

Archaeology News

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*MVAC at the University
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

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*1725 State Street
La Crosse, WI 54601-3788*

Archaeology Day at Silver Mound

Over 300 visitors attended Archaeology Day at Silver Mound, held at the Hixton-Alma Center KOA on October 1, 2005. Thanks to KOA owners Jim and Donna Rankin and their crew, the grounds were beautifully set up to accommodate those interested in Silver Mound's history. Tours of Silver Mound, one of Wisconsin's oldest and largest archaeological sites, were well-attended as visitors hiked up to the Dwyer and Geske Rockshelters, and viewed both the prehistoric and European mine sites.

The Wisconsin Dells Singers, led by Elliott Funmaker, provided traditional song, dance and music demonstrations. Artifact displays were provided by Betty Steele, Keith Scaerce, Hoyt Strandberg, and Gene Hynek. Demonstrations throughout the day included arrow-making by Loren Cade, drilling by LeVern DeVries, flintknapping by Bob Keipers, and atlatl throwing by John Pellowski. Traditional basketry and beadwork were demonstrated by Delores Decorah and Velma Lewis. Traditional food was provided by Paul and Suzette Arentz.



UW-La Crosse Archaeology Major Amy Aurit supervises the Chunkey game.



The Wisconsin Dells Singers provided traditional dancing and drumming during Archaeology Day at Silver Mound.

A number of tireless volunteers were on-hand to help out with the crowd at the campgrounds. A special thanks to those who took the time to join MVAC staff in making the day run smoothly.

Alma Center First Responders
Hixton First Responders
Paul & Suzette Arentz Loren Cade
Lucy Davidson Dorothy Decorah
LeVern DeVries Scott Doblar
Phil Palzkill John Pellowski
Gene Hynek Bob Keiper
Chuckie Kohanek Keith Scaerce
Jean Levissee Betty Steele
Velma Lewis Hoyt Strandberg
UW-L Archaeology Club

Sponsors of Archaeology Day at Silver Mound include:

Cain Orchard
Hixton-Alma Center KOA
Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center
UW-La Crosse Foundation
UW System Institute on Race & Ethnicity
Wisconsin Archeological Society

From The Director: Joseph A Tiffany



Joseph A. Tiffany

Hello everyone! MVAC was busy last fall. First, our thanks to the many volunteers and friends who helped us make Silver Mound Day a huge success. My thanks to Jody Bruce and Jean Dowiasch who organized MVAC's Silver Mound field day. Please see the full report in this newsletter. Hard work by Bonnie Jancik and Connie Arzigian has paid off again. MVAC received a \$163,470 grant from ESEA Title II to provide professional development related to teaching non-fiction reading and writing. Connie and Bonnie continue work with teachers this fall on current education grants they have received. MVAC archaeologists are busy too, with smaller projects in our service area for many clients. Wendy Holtz-Leith continues on the Highway 14/61 project report of MVAC work on Oneota sites near Gundersen-Lutheran Medical Center. After a couple of slow years, we are in better financial condition thanks to Ernie and our staff archaeologists. The Fort Crawford II final report has been completed by Vicki Twinde-Javner.

The MVAC Board continues to provide helpful input and direction for MVAC. New board members are Dr. Vijendra Agarwal, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and Mr. William Lowe of the Ho-Chunk Nation. We are pleased to have them, and we look forward to advice and counsel from V.J. and Bill.

With much regret we accepted the resignation of MVAC Board member, Mark Dudzik. Mark was a great help to all of us and his service on the MVAC Board of Directors is much appreciated. Our best to Mark.

It is that time of year, and memberships and donations are rolling in. I talk with many of you as membership renewals come in, and I am always taken back by the strong support MVAC has in the region for our mission of archaeological research, curation, education and outreach. My thanks to all of you for your kind words and consideration and for your help and support of MVAC.

Our next public event will be Dr. James L. Theler's lecture February 23rd on his on-going research with terrestrial snails to model past climatic changes on the Plains. This project is massive in scope and will be a landmark achievement when completed. Jim is an excellent public speaker as many of you know from his past MVAC presentations; be prepared for a fun night out! On April 11th MVAC's final presentation for this semester will be a "Tour of Egypt" presented by Connie Arzigian and Vicki Twinde-Javner (and possibly Bill Gresens if we can coax him up to the lectern). Connie, Vicki and Bill went to Egypt last spring to set up an Egyptian Study Tour for University of Wisconsin-La Crosse students that Vicki, Connie and I will lead next January. Be ready for lots of stunning pictures! Be sure to check out the other upcoming events in the Newsletter including the Artifact Show on March 11th at Valley View Mall and the Public Field Survey on May 6th and 7th. Happy New Year!

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MVAC Educational Programs Are Supported By:

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Silent Auction a Success, Thanks to Donors



The generosity of many individuals and local businesses helped make MVAC's first silent auction a success. Held in conjunction with our Annual Reception in November, the auction raised over \$950 in support of MVAC.



Thanks to all our donors!

Thank you to the following donors:

Connie Arzigian
Robert Boszhardt
Kathleen Brosius
Jody Bruce
Celtic Inn Bed & Breakfast
Company Store
Dairyland Power Cooperative
Joyce Dively
Edwardo's Pizza Wagon
Famous Dave's
Fayze's Restaurant
Grounded Specialty Coffees
Sue Kolve's Spa
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La Crosse Queen Cruises
Linda's Bakery
Lumber Baron Inn
People's Food Cooperative
Marcee H. Peplinski
Precision Photo
Chuck & Patti Sans Crainte
Satori Arts
Seven Bridges Restaurant
TJ's Printed Apparel
Vicki Twinde-Javner

MVAC receives ESEA Title II grant

Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center at UW-La Crosse has just received a three year ESEA Title II grant for \$163,470 to provide professional development related to non-fiction reading and writing. The project will model a constructivist and inquiry based approach with an integrated curriculum. Participants will design and implement curriculum that uses archaeology and the pre-European people of Wisconsin as a vehicle for teaching non-fiction reading and writing.

We are looking for a limited number of 4th - 8th grade teachers who are passionate about learning and teaching, eager for a new experience and currently teaching language arts in a public or private school in Wisconsin. Project participants may have varying levels of archaeological knowledge, from teachers who have never taken an archaeology course to those who have participated in field work. Whatever your experience level, there's a place in this project for you. Teams of teachers from the same school/district are encouraged!

For additional information visit MVAC's web site at <http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/EventsDisplays/teacher.htm> or direct questions to Bonnie Jancik, 608-785-6473, jancik.bonn@uwlax.edu.

Field Survey Opportunity: Mark your calendar for Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and/or 7 to participate in the annual public field survey. Connie Arzigian will lead volunteers to local fields to record new sites. Registration required at 608-785-8454.

Announcements

La Crosse School District's Archaeology Funds

Funding is available for La Crosse School District teachers to use Archaeology and Native American resources from MVAC. Teachers interested in using the funds should contact Jean Dowiasch at 608-786-8454 to reserve materials.

Matching Funds Grant

A grant provided by the UW-La Crosse Foundation encourages teachers to use MVAC education resources. The grant allows MVAC to match a teacher's/school's cost dollar for dollar. For more information, contact Jean Dowiasch at dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu or 608-785-8454.

Read More In Our Digital Newsletters

There will be a link to the digital newsletters on the MVAC Home Page at www.uwlax.edu/mvac

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.

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: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____



Membership Categories

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

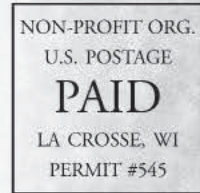
Please make checks payable to UW-L Foundation, Inc. for MVAC and send to MVAC, 1725 State St., La Crosse, WI 54601. Gifts to the UW-L Foundation for MVAC qualify as charitable tax deductions to the full extent of the law as applied to the individual circumstances of each donor. You can increase your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



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Address Service Requested



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Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise noted, events are free and open to the public. Contact MVAC at (608) 785-8454 for more information or visit our web site:

www.uwlax.edu/mvac

Archaeology and Land Snails: A sluggish odyssey to understanding the environment of ancient Native Americans

Thursday, February 23, 2006

7 p.m.

Port O'Call, Cartwright Center, UW-La Crosse

Land snails are very sensitive to their environment, both temperature and moisture, and can therefore be used as indicators of specific climatic conditions. **Dr. James L. Theler**, UW-La Crosse Sociology/Archaeology Department, will discuss his work with modern snails from a series of transects across the United States. Theler's work has provided detailed environmental information that can be compared to archaeological assemblages, reconstructing ancient environments extending back many thousands of years.

Artifact Show

Saturday, March 11, 2006

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Join MVAC staff and local collectors at Valley View Mall to see artifacts representing the area's long history. View artifacts from the 2005 field season and many personal collections. Bring in your own artifacts for identification. Call Jean at 608-785-8454 if you would like to display your artifacts.

Pyramids, Temples, Tombs and Traffic: Touring Egypt

Tuesday, April 11, 2006

7 p.m.

Port O'Call, Cartwright Center, UW-La Crosse

Spring break 2005 found MVAC staffers **Dr. Connie Arzigian, Vicki Twinde-Javner**, and Bill Gresens of the UW-La Crosse Grants Office in Egypt, exploring great archaeological sites in Cairo, the Giza Plateau, Thebes/Luxor, and the Valley of the Kings, interspersed with felucca rides at sunset down the Nile. Join Connie and Vicki for a fully illustrated talk about these sites, as well as the joys of alabaster factories, camel rides around the pyramids, and truly crazy Cairo traffic.

