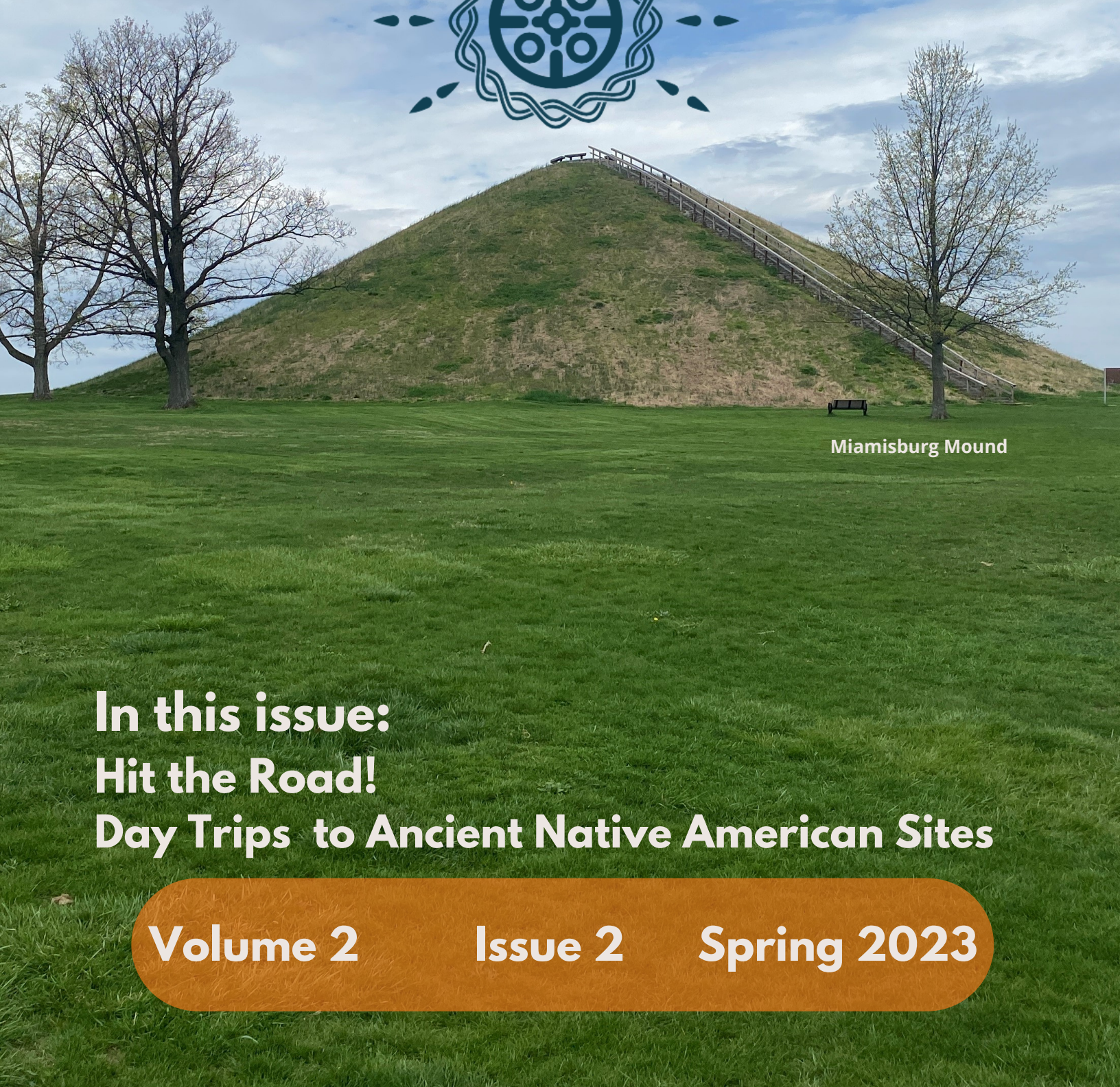


Field Notes

Newsletter of the Archaeological Research Institute



Miamisburg Mound

**In this issue:
Hit the Road!
Day Trips to Ancient Native American Sites**

Volume 2

Issue 2

Spring 2023



From the Director

Experience ARI's Mission this Summer

Summer is our busy season at ARI, and it's the fun time when we get to be outdoors, educating all the various types of visitors that walk through our doors. Thanks to the fantastic ARI staff, we have some phenomenal public educational programming lined up for the summer season. We are already hard at work making plans for the fall and winter, but we are excited to see what these summer programs bring.

Hands-on educational experiences look a little different this year. There will be a different experience each time you join us in the field or lab. As Rachel explains in her "BEYOND GUARD" article, we are exploring an uncharted territory. So, while we do not know what we are going to find on any given day, we invite you to join us in making discoveries that help tell the story of our regions past.

Since Larry and Chris talk about road-tripping to local archaeological sites, I want to tell our passionate followers and supporters that we are offering our local archaeology tour: the Great Miami Archaeological Tour. Samy and Larry have been working hard this spring researching the history, writing the script, and practicing the tour so we can begin offering it regularly this summer. It is one of the only things we are charging a fee for, and that's because we provide transportation and access to the park for our guests. The tour includes archaeological and historic information about all the eras of time for our local community. It includes a guided hike to the beautiful Shawnee Lookout and, to make the tour even more interesting, we have partnered with Carriage House Farm, so plan on stopping for a tasty homemade root beer after your hike.

The Guard Archaeological Preserve looks a little different this summer, and if you haven't been down for a public day to take a new Rexplore's – Fort Ancient Tour, throw a spear at the new atlatl range, or join us for a speaking event, please make sure you pay attention to our events list on the back of the newsletter. We have a program for everyone! Our improvements have been made possible by our Director of Development, Nichelle Lyle, who takes the time to write poetic grant applications that articulate all our needs and benefits to the community. Nichelle has gotten us funding to make our much-needed updates and additions to the preserve.

Now is the time to get out and see our mission in action; bring your friends, family, and groups and see what's new at ARI this summer!

Field Notes

Editor in Chief

Larry Sandman

Contributing Editors

Molly Cowan

Louis Herzner

Kay Jackson-Frankl

Samy Norris

Rachel Sharkey

Design Artist & Community Engagement Specialist

Molly Cowan

Business Manager & Archaeology Coordinator

Louis Herzner

ARI Leadership

Board Chair

Connie Sedler

Executive Director

Elizabeth Sedler

Director of Public Archaeology

Rachel Sharkey

Director of Programming

Samy Norris

Director of Resource Development and Marketing

Nichelle Lyle

The Archaeological Research Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

All fees collected are used to offset the costs of programs offered.

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**Archaeological
Research Institute**

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Institute**

424 Walnut St.

Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Phone: 812-290-2966

Email: info@exploreari.org

Web: www.exploreari.org

From the Editor

Public Archeology Is What We're All About



Welcome to the Spring 2023 edition of *Field Notes*.

Engaging with the public is one of the main objectives of the Archaeological Research Institute. From field schools to site tours, to lab experiences, to programs for kids, to "Rock, Fossil, and Artifact I.D. Days," everything we do is intended to share with you the experience of archaeology and the rich human history of our area.

Field Notes is one aspect of our public outreach. We strive to make it informative and enjoyable. That's our hope in presenting this edition's feature article, "Hit the Road - Day Trips to Ancient Native American Sites." The valleys of the Ohio River and its tributaries have been home to human civilizations going back thousands of years. Some of the people who called the area home built striking earthen monuments that have survived the ravages of time. A number of these wonders of human ingenuity and remarkable labor are preserved in park settings where visitors can view them and reflect on what it might have been like to live in that era. Many have informative museums or visitor centers on the property. Six outstanding sites, each within a day's drive from Lawrenceburg, are presented in this issue. If you get the opportunity to visit any of these monuments, we hope you enjoy the trip and come away as we do, with a sense of wonder and appreciation of the enduring human spirit.

Also in this issue:

Rachel Sharkey, our director of public archaeology, writes about the plans for our summer 2023 field season. As you'll learn from the article, we are reaching out beyond our familiar Guard site to investigate other points of historical significance in the greater Lawrenceburg area. (Page 4)

On page 9 we express our appreciation of the Louis M. Groen Foundation's generous donation that has helped us make the locations of our 2023 archaeological activities accessible to people with disabilities.

Kay Jackson contributes an article about our efforts this summer in the ARI gardens. (Page 10)

On page 11 Samy Norris and Molly Cowan provide some pictorial highlights of the "Latest Happenings at ARI."

We hope you enjoy this issue. And keep in mind that ARI is a non-profit organization, funded in part through donations and memberships. We appreciate your support.

Larry Sandman

larry@exploreari.org

Explore: Beyond Guard

The Summer 2023 Field Season

By: Rachel Sharkey, ARI Director of Public Archaeology

The Guard Site has been the focus site of the Archaeological Research Institute since the organization's inception in 2020. Our staff, volunteers, visiting students, and community have spent countless hours moving soil, cleaning artifacts, battling invasive plants, and building the story of the people who inhabited the site 800-1000 years ago. We are not done learning their story, but we feel a call that there are other stories that need attention in the area and we are starting to lift our eyes to the region around Guard.

This summer, at the kindness of our partners, Oxbow, Inc., we are going to move (just slightly) outward from Guard and investigate several areas in the region that deserve better narratives. If you have visited us in the past, you probably have visions of looming white tents over large rectangular pits in the ground. This year, we will be doing more exploratory work and the archaeology is going to look very different. Rather than square units, you will see round holes spaced evenly across the ground.



Archaeologists record every detail of what they find in a shovel-test pit including the color and make-up of the soil.

We will be doing what we call archaeological survey, which is the step that occurs well before the excavations that you are used to seeing. Archaeological survey involves looking for the presence of archaeological resources such as artifacts in a systematic manner.

This summer we will be utilizing both shovel tests and augers to do this in several locations. Additionally, instead of items that are a thousand years old, we will be looking for things only a couple of hundred years old (in some places). Depending on the results of the surveys, we have the option of going back and doing excavations in the new locations in the future. Preliminary results tell us that it is going to be an interesting summer!

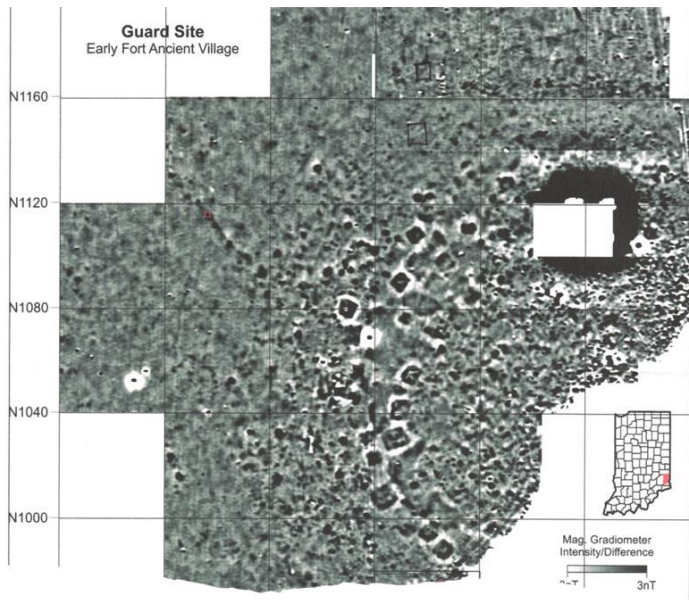


All dirt dug from a test hole is sifted through 1/4 inch screens to make sure we don't miss any artifacts hidden in the soil.

We have four primary areas of interest for 2023. One is the elusive Rowdy Camp. If you attended our presentation at the Lawrenceburg Public Library in April or have read previous issues of Field Notes, you know that the Rowdy camp was a Revolutionary War-era camp that is reported in the Lawrenceburg area in multiple historical documents. This summer we are going to be exploring an area that has a high potential of being the location of Rowdy Camp. By using survey methods, we can get an idea of whether or not there are artifacts below the surface of the ground. Depending on if we find artifacts, and what time period they date to, then we can know if the area has potential for being Rowdy Camp.

Another area we will be investigating is the field around Guard. It is very unlikely that a prolific site such as Guard sits by itself. We would like to know what else could be out there. Are there other populations that date to the same time period?

Is Guard bigger than we thought? Can we see evidence that different people from different time periods all used the area? These are questions that we ask ourselves and hope to answer. By using archaeological survey methods and geophysical information, we can get a better understanding of how the field was used before it became the agricultural field we are so familiar with today.



Maps such as this, created through the use of magnetometry, give archaeologists a glimpse of what lies below the surface.

Like Rowdy Camp, there is historical evidence (and little else) that suggests there was a mid-1800s era boarding house near the Ohio River, also on property owned by Oxbow, Inc. We will be investigating this area to see if we can find evidence of the boarding house and learn more about its possible inhabitants. Here we will be putting in a few of the familiar excavation units as there is a linear feature (non-portable evidence of human activity) that appears to be a wall. We are hopeful that we can find both the boarding house and Rowdy Camp and build on our knowledge of early Lawrenceburg.

Finally, our excavations are going to include establishing the boundary of a previously recorded archaeological site that was never fully defined. This site is much older than the boarding house, Rowdy Camp, or even Guard; it dates to the Late Archaic/Early Woodland (around 2000-3000 years ago).

The site was heavily damaged years ago by earth-moving activities, and defining its boundary will help ensure its protection in the future. It also gives us an opportunity to study one of the earlier occupations of the area.

While the archaeology this year may look different, our goal is the same - use archaeology to teach the community about the past and the people who inhabited our region. We are eager to take this opportunity and hope you will join us to Explore: Beyond Guard.



The author studying remains of a structure that is believed to have occupied the site of the 19th century boarding house

Would you like to get involved?

ARI is a non-profit organization, funded by the generosity of people like you! If you like what we are doing to uncover and preserve the history of the tri-state area, you can help by volunteering your time, becoming a member, or making a donation. To learn more, check out our website at <https://exploreari.org/>

Hit the Road!

Day Trips to Ancient Native American Sites

By: Larry Sandman & Christopher Keil

Summer is road-trip time. And if, like us, you're always looking for interesting places to visit within a day's drive, you might want to make your destination an ancient Native American archaeological site. For over 12,000 years, people have lived, hunted, and gathered in the valleys of the Ohio River and its tributaries.

And some of the early inhabitants left their marks on the landscape in the forms of mounds, hilltop enclosures, and other impressive earthworks. Fortunately, some of these amazing earthen structures have survived to this day and are now protected and made accessible to the general public. Many have museums or visitors' centers.

This article highlights some ancient historical sites that are just a day's drive away. Some are close enough together to allow you to visit more than one site on the same trip. All of the sites are interesting, educational, and likely to leave you with a sense of awe at the monumental effort that went into the building of these earthworks. We encourage you to visit the websites listed in the article to get more information about picnic areas, restroom facilities, nature trails and other amenities that might influence your choice of trips. Hours and admission charges are based on the latest information at publication time, and are subject to change.

Note: All distances and travel times are one-way from Lawrenceburg, Indiana, home of ARI.

Miamisburg Mound

Featured on the cover of this issue, Miamisburg Mound is the largest conical mound in Ohio and the second-largest east of the Mississippi River. The 65-foot-high earthwork sits on a hilltop, 100 feet above the Great Miami River, just south of Miamisburg, Ohio. It was built by people of the Adena culture around 2500 years ago. The Adena people built thousands of conical burial mounds, but few on a scale as impressive as this one. The mound is in a Miamisburg city park that also offers a picnic area and playground. A staircase to the top of the mound rewards visitors with a marvelous 360-degree view. There is no museum at this site, but the park is only 20 minutes away from the SunWatch Indian Village with its excellent museum. Both sites can be easily visited in a single trip.



The stairs to the top of Miamisburg Mound lead to a 360-degree view of the Great Miami River Valley.

Miamisburg Mound

Address: 900 Mound Rd, Miamisburg, OH 45342

Phone: 866-580-6508

Distance & Driving Time: 60.5 Miles; 1 hour 2 minutes

Location Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Visitor Center? No

Admission Charge: Free

For More info:

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/miamisburg-mound/>

SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park

Located just south of Dayton, Ohio, the SunWatch Indian Village is a reconstructed Fort Ancient Indian village that was occupied about 800 years ago. A very informative museum and visitor center overlooks the site where five wood-and-daub structures with thatch roofs have been constructed to recreate the period. A partial stockade, an astronomically aligned center-post, a native garden, and a wildflower prairie round out the recreated village.

SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park

Address: 2301 West River Road, Dayton, OH 45417

Phone: 937-268-8199

Distance & Driving Time: 68 Miles; 1 hour 10 minutes

Location Hours:

Winter-Sat. & Sun. 10am-4pm

Summer- Monday-Saturday: 9am-5pm | Sunday: Noon-5pm

Visitor Center? Yes: Hours are same as location

Admission Charge: Adult- \$7.00 | Child & Senior \$6.00 | Under 3 Free

For More info: <https://boonshoft.org/sunwatch-2/>



A walk through the reconstructed SunWatch Indian Village is a trip 800 years back in time.

Fort Ancient Earthworks & Nature Preserve

Fort Ancient, in Warren County, Ohio, is one of the largest and finest surviving earthwork and mound complexes in the Midwest. The site sits 245 feet above the Little Miami River. The 2,000-year-old Hopewell earthworks extend 3 ½ miles and are visible throughout the site. The hilltop is flat and relatively easy to walk, and a road makes the park easily accessible to people with ambulatory limitations. Numerous mounds and an outstanding museum help tell the story of Fort Ancient.



Twin mounds guard the entrance to the lower fort.



One of many informative dioramas in the museum

Fort Ancient Earthworks & Nature Preserve

Address: 6123 State Route 350, Oregonia, OH 45054 | Phone: 513-932-4421 & 800-283-8904

Distance & Driving Time: 56 Miles; 57 Minutes

Location Hours: December-March: Grounds open: Wednesdays & Thursdays 10am-5pm Museum & Grounds: Friday-Saturday 10am-5pm | Sundays Noon-5pm

April-November: Museum & grounds: Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm | Sunday Noon-5pm

Visitor Center? Yes | Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm | Sunday Noon-5pm

Admission: Grounds Only-\$8.00 per vehicle; Free to Ohio Connection members | Museum: Adult \$7.00; Senior/Student (6-17): \$6.00 | Child under 6 Free

For More info: <https://www.ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/fort-ancient-earthworks/>

Serpent Mound State Memorial

You might not expect an archaeological site tucked away in the hills of southern Ohio to be world famous, but we have just such a place in Adams County, Ohio. The Serpent Mound is a 1,348-foot-long earth-and-stone structure formed in the shape of a snake with a coiled tail and an open mouth about to swallow an egg. The serpent holds many mysteries, including why it was built and by whom. One radiocarbon test suggested that it was built by the Adena culture around 300 B.C. while another suggested that it was built by the Fort Ancient culture (A.D. 1000–1500). Nearby burial mounds turned up artifacts from both cultures, suggesting that the serpent was built by the earlier group and adopted by the later.

Serpent Mound State Memorial

Address: 3850 State Route 73, Peebles, OH 45660

Phone: 800-752-2757

Distance & Driving Time: 90.6 miles; 1 hour 45 minutes

Location Hours: April 1st - November 19th

Tuesdays-Saturdays: 10am-4pm | Sundays: Noon-4pm

Visitor Center? Yes | Hours: Saturday & Sunday beginning March 4th Sat. 10am-4pm/ Sun. noon-4pm

Admission: Vehicles \$8.00 | Ohio History Connection Member- Free | Motorcycle \$4.00

For More info:

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/serpent-mound/>



Visitors can walk around the Serpent Mound and ascend a viewing tower to see it from above.

The Mound City Group

The Mound City Group is a Hopewell earthwork complex that includes 25 mounds surrounded by a low, earthen wall. The mounds were mostly destroyed by farming and by the construction of Camp Sherman, a US Army training center located on the site during the first world war. When the war was over, Camp Sherman was disassembled, and archeologists from the Ohio Historical Society were able to study and reconstruct the mounds. Today you can walk among the mounds and experience a sense of what it may have been like to gather at a Hopewell sacred ceremonial site two thousand years ago. Mound City is part of the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. A visitor center tells the story of the Mound City Group and the other six sites that make up the national historical park.



The Mound City Group in Chillicothe, OH is the nation's only fully restored Hopewell earthwork complex.

The Mound City Group

Address: 16062 State Route 104, Chillicothe, OH 45601

Phone: 740-774-1125

Distance & Driving Time: 126 miles; 1 hour 57 minutes

Location Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Visitor Center? Yes | Hours: 8:30 am-5pm every day (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, & New Years Day)

Admission: Free

For More info:

<https://www.nps.gov/hocu/learn/historyculture/mound-city-group.htm>

Big Bone Lick State Park

One of the best-kept secrets in the tri-state, Big Bone Lick in Boone County, Kentucky takes visitors back 10,000+ years to the time when mammoths, mastodons, giant sloths, sabretooth cats, and other huge animals roamed the area. The park's name comes from the salt licks that attracted the "megafauna" and the many bones left on the site by animals that perished here when they became trapped in the soft, marshy ground around the springs. Paleolithic people were also drawn to the area as evidenced by artifacts they left behind. A museum on the grounds tells the story of Big Bone Lick from the perspectives of geology, paleontology, archaeology and history. There are walkways to the springs and to a viewing area where visitors can see a bison herd that is maintained in the park today.

Big Bone Lick State Park

Address: 3380 Beaver Rd, Union, KY 41091

Phone: 859-384-3522

Distance & Driving Time: 27 Miles; 39 Minutes

Location Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Visitor Center? Yes | Hours: 9am-4pm

Admission: Free

For More info:

<https://parks.ky.gov/union/parks/historic/big-bone-lick-state-historic-site>



An outdoor diorama recreates a time when "megafauna" drew paleolithic hunters to Northern Kentucky.

Our Thanks to the Louis M. Groen Foundation

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Louis M. Groen Foundation for their remarkable contribution of \$25,000, which has significantly enhanced the accessibility of the Guard Archaeological Preserve and our research endeavors. Through their generous grant, we have been able to acquire a golf cart to efficiently transport visitors along the trail system, facilitating their exploration of the preserve and access to the archaeological survey areas. The funds have also enabled us to establish essential amenities, including a welcome sign for the Guard Archaeological Preserve, shaded rest areas along the trail, a welcome table, and a pleasant on-site lunch and learn area.



Through the generous grant from the Louis M. Groen Foundation, we have acquired a golf cart to transport visitors along the trail system to the archaeological survey areas.

These improvements will undoubtedly broaden the scope of visitors' experiences, allowing them to engage with our research, educational trail system, and the invaluable areas we strive to safeguard. Already, this gift has made a tangible impact by facilitating the transportation of our VALOR (Veterans Archaeological Learning Opportunities and Research) participants to the project sites this summer. We express our sincere gratitude to the Louis M. Groen Foundation for their exceptional generosity and unwavering support.

It's Time to Plant!

Planning the 2023 ARI Gardens

By: Kay Jackson

For gardeners like myself, the return of the seed and plant catalogs signals new life. I joyously proclaim, "Winter's almost over! The catalogs are here! They're here!" I grab my garden journal and pencil and begin to plan for so many plants that my husband soon needs to remind me that we are retired and must budget our money and time. I bring out the eraser. So, I thought I would divvy out some of this spring enthusiasm and share some of the many plans we have for the gardens!

First the Community Gardens. Jonah Lewis, P.A. (Public Archeologist) and I thought to utilize the garden space as an example of how corn, squash, and sunflowers all have a playful side. For example, the Mammoth Sunflower often reaches 12 feet tall and produces 10-12-inch flowers. This garden can accommodate one of these massive plants. We will also plant multi-colored ornamental or harvest corn and pumpkin that produces a large fruit size. Winter squash "rounds out" the Community Garden plants. It should be a lot of fun watching these grow!



"The three Sisters Companion Planting Technique" by Anna Juchnowicz - used under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 License (CC BY- SA 4.0CC BY- SA 4.0)

In the roadside beds at Guard, Jonah and I separated the two sites into different uses. The first site, the one closest to the road, has the traditional "3 Sisters" planted in the familiar circular format. The size of the circle is generally that of an average car tire. Within the center is the corn. Next are the beans, planted when the corn is about five inches tall. About a week after the beans we plant the squash.

10 ARI Field Notes - Spring 2023



Members of ARI land stewardship team, "the Stew Crew", preparing beds in the ARI 2023 summer gardens.

In the 2023 garden we are growing a winter squash, which is probably most typical of the squash grown 800-1000 years ago, as it stores well for long periods. The remainder of this first bed is a mix of beans, "bird house" gourds, sunflowers, hominy and ornamental corn.

The second bed focuses on squash, sunflowers, beans and ornamental corn. Our anticipated outcome for these gardens is to contribute to the Farmer's Market and provide ingredients for Fall's numerous community food-sampling events.

Next are the raised boxes. There are four raised boxes at the Guard site, and one will be a study of Woodland Tobacco. (This is the variety most common to our area and one that is likely related to the tobacco that was grown by the native peoples.)

In the second box will be a sampling of native blooming herbal plants--Yarrow and Wild Bergamot. Both are a delight to look at, but both also offer natural healing benefits.

Our third box will be Sweet Grass. This was widely used for basket weaving and for the wonderful aroma the grasses emitted. It was also spread within a home and was used for the spiritual and healing process of smudging.

The fourth and final box contains Chenopodium and Amaranth.

So come out and view our lovely gardens! Maybe even try your hand at planting and weeding. We are always looking for folks of all ages who like to learn and help.

Latest Happenings at ARI

By: Samy Norris & Molly Cowan

Great things are happening at ARI! Everyone has been hard at work getting ready for field season. It's been busy inside and out of Base Camp; with field students and field trips we are educating the public as much as we can!



First-session field students sifting for artifacts at the Rowdy Camp site..



Louis, our Archaeological Coordinator, working with AmeriCorps members Aiden & Brennan on new atlatls for the field.



Samy, Director of Programming, giving part of our Great Miami Archaeology Tour.



After a long day of raising field tents, there are smiles all around from ARI staff and volunteers!



Rex, the senior barkeologist at ARI, has been animated and is waiting to take you on Augmented Reality tours of the Guard Archaeological Preserve!



ARI Calendar of Events

July

- 11th.....ARI Speaker Series: Dr. Aaron Comstock 6:30pm-8:30pm
- 11th-14th.....Archaeology Camp Exploring History (Ages 5-8) 9am-12pm & 1pm-4pm
- 15th.....Happy Hour History: Uncovering Local History
- 18th-21st.....Archaeology Camp Exploring History (Ages 9-12) 9am-4pm each day
- 22nd.....Youth Archaeology Club 10am-12pm *only one YAC session this month*
- 25th-28th.....Archaeology Immersion Exploring History (13-18) 9am-4pm
- 27th.....Sunsets & Sips Members-Only Event 6pm-8pm - Become a member today!

August

- 4th.....Ohio River Paddlefest
- 5th.....Great Miami Archaeology Tour Members-Only 9am-1pm - Become a member today!
- 12th.....Artifact, Rock & Fossil Identification Session 10am-2pm
- 18th.....Happy Hour History: BioBlitz @ Guard Archaeological Preserve 10am Talk,, site open Until 4pm
- 19th.....Youth Archaeology Club 10am-12pm *only one YAC session this month*
- 19th.....Great Miami Archaeology Tour 10am
- 22nd.....ARI Speaker Series: Craig Williams 6:30pm-8:30pm

September

- 2nd.....Great Miami Archaeology Tour
- 9th.....Archaeology Month: Collecting Knowledge 10am-2pm
- 9th.....Artifact, Rock, & Fossil Identification Session 10am-2pm
- 9th.....Indiana Humanities: Campfire
- 16th.....Archaeology Month: Layers of Time
- 21st.....Youth Archaeology Club 4:30pm-6:30pm
- 23rd.....Youth Archaeology Club 10am-12pm
- 23rd.....Archaeology Month: Ceramics
- 23rd-24th..Whispering Beard Music Festival
- 30th.....Archaeology Month: ARI Extravaganza
- 30th.....Orange Shirt Day