

FIELD NOTES

Newsletter of the Archaeological Research Institute



In this issue:
2023 ARI Field Update

Volume 2

Issue 3

Summer 2023

12 0326
2023.101
48-101
June - 23
Field school crew
Materials from travelling



From the Director

Remembering a Very Special Friend of ARI

It's hard to believe we are already ending field season for the summer of 2023. We have had a lot of fun this summer, introduced all kinds of people to our region's archaeology, and made lots of friends, and unfortunately, we have lost a wonderful friend of ARI, Mike Wade.

Mike Wade was our first VALOR program graduate and a member of our 2023 first-session field school. Mike worked very closely with Louis to gain skills in archaeology that he never thought would be possible with his disabilities. Mike found us through one of our previous staff members, who is now in her graduate program at the University of Louisville, Allison Sherman. Mike loved anthropology and archaeology and thought he would never learn the hands-on techniques until Allison assured him that our one-and-only Louis could help him get field experience, no matter what. After meeting with Mike, Louis, and Jake were able to fabricate a few devices to help Mike have a more manageable field experience. Mike then bonded and made wonderful friendships with our team and the other students in the field school.

Mike was a man of many passions, one of which was for learning, and we are so thankful that this passion led him to ARI. We will be dedicating a cardinal red trail bench to Mike so that whenever we pass it, we can be reminded of his great love for anthropology and passion for learning, two things we at ARI mutually agree upon.

I am reminded each day how lucky I am to have the opportunity to make archaeology accessible to everyone. To have been a part of the development of an organization that provides opportunities for those passionate about archaeology, our region's culture, and history, a place to cultivate and expand their knowledge and skills. Thank you, reader, for continuing to help us with our mission and allowing us to enrich the lives of people like Mike Wade, who may have never been able to experience archaeology hands-on.

Liz Sedler

liz@exploreari.org

Field Notes

Editor in Chief

Larry Sandman

Contributing Editors

Molly Cowan

Kay Jackson-Frankl

Samy Norris

Rachel Sharkey

Nichelle Lyle

Design Artist & Community Engagement Specialist

Molly Cowan

ARI Leadership

Board Chair

Connie Sedler

Executive Director

Elizabeth Sedler

Director of Public Archaeology

Rachel Sharkey

Archaeology Coordinator & VALOR Program Director

Louis Herzner

Director of Programming

Samy Norris

*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.*

In this issue

.....	
From Our Executive Director.....	2
From the Editor.....	3
Summer in the ARI Gardens.....	4
Anderson Mounds in Mounds State Park.....	5,10
2023 Field Update.....	6
Introducing ArchaeoCorps.....	8
A Speakeasy Extravaganza.....	9
ARI Oxbow Adventure Trek.....	10
Latest Happenings at ARI.....	11
Coming Attractions ARI Events Calendar.....	12



**Archaeological
Research Institute**

**Field Notes is published
quarterly by the
Archaeological Research
Institute**

424 Walnut St.

Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Phone: 812-290-2966

Email: info@explorearri.org

Web: www.explorearri.org

FROM THE EDITOR

So Many Activities So Little Time!



They say, "Time flies when you're having fun." And we must be having a lot of fun at ARI, because this summer season has really been flying by. We can attribute this to all the programs and events that we and our hundreds of visitors have enjoyed – all our children's field and lab experiences and day camps, our adult archaeological experiences, our gardens and preservation efforts, our veterans' VALOR program, our site tours, our speaking engagements, and – you get the point – ARI has been a very busy place, and we wouldn't want it any other way.

In this issue of Field Notes, we report on some of these activities and introduce more special events that are upcoming. In our feature story, Rachel Sharkey, our Director of Public Archaeology, shares an update on our summer 2023 field season. (Pages 6 and 7)

Kay Jackson continues her series of articles about the ARI gardens with a description of this summer's yield. (Page 4)

Following up on our earlier article about "Day Trips to Ancient Native American Sites," your editor spotlights one of the most fascinating mound and earthworks sites in the tri-state area, Anderson Mounds at Mounds State Park near Anderson, Indiana. (Page 5)

Nichelle Lyle provides an introduction to ArchaeoCorps, ARI's team of dedicated archaeological service providers. (Page 8)

Two upcoming fundraising events are featured in this issue: 1. ARI's first-ever 5K Run is happening on Saturday, October 7th. A fun course will run through the Guard Archaeological preserve and the adjoining Oxbow. So, gather your friends, family, and fellow adventure enthusiasts to join us on October 7th for the ARI 5k Adventure Run. (See page 10) 2. March 1st is the date for ARI's "Speakeasy Extravaganza," a night of partying in the style of the Roaring 20s, with music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and conviviality. (See page 9)

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

As always, we hope you enjoy this issue. And keep in mind that ARI is a non-profit organization, funded in part through donations and memberships. Your support makes this publication and our many programs and events possible. Thank you!

Larry Sandman

larry@explorearri.org

SUMMERTIME IN THE ARI GARDENS

By: Kay Jackson

Where has the summer gone? The children are back in school and we are approaching the start of the fall season. The beans are arriving, the corn is tall, and the squash looks like ground cover. In our fields, the pollinator gardens and the butterfly gardens are putting on a



Black-eyed Susans in the butterfly garden

dazzling display, and all the plants, vegetable, and flowers are visited by many different types of bees, butterflies and moths. Pollinators are so very important to the success of any vegetable garden, orchard, or vineyard.

As the pictures below show, we have produce! Our summer squash has bloomed and produced a few fruits and the MUCH larger Gete Okosomon squash has some fruits that are definitely ready for Farmer's Market.



Gete Okosomon squash (left) and beans (right) growing in the ARI gardens

We also have some fine examples in the garden of corn and beans working together. The corn is planted first, so the stalks are firmly established. Then the beans emerge and, as they grow, their vines start working their way around and up the corn stalk. The beans still hang freely and the sun still reaches the corn, but the two are better together as beans replace soil nitrogen and corn gives support for the beans' growth.

The experimental boxes gave us a bit of a surprise. The Woodland tobacco failed to germinate. We need to evaluate whether to try again next year in another location or move on to a different crop.

The Chenopodium, Mugwort (herb), and Yarrow (herb) are all doing well. The Sweetgrass however, needs to have a new home that is more shaded and more moist. All the "trial and error" learning a garden provides! Thankfully we are not dependent on the harvest to sustain us for the year; I think we'd be a bit hungry!



Gus Lehmann, of the ARI land stewardship crew, tending to corn in the garden

As we go to press, the corn is not yet ripe. The silks are not completely brown nor are the ears at a 45-degree angle from the stalk, both indicators of when an ear of corn is ready. Corn requires quick action; there is about a 3-day window from when the kernel juices run milky colored to when they are dry - and no one appreciates dry corn!

This summer has been a great learning experience in the gardens. We're looking forward to next year and the opportunity to apply the knowledge we have gained.

ANDERSON MOUNDS

Ancient Earthworks in Indiana's Mounds State Park

By: Larry Sandman

One of the best-preserved ancient earthwork complexes in the Ohio Valley is located near Anderson, Indiana, just a two-hour drive from Lawrenceburg. Built over 2,000 years ago by Adena and Hopewell people, the earthworks are the main attraction at Indiana's Mounds State Park.

The crown jewel of the complex, the "Great Mound" is a circular enclosure, nearly a quarter mile in circumference. It was constructed between 250-160 B.C. as a gathering place for religious ceremonies and cultural celebrations.



An easy, well-maintained trail goes from the Visitors Center to the Great Mound..

The physical alignments of the Great Mound with surrounding mounds suggest that the earthworks might also have been used as a giant calendar. Depressions in the outer embankment of the Great Mound align with nearby mounds. These alignments, in turn, line up with the position of the sunset on the evenings of the summer and winter solstices.

There are 10 mounds and earthworks in the park. Two others worth special mention are the "Circle Mound," and the "Fiddle Back Mound." The large Circle Mound was built about 250 years after the Great Mound. Contrary to its name, the Circle Mound is rectangular in shape, with slightly rounded corners. The "Fiddle Back Mound," is aptly named for its unusual violin shape.

The well-preserved state of the mounds and earthworks can be attributed to the foresight of an immigrant family named Bronnenburg, who lived on the land and protected the earthworks from the plow and from looters.

In 1897 the Indiana Union Traction Company leased a part of the Bronnenberg farm and built an amusement park that, over the years, included a roller coaster, a roller-skating rink, a bowling alley, a carousel, a shooting gallery, a penny arcade, a restaurant, and a dance hall. None of the attractions were built over earthworks, testament to the Bronnenberg's insistence on protecting the ancient works. The amusement park attendance declined in the 1920s and in 1929 the Madison County Historical Society purchased the land and deeded it to the county, which, in turn, presented it to the Indiana State Department of Conservation. In 1930 Mounds State Park was established on the property.

Today the park is run by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Due to its historical significance, the park is on the National Register of Historical Places. In addition to the earthworks, the mid-nineteenth-century Bronnenberg house still stands on the property. The house is open for public tours and special events.

A Visitors Center near the park entrance houses a nature center and a museum with many exhibits that tell the history of the property from ancient times to the present. The nature center offers a wildlife viewing room, live animal displays, and interactive exhibits for all ages.



Exhibits at the museum display artifacts from different time periods and share information about the lifestyles of people who lived in the area before European contact.

Anderson Mounds - Continued on page 10

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

By: Rachel Sharkey, Director of Public Archaeology

It has been a bustling summer at ARI! Our first shovels hit soil back in May, we had a successful grand opening of the Guard Archaeological Preserve, Louis and I graduated our first class of field students and welcomed a second, and we've had a revolving door of camps, experiences, tours, and field trips. We are sweaty, grimy, have more than a touch of poison ivy, and we're beyond proud of our progress both as an organization and in the field. In the Spring, we set out to "Explore: Beyond Guard" by targeting four different project areas. We have touched all four in one capacity or another and have learned a lot!

2023 RESEARCH GOALS

1) Locate & identify evidence of Rowdy Camp, a post-Revolutionary War military encampment.

2) Explore the agricultural field around Guard in search of evidence of other archaeological resources.

3) Locate and identify evidence of the "boarding house" on the banks of the Ohio River.

4) Define the boundaries of a previously known archaeological site near Osprey Lake so it may be preserved.

UPDATE: ROWDY CAMP



Augering and sifting in search of evidence of the 1793 U.S. military fort known as the "Rowdy Camp."

Our team completed 187 augers across the project area chosen as a likely location for Rowdy Camp. Augers were completed every 5 meters (16 feet) on a grid to ensure the entire landform was sampled and we didn't miss Rowdy Camp. To our surprise, no evidence of Rowdy Camp was found, but instead deeply buried, layered, Native American sites were identified! Our augers pulled up lithic debitage (cast off material from making stone tools), Native American pottery, burned bone, fire-cracked rock (FCR) and lots of carbon.



Characteristics of the soil and any findings in the ground become part of the archaeological record.

These sites were previously unrecorded and our team is thrilled to be able to add to the scientific record. We do not yet have specific information regarding the time periods associated with the sites, but more lab work, research, and (hopefully) radiocarbon testing will add to our understanding of these new sites.



The black material in this soil sample is carbon from burned wood. Radiocarbon testing of this seemingly innocuous material can be used to determine the time period in which it was deposited. This, along with cultural artifacts, can enable us to date a site.

UPDATE: BOARDING HOUSE

At Boarding House, we have opened two units (square holes dug in systematic vertical layers). Sadly, the wall/foundation feature that led us to choose this location has turned out to be a deceptively placed line of stones and not an intact portion of the Boarding House structure.



Excavating at the Boarding House Site

However, we have recovered historical artifacts such as ceramics, glass, nails, and brick fragments from the units. Many of these objects are diagnostic, meaning they have distinctive decorations or shapes that can provide information on how old they are, how they were made, where they came from, or who was using them.

As the artifacts are processed in the lab, our Public Archaeologists and volunteers will be able to determine if they could have been used by the people who visited Boarding House early in Lawrenceburg's history.



We hope that further research into this ceramic piece, and others like it excavated at the Boarding House site, might provide insight into life at the time of the structure.

UPDATE: OSPREY LAKE & THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD AROUND GUARD

We have only just begun to explore the Osprey Lake site via another auger survey. Research into previous archaeological investigations of the area has indicated that there is a Late Archaic/Early Woodland period site there that has not been fully defined.



The author and Archaeology Coordinator, Louis Herzner, studying a map in preparation for auger tests hoped to determine the extent of the Osprey Lake Site.

Our work at Osprey Lake will tell us about the boundaries of the site and help our friends at the Oxbow protect this unique resource. We are in a similar situation with the field around Guard – we are looking at a lot of work ahead of us, but so much amazing information to be learned!



This summer, we have not set a single trowel into the ground at Guard, but our lab is bursting with paper bags holding artifacts and evidence of past populations from outside the village site, possibly spanning thousands of years. Some days I feel like we not only found evidence of past lives in our screens, but that each shovelful brought up with it new questions and inspiration to Explore: Beyond Guard.

INTRODUCING ARCHAEOCORPS

ARI's new Program Supported by AmeriCorps

By: Nichelle Lyle - ArchaeoCorps Program Manager

We are happy to share the launch of our latest initiative, ArchaeoCorps, developed and brought to life by the Archaeological Research Institute (ARI). Thanks to the generous funding provided by AmeriCorps, this program enables us to offer nearly 20 service positions in its inaugural year. ArchaeoCorps not only strengthens our organization's outreach and programming capabilities but also provides invaluable training and experience to the next generation of public archaeologists.

At ARI, we believe in providing holistic support to our ArchaeoCorps members. In addition to the hands-on experience and training they will receive, all participants will be granted a living stipend to meet their day-to-day needs. Furthermore, upon completing their service, each member will be awarded an educational award, opening further educational and professional opportunities.



Members of the ARI Archaeocorps are L-R: Emily Ingram (Lab Manager), Blake Hon (Land Stewardship Assistant), Jake McCue (Experimental Archaeology Assistant), Chriss Fullenkamp (Outreach and Operations Manager), Forrest Schmitt (Experimental Archaeology Manager), Tessa Wilk (Field Manager), Betsy Dulle (Educational Programming Manager)

ArchaeoCorps presents a diverse range of service positions, offering unique opportunities for individuals interested in various aspects of archaeology and nonprofit operations. Our available positions span programming, outreach, experimental archaeology, fieldwork, laboratory analysis, event management, research, and non-profit program operations. This comprehensive selection ensures that participants can explore their specific areas of interest while acquiring valuable skills and knowledge.

The combined efforts of our ArchaeoCorps members will enhance our outreach initiatives, improve programming, and help us create a lasting impact on the community. In its first year, ArchaeoCorps also extends the opportunity to other organizations to become host sites, where they can develop capacity with their own service members. As our program expands over the next three years, we aim to add up to 15 host sites in Dearborn County and the surrounding areas.

We extend a warm welcome to our inaugural ArchaeoCorps members and eagerly anticipate working with them as they grow both professionally and as community service members and public archaeologists.

A SPEAKEASY EXTRAVAGANZA!

By: Nichelle Lyle



Get ready to dust off your dancing shoes and don your finest attire, because we are proud to announce our first annual fundraising event - a Night at the Speakeasy! Join us for an evening of glamour, intrigue, and charitable giving.

Scheduled to take place on March 1st, 2024, our Speakeasy event promises to transport you back to the "Roaring '20s," an era renowned for its lavish parties and secret gatherings. Prepare to step into a hidden world of clandestine cocktails, jazz music, and a touch of nostalgia. Our team has been working tirelessly to recreate the ambiance and excitement of the Prohibition era, ensuring an unforgettable evening for all attendees.

This speakeasy-themed event is not just an opportunity for a fantastic night out; it also serves a greater purpose. As a fundraising event, all proceeds will directly support ARI's ongoing mission of preserving and promoting our shared history through archaeological research and community outreach programs. By participating in our Speakeasy, you will contribute to the vital work we do and help us continue to connect the community to its rich heritage.

What can you expect at our Speakeasy, you ask? Prepare to be transported to a hidden location that oozes 1920s charm. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by flapper girls, dapper gentlemen, and the infectious sounds of live jazz music.

Immerse yourself in the spirit of the era as you sip on carefully crafted cocktails, indulge in delectable *hors d'oeuvres*, and engage in lively conversations with fellow supporters of archaeology and history. Be prepared for surprises throughout the night, as we have a few secret twists and turns in store.

As an attendee, you also can support ARI through various means. From bidding on exclusive auction items that capture the essence of the era to participating in raffles with enticing prizes, your contributions will make a significant impact on our fundraising efforts.

Every dollar raised at our Speakeasy will directly benefit our programs and initiatives, ensuring that the importance of our shared history remains accessible to all.

We encourage you to gather your friends, colleagues, and fellow history enthusiasts to join us for this memorable evening. Spread the word, secure your tickets early, and prepare for an unforgettable night of glamour and goodwill. We cannot wait to see you there, as we come together to celebrate and support the Archaeological Research Institute's mission.

Stay tuned for more details and ticket information, which will be available soon on our website and through our social media channels. Save the date, mark your calendars, and get ready to experience the magic of the 1920s at ARI's inaugural Speakeasy fundraising event!



Anderson Mounds - Continued from page 5

Families visiting Mounds State Park can enjoy picnic areas, playgrounds, and six miles of well-maintained hiking trails that pass through dense woods and deep ravines. Trail 5, the longest trail in the park, connects the uplands to the scenic White River valley, where it follows along the river, past limestone bluffs and spring-fed creeks.



An Interpretive Naturalist leading a tour at the Great Mound

Naturalist-led hikes and interpretive programs are offered every weekend throughout the year. The interpretive programs are especially popular with school groups, scouts, and other organizations.

The earthworks and the museum at Mounds State Park offer a unique opportunity to learn about the Adena and Hopewell people who lived in Indiana during the Woodland period, some 2000 to 3000 years ago, and to see some of the amazing works they left behind. For more information, check out the website in the box below.

Mounds State Park

Address: 4306 Mounds Road, Anderson, IN 46017

Phone: 765-642-6627

Distance & Driving Time from Lawrenceburg, IN: 114 miles; 2 hours 7 minutes

Location Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Visitor Center? Yes

Visitor Center Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

Admission Charge: In-state Vehicle \$7 per car; Out-of-State vehicle \$9 per car

For More info: For More Info:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/parks-lakes/mounds-state-park/>

ARI OXBOW



ADVENTURE TREK 2023



**Register
now!**

Join us October 7th for the ARI Oxbow Adventure Trek!

ARI invites you to participate in our first 5K Adventure Run, taking place on October 7th at the Guard Archaeological Preserve and the Oxbow in Lawrenceburg, IN. Packet pick-up starts at 8:30 a.m. The race starts at 10:00 a.m.

This event is a fundraising initiative to support ARI's ongoing efforts in archaeological research, preservation, and community outreach programs. By participating in the Adventure Run, you are directly contributing to the advancement of our mission and the exploration of our shared history.

Prepare to embark on a trek through nature, as we combine fitness, fun, and a dash of archaeology in this unique event. The fun doesn't end at the finish line. After completing the race, join fellow participants, volunteers, and ARI supporters as we gather to enjoy refreshments and celebrate your achievement!

The event is FREE; a \$25 donation is requested if you'd like to get a cool shirt!

To learn more, go to: info@exploreari.org or call: 812.290.2966

LATEST HAPPENINGS AT ARI

By: Samy Norris & Molly Cowan

ARI has been a busy place since the site grand opening, on June 3rd! There have been events, auger tests, excavations, invasive removals and plant cataloging. We have had a second field school session come through along with a group of AmeriCorps NCCC members! Stay tuned for what's next at ARI as field season 2023 comes to a close.



Scouts come to ARI in search of their Merit Badges! This scout was trying his hand at auger testing with Louis, our Archaeological Coordinator.



Our Summer Solstice programming was a hit. Keep an eye out for our Winter Solstice programming!



In Memoriam: Mike Wade
First VALOR Graduate; lover of archaeology, and dedicated field student.



AmeriCorps NCCC team members, Diego & Zoe, measure 1-meter-by-1-meter squares for monitoring and cataloging plant species



Field school students learning to identify the different types of materials that might be seen in the lab.



Archaeological Research Institute



ARI Calendar of Events

September

- 29th.....*Members Only* Spears & Beers 4pm-6pm
- 30th.....Archaeology Month: ARI Extravaganza 10am-4pm
- 30th.....Orange Shirt Day - 15% off Orange Shirts in Gift Shop

October

- 4th.....Speaker Series: Persimmon Herb School at Lawrenceburg Public Library 6:30pm-8:30pm
- 7th.....ARI Oxbow Adventure Trek | Race Starts 10am
- 13th.....Haunted Wine Walk 5:30pm-9pm
- 14th.....Artifact, Rock, & Fossil Identification Session 10am-2pm
- 14th.....Indiana Humanities: Campfires 2pm-4pm
- 19th.....Last Day of Field Season!
- 19th.....Youth Archaeology Club 4:30pm-6:30pm
- 21st.....Youth Archaeology Club 10am-12pm
- 26th.....Great Miami Archaeology Tour 10am-2pm

Have you considered becoming an ARI Member?

ARI is a non-profit organization, dedicated to making archaeology accessible to the general public. By becoming a member, you will be supporting our efforts to protect archaeological sites, to educate the public through tours, lectures, and hands-on experiences, and to train the next generation of archaeologists through certifications, internships, research projects and certified field school. It is through the generosity of people like you that we are able to provide most of our services free of charge. For information on how you can become a member, check us out at: <https://exploreari.org/membership/>



Become a member today!