

Further identification to genus and species of the faunal and fish remains would be useful. Some faunal and fish remains are probably of recent origin, and not directly associated with prehistoric cultural material recovered from the property.

## CONCLUSION

### Prehistoric Material

The prehistoric lithic and ceramic material recovered suggests at least two different prehistoric occupations are present. The small unnotched triangular and stemmed points and smoothed cordmarked pottery (some decorated with cord impressions) are associated with Late Woodland cultures (AD 400-1100). The cordmarked rims most closely resemble what archaeologists have called "Madison Ware" or "Heins Creek". The latter dates to the earlier portion of the Late Woodland period (AD 500-750). Stemmed points suggest an earlier occupation dating from the Late Archaic (3000-1000 BC) through Late Woodland (AD 400-1100) may be also present.

The single shell tempered body sherd, a few plain undecorated rims and several grit tempered cordmarked pottery sherds decorated with incised or tool trailed horizontal lines indicate an Upper Mississippian / Oneota (AD 1000-1500) component.

The density and areal extent of prehistoric material suggests a series of seasonal villages or campsites occupied by small, migratory groups are present in the sand dunes (now forested) along Lake Michigan and on the slightly elevated stream terrace, east of the Black River. No evidence of subsurface features such as hearths, storage pits, postmolds (house structures) or burials were found during the survey.

Several factors obviously influenced prehistoric people to live and subsist on what today is Kohler Co. property. Some reasons are the proximity to diverse plants and animals, possible horticulture between the dunes, canoe access for water travel and the natural beauty of the dunes, beach and river setting. Fish (whitefish, lake trout, lake sturgeon), riverine resources (turtles, clams, panfish and other freshwater fish species), medium to large sized game animals (white-tailed deer, elk, black bear, wolf, beaver, fox, raccoon, rabbit, squirrel), migratory birds (geese, ducks), nuts, berries and various wild plants provided a smorgasbord of locally available foods to satisfy the prehistoric appetite.

The Kohler Co. property lies within a region, south of the City of Sheboygan, known by avocational

archaeologists as a favored local for collecting prior to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Writing in 1902, Dr. Alphonse Gerend of Sheboygan noted:

The Sheboygan County sites are situated along the sandy shore of Lake Michigan beginning at the mouth of the Black river in the Town of Wilson about two and one half miles south of the limits of the City of Sheboygan, and continuing south at intervals for a distance of fifteen miles. At certain points, they extend from the water's edge to a distance of one half of a mile or more inland. The Black river, which is now a small stream except where it empties into the lake, also bounds this district on the west for a distance of about four miles. It has its source just without the southern limits of the Town of Wilson and from thence flows northward and finally eastward to the lake. Upon its bank, bands of the Pottawattomie Indians were wont to camp up to as late as twenty-five years ago.

Everywhere in this entire shore region, where research has been attempted or collections made, are found archaeological evidence essentially similar in character. Thus in the soil and ever shifting and changing sand banks, ridges and depressions are still largely preserved the records which point to an extensive and populous settlement or settlements located here in prehistoric times.

By the frequent discolorations of the sandy surface and the presence in the hollows and banks of bits of charcoal, burned wood, broken pottery and burned and broken stones we are yet able to locate with a greater or less degree of certainty the hearths and habitations of this primitive people. The bones of the bear, elk and deer, of fish and other animals are also sometimes found. In a similar manner the presence in quantity of stone, pottery, copper and bone utensils and of weapons and ornaments enable us to judge of their mode of life (Gerend 1902:14-15).

Pottery vessels and potsherds from the "Sheboygan" or "Black River" sites are extensively reported and illustrated (Gerend 1902:19-21, 1904:11-14; Lawson 1902). The Rudolph Kuehne Collection of Sheboygan (an extremely large collection of ceramic and lithic material collected from sites in Sheboygan County curated at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center), in particular, contains complete pottery vessels obtained from the area. While the material is catalogued and indexed, it contains no site provenance data (Fay 1978:20). Therefore, it is not presently known if any of this cultural material is from the Kohler Co. property.

It should be further noted that only a few archaeological sites with Late Woodland / Oneota occupations in similar dune / beach settings along Lake Michigan, mostly on the Door Peninsula, have been excavated (Mason

1966; Dirst 1993). A comparison of the Kohler Co. cultural materials with archaeological remains and features recovered from these sites would add to our understanding of *The People of the Dunes* in east-central and northeastern Wisconsin.

### **Historic Material and Structural Remains**

Most of the historic material recovered during surface inspection and shovel testing is contemporary with current land use practices such as hiking and horseback riding on the property. Construction material, slag, cinders and household debris reflect the common practice of trash disposal during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The structural remains of a concrete foundation (south of the Middle Trail near Lake Michigan) and earthen berm (along the Tent Trail behind Tent Sites 2 and 3) are *in situ* evidence of former buildings on an unknown age and function on the property. None of the architectural features and historic materials are considered significant or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

## **IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION**

The present archaeological study was adequately thorough to determine that prehistoric cultural material is widely scattered in the dunes and along the river bottom on Kohler Co. property. Prehistoric material was particularly dense along the East Trail, at the Maintenance Building / Parking Lot in the Black River floodplain and at the east end of the North Trail and North Access Road, west of and adjacent to the grassy swale. As a result, test excavations are recommended in these areas to locate additional artifacts and possible subsurface features that may exist, and to determine if they are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. No additional testing is needed if the areas will be avoided during construction.

Because of the potential for encountering buried archaeological deposits, additional "bracket" shovel testing and on-site construction monitoring in the following areas are recommended. They include:

- Tent Trails behind Tent Sites 5 and 10-11
- Connecting Tent Trails 2, 3, and 4
- East Trail
- Footpaths from the East Trail to Picnic, Spa and Honeymoon Tent Areas
- Maintenance Building / Parking Lot, relocated east of the River Trail in the red pine plantation, and
- Guest Reception Area, relocated in dunes east of the River Trail.

Each of these areas produced large enough concentrations of prehistoric material to warrant further archaeological investigations.

Depending on final design plans, additional development areas that have not already been archaeologically surveyed may need to undergo exploratory shovel testing as well to locate and evaluate cultural resources that may be present.

No additional archaeological work is needed in the following development areas on the property. They include:

- 12 Outback Tent Camp Sites along Lake Michigan
- Restaurant / Pavilion
- Spa / Massage Tent
- Picnic Areas
- Tent Trails Behind Tent Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, 5a, 6, 7, 8 and 9
- Connecting Tent Trails 1, 5 and 6
- Middle Trail
- South Trail
- Guest Reception Area / Parking Lot in the floodplain
- River Trail
- Entrance Road off Timberlake Road (north end of property), and
- Maintenance Service Road (southwest corner of property).

Furthermore, no further work is warranted at:

- #ST1 at the west end of the South Trail, where a Madison Triangular point was found in 2010 and additional "bracket" shovel testing in 2011 yielded one shatter flake, and
- within the reported site boundary of Black River Mound Group No. 1 (47SB172) at the north end of the property unless major soil disturbances from construction of the North Access Road are planned in the area.

In the event any deeply buried archaeological sites or cultural materials are found during construction, the Compliance Section, Division of Historic Preservation and Public History (SHPO) at the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison should be contacted immediately at 1-608-262-2970.

## CURATION

Field notes, maps, photographs and other documentation resulting from the archival research and archaeological investigations are on file at Old Northwest Research, Two Rivers, Wisconsin. Artifacts recovered in 2010 were catalogued with the field designation "KLR" (for Kohler), while those from 2011 were labeled with the archaeological site number 47SB430 (obtained from the Office of the State Archaeologist, Wisconsin Historical Society).

Following analysis, prehistoric artifacts and faunal remains were placed in plastic storage bags marked with provenance for curation. Given the recent origin of the historic material, these items were thoroughly analyzed, then discarded.

Since the cultural material belongs to the Kohler Co., it is suggested the artifacts be curated at the Kohler Design Center (which contains a small company museum in the lower level) or John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan (which has archaeological materials from the area). If this is not possible, consideration should be given to donating the archaeological collection to a local university, historical society or museum facility for permanent curation and research purposes.

A completed Bibliography of Archaeology Report (BAR) data entry form and ASI update form for 47SB172 (for use by the Office of the State Archaeologist) are attached in Appendix C.