



42nd Annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference

Program and Abstracts

Kansas Historical Society

Topeka, Kansas

March 13-14, 2020

Sponsors:

Kansas Historical Society Foundation
Professional Archeologists of Kansas
Kansas Anthropological Association
R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates
Buried Past Consulting, LLC

Conference Organizers: Nikki Klarmann, Tricia Waggoner, and Eric Skov

Special Thanks: To our sponsors for providing support for the Friday night reception.
And to the Kansas Historical Society Foundation for providing coffee and snacks on
Friday and Saturday.

Cover Photo: Munkers Creek Dart Points from the Elliott site, 14GE303, in Geary County. These points are made of Permian chert from the Flint Hills region and date between 4250 and 2850 BCE.

Program

Friday March 13, 2020

- 9:30 AM Registration and Refreshments**, Museum Classroom, Kansas Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka, KS 66615
- 10:30 AM **Welcome Remarks**
- 10:40 AM Robert J. Hoard and Zachary R. Day
Where did Tobias Site Potters get their Clay?: A Very Preliminary Study.
- 11:00 AM Crystal A. Dozier and Christina Carolus
Preliminary Starch Residue Evidence from 14CO3
- 11:20 AM Bretton T. Giles and Shannon D. Koerner
The Significance of the Pecan Point Headpot at the Budenbender Site (14PO4), in northeastern Kansas
- 11:40 AM – 1:00 PM LUNCH**
- 1:00 PM **Tour of Museum, Archeology, and Archive Collections at the Kansas Historical Society**
- 3:00 PM **Self-Guided Tour of Kansas Museum of History Exhibits**
- 5:30 PM **Evening Reception**
6:30 PM Keynote: Rex Buchanan, co-author, *Petroglyphs of the Kansas Smoky Hills*
Iron Rail Brewing, 705 S Kansas Ave, Topeka, 66603

There will be complimentary drink tickets and a barbecue buffet sponsored by Professional Archeologists of Kansas, Kansas Anthropological Association, R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, and Buried Past Consulting, LLC.

Saturday March 14, 2020

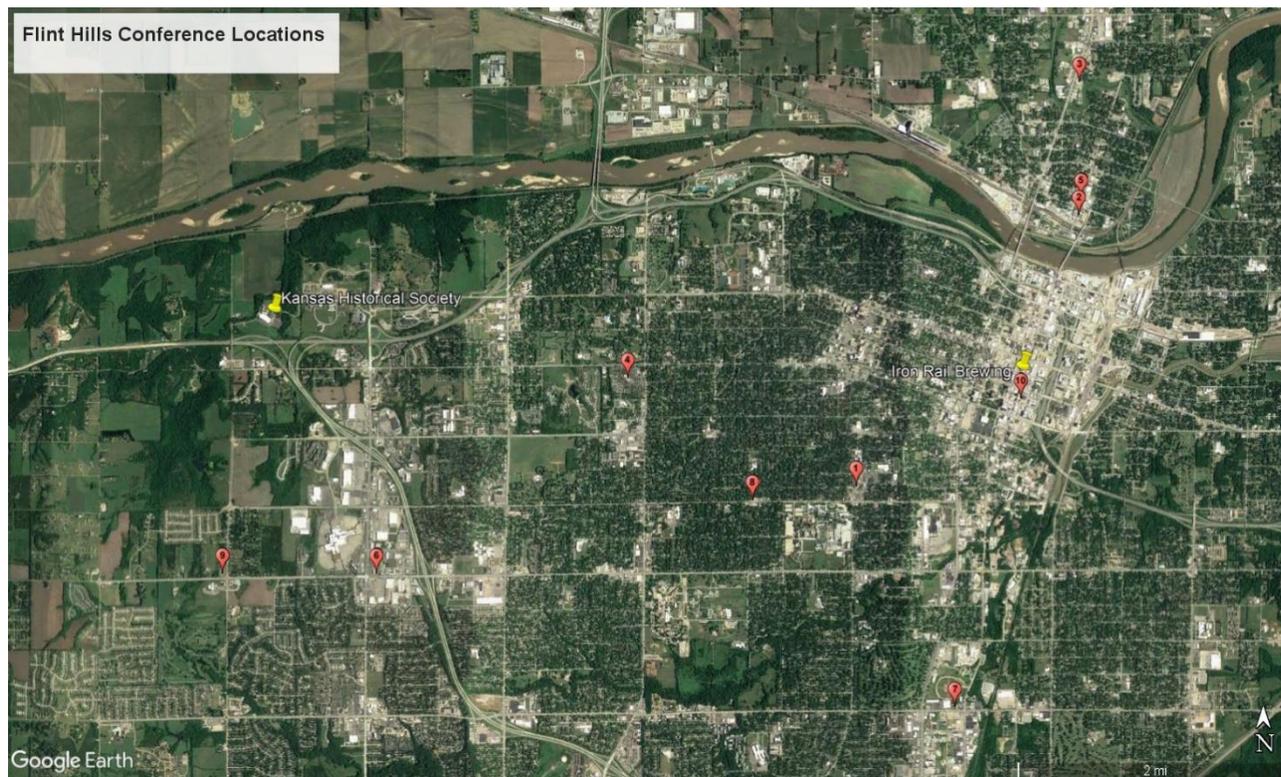
- 9:00 AM Registration and Refreshments**, Museum Classroom, Kansas Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka, KS 66615
- 9:20 AM Timothy Weston and Lynn Gentine
Public Archeology in Rice County, Kansas
A Long-Term Legacy of Cooperation and Friendship

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- 9:40 AM Nikki Klarmann
Trash Mound Treasures: The 2019 KATP Returns to the Tobias site
- 10:00 AM Sophia Rizzo and Laura R. Murphy
Initial analysis of ceramic sherds from the Saxman site (14RC301): A Great Bend aspect site in Rice County, Kansas
- 10:20 AM – 10:40 AM BREAK**
- 10:40 AM Jim Feagins
The McElroy Cache (23SK1105): An Early Archaic Lithic Cache from North Missouri
- 11:00 AM Renee Erickson
Two Recently Discovered Welsh Farmsteads on Fort Riley
- 11:20 AM Mike Penrod
Finding Jacob Brower
- 11:40 AM – 1:00 PM LUNCH**
- 1:00 PM Rob Bozell
Nebraska Highway Archeology Program Investigations at the Big Village of the Omaha
- 1:20 PM Eric Skov
14SC1 (Lake Scott Pueblo) Clean-out: Restoration of valuable and unique interpretive archeological site
- 1:40 PM Nolan Johnson and Rob Bozell
Exhibit Curation for the Archeologist (Part 2)
- 2:00 PM Tricia Waggoner
Prehistoric Textiles in the Great Plains
- 2:20 PM **Wrap-up and Location Selection for 2021**
- 2:40 PM – 3:00 PM BREAK**
- 3:00 PM **Professional Archaeologists of Kansas Meeting**, Museum Classroom, Kansas Historical Society

Thanks to all who attended, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

Location Map



Lunch Options

1. Burger Stand, 1601 SW Lane St
2. NOTO Burrito, 822 N Kansas Ave
3. Pad Restaurant, 1730 NW Topeka Blvd
4. Blackbird Coffee, Bistro 4025 SW 10th Ave
5. The Wheel Barrel, 925 N Kansas Ave
6. Monsoon Indian Grill, 2040 SW Wanamaker Rd #104
7. Tuptim Thai, 220 SW 29th St
8. Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 2614 SW 17th St
9. The Oriental Pearl, 2025 SW Urish Rd
10. Brew Bank, 822 S Kansas Ave

There are also many national chain restaurants along Wanamaker Rd just minutes from the Historical Society.

Abstracts

Rob Bozell

Nebraska Highway Archeology Program Investigations at the Big Village of the Omaha

Tonwontonga or Big Village was located near the Missouri River in northeast Nebraska. The site was the primary earthlodge town of the Omaha Tribe from 1775-1819. History Nebraska highway archeologists excavated a series of storage/refuse pits at the site in the 1970s and 1980s. Most fill was passed through fine screens resulting in a diverse collection of artifacts, faunal remains and plant debris. Tools and ornaments are dominated by Euroamerican trade items however a significant number of stone mauls and large bifaces were also recovered. Only several pieces of native pottery were found and those are essentially Arikara types whom the Omaha were on friendly terms with. Over 20 types of plants and over 40 animal taxa were recovered and those are dominated by fish, migratory birds, elk, bison, canids, deer, pronghorn, corn, squash, pigweed, goosefoot, nuts, and grape. Study of these artifacts, bones, and seeds provide important information needed for a sharper understanding of the dramatic changes the Omaha and other tribes were experiencing in response to inter-tribal relations and the fur trade.

Crystal A. Dozier and Christina Carolus

Preliminary Starch Residue Evidence from 14CO3

This paper presents preliminary results of starch residue analysis of Cowley-type pottery from 14CO3, the Etzanoa or Cowley County Country Club site. Ten recently excavated sherds were processed for starch and microfossil remains. The associated soil matrix was also sampled for microfossil remains. This presentation outlines the methodology of the research project and preliminary results from one sherd, indicating native starch survival at the site.

Renee Erickson

Two Recently Discovered Welsh Farmsteads on Fort Riley

The Fort Riley installation has undergone several expansions during the 20th century, due to land purchases in 1942 and 1965. As a result, many farmsteads were annexed by the installation. In order to comply with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, federal agencies must assume responsibility for protecting and preserving historic properties. Archaeologists are therefore required to conduct surveys on military installations, and investigations spanning several decades have documented historic farmsteads on Fort Riley. Using historic documents, maps, aerials, and archaeological fieldwork, most of the homestead site locations have been identified. Occasionally, previously unconfirmed sites are located. In the summer of 2019, Kansas State archaeologists discovered two historic artifact scatters and adjacent limestone features during a pedestrian survey. Subsequent fieldwork led to the recovery of additional artifacts related to two late 19th-early 20th Century homesteads. These archaeological sites represent original homesteads occupied by William Evans and Evan James, early Welch settlers. Their residences appear on an early map from 1881, but not on a 1909 map, which suggests brief occupations and the possible failure of first homesteaders to establish successful farmsteads. This paper discusses the preliminary investigations of these two previously unconfirmed, early Welsh farmsteads.

Jim Feagins

The McElroy Cache (23SK1105): An Early Archaic Lithic Cache from North Missouri

Not quite 60 years ago, a large isolated cache (23SK1105) of prehistoric chipped-stone artifacts was discovered in the uplands of Schuyler Co., Missouri. Among this hoard of ancient bifaces,

flakes, and other cultural items, was a Searcy-like point. These points are thought to be well over 7,000 years old (Ray 2016:155-156) or possibly even older than 8,000 years (Evans and Loebel 2017). Lithic caches from this time range are relatively rare and little is known about the caching behaviors of these Early Archaic people. An attempt has been made to supply a solid descriptive data base for the McElroy Cache to help better understand the various ways these caches could be used and enable future researchers to compare it with caches from this and other time periods.

Bretton T. Giles and Shannon D. Koerner

The Significance of the Pecan Point Headpot at the Budenbender Site (14PO4), in northeastern Kansas

In this paper, we revisit past interpretations of the Pecan Point headpot documented at the Budenbender Site (14PO4) in northeastern Kansas. We argue that the presence of this Late Mississippian effigy vessel has implications for archaeological interpretations, including when Budenbender dates and the interpersonal relations its inhabitants established with communities in the Central Mississippi Valley. We begin by discussing how Budenbender has been interpreted as a small, independent and isolated Smoky Hill farmstead. We then illustrate the significance of the Late Mississippian effigy vessel found at Budenbender by examining the temporal and spatial distribution of Pecan Point headpots. We note that Pecan Point headpots are diagnostic of a Late Prehistoric horizon that continues into the early Contact period, circa AD 1350-1550. This suggests that Budenbender could date later than has commonly been assumed. The limited distribution of Pecan Point headpots outside the Central Mississippi Valley could also imply that these effigy vessels were not trade wares, but rather ceremonial vessels, which could have implications for its use/deposition at Budenbender.

Robert J. Hoard and Zachary R. Day

Where did Tobias Site Potters get their Clay?: A Very Preliminary Study.

A hallmark of the Great Bend aspect (ca. 1350-1700 CE) in Kansas is the large volume of well-made ceramic cooking vessels. The production of pottery takes skill, time, and resources. The most critical resource is clay, and not all clays are good for making cooking vessels. This study uses X-ray diffraction to determine if the clay that is readily available at the Tobias site, 14RC8, a substantial Great Bend aspect village site in central Kansas, was used to make the pottery used at the site.

Nolan Johnson and Rob Bozell

Exhibit Curation for the Archeologist (Part 2)

The Piecing Together the Past exhibit opened in November of 2019. The exhibit showcases Nebraska Archeology by answering five questions commonly asked of archeologists. The exhibit was well received and the opening event a success. However not all the artifacts selected and ideas planned in the script made it into the finished product. This paper will explore several examples of things that did not make the cut and why they were left out. In doing so, future exhibits planned by archeologists can hopefully avoid some of the pitfalls in exhibit design encountered during the design and building of Piecing Together the Past.

Nikki Klarmann

Trash Mound Treasures: The 2019 KATP Returns to the Tobias site

From June 1 to June 16, 2019, 196 participants gave 7,451.5 hours of their time to the 44th annual Kansas Archeology Training Program field school. Returning once again to the Tobias site (14RC8) in Rice County after two successful KATP field schools in 1977 and 1978, the 2019 field school focused on bringing new technologies previously unavailable to its exploration of the

Great Bend aspect (ancestral Wichita) village. Excavations were conducted to try and locate domestic dwellings and on a refuse mound to learn more about the day-to-day lives of the ancestral Wichita who lived at the site. Since the excavation, volunteers and staff have devoted even more time to processing artifacts from the 2019 KATP at 5 separate lab events. This presentation will provide a background on the Tobias site, the 1970s excavations, and provide initial findings and interpretations from the 2019 field school.

Mike Penrod

Finding Jacob Brower

This session will explore the impact of Jacob V. Brower on archaeology in Kansas at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. Included will be a review of Brower's Kansas activities focusing on his search for Quivira. It is useful for the contemporary archaeologist working in the northern flint hills to know the extent of the Brower resources available. For instance, many (although not all) of the sites excavated by Brower and his associates in the 1890s and early 1900s have been identified and are in the KS GIS site database. Brower's field notebooks exist. These are detailed notes of field work done on Kansas sites (and sites in other states) between 1898 and 1903. They include sketched maps of sites and detailed sketches of artifacts recovered. Using the KS GIS database, it is possible to match some of the sites described in the field notebooks to physical locations primarily in Riley, Geary, Wabaunsee and Pottawatomie counties. Working with these resources provides a very interesting connection to the past and a time when many of these sites sat relatively undisturbed.

Sophia Rizzo and Laura R. Murphy

Initial analysis of ceramic sherds from the Saxman site (14RC301): A Great Bend aspect site in Rice County, Kansas

The Saxman site (14RC301) is a Great Bend aspect (AD 1400-1700) village site situated along Cow Creek in Rice County, Kansas. Waldo Wedel noted the site as one of the more significant Little River Great Bend occupations. The site was also known to many collectors over the decades. One such collector, Mike Weimer, both surface-collected and excavated portions of the site in the late 1960s. Weimer donated approximately 424 ceramic sherds to the Kansas State Historical Society. We present an initial analysis of 87 sherds from the donated collection, including the temper and thickness. Based on published experimental archaeology data, temper reduces shrinkage and cracking of clay during firing. Temper, along with other attributes such as finishing and decorative techniques, may also reveal culturally distinct preferences both spatially and temporally among prehistoric groups in Kansas. Of the 87 sherds analyzed, temper percentages were 71% grit, 15% shell, and 14% sand. Of these, 76 body sherds averaged a thickness of 6.12 mm, with the average thickness of 5.96 mm for grit, 6.88 mm for shell, and 6.18 mm for sand. Through the analysis of a donated collection, we hope to enrich our understanding ceramic manufacturing methods, use, and discard at this ancestral Wichita site.

Eric Skov

14SC1 (Lake Scott Pueblo) Clean-out: Restoration of a valuable and unique interpretive archeological site

Last fall I had the pleasure of directing a group of KAA volunteers in restoring the pueblo at Lake Scott State Park. From September 26th to 29th our team removed over 30 years of accumulated sediments from the pueblo floor, re-exposing the room floors and associated features. The Lake Scott Pueblo has a unique story with themes ranging from refugee populations, to integration of minorities within communities, to adoption of new cultural elements by dominant populations; which is all within the context of competing territorial claims by colonial powers and changing power dynamics between those powers and the native communities they lived among. Our state has a far more complex and longer history than is

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commonly recognized. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, a visitor to the Lake Scott Pueblo now has a better chance of walking away with an appreciation of the richness and depth of the history of that place and the people who once lived there.

Tricia Waggoner

Prehistoric Textiles in the Great Plains

The wearing of clothing and the production and use of textiles is universal in human societies and is an exclusively human characteristic. Yet due to their fragile nature these important products are rarely preserved. For this reason, textiles are often absent from the archeological record and their importance is often overlooked. Some indications do exist though and by looking at multiple lines of evidence we can begin to reconstruct the prehistory of this complex technology's use on the Great Plains and guide future research into the production, use, and trade networks associated with this fundamental technology.

Timothy Weston and Lynn Gentine

Public Archeology in Rice County, Kansas

A Long-Term Legacy of Cooperation and Friendship

Cooperation and friendship between archeologists, landowners, and other local residents is not always a given. But it has been in Rice County Kansas, where an extraordinary connection between archeologists and local folks has endured for nearly 8 decades. A cluster of well-known Great Bend Aspect sites along the Little Arkansas River originally brought researchers, including Waldo Wedel, to the area. Excavations were undertaken this past summer at one of the most prominent among them, the Tobias site (14RC8), by the Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP). That work provided an opportunity to reflect on the long-term value of public engagement to both archeologists and local residents.