



MVAC at the University
of Wisconsin-La Crosse

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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:
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mvac.uwlax.edu

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Upcoming Events

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

MVAC Artifact Show

Come to Valley View Mall and see artifacts representing the area's long history. Local collectors will display their personal collections, and MVAC staff will bring artifacts recovered from local excavations. Archaeologists will be on hand to identify artifacts for the public. Call or e-mail MVAC at (608) 785-8454 or jdowiasch@uwlax.edu if you would like to display your artifacts.

Date: Saturday, March 4, 2017

Time: 10 AM–5 PM

Location: Valley View Mall, La Crosse

Wisconsin Archaeology Month

A variety of activities will be offered throughout the state during May to introduce the public to Wisconsin's long and rich cultural past. For a complete list of activities check out the WHS web site at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/> and type "Archaeology Month" in search.

Dates: May 2017

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

At the Crossroads of Europe: Pecica-Santul Mare (Romania) and the Rise of Bronze Age Civilization*

The Carpathian Basin lies at the nexus of major trade routes connecting the Mediterranean to the North Sea and the vast Eurasian steppes to western Europe. Consequently, it has long played a critical role in the innovation and spread of new ideas and technologies. One such pivotal period is the Early Bronze Age, when the region acted as a principal hub for the production and trade of valuable goods, especially metals. Dr. Nicodemus is an Assistant Professor in the UWL Department of Archaeology & Anthropology.

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Time: 7:30 PM*

Location: 3310 Student Center, UWL*

Speaker: Dr. Amy Nicodemus

* Note new time and location

Volunteer Field Survey Opportunity for MVAC Members

MVAC will celebrate Archaeology Month by involving volunteers in surveys of local fields to find unreported archaeological sites. The number of participants is limited, so register early. Children may participate if accompanied by an adult. Call or e-mail (608) 785-8454 or jdowiasch@uwlax.edu to register.

Advance registration required!

Date: Saturday, May 6, 2017 (rain date: Sat. May 13)

Time: 8:30 AM–4 PM

Location: Archaeology Center & Laboratory, UWL

Archaeology News

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2016 Excavations in Long Coulee

In recent years, homes and higher-density residential developments have begun expanding into Long Coulee from the adjacent Village of Holmen. Local collectors and landowners have known the archaeological importance of Long Coulee for decades. The first site recorded in the coulee was reported to the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1925. In the 1980s and 1990s, a dozen sites were recorded as a result of professional and collector surveys. The remainder of the sites in Long Coulee were reported by MVAC as a result of UW-La Crosse archaeological field schools and surveys conducted by volunteers under the Regional Archaeology Program. Forty-three sites have been reported in what is known as the Long Coulee Archaeological District (LCAD).

In 2016, a local developer contacted MVAC to conduct archaeological investigations for a proposed residential subdivision at the mouth of Long Coulee. The proposed development overlapped a known site, and investigations were required to meet Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources permitting regulations. These investigations included a Phase I survey and Phase II testing in June, and Phase III data recovery in August.

The site was first reported to MVAC in 1989 by a private collector who had found artifacts while walking over cultivated fields. Based on the artifacts recovered, the site was designated an Oneota campsite/village. In 2004, MVAC surveyed the site as part of the spring Volunteer Field Survey. Over 450 artifacts were recovered, including a graver, a scraper, and a piece of undecorated shell-tempered pottery. The site boundaries were expanded to include the entire field that was surveyed.

The 2016 Phase I survey recovered over 100 artifacts throughout the cultivated field. Phase II testing was conducted to

determine if prehistoric deposits were still present below the plow zone. Five features were uncovered during mechanical strip-ping, demonstrating the site has intact deposits, and that Phase III investigations were warranted.



Gemma Zahradka, Jacob Stone, Sarah Schultz and Neil Bollinger excavating in Long Coulee.

Phase III data recovery found 27 prehistoric features, all of which were fully excavated. All features with diagnostic materials are from the Oneota tradition. Pottery from both the Valley View and Brice Prairie phases of the Oneota tradition were represented, indicating the site was occupied intermittently from ca. A.D. 1300 to 1600.



Koshkonong Bold v. Fine vessel, Long Coulee

Animal bones from bison, white-tailed deer, beaver, muskrat, and dog were recovered from the site. The mammal bones were predominantly tools or tool stock such as bison scapulae, deer antler, the 3rd phalanx (toe bone) of a deer, and a beaver incisor. Elements were also recovered from a bird about the size of a sandhill crane, worked down to a possible awl;

- continued on p.2

Long Coulee -continued from p.1

catfish and suckers; and turtle shell. The animal remains from the site show it was probably occupied in the late summer and fall, when these species would be readily available. James Theler identified the selected animal remains.



Deer or elk antler modified into a possible hair piece (l) and projectile point made from deer toe (r), F. 20.

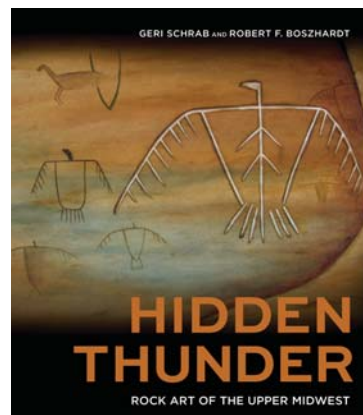
Plant remains from the site were identified by Connie Arzigian. They include charred corn kernels, hickory nutshell, goosefoot, tobacco, knotweed, American black nightshade, and blueberry. All of the plant remains suggest a mid-summer to early fall season of occupation. The corn and nutshell suggest that it might have extended into the corn harvest season.

The small size and scattered features suggest that only a few people occupied the site at any one time, but that visits recurred throughout the span of Oneota occupation in the region. Thus, the 2016 excavations demonstrate that Long Coulee was used throughout the seasonal round by Oneota populations, with smaller numbers of people exploiting the resources of the interior valley and hillsides.

Hidden Thunder Book Signing

Valley View Mall
Saturday, March 4
12 PM - 3 PM

Retired MVAC Regional Archaeologist/Contracts Director Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt and watercolor artist Geri Schrab will join us at the Artifact Show on March 4 for a book signing from noon to 3 p.m.



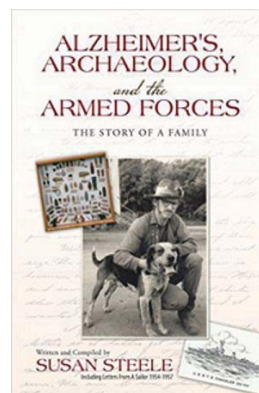
Ernie and Geri have teamed up to interpret the hidden history and heritage painted in American Indian rock art found in the Upper Midwest in "Hidden Thunder: Rock Art of the Upper Midwest." View points from members of several Native Nations offer additional insights.

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.

The book is now available on Amazon and at MVAC. Copies will be available for purchase at the Artifact Show on March 4.



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

2016 MVAC Awards

MVAC's 2016 Awards were presented to:

James P. Gallagher Award for
Archaeological Excellence:
Gundersen Health System

Regional Archaeology Award:
Suzanne Harris

Archaeology Education Award:
Jack Larson

Special Recognition Award:
McHugh Excavating

For more Information about the
award recipients visit:
[http://mvac.uwlax.edu/aboutsupport/
volunteer-recognition/](http://mvac.uwlax.edu/aboutsupport/volunteer-recognition/)

Summer 2017 Events

Public Archaeology Field Schools
High school/Adult
3-Day Experience
Dates: Mon.-Wed., July 17-19
5-Day Experience
Dates: Mon.-Fri., July 17-21

Arrowheads, Rocks & Dinosaurs
Grades 4-6
Date: Monday, July 17

Introduction to Archaeology
Grades 5-9
Date: Tuesday, July 18

Middle School Field Experience:
Grades 5-9
Dates: Wed.-Thurs., July 19-20

Field School Open House
Date: Thursday, July 20
Time: 10 AM-2 PM
Location: TBD



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.

Education News

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.

Matching Funds Grant:

Educators interested in using MVAC's Archaeology Education Program resources in their classrooms can get financial help with our Matching Funds Grant. The grant matches an educator or organization's cost dollar for dollar. Thanks to the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation and the UWL College of Liberal Studies for providing funds for this program.

MVAC Staff Contacts

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Constance Arzigian
Kate Grillo
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.

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: _____

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.

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Date: _____ Phone: _____

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