



MVAC at the
University
of Wisconsin -
La Crosse
1725 State Street
La Crosse, WI 54601
www.uwlax.edu/mvac

Electronic

Archaeology News

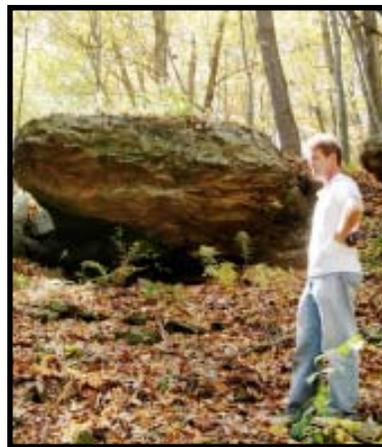
Volume 25 Number 1 & 2, Online Supplement

October 2006, February 2007

Silver Mound Day

Silver Mound Day 2006 was held at the Hixton-Alma Center KOA on October 7, with over 350 visitors attending. Silver Mound Day focused on celebrating the site's designation as a National Historic Landmark and on creating public awareness of the importance of the state's prehistory.

One of the Midwest's oldest and more important archaeological sites, Silver Mound was designated a National Historic Landmark in the spring of 2006. A dedication ceremony led by MVAC Associate Director Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt was held during Silver Mound Day. Officials who spoke of the site's importance included Vergil Noble (National Park Service), Paul Gardner (Midwest Director of the Archaeological Conservancy), Ellsworth Brown (Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society), Steve Miller (Director Bureau of Facilities and Lands - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, representing Governor Doyle's Office), Nettie Kingsley (Ho-Chunk Nation Office of the President), and Mark Seitz (aide to Representative Ron Kind). A plaque donated by the National Park Service was unveiled by Ms. Kingsley and Mr. Noble during the ceremony.



Ernie Boszhardt led the Archaeological Conservancy tour to view quarry pits and rockshelters on the back side of Silver Mound.

Tours were available throughout the day for participants to view the site's rock art, prehistoric and historic quarry pits, and rockshelters. Atlatl throwing, stone tool drilling, and Native American games were available for attendees to attempt. Entertainment was provided by Art Shegonee and the Wisconsin Dells Singers.

The electronic supplement of *Archaeology News* is published three times each year to inform MVAC members of new finds and upcoming events. Members who would like a hard copy of the supplement mailed to their homes can contact me at (608) 785-8454 or dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu.

Enjoy the newsletter!
Jean Dowiasch, Editor

Demonstrations included flintknapping, artifact displays by local collectors, and Early Native People artifacts. Traditional basketry, beadwork, and food were demonstrated by Dorothy Decorah, Velma Lewis, and the Paul and Suzette Arentz family.



Traditional basketry and beadwork were demonstrated by members of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Silver Mound Day -continued



Art Shegonee performing at Silver Mound Day.



Nettie Kingsley and Virgil Noble unveiling the plaque dedicating Silver Mound as a National Historic Landmark.



Local collectors Dan Maas, Keith Scarce (above, right), Betty Steele, and Hoyt Strandberg displayed their artifacts to the public.



The Wisconsin Dells Singers provided Traditional entertainment.



Paul Gardner of the Archaeological Conservancy speaks at the dedication ceremony.



John Pellowski watches the atlatl technique of a UWL archaeology student.

2006 Annual Reception

The 2006 Annual Reception was held on November 14, 2006. MVAC staff member Vicki Twinde-Javner summarized the findings from the summer excavation at 47Cr660, an historic site in Prairie du Chien. The annual Awards Ceremony recognized individuals who have worked with MVAC for years to preserve historical and archaeological sites and educate the public of Wisconsin's important prehistoric and historic past. The silent auction was a great success once again, and we wish to thank all the generous businesses and individuals who donated their goods to the auction.



Vicki Twinde-Javner



Kathleen Brosius and Jim Gallagher

James P. Gallagher Award - Kathleen Brosius

Kathleen Brosius has demonstrated outstanding and long-term support of La Crosse area archaeology. Kathleen's participation precedes the formation of MVAC. She served with the La Crosse Area Archaeological Society (LAAS) and volunteered with LAAS and MVAC since 1980 on a wide range of surveys and salvage excavations. Kathleen received her BA in Archaeological Studies in 1994 from UW-La Crosse. From 1995 to her retirement in 2006 she was MVAC's Laboratory Manager, where she oversaw all daily laboratory activities, participated in field projects, and curated the MVAC research collections. Her most lasting contribution may be the long stream of students to whom she has taught proper laboratory techniques and mentored in their careers. She has been a constant source of support and encouragement for the MVAC staff, students, and the public, and her daily presence will be missed. Retired Executive Director Jim Gallagher presented Kathleen with the James P. Gallagher award.

Regional Archaeology Award - Fort Crawford Museum

MVAC has been working with the Fort Crawford Museum in Prairie du Chien since 1999 when MVAC excavated Second Fort Crawford. The Fort Crawford Museum dedicated a whole room of their museum to that excavation. Since that time, the museum has encouraged archaeological programs by including archaeology in their Cannon and Redcoats (18th and 19th century re-enactor program) every fall for school children and the public and in their Fort Crawford Day for school children every spring. The museum has an upcoming archaeology field school at Fort Crawford planned, and staff members are always willing to help with historical information for research purposes. The museum also offers numerous public programs on a variety of historical topics and encourages the public to learn the history of Prairie du Chien. The Fort Crawford Museum is an excellent example of a museum dedicated to educating the public about archaeology.



Fort Crawford Museum representatives (l-r): Delores Igou, Eric Temte, Sharon Martin, Bob Camardo, and Dick Martin.



Chloris Lowe

Common Ground Award - Chloris Lowe

Mr. Lowe is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, and has twice served as the Nation’s President. Over the past several years he has become involved in a number of archaeology projects, including coordinating the Panther Spirit Mound Project in his home town of Mauston, field checking many mound and rock art sites, and addressing the Wisconsin Burial Sites Board. He has also become an activist in the proper curation of archaeology collections, facilitating the transfer of excavated materials from the Gottschall Rockshelter and reburial of human remains from that site, and serving as a core advisor to planning the development of a regional repository of archaeological collections from the Upper Mississippi Valley. He has also become a widely sought public speaker on Native American and archaeology interests at places like Effigy Mounds National Monument, Aztalan State Park, and schools throughout western Wisconsin. His interest and donation of innumerable hours to furthering the common interests of Wisconsin archaeology and Native American societies is greatly appreciated and is acknowledged by presenting him the 2006 Common Ground Award.

Archaeology Education Award - Jim and Donna Rankin

Jim and Donna Rankin may not have known how special the Silver Mound site was when they purchased the Hixton-Alma Center KOA in 1987, but they have certainly developed a sense of its importance since then. The Rankins have allowed MVAC to take over their campground periodically to hold Archaeology Day at Silver Mound and Student Day at Silver Mound. Days of preparation on their part beforehand lead to a lovely setting in which to demonstrate early Native American artistry, tool-making, and weaponry. The Rankins allow MVAC to lead tours of the portion of the site which they own, including the Dwyer and Geske Rockshelters and several prehistoric and historic mining pits. Interest in the site is not limited to one day a year, so Jim and Donna have artifact displays to inform the general public who camp or stop at the campgrounds. The Rankins also allowed tours for school groups and professional groups throughout the year, showing their true support for education.



Donna and Jim Rankin

Right: Joseph and Lauren Tiffany. Below (l-r): Marcee Peplinski, Kathleen Brosius, Jody Bruce. Bottom right (l-r): Miranda Alexander, Lindsay Maass.



Announcements

Touch the Past: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Valley - NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers

Walking through a thousand-year old stockaded village, visiting on-going archaeological excavations, making stone tools, learning how people have lived for the past 12,000 years, and creating ways to bring this back to your classroom - this could be your summer. MVAC will be offering a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for School Teachers.

The Institute is July 9 - 27, 2007 and will be held on the UWL campus, with field trips scheduled to archaeological sites across the state. The Institute will provide twenty-five K-12 teachers with three weeks of study of the process of archaeology and the major cultures of the Upper Mississippi Valley. Through field trips, demonstrations, classroom activities and inquiry-based projects, teachers will learn to make relevant connections between the Institute's content and their classroom teaching.

More information about the Institute and registration can be found online at <http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac/neh.htm>. Application deadline is March 1, 2007.



2006 Teachers Field Experience (l-r) David Niemi, Holly Downing, Mary Jean Seiler, Carol Niedfeldt, Mariah Hootman.

King Tut Exhibit: Bus Trip a Success

Twenty-two people joined MVAC staff on a bus trip to the Chicago Field Museum on September 8, 2006. The exhibit consisted of more than 130 artifacts from King Tut's tomb as well as Egypt's Valley of the Kings. The group left UW-La Crosse in the early hours and spent the day touring the King Tut Exhibit and other exhibits in the Field Museum. We would like to plan more trips like this one, so if you have any suggestions for upcoming events within driving distance, please contact MVAC at (608) 785-8463.

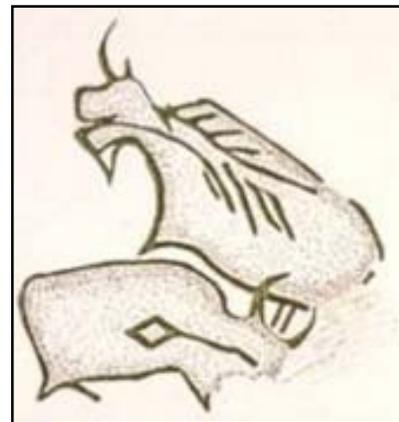
Silent Auction Donors

Thanks to the following individuals and organizations who contributed to the Silent Auction:

Vijendra Agarwal	La Crosse Loggers
Connie Arzigian	La Crosse Management Systems
Big River Magazine	La Crosse Queen Cruises
Jody Bruce	Linda's Bakery
Carlson Wagonlit Travel	Barbara Kooiman
Ciatti's	John Mason
The Company Store	People's Food Co-Operative
Ernie Boszhardt	Marcee Peplinski
Famous Dave's	Pizza Corral
Fayze's Restaurant & Bakery	Chuck & Patti Sans Crainte
Fort Crawford Museum	Seven Bridge's Restaurant
Huck Finn's on the Water	Bruce Walters
Island Girl Yacht Cruises	

25th Anniversary T-shirts/ Sweatshirts

New t-shirts and sweatshirts are available to commemorate MVAC's 25th Anniversary. Both the blue t-shirt and gray sweatshirt feature the bison rock art images from Bell Coulee Rockshelter. Stop by the lab or any MVAC event to purchase.



Bell Coulee Rockshelter
Discovered by MVAC in 1992

MVAC 25th Anniversary: 1982 - 2007



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 10, 2007

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Macy's Courtyard, Valley View Mall

Come to Valley View Mall and see artifacts representing the area's long history. Local collectors will display their personal artifact collections. View artifacts recovered from local excavations. Archaeologists will be on hand to answer questions and identify your artifacts. Call MVAC at (608) 785-8454 to reserve a table to display your artifacts.

My Life in the Cemetery: Personal, CRM, and Ethnoarchaeological Ruminations

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

7:00 p.m.

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

Over the last 25 years, **Prof. David Gradwohl** and Hanna Rosenberg Gradwohl have conducted ethnoarchaeological studies of historic cemeteries with a focus on the relationship of material culture to ethnicity. Their research has focused on intra-group diversity in Jewish cemeteries. This presentation also includes a summary of the Presidio Pet Cemetery in San Francisco.

Wisconsin Archaeology Month: May 2007

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>.

Field Survey Opportunity

Saturday, May 5 and/or Sunday, May 6

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

Archaeology Center and Laboratories, UW-L

Volunteers are invited to help survey local fields to find unreported archaeological sites. Each day will begin with an introduction at the archaeology laboratory, followed by helping with an actual field survey. Participants will end each day back at the lab to wash the artifacts recovered and learn more about their history. The number of participants is limited, so register early. Children may attend if accompanied by an adult. Call Jean Dowiasch at 608-785-8454 to register. **Advanced registration required!**

Bell Coulee Rockshelter Tour

Saturday, May 19, 2007

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Archaeology Center and Laboratories

Fee: \$25

Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt will lead a tour of a local rock art site to coincide with Wisconsin Archaeology Month. Bell Coulee Rockshelter contains prehistoric carvings of bison. The tour is limited to 25 people. The fee will defray costs and support rock art preservation in the region. Participants should wear good walking shoes and cameras are welcome. To register, call or e-mail Jean Dowiasch at 608-785-8454 or dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu. **Advanced registration required!**