



MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse

1725 State Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601-3788

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*MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

*Archaeology News  
is a publication of  
the Mississippi Valley  
Archaeology Center*

*Newsletter Submissions:  
(608) 785-8454 or  
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## Upcoming Events

Contact MVAC at (608) 785-8454 for more information or  
visit our web site: **mvac.uwlax.edu**

### Great Lakes Shipwrecks of Wisconsin

Dive into the history hidden beneath the waves with  
Wisconsin Historical Society's maritime archaeologist,  
Tamara Thomsen. Explore Wisconsin's Great Lakes  
shipwrecks through underwater video, historic photo-  
graphs and archaeological discoveries! Learn how the  
Wisconsin Historical Society documents these time  
capsules of our maritime past.

Date: Thursday, November 2, 2017  
Time: Social 6:30 PM, Awards 7 PM,  
Lecture 7:30 PM  
Location: 3310 Student Center, UWL  
Speaker: Tamara Thomsen

Sign up to receive MVAC's e-News at:  
<http://mvac.uwlax.edu/mvac-e-news/>

## 2018 Events

### Lecture: The Development of Two Early Urban Cen- ters in Upper Egypt During the 3rd Millennium BCE - The Towns of Edfu and Dendura

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2018  
Time: 7:30 PM

### Lecture: The King Khufu's Harbor at Wadi al-Jarf on the Red Sea and its Link to the Great Pyramid at Giza

Date: Thursday, March 1, 2018  
Time: 4 PM

### Artifact Show

To display your artifacts call MVAC at (608) 785-8454  
or e-mail Jean Dowiasch at [jdowiasch@uwlax.edu](mailto:jdowiasch@uwlax.edu).  
Date: Saturday, March 3, 2018  
Time: 10 AM-5 PM

### Volunteer Field Survey Opportunity for MVAC Members

Date: Saturday, May 5, 2018 (rain date: Sat. May 12)  
Time: 8:30 AM-4 PM

# Archaeology News

Volume 34 Number 2

October 2017

## 2017 Public Field School at Goose Island

*Constance M. Arzigian, MVAC Research Associate*

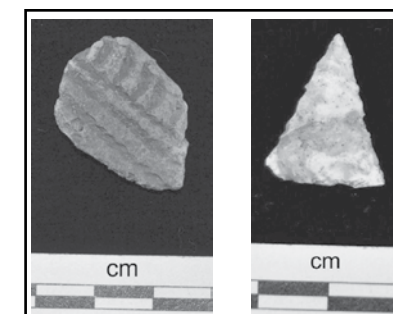
In July of this year, MVAC conducted Phase  
II excavations at portions of the Hunter's  
Point site (47VE526) on Goose Island in  
Vernon County, Wisconsin. The investiga-  
tions were undertaken prior to several pro-  
posed improvements at the boat landing.

This site was first reported in 1982 and  
based on our recent work, dates to between  
about 500 BC and 1300 AD, including the  
Oneota and Woodland Traditions of Na-  
tive American cultures, though we think  
we also have an Archaic occupation below  
the Woodland levels.

Woodland. Below that, we continued to  
find many flakes, but no more pottery, so  
we think this is an Archaic occupation, but  
we don't know how old.

A nice Madison Triangular point was  
recovered near the top of the units, but  
the only point from the deeper levels was  
snapped at the base so we can't identify  
its age. In a separate area of the site, we  
got early Oneota pottery, but only a few  
sherds and flakes. Our units were much  
more productive than we had hoped, with  
some levels having over 100 sherds and  
more than 180 flakes. *-continued p.2*

We opened up seven units, most of them  
2 x 2 meter squares, and dug them down  
to about 70 cm below the ground surface.  
We found many flakes from stone tool  
manufacture, and many potsherds from  
the full sequence of Oneota and Wood-  
land ceramics, including Late Woodland  
Madison Cord Impressed pottery near the  
top, Middle Woodland Lane Farm Rocker  
Stamped pottery below, with some thicker  
sherds near the bottom that look Early



*Madison Cord-Imprinted pot sherd (l)  
and Madison triangular point re-  
covered from 47VE526.*



*2017 Public Field School Participants*



Public Field School -continued from p.1

All of this information will help us to understand the lives of people who have camped here in the past, as they enjoyed the rich resources from the Mississippi River. We found a number of exotic stone raw materials, including some that derive from southern Minnesota (Grand Meadow), central Illinois (Burlington), and further north in Wisconsin (Cochrane), as well as some other high-quality materials that we don't recognize, so we'll have fun tracking down their source. Our research provides new evidence for the extensive trade up and down the river. We will also have a better understanding of the age of the landforms in the area, to help with future planning.

Our work was designed to recover information prior to the installation of a vault toilet and expansion of the parking lot. We would like to thank the La Crosse County Facilities Department for working with us on this project, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District for granting us permission to excavate on federal property. Thanks also to those who provided funds for student scholarships. Thanks to everyone who helped with this year's field school including our Open House visitors!

See photos and videos at:  
http://mvac.uwlax.edu/2017/07/mvac-2017-public-field-school/

2017 Volunteer Field Survey

Thirty volunteers joined MVAC Research Associate Connie Arzigian to survey fields around Coon Valley on Saturday, May 8. Walkover was conducted over six large fields, with artifacts recovered from four of them. A beautiful Raddatz point was found in a field which had just been disked, while several cores and a large chopping tool were recovered from another field. One field that was half-way up the sloping side of the valley produced lots of flakes and cores. The hillslope location was surprising, as we normally expect campsites to be on more level ground. Just goes to prove that our hypotheses about site locations need to be tested in the field.

The day also featured flintknapping by Jack Larson and his friends who had a flintknapping event at the Norskedalen Heritage Farm. Volunteers got to work with some of the region's best knappers, see how artifacts were made, and try it themselves. People also tried their hand at throwing the atlatl. A very successful day, with thanks to all the participants.



Raddatz point recovered during the 2017 field survey.

Books For Sale at the Lab

**Hidden Thunder: Rock Art of the Upper Midwest**, by Geri Schrab and Robert F. Boszhardt  
Ernie and Geri have teamed up to interpret the hidden history and heritage painted in American Indian rock art found in the Upper Midwest. With an eye toward preservation, Geri and Ernie take you along as they research, document and interpret the petroglyphs and pictographs made in past millennia.

**Alzheimer's, Archaeology, and the Armed Forces: The Story of a Family**, by Susan Steele  
Gary Steele was a meticulous collector who assembled an amazing collection of artifacts from around Silver Mound. Gary's daughter Susan has finished her biography of her dad, whose life story was much more than just stone.

Thanks

Special thanks to the Schoen Family Charitable Trust for their generous donation to MVAC's Educational Endowment.

MVAC Educational Programs are supported by  
The United Fund for the Arts and Humanities  
The National Endowment for the Humanities

Unexpected Passing of Dr. Thomas C. Pleger

We are mourning the death and honoring the life of Dr. Thomas C. Pleger, President of Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Tom's involvement with MVAC and UW-La Crosse began with a high school field school and continued through his undergraduate years (including a field school at the Midway site in 1988) and subsequent work with MVAC.



Tom Pleger (right) and Matt Hill excavating a feature at the Pammel Creek Site in La Crosse, 1988.

We watched Tom's horizons expand and his career flourish as he moved on to graduate studies at UW-Madison and evolving positions in the UW System, and to his most recent position at LSSU. Besides his sustained passion for archaeology and the liberal arts, we especially respected his genuine interest in and support for students, and his ceaseless advocacy for the value, im-

portance, and opportunities of education. Our condolences to his wife Teresa, the whole family, and all of his students and colleagues at LSSU and elsewhere, for a life cut short much too soon.

Education News

Matching Funds Grant:

Teachers interested in using MVAC's Archaeology Education Program resources in their classrooms can get limited financial help with our Matching Funds Program. For more information, contact Jean at jdowiasch@uwlax.edu or (608) 785-8454.

**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 District for providing funds for this program. Contact Jean at jdowiasch@uwlax.edu or (608) 785-8454 for information.



The Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center was founded by Dr. James P. Gallagher in 1982, and 2017 marks our 35th Anniversary! Thanks to the generous support of our members, MVAC continues to focus on providing educational opportunities to students and the general public; conducting archaeological and historical research about the past cultures in the region; and preserving cultural resources for future generations. \*Logo designed by Field/Lab Technician Sarah Schultz.

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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!  
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**Make your donation online at: [foundation.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://foundation.uwlax.edu/mvac)**

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.