The Palace site is the little big site that almost wasn’t because of an erroneous assumption that the stratigraphy of the project area was too young in age and substantially altered by recent flood events to preserve significant deposits. An astute SHPO reviewer questioned this assumption, leading to additional investigation. It is “little” because only 2,816 lithic items were recovered, a seemingly small assemblage for a Middle Archaic site. We see the Palace site as ‘big’ because it challenges us to reimagine concepts of stratigraphy, community and mobility, and we have approached this challenge from a perspective that combines practice theory and material culture studies. Detailed analysis of site structures, food remains, and durable artifacts is ongoing in order to address questions about food preparation and consumption, seasonality, and discard. Our work has also focused on establishing an occupational sequence for the main ridge Mid-Holocene settlement and we share with you today some preliminary interpretations as they appear to us at this time.

Dr. Melody Pope
Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist

Friday November 8, 2013
3:30 in 27 Macbride Hall

Coffee and light refreshments will be provided
All faculty and students are welcome