



*MVAC at the University
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

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Archaeology News

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Archaeological Investigations of Dairyland Power Cooperative's Flambeau Reservoir Drawdown

Vicki Twinde-Javner, Research Archaeologist

From July to October, the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) worked on Phase I investigations of the 30-foot drawdown of the Flambeau Reservoir, and Phase II investigations of seven previously recorded sites for Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC). The Phase I survey included a complete walkover of exposed surfaces in the Flambeau Reservoir in Rusk County, Wisconsin. The reservoir was created about 1951, when DPC purchased areas near the Flambeau River to make a reservoir. The Phase II investigations included the attempted re-location of seven previously recorded sites from the 1995 Phase I survey of the four-foot drawdown of the Flambeau Reservoir by MVAC, and either shovel testing or test excavations to determine each site's potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The Phase I survey resulted in the identification of 39 new prehistoric sites, 10 prehistoric isolated finds, and four new historic sites. The prehistoric sites range from small sites limited to less than 10 flakes to large sites that are almost a half mile in length with hundreds to thousands of flakes, diagnostic lithics, and other artifacts present. Most of these sites are lithic scatters, while some are possible villages or campsites, indicated by the large quantity of artifacts recovered, including pottery. The majority of these sites are located along natural terrace edges that are within the flowage and are submerged by the reservoir when it is at its normal operating level. The lithics from these sites are mainly made from Quartz, Chequamegon Quartzite, and Gunflint Silica, although other types of chert are present.



Phase II testing of the Flambeau Reservoir drawdown, near Ladysmith.

The prehistoric sites range in age from approximately 400 years before present (Y.B.P.) to 12,000 Y.B.P. (1600 A.D. to 10,000 B.C.). This is ascertained from the presence of diagnostic artifacts at the sites, including projectile points, knives and bifaces, and also by the pottery. The vast size of some of these sites, clusters of artifacts, and intact soils indicate that 34 of the prehistoric sites are potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP. A few of these prehistoric sites also have a small historic component to them, including logging camp remnants.

The historic sites include foundations or depressions of buildings, and a stone arched bridge. Two historic sites include foundations of early 1900's farmsteads in which the buildings were moved when the dam was built in the early 1950's (some of which were previously recorded during MVAC's 1995 survey). The other two historic sites consist of an historic depression, and stone arched bridge under a road. The stone arched bridge most likely dates to the late 1800's.

From The Director: Joseph A. Tiffany



Joseph A. Tiffany

Hello everyone. I just returned from a 3 week tour of Egypt! It was great, and an opportunity I could not pass up. MVAC was busy last fall with Silver Mound Day and our celebration of MVAC's 25th Anniversary. In addition to Silver Mound Day, fall anniversary activities included an exhibit at the University of Wisconsin-La

Crosse Art Gallery and a banquet. Both the gallery and banquet were very well attended, and Silver Mound Day drew over 350 people.

Staff is working on several grants and projects. Bonnie and Connie will be completing the 3rd year of the ESEA Title II grant this summer for public school teachers where archaeology is used as a means to teach non-fiction reading and writing skills. Wendy is continuing work on the Jackum project, the large Oneota complex near Gundersen-Lutheran Hospital as well as many other smaller contracts we have received. Vicki continues work on the data recovery project on 47Cr660 for the Wisconsin DOT in Prairie du Chien, and she is completing the project report on MVAC's work last summer on the Flambeau River drawdown project near Ladysmith for Dairyland Power (read more about this project in this issue). Barb finished up an historical research project in

South Dakota. Connie is completing the project report on Fisher Mounds 47Ve825 in Stoddard for the Corps of Engineers, and will finish a large contract this spring for the Minnesota Department of Transportation documenting Woodland period contexts for the entire state. Finally, Kathy Stevenson and I are about finished with the final editing of *Archaeological Sites Near Mobridge, South Dakota* for publication by the South Dakota Archaeological Society. There is a real story here with this long out of print report that I will share with you in a future Newsletter.

Memberships and donations continue rolling in. We are pleased that so many of you remember us and have increased your contribution. As you know I try to talk with many of you as membership renewals are made. We appreciate your strong support of MVAC, and with your help, we continue to be a leader in archaeological research, curation, public education and outreach. Our next public event will be a lecture by Jon Swanson of the Minnesota Marine Art Museum on Tuesday, April 14. Jon will talk about the Discovery, Excavation, and Conservation of La Salle's Shipwreck La Belle (1686). Hope to see you there!

Be sure to check out the other upcoming events in the newsletter including the Artifact Show on Saturday, March 1st at Valley View Mall and the Public Field Survey on May 3-4. Contact Jean Dowiasch at (608)785-8454 if you would like to exhibit at the Artifact Show or are interested in the field survey.

Have a Wonderful New Year!

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Phase I Survey of the Flambeau Reservoir. A 30-foot drawdown exposed many unreported sites.

Increase Lapham Award

Constance Arzigian and James Theler have each been awarded the Increase Lapham Award by the Wisconsin Archeological Society. Increase Lapham was Wisconsin's first noted archaeologist. He was active from 1836 until his death in 1875. The award was presented by Society president Vicki Twinde-Javner during MVAC's 25th Anniversary Banquet in November 2007. According to Ms. Twinde-Javner, the award is given to Society members who have made a significant contribution to the field of Wisconsin Archaeology.

Connie has been with MVAC since 1988, focusing on the archaeology of the midwest, particularly southwestern Wisconsin and Minnesota. Her primary research interests include subsistence systems and mortuary practices, with a speciality in the study of precontact uses of plant resources and agricultural systems.

Jim has been a member of the UW-La Crosse Archaeological Studies Program since 1984, and is an Adjunct Researcher with MVAC. Jim studies the prehistory of the Upper Midwest, Plains, and Ohio Valley. His specialties include precontact subsistence and settlement patterns, the analysis of vertebrate and molluscan remains, and the use of land snails as proxies for reconstructing environment and changes through time.



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 785-8454 or dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu.

La Crosse School District 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 at 608-785-8454 to schedule materials and presentations.

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.

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 \$ _____

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Membership Categories

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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

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

Artifact Show

Saturday, March 1, 2008

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Valley View Mall, La Crosse

Come to Valley View Mall and see artifacts representing the area's long history. Local collectors will display their personal collection of artifacts. See artifacts recovered from local excavations in the Holmen area. Archaeologists will be on hand to answer questions. Bring in your own artifacts for help in their identification. Call MVAC at (608) 785-8454 if you would like to display your artifacts.

Wisconsin Archaeology Month - May 2008

A variety of activities will be offered throughout the state. The Wisconsin Historical Society's website will have a complete listing: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/hpweek/index.asp>

The Discovery, Excavation, and Conservation of La Salle's Shipwreck La Belle (1686)

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

7 p.m.

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

Speaker: Jon Swanson, Curator of Collections and Exhibits, Minnesota Marine Art Museum

Mr. Swanson will present an overview of the search, discovery, excavation and conservation of French explorer Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle's shipwreck in Matagora Bay, Texas from 1686. Recovered were more than one million artifacts including bronze cannons from Louis XIV, trade beads, human remains, and personal possessions as well as a large portion of the vessel and its rigging. These items were a "colony kit" brought from France to colonize a settlement in the New World in the late 17th century.



Member Field Survey Opportunity

Saturday and/or Sunday, May 3 and 4, 2008

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Archaeology Center and Laboratories, UW-La Crosse
Members are invited to volunteer during a survey of local fields to find unreported archaeological sites. A daily introduction at the archaeology lab will be followed by an actual field survey. Participants will end each day back at the lab to wash the artifacts recovered and learn more about their history.

Advanced registration required at (608) 785-8454!