

Three Rivers Archaeological Society November 2013 Newsletter

The Three Rivers Archaeological Society meets on the second Monday of every month, alternating between Beloit, Wisconsin and Rockton, Illinois.

Welcome to November. You might think this is the month when we move archaeology from the field into the laboratory but not so for TRAS members. During the first weekend of the month, TRAS Secretary/Treasurer Ed Jackaitis supervised volunteers including TRAS members in testing of the Durand Site east of the village of Durand, IL. The activities included excavating shovel probes and three 1x1-meter units. To the joy of everyone, artifacts recovered from the various shovel probes included an Archaic point as well as chert lithic debitage and ceramic sherds. The test units also contained lithic debitage and a few ceramic sherds as well as some fire-cracked rock. If you want to know what else was found and what it all means (at least in a preliminary manner) come to our meeting at 7 p.m. on November 11 at the Beloit Public Library to hear Ed's short recap of the excavation work.



Of course, Ed isn't our only speaker on Monday night. Robert Birmingham, an archaeologist and writer who teaches at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha, will be our main speaker. Drawn from his new book, *Life, Death, and Archaeology at Fort Blue Mounds: A Settlers' Fortification of the Black Hawk War*, this presentation will tell the story of Fort Blue Mounds, a log fortification built in 1832 in Dane County, WI at the onset of the conflict commonly known as the Black Hawk War. It discusses the dramatic history of the fort and the archaeological excavations that yielded surprising details about the fort and its occupation. Also, a large number of artifacts reflect life at the fort and the material culture of settlers between 1832 and 1850 in the lead mining district.

There are new online resources to help you find out what is going on with TRAS. The Wisconsin Archeological Society just recently created a TRAS webpage. You can find it here: <http://wiarcheologicalsociety.org/three-rivers-chapter/>. This is a great place to go for details about

upcoming meetings. Fliers for past events are also posted there, as well as older newsletters. If you are on Facebook, look for the GROUP Three Rivers Archaeological Society. In the future we may upgrade to our own Facebook page. If anyone would like to administer such a page (posting something interesting and archaeological related 3 to 4 times a week), please let Sara Pfannkuche know.

I hate to do this, but it is the end of the year, so I begin my annual call for you to renew your membership. Dues rates for next year will be the same as for 2013 so that's good. I know that no one likes to actually pay their dues, but if you do it now you don't have to think about it again for a full year. Feel free to pay your dues at the meeting next week or go ahead and mail it to Ed Jackaitis. His mailing information is listed below.

Upcoming Local Events

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11: Robert Birmingham, archaeologist, writer, and instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha, will present "Life, Death, and Archaeology at Fort Blue Mounds." This presentation is based on his new book *Life, Death, and Archaeology at Fort Blue Mounds: A Settler's Fortification of the Black Hawk War*. If you already own this book, bring it and Mr. Birmingham will sign it for you. If you don't own it, you can buy a copy of the book at the meeting and then get it signed. TRAS monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m., Beloit Public Library, 605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit, Wisconsin.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9: Sara Pfannkuche, archaeologist and TRAS President, will present "The Archaeology of McHenry County: What We Know after 40+ Years of Archaeology." The McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) has sponsored archaeological projects in the county since its inception in 1971. The first project, ending in 1976, identified 59 sites within the county, all of which were prehistoric. Today, over 515 sites are recorded, including many dating to the historic period. This presentation will discuss what these sites tell us about the county's prehistoric and historic past. In addition, the current archaeological project sponsored by MCCD will be discussed. The District's archaeological collections (artifacts and archives) are being incorporated into its overall cultural resource management program. TRAS monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m., Macktown Living History Education Center, Visitor's Center, Rockton, Illinois.

Membership Dues for 2013

IAAA membership (will receive <i>Illinois Antiquity</i>):			
Individual:	\$ 21	Family:	\$ 24
Student:	\$ 16	Institution:	\$100
Sustaining:	\$ 60	Joint Sustaining:	\$ 50
Life:	\$500	Joint Life:	\$600
	Benefactor: \$1,000		
WAS membership (will receive <i>The Wisconsin Archeologist</i>):			
Individual:	\$ 26	Senior/Student:	\$ 21
Institution:	\$100	Sustaining:	\$ 60
Donor:	\$125	Benefactor:	\$200
Joint IAAA and WAS membership (will receive both journals):			
Individual:	\$ 41	Family:	\$ 44
Student:	\$ 31	Institution:	\$120
	Sustaining: \$100		

To renew your membership or join for the first time, send your dues to TRAS secretary-treasurer Edward Jakaitis, 147 East Russell Street, Rockton, IL 61072. Please specify if you prefer to join as a member of IAAA, WAS, or both. If mailing in your dues, we will send you a membership form. You can also contact Ed at ejakaitis3@hotmail.com.

Membership in TRAS includes membership in the Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology (IAAA) and/or the Wisconsin Archeological Society. Members receive the IAAA quarterly magazine, *Illinois Antiquity*, and/or the WAS publications *The Wisconsin Archeologist* and *WisArch News*. If you are a TRAS member and do not receive the IAAA or WAS publications, please let us know. For more information about TRAS, contact Sara Pfannkuche at 815-543-9459 or sara@pfannkuche.com. For information on upcoming TRAS meetings, contact Bill Green at the Logan Museum of Anthropology, 608-363-2119.

Three Rivers Archaeological Society
c/o S. Pfannkuche
436 West Lincoln Avenue
Belvidere, IL 61008

Newsletter of the Three Rivers Archaeological Society
Next Meeting: Monday, November 11, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Life, Death, and Archaeology at Fort Blue Mounds
presented by

Robert Birmingham
Department of Anthropology, UW-Waukesha

Beloit Public Library, 605 Eclipse Blvd., Beloit, Wisconsin
Free and open to the public.