Archaeology News

from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA)

July 2009

• Archaeologist of the Month - Archaeologist of the Month for July is Curtis H. Tomak. After 32 years of archaeological service to the State of Indiana, Curtis retired on May 29, 2009. The archaeologists at the DHPA enjoyed many years of wonderful working relationships with him during his time with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). Curtis and some other INDOT employees were instrumental in preserving and recovering information from two significant archaeological sites that included historic Miami village deposits, resulting in an Indiana Archaeology Award to the then Division of Pre-Engineering/Environment of INDOT. During his archaeological career thus far, Tomak has researched and worked on some of the state’s most important and interesting archaeological sites, including Mount Vernon (GE Mound); Alton; Jerger; Haag; Bundy-Voyles, and many more. Curtis will be missed by his colleagues here, and the DHPA wishes him the happiest of retirements.

• HPF Archaeology Grant Awards - The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) helps strengthen Indiana’s historical and cultural heritage through annual federal grants it administers to local communities and not-for-profit groups that these organizations use toward preservation projects.

This year, the DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology has awarded 16 federal grants for historic preservation and archaeology in Indiana communities. The grants, totaling $494,793, provide a match of $473,756 in local and state funds, for a total projected investment of $968,549.

The funds come from the National Park Service, a part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, which distributes federal funds to the states through the Historic Preservation
Fund Program. Since 1974, the state has awarded more than $16.5 million to Indiana communities through this program.

“Preserving our state’s historic and cultural resources is a vital part of our mission,” said DNR director and State Historic Preservation Officer, Robert E. Carter Jr. “These worthy projects help revitalize communities, provide local jobs and investment, and allow Hoosiers to explore the cultures and people of Indiana’s past.”

The Archaeology projects for the 2009 funding cycle are:

**Allen and Hamilton counties:** The Archaeological Survey of IPFW received a $48,939 grant to conduct an archaeological investigation of two sites, one in Allen County and one in Hamilton County. The sites represent large and important elements of the Late Prehistoric Western Basin settlement system.

**Clark County:** The Archaeological Survey of IPFW received a $43,730 grant to conduct archaeological investigations in Clark County, including two major Mississippian sites. This area contains important resources ranging from the Paleoindian to historic periods and is experiencing rapid development pressure.

**Posey County:** Indiana University’s Department of Anthropology received a $24,751 grant to conduct investigations at two reported but uninvestigated Yankeetown phase archaeological sites and will also conduct reconnaissance survey in the area. If eligibility is determined, one of the sites may also be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

**Spencer County:** The DNR Division of State Parks and Reservoirs was awarded $9,974 to conduct archaeological research at Lincoln State Park in Spencer County. Archaeological testing will focus on three areas significant to Lincoln’s life in Indiana: Colonel Jones’ property, the Gordon Homestead, and the presumed location of the Gordon horse-mill, and will include opportunities for public participation and educational presentations.

To learn more about grant opportunities, go to http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/2794.htm.

- **Archaeology Outreach in new publication** - Senior Archaeologist and Archaeology Outreach Coordinator Amy Johnson has provided a short article, titled “Archaeology: Connecting the Past With the Present,” to *The History Tree* for their first sample magazine issue online. The History Tree is a new history and genealogy magazine for children. To learn more, go to http://www.thehistorytreeonline.com/.

- **Outreach in Tippecanoe County** - Senior Archaeologist and Archaeology Outreach Coordinator Amy Johnson has been invited to give a presentation as
part of an upcoming Tippecanoe County Historical Association (TCHA) program. The TCHA has designed a week long summer archaeology high school program, funded by the Eli Lilly Company, with activities designed to help young people and their teachers develop a passion for the science of archaeology and the preservation our shared heritage. Teachers will be provided information and materials which can be incorporated into future lesson plans. On July 27th, Amy will give a local history/prehistory overview for the students and will also discuss careers in archaeology.

- **Travels in Time** - In these challenging economic times, perhaps you are looking for summer vacation activities closer to home this year. Why not consider visiting an archaeological site in Indiana? The travel itinerary at http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/travelsarchaeo.pdf provides information regarding archaeological sites which the public can visit. Some archaeological fieldschools, such as the one at the Collier Lodge site (http://www.nd.edu/~mschurr/Collier_Lodge/Collier_Lodge.htm, http://www.kankakeevalleyhistoricalsociety.org/), will be taking place in July, so why not visit or volunteer? Also, go to http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feeexparks.htm to learn more about special free days at two of Indiana’s National Park Service properties, and http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-2009SpecialEvents.pdf to read about special events at DNR properties.

- **Newsletter Archive** - Our webpage has been updated to again include more back issues of *Archaeology News*. If you go to http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3673.htm, you can see an up to date archive of the previous editions. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Amy Johnson at ajohnson@dnr.IN.gov.

- **First Indiana Archaeology journals** - Thanks go to the DNR’s Administrative Pool staff for making copies for the DHPA of the first two volumes of *Indiana Archaeology*. We are often asked for copies of these journals, which have been out of print for many years, and are now pleased to offer them to the public again. The 1997 volume is now on our webpage at http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3676.htm. If you would like a copy (5.60 MB) of the 1998 volume (or 1997 volume (6.74 MB)), please email Amy Johnson at ajohnson@dnr.IN.gov. She will be happy to email the digital files to you.
• **Archaeology Month products**—The DHPA has now received approval to produce Indiana Archaeology Month posters and shirts this year. We are currently gathering images for possible use, and finalizing “theme” discussions for 2009. We look forward to sharing more information as it becomes available.

• **Archaeology article**—The May/June issue of the Department of Natural Resources’ magazine, *Outdoor Indiana*, contains an article titled “Hovey Lake Mystery.” The article is about archaeological investigations in Southwestern Indiana and focuses on Caborn-Welborn cultures. Research by Cheryl Munson (Indiana University) at numerous Caborn-Welborn sites has been funded in part for years by the DHPA and Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) monies from the National Park Service. To learn more about *Outdoor Indiana*, go to OutdoorIndiana.org. To read more about the investigations mentioned in the article, feel free to go to [http://www.indiana.edu/~archaeo/](http://www.indiana.edu/~archaeo/).

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/3673.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3673.htm). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our office at 317/232-1646.

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

Compiled and written by Amy Johnson, Senior Archaeologist and Archaeology Outreach Coordinator (July 2009). TCHA logo from [http://www.tcha.mus.in.us/](http://www.tcha.mus.in.us/). Information regarding TCHA program provided by Amanda Devine, TCHA. Information regarding grants provided by Malia Vanaman, DHPA.
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.