

ARCHAEOLOGY NEWS

CONNECTING THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE

The weather is warm, crops are growing (by the hour!), and archaeology field season is in full swing. MVAC's staff is busy providing contract services to businesses, agencies, and landowners. We're also still deeply engaged in public outreach and preservation activities throughout the region. MVAC's digital offerings include some great new additions:

- Four entries in MVAC's new **UWL Archaeology Alumni Podcast Series** – Kassie Haines (2011), Megan Kasten (2012), Max Pschorr (2013), Jeremy Nienow (1997). The podcasts feature alumni talking about their archaeology experiences at MVAC and UWL, and how those have contributed to subsequent careers in archaeology and other fields.
- Three new entries in MVAC's new **Video Glossary** series – Flake, Temper, Grooved Stones. These short videos offer quick, straightforward explanations and examples of common archaeological terms and concepts.
- **New video** by Connie Arzigian – Bifaces: Stone Tools Worked on Both Sides. This new addition to Connie's popular videos provides essential information on a common artifact type.
- **Popular Facebook posts** – Abraders (2,335 reaches), Tobacco Seed (1,575 reaches), Mammoths and Mastodons (1,477 reaches).

EVENTS

MVAC is planning a public lecture for October 2024 featuring Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Ho-Chunk Nation. Make sure we have your current contact information so you can stay informed!

MVAC AVAILABILITY

MVAC is usually open during regular business hours, but if you would like to visit, we recommend emailing or leaving a voicemail in advance to make sure someone will be available (mvac@uwlax.edu or 608.785.8463).



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

Newsletter Submission:

T: 608.785.8454

E: jdowiasch@uwlax.edu

www.uwlax.edu/mvac

www.facebook.com/UWLMVAC

www.youtube.com/@uwlmvac

1725 State Street

La Crosse, WI 54601-3788



DONATE



SIGN UP



WEB SITE



FACEBOOK



YOUTUBE



TUMBLR

2024 ARTIFACT SHOW

MVAC hosted the annual Artifact Show at Valley View Mall on Saturday, March 2. Fifteen artifact collectors from throughout Wisconsin shared their displays and knowledge with over 750 members of the public. We were excited to welcome new collectors and enjoyed catching up with some we've known for over 30 years. Special thanks to Jack Larson and UW-La Crosse student Brian Nelson for providing flintknapping demonstrations throughout the day.

Collectors

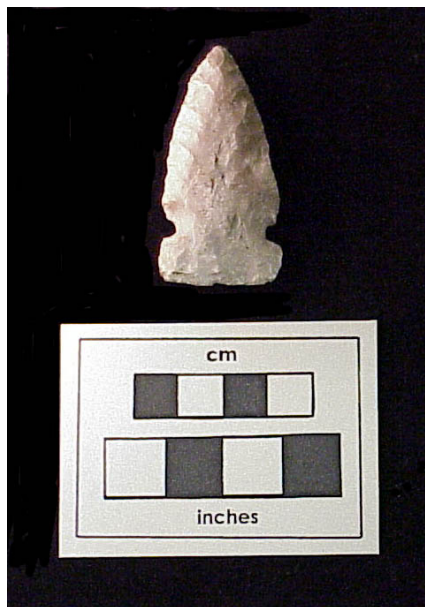
- Rich Althaus
- Jay Bittner
- Loren Cade
- Jeremy Cobble
- Laura Deering
- Gene Hynek
- Jim Jordan
- David Kriesel
- Frank Lightfoot
- Jeff Lindow
- Jim Losinski
- Dan Maas
- Doug Miller
- Mark Pingel
- Hoyt Strandberg

MVAC archaeologist Cindy Kocik interviewed Jay Bittner's family and Jim Losinski. Here's a link to the interviews, and some general images from the show: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsAdipQSb7k>

Also, our thanks to the Trempealeau County Historical Society for providing a link to a video they took at the Artifact Show: https://youtu.be/s_JBMvwdI7Y?si=4Z9_Wx1rc6T0dPcJ



MVAC Staff at the 2024 Artifact Show



HOW OLD IS IT?

A young man recently found a projectile point in the Chippewa Flowage near Hayward. Wanting to learn more about it, the family emailed a ranger at Perrot State Park, who forwarded the email to MVAC. MVAC staff identified the point as a Middle Archaic type called a Raddatz point, similar to the one above (or possibly a variant called a Madison Side-Notched point). It is probably about 3,500 to 5,000 years old. The family sent a map of the location where it was found, and it turned out to be on land owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. MVAC gave the family contact information for DNR Archaeologist Ricky Kubicek so they can pass along additional information on the site. MVAC will help record the location in the Wisconsin Historical Society's statewide database, to add to knowledge of sites and artifacts in that area.

2024 HO-CHUNK NATION DUGOUT CANOE JOURNEY

What would it be like to paddle a dugout canoe on the Mississippi? MVAC/UWL archaeologists had a rare chance to find out, thanks to an innovative project by the Ho-Chunk Nation (HCN). On June 10–14, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) Bill Quackenbush and other HCN Heritage Preservation staff took their handcrafted dugout on a journey from Ft. Snelling/St. Paul, Minnesota, to Galena, Illinois. On Day 3, they invited MVAC and others to join in at La Crescent and La Crosse.



Sunshine Bear, Kathy Stevenson, and Bill Quackenbush on the Mississippi

MVAC archaeologist Erik Anderson and UWL grad Sarah Schultz (now with Bear Creek Archaeology) joined Bill for the first leg, from Dresbach, Minnesota, through Lock & Dam #7, to the Upper I-90 landing. There La Crescent Mayor Mike Poellinger came aboard, and the canoe headed for Sportsman's landing between La Crosse and La Crescent, where the mayor hosted a shore lunch. For the last leg, Bill was joined by Sunshine Bear (THPO for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska) and MVAC Operations Manager Kathy Stevenson. After cruising past a lunchtime crowd of diners at the Pettibone Boat Club and some surprised campers at Pettibone Campground, the paddlers crossed the main channel and landed at the Municipal Boat Landing on Isle La Plume. From there, the canoe went back on its trailer for drier transport to Prairie du Chien.

Many other people were part of Day 3, including Lucas Quackenbush piloting the HCN safety boat, La Crescent Director of Economic Development Larry Kirch, the La Crescent Fire & Rescue boat near Lock & Dam #7, and other interested folks. Also present throughout the day were UWL Instructor Connie Arzigian and MVAC Collections Manager Mike Bednarchuk, who had both gotten an advance look at the canoe on Day 2 in Trempealeau. Mike also lent his iPhone camera for doing a quick 3D scan. UWL instructor Heather Walder also took part in Day 2, giving a brief archaeology presentation at Perrot State Park and kayaking around Trempealeau Mountain alongside the dugout.



The dugout at Lock & Dam #7

This is year three of the Nation's six-year educational project with the dugout, which has traveled the waters of Madison's four lakes, Lake Superior, and the Missouri River, and taken a long road trip to the Southwest.

MVAC salutes Bill and the Heritage Preservation staff for their initiative, dedication, and generosity with this project. We know that long-distance travel and trade spanned thousands of years in this region and incorporated canoes like this one. But having the chance to paddle an actual dugout on the Mississippi is unforgettable. (Kathy adds: "I was amazed at how well it handles-- it's a truly nice canoe. And what an experience! Every time I think about it, I'm grinning ear to ear.")

MVAC 2024 VOLUNTEER FIELD SURVEY

Fourteen volunteers participated in MVAC's 2024 Public Field Survey, held on May 11. The survey took place on Vernon County land where the former owner's father had collected several projectile points. The specific location was unknown, and there were two large fields where the points could have been found. The points ranged in age from Paleoindian through Woodland—about 10,000 to 1000 years old. Many were missing the base, suggesting they had broken in use and been left at the site. We really wanted to confirm the location of these finds!



Point found on the Volunteer Field Survey

The 2024 survey was a success, covering two large fields that were partially cultivated this spring and partially still in corn stubble from last year. We found a projectile point fragment that matched the raw material and condition of the points from this area, so we were able to confirm a likely location for the original collection. But we were lucky and found material across both fields, so we'll also be able to report a new site. In addition to the point, we found flakes and some cores of Prairie du Chien chert that probably originated from the bedrock nearby.



Field Survey volunteers in the lab

The area was beautiful, with a spectacular overview of the region, and would have been a great place for hunters to keep a lookout, and to hunt and process game. They might have left their broken points here and made some new ones to take away with them. We hope to return to this area and continue our research.

Bonus: A UWL Archaeology student will be studying Public Field Survey artifacts for his senior thesis, and he'll provide an update for the next Archaeology News.

SPRING 2024 LECTURE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WISCONSIN PROJECT

Our spring lecture featured Heather Walder describing five field seasons of community-engaged fieldwork done in collaboration with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Red Cliff, Wisconsin. The project investigated both ancient and recent historic archaeological sites on the Red Cliff reservation with the aim of better understanding and protection of these significant and sacred places.

Walder is an Assistant Teaching Professor in the UWL Archaeology and Anthropology department, a Research Affiliate at the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois, and co-director of the Geté Anishinaabe Izchigéwin Community Archaeology Project (GAICAP) since 2018.



MVAC at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
1725 State Street
La Crosse, WI 54601-3788

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
La Crosse, WI
Permit No. 545

Address Service Requested

www.uwlax.edu/mvac
www.facebook.com/UWLMVAC
www.youtube.com/@uwlmvac

CONTACT US

DIRECTOR

Dr. Timothy McAndrews
T: 608.785.6774
E: tmcandrews@uwlax.edu

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Dr. Katherine Stevenson
T: 608.785.8451
E: kstevenson@uwlax.edu

MAIN OFFICE

T: 608.785.8463
E: mvac@uwlax.edu
1725 State Street
La Crosse, WI 54601-3788

MVAC STAFF

Erik Anderson
Michael Bednarchuk
Jean Dowiasch
Wendy Holtz-Leith
Bonnie Jancik
Vicki Twinde-Javner

RESEARCH ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Cindy Kocik
Lindsay Lentz

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

David Anderson
Constance Arzigian
Suzanne Harris
Amy Nicodemus
James Theler

SUPPORTING MVAC

If you haven't already, please consider renewing your support for MVAC's ongoing mission of discovery, research, education, and preservation. If you would prefer, you can make your donation with our **secure online donation** option through the UWL Foundation. Your support is greatly appreciated!

MVAC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ARE SUPPORTED IN PART BY:

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