Archaeology on the Road

July 19-26, 2014
TEAM ARCHAEOLOGY EVENTS

Mobile Museum Stops*
Estherville Sweet Corn Days (August 1–3)
Iowa State Fair (August 7–17, 8am-8pm)
Dyersville Public Library (August 22)
Hurtsville Center, Jackson Co. (August 23)
National Traditional Country Music Festival, Le Mars (August 27–28)
*Events added weekly, see complete calendar at discover.research.uiowa.edu

Public Presentations
Archaeology & Cultural History Float on the Des Moines River, Webster Co. (July 26)
Archaeology & Cultural History Float on the West Nishnabotna River, Pottawattamie Co. (July 26)
Water Trails Presentation, Delaware County Conservation (August 16, 10–12 am)

Outreach Tent
Hooverfest, West Branch (August 2)
Meskwaki PowWow, 100th (August 7–8)

International Archaeology Day
- October 18th, 2014
- Events will be held at the Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs and Iowa City
- Atlatl throwing, corn grinding, and traditional Native American toys and games
- Ancient technology demonstrations
- Mobile Museum tours at Council Bluffs
- Archaeology lab tours at Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City

Check out our website for ongoing archaeology events!
archaeology.uiowa.edu

*Events added weekly, see complete calendar at discover.research.uiowa.edu
MINI-WAKAN STATE PARK

The Iowa Great Lakes area contains many interesting and significant archaeological sites reflecting all known cultural time periods within Iowa’s 13,000 years of prehistory. Mini-Wakan State Park on the northern fringe of Big Spirit Lake, north of Okoboji, is the location of a recent discovery, site 13DK143. This buried archaeological deposit rests just underfoot in the grassy portion of the state park north of the lodge and west of the access road. Site 13DK143 has been recorded as a Woodland-era site encompassing nearly two acres of the park. Archaeologists determined the presence of three artifact concentrations. Bone was the most common artifact type recovered followed by ceramics and fire-cracked rock. Lithic materials discovered from stone tool manufacturing include flaking debris and bifaces. While just one of what once were probably numerous locations occupied during the Middle Prehistoric Period in the Prairie Lake Region, 13DK143 has survived and has the potential to contribute not only to a more nuanced understanding of variability among Woodland period societies occupying this important region but can also provide important comparative data necessary to explore relations between geography, history and culture in the region. The Iowa DNR intends to preserve this important site in place and protect it for future generations.
Emmet and Palo Alto counties are home to the West Fork Des Moines River. This is the northernmost extent of the Des Moines River in Iowa, the longest river in the state. North of our capitol city, this river traverses through what is known geologically as the Des Moines Lobe or the Prairie Pothole Region where the receding glacier left behind thousands of shallow wetlands known as potholes or kettle lakes. Much of this vast network of interconnected swamps was historically drained as farmland. Yet, the West Fork is flanked by wooded bluffs, rolling terrain, and ridges, as well as farmland, which gives its visitors a sense of the landscape across time.

Beginning in 2013, the Iowa DNR Water Trail Program initiated free educational presentations to support and expand public awareness and understanding of our state’s Water Trails. Iowa DNR WT Coordinator John Wenck explained that, “The events developed out of a need to engage local communities in the projects, but have a direct benefit of inspiring interest and appreciation for the resource.”

The University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist is excited to be a partner in the Water Trail Program along with the Iowa DNR and the Iowa Water Trails Association. Presentations offered by our archaeologists include statewide community lectures and half to full-day interpretive paddle trips. Lectures focus on an introduction to Iowa’s archaeological past, a chronology of Iowa’s cultural history, and the importance of Iowa’s water trails to people throughout time, with added content applicable to each community or water trail. The guided paddle trips also highlight local archaeological sites, and participants learn to “think like an archaeologist” by examining landform features and exposed cut banks.

For more information on Iowa’s water trails or to check out a schedule of upcoming programs, visit the Iowa Water Trails Association website: iowawatertrails.org.
WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES HISTORY

The origin of Winnebago Industries, Inc., headquartered in Forest City, Iowa, dates back to 1958 when, during the midst of an economic downturn, founder John K. Hanson and a small group of community leaders convinced a California firm to open a travel trailer factory in the city. The name Winnebago was adopted in late 1960. Within just a few years motor homes began to roll off the assembly line, and with several new innovations they could be sold for half the price of competitors. The company continued to expand its facilities and make numerous improvements in recreational vehicles and travel trailers throughout the 1970s and 1980s and was the first RV manufacturer to reach 200,000 units. The company struggled in the 1990s but persevered through revitalization strategies that brought life back to the company. Winnebago Industries celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008, including the production of its 400,000th unit. Today, Winnebago continues to face multiple challenges but remains committed to making some of the highest quality recreational vehicles.

LONE ROCK

Along the Karras Loop, you will pass through Lone Rock, also known as the “Neatest Little Town in Iowa.” Lone Rock is famous for hosting a lone boulder, situated on the grassy prairie, for which the town was named. In pioneer times it was a landmark on the trail from Ft. Dodge to Spirit Lake. This gigantic boulder was discovered by explorers and settlers early in their journeys across Iowa and was used as a marker along the way. If you passed by the lone rock you knew you were headed in the right direction. It is estimated that the boulder weighs 175 tons. In the late 1800s a settlement sprang up around the rock and has been in existence ever since. The original location of the boulder was over a mile northeast of the town. In 1970, the boulder was broken into 4 large pieces and moved to its current location. Lone Rock is also the home to the historic Blakjer church, a depot museum and a newly refurbished town park.
Dare to Discover what’s inside!

DISCOVER.RESEARCH.UIOWA.EDU

WINNEBAGO

ARMADILLO ARTS
GRAPHIC ARTS & EXHIBIT DESIGN
IOWA CITY, IOWA

BENSON & HEPKER DESIGN

Presentations
The University of Iowa
MOBILE MUSEUM

A country with no regard for its past will have little worth remembering in the future.
—Abraham Lincoln

WHAT IS THE MOBILE MUSEUM?

The University of Iowa Pentacrest Museums and the Office of the State Archaeologist founded the Mobile Museum to share their rich cultural assets with the people of Iowa. We invite you to visit us online or on campus to view more of our collections.

Get in touch with us to visit your school, library, conservation center, historical society or other events. Our goal is to travel to all regions of Iowa. Contact us at mobile-museum@uiowa.edu.

Each year, the Mobile Museum will feature new exhibits. Watch out for us next year!

MADE by Iowans FOR Iowans
PILOT KNOB STATE PARK

Pilot Knob State Park is located just a few miles east of today’s route leaving Forest City, along Pilot Knob Road (340th Street). After glaciers leveled the prairies of north-central Iowa, the remaining deposits helped form the hills and valleys that are now Pilot Knob. Pilot Knob was originally a guide point for pioneers going west in covered wagons. The state park was dedicated in 1924, and as one of the oldest units in the state park system continues to draw nature and history enthusiasts. Several structures within the park were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1934 and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the observation tower, entrance portals, three stone bridges and an amphitheater. A climb to the top of the observation tower on Pilot Knob, which is the second highest point in Iowa at 1,450 feet above sea level, offers beautiful scenic views. The tower is 30 feet tall, but was supposed to be 40 feet tall. When winter set in the CCC had to stop construction. Also located within the park is Dead Man’s Lake along the park’s interpretive nature trail. It is a sphagnum bog, the only one of its kind in the state.

MASSON CITY DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

While you are spending some time in Mason City, be sure to take a tour of Mason City’s Downtown Historic District. The district includes over 50 buildings from the late 19th to early 20th century. The district is roughly bounded by N. 46th Street, Georgia Avenue, Washington Avenue, and S. 2nd Street. The historic district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. Perhaps one of the more famous buildings among them is the Park Inn Hotel. Completed in 1910, the Park Inn is the only remaining Frank Lloyd Wright hotel with its Prairie School-inspired architecture and streetscape. During difficult economic times in the 1920s, the inn and adjacent bank were sold and used for other commercial purposes in 1926. The building continued to be uncharacteristically remodeled, but experienced gradual decline and was closed in 1976. The inn and bank received a complete renovation through numerous grants and was returned to its former glory in 2011. Mason City is also home to its “favorite son” Meredith Willson. He is best known for the famous musical The Music Man, in which many of the characters were inspired by people Willson knew as a child in Mason City.
ANTIOCH CEMETERY

Watch for the Antioch Cemetery on the north side of the route a couple miles east of the town of Clarksville. This historic cemetery has graves from some of the earliest settlers in Butler County, including one individual dating to 1859. If you look to your right, approximately three miles south of the Antioch Cemetery and across the river, you may be able to see the Hawkeye-Shell Rock ethanol plant. On the grounds of this large industrial property is archaeological site 13BT35, a ca. 1855–1864 rural residence. Twenty-eight artifacts were collected from the surface of the site. These are domestic in nature and the “Framed Panels” ceramic pattern recovered was especially common in the 1850s. Research indicates the site represents the remnant of the Isaac and Rhoda Swim original claim cabin and residence, in use by the couple from about 1855 until 1859. The Swims likely knew individuals buried in Antioch Cemetery.

Artifact manufacture and popularity dates suggest the site ceased being used as a residence in the mid-to-late 1860s, probably reverting to farmland shortly thereafter. As part of the permitting process for the new ethanol plant, 13BT35 was set-aside and preserved through a conservation easement. The Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) of Iowa holds conservation easements on six sites in eastern Iowa; these easements allow landowners to utilize their properties for economic gain while preserving in perpetuity significant archaeological and historical non-renewable resources. Contact the OSA if you are interested in setting up a conservation easement for property you own.

Did You Know?

All human remains in Iowa are protected by law. Iowa was the first state in the nation to pass burial protection legislation that ensures protection of all individuals regardless of age or ethnic affiliation. It is illegal in Iowa to knowingly disturb human remains. Accidental discovery of human remains requires notification of local law enforcement, the State Medical Examiner, and if ancient, the Office of the State Archaeologist (319-384-0732). “Ancient” is defined in the Iowa Code as 150 years in age or older.
Leaving Waverly, you will be traveling through the territory once defined as the Iowa Neutral Ground. This was one of only a handful of land tracts established to create a buffer between hostile Native American nations. Native people had long established traditions in their homelands and were closely tied both physically and spiritually to their environment. They also had existing relationships, both positive and negative, with one another as independent nations. By the 19th century, mounting pressure from the westward expansion of Euro-American settlers and competition for land and resources increased tensions and hostilities, causing the U.S. Government to become involved.

In 1830, the U.S. Government designated a 40-mile wide strip of land between the Upper Iowa River and the Des Moines River as the Neutral Ground to separate the warring Isanti Dakota to the north and the Meskwaki, Sauk, and Ioway to the south. As part of this plan, more than 2,000 Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) were removed from their homeland in Wisconsin and resettled into this tract. The Ho-Chunk had no wish to leave the land that held their sacred places and the graves of their ancestors, and they had concerns about being situated in between the warring tribes. The U.S. military at Fort Atkinson (Winneshiek County) promised it would provide protection for the Ho-Chunk from their tribal enemies and from encroachment by settlers. The Ho-Chunk reluctantly left under a military escort in 1849.

This began a 50-year odyssey for the Ho-Chunk that moved them many more times into increasingly shrinking territories in Iowa, then Minnesota, and finally South Dakota. Today, two separate Ho-Chunk tribes reside in Nebraska and Wisconsin.
InDePenDence
to GUTTENBURG

BACKBONE STATE PARK

On the last day of your ride, you will travel around Backbone State Park, located just south of the town of Strawberry Point. As Iowa’s very first State Park dedicated in 1919, Backbone was named for “Devil’s Backbone,” a steep narrow ridge of dolomitic limestone. The park currently covers over 2,000 acres of heavily wooded terrain. Backbone is famous not only for its natural beauty and outstanding geology, but also for its stone structures built in the 1930s as part of a New Deal program of President Roosevelt known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). At the park, these CCC structures include dams on the Maquoketa River, rustic cabins, a beach and boat house, an auditorium, bridges, roads, picnic shelters, rest rooms, and trails. A museum dedicated to the CCC was opened in 1990 inside the west gate of the park.

Backbone State Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District in 1991 largely because of the CCC structures throughout the park. Several prehistoric sites have also been identified within the park.

For information about Backbone State Park recreational attractions, check out the Iowa DNR website: www.iowadnr.gov.
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Association of Iowa Archaeologists
archaeology.uiowa.edu/association-iowa-archaeologists

STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST OF IOWA
archaeology.uiowa.edu

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
www.uiowa.edu/mnh

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM
www.uiowa.edu/oldcap

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

earthviewenvironmental
www.earthviewenvironmental.com

BOOKLET DESIGNED BY ANGELA R. COLLINS WITH CONTENT CONTRIBUTIONS BY JOHN DOERSHUK, ALAN HAWKINS, CHÈRIE HAURY-ARTZ, AND ELIZABETH REETZ, ALL OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

LOOK FOR US ON THE ROAD!