves rotting the bark or plant stalks in a controlled manner.

unknown reasons we were unable to successfully extract the fiber using this technique, clearly more work needs to be done. In contrast, the process of retting basswood was an unqualified success.

At the end of our travails we were rewarded with an abundance of clean, usable fiber perfectly suited for spinning into cordage and ultimately woven fabric. Through our experiments we were able to collect useful information concerning the labor inputs for each of these processes. Less tangible, but equally rewarding, were the more impressionable aspects of doing these



Basswood fiber partially spun into cordage.



Nettle and dogbane fiber

more shady wooded hillsides in this part of the state.

In the case of the nettles and dogbane plants, the entire stalk is gathered. Fall is the best time to do this after the plants have achieved their full size. One lesson we learned (the hard way) was that waiting to collect nettles until after the first hard frost of the season very much reduced the 'sting ' that gives them their name. The small fibers on the plant stem that are the source of the discomfort weaken and fall off at this point; those remaining can be readily removed by a quick upward swipe with the (gloved) hand. Unlike the nettles and dogbane where the entire plant stalk is used, basswood fiber is acquired by stripping off the outer layer of tree bark, a process best conducted in spring when the sap is rising. Once harvested, the primary challenge in using each of these plants is extracting the fiber contained within. In each case the

By submerging the plants in water, the microorganisms of decay will separate the more durable fibers from the starchy, less durable tissues that surround them. The beauty of this process is that it is much less labor intensive – other than separating the strips of fiber (and washing them in fresh water to get rid of the horrid stench), it is simply a matter of sitting back for a few weeks and letting nature take its course. We also learned to our dismay that rivers do not make the best place to conduct a retting experiment during periods of heavy rain and rising waters. Several of the ethnographic sources specifically note that only basswood and dogbane can be successfully retted; nettle fiber simply doesn't hold up well when wet. For this same reason, dogbane fibers were preferred for contexts when the fiber was used in wet or damp environments - particularly fishing line and nets. Our experience retting dogbane was a dismal failure- for

experiments that are not directly translatable into archaeological interpretations. The process of learning about and seeking the proper plants for fiber sources transformed how I view the natural landscape; I still find myself instinctively making mental notes on the locations of a grove of basswood trees or particularly good stand of nettles wherever I go. In addition to altering how I see the natural environment, conducting class projects like this one also provides insights into the social side of technology. As the ethnographic sources point out, very few of these activities would have been conducted in a solitary manner. Even the most tedious and difficult aspects of this work was made immeasurably more enjoyable simply by virtue of the group setting in which they occurred; in many cases it hardly seemed like work.

Continued p. 6



Above: harvesting nettles. Below: basswood.

Continued from p. 5

Acknowledgments: I would like to thank the students who enthusiastically braved the perils of stinging nettles in the name of science: Cat Crown, Anna Morris, Brian Nowosatka, Ben Harkins, Ryan Klompenhower, and Wyatt Sandberg. In addition, I would like to thank David Benn for both inspiring this project, and sharing his extensive knowledge of Late Woodland ceramics and textiles with our class.

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Above: Location of Hartman Reserve Nature Center.

Below and right: Students and volunteers excavating at Hartman (courtesy Sarah Caldwell).



Field School Memories: Hartman Reserve Nature Center



Sarah Caldwell

Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Black Hawk County, Iowa, has been the location of the University of Northern Iowa Archaeology Field School since 2008. The land was purchased by the local YMCA in 1938 with assistance from the site's namesake, John C. Hartman. It was used primarily as a camping ground and for other community programs until the 1970s. The Reserve has since increased to 300 acres. The Black Hawk Conservation Board purchased the land in 1976, establishing a nature education center. It has been designated as an Iowa Watchable Wildlife Site and a 46-acre section is certified by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a state preserve.

I took part in the 2011 field school. While there were only three participants, it ended up being a

tremendous amount of fun and a great learning opportunity. The was a task they took to with vigor and, to our chagrin, field school was led by Dr. Don Gaff, an assistant professor at the often out-performed us. Volunteer participation was University of Northern Iowa. I didn't know what to expect from welcome and one of the students brought a family an archaeology field school, as this was my first venture into the member to assist. It was wonderful to watch the field. Absolutely every aspect of the job was 100 percent harder and more complicated than I had expected. Since our site had been picked out for us, the first big task was stringing up our one by ones. This seemingly simple task took several tries and a much longer time than expected. It was a frustrating and time consuming lesson, but we learned and grew from the experience. From that point on, we picked up on the tricks of the trade very quickly, and it was an extremely enjoyable experience.

Another integral part of the field school was community outreach. On several occasions, children from local schools visited the site and learned the basics of archaeology. They were given information about the field school. The children were given trowels and assisted with the digging. The children contributed greatly and were excited when they found artifacts. Screening paid off! It was the most exciting unit of the field





children learn. Helping teach them about archaeology was very rewarding.

For me, the most exciting part of the field school was the number of artifacts that we discovered. The cordimpressed pottery and numerous flakes made struggling with tree roots and high humidity well worth it. The team spent the entire six weeks narrowing down the direction in which we should search. It led us from finding almost no artifacts to finding several flakes in every shovel-full of dirt. Nobody wanted the field school to end. We asked our professor to allow us to excavate one more one by one when our back filling was finished. This extra effort

> school! We found our only two projectile points, as well as a cord impressed body sherd, and a piece of fired clay that contained what looked to be a finger impression.

> In retrospect, this field school was not only a fun and educational way to spend the first month and a half of the summer, but it was an incredible opportunity that opened my eyes to the joy of field work. I was always told that putting yourself out there and experiencing the job firsthand was the best way to educate yourself and open doors that wouldn't have been revealed otherwise. After experiencing the field school at the University of Northern Iowa, I am a true believer. R

The Sad Fate of the Lane Enclosure:

ARCHAEOLOGY.

[pp. 357–361 in: *History of Winneshiek and Allamakee Counties, Iowa* (1882) by W. E. Alexander, Western Publishing Company, Sioux City]

Dr. W. W. Ranney, of Lansing... was accompanied in his investigations by Judge [Samuel] Murdock, of Garnavillo, and others of Lansing.

The mound in which our excavations were made is situated ... about one hundred feet above the Iowa River bottom. It is not in the form of the burial mounds, or tumuli, but forms a circle, the circumference of which is seven hundred feet. The ridge, or elevation, averages about twenty-five feet in width, leaving a circular enclosure 210 feet in diameter. The height of the ridge or mound is about three to four feet from the surface of the ground.

On opening it we discovered pieces of broken pottery made of a bluish clay and partially pulverized mussel shells; stones, showing evidence of having been used for hearths, or supports for the earthen vessels while being used for cooking food; collections of fish scales, bones of buffalo, deer, badger, bear, fish and birds, but no evidence whatever of human bones. The long, or marrow bones of all animals were found broken or split, supposed to have been done for the purpose of extracting the marrow for food, which circumstance is also noted in the Kjokkommoddings, or kitchen middings, of Denmark.

One peculiarity noticed by Mr. Hemenway was that each of us digging in different localities found the ornamentation of the pottery dissimilar. For instance, all Mr. Haney found was ornamented with horizontal circular rings; all the Judge found was ornamented with zig-zag lines with dots in the angles. All that we found had perpendicular lines like a muskmelon, etc. This was finally accounted for by the supposition that each family had its own particular method of ornamentation, by which they recognized their property.

These vessels were quite capacious, the diameter of one having been fourteen inches at the mouth, (or as large as a ten pound tobacco pail). About one and three-quarter inches below the mouth they abruptly widened out about six inches all around, making the largest diameter twenty six inches.

Taking occasion to remark to the Judge that we had found no bottoms to the vessels, set him to thinking, and the result was that he decided that the bottoms had been rounded in such a manner that they never tipped over, but let them be set down as they might they oscillated till they finally, when still, sit in an upright position. For the purpose of handling, the vessels were provided with handles on two opposite sides similar to our jug handles.

Besides the before-mentioned articles, Col. Johnston found a thin strip of copper two inches long by three-quarters wide, and we found an ornament of the same material, triangular inform, one inch wide at the base, and one and one-half inches from base to apex, the form being the same as the face of a flat iron, the center being perforated to attach some additional ornament, and the apex also, to attach a string to fasten in the ear.

Now the question arises, when, how and for

what purpose was this mound built. Was it a burial ground, a fort or a village? At first the Judge thought the former, Mr. James Haney the second, and we took the last proposition. To say when, is impossible; the time has been long, long ago, as we have evidence by the decay of the bones and shells. Why it was built? We think it the remains of a village. That the huts or wigwams were built in a circle, and; the piles of burnt stone we unearthed each represented a hearth in a hut, on which the pottery set while cooking, and around each of which a separate family warmed and fed themselves. We think with Mr. H. that each family had a separate distinct mark on their vessels by which they were known from their neighbors in the next hut or wigwam.

We think that the bones found show no evidence of human bones, and consequently it could not be used for a burial ground. Another evidence lies in the fact that all the bones are broken to obtain the marrow. The scales and bones of fish and animals, the charcoal, ashes and burnt hearth-stones all point conclusively to the fact that this was their abode. The central enclosure was used for their games, dancing and pleasure, or perhaps in case of attack from wild beasts or their fellow men, as a place for the aged, the young and the women to flee to while the warrior met their encroachments outside the circle of dwellings. Add to this the fact forty rods south of this village we find some eightythree burial mounds or tumuli [13AM104], out of which we procured parts of human skeletons, and nothing else, with the long bones entire, and we are convinced of the fact that this was once a town filled with people, enjoying the pleasures of families and all knit together as one tribe of people.



Cyrus Thomas' (1894) map of P. W. Norris' excavations.



Ellison Orr's (1936) map of his excavation areas. Note difference in shape of enclosure.

Often Excavated, but Poorly Reported

Commentary

Francis McDowell, Jr.

Ranney's discussion of excavation of the Lane Enclosure (13AM200) is the earliest known; it is remarkable for its detail and reveals how much has been missed by later archaeological investigations. Of particular note is the discussion of Oneota shelltempered ceramics, which helps to settle the age-old question about whether the enclosure is Oneota or Woodland in age.

The Lane Enclosure overlooks the Upper Iowa River and is part of a high terrace that contains numerous mounds and two rectangular earthworks. The Lane Enclosure was later described by Cyrus Thomas (1894:99-104) who called it "Pottery Circle."

The Lane Enclosure was partially excavated by P. W. Norris in 1882 through a series of deep plowed trenches; Thomas (1894) published Norris's maps. Thomas (1894:100) noted that the ring was covered by several feet of sand, probably derived from sandstone bluffs above, and this sand covered a dense midden of soil mixed with animal bone, shell, ceramics, flaking debris, ash, charcoal, and heated stone. Orr (1914) confirmed the site location and later excavated several trenches across the embankment and produced better maps of the enclosure and surrounding areas (Orr 1936, 1937). Orr's excavations recovered numerous Oneota artifacts from the embankment (Orr 1937).

Excavations in 1970 identified possible palisade traces in part of the ring, but the age of the ring was not determined (McKusick 1973:9). The 1970 McKusick excavation of the ring and interior were never compiled into a report or published. The contents of the interior of the ring were late prehistoric and protohistoric Oneota with fifteenth- and seventeenth-century radiocarbon dates (McKusick 1973:9–11). The Office of the State

Archaeologist and Iowa Archeological Society conducted test excavations in 1994 at the Lane Enclosure. A very brief summary was prepared (Finney and Hollinger 1994), but a detailed excavation report was never completed. LiDAR mapping in 2008 showed faint traces of the enclosure, as well as nearby prehistoric earthworks (Whittaker and Green 2010).

Although the artifacts from the enclosure are consistently Oneota, there is occasional speculation that the ring is older than the deposits within it. Young (1981), in analyzing human remains from the site, stated, "The site has been described as being a Middle-Late Woodland enclosure with Oneota intrusion" without explaining why this assumption was made. Logan (1976:40-41) also felt the ring was Middle or Late Woodland, based on its size. Until the 1970 and 1994 excavations are compiled and published, the Orr (1934, 1936) excavations remain the definitive works on the Lane Enclosure.

Ranney's report was little known until recently; their care in describing artifacts and ceramics helps to understand the breadth of artifact types in the Lane Enclosure, and confirms, yet again, that this is an Oneota site, not a Woodland site.

As a postscript, it appears that Samuel Murdock may have put some of his artifact collection from the Lane Enclosure and nearby sites on display at the Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, as recounted in a brief mention in an 1880 Polk County history, "Judge Murdock, of Clayton county, exhibited a collection of relics of the mound builders. The most prominent one was his large collection of mound builders' skulls" (Union Historical 1880:191).

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McKusick's 1970 excavations. Like the later Finney and Hollinger excavations, the results of McKusick's excavations have not been fully published (OSA).



Iowa Exhibition Hall, Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, where artifacts from the Lane Enclosure may have been displayed.

Excerpts from the welcoming remarks of State Archaeologist John Doershuk at the Paul Sagers **Collection open** house, October 8, 2011.



Celebrating Paul Sagers' Collection

John F. Doershuk

Among the more spectacular collections housed in the Office of the State Archaeologist's repository is the Paul Sagers Collection. I want to try to put into perspective why this collection is important. Why did the OSA actively cook important. Why did the OSA actively seek to bring this collection to the State

Archaeological Repository? There are several reasons. One is an important historical linkage. Paul Sagers collecting efforts-the time period during which he and his brother Fay collected these artifacts-dates to well before the these artifacts-dates to well before the OSA was created. In fact, the early years of their work coincided with a time when the only professional archaeologist in the state of Iowa was employed on a part-time basis-officially only summers-with his "regular job" being a professor at Cornell College. I'm talking, of course, about Charles R. Keyes, first and only director of the Iowa Archaeological Survey precursor to the OSA. Keyes directed the Survey for three decades, roughly 1920 to 1950, and in that time influenced many people across the state to share information about archaeological sites and artifacts. Keyes was a direct influence on the Sagers brothers and they took strongly to the procedures Keyes recommended: collecting and recording systematically, drawing maps of plans and profiles, and keeping detailed journals describing their excavations. We see all these practices in the material before you and it is in these details that the scientific value of the Sagers Collection is apparent. Having a passion for the past and the

material items that preserve from ancient times to the modern day is the mark of

every dedicated collector. But having the energy and drive to consistently record the mundane, and nearly endless, and seemingly picayune details of provenience, matrix, and association is the hallmark of the professional. I have little doubt that Paul Sagers, if born a generation or two later Sagers, if born a generation or two later when Iowa Archaeology had matured into a when lowa Archaeology had matured into a more substantial discipline, would have joined Keyes, Ellison Orr, and their scientific heirs as a professional archaeologist. Certainly, the Sagers' collection and documentary practices were on par for their time with the best of archaeological methodology across the archaeological methodology across the greater Midwest, and even nationally. I am certain there were other Paul Sagerstypes scattered across Iowa in the 1920s and 30s. Keyes' correspondence hints at the activities of some of these individuals. activities of some of these individuals. However, their efforts have had little or no impact on the greater understanding of Iowa Archaeology because they failed to do something at which Paul Sagers excelled-they didn't share. Some of these people amassed huge collections easily rivaling the 16,000 or so item Sagers collection, but these collectors failed to consider, or didn't accept or understand consider, or didn't accept or understand, the guidance Keyes was offering: without context, most artifacts once collected and mixed with items from several or dozens of different locales become little more than curios-curious but mute objects from an inscrutable past. Ironically, as the size of collections like these grow their value diminishes as more and more items from disparate places become co-mingled without regard for source or relative association. Often, these collections are meaningful to just the person who collected them and surviving family members disperse these curios far and wide, effectively ending their utility from a scientific

perspective.

Paul Sagers went a different direction. He threw his energy into his museum, recognizing the need for dedicated, organized space to accommodate his discoveries. He also wanted to share what discoveries. He also wanted to snare what he discovered with the public, so he was also unusual in that he explicitly sought to engage the public in his archaeological endeavors. This is a major emphasis in today's archaeology in Iowa and increasingly nationwide, this is why increasingly nationwide, this is why "dissemination" is a vital part of OSA's mission. The way I've come to think about it is archaeology as community engagement-not just archaeologists talking to archaeologists about obscure things from the past-but rather archaeologists making the past accessible to the public by enhancing awareness, understanding, and value.

value. So I think the Sagers Collection is important-and I invite you to share in this importance-because Paul, whether he knew it or not, served as a visionary force in the history of Iowa Archaeology and we would do well, in my opinion, to emulate in modern form the best of his efforts. To this end, we celebrate today efforts. To this end, we celebrate today the legacy of Paul Sagers. I invite you to look closely, think deeply, and enjoy the effort Paul put into his collection. At the same time, appreciate the added value that John Cordell Lynn blox, and our more the same time, appreciate the added value that John Cordell, Lynn Alex, and our many colleagues have created through their recent work with these materials.

I want to recognize members of the extended Sagers family, many of whom I have recently met. A little bit of Paul's legacy-his passion for the past-lives on through each of them. One of Paul's grandsons, Dirk Marcucci, is here; Dirk has taken his grandfather's passion to the next level as Dirk is an accomplished professional archaeologist. Also deserving recognition for their interest and dedication are the many OSA staff members that organized and worked on the Paul Sagers Collection Project. Two individuals, Lynn Alex and John Cordell have been the driving force behind this very successful effort. Lynn is OSA's director of education and outreach and John is OSA's repository manager. I also want to specifically thank Linda Langenberg, OSA's professional departmental assistant, and Angela Collins, OSA project archaeologist and graphics designer, for their help with

the open house. The Paul Sagers Collection Project came about because folks like Bob Sheets and Kevin Szcodronski at the Iowa DNR, staff at the OSA as well as the state Historical Society of Iowa, and members of the Sagers family were all concerned about the adequacy of the storage facilities available for long-term curation of the large number of items not directly on display at Maquoketa Caves State Park. Grant-writing proved successful and was specifically aimed at addressing the physical addressing the physical storage-preservation-issue, but we all agreed that accessibility could be considerably enhanced in the same effort. The design and construction of the gorgeous panels now adorning the OSA's front corridor benefited from input by Will Thomson, owner-operator of Armadillo Arts; Elizabeth Macken, then UI Museum Studies Intern and treasured OSA work-study student for many years; Steve Lensink, OSA's Associate Director; and, of course, John Cordell and Lynn Alex.



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What's the Point?

Dan Horgen

Identify the artifact shown here. This point was discovered in Louisa County, Iowa. The point measures 2 inches in length with a maximum width of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This medium sized, cornernotched point is characterized by the broad, deep notches emanating from the corners of the blade at around a 45 degree angle. Bases on these points are straight to convex and generally do not display grinding. These points are often referred to as the smaller counterpart to another distinguishable point type.

Send your responses to Daniel G. Horgen at daniel-horgen@uiowa.edu. Answers will be listed in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The projectile point illustrated in the last issue of the Newsletter is classified as a Durst. Durst points are named from examples found at the Durst Rockshelter in Wisconsin and are associated with the Late Archaic period (1100 to 700 B.C.). Paul Naumann, Joe Tiffany, and Larry Van Gorden submitted correct responses.

Durst points are similar to Lamoka points found in the Northeast, Dustin points found in the Great Lakes region, and have a similar resemblance to Table Rock points found within the Midwest. All of these point typologies share similar characteristics and attributes but, in comparison to Table Rock, Durst points are much cruder in workmanship and could be considered the "Poor Man's Table Rock."

The chert type is classified as Blanding which commonly outcrops in parts of Clayton, Delaware, and Dubuque counties in northeast Iowa. This specimen displays intentional heat treatment that commonly produces a pink to pinkish gray color while attaining and often enhancing its satiny luster.





About the IAS

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.

Membership

Contact Alan Hawkins, IAS Membership Secretary, at the University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street, Iowa City, IA 52242-1030.

Dues

Voting	
Active	\$25
Household	\$30
Sustaining	\$35
Non-Voting	
Student (under 18)	\$14
Institution	\$35

Newsletter Information

The Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society is published four times a year. The Newsletter actively seeks short reports and essays on Midwest archaeology, Native Americans, early Iowa history, paleontology, and related topics. All materials for publication should be sent to editor Lauri Chappell, University of Iowa, Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1030. E-mail: thewillow301@gmail.com. IAS website: www.uiowa.edu/~osa/IAS