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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL WABASH ARCHAEOLOGY CHAPTER (APRIL 2022 – APRIL 2023)



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Archaeological Chapter

The Central Wabash Archaeology Chapter (CWAC), a chartered chapter of the Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology (IAAA), was established in 1969. Currently, CWAC meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Crawford County Historical Museum, 408 South Cross Street, Robinson, IL. The CWAC has eight family memberships, eight active memberships, one sustaining, and eight lifetime memberships.

As stated in its mission statement, education is seen as a primary responsibility of CWAC. In addition, the chapter focuses on the preservation of artifacts by maintaining an active Archaeology Section at the Crawford County Historical Museum. Artifacts are on display and written documenta-



Figure 1

tion is available. Acquired artifacts are evaluated, identified, cleaned, catalogued, and stored. The museum also has booklets of past archaeological excavations, a pictorial history of

chapter activities, and a reference library, meeting room, and workshop. The Archaeology Section of the Crawford County Historical Museum is open to the public on a regular basis on

Tuesdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm and by appointment at other times. The CWAC invites individuals or groups to visit the museum during regular hours or by special arrangements.

Permanent Fund (PF) Grant Received from IAAA

A PF grant has been used to digitize old site excavation slides photographed by Denzil Stephens. Other current efforts include developing a presentation on each excavated site and adding a narrative to accompany digitized slides.

Historical Section Display Area

Work has continued throughout this year to develop appropriate displays for this section of Crawford County Historical Museum. The display includes objects from circa-1750 French trading, early forts, and pioneer settlements and homes.

Seeking Improvements

CWAC is seeking ways to improve the effectiveness of the Archaeology Section. To gather ideas and to collaborate with other institutions, members of the CWAC visited the Moultrie County Historical Museum in Sullivan, IL, and hosted this institution at the Crawford County Historical Museum. CWAC members also visited the Lawrence County Historical Museum and Resource Center. Areas of mutual interest included improvements in the Archaeology Section's displays, early trails and roads that were shared by Lawrence and Crawford Counties, and early settlements and business that were near both counties. Early maps of the area were also explored.

Cooperation with other Crawford County Museums

Plans are underway to encourage and develop shared interests with other museums within Crawford County.

Preservation Statewide Historic Plan

CWAC members participated in an online session, as well as an in-person session sponsored by the Lakota Group, a consultancy firm from

Chicago, IL. They are responsible for developing the Preservation Historic Plan for the state of Illinois. CWAC's interest was concentrated on how this plan may impact archaeological activities around Illinois.

Illinois State Fair August

Carolyn Stephens, Marie Davis, and Barb Ross assisted at IAAA's outreach booth at the Illinois State Fair during August.

Fort LaMotte Days

CWAC provided artifact displays and demonstrations for 600 public, private, and home-schooled students in September (Figure 1). Both the flintknapping and atlatl demonstrations were big hits.

Night at the Museum (part of Heath Fall Fest – Robinson, IL)

The Archaeology Section had several visitors during this event in September. Those lucky participants experienced new displays that were not previously available for public viewing. These included a recently donated mammoth tooth recovered in Crawford County (Figure 2) and artifacts recovered from the Lynn Stephens Farm located in Honey Creek Township, Crawford County.



Five Mile House Fall Festival

CWAC participated in this event in October with an artifact display. Attendees expressed great interest regarding the history and function of local artifacts.

Presentation to a class taught by Elmer Guerri

Stanley Stephens and Marie Davis discussed their experiences related to the use of a magnetometer and a project completed by Dr. Jacob

Skousen (Western Illinois University) on Otter Pond site, Lawrence County.

Home School Group from Lawrence County, IL

Sixteen home schooled students, aging from seven to thirteen, plus accompanying parents, visited the Archaeology Section of the museum. Students handled and sorted artifacts into categories (e.g. tools and fossils), matched projectile points, noted raw material composition (e.g. bone, rock, tooth, metal, pottery), and participated in a mock excavation. Students were exposed to Archaic through Historical phases.

Orange Township, Clark Township

Members of CWAC conducted a surface survey in Clark County, Orange Township, Section 12. Numerous artifacts were recovered from two early pioneer house sites. Artifacts included an 1889 Indian Head penny, glass, metal, and pottery items, and China pieces. It appears that one location was an individual home site, while the other was home site with other structures, possibly a blacksmith shop and/or commercial buildings. Both sites were near to or serviced by the York Trail (road). Recovered artifacts were cleaned, sorted, and cataloged. Many are on display in the Historical Section of the museum.

Between happenings and developments at the museum, educational outreach activities, and historical archaeology fieldwork, the CWAC is an active chapter, working to better understand Illinois' past, in the present, for the future.

