



*MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

*Archaeology News  
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the Mississippi Valley  
Archaeology Center*

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# Archaeology News

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## Goose Landing Sand Mine Project, 2012-2013

*Vicki L. Twinde-Javner, Senior Research Archaeologist*

In 2012 and 2013, MVAC was involved with Phase I survey for the Goose Landing Sand Mine Company in Jackson County, Wisconsin. Some of the land would be used for sand mine operations while some would be used for a cranberry bog expansion. A state law required the sand mine company to have an archaeologist look at the previously recorded sites in the project area. However, the sand mine company decided to go an extra step beyond what was required of them by law, and allowed MVAC to survey almost their entire project area to look for any potential cultural resources. Over 900 acres of land were surveyed during the 2012 and 2013 field seasons. Approximately 65 percent of this was in currently plowed fields, which MVAC inspected through pedestrian survey, and the remaining 35 percent was in wooded or grassy areas, which were shovel tested. In both 2012 and 2013, UW-La Crosse's summer archaeological field school joined the MVAC crew for one day in the field to give the students the opportunity to learn how to pedestrian survey over a large area.

The sand mine is approximately four to five miles northeast of Silver Mound, a National Historic Landmark that is the source for Hixton silicified sandstone, a material utilized by prehistoric populations for thousands of years to make stone tools. As a result of the sand mine's proximity to Silver Mound, it is not surprising that MVAC identified over 80 new archaeological sites during the survey. Some of these sites were isolated finds, but most of them were lithic scatters. Phase II excavations were performed at some of the sites in 2012 in the plowed fields to see if there were cultural features below the plow zone.

In 2013, Phase II investigations were performed at one particular site that was located in a wooded area when originally found in 2012. The sand mine company had taken out most of the trees and brush in the area by the time MVAC excavated the site in 2013; however, most of the site was still intact. Nine test units were excavated at the site and hundreds of artifacts were

-see Goose Landing, p. 3



*MVAC field crew & UW-L archaeological field school students survey a plowed field owned by the sand mine company during the 2013 field season.*

# Lithic Materials Workshop hosted by MVAC and UW-La Crosse

## Free 2-day event

This two-day event will feature informal presentations and displays, roundtable discussions, a lithic materials exchange, and lots of opportunities to talk. The entire event is open to archaeologists, flintknappers, collectors, students, and anyone else interested in regional lithics issues.

### **Presentations, posters and displays**

Scheduled for Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Participants are encouraged to bring materials to show and discuss.

### **Lithic materials exchange**

Participants can view and trade samples of raw materials on Saturday afternoon.

### **Reception**

Friday night MVAC will host a reception and open lab at UW-L's Archaeology Center and Laboratory, next to Cartwright Center.

### **Luncheon talk**

Dr. Jessi Halligan, Assistant Professor of Archaeology at UW-La Crosse, will present "New Insights on the Earliest Americans." Dr. Halligan is an underwater archaeologist and Paleoindian and lithics specialist working on Paleoindian sites in Florida sinkholes.

### **Tentative Schedule**

#### Friday, February 28

1 - 5 pm Poster & Paper presentations and displays

5 - 7 pm Reception at MVAC (hors d'oeuvres & cash bar)

#### Saturday, March 1

9 - 11:30 am Poster & Paper presentations and displays

11:30 am - 1 pm Lunch

12 - 12:30 pm Luncheon speaker: Dr. Jessie Halligan, UW-L  
"New Insights on the Earliest Americans"

1 - 3 pm Lithic Materials Exchange

There is no registration fee and **no advance registration is required** to attend!

### **Papers, Posters, Displays, Lithics Exchange**

The deadline to present, display, or bring materials to exchange was **Friday, February 14**.

### **Friday night reception and Saturday lunch - free.**

If you plan to attend, please fill out the online Lithic Workshop Survey (shown below) to help us with our planning.

### **Lithic Workshop Survey:**

<http://uwlacrosse.qualtrics.com/>

SE/?SID=SV\_54uPFPxe8LBxLsV

## MVAC Staff Contacts

### **Director**

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### **MVAC Staff**

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Wendy Holtz-Leith  
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Marcee H. Peplinski  
Vicki Twinde-Javner

### **Research Associates**

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

### **Artifact Show**

Come to Valley View Mall and see artifacts representing the area's long history. Local collectors will display their personal collections, and MVAC staff will bring artifacts recovered from local excavations. Archaeologists will be on hand to answer questions and identify artifacts. Call MVAC at (608) 785-8454 or e-mail Jean ([jdowiasch@uwlax.edu](mailto:jdowiasch@uwlax.edu)) if you would like to display your artifacts.

Date: Sat., March 8

Time: 10 am - 5 pm

Location:

Valley View Mall,  
Onalaska, WI



*Projectile points identified during the 2013 Artifact Show.*



## Goose Landing -continued from p.1

recovered including a handful of Late Woodland triangular projectile points, bifaces, scrapers, worked or modified flakes, and numerous waste flakes. Many tiny flakes were found along with the larger flakes, indicating that the area was utilized for all stages of lithic reduction and tool making. Ninety-eight to ninety-nine percent of the artifacts recovered at the site were made of silicified sandstone. Although special testing would be needed to definitely identify the source material, most of them appeared to be Hixton silicified sandstone. The work MVAC was allowed to perform on the sand mine and cranberry bog expansion property has added to the vast knowledge about the prehistoric populations in that area. The documentation for the 2012 work has been reviewed by the Wisconsin Historical Society, and MVAC is currently working on writing up the results of the 2013 work.



*Phase II investigations at the Goose Landing Sand Mine, 2013.*

## 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 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.

**Youth Scholarships:** Scholarships for MVAC's Youth Summer Programs are available thanks to a grant from the UW-L College of Liberal Studies. Scholarships can be obtained for any of our programs for grades 1-12, including the 3 or 5 day Public Field Experience.

Special thanks to UW-L College of Liberal Studies for several grants supporting MVAC's public outreach activities!

For information on the Archaeology Education Program, Student Scholarships, Matching Funds Grant, or La Crosse School District Program, contact Jean Dowiasch at (608) 785-8454 or [jdowiasch@uwlax.edu](mailto:jdowiasch@uwlax.edu).

### **MVAC Educational Programs are supported by:**

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

## 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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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### **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.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac)

### **Lithic Materials Workshop**

-see page 2 for details

Date: Fri. - Sat., February 28-March 1

Location: UW-La Crosse Cartwright Center

### **Howard Carter and the Search for Tutankhamen**

Howard Carter made one of the most spectacular archaeological discoveries of all time - the tomb of Tutankhamen. This lecture will discuss Carter's fascinating career within the context of the exploration of the Valley of the Kings, and the development of archaeology in Egypt. Several controversies surrounding Carter's work in the tomb also will be discussed.

Date: Tuesday, March 4 Time: 7 PM

Location: Port O'Call, Cartwright Center, UW-L

Speaker: Dr. David A. Anderson, Associate

Professor, Dept. of Sociology/Archaeology, UW-L

### **Artifact Show**

-see page 2 for details

Date: Saturday, March 8

Location: Valley View Mall

### **India's Oldest Stone Inscriptions**

Around 250 B.C., Ashoka Maurya was a dynamic ruler whose influence extended throughout most of modern-day South Asia. Inscriptions discovered on rocks and pillars are said to mark his empire's boundaries. This lecture discusses inscriptions in the South Indian state of Karnataka, as well as an experimental project to replicate an "Ashokan Edict."

Date: Thurs., April 10 Time: 7 PM

Location: Port O'Call, Cartwright Center, UW-L

Speaker: Heather Walder, Associate Lecturer,

Dept. of Sociology/Archaeology, UW-L

### **Wisconsin Archaeology Month: May 2014**

Check out the Wisconsin Historical Society's web site at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/hpweek/index.asp](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/hpweek/index.asp).

### **Volunteer Field Survey Opportunity**

The day will begin at the archaeology laboratory, followed by an actual field survey to find unreported archaeological sites. Participants will end the day washing artifacts recovered. The number of participants is limited. Children may participate if accompanied by an adult. Call MVAC at (608) 785-8454 or e-mail Jean at [jdowiasch@uwlax.edu](mailto:jdowiasch@uwlax.edu) to register. **Advanced registration required!**

Date: Sat., May 3 (rain date: Sat., May 10)

Time: 8:30 AM-4 PM

Location: Archaeology Center & Lab, UW-L

Fee: Free admission for MVAC members