



Archaeology News



April 2009

- *from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA), office of the Indiana State Archaeologist*

- **Archeology Preservation Trust fund**- The Indiana Department of Natural Resources and its Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology are pleased to announce the creation of the Archeology Preservation Trust fund. Changes to Indiana Code (IC) 14-21-1 (<http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title14/ar21/ch1.html>) last year authorized the creation of this fund. Section 34 provides that the division may conduct a program with this fund to assist private homeowners who have accidentally discovered an artifact, a burial object, or human remains and who need assistance to comply with an approved plan to excavate or secure the site from further disturbance. Under Section 34, the division may receive gifts and grants as sources of monies for the fund. Members of the public may now make contributions. To donate, checks or money orders can be made out to the Archeology Preservation Trust Fund and sent to the division at the following address:



Archeology Preservation Trust Fund
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
402 West Washington Street, Room W274
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739

Our division will also be working on creating a brochure regarding this fund and the opportunity for contributions, and if you would like copies of the brochure in the future to help spread the word, don't hesitate to contact Amy Johnson at 317/232-6982 or ajohnson@dnr.IN.gov.

- **Archaeology Month products**- We wanted to share that due to potential budget cuts, it is uncertain at this time if we will have commemorative Indiana Archaeology Month posters and/or shirts for 2009. More definitive information will be available later this spring. However, Indiana Archaeology Month (September) planning will continue to progress, and we will soon be distributing the first call for 2009 event information.

INDIANA
ARCHAEOLOGY
MONTH

If you are interested in Archaeology Month t-shirts, the 2008 shirts are still available for purchase through May 31st. The shirts are now available for the very affordable price of only \$ 5.00 each! You may call 317/232-4200 if you would like to purchase last year's shirt. As always, we appreciate your continued support and interest in Indiana Archaeology Month.

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- **North Wayne Elementary-** On March 16th, Senior Archaeologist and Archaeology Outreach Coordinator Amy Johnson was at North Wayne Elementary School in Indianapolis. She gave a Powerpoint presentation about being an archaeologist, answered questions, and showed artifacts to numerous fourth grade classes. Educational outreach documents for the children were provided, and Ms. Johnson also left materials for the educators about incorporating archaeology into their classroom activities.



Ms. Johnson (left) showing artifacts from our state to one of the classes. She spoke to about 125 students during the day.



A thank you card from one of the students Amy visited with at North Wayne Elementary. Students wrote her notes afterwards and drew images regarding what they had learned about archaeology.

- **Revised Shovel Probe Interval-** We wanted to announce to everyone on our qualified professional list that the DHPA has revised the policy contained in the current draft "Guidebook for Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory--Archaeological Sites" regarding shovel probes in Phase Ia reconnaissance surveys. The policy stated below was developed in consultation with the Guidebook Committee of the Indiana Archaeology Council and will become part of the revised Guidebook that we hope to issue in the near future. This revised policy, which was announced in a memo from Dr. Jim Glass, DHPA Division Director, provides more latitude to professional archaeologists conducting surveys in deciding what intervals between shovel probes are appropriate in each situation, up to a maximum interval of 15 meters. The policy has been in force since March 10, 2009 and should be used for any new surveys. Please feel free to address questions about the new policy and how to interpret it to Dr. Rick Jones, State Archaeologist, at rjones@dnr.IN.gov.

Shovel Probing: Where ground surface visibility is less than 30% and with a surface slope of less than 20% or 18°, a **shovel probing** methodology is required.

- Systematic shovel probes will be excavated in transects not to exceed 15 meter intervals. Shovel probes will be a minimum of 30 cm in diameter and extend into undisturbed soils, or to a maximum depth of 50 cm. The soil excavated from shovel probes will be screened through ¼” wire mesh. All shovel probes must be backfilled. The principal investigator for a shovel probe should evaluate the conditions of the site and the probability of finding archaeological deposits in deciding an appropriate interval for the probe. If there seems strong probability of discovering sites at less than 15 meter intervals, a lesser distance between probes should be used.
- Once artifacts are recovered or if on a known or reported site, spacing is to be reduced to 5 meters near the periphery of the site and continued until two sequential negative probes are excavated to determine the site boundaries.
- Field maps showing transect locations and shovel probe locations (both positive and negative) must be kept for all recorded archaeological sites. Collection of GPS locations of positive shovel tests is encouraged. Artifacts are to be collected and bagged by shovel probe and placed in appropriately identified bags
- Soil profile information and depth of deposits from shovel tests must be noted and representative profiles described in the report.
- Shovel testing in rockshelters must be minimized to avoid damaging and potentially compromising fragile deposits. If cultural materials are absent on the surface or immediately adjacent to the shelter, then shovel probing to define the presence or absence of archaeological deposits may proceed. However, once the presence of archaeological deposits have been identified, the shovel probing (or any other ground disturbing activity) must stop.
- Rakebacks of surface vegetation are not sufficient for adequate Phase I survey.

Areas with slopes greater than 20% or 18° will be subject to walkover at 30 meter intervals including areas conducive for the presence of rockshelters, rock ledges, historic sites, dumping deposits, chert or other resources, or caves that may contain archaeological resources.

- **Native American Astronomy conference-** DHPA archaeologists Cathy Carson and Amy Johnson will attend the 2009 Academic Conference presented by the National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc. The conference, Native American Astronomy, will be held April 18th in Portland, Indiana. Presentations will cover a variety of topics related to Native American archaeoastronomy. To learn more, go to <http://www.ncglnac.org/>.

- **Outreach in Tippecanoe County-** On March 23, 2009, State Archaeologist Dr. Rick Jones gave a presentation titled “The Archaeology and History of 17th and 18th Century



WALLA
Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association

Native Americans in Indiana” to a class for the Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association, Inc. (WALLA). WALLA offers intellectual, cultural and social opportunities to individuals 50 years and older, and participation is open to those in Tippecanoe and surrounding counties. To learn more about the Association and classes, go to http://www.wlaf.lib.in.us/WALLA/WALLA_Spring09.pdf.

The class, with multiple speakers over a four week period, reportedly had the largest enrollment recorded for a WALLA class. Approximately 144 persons attended Dr. Jones presentation, and many good and informed questions were asked during and after the presentation. Dr. Jones’ presentation included archaeological and historical information about Potawatomis, Miamis, Weas, Piankashaws, Kickapoos, Mascoutens, Shawnees, Delawares, and possible protohistoric-historic connections. Descriptions were given about the territories, environments, settlement, social organization, political organization, and religions of the tribes.

This information is distributed via email by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA). This is meant to provide information on current archaeological topics and issues in which the DHPA is involved. An archive of past *Archaeology News* issues is available at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/archeonwsltr.html> . If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our office at 317/232-1646.



Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 402 W. Washington St., Room W274, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739. www.IN.gov/dnr/historic

Indiana Archaeology Month (September) webpage-
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3674.htm>

Compiled and written by Amy Johnson, Senior Archaeologist and Archaeology Outreach Coordinator (April 2009). Logo and information regarding WALLA from http://www.wlaf.lib.in.us/WALLA/WALLA_Spring09.pdf. Information provided by Dr. Jones regarding his presentation. Information regarding archaeoastronomy conference from <http://www.ncglnac.org/>.

Mission Statement: *The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology promotes the conservation of Indiana's cultural resources through public education efforts, financial incentives including several grant and tax credit programs, and the administration of state and federally mandated legislation.*



**THE INDIANA DIVISION
OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
AND ARCHAEOLOGY:**

- Provides protection and preservation of Indiana's finite and fragile archaeological resources
- Implements the state law providing protection for archaeological sites and human remains
- Reviews, evaluates and comments upon projects that may affect archaeological resources
- Maintains standards and guidelines for archaeology in Indiana and provides technical assistance
- Promotes public education about the science through publications, training and presentations
- Offers grant funds for archaeological projects
- Maintains the repository of archaeological records and state site database