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Public Field School at Sand Lake Coulee

During the summer of 2008, MVAC conducted extensive excavations at the Lower Sand Lake site on Onalaska's northeast side (see *Archaeology News*, February 2009). The UW-La Crosse Field School and the MVAC field crew excavated the site under the direction of Wendy Holtz-Leith and Joe Tiffany. MVAC archaeologist Connie Arzigian joined Wendy in the field for one week in July to lead the Public Field School. Participants included long-time MVAC volunteers Bill Gresens and John Morris along with other adult attendees, high school, and middle school students. The public field school continued work on the Lower Sand Lake site, which will also be the site for the 2009 Public Field School.



High school students staying in the UW-L dorms were supervised by Miranda Alexander (back).



Lab work was conducted at the end of each day.



Middle school students joined the dig for two days.



Digging a unit at 47Lc45.

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



The 2008 Public Field School.

2008 Midwest Archaeological Conference

The 54th Annual Midwest Archaeological Conference (MAC) was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Milwaukee. MVAC staff and other archaeologists presented at two poster sessions on Friday, October 17th. The topics and authors who participated are listed below.

Session 1: The Driftless Area and Beyond - Paleoindian, Archaic, and Woodland Archaeology: A Poster Session on Current Research in Western Wisconsin and Eastern Minnesota.

1) The Schumann Cache: a Silicified Sandstone Clovis Cache from Southeastern Minnesota. By Dillon Carr, Michigan State University; Dan Winkler, UW-Milwaukee; Andrew Bloedorn, UW-Milwaukee; Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt, MVAC

2) The Gail Stone Site: A Cochrane Chert Fluted Point Component in the Upper Mississippi River Valley. By Thomas Loebel, UI-Chicago; Matthew G. Hill, Iowa State University; Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt, MVAC

3) The Brogley Rockshelter (47Gt-156) Revisited: A History of Excavation and Curation. By Danielle Benden, UW-Madison

4) Projectile Points from the Brogley Rockshelter. By Matthew Maus, UW-Madison

5) An Analysis of Five Ceramic Vessels from the Brogley Rockshelter. By Dominique Alhambra, UW-Madison

6) An Archaeological Occurrence of a Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) in Southwestern Wisconsin. By James L. Theler, UW-La Crosse

7) Environmental Interpretations from Microfauna, Gastropods, and Flora from Brogley Rockshelter. By Constance Arzigian, MVAC; Jake Pfaffenroth, UW-La Crosse; Natasha Musalem, UW-La Crosse

8) Archaeology along the Flambeau River in Northwestern Wisconsin. By Vicki Twinde-Javner, MVAC

9) Projectile Points from Cade 3 in Vernon County, Wisconsin. By Michael Straskowski, UW-La Crosse



UWL student Laura Tomcek, Wendy Holtz-Leith, and Joseph Tiffany at the MAC in Milwaukee.

Session 2: The Driftless Area and Beyond - Woodland, Mississippian, Oneota and Protohistoric Archaeology: A Poster Session on Current Research in Western Wisconsin and Eastern Minnesota.

1) Excavations at the Lower Sand Lake Site (47Lc45), a Multi-Component Campsite in Onalaska, Wisconsin. By Joseph A. Tiffany, MVAC/UW-La Crosse, Wendy Holtz-Leith, UW-La Crosse

2) Variation in Burial Practices within the Sanford Archaeological District, La Crosse, Wisconsin. By Miranda Alexander, University of Oklahoma, Wendy Holtz-Leith, MVAC

3) The Swennes site: A Cold-Season Oneota Occupation in the La Crosse Locality. By Constance Arzigian, MVAC; Bonnie Jancik, MVAC

4) Ceramic Residue Analysis through Gas Chromatography III: Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (Fame) Analysis Results from Oneota Pottery from the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. By John Morris, Northern Illinois University/Alchimia Consultants; Constance Arzigian, MVAC

5) Conservation and Preservation: Archaeology and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. By Jean Dowiasch, MVAC

6) The "Burmeister Bear": An Analysis of a Carved Pipestone Animal Effigy Found in Wabasha County, Minnesota. By Branden Fjerstad, MVAC; Christian Driver, MVAC



Former MVAC staff member Bob Sasso (l) and Eric Hollinger view former UWL student Miranda Alexander (r) and Wendy Holtz-Leith's poster at the MAC.



MVAC archaeologist Branden Fjerstad at MAC.

2009 Annual Reception

MVAC's Annual Reception was held on November 13, 2008. Executive Director Joseph A. Tiffany summarized the findings from the summer excavation at 47Lc45, the Lower Sand Lake site in Onalaska. 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.



Carole McGinley Edland

James P. Gallagher Award: Carole McGinley Edland

Carole's interests in rocks and history led her to the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center to learn more about the early history and artifacts of the La Crosse area. In the 1980s, MVAC Director Jim Gallagher led a tour to an area cave with native drawings. Noting the modern graffiti carved over the ancient rock art designs, Carole felt the need to join MVAC to promote the discovery and protection of endangered sites. "If we do not remember the past, we will not understand the present." Carole joined MVAC in 1984, and served 13 years on the Board of Directors. She has served as vice president on the Board, as well as serving as president from 1998 to 2003. She is very proud of all the endeavors of the department and continues to support it with donations of books and financial assistance.

Archaeology Education Award: Dr. James L. Theler

Jim Theler has worked with MVAC since arriving in the La Crosse area in 1984. As a professor in the UW-La Crosse Sociology and Archaeology Department, Jim currently focuses on teaching college students about North American Indians and Environmental Archaeology. Over the years Jim has generously given his time to interact with teachers and the public. He has shared his expertise at presentations at numerous teacher training activities and with the public at a variety of venues including lectures, public field schools, and lab tours. Along with his classroom teaching responsibilities, Jim has also led multiple field schools at Woodland and Oneota sites in both La Crosse and Vernon Counties. During both college and public field schools, Jim welcomes MVAC teacher classes and youth camps to tour the excavations, screen some dirt with the college students, and best of all, wade through the cool Bad Axe River to get to his digs! In 1993, Jim directed the Archaeology Field School for Teachers in the Bad Axe River Valley. Twelve teachers spent several weeks at the Tollackson farm excavating prehistoric campsites and mapping burial mounds. Jim takes time to work with MVAC's Archaeology Education Program in many ways: identifying artifacts at the annual Artifact Show, leading tours during Archaeology Day at Silver Mound, conducting workshops for teacher education programs, and providing faunal remains for use in the MVAC Education Program's teaching collection.



James L. Theler

Regional Archaeology Award: John Ebersold

John Ebersold has been assisting MVAC with public archaeology activities in the Trempealeau area since the early 1990's. As a life-long resident and public works employee for the village, John has an in-depth understanding of local history and current on-goings. He is an avid outdoorsman who, along with hunting and trapping, began collecting artifacts many years ago. When MVAC began working in Trempealeau in the 1990's, John shared his collection and knowledge of local sites. He volunteered on several MVAC field projects in Perrot State Park, and even arranged for a water truck to spray our dried excavation floors for clear photographs. John has introduced MVAC staff to other local collectors, and has long promoted ethical standards of recording find locations in order to contribute to the archaeological record. He also serves as an advocate for archaeological interests within the village, including alerting MVAC to plans for the recent construction of a new library, which overlapped a major archaeological village. Based on that contact, we were able to work with the village and Trempealeau Elementary School to do a public archaeology study that involved local students and resulted in better understanding of the archaeology of Trempealeau.

Trempealeau Mammoth

Constance Arzigian, Research Archaeologist

One of our most exciting discoveries this past fall started as a phone call from someone who had a bone he wanted to show us. Most of the time, we have to tell the person that their find represents a modern cow or pig, but the call from Adam Leahy was different. Even as he gave the dimensions of the bone, we knew something interesting was happening. Adam brought in his bone, and Jim Theler was able to identify it as a vertebra bone from a mammoth. It is HUGE, as seen in the pictures. A friend of Adam's had found the bone in a quarry in Trempealeau County, and hadn't known what it was, so he passed it on to Adam to find out. The bone is nearly complete and in very good condition, considering that it is probably well over 10,000 years old and dates from the end of the ice age. No other bones were found with the vertebra, but this is not an uncommon situation. When animals died, often their bones were swept up and redeposited in the huge sand deposits that were formed on the Mississippi river terrace systems at the end of the ice age. Thus, there may or may not be more bones out there, but Adam is going to keep an eye out!

-this artifact reprinted from the Feb. 2009 *Archaeology News*



Adam Leahy of Trempealeau County





Spring 2009: 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 14, 2009

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.



*Artifact identification at the 2008
Artifact Show*



Projectile points identified in 2008

Wisconsin Archaeology Month - May 2009

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/>

Rulers & Ritual: Searching for the Origins of the Egyptian State at the Predynastic Settlement at el-Mahasna

Thursday, April 9, 2009

7 p.m.

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

Speaker: Dave Anderson, Assistant Professor, UW-La Crosse Sociology/Archaeology Department

Large-scale excavations in the fall of 2000 at the site of el-Mahasna uncovered habitation remains dating from the Naqada Ic-IIc-d period (ca.3700-3200 B.C.) including the remnants of a large, more substantially constructed structure. This presentation will present information on this structure and its associated artifact assemblages. Specifically, data suggest early ritual activity of a large number of human and animal clay figurines, and differences in the faunal remains recovered from the structure. The potential that the structure at el-Mahasna is the remains of an early temple/ritual building dating to the Naqada Ic-IIab period (ca. 3700-3450 B.C.) will be discussed.

Member Field Survey Opportunity

MVAC members are invited to volunteer 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. Finally, participants will end each day back at the archaeology laboratory to wash the artifacts recovered and learn more about their history. The number of participants is limited so register early. Children may participate if accompanied by an adult. Call MVAC at 608-785-8454 to register.

Date: Saturday and/or Sunday May
2 and 3, 2009

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

Location: Archaeology Center and
Laboratories, UW-L

Fee: Free admission

Advanced registration required!

Call MVAC at 608-785-8454 or

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