



# Archaeology News

Volume 23 Number 1

SUMMER 2005

## Public programs draw big crowds

### Artifact Show

Winter and early spring can be frustratingly slow times for professional and amateur archaeologists alike. Everyone is itching to get outdoors and discover great new site locations.

The annual Artifact Show on April 9th kept area collectors and MVAC staff busy explaining new finds, identifying artifacts, and introducing passersby to the early history of our area. Held at Valley View Mall again this year, over 2,500 people came out to view the artifacts displays shown by fourteen area collectors, the Prairie du Chien Historical Society, and MVAC.

Artifacts recovered from the 2004 Highway 14/61 project were on display and highlighted by MVAC. The collectors enjoyed sharing their new finds with others and sharing their love of archaeology with an interested audience.

The mystery artifact this year was an historic peavey, which consists of a wooden shaft with a metal point and a hinged hook near the end, used to handle logs.

A special thank you to the collectors who took the time to share their artifacts and love for prehistory and



*Dan Maas and Mrs. Gene Hynek displaying artifacts at the Artifact Show.*

history with the general public - without them, there would be no show! Thanks also to Valley View Mall for use of Center Court.

### Public Field Survey

A third day was added to this year's field survey due to the growing interest of volunteers to participate.

A total of 47 volunteers joined MVAC archaeologist Connie Arzigian in the survey this year. After an introduction to the day's activities at the Archaeology Center and Laboratories each day, the volunteers headed for the Holmen area, where several new sites were found, and



*Washing artifacts back at the lab.*

several known sites were revisited. Each day ended back in the lab, where most of the recovered artifacts were washed in preparation for cataloguing and curation. Thanks to all the volunteers who joined this year's survey.



*Public field survey volunteers on Saturday, April 30.*

*MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

*Archaeology News  
is a publication of  
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*[www.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac)*

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La Crosse, WI 54601-3788*

## From The Director: Joseph A Tiffany



Joseph A. Tiffany

Hello everyone! The summer field season has begun and MVAC staff will be busy on several projects. Right now Wendy Holtz-Leith is writing up a Phase III data recovery project at the Rodney Clark site (47Mr146) in Rothschild, where numerous artifacts produced from local quartz have been recovered.

Vicki Twindi-Javner is working on a variety of surveys for Dairyland Power Cooperative as well as survey work along I-90. Later, she will be surveying an additional seven miles of Highway 33 along Middle Ridge, continuing work she began a year or so ago. Connie Arzigian also has a full platter with Bonnie Christensen with the teacher education grants they have. These grants have been a decided plus for MVAC and the university. Connie will be conducting the MVAC Public Field School from August 1-5 at the Swennes site (47Lc333) on the Swennes Brothers farm near Holmen.

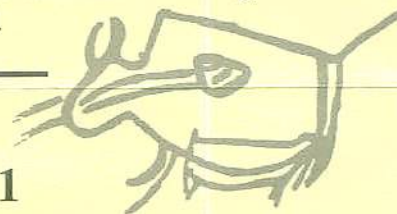
MVAC has undergone some re-organization and staff reduction due in large part to the dwindling number of projects we have had over the last two years. The MVAC Board was most helpful in providing input and

direction on the financial matters with which we were dealing. As part of the Board educational process we met this spring at Samuels Cave (47Lc5) where Ernie Boszhardt gave the board members a delightful, personalized account of the remaining remarkable rock art at Samuels Cave, and sadly the tale of destruction of a large portion of this site over the years. We will continue with the Board to examine on a regular basis the kinds of sites we are trying to preserve to tell the story of the Upper Mississippi Valley for future generations.

Memberships and donations continue to come in. Thanks so much to all of you for your help and continued support of MVAC's mission.

Our next public event will be Tim McAndrews' presentation on The Andean Highlands of South America on Tuesday, September 20. Plan on a trip to Hixton, where we will be hosting Archaeology Day at Silver Mound on Saturday, October 1. The annual MVAC's Summer Highlights presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15. This event includes our annual awards recognition and presentations, and we will have a silent auction as well. You won't want to miss that. Have a great summer! See you in the fall.

## Archaeology Day at Silver Mound to be held on October 1



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MVAC Educational  
Programs Are  
Supported By:

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
**HUMANITIES**

MVAC will co-host Archaeology Day at Silver Mound at the KOA Hixton-Alma Center on Saturday, October 1.

Silver Mound is one of Wisconsin's oldest, largest, and most important sites. Silver Mound consists of a large sandstone hill containing a layer of "Hixton Quartzite" which was quarried and chipped into stone tools for nearly 12,000 years. The stone was traded for hundreds of miles in prehistoric times.

Events at Archaeology Day will include tours of archaeological sites at Silver Mound, demonstrations of flintknapping, atlatl throwing, Native American cooking, Native American games, Native performers, artifact displays and identification, and much more.

Silver Mound is located at the KOA Hixton-Alma Center. Take Exit 105 off I-94, turn left onto Highway 95.

Stay on Highway 95 for 3.5 miles, campgrounds are on the left.

Contributions from the following have made Archaeology Day at Silver Mound possible: KOA Hixton-Alma Center, UW-La Crosse Foundation, UW System Institute on Race and Ethnicity, and the Wisconsin Archaeological Society.

Plan to attend Archaeology Day on October 1! More details in upcoming newsletters and announcements.

*Archaeology News* is published three times each year to inform MVAC members of current and upcoming events. *Archaeology News* encourages topic suggestions and comments. Send items to: Jean Dowiasch, Editor, MVAC, 1725 State Street, La Crosse, WI 54601; [dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu](mailto:dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu); (608)785-8454.

## Announcements

### UW-La Crosse Foundation provides grants for three MVAC programs

MVAC staff recently received three grants from the UW-La Crosse Foundation. The Archaeology Day at Silver Mound funds will assist in funding demonstrations and Native performers throughout Archaeology Day. A Matching Funds grant helps area teachers add archaeology education into their curriculum by matching school funds for MVAC presentations, resources and lab tours. The Youth Archaeology Scholarships program provides several students with full or partial scholarships to attend MVAC's summer programs. Thanks to the UW-La Crosse Foundation for their continued support of MVAC's Archaeology Education Program!

### La Crosse School District's Archaeology Funds

Supervisor of Social Studies K-5 Mark White and Sandra Brauer, Director of Curriculum of the La Crosse School District have again provided funding for teachers in the District's elementary and middle schools 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.

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

**In the Education Newsletter:**  
Our theme for 2004-2005 is Native American use of the Mississippi River. Information and lesson plans are available on the MVAC web site.

### Volunteers needed for Archaeology Day at Silver Mound

Volunteers are needed to help out with directing traffic, gate sales, and information booth at Archaeology Day. Please contact Jody Bruce at 608-785-8463 ([bruce.jody@uwlax.edu](mailto:bruce.jody@uwlax.edu)) or Jean Dowiasch at 785-8454 ([dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu](mailto:dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu)) for more information.

## 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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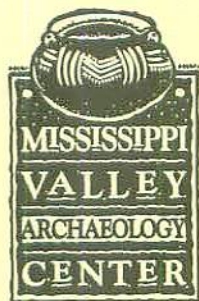
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### Membership Categories

Patron ..... \$1000 +  
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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.



*MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

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

**Public Archaeology Field Experience: multi-age**  
Monday - Wednesday or Monday - Friday  
August 1 - 3, 2005 or August 1 - 5, 2005

Join Connie Arzigian at the Swennes Site near Holmen. Participate in an actual excavation at this Oneota site. Both field and lab experiences will be offered for those who want to learn about the process of archaeology.

**Archaeology Field School: Second Fort Crawford**  
Monday - Friday, August 1 - 5, 2005

Portions of Second Fort Crawford were discovered by MVAC in 1999. The fort was a large American military garrison established in 1829 and was occupied by soldiers until about 1856.

**The earliest settled villages in the Andean Highlands of South America**

Tuesday, September 20, 2005  
7 p.m.

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

Dr. Timothy McAndrews, UW-La Crosse Sociology/Archaeology Department, has spent the last ten years investigating the very earliest village settlements in the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes. The earliest village-based lifeways are a major point of interest for anthropologists because they represent one of the most fundamental developments in cultural evolution, the shift from a long established tradition of nomadic hunting and gathering to more sedentary adaptation involving animal husbandry and horticulture.

**Archaeology Day at Silver Mound**

Saturday, October 1, 2005

KOA Hixton - Alma Center

**Annual Reception and Silent Auction, Highlights of MVAC's Summer Excavations**

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

