



MVAC at the University
of Wisconsin-La Crosse

1725 State Street
La Crosse, WI 54601-3788

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LA CROSSE, WI
PERMIT #545



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
jdowiasch@uwlax.edu

<https://mvac.uwlax.edu>

[https://www.facebook.com/
UWLMVAC](https://www.facebook.com/UWLMVAC)

1725 State Street
La Crosse, WI 54601-3788

Archaeology News

Volume 35 Number 2

October 2018

Middle School Students Join Public Field School at Goose Island

Jean Dowiasch, Senior Research Archaeologist/Education Coordinator

In July of this year, MVAC conducted Phase I and II investigations at the Turtle Hill site (47LC866) on Goose Island in La Crosse County, Wisconsin. Recent investigations on Goose Island include Phase I survey along portions of CTH GI in 2016 and Phase II testing at the Hunter's Point site (47VE526) during MVAC's 2017 Public Field School. Located at the south end of the campground, the Turtle Hill site lies on a high knoll which hadn't been tested prior to 2018. With seven Woodland campsites reported on Goose Island, the La Crosse County Facilities Department, which oversees the campground, wanted to determine if a site was located on the knoll for planning purposes.

MVAC staff dug five shovel tests on the knoll in early July, resulting in four positive shovel tests with 15 flakes and one undecorated grit-tempered pot sherd recovered. Based on these artifacts, the site was reported as a Woodland campsite/village.

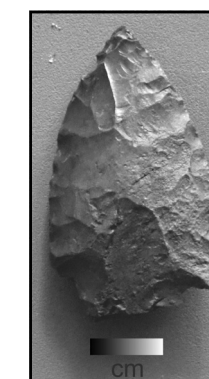
The field school was held at the Turtle Hill site to give members of the general public the opportunity to experience an archaeological excavation under the supervision of professional archaeologists.

Under the direction of Connie Arzigian, participants of the Public Field School began excavating the site on Monday and Tuesday, July 16-17. Field supervisors included MVAC field technicians Jacob Stone and Christina Yuen, and former field technician Kassie Haines. After attending an Introduction to Archaeology class focused on mapping techniques and artifact recognition, twelve middle school students joined the excavations on Wednesday and Thursday. Paired with adults and high school participants, the middle school students helped in every aspect of the excavation; including shoveling, screening, mapping, bagging artifacts, and paperwork. Most of the middle school students were from western Wisconsin.

- continued on p.2



Participants in the 2018 Middle School Field School.



Point recovered from
Unit 34 S, 50W.

Upcoming Events

Annual Awards and Lecture: A 40-Year Archaeological Journal Across the Driftless Area

This public program will provide a summary of Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt's career in the rugged, unglaciated portion of western Wisconsin. It will review highlights of his nearly 30 years with MVAC, including discoveries such as Oneota ridged agricultural fields at Sand Lake, Paleoindian quarry complexes at Silver Mound, Tainter Cave and other rock art sites, and recognition of an Effigy Mound territorial boundary. The talk will also summarize more recent research, including continued rock art discoveries along the eastern edge of the Driftless Area, Effigy Mound discoveries in the Bad Axe Valley using LIDAR technology, and ongoing exploration of a major early Mississippian colony at Trempealeau. Copies of his books will be available. Call MVAC at 608-785-6473 or e-mail mvac@uwlax.edu for more information.

Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Social 6:30 pm, Awards 7 pm, Lecture 7:30 pm

Location: UWL Student Union Theater

2019 Events

Lecture: Effigy Mound Ceremonial Landscapes

Speaker: Robert Birmingham

Date: February 21, 2019

Artifact Show

Date: Saturday, March 2, 2019

Wisconsin Archaeology Month

Dates: May 2019

Member Field Survey

Date: Saturday, May 4, 2019 (May 11 raindate)

Public Field School

Date: July 15-19, 2019

Youth Classes

Date: July 15-18, 2019

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

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

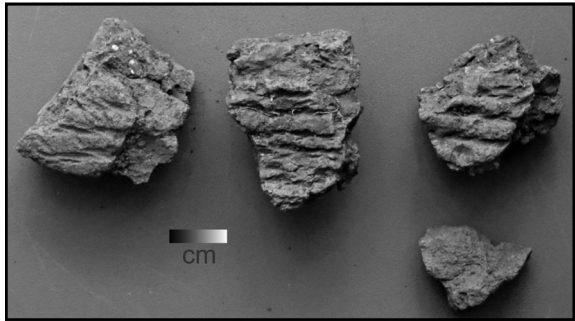
Public Field School -continued from p.1

sin, but some came from as far as Merrill and Nashotah, Wisconsin and Clinton, Iowa. Field school participants also got a chance to throw the atlatl or spear-thrower, a tool that uses leverage to achieve greater velocity in dart-throwing.

During the week long field school, a total of eight 2 x 2 meter units were hand excavated on the knoll. Units were dug to depths ranging from 30 to 90 cm below ground surface, with the majority of the material coming from the upper 50 cm. Grit-tempered pottery was recovered from every unit, with Marion Thick and Prairie ware ceramics dating to the Early Woodland Tradition; while some of the cord impressed over cord-roughened ceramics are indicative of a Middle Woodland or early Late Woodland component.

The artifact assemblage from the site consists of over 500 pieces of lithics, mainly flakes, in keeping with the preparation of expedient flake tools and limited bifacial reduction. The lithic material types included Prairie du Chien chert, silicified sandstone, Knife River flint, and one unidentifiable material type. The variety of material type indicates extensive trade up and down the Mississippi River and onto the Plains.

During the field school, a second series of shovel tests were dug in an effort to establish the site boundaries. The southern site boundary was found at the base of the knoll. Artifacts were recovered from the northern-most shovel tests, indicating additional areas that could be investigated in the future.



Top: Marion Thick ceramics recovered from Unit 32S-50W. Bottom: Cord-impressed over cord-marked ceramics from Unit 32S-52W.

Artifact Show a Success

Artifact displays presented by MVAC and nineteen area collectors were viewed by over 3,000 people at Valley View Mall on March 3, 2018. Prehistoric and historic exhibits were displayed and numerous people brought in artifacts to be identified by MVAC staff. Flintknapping demonstrations were provided by Robert Keiper, Gary Eldred, and Dave Becwar.



For more information and photos related to the articles in this issue, see the NEWS tab on MVAC's website at: <https://www.mvac.uwlax.edu>

Volunteer Field Survey

Connie Arzigian, Senior Research Archaeologist

The 2018 Public Field Survey on May 5, 2018 found 17 volunteers finally getting to survey some fields in excellent condition. We were there before the farmer had plowed, so the fields had sat through the winter and a very wet spring, with pools of water still in some areas. But, this meant the fields were very well-washed, and the artifacts were waiting for us. We looked at six fields around Coon Valley, with some artifacts in all of them. However, the first field was amazing. We had found one Raddatz point in 2017, but the field was being disced as we surveyed, so visibility was poor. In 2018, under greatly improved conditions, we found a series of points: another Middle Archaic Raddatz, a Late Archaic Kramer, a Late Woodland triangular point. We also recovered a scraper/point/knife object that had been heavily worked and reworked. The day also featured flintknapping by Jack Larson and his friends who had a flintknapping event at the Norskedalen Heritage Farm. MVAC's volunteers got to work with some of the regions' best kanppers, see how the artifacts are made, and try it themselves.



Public field survey in the Coon Valley area.

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

Education News

Matching Funds Grant:

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

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

MVAC Staff Contacts

Director

Dr. Timothy McAndrews, (608) 785-6774
tmcandrews@uwlax.edu

Operations Manager

Dr. Katherine Stevenson, (608) 785-8451
kstevenson@uwlax.edu

Main Office: (608) 785-8463

MVAC Staff

Michael Bednarchuk
Jean Dowiasch
Wendy Holtz-Leith
Bonnie Jancik
Marcee H. Peplinski
Vicki Twinde-Javner

Research Associates

David Anderson
Constance Arzigian
Suzanne Harris
Amy Nicodemus
James Theler

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.

Membership Categories

Patron: \$1000 and above
Benefactor: \$500 - 999
Supporting: \$100 - 499
Contributing: \$50 - 99
Active: \$35 - 49
Students: \$10

Yes! I want to support the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center Programs!
Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

I want to charge my contribution to:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail address: _____

Amount: \$ _____
Card No.: _____
Security Code: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____
Signature: _____
Date: _____ Phone: _____

Make your donation online at: 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.