

Field Notes

Magazine of the Archaeological Research Institute



Laughery Creek at Versailles State Park

In This Issue:

How Historic Laughery Creek Got Its Name

Volume 3

Issue 4

Fall 2024



Meet the Team

Lizz Comer

Director of Philanthropy

Dear ARI Supporters,

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The Archaeological Research Institute is getting ready to close out another incredible season, and you'll notice that our inside cover looks a little different in this issue. The leadership team will introduce themselves to our *Field Notes* readers and talk a bit about their roles in the organization in the next several issues, and I have the privilege of kicking off the introductions.

My name is Lizz Comer, and I am the Director of Philanthropy. My role is to give our supporters and readers like you the opportunity to support The Archaeological Research Institute's mission through financial gifts, time, and service to the mission. In the office, everyone calls me "Double Z," a nod to the unusual spelling of my name, to avoid confusion with our Executive Director, Liz Sedler. When I'm not at ARI, I spend my off hours tending to the needs of a very special historic stone home full of kids, and dogs, and boisterously joyful chaos.

If you're like me and you have a soft spot for preserving the past, consider including ARI in your holiday giving plan! I can work with you to customize the impact of your gift according to your interests, or you can donate to the area of greatest need.

- Maybe you have a friend or loved one who also adores archaeology - ARI Membership at any level is the perfect creative gift!
- Perhaps you'd like to show your support throughout the year. In that case, a monthly giving plan is the way to go.
- Maybe you would like to give in a way that makes substantial impact right away, or for years to come. We can talk about major gifts, IRA disbursements, donating securities, and legacy giving. (Scan the QR code below to see the many options for giving.)
- We are always looking for willing friends to share time and skills with us as a volunteer as well!

Please reach out to me personally any time you have a question about giving to the ARI mission. I am here to help you make the impact you want to see at ARI, because Archaeology Includes Everyone. Warm wishes for the cool days ahead!

Lizz Comer
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Donate Here!

Field Notes

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From the Editor Goodbye Summer & Welcome to a Fun-filled Fall!



The end of summer means the end of the field season, and like many here at ARI, I'm sad to see the "dig season" end. On the positive side, the coming of fall means more time to tackle lab work and other projects that had to be temporarily set aside during the busy summer months.

Fall is also the time for the annual observances of Halloween and Thanksgiving. Three articles in this issue are devoted to those popular occasions.

On page 6 of this issue of *Field Notes*, Betsy Dulle presents a brief history of Jack-o'-lanterns. Many of us enjoy the Halloween tradition of carving funny faces into pumpkins, but where did such an odd custom come from? Read Betsy's article to find out.

Another deeply rooted fall tradition is the Thanksgiving dinner, with turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie. But are those dishes an accurate representation of what was eaten at the first Thanksgiving? Kay Jackson-Frankl answers that question on page 7.

You won't want to miss the Pumpkin STEM event that is coming to the Carriage House Farm on Saturday, Nov. 2nd. Pumpkins will be flying through the air compliments of a huge trebuchet that we have been building. We invite you to join in the pumpkin chucking fun. Learn when and how on pages 8 & 9.

Also in this issue, your editor shares what he learned taking a deep dive (figuratively speaking) into Laughery Creek, including why so many people mispronounce its name. (Page 4)

On page 10, Blake Hon recaps the summer growing season in the ARI gardens. Liam McAllister, from the Experimental Archaeology team, tells how he has been making cordage from dogbane harvested in the wild. (Page 11)

On pages 12 and 13, Craig Williams reports on a geology talk that he and Chriss Fullenkamp gave at Harrison Trail Health Campus. Presentations like this are a part of ARI's commitment to public outreach.

Also on page 13, we express our appreciation to Lawrenceburg Main Street for their Building Beautification Grant that helped fund our new awning, our new blade sign, and the relocation of our panel sign to our new home.

On pages 15 & 16 Samy Norris & Molly Cowan present photos from the "Latest Happenings at ARI" as well as our latest calendar of events.

On behalf of the *Field Notes* team, I wish you a happy fall season.

Larry Sandman
larry@explorearri.org

How Historic Laughery Creek Got Its Name

By Larry Sandman

Laughery Creek runs for 89 miles through the southeast corner of Indiana, starting in Ripley County, near the town of Napoleon, and ending at the Ohio River two miles south of Aurora. Along the way, it passes through Versailles State Park where, in 1954, the creek was dammed to create Versailles Lake.



This dam on Laughery Creek maintains 230-acre Versailles Lake in Versailles State Park.

Just downstream from the lake, the creek passes under the historic 1885 Busching covered bridge.



The Busching Covered Bridge over Laughery Creek was built in 1885 by Thomas A. Hardman of Brookville, Indiana.

From Versailles, the creek continues southeast through the town of Friendship, home of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association. Every June and September, thousands of people descend upon Friendship to attend the popular flea market held in conjunction with the NMLRA's Spring and Fall shoots.



The Friendship Flea Market draws thousands of visitors to the tiny Indiana town every June & September.

From Friendship, the creek heads east, where it forms the boundary between Dearborn and Ohio Counties. Before reaching the Ohio River, Laughery Creek passes under another historic bridge. Known locally as the "Triple Whipple Bridge," the structure, built in 1878 by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, is the last bridge of its kind in the United States. For bridge geeks, the name "Triple Whipple" honors the name of Squire Whipple, the inventor of the Whipple iron truss, and the fact that the diagonal members of each truss cross three vertical members. Hence, Triple Whipple!



The Triple Whipple bridge, now a pedestrian walkway, sits just off Indiana State Route 56 in Dearborn County, south of Aurora.

On the hillside, above the bridge, is the River View Cemetery, established in 1869, where a section called "Soldiers' Field" memorializes "Lochry's Defeat," a historical event that led to the naming of Laughery Creek.

In 1781 the thirteen American colonies were fighting Great Britain in the American Revolutionary War. By that time the war had spread into the northwestern frontier, where many native tribes were allied with the British in hopes of stopping American colonists from overrunning their homelands. From their base in Detroit, the British sought to draw American forces away from the war in the east by recruiting native war parties to attack American settlements in Kentucky and western Pennsylvania. In that year, Virginia Governor Thomas Jefferson gave the command of the militia in Virginia's western counties to George Rogers Clark, the officer who had led successful expeditions to capture the British-held cities of Kaskaskia (1778) and Vincennes (1779).

As the highest-ranking American military officer on the northwestern frontier, Brigadier General Clark developed a plan to capture the British fort at Detroit with an army of 2000 men. If successful, the plan would give the Americans control of western Lake Erie, effectively cutting off communications and supply lines between the British and western tribes. However, Clark's 2,000-man army never materialized. The constant threat of Indian attacks made Kentuckians and Pennsylvanians unwilling to leave their homes and families unprotected. And the war in the east made Virginia and Pennsylvania reticent about giving up their home guards. So, Clark was able to recruit only 400 men.

Despite Clark's disappointment with the recruiting effort, he remained determined to march to Detroit. He ordered Colonel Archibald Lochry of Westmoreland County, Pa. to organize a militia of Pennsylvania Rangers and join him down the Ohio River at Fort Henry in Wheeling. The plan called for the Virginia and Pennsylvania forces to move down the Ohio River, then to split up. Clark's Virginians would go southwest, meet up with a group of Kentucky volunteers, and move against the Shawnee and Delaware. Lochry was to head north against the Native Americans on the Sandusky River. Once the "Indian threat" was gone, they would reunite and march on Detroit to capture it from the British.

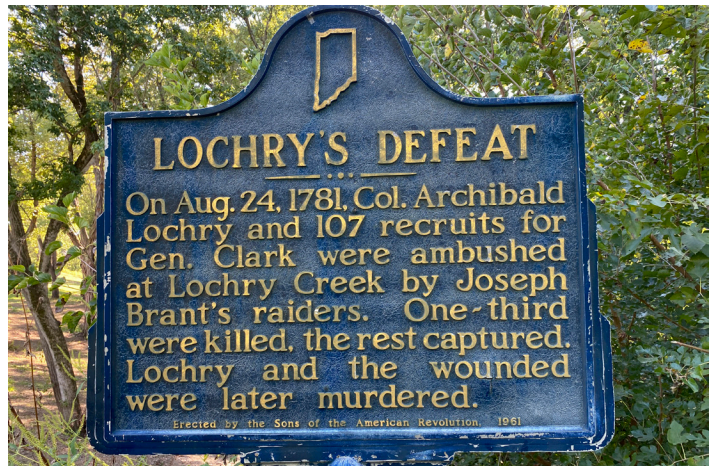
In early August, 1781, Clark's army left Fort Pitt and started down the Ohio toward Fort Henry. Lochry remained behind at Fort Pitt, waiting for his recruits and supplies to arrive. Clark waited at Fort Henry for Lochry to catch up, but he found that many of his men, tired of waiting and eager to return home, started deserting. To stop the desertions, Clark decided to move further down the river to the Falls of the Ohio at present-day Louisville. The day after Clark left Fort Henry, Lochry and his 107 recruits arrived. When Lochry learned that Clark had gone ahead, he sent a letter to Clark, informing him of the size of his force and his plans to catch up. But the letter never arrived. The small party carrying the letter was captured and the British and Natives learned of Lochry's plan.

On the morning of August 24, 1781, Colonel Lochry's troops moored their boats at the mouth of the Great Miami River to rest and let their horses graze. They were cooking a bison that a hunting party had shot, when a barrage of gunfire came out of the woods, and a combined force of Native Americans and British loyalists under the command of Mohawk military leader Joseph Brant fell upon the unsuspecting soldiers. The battle was short-lived. A third of Lochry's troops lay dead, a few more, including Colonel Lochry, himself, were executed and the rest of the soldiers were marched to Detroit. After learning of Lochry's fate, George Rogers Clark abandoned his plan to capture Detroit.



Painting "Lochry's Defeat" by Hal Sherman depicts the moments after the surrender of Colonel Lochry's troops.

Sometime after Lochry's defeat, the creek at which he met his demise was named after him. But on an early map, Lochry's name was misspelled as "Laughery," and the spelling stuck. Unfortunately for Archibald Lochry, the mapmaker's error also led to mispronunciation of his name. Many, if not most locals today call the creek "LOFF-ry" instead of "LOCK-ry," but now you know the proper pronunciation and the story behind it.



This sign at the Triple Whipple bridge commemorates the battle that occurred near the mouth of the Great Miami. A memorial in the nearby Riverview Cemetery names 39 men who were killed in the battle and 64 who were taken prisoner.

Jack-of-the-Lantern:

A Brief History of Carving Pumpkins

By Betsy Dulle,

It's late October. The streets of Lawrenceburg are eerily silent except for the decaying leaves rustling and swirling in the autumn breeze. The full moon casts an unsettling silhouette over the neighborhood, illuminating rows of orange gourds perched on porches and windowsills. Their crooked smiles and hollow eyes follow your every move as if they're alive. The flickering candlelight within them casts shifting shadows that dance across the darkened lawns. They're Jack-o'-lanterns—a Halloween tradition!

The practice of carving vegetables began in Ireland about 5,000 years ago to celebrate the festival of Samhain. According to Celtic tradition, this festival marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, when the line between living and dead thinned. To ward off evil spirits, the Celts carved faces into turnips, gourds, or beets, often illuminated by hot coals, and placed them near doorways and windows to protect their homes.



Glowing pumpkins light up the night at the Louisville Jack O'Lantern Spectacular

The practice of carving Jack-o'-lanterns became particularly associated with the Irish myth of "Stingy Jack," a clever but devious fellow who, through greed and selfishness, manages to get himself barred from Heaven. Later, through his own cunning, he tricks the devil into promising to never take his soul. But the trick backfires, for when Jack dies, his soul cannot enter either Heaven or Hell, so he is doomed to roam the earth with only a burning coal inside a carved-out turnip to light his way. Soon, "Stingy Jack" became known as "Jack-of-the-Lantern" or "Jack-o'-lantern."

When Irish immigrants brought this tradition to America in the 19th century, they found that winter squash or pumpkins, native to North America, were more abundant and accessible to carve than the traditional turnips. This led to the widespread use of pumpkins as the primary medium for Jack-o'-lanterns, cementing their place in American Halloween traditions.

Over time, the Jack-o'-lantern has evolved from a symbol of protection to a central figure in Halloween celebrations. It embodies the spirit of the holiday through its association with the supernatural and the macabre. In recent years, pumpkin carving has risen to a new artistic level, as the simple triangle-eyed Jack-o'-lantern with the toothy grin has been upstaged by far more intricate designs.

Today, Jack-o'-lanterns bring together a fusion of ancient traditions with new world adaptations. They reflect the cultural blending that has shaped Halloween into a global celebration. The enduring appeal of these carved lanterns lies in their ability to connect us with the past while inviting creative expression in the present. And we shouldn't forget to mention, they're just plain fun!

Want to see an amazing display of Jack-o'-lanterns in one place? Travel down to Louisville, Kentucky for the 12th Annual 2024 "Louisville Jack O'Lantern Spectacular." Featuring over 5,000 carved pumpkins, this family-friendly event runs from October 1st to November 2nd.

For more info on location, times and prices, go to: [Louisville Jack O'Lantern Spectacular » October 1 - November 2, 2024 \(jackolanternlouisville.org\)](https://jackolanternlouisville.org)

What They Really Ate at the First Thanksgiving Feast

By Kay Jackson-Frankl



Painting: "The First Thanksgiving" by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris

On November 28th, most of us will be sitting down with family and friends for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, and pumpkin pie. But, have you ever wondered how closely this time-honored meal reflects the food served at the first Thanksgiving? The answer is - not so much! Turkey was not the main dish, and many of our most popular sides, such as mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, yeast rolls, and pumpkin pie were not on the menu! In 1621, potatoes weren't even being grown in North America, and neither were sweet potatoes, or wheat for yeast rolls and pie crust. Cranberries might have been served, but not in the form of that jellied concoction that slurps out of a can and plops onto a serving dish.

So, what foods were on the menu? In a letter dated December 11, 1621, Governor Edward Winslow of Plymouth Colony wrote, "Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others."

Most researchers agree that the area's diverse and abundant waterfowl, as well as passenger pigeons, pheasant, and venison were the main meats. The area was rich in seafood and freshwater fish such as bass, sunfish, bream, cod, mussels, clams, eel, oysters and possibly lobsters. The forests were abundant in chestnuts, walnuts, and beechnuts, and the gardens of the Pilgrims and Wampanoags produced harvests of maize, green beans, squash, spinach, turnips, onions, garlic, pumpkins and herbs. Blueberries, grapes, gooseberries, raspberries and cranberries would have been present for corncakes and snacking. Honey and molasses would be present, but not sugar. Sugar was taken with the Pilgrims but was gone after that first year.



Pumpkin's Will Be flying over the Great Miami Valley!

**Come and Watch 'em Soar
Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024
at the
Pumpkin STEM Challenge!**

By: Casey Cleary

As the leaves begin to change color and the air gets crisp, The Archaeological Research Institute is getting ready to celebrate the season with our first-ever pumpkin chucking event, the "Pumpkin STEM Challenge." Join us at Carriage House Farm's Lawrenceburg Road location on November 2nd from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and make pumpkins fly!

ARI is collaborating with Carriage House Farm to bring this harvest-season experience. With the help of our archaeology team, volunteers, and creative people from the community, we are building a massive trebuchet! Constructed of five separate parts that will come together, our 14-foot trebuchet will have a 10-foot sling designed to launch pumpkins into the air. And you are invited to take part in the launch.

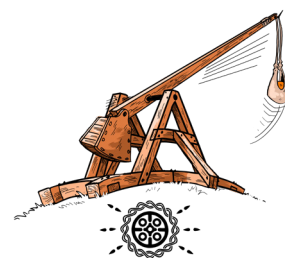
While flying pumpkins are the main attraction, there will be plenty of other things to see and do. The Pumpkin STEM event will host a variety of vendor booths featuring the work of local artisans. Come and enjoy good food, demonstrations and fun activities. There will be rocking music from local artists, and a wide range of beers, wine, and ciders to savor while watching the pumpkins launch.

Have any pumpkins or Jack-o'-lanterns left over from Halloween? Don't toss them out - bring them to the pumpkin STEM event and give them a royal sendoff. Pumpkins will also be available at the venue. Admission to the event is free. There is a \$2.00 fee for parking and a charge for launching pumpkins with the trebuchet! Funds raised at this event will go to support Carriage House and the Archaeological Research Institute's Exper-

imental Archaeology program. Experimental archaeology is a method of learning about how people of the past lived, worked, and adapted to their environment by replicating and testing their tools, structures, or other artifacts.

This year the Experimental team has worked with flint knapping, manufacture and use of atlatl spear-throwing devices, and a process for making cordage from harvested dogbane. They have also recently begun experimenting with new pottery techniques, using local clay. The Experimental group is dedicated to making experiences available to the public. Flint-knapping demonstrations and an open-to-the-public atlatl range are planned for the Pumpkin STEM event.

Work is underway on the trebuchet, designed on the model of ancient siege engine. The earliest form of a trebuchet, the traction trebuchet, originated in China around the 4th century BCE. Due to their superior firepower, (trebuchets could throw heavier objects for greater distances than could their cousin, the catapult), trebuchets remained popular siege engines throughout the Middle Ages. Rocks and stone balls were commonly used as projectiles for trebuchets. Some machines were so powerful, they could hurl horses over castle walls. If a trebuchet could fire a full-grown horse over a wall, how far will we be able to chuck our pumpkins? Come out on November 2nd to see!



Whether you're a seasoned builder, or a person interested in medieval siege weapons, or someone just looking to have a great time, there's something for everyone at the Pumpkin STEM Challenge!

Mark Your Calendar for the big event!

Date & Time:

Saturday November 2, 2024

12 PM to 5 PM

Rain or Shine

Location:

Carriage House Farm

2872 Lawrenceburg Road

North Bend, OH 45052

Prices:

General Admission is FREE

\$2.00 parking (cash or credit)

\$10.00 for kids to chuck a pumpkin

\$20.00 for adults to chuck a pumpkin

\$25.00 to chuck a pumpkin & get a beer!



See STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) all come together in the design and building of an operating trebuchet!

(Thanksgiving - Continued from page 7)

What did the Pilgrims drink at the first Thanksgiving? While water might seem the likely choice, many Pilgrims are thought to have avoided it due to its potential to carry diseases. Beer and wine were consumed on the voyage, but according to historians, the beer brought aboard the Mayflower was probably gone by the time the Pilgrims set foot in North America. Any wine not consumed by the end of the voyage would have soon spoiled. The drink most likely to have been served at the Thanksgiving feast was cider, particularly cider made with apples, crabapples, and even pumpkins, all of which were available in the new world.

While the feast was indeed a time of Thanksgiving, there are historical sad notes to the story. Of the 76 men who began the ocean crossing only 46 were still alive for the 3-day feast. Even worse, of the 19 women who boarded the Mayflower, only five survived the crossing and only four were alive at the time of the feast. This dramatic difference is the result of inadequate food, poor hygiene, and poor care before, during and after childbirth. Life was very hard.

For the Wampanoag people, who famously helped the Pilgrims get through the first year at Plymouth, peace lasted about a generation. In fact, in New England, the United American Indians of New England (UAINE) have organized a National Day of Mourning held every Thanksgiving, since 1970, in Plymouth, Massachusetts. This Day of Mourning is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native culture. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Native ancestors and the struggles of Native peoples to survive today.

Additional Reading:

https://pilgrimhall.org/pdf/TG_What_Happened_in_1621.pdf PRIMARY SOURCES FOR "THE FIRST THANKSGIVING" AT PLYMOUTH"

<https://inthemixbyimi.com/2022/11/the-first-thanksgiving/>. Ambrose, Mallory, The First Thanksgiving. (November 22, 2022).

<https://blog.nativehope.org/what-does-thanksgiving-mean-to-native-americans#:~:text=The%20dominant%20cultural%20and%20historical,is%20Native%20American%20Heritage%20Day>. The History of Thanksgiving from the Native American Perspective. Native Hope, November 26, 2023

2024 ARI Gardens Update

By Blake Hon, Land Stewardship-Gardens

The changing colors of leaves, shortened days, and the cool autumn breeze that flows through the air are all reminders that fall approaches, and nothing remains constant. Fall reminds us to take a step back and reflect on the abundance we have created for ourselves. One of the many joys of the warmer months is gardening, but with autumn approaching, there comes a time to prune everything back and prepare for the coming of much colder weather. The past year has been a very productive year in terms of creating bountiful garden spaces at ARI. The land stewardship team has developed several projects to expand the presence and functionality of our garden space.



Land Stewardship team members Hannah and Bailey harvesting at Lawrenceburg community garden

Three Sisters Gardening:

This summer the stewardship team embarked on a mission to find out which method of three sisters (corn, beans and squash) gardening works best for local growers. Three different planting methods were chosen from different indigenous nations throughout the United States, and metrics are being taken to see which gardening method proved to be the most productive. Productivity in terms of the project is determined by the net weight of crops produced from each space. Although there are several different planting methods being tested in our research gardens, each one has the same variety of corn, beans, and squash to make our study as consistent as possible.

Wildflower Planting:

Earlier in the season the team solarized two small plots of land near our experimental garden space. One plot was solarized for six weeks and then tilled, planted with wildflowers, and watered during the first few weeks following planting. The second plot was not solarized, but was planted, tilled, and watered the same way the first plot was treated. Unfortunately, due to flooding and other environmental stressors, the solarized plot proved to be ineffective in reducing the number of weeds that interfered with our planting. Although this project didn't have the expected outcome, the data collected will be used to develop future studies.



National Civillian Community Corps (NCCC) members assisting with the harvest of Gete Okosomin squash in the experimental garden space.

What's In Store for the Gardens in 2025?

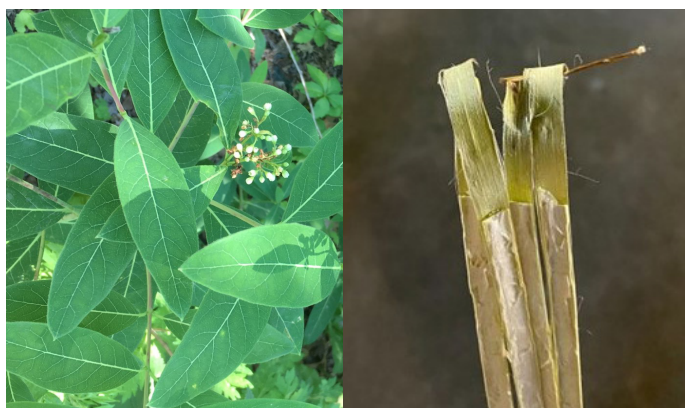
In the coming year we hope to exponentially grow our garden spaces. This year was extremely productive, and the land stewardship team has been able to produce a substantial crop of beans, corn, and squash. Additionally, although this was our first time trying our hand at wildflowers, both plots provided pollinators with sanctuary and a place to rest their wings. The team would like to continue in creating productive space for wildlife, collecting insightful data for local growers, and growing food to help feed our community.

Making Cordage from Natural Plant Fibers

By Liam McAllister

Cordage making has been done for centuries on this planet and is very connected to the land. This ancient technology has a deep-rooted history in cultures all over the world. Cordage is one of the most important tools for survival, and the native people of North America have used and do use it for a variety of projects.

Over the past few months, we have been researching and learning the process of cultivating, processing and weaving plants that are conducive for making cordage. We learned that most of the cordage that was made in this region was of dogbane, milkweed, and nettle, all of which are native to North America. Embarking on this project, it became apparent that the process of cultivating, processing and creating cordage required planning and time before sitting down to weave the plant fibers. Finding the plants was the first task; we decided to start with dogbane because that was the plant for which we had the most information related to cordage. Dogbane typically grows at the edges of grass fields by a line of trees, and is sometimes found growing along the sides of roads.



(left) Wild Dogbane Plant (Right) Stalk Splayed Open

I found dogbane in the fields by the Guard Archaeological Preserve. There, I chopped a few of the taller stalks and wrapped them up to dry. After a couple of weeks, the stalks were dry and brittle, and I was able to crack the stalks in the middle all the way up until I had four pieces of the stalk splayed open.

The next step was to crack the four pieces about an inch down from the top and peel the inner bark away to isolate the outer fibers that will be used for the cordage. I continued this process all the way down the stalk until I had completely



(Left) Author Twisting Fibers (Right) Finished Section of cordage

peeled away that inner bark from the outer fibers. After removing the outer bark, I had four strips of fiber to work with. When doing this for the first time I used two of the thick fibers to make cordage. The rope came out a bit clumpy and not uniform, because the fibers I began with were too thick. (We were still able to make a strong rope despite the thick fibers.) Our process was a reverse-wrap method where we took two fibers and overlapped an inch of each strand over each other, then twisted them together and took a small bite out of the twisted fibers to make a small loop. We then had two fiber strands hanging down from the loop, where we twisted the fiber on the right and wrapped it underneath the fiber on the left, and continued that process down.

Our plan, going ahead, is to thin out the four fibers to maybe eight or twelve, and with the thinner fibers, make a more uniform and strong rope. When we began this project, our hope was to gain first-hand experience in creating cordage from natural plant fibers. As we progressed through the process, we came to realize the enormous opportunity for ongoing learning. For example, we'd like to compare the strength and durability of cordage made from different plants or plant combinations. This project has opened up many possibilities for experiences and engaging the public through the lens of land stewardship, or in conjunction with our other areas of research like pottery and creating historic tools of our region. The team and I are excited to eventually make this whole process, from the plant to the rope, accessible to the public and integrated into our shared experiences!

ARI Geology Presentation at Harrison Trail Campus

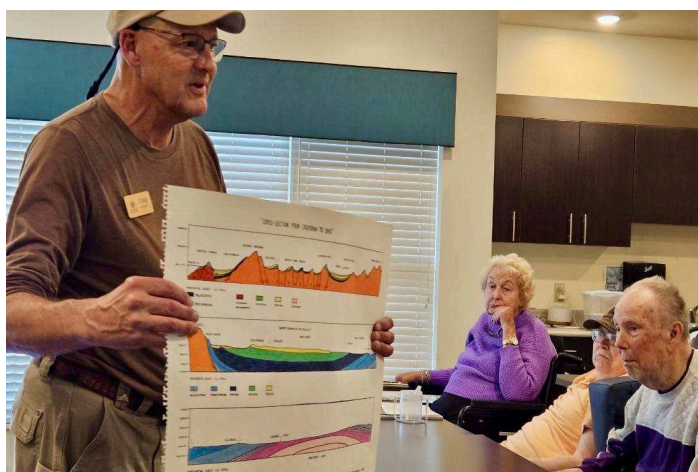
By Craig Williams, ARI Volunteer Geologist

Harrison Trail Health Campus in Harrison, Ohio reached out to ARI in early July, asking us to make a geology presentation to their residents. A previous introduction to the fascinating world of geodes had left them eager to learn more. We happily accepted the invitation, and Chriss Fullenkamp (ARI public archeologist), and I arrived with enthusiasm, rocks, maps, illustrations, and a “hands-on” learning activity related to our local tristate geology.



Residents of the Harrison Trail Health Campus attending the ARI Geology Presentation

Our presentation revolved around two topics: 1. an introduction to the geologic structure of our area, scientifically referred to as the “Cincinnati Arch,” and 2. an explanation of how geodes are formed.



The author showing how the formation of the Appalachian mountains created the “Cincinnati Arch,” exposing our 350-million-year-old limestone bedrock

As we spoke about the formation of the limestone bedrock that is so plentiful in the area, we passed around rock specimens containing fossil organisms for our audience to touch, feel, and see these fossil rocks up close. Our rock samples included corals, clams, snails, and trilobites, many of which are 450 million years old. Our scientific illustrations showed examples of life forms living in deep and shallow water environments. We explained how, about 200 million years ago, as the Appalachian mountains formed, our local area became uplifted, sea level changed from deeper to shallower, and the fossil life forms we find in these rock layers today reflect this geologic event.



Getting up-close with the fossilized organisms that piled up in shallow seas to form what we know today as Ordovician Period limestone

We concluded this part of our program with a learning activity in which all the participants drew a depiction of the Cincinnati Arch. We provided handouts with a “guided” illustration and color key for their drawings to show three distinct rock layers identified as deep water, shallow water, and land. We were impressed with how well the participants’ renderings reflected their mastery of the subject. Our discussion of geodes was highlighted by showing a 46-pound geode that had been unearthed in Brown County, Indiana. Needless to say, it was the subject of many “Oohs” and “Ahhs.”

Chriss and I were delighted to provide this learning opportunity for Harrison Trail residents, and we truly

appreciate the warm reception and the interest shown by both residents and staff. As is so often the case, our interaction with everyone at Harrison Trail Health Campus was as rewarding for us as we hope it was for them. We appreciated the gracious response of the Harrison Trail staff who invited ARI back to provide additional Geological and Archaeological enrichment presentations in the future.



Attendees reproducing maps showing the location and extent of the “Cincinnati Arch”



This mammoth 46-pound geode made a big impression on the audience.

Upon our return to ARI, Chriss and I reviewed what learning activities went particularly well, and shared observations about how we might improve the presentation to best “fit” the interest and ability levels of different members of the audience. We are proud of ARI’s commitment to community outreach and we look forward to our next opportunity to share our knowledge and enthusiasm with members of our community.

Thanks to Lawrenceburg MainStreet for Our New Look By Chriss Fullenkamp

There have been a lot of changes here at ARI in 2024, starting with our new building! The Archaeological Research Institute purchased our new location at West High Street (formerly the Register building) in Downtown Lawrenceburg, just a few blocks from our original building on Walnut Street, back in October 2022. We moved into the building this past spring following an amazing refresh to the inside that has elicited a lot of positive reviews.

Recently, the outside has been getting its own manicure thanks largely to two beautification grants awarded by Lawrenceburg Main Street. The beautification grants have helped us fund our new awning, our new blade signs, and the upcoming relocation of our panel sign from our previous location to our new home.

Lawrenceburg Main Street is a nationally accredited Main Street through Main Street America™ that has been devoted to revitalizing the downtown historic district since its founding in 2003. Their Commercial Property Improvement Grants can be applied for and are approved on a rolling basis and can be applied for every five years. The grants we were awarded were the Sign and Awning Grant and the Blade Sign Grant. For more information, visit: <https://downtownlawrenceburg.com/resources-grants/>. Thank you so much, Lawrenceburg Main Street, not just for our wonderful grants but also for all of the great work you do in the community!





GET READY FOR A SPOOKTACULAR EVENING AT THE DOWNTOWN LAWRENCEBURG HAUNTED WINE WALK

Something spooky is coming to Lawrenceburg on October 11, 2024 in the form of Downtown Lawrenceburg's Haunted Wine Walk. The event runs from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20, with proceeds benefiting the Dearborn County Clearing House.

The Archaeological Research Institute is happy to once again serve as one of the frightfully fun destinations on the wine walk. We'll be all dressed up in our spooky best at 126 West High Street, eager to greet you, serve up some fine wine, and share a spooky tale or two about ghosts that, according to some sources, haunt our building. The grounds on which the ARI building sits have been trod by many souls over the years. Native Americans walked these grounds long before Europeans arrived. Pioneer families settled here in the late 1700s.

In 1803, James Dill and his wife Elizabeth built a house on the property on which our building sits. James was a lawyer who came by way of Cincinnati. Elizabeth was the daughter of Arthur St. Clair, governor of the Northwest Territory. In the War of 1812, James was appointed Brigadier General in charge of the Dearborn County militia. After the war, as a member of the territorial legislature, Dill was an important figure in the creation of the state of Indiana.

In 1860 the Dill house burned to the ground. Shortly after that, the property was sold to Walter Hayes, a descendant of the original settlers of the Lawrenceburg area. Walter and his second wife Dalana began building a new house in 1866, but Walter died in 1867 before it was completed. Walter's daughter, Leah (Hayes) Fitch took over the planning of the "Fitch House," and six years later, Leah, her husband Dewitt, and their children moved in.

Leah's husband Dewitt got into the banking business through his father-in-law and in 1863 Dewitt and Walter were part of a group that founded the First National Bank in Lawrenceburg. Twenty years later, the bank, then called City National Bank, failed and Dewitt went bankrupt. In 1888, amidst the family's financial crisis, Leah and Dewitt's 16-year-old twin sons, Joseph and Thomas opened a livery business on the property behind the Fitch house, from which they transported travelers arriving by steamboat or train to their destinations. The business was successful, and it allowed the Fitch brothers to buy fancy

carriages that were often used in funeral processions. Through their relationships with undertakers, Thomas learned the embalming trade, and the twins soon opened the Fitch Brothers Funeral Home, a business that is still in operation today as the Fitch Denney Funeral Home.

The Fitch house went through several owners. When Leah died in 1901, the property passed to her son, James. In 1920 James sold the house to Dr. George F. Smith, the county coroner. And in 1926 Dr. Smith sold the house to the American Legion. In 1965, The Dearborn County Register bought the property and constructed a new building from which they published their newspaper for over 50 years. In 2023 the Archaeological Research Institute acquired the Register building and made it our home.

Earlier this year, in anticipation of the Haunted Wine Walk, ARI invited Stephanie Getz of the "Get Spooky Society" to visit our building to see if she detected any ghosts lurking there. Stephanie brought along devices that could be activated by energy from invisible spirits and she called upon any spirits in the building to communicate with us. What kind of response did she get? You'll have to visit us the night of the Haunted Wine Walk to find out.

This year there's a new addition to the Wine Walk - it's the "Haunted Wine Walk After-Party" that runs from 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. at the newly renovated Liberty Theater. There will be music, ghostly effects, and haunting tarot card readings to keep the fun going from 9:30-11:30 p.m. Tickets for the after-party are only \$5.

Start your Haunted Wine Walk evening by checking in at the Lawrenceburg Main Street office, located at 320 Walnut Street. (Free parking is available on the street, in adjacent lots, and at the parking garage at the end of Walnut Street.) Then make your way down to our High Street haunt. We'll be waiting for you!

Our thanks to Andy Coogle, whose excellent historical research was used in the creation of this article. - Ed



Latest Happenings at ARI!

By Samy Norris & Molly Cowan

The second half of summer has been a very busy time at ARI. From all the sessions of summer camp in July, to the second session of field school. Then it was time for our AmeriCorps NCCC team that helped us get right into our ARI Adventure Trek. Now we are starting the fall off by building a trebuchet, its always exciting here at ARI!



Our 5-8 summer camp getting to experience our REXplore: Fort Ancient Augmented Reality Tour.



Our teen immersion summer camp working on field work with ArchaeoCorps member Tessa.



Behind the Scenes: How we shot the page 8 “flying pumpkin” photo.



Second session of field school going on the Great Miami Archaeology Tour and getting their picture taken at Shawnee Lookout!



The Shovelbum Scramble activity from the 2024 ARI Adventure Trek: Journey of an Artifact!



Archaeological Research Institute



October

4th..... LAST DAY OF PUBLIC FIELD SEASON

11th.....Haunted Wine Walk

12th.....Artifact, Rock, & Fossil Identification Day 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

15th.....Happy Hour History: Speaker Series-Jon Seymour, Afternoon birding 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

16th-19th....Midwestern Archaeology Conference

22nd- 25th...Preserving Historic Places Conference

November

2nd.....Pumpkin STEM 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

9th.....Artifact, Rock, & Fossil Identification Day 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

15th.....Happy Hour History: Speaker Series-Rob Cook

26th- 29th...ARI CLOSED for Thanksgiving

30th.....ARI OPEN for Small Business Saturday

December

14th.....Artifact, Rock, & Fossil Identification Day 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

December 24th- January 2nd ARI CLOSED for Holidays

Become a member today!

**Help keep programming free
and accessible for all!**

