



*MVAC at the University
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

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Archaeology News

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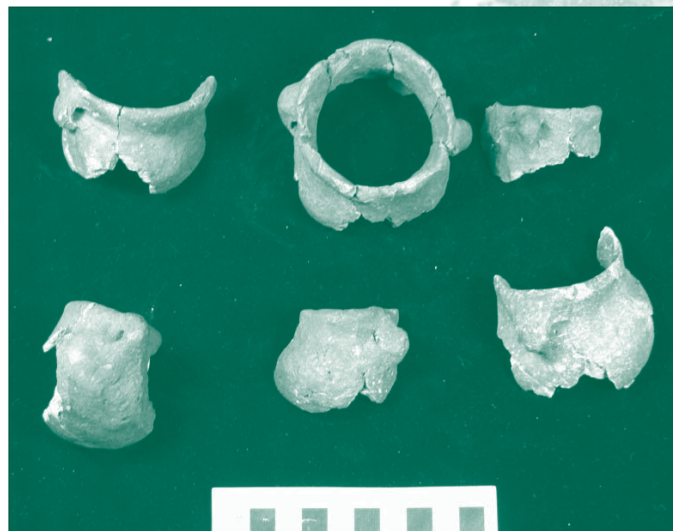
June 2009

Oneota Mini Pots

Kyra Kaercher, UW-La Crosse Archaeology Student

A local resident, Frank Lightfoot, lent a collection of mini pots to the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center in the fall of 2008 to see if the highly fragmented pots could be reconstructed. I was placed in charge of reconstructing these pots and also decided to look at the construction and the use of these pots in the Oneota Tradition. A complete study of the mini pots of the Oneota has never been done. Mostly the mini pots are mentioned as small side notes in a larger report. Looking at these reports, it seems like most of the “mini” pots that are mentioned are somewhat larger than the ones that Frank Lightfoot brought in to the lab.

The pottery in Mr. Lightfoot’s collection was highly fragmented because it had been found on the surface of a plowed field. The pottery dates to the Oneota tradition because it is shell-tempered, with the shell having leached out of many of the pots. None of the pots have specific markings or designs on them. They were mostly reddish in color, but some were black. The pots are 5-7 cm in diameter and the whole one is 4.5 cm in height.



Mini pots on loan from Mr. Frank Lightfoot

Mr. Lightfoot also brought in other artifacts found along with the pots. A sandstone disk appears to be an etched animal head with life lines or a thunder bolt from the eye going to the back. A copper pendant is probably in the shape of a thunderbolt. A copper celt shows some signs of wear. The fragment of a pottery pipe is very hard to place, but because of the striped pattern, along with the perforations along the end, it probably also dates to the Oneota tradition.

In conclusion, the Lightfoot collection represents a unique assemblage from an Oneota site. Because of the absence of decoration, it would be hard to place these pots in a specific phase, except within the general period of Oneota occupation of the La Crosse area from A.D. 1300 to 1625. Interpreting minipots such as this depends on their context, and because these sherds were found in a plowed field, their original context is unknown. They might reflect some type of practice pots, perhaps made by a young girl learning to make pottery. Alternatively they might have been used in some type of special activities.

From The Director: Joseph A. Tiffany



Joseph A. Tiffany

Greetings to All!

I am fresh back from my sabbatical to find that MVAC is busy, busy, busy once again this summer. The University Field School is working again around Lower Sand Lake; both Wendy and Ernie are directing the MVAC crew working nearby. David Anderson, MVAC Board member and recent Archaeology program faculty hire, is

directing the Field School. The students have recovered a remarkable artifact (see the illustration in this newsletter). It is a small piece of sandstone which has a face on one side with "weeping eyes," and on the reverse is part of an image of a thunder bird inside a circle. Fantastic! This artifact and other finds from the field school are on exhibit at MVAC. Stop by if you can, and visit the field school as well if you have the opportunity. Our public field school, directed again by Connie Arzigian, will also be held at one of the Sand Lake sites. The field schools run through July 10, but MVAC crews will be in the area through the summer. Check with us here if you plan to visit; we'll get you directed to a project.

This summer Bonnie is involved in the first of a three-year, grant-funded teacher professional development project. Vicki has an MVAC crew in Prairie du Chien working on two data recovery projects for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). Wendy will begin work on another site on the Highway 18 corridor near Prairie du Chien later this

summer. Jean is finishing up several NRCS projects and will direct MVAC youth programs in July. Connie is also continuing research on multiple property documentation for the Woodland tradition in Minnesota for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and some mound investigations. Mike Bednarchuk is plenty busy in the lab, and your help is always welcome. If you have the chance, contact MVAC and Connie or Mike will arrange times for a visit or volunteer work.

Please take a moment to read about new MVAC staff member, Renée Hutter, in this issue. We are glad to have her, and we already have her busy with WisDOT projects.

As you can see there are many opportunities for active public participation in archaeology, and we enjoy sharing our research, education, and outreach activities with you. A big "Thank you!!" from all of us for your continued help and support. We are in hard times, and we know you have many choices when it comes to groups asking for your support. Please consider MVAC and the services we have provided for over a quarter century, and think about a gift to MVAC that reflects your interests in our programs. There is always a need; please contact us and we will be happy to work with you!

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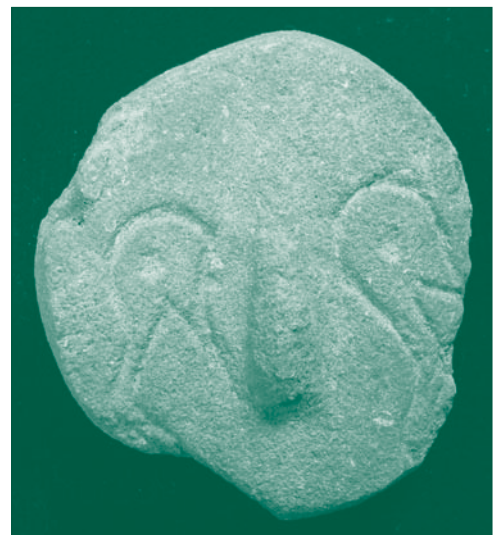
dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu

MVAC Educational Programs are supported by:

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES

and:

The United Fund for the Arts and Humanities



"The FACE" Recent Discovery - more information to follow in the next newsletter.

Education News

Matching Funds Grant

The UW-La Crosse Foundation has once again provided a grant to encourage teachers to use MVAC educational resources. The grant matches a teacher/school's cost dollar for dollar. For more information, contact Jean at 608-785-8454 or dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu.

Member Field Survey Opportunity

Thirty-nine volunteers joined MVAC archaeologist Connie Arzigian for one or two days of field survey the first weekend in May. After an introduction at the Archaeology Laboratory each day, participants completed a walk-over of multiple fields in the Holmen area.



Artifacts recovered during the survey include an Archaic projectile point and artifacts from the Oneota Tradition. In addition, a piece of obsidian was recovered, originating in the Yellowstone Park area of Wyoming. Three new sites were reported as a result of the survey, and additional artifacts were recovered from a known site.

New Staff

Architectural Historian Renee Hutter joined the MVAC staff in April. After receiving her B.S. in Architecture from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Renee completed her Masters in Architectural History from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia.

Prior to joining MVAC, Ms. Hutter worked for a Cultural Resource Management firm in Dallas, whose clientele included the Texas Dept. of Transportation, the Dallas Area Rapid Transit, and the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO). Renee will continue working on several Wisconsin DOT projects this summer while building a client base. Originally from Wisconsin Rapids, we are happy to welcome Renee back to Wisconsin!

Estate Planning

Successful estate planning is a valuable way to continue your support for MVAC into the future. By giving a gift in your will or estate plan, you are providing for future programs in archaeological research, public education and site stewardship. Please consider MVAC when planning for trusts, gifts and bequests. Contact Marcee H. Peplinski, Development Director at the MVAC office for more information, (608) 785-8463.

Read more in the MVAC Digital Newsletter

A link to the digital newsletter can be found on the MVAC Home Page at www.uwlax.edu/mvac. Previous issues of Archaeology News are also available in digital form.

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 \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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Membership Categories

Patron	\$1000 +
Benefactor	\$500-999
Supporting	\$100-499
Contributing	\$50-99
Active	\$25-49

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



Public Archaeology Field

Experience: multi-age

This multi-day event includes both field and lab experiences and is a well rounded opportunity for those who want to learn about the process of archaeology. Explore what it is like to participate in an actual archaeological excavation by working alongside professional archaeologists in the field. Participate in small-scale excavations (test units) and survey work. Lab work may include washing ceramics, stone tools, and other remains, and sorting them into basic categories. No previous experience is necessary. This experience is open to high school students through adults. Fee includes a one year MVAC membership.

Three Day Experience:

Dates: Monday - Wednesday,
July 6 - 8, 2009

Time: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

July 6: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: 259 Cartwright Center,
UW-La Crosse

Fee: \$350

Five Day Experience

Dates: Monday-Friday,
July 6-10, 2009

Time: SAME

Location: SAME

Fee: \$500

Youth Events

Introduction to Archaeology

Explore MVAC's Archaeology Laboratory, and participate in hands-on activities like archaeologists use in the field.

Grades 1-4:

Date: Monday, July 6, 2009

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall, UW-La Crosse Fee: \$65

Grades 5-9:

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall, UW-La Crosse Fee: \$65

Arrowheads, Rocks, and Dinosaurs

What's the difference between a geologist, archaeologist, and paleontologist? Find out in this introduction to the sciences.

Grades 4-6:

Date: Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall, UW-La Crosse Fee: \$65

Middle School Field Experience

Students who have taken the Intro. to Archaeology class in the past can join a La Crosse area dig.

Grades 5-9:

Dates: Thursday - Friday, July 9-10, 2009 Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall, UW-La Crosse Fee: \$150

To register for a class, contact UW-La Crosse Continuing Education at 608-785-6508 or www.uwlax.edu/conted