



*MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

*Archaeology News  
is a publication of  
the Mississippi Valley  
Archaeology Center*

*Newsletter Submissions:  
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UWLMVAC*

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# Archaeology News

Volume 32 Number 1

May 2015

## Area Collectors Share Finds at the Artifact Show

On March 14, eighteen collectors joined MVAC at Valley View Mall to display their artifacts and share the area's history with the public.

While the majority of the collectors came from western Wisconsin, we were fortunate to have artifacts displayed from central and eastern Wisconsin, Minnesota, and other Midwest states. Many of the projectile points and other artifacts were made from local materials, with a scattering of exotic materials displayed which would have been imported into the area from North Dakota, Missouri, and Indiana.

Connie Arizigan manned the Artifact Identification station much of the day, aided by UW-La Crosse Professor Emeritus Jim Theler and the rest of the MVAC staff. Time passed quickly as they examined stone tools and bone artifacts brought in by area residents curious about objects they had found themselves, or that had been handed down through the family. In addition to MVAC staff, Phyllis Stevenson assisted with handing out information and discussing the artifacts displayed by MVAC.

Chris Swoger, UW-La Crosse Archaeological Studies Program student, provided a flintknapping (stone tool making) demonstration. Chris shared the knowledge he has gained



*UW-La Crosse student Chris Swoger provided a flintknapping demonstration at the Artifact Show.*



*Collectors Jeanette Laack and Mark Pingel (seated) display their collections at the Artifact Show at Valley View Mall.*

from hours of practice at the MVAC lab, using the same techniques to make arrowheads and spearheads as the early Native People of our area did hundreds and thousands of years ago.

Valley View Mall has proven to be a wonderful venue in which to hold the Artifact Show, as hundreds of people passing by view the displays. Many of the visitors would never be introduced to this area's rich history if not for the exposure awarded by the mall. Thanks to Laurie Cafe and the mall staff for organizing such a great location!

### 2015 Artifact Show Collectors

Joe Ambrose  
Jay Bittner  
Loren Cade  
Jeremy Cobble  
Ron Howard  
Gene Hynek  
Jim Jordan  
Jeanette Laack  
Dan Maas  
Bill Meyer  
AJ Moore  
David Moore  
Mark Pingel  
Keith Searce  
Betty Steele  
Hoyt Strandberg  
Paul Wiste  
Guy Wittenberg

***Thank you for participating!***



# Volunteer Field Survey, May 2

*Constance Arzigian, MVAC Research Associate*

Great weather greeted the MVAC 2015 public field survey at the Norskedalen Heritage Center, and surrounding fields overlooking Coon Creek. Though the farmers have been delayed in plowing their fields this spring, and visibility was poor in some fields, we found artifacts in several fields and identified a new site in a field that had never been surveyed. Unfortunately, we found no diagnostics except for one point fragment for which we can only say it's older than a Late Woodland triangular point. We also did some shovel testing to see how deeply artifacts extended in a field that was now in grass. This will help us to identify some likely areas to test this summer with the MVAC Public Field Experience in July. We had a total of 40 people of all ages and experience, from novices to those who have worked with us for many years.



*Walking fields at the Norskedalen Heritage site.*



*Shovel testing at the Norskedalen Heritage site, Coon Valley.*



*Washing artifacts back at the lab.*

## MVAC Staff Contacts

### Director

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### MVAC Staff

Michael Bednarchuk  
Jean Dowiasch  
Wendy Holtz-Leith  
Bonnie Jancik  
Marcee H. Peplinski  
Vicki Twinde-Javner

### Research Associates

David Anderson  
Constance Arzigian  
Kate Grillo  
Jessi Halligan  
Suzanne Harris  
James Theler  
Heather Walder

## Education News

### Matching Funds Grant:

Teachers interested in using MVAC's Archaeology Education Program resources in their classrooms can get financial help with our Matching Funds Grant. The grant matches a teacher or school's cost dollar for dollar. Thanks to the UW-L Foundation and UW-L College of Liberal Studies for providing funds for this program.

### La Crosse School District:

Funds are available from the La Crosse School District for their elementary and middle school teachers to use MVAC presentations and resources in their classrooms. Thanks to the La Crosse School District for providing funds for this program.

### MVAC Educational Programs are supported by

The United Fund for the Arts and Humanities  
The National Endowment for the Humanities

## New MVAC Display in UW-L Murphy Library

Stop by and see MVAC's new display at UW-L's Murphy Library! The display was designed by UW-L Archaeological Studies Program graduate, McNair scholar, and 2014 Winter Commencement speaker Yolona (Yoli) Ngandali. The first three cases highlight Anthropology, Archaeology, and Heritage Management. The faculty research case features Dr. Jessi Halligan's excavation at an underwater Paleoindian site in Florida and the student research case displays Yoli's own work on computer applications in archaeology both in 3D modeling of artifacts and spatial analysis of Aboriginal rock art locations in Northwestern Australia. MVAC is grateful for grant funds from UW-L College of Liberal Studies that helped to support this project.

## MVAC's New e-News Format

Since February, our e-News has a new look. As a part of this process we'll also be updating our e-mail list. If you would like to receive MVAC's e-News please take a moment and go to the link below to confirm your interest in receiving our e-News. Monthly newsletters will be sent only to those who sign up at: [mvac.uwlax.edu/mail-e-news](http://mvac.uwlax.edu/mail-e-news)

## MVAC's New On-Line Donation Option

You can now make a donation to MVAC at any time with our new on-line donation page offered through the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation. You have the option to submit your credit card information or print off a form and mail in your check at: [foundation.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://foundation.uwlax.edu/mvac)

## Great Attendance at MVAC's 2014 Awards & Lecture

Over 130 people attended the 2014 MVAC Awards ceremony and lecture. Thanks to Dr. James Theler for his entertaining insider's perspective on regional research.

MVAC's 2014 Awards were presented to:

James P. Gallagher Award for Archaeological Excellence:  
**Ruthann Benson**

Archaeology Education Award: **Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center**

Regional Archaeology Award: **Jay Bittner**

For more information about this year's award recipients visit:  
<http://mvac.uwlax.edu/aboutsupport/volunteer-recognition/>



*Award winners (l-r) Jay Bittner; Christine Hall, Executive Director of Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center; and Ruthann Benson, Dean of UW-L College of Liberal Studies with MVAC Executive Director Tim McAndrews.*

## MVAC MEMBERSHIP FORM

### Consider becoming a member of MVAC

MVAC's innovative Public Education Program brings the excitement of archaeology to children and adults throughout the area. Become a member of MVAC and receive our newsletters, which report on programs, current research, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities. Also, as a member, you will receive reminders of special "members only" events. Please remember that your contribution is tax-deductible.

Yes! I want to support the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center Programs!  
Enclosed is my contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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### Membership Categories

**Patron: \$1000 and above**

**Benefactor: \$500 - 999**

**Supporting: \$100 - 499**

**Contributing: \$50 - 99**

**Active: \$35 - 49**

**Students: \$10**

Please make checks payable to UW-L Foundation, Inc. for MVAC and send to MVAC, 1725 State St., La Crosse, WI 54601. Gifts to the UW-L Foundation for MVAC qualify as charitable tax deductions to the full extent of the law as applied to the individual circumstances of each donor. You can increase your gift's value if your employer has a matching gift plan. Check with your human resources office.





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## Upcoming Events

Contact MVAC at (608) 785-8454 for more information or  
visit our web site: **[www.mvac.uwlax.edu](http://www.mvac.uwlax.edu)**

### Summer Youth Classes\*

#### **Egypt – grades 4–6**

Date: Monday, July 20

Time: 9 AM–3 PM

Location: 312 Wimberly Hall, UW-L

#### **Introduction to Archaeology – grades 5-9**

Date: Tuesday, July 21

Time: 9 AM–3 PM

Location: 312 Wimberly Hall, UW-L

#### **Middle School Field School – grades 5-9**

Date: Wednesday-Thursday, July 22-23

Time: 9 AM–3 PM

Location: 312 Wimberly Hall, UW-L

#### **Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance for youth and teen events may be available.  
For more information, contact MVAC at 608.785.8454 or  
[jdowiasch@uwlax.edu](mailto:jdowiasch@uwlax.edu).

### Public Archaeology Field Schools\*

#### **Three-Day Experience - high school & adult**

Dates: Mon.–Wed., July 20–22

#### **Five-Day Experience - high school & adult**

Dates: Mon.–Fri., July 20–24

#### **Open House - MVAC Field School**

Date: Thursday, July 23

Time: 10 AM–2 PM

Location: Norskedalen Heritage Site, Coon Valley

\*For class descriptions and fees, check out Events on  
the the MVAC website at [mvac.uwlax.edu](http://mvac.uwlax.edu)

### Registration

Registration for fee events is administered through the  
Continuing Education Office, 205 Morris Hall, UW-  
La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601. For more informa-  
tion, contact Karen McGarvey at 608.785.6508. To  
register online, go to [http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/  
active-programs/Archaeology-Workshops/](http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/active-programs/Archaeology-Workshops/)