

MISSISSIPPIAN CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS



Saturday, July 27th, 2019 at the Illinois State Museum - Dickson Mounds

Co-hosted by the Illinois State Museum and Western Illinois University

PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

Morning Session: Iconography, Artifacts, and Cultural Dynamics

- 9:00 **A Newly Reported Human Head Effigy Pipe from the Orr-Herl Site, Hardin County, Illinois.**
Brooke M. Morgan (Illinois State Museum)
- 9:20 **Identifying Religious Sodalities: An Iconographic Analyses of Cahokia-Style Beakers.**
Melinda A. Martin (University of Memphis)
- 9:40 **Mississippian Culture and the River Network.** David Lobbig (Missouri Historical Society)

10:00 – 10:20 *Break (snacks provided)*

- 10:20 **Dickson Mounds: Enticement, Accommodation, and Consequences of Mississippianization on the Northern Cahokia Frontier.** Alan D. Harn, Jean A. Hampton (Dickson Mounds Museum), Dawn E. Cobb (Illinois Department of Natural Resources)
- 10:40 **An Update on the Continuing Search for Cahokia Style Stone Tablets.** Bill Iseminger (Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site)
- 11:00 **Documenting Private Collections: Collaborative Efforts by the IAS and IAAA.** Eve A. Hargrave, Madeleine Evans (Illinois State Archaeological Survey), Holly Labisky (Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology)

11:30 – 1:30 *Lunch (on your own)*

Afternoon Session: Excavations, Geophysical Surveys, and Interpretation of Features

- 1:30 **Number 11, Murray Bluff.** Mark Motsinger (Carrier Mills/Stonefort High School and Saline County Historical Society)
- 1:50 **Coring Mounds Mx5 and Mx6 at Kincaid.** Brian M Butler, Tamira K. Brennan, and Paul D. Welch (Southern Illinois University Carbondale)
- 2:10 **Cahokia's Second Great Causeway.** Michael G. Farkas (Illinois State Archaeological Survey), Timothy R. Pauketat (Illinois State Archaeological Survey), Sarah E. Baires (Eastern Connecticut State University)
- 2:30 **Excavations at Ten Mile Creek.** Lawrence A. Conrad (Upper Mississippi Valley Archaeological Research Foundation)

2:50 - 3:10 Break (snacks provided)

- 3:10 **Recent Research at the Orendorf Site.** Andrea J. Alveshere (Western Illinois University)
- 3:30 **Star Bridge: A Late Mississippian Village in the Central Illinois River Valley.** John Flood (Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis)
- 3:50 **Neighborhood Dynamics and Patterns of Building Abandonment: A View from Cahokia's Spring Lake Tract.** Melissa R. Baltus (University of Toledo) and Sarah E. Baires (Eastern Connecticut State University)

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Viewable from 9:00 – 4:00 near the Auditorium entrance:

Geophysical Survey of a Late Mississippian site in Southeast Missouri (23Cg8). Tamira Brennan (Center for Archaeological Investigations Carbondale), Jennifer Bengtson (Southeast Missouri State University), Robert McCullough (Illinois State Archaeological Survey)

Utility and Applications of UAV Remote Sensing in Mississippian Archaeology. Justin Vilbig, Christopher Bodine, Dr. Vasit Sagan (Saint Louis University)

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ABSTRACTS



Saturday, July 27th, 2019 at the Illinois State Museum - Dickson Mounds

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PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

A Newly Reported Human Head Effigy Pipe from the Orr-Herl Site, Hardin County, Illinois

Brooke M. Morgan (Illinois State Museum)

The Orr-Herl site (11HN1) is located in extreme southern Illinois along the Ohio River in Hardin County. Orr-Herl is a Mississippian period mound and village complex which has been heavily impacted by looting. Although it is on the National Register of Historic Places, Orr-Herl has never been systematically excavated by professional archaeologists. In 1954, a single test unit was placed by the Southern Illinois University Museum in a midden; the fauna was analyzed by Paul Parmalee of the Illinois State Museum. The following year, while leading a field trip to the site, Parmalee surface-collected a fragment of a limestone human head effigy pipe and added it to the ISM collections. This paper describes the pipe fragment for the first time, and offers a comparison with similar iconography from the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex.

Identifying Religious Sodalities: An Iconographic Analyses of Cahokia-Style Beakers

Melinda A. Martin (University of Memphis)

Archaeologists often associate Mississippian beakers with Cahokia. However, few comprehensive analyses of the spatial and temporal variations of these beakers and their iconography outside Cahokia have taken place. In this presentation I discuss beakers from the American Bottom, Central Mississippi Valley, and Illinois River Valley to identify the patterning of their motifs. My presentation focuses on four beaker motifs, their geographic locations, several ethnohistoric accounts, along with my ideas concerning beakers. Through this research I argue that the identification of beaker motif clusters, as well as outliers, may indicate the presence of religious sodalities and their ability to establish non-kinship relationships among neighboring polities. I further note that the absence of these motifs in beaker regions may imply the rejection of intrusive cosmologies from the Cahokia area.

Mississippian Culture and the River Network

David Lobbig (Missouri Historical Society)

This preview presentation about the upcoming Missouri History Museum exhibit, *The Mighty Mississippi*, demonstrates how this public history venue looks at the deep history of our region's civilization, putting the environmental sustainability of our contemporary Middle Mississippi River communities into context. The Mississippian period of culture is examined as one of four major paradigms of human habitation in the watershed. The river and its tributaries are seen as key factors in the civilization's success, providing an extensive transportation network, food and tool resources, and agricultural development in its river bottoms. River animal iconography is seen as an example of impact on the society's values and its beliefs. Artifacts and interpretative topics are highlighted for this major 2019-2021 exhibit.

Dickson Mounds: Enticement, Accommodation, and Consequences of Mississippianization on the Northern Cahokia Frontier

*Alan D. Harn, Jean A. Hampton (Dickson Mounds Museum),
Dawn E. Cobb (Illinois Department of Natural Resources)*

Multiple excavations and analyses have been conducted at Dickson Mounds since Don Dickson began his first investigations there in 1927. The 1,104 burials subsequently excavated at the site now provide one of the largest and best preserved records of human history, events, and social accommodations that transpired as groups of relatively isolated Late Woodland people became immersed in the Cahokia Mississippian sociopolitical movement which spread across the landscape around A.D. 1100. This episode initially brought salient elements of a vibrant Mississippian lifeway that persisted, sometimes modified by the local indigenous population, for much of a century before rapidly declining alongside the early 13th century collapse of Cahokia. Coeval with this are mirrored the costs of dietary inadequacies and increasing population density that led to a magnified disease load and transmission which became relevant causal factors toward abandonment of the immediate region and the end of burial at Dickson Mounds and by about A.D. 1260. Dickson Mounds may offer unprecedented potential for better understanding many of these physical and social vagaries that occurred as indigenous cultures came under the influence of the Cahokia Mississippian florescence across the Midcontinent.

An Update on the Continuing Search for Cahokia Style Stone Tablets

Bill Iseminger (Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site)

Thus far, my search for "Cahokia-Style" stone tablets has discovered about two-dozen examples of whole or fragmentary specimens. The majority have cross-hatching on one or both sides, and a limited number have graphic images engraved on them, such as the iconic Cahokia Birdman Tablet. This presentation will review the items discovered thus far, their proveniences and characteristics, similarities and differences. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows of other specimens.

Documenting Private Collections: Collaborative Efforts by the IAS and IAAA

*Eve A. Hargrave, Madeleine Evans (Illinois State Archaeological Survey),
Holly Labisky (Illinois Association for the Advancement of Archaeology)*

Recent years have seen increasing concern among professional and avocational archaeologists about the future of privately owned archaeological collections. For the past 2 years, members from the Illinois Archaeological Survey and the Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology have combined their efforts to develop a methodology for recording private collections that can be used by both avocational and professional archaeologists. The goal is to focus on gathering basic information of the artifacts within a private collection (e.g., origin of materials, basic types of artifacts, collector name (with permission), history of collection) and rely upon photographs of the collections to facilitate additional identification of material classes/types by researchers. This approach does not limit the recorder to someone who has a professional background in archaeology. We hope such interactions will also initiate discussions with the owner about documenting locations of materials and the importance such collections play in future research in Illinois prehistory. For researchers interested in more details about the collection, the photographs will be available to review in more detail and/or they could contact the collector with a specific request to look at specific items. We anticipate the simplicity of this approach will result in a significant increase in the number of documented collections before they disappear through family's splitting up the collection or the materials are sold.

Number 11, Murray Bluff.

Mark Motsinger (Carrier Mills/Stonefort High School and President of Saline County Historical Society)

The Late Woodland Stone Forts/Walls of Southern Illinois have been an interest to archaeologists and historians for years, but until recently there have been only 10 recognized stone forts/walls in the region known as the Shawnee Hills. In this presentation I will discuss the wall itself, its discovery, how it came about and its verification by Dr. Brian Butler of Southern Illinois University.

Coring Mounds Mx5 and Mx6 at Kincaid

Brian M Butler, Tamira K. Brennan, and Paul D. Welch (Southern Illinois University Carbondale)

In the 1930s and early 1940s, University of Chicago archaeologists conducted excavations on all but two of the recognized mounds in the central core of the site. The two mounds that were not examined were Mx5 and Mx6, small mounds off the northeast corner of the plaza. Mx5 is a small mound at the southeast corner of Mx10 and Mx6 is an oblong mound in a low, wet area off the east end of Mx10. Here we report the preliminary results of small diameter (Oakfield) coring of these two earthen features.

Cahokia's Second Great Causeway

*Michael G. Farkas (Illinois State Archaeological Survey),
Timothy R. Pauketat (Illinois State Archaeological Survey),
Sarah E. Baires (Eastern Connecticut State University)*

Detailed examination of the Cahokia site through aerial LiDAR and ground reconnaissance has revealed additional features of interest in the vicinity of Rattlesnake Mound. These include a possible early Cahokian mound platform superimposed by the Rattlesnake ridgetop tumulus if not also a historically enhanced Cahokian pond. In addition, another artificial causeway is now apparent to the east of the foundational or great Rattlesnake Causeway. Similar to the primary example, this second raised earthen walkway appears intended to facilitate human processions through standing water, as we recently verified. In addition, the second great causeway shares the same elevation, width (about 20-meters), and alignment (to Cahokia's documented 5 degree offset grid). In fact, it parallels the Rattlesnake Causeway for at least 300 meters. Taken together and pending ground truthing, all of the new features indicate a previously unrecognized degree of spatial complexity if not chronological depth involving monumental water features and centralized water rituals.

Excavations at Ten Mile Creek

Lawrence A. Conrad (Upper Mississippi Valley Archaeological Research Foundation)

Excavations at the Hildemeyer or Ten Mile Creek site, the northernmost of the long-term Middle Mississippian towns, at the south end of Upper Lake Peoria, on an alluvial fan across the river from Peoria revealed a rich history of occupation. The earliest was from either the Rench or Eveland horizon (1050-1200 ACE) and was seemingly minor. The next was from the Orendorf horizon (ca 1200-1250 or 1275 ACE) and the final and most intense occupation was from the 14th century ACE. This Danze phase of the Ten Mile Creek Culture was characterized by a ceramic assemblage consisting of almost 100% cordmarked jars with a few plates, beakers, and bowls. The few Oneota and Langford sherds are presumed to be exotics from up river. The nonceramic assemblage consisted of polished stone adzes and celts, triangular points, 'humpbacked knives', socketed antler points, antler counters and imitation earplug faces in the form of miniature Middle Mississippian fenestrated gorgets cut from the operculum or gill plate of a large fish. No end scrapers were noted. As a site located on the boundary between the Middle Mississippians to the south and the Upper Mississippians to the north, the culture seems to combine elements of both major traditions, with a Middle Mississippian ceramic assemblage and an Upper Mississippian non-ceramic assemblage. The community plan and architecture seem to be Middle Mississippian.

Recent Research at the Orendorf Site

Andrea J. Alvoshere (Western Illinois University)

The Orendorf site is best known for the "frozen in time" quality of the burned Mississippian villages uncovered during salvage excavations of Settlement Areas C and D, and for the extreme

levels of violence indicated by the skeletal traumas observed among burials in the mound area. Much less is known about residential activities that may have occurred in Settlement Areas A and B. Western Illinois University has held archaeological field schools at Orendorf in 2017 and 2019, locating and excavating structures in these less-studied settlement areas. This presentation will summarize what is known about the use of space in Settlement Areas A and B based upon the results of these recent field seasons and a compilation of spatial data collected from all previous archaeological studies conducted on these settlement areas.

Star Bridge: A Late Mississippian Village in the Central Illinois River Valley

John Flood (Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis)

The late pre-Columbian period in the central Illinois River valley (CIRV) is demarcated by the development of large, oftentimes fortified Mississippian towns, farming hamlets, extensive trade networks, and shifting political alliances between AD 1050 and 1400. The fission and fusion of local polities ceased with abrupt abandonment of the CIRV by AD 1450 as part of the larger Vacant Quarter phenomenon. Located on a hypothesized boundary between Mississippian and Oneota zones of socio-political influence during the 14th century, Star Bridge (11BR17) was a large Mississippian village previously believed to have been incinerated during an assault. Through the analysis of an avocational surface collection, a 1992 excavation assemblage, and recent geophysical investigations, our research reexamines Star Bridge while assesses the site's integrity after decades of agricultural modification. Our geophysical data and the material culture from excavations suggest Star Bridge never burned, but was abandoned after one or two generations of occupation shortly before regional abandonment. Meanwhile, our analyses also revealed a dearth of Oneota-derived symbols and material culture, indicating minimal interaction between Star Bridge's inhabitants and their neighbors upstream.

Neighborhood Dynamics and Patterns of Building Abandonment: A View from Cahokia's Spring Lake Tract

Melissa R. Baltus (University of Toledo),

Sarah E. Baires (Eastern Connecticut State University)

Geophysical survey and excavations at Cahokia's Spring Lake Tract – located just east of the Dunham Tract – have revealed a neighborhood that appears to have been occupied from the Terminal Late Woodland through Moorehead phase. This neighborhood was located near multiple borrow pits – at least one of which was reclaimed and discovered through our excavations. Ongoing analysis of the excavations and material excavated from three of the structures and this reclaimed borrow pit help us better understand the dynamics of this particular neighborhood, including patterns of abandonment associated with the Late Stirling phase.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Geophysical Survey of a Late Mississippian site in Southeast Missouri (23Cg8)

Tamira Brennan (Center for Archaeological Investigations Carbondale),

Jennifer Bengtson (Southeast Missouri State University),

Robert McCullough (Illinois State Archaeological Survey)

The appearance of a large and growing sinkhole at 23Cg8, a late Mississippian site (ca AD 1350) in southeast Missouri, prompted a large-scale geophysical survey in the Spring of 2019. This collaborate effort between the Center for Archaeological Investigations at SIUC, the Department of History and Anthropology at SEMO, and the Illinois State Archaeological Survey at UIUC yielded surprising results that drastically alter our previous understanding of the site. This poster details a newly discovered occupation area and clarifies our interpretations of earlier excavations.

Utility and Applications of UAV Remote Sensing in Mississippian Archaeology

Justin Vilbig, Christopher Bodine, Vasil Sagan (Saint Louis University)

The initial investigation and detection of archaeological sites can be not only time consuming but cost prohibitive. The cost expenditure for a typical four-week archaeological excavation can be many thousands of dollars. This does not include the hundreds of man hours after the excavations have ended needed for processing and publication. Increasing costs and lack of funding impedes the thorough recording and preservation of many important locations. This poster introduces new technology that can be used in conjunction with digital image analysis to help determine the location and boundaries of historic and prehistoric features.

Using “Unmanned Aerial Vehicles” UAV’s, equipped with an array of different sensors you can record and create images of landscape and vegetation to give you a better understanding of what has taken place in an area before the excavation begins. This technology can save time and money as well better focus excavation efforts preventing too many costly dead ends and empty squares. UAV remote sensing can be an essential tool that forms the basis of a non-invasive means of initial survey and detection of historic and prehistoric structures.

Unfortunately, many Mississippian sites are under constant threat from human activity as well as the natural world. The new methods and technologies of UAV remote sensing also provide an exceptional method for documentation and preservation of such sites. Modern remote sensing allows for the creation of real distance true color models of sites, allowing the creation of a true to scale model in the digital world of threatened and vulnerable locations.