



# A Community-inspired (and Energized) Mastodon Excavation in Southern Iowa

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Wayne County is a relatively remote and lower population density (96th of 99) rural county in Iowa but features the vibrant and well-managed Prairie Trails Museum that enjoys strong community support. A 2022 discovery by an area resident of a complete and surprisingly well-preserved mastodon femur in a drainage in the southwest part of the county led to a community-initiated research project that ultimately included the landowners, museum staff, University of Iowa Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) personnel, and local interested avocationalists. This presentation serves as a practical case study focusing on how the project was organized, funded, and operationalized.

**Friday, January 31, 2025 | 2:30pm**

**27 Macbride Hall**

**17 N. Clinton Street, Iowa City, IA 52242**

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