

FIELD NOTES

Magazine of the Archaeological Research Institute



In this issue: Rex's Book Hits the Shelves

Volume 3

Issue 2

Spring 2024



From the Director

Happy Spring to our Members & Readers!

First and foremost, I want to express my pride in my mother, Constance M. Sedler, for taking the idea of Rex as the ARI mascot and running with it. She has created a book for all ages to love.

We have incorporated it into our educational programming, and the real Rex often makes appearances during experiences to sign autographs and get pets.

Field season, our favorite season, has arrived here at ARI. We are thrilled to step outdoors and invite all our visitors and volunteers to join us! This field season is not just about seeing and exploring new things, but also about engaging in interactive educational events designed for all ages. Each department has been challenged to come up with their own research questions, just like the daub vs. brick project, and will be sharing their conclusions with the public at the end of the field season. Stay tuned for updates on this research and come out this season to be a part of it!

This year, the land stewardship team is taking their department to the next level and incorporating public education and activities into their work. The gardens will soon be planted and taking root, just like the team's impact on what we do at ARI. I am excited to see what they can accomplish with the NCCC team returning in July.

Archaeological research remains the focus of our organization. However, it has changed a little since ARI was established in 2019. We are working side-by-side with community members to find these lost sites, taking research that our community has compiled over the years and putting those theories to the test.

Finally, thanks to everyone who could join us for our very first fundraising event, Speakeasy: King of Bootleggers, in April. The event was a success, and we have already begun making plans for the gala for next year. We have a few other fundraising events coming up this year that will be educational and fun, so make sure to get the Adventure Trek (September 21st) and the Pumpkin STEM (November 2nd) marked on your calendars. I have advised our fundraising teams that our events should be more than generating much-needed funds; they should be educational for all ages and align with our organization's public education and cultural preservation mission.

As a nonprofit, we rely on the support of donations, grants, endowments, and business sponsorships to keep our programs accessible to the public and to provide careers in our community. Please consider teaming up with ARI to help us bring our mission to life through one of these funding avenues. Contact me (liz@exploreARI.org) or the other Lizz (Comer) lizz.comer@exploreARI.org to become an advocate for local cultural preservation.

Enjoy this spring edition of field notes, and make some time to join us in the field this summer.

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From the Editor

The Excitement of a New Book & a New Field Season



Spring is here and there's a noticeable buzz in the air at ARI. The "stew crew" is plotting out the grounds and preparing the raised garden boxes for the new growing season.

The experimental archaeology team is getting everything ready to invite visitors to experience atlatl dart throwing, chert knapping, weaving on a loom, and pottery making. The field crew is preparing the equipment to resume the searches in the Lawrenceburg area for a late-18th-century military camp and a mid-19th century boarding house. If any of these things spark your interest, we invite you to come out and let us show you around, explain what we're up to, and best of all, give you an opportunity to join in the action.

In this edition of Field Notes, a team of ArchaeoCorps members describe two building materials that are sometimes found in the same context – historic brick and pre-contact Native American daub. The team reports on methods they have been testing to tell the two easy-to-confuse materials apart. (Pages 4 and 5)

On pages 6 and 7, our Director of Programming, Samy Norris, addresses opportunities for the public to engage with us in our many research projects.

Rachel Sharkey, ARI Director of Public Archaeology, and Hannah Zoz, ARI Land Stewardship Manager, share their plans for the 2024 Field Season (Page 8) and Garden Plans (Page 9).

In March, a group of ARI people participated in the Kentucky Heritage Council's 2024 Annual Conference in Louisville, KY. Louis Herzner, ARI Archaeology Coordinator and VALOR Program Director reports on the conference. (Page 10)

Ashleigh Pulido Losch, our ArchaeoCorps Program Manager, invites interested non-profit organizations to join the ArchaeoCorps program to help execute their organizational missions. (Page 11)

Pages 12 and 13 feature an interview with Constance Sedler, author of a charming new children's book called, *Rex Official Barkeologist*. Proceeds from the book will support the missions of ARI and Schnauzer Rescue Cincinnati.

Also on page 13, Rachel Sharkey, Director of Public Archaeology, addresses the meaning of and the need for "public archaeology."

Would you like to support ARI by becoming a member? Learn how on page 14. On pages 15 & 16 Samy Norris & Molly Cowan present photos from the "Latest Happenings at ARI" as well as our latest calendar of events.

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Pre-contact Daub or Historic Brick?

Testing Ways to Identify What We're Finding in Mixed-Context Excavations

By: Betsy Dulle, Tessa Wilk, Emily Ingram, and Forrest Schmitt

The "What" and "Why" of Our Tests – Betsy Dulle

During the last glacial maximum, the Tri-state area was covered by the Wisconsin Glacier. As the glacier retreated north, the ice melted and the rushing meltwater eroded the land, leaving behind a lush river valley covered in an array of deciduous hardwoods and lofty hills scattered with big bluestem and Ohio spiderwort. Drawn by the rich topography and waterways, various Native American cultures and peoples inhabited the Ohio River Valley for roughly 12,000 years. Europeans settled across the region in the late 1700s. Many treaties and a couple hundred years later, neighborhoods across the Tri-state contain imprints from the individuals who preceded them.

The archaeological significance of this region echoes below the surface, containing 12,000 years of culture and history. When conducting archaeological excavations in this region, it is not uncommon to observe "mixed contexts." Mixed context, in which artifacts from different time periods are found together in the same layer in the ground. For example, this past summer, one of our research objectives was to locate a mid-1800s boarding house. During the excavations we collected large amounts of historic-period brick fragments and pieces of daub left by pre-European-contact Native American inhabitants.



Historic brick on the left; Pre-Contact daub on the right.

Historic brick and pre-contact daub are similar in composition. In some cases, it is difficult to distinguish between the two. Historic brick varies in its recipes; however, it is typically composed of clay-rich soil that has been processed by removing plant materials, etc. Sand is added, then it is molded and baked in a kiln. Pre-contact daub is a mixture of soil and binding agents, like twigs and grass. Pre-contact daub was used to construct the walls of thatch and daub houses. Once applied to a structure, heat is commonly used to harden the daub.

The Tests – Tessa Wilk

Since many areas in the Tri-state have been prime locations for habitation in both pre-contact and historic times, we often encounter mixed contexts in which we find both brick and daub. The two materials can look very much alike, so we had to find some way to effectively determine which samples were brick and which were daub. To do this, we started with some research on brick and daub themselves, which led us to develop a list of eight tests: **water, Mohs hardness, (a test to categorize minerals based on how easily they can be scratched), smear, chemical, burn, heat, pH, and magnetism.**



Administering tests and recording the results. (L-R) Tessa, Emily, Forrest, and Betsy

We took samples from brick taken from our boarding house unit excavations in the summer of 2023 and daub from the Guard excavations in 2022. We developed the methods for each test and completed two rounds for each test. Based on the results, we compared the differences and similarities between the two substances to see which of the tests provided the most effective way to determine which samples were brick and which were daub. In this case, we knew which samples were which before we started the tests, but we wanted to see if someone who didn't already know the answer would be able to complete these tests and come to the correct conclusions.

To do this, some visitors were given the materials and taken through the tests with samples where they weren't told which was brick and which was daub. At the end of these tests, these visitors were able to correctly decide which sample was brick and which was daub.

Conclusions – Emily Ingram

Through our series of different tests, we discovered a couple of ways to determine the difference between pre-contact daub and historic brick. The two tests that yielded the best results were the chemical and magnetism test. The chemical test consisted of adding a small amount of muriatic acid to the samples of brick and daub. As shown in the Image below, the daub is disintegrating, while the brick sample appears to be unaffected by the acid. The results are quick and there is a noticeable difference between the brick and daub samples. Muriatic acid is available at most places where pool supplies are sold. (It is important to always wear safety glasses when handling acid.)



In acid tests, the brick samples (left) were not affected by muriatic acid, while the daub (right) was dissolved by the acid.

During the magnetism test, forty pieces of brick and daub were tested to see how many would be magnetic. One of forty pieces of brick was magnetic, while thirty nine out of forty pieces of daub were magnetic. The magnetism test is nondestructive and the only supply you need is a magnet, making this test easily accessible to the public and simple to do. While performing this test, a strong magnet is recommended because a weak magnet may not show the same results. Of all the tests administered, the chemical and magnetism tests yielded the best results.



Magnet test showing that the pre-European-contact-period daub found at the boarding house excavation was magnetic. Brick found at the same site was not attracted to the magnet. .

Presentation – Forrest Schmitt

Confident in our testing and conclusions, we went on to present our research at the 2024 Kentucky Heritage Council conference in Louisville, Kentucky, a conference which focuses on work being done in and around the state and those that border it. The presentation was well received by an audience that include several experts in the field, several of whom came to speak with us individually after the talk. Among them was Kentucky archaeologist Charles Hockensmith, who has published widely on the subject of historic brick.

From these experts, we learned even more about the materials that we were working with, such as how the effects of freezing and thawing make historic brick much less durable in the first 30 cm of soil, which will influence and guide our future testing on the subject.



ArchaeoCorps members, Emily, Tessa, and Forrest preparing for their presentation for the Kentucky Heritage Council's 2024 Annual Conference.

All these experts agreed that it was important work, and that it was good that our studies have brought attention to the issue. The magnetism of the daub was something which caught the eye of many of those in the crowd, as well, even prompting University of Louisville archaeologist Aaron Comstock to immediately head to his lab to test the magnetism of his own daub samples. (They, too, were mostly magnetic). With this encouragement, and with new perspectives in hand, we will continue to explore the differences between these two materials and present our findings, including at ARI's Happy Hour History: Speaker Series this July.

Join ARI for our Happy Hour History: Speaker Series for the rest of the year! You are welcome to join us in person at the Lawrenceburg Public Library or purchase a webinar link to live-stream the talks from the convenience of your own home! Please check out our calendar of speakers at <https://exploreari.org/speaker-series/>.

Archaeological Research Institute: Where Every Voice Matters & Actions Spark Change

By: Samy Norris, Director of Programming

As a public archaeology organization, our role is to take our research and make it accessible and inclusive to anyone who wants to participate. As it is so beautifully put in *Rex, Official Barkeologist*, "archaeology includes everyone!"

My role as Director of Programming is to ensure every aspect of our organization allows for participation for every age, background, level of experience, and education, ability, and more. While our teams have done a wonderful job of outlining their research and what their plans are, let's take some time and outline how YOU can get involved!

The community that has been populating events, experiences, and other days at ARI has helped to drive our curiosity. Not only did our two main archaeological research questions (Rowdy Camp & Boarding House), come from the community, but many of our other research questions have come from avocational or non-professional archaeologists.

Our community members are so interested and involved in every aspect of our work at ARI. Everyone's voice matters - not just those with a lot of letters behind their name. We wanted to take some time to highlight some of the other research that is happening this summer.

YOU can be part of new archaeological research! As one of 10 public archaeology organizations recognized by the Society for American Archaeology, we are driven to involve and include the public at every point of our research.



Gardening



Bean vines in our 2023 garden

Gardening can be used for more than food and pretty flowers. Our gardens will also be growing plants for medicines and crafts. Which plants are best to be used for making rope and fiber?

Once you've done some work in the garden with Stew Crew, join our experimental archaeology team to discover how to process the plants and utilize the fibers. Are there plants with stronger fibers than others? Are certain plants easier to process than others? What can you make with your fibers?

Ceramics



Pottery made by our public archaeologists

Come work some pottery and learn about how ancient people made clay and then turned it into ceramic vessels. Try your hand at different types of clay, different tempering mediums, and actually forming an object without a potter's wheel. Our experimental archaeology team is learning more about what this could have looked like in our area.

Canoes

One of our first experimental archaeology projects was making dugout canoes. A large, old tulip poplar was taken down from one of our volunteer's woods and hauled to ARI HQ. Volunteers, scouts, and ARI team members worked with power tools, fire, and hand tools to start creating three dugout canoes. We still have questions - what is the best method for carving out the canoe? What is a good method for storage? How can we fix holes and cracks?



Sea Scouts working on our dugout canoes in 2022



A collection of arrowheads from an ARI volunteer

Everybody loves finding arrowheads, but what do you really know about how these stone tools are made and used? Can you haft it to a handle? What materials do you use for that handle? Are there different types of stone that work better for tools than others? Work with our experimental archaeology team to learn more about how chert (flint) knapping works and how ancient people may have utilized these tools in their everyday lives.

Knapping

Atlatl

You've probably thrown atlatl with us, but have you thought about how this technology was developed over time and space? Come try different atlatl designs and help the experimental archaeology team learn more about this technology.



Archaeologists testing their atlatl skills



An NCCC member removing seed heads on Johnson grass

You may have heard the buzz around plants like honeysuckle, Johnson grass, and other invasive species that are crowding out native plants that provide food and habitat for insects and animals. But once these invasives are removed, what happens? Help our land stewardship team monitor the removal of these different species and what returns in their place.

Additionally, help us to catalog all the different species that we have at the Guard Archaeological Preserve. We are always looking for "BioBlitz" participants to help us understand the biodiversity on our property.

Stewardship

At each visit with ARI, we encourage you to **explore, preserve, research, and educate**.

Come join us Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm to get dirty and get involved. Experiences can be booked online at exploreari.org or by calling us at **812-290-2966**. Experimental experiences can be booked for kids as young as five and adults as old as 105! Feel free to let us know at the time of booking if there is a specific research experience you would like to investigate. Or, if you have an idea of your own you would like to try, we are always open to community ideas and voices!

Plans for the 2024 ARI Field Season

By: Rachel Sharkey, Director of Public Archaeology

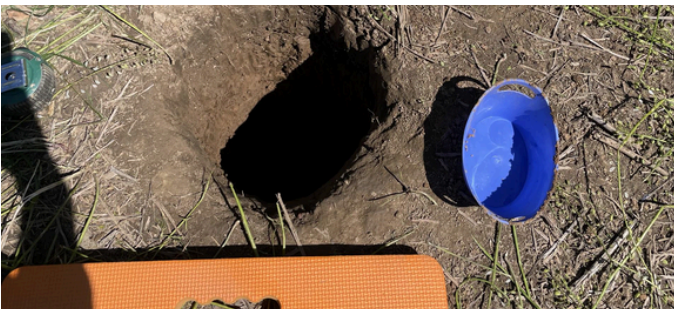
The 2023 field season was my first with ARI and I couldn't have asked for a better experience exploring "Beyond Guard." We had 22 outstanding field students and numerous visitors and volunteers help us look for Boarding House, Rowdy Camp, and other sites just outside of the Guard Site. It was a summer full of dirt, learning, friendship, and poison ivy, but most of all, fun!

This year, we will be revisiting some areas that will be familiar to anyone who participated with us last summer. During 2023, we had hoped to identify the location of Rowdy Camp (see Field Notes Vol. 2, Issue 3), but the search continues. Additionally, we found tantalizing evidence that suggests we are in the right area to find Boarding House, but we haven't yet honed in on its exact location.

Therefore, we will, once again, be focusing our efforts on trying to find these important historical resources in the 2024 season. Once again, we offer endless gratitude to our friends at Oxbow, Inc., who allow us to conduct our investigations on their property.

Rowdy Camp :

Even though we found no evidence for the 1793 military fort known as "Rowdy Camp," in the area we investigated last year, we are not disheartened. Now we know, without a shadow of a doubt, where it is NOT located! In 2024, we will continue our hunt for the Rowdy Camp, using a form of archaeological survey known as shovel testing - digging approximately 1-foot-wide pits in the ground and screening the soil to see what is present. The holes are dug on a grid so we can systematically assess where artifacts may or may not be located. We have worked with other archaeologists to conduct a geophysical survey of the area, meaning we "looked" under the surface of the ground using high-tech equipment, and we located several areas that may be Rowdy Camp. We plan to use shovel testing to better understand what these subsurface features may be.



Top down example of what a shovel test pit looks like

Boarding House:

When we began excavations at Boarding House in 2023, we hoped we were placing our units atop a portion of the foundation of Boarding House. We were disappointed to quickly learn that was not the case. However, even though we were not on the foundation of Boarding House, we began to discover hundreds of brick fragments, evidence of slag (non-organic burned material), nails, glass, and decorated ceramics. Emily, our Lab Manager, has been hard at work and has determined that the ceramics recovered from the excavations date to exactly what we expected to find - the mid-1800s. At the very end of the season, we found some nearly whole bricks suggesting we may be working our way towards finding the structure!

This year, we will return to Boarding House and take a more systematic approach to finding the structure. We will be placing more excavation units adjacent to where we worked in 2023 and will also be completing an archaeological survey of the area to guide where additional excavation units will go.



Excavating in search of the Boarding House site during the 2023 Field Season

Access Corridor:

In addition to Boarding House and Rowdy Camp, we will be assisting our Land Stewardship team by completing a shovel test survey of the access corridor that runs along the gravel road to the Guard Archaeological Preserve (GAP). ARI hopes to make this area an engaging part of the GAP experience in the future, but first we need to know what is under the surface.

As always, we encourage you to visit us in the field and get your hands dirty with us! We invite you to be part of the discovery process, where you can help tell the story of some of the past residents who also called this community home.

Summer 2024 Garden Plans

By: Hannah Zoz, Land Stewardship Manager

Right now, our gardens may not seem like much with our winter crop, but this spring we have some big plans. We have four projects that visitors can come and check out, including: *The Experimental Garden*, *Forager's Field*, *Wildflower Garden*, and *Home Gardens Around the World*.



The Experimental Garden, with winter wheat as our cover crop.

This year The Experimental Garden will be comparing three different “Three Sisters” planting methods based on the Zuni, Hidatsa (Siouan People), and Wampanoag tribes. Each is unique to the region of the tribes’ ancestral homes, and we are testing which method best suits the Guard Archaeological Preserve. Since we are located on a floodplain, we expect the Hidatsa planting method to have the highest yield in produce. This is due to the Siouan people’s ancestral home being in the floodplains of the Knife River area in North Dakota. The Wampanoag Tribe resided in eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island, which has a more similar climate to Southeast Indiana, compared to North Dakota. The Zuni live in New Mexico and Arizona, where it is much hotter than where the Wampanoag and Siouan People live. All three methods of the Three Sisters Gardens will have Corn, Beans, and Squash, aka the “Three Sisters,” along with the less-mentioned fourth sister, Sunflowers. We will produce Dakota Black Popcorn, a gorgeous deep-red corn that can double as popcorn or fall décor. Our beans are Cherokee black beans, brought along the Trail of Tears by the Cherokee when forced from their homelands. The squash we’ll grow may be familiar to those who have visited before, Gete-Okosomin. Our fourth sister will be the Russian Mammoth Sunflowers which can grow up to 12 feet tall and have flowers a foot wide!

Along with the Three Sisters Garden, we hope to introduce a Forager’s Garden, complete with edible, medicinal, and other useful plants native to Southeast Indiana. This garden will provide visitors with a chance to learn about these plants and their uses, historically and present day. We hope visitors can take away a new understanding of the plants they may see daily, and often think of as useless weeds.

The Wildflower Garden will not only house a myriad of wildflowers fit for bringing in pollinators and other animals, but it will also serve as an experiment. Our 8-by-12-meter plot will be split between solarization and tilling, and we will monitor how it influences the appearance of weeds within the garden. Solarization is a process in which the ground is covered by a sheet of plastic for several weeks, heating the ground below and killing any weeds and seed banks underneath. On the other hand, tilling only turns up the soil, which is good for getting rid of rooted weeds, but it also turns up the seed bank, providing new growth opportunity for more weeds.

Our planter boxes, formerly located at the opposite end of the Guard Archaeological Preserve, will find a new home closer to the experimental garden. Each box will represent a personal garden from different regions worldwide within the same period as the Guard site, 800-1000 years ago. These gardens would have belonged to a homestead, rather than being used for the village, town, or city. Plants grown in these gardens may have included medicinal plants, smaller groups of food crops, and materials grown for fiber or animal feed.



Three Sisters Planting Methods Top left: Hidatsa Garden. Top right: Zuni Waffle Garden. Bottom: Wampanoag Garden. Illustrated by Hannah Zoz

A Brief Report on The Kentucky Heritage Council's 2024 Annual Conference

By: Louis Herzner



ARI team members attending the Kentucky Heritage Council's 2024 Annual Conference in Louisville, KY. (L-R) Tessa Wilk, Rachel Sharkey, Emily Ingram, Forrest Schmidt, and Louis Herzner

At the beginning of March 2024, The Archaeological Research Institute sent members of the archaeology team to Louisville, KY to participate in the Kentucky Heritage Council's (KHC) annual conference hosted by the KHC Site Protection Program. The conference aimed to highlight historic and pre-contact archaeological work conducted in Kentucky and the Midwest, and to share information and research findings from that work. About 75 archaeologists and many undergraduate and graduate students attended the conference to take in the wide variety of posters and presentations.

Many of the archaeologists who attended the conference work in either academia or cultural resource management (CRM); there were very few public archaeologists present. This provided us with a great opportunity to network and advertise our capabilities.

During the two-and-a-half-day conference, there were 16 presentations and several posters through which the archaeologists highlighted their research and interpretation. The topics presented ranged from the use of predictive modeling to help locate archaeological sites, to "Archaeological Investigations of the Newport Barracks, Campbell County, Kentucky," to "An Analysis and Interpretation of Functional Changes of Fine Triangular Projectile Point Morphologies Within the Mid-Ohio Valley During the Fort Ancient Cultural Period." One of the highlights of the conference was when three of our ArchaeoCorps members, Tessa Wilk, Emily Ingram, and Forrest Schmitt presented their research titled,

"Preliminary Investigation into Discerning Between Precontact Fired Clay and Historical Brick Fragments from a Mixed Context Site in Southeastern Indiana." A fourth ArchaeoCorps member, Betsy Dulle, who was unable to attend the conference, also contributed to the work. The research they presented was directly tied to our excavations in 2023 and helped us differentiate between brick fired in the mid-nineteenth century and daub, a plaster-like material made from clay and organic matter, used by Native Americans to coat the walls of their structures.

The ARI team's presentation was well received by all in attendance and several archaeologists came to them with insights and information to carry the investigation forward. (See a report of the team's research on page 4.)

The last day of the conference featured a field trip to Oxmoor Plantation on the East Side of Louisville. The first part of the Oxmoor Plantation House was built in 1791 by the Bullitt Family, for whom Bullitt County, KY is named. We were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the archaeological excavations in the quarters of the enslaved people who once were forced to work on a hemp plantation by two of the very archaeologists who did the excavations. One of the finds made during the archaeological excavations was a large knife that was found under the floorboards in the soil next to the wall. No one knows when the knife was placed there or by whom. Regardless, the story leads to some interesting what-ifs...

Can ARI help build your Non-Profit's mission?



Join ARI's ArchaeoCorps Program Supported by AmeriCorps

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. AmeriCorps provides grant funding to nonprofits to facilitate this impact, recognizing that local communities understand their own needs.



What is ArchaeoCorps?

ArchaeoCorps is an AmeriCorps program led by The Archaeological Research Institute (ARI). The program is focused on educating the public on cultural and environmental conservation and preservation, with the added goal of creating lifelong stewards. Thanks to this program, ARI can facilitate its mission by improving its capacity to perform outreach initiatives and programming, and ultimately, by creating a lasting impact in the community.

Want to Host AmeriCorps Volunteers?

If you are interested in building your Nonprofit's capacity and you are focused on public education and/or on environmental stewardship, then joining ArchaeoCorps may be right for you. To join this program, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization must be able to designate at least one full-time staff member to recruit, select, supervise, and direct the member(s) serving. Additionally, the nonprofit must be able to provide a non-federal cash match equal to (sliding scale depending on the member contract) anywhere from \$4,000 up to \$17,000 (fulltime position).

As the ArchaeoCorps program continues to expand, we extend the opportunity for Nonprofits to leverage this program to execute their missions.

Reach out to Ashley Pulido Losch (ArchaeoCorps Program Manager) at ashley@exploreari.org to receive more details on this opportunity.



Introducing: *Rex- Official Barkeologist* A New Children's Book with a Special Purpose

If you have ever been to the Archaeological Research Institute in Lawrenceburg, IN, chances are you have met Rex, our "Official Barkeologist." Rex has been greeting visitors at ARI since its founding, and now his celebrity has risen to a new level with the introduction of a delightful new children's book titled, *Rex - Official Barkeologist*. The book was written by ARI founder, Constance Sedler, and proceeds from its sale will benefit two non-profit organizations, ARI and Schnauzer Rescue Cincinnati. Field Notes interviewed "Connie" to learn what inspired the book and what more might lie ahead.

F.N. Connie, thank you for taking the time to talk with us about your new book, Rex - Official Barkeologist. For those who don't know, Rex is a real dog and a member of the Sedler family. Could you tell us a little about your relationship with Rex and how he became a member of the family?

C.S. Our daughter Liz had been looking for a dog for quite some time. In 2009 we were sipping café au lait at a tiny bistro in Dordogne, France after viewing the prehistoric cave art at Lascaux cave. I specifically remember Liz spying a tiny dog and commenting that she wanted a little dog like that, and she would name it, "Oscar." In 2012 Liz was living in the Virgin Islands overseeing a construction project. She was a little lonely, I think. In September of that year, my husband Mike and I attended a Schnauzer Rescue Cincinnati event called Barkaritaville in Covington, Kentucky. We found Rex there. He was no Oscar, but he seemed like a great little guy. He was small--and unlike most of the schnauzers--he had a long fluffy tail. We brought him home and when Liz came to Cincinnati for a visit in October, we met her at the airport with Rex. It was love at first sight.



Liz meeting Rex for the first time.

F.N. In your book, Rex earns the title of "Official Barkeologist." Where did you get the idea for that?

C.S. Rex goes to work with Liz at the Archaeological Research Institute daily. Whether the team was working at the base camp or in the field at the Guard Archaeological Preserve, Rex was always present.

I don't recall who first referred to him as a "barkeologist" but the term stuck because it seemed so appropriate.

F.N. Is this your first book?

C.S. I have been writing for many years. I have published articles in journals, but *Rex- Official Barkeologist* is my first book to be published.

F.N. What inspired you to write this book?

C.S. In all honesty, Liz asked that I write a book about Rex that could be sold at the Archaeological Research Institute. ARI is a non-profit organization that provides many free learning experiences for the community. As a result, funding is always a concern. A fictional children's book about Rex was a great way to explain what ARI does as well as generate funds.

F.N. Is the book aimed at a particular age group?

C.S. I would suggest that children from three to ten will really identify with Rex and the other characters in the book. Beyond that though, I am happy to say that I recently received an email from a septuagenarian who said that he enjoyed the book, too.

F.N. Will we be following any more of Rex's barkeological adventures in the future?

C.S. I have plans for more Rex adventures. It is so much fun imagining what Rex and Libby will be investigating next. Of course, my ideas are inspired by what the ARI archaeologists are called upon to do.

F.N. Part of the book's charm lies in the delightful artwork created by Faith Shields. How did Faith become the book's illustrator?

C.S. Faith Shields is part of the incredibly talented technology group at LittleSeed. LittleSeed has been working with ARI on virtual reality programming for the institute almost since the beginning of the organization. Faith is an artist and interactive designer. She read my first few drafts of the book and saw Liz's many photos of Rex. Her concept became the perfect combination of my story and the real Rex.

F.N. Libby, the main human character in the book, is an archaeologist, and the archaeology theme is a central part of the story. But there is another theme, that of animal rescue. How did that come about?

C.S. We adopted Rex from Schnauzer Rescue Cincinnati. Our dog Cutty, an eight-year-old chihuahua mix, was adopted from Louie's Legacy Pet Rescue. Prior to Rex and Cutty we had adopted a 5-year-old border collie mix named Buddy. There are so many older, lovable animals waiting for families. I appreciate the organizations and volunteers that open their hearts to these worthy creatures, and I encourage anyone considering a pet to investigate bringing a rescue pet into their homes.

F.N. We understand that you have plans for the proceeds from the book.

C.S. The majority of the proceeds from the sales of Rex Official Barkeologist will go to the Archaeological Research Institute. However, I also have advised Schnauzer Rescue Cincinnati that a portion of the proceeds will be given to them.

F.N. How can our readers get a copy of the book?

C.S. The easiest way to get a copy of Rex Official Barkeologist is by going to the website www.exploreari.org, and click on "shop" and then scroll to the book. Either a paperback or hardback version of the book can be ordered. Of course, the book and lots of other cool stuff can be purchased by stopping in at the Archaeological Research Institute gift shop at 126 West High Street, Lawrenceburg, Indiana 47025.



What Public Archaeology Means to Me

By: Rachel Sharkey, Director of Public Archaeology

My life before the Archaeological Research Institute looked much different than it does today. I spent the last decade of my archaeological career behind a desk, reading reports about all the amazing things that were happening at places like the ARI and elsewhere in Indiana. I worked in a 2nd floor office with a view of a concrete jungle and had to have a special badge to swipe to get into my building.

The days were spent mostly indoors, and I really didn't interact with many people outside of those in the small corner of the building that was allotted to my division. I feel like this is very representative of a key problem in archaeology. Archaeologists are often not accessible to the public – either we are in government buildings, hidden away in academia, or in mazes of curation stacks, or working in some remote field where no one knows where to find us.

I wasn't completely shut off from the communities that I was experiencing through archaeological reports, however. My former office had a mandate to educate Hoosiers about archaeology and its importance. You could often find me or a colleague at a library, school, or other gathering, showing presentations about the archaeology happening across Indiana and the things archaeologists were finding.

We would have booths at the Indiana State Fair and science festivals, and we were the organizers of Indiana Archaeology Month (every September!).

This is where I came to realize that none of the work archaeologists do means a thing if they simply do the work, write the report, file it away, and move on to the next project. How can a community care about these resources if the archaeologists sweep in, work secretly, and then never share information about what they find?

This is what public archaeology means to me, and why I am so incredibly proud and blessed to be with ARI. I am no longer locked away in a stuffy office building – my office is the Guard Archaeological Preserve. I talk to members of the public daily about who we are, what we do, and how they can get involved. We are changing archaeology by bringing the community into every single step of the process. A community member asks us if we know about Rowdy Camp and we go searching for it. Another shows us a picture of what could be Boarding House and then we have people excavating and scrubbing artifacts with toothbrushes.

"Archaeology isn't just for the archaeologists – it is for the community in which it occurs. Archaeology includes everyone."



Help us preserve our region's history and make it accessible to everyone.

Become an ARI Member!

At the non-profit Archaeological Research Institute, we are dedicated to preserving archaeological sites in the tri-state region, and to making archaeology available to the public through educational programming, lectures, workshops, tours, field schools, and hands-on archaeological experiences. Offering all of these opportunities, most of them free of charge, while carrying on scientific investigations of both prehistoric and historic sites, is an expensive endeavor. We couldn't do it without the generosity of our members. If you like what we are doing at ARI, please consider supporting our efforts by becoming a member. It's easy to become a member at ARI. And membership has benefits!

Benefits	Explorer \$25	Adventurer \$50	Enthusiast \$100	Everyday Archaeologist \$365
10% off Merch				
ARI Sticker				
Field Notes Magazine (Digital)				
Field Notes Magazine (Print)				
ARI T-Shirt				

You can visit us online or in our gift shop to purchase the membership that suits you! Whether you are an Explorer just beginning your journey with the ARI experience, or you are ready to become an Everyday Archaeologist and support us every day of the year, we have a membership level that is right for you.



Become a member to stay in touch & keep
our programming free!

Latest Happenings at ARI

By: Samy Norris & Molly Cowan

With the weather warming up and everyone getting anxious for field season to start, here is a look back on things that have been happening in the colder weather! Don't worry! ARI's Grand Opening of the Guard Archaeological Preserve will be here before you know it, June 1st from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.



ARI Happy Hour History: Speaker Series, with Allan Cornelius discussing the Hayes Family History



ArchaeoCorps Member Blake tilling up the experimental gardens to get ready for planting



ARI Staff, Board, and ArchaeoCorps Members showing their support for Jim Scott, at the Reds Opening Day Parade



ArchaeoCorps Member Betsy leading a lab field trip for a local homeschool group



ARI Members at KHC!
Left to Right: Louis, Tessa, Emily, Rachel, Forrest



ARI Calendar of Events

May

- 21st.....Happy Hour History- ARI Speaker Series: Rachel Sharkey- Exploring Beyond Guard: The 2023 & 2024 ARI Field Seasons 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- 25th.....Soil Your Undies - A Stew Crew Event Educating about Soil Health 1pm
- 25th.....Bugs and Bonfires 6 pm - 9 pm
- 28th.....ARI Offices CLOSED to observe Memorial Day
- 29th.....Field School Session 1 Starts
- 31st.....Members Only Sneak Peak Grand Opening

June

- 1st.....Guard Archaeological Preserve Grand Opening 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 8th.....Rock, Fossil, and Artifact Identification Day 10:00 am- 2:00 pm
- 18th.....Happy Hour History- ARI Speaker Series: Kay Jackson, Summer Solstice 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- 25th-28th..Exploring History-Day Camp Ages 5-8
- 27th.....Solstice Activity TBD
- 29th.....Bats and Bonfires 6 pm - 9pm