



Electronic

Archaeology News

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From the Editor:

MVAC is excited to offer a new way for our members to receive current news about ongoing projects, new finds and upcoming events. We will continue to mail out a newsletter with announcements three times a year, and will provide more information in the online supplement. Please let me know what you think of this change and any suggestions you have for new material to include. 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

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www.uwlax.edu/mvac

MVAC educators receive \$257,471 in grants

Money will help educate area teachers in archaeology, math

The public is accustomed to hearing the bad news about serious cuts to education dollars. Now for some good news – area teachers will be able to learn new information to apply in their classrooms, at no charge to the teacher or the school district, thanks to the efforts of the staff of UW-La Crosse's Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center. Bonnie Christensen and Connie Arzigian applied for, and earned, two grants totaling more than a quarter million dollars.

The first grant will allow middle school teachers to experience archaeology, then develop a curriculum to use with their students. The second grant will help math teachers learn more about statistics, probability and sampling. Both opportunities are available to both public and private school teachers in Wisconsin.

The **Archaeology in the Classroom** grant is for two years with the first year of the project being funded for \$38,301. The second year is contingent on funding availability but would be for an additional \$63,326.



Teachers learning excavation techniques in 2003.

The grant is in partnership with the La Crosse and Cashton School Districts. A Wisconsin ESEA Improving Teacher Quality Higher Education Program funds this project. The program is an opportunity for 4th to 8th grade teachers to experience archaeology in the field, then use it to integrate their curriculum. The teachers will

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create an inquiry-based integrated (science, math, language arts, social studies) curriculum that will be posted to the Internet, and will design a web-based course for future teachers. Participants will earn 9-12 tuition waived graduate credits and receive \$100-200 of resource materials.

The **Enhancing Math Skills** grant is for one year for \$155,844 and is in partnership with the La Crosse, Onalaska and Holmen School Districts. This program is a professional development opportunity for middle school math teachers and is funded by a Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Mathematics and Science Program Partnerships Grant. The MVAC staff will be working with UW-L mathematics professor Helen

Skala. Participants will learn more about statistics, probability and sampling.

Each participant will receive a \$2,000 stipend, and resource materials totaling \$200-300. The grant will also cover the cost of a substitute teacher, so the participant can spend a half day each month during the school year in the program.

Teachers interested in learning more about the programs can log onto MVAC's web site at www.uwlax.edu/mvac/EventsDisplays/teacher.htm or contact MVAC Education Director Bonnie Christensen at (608) 785-6473.

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MVAC to co-sponsor Iowa Archeological Society meeting

Mark your calendars for an exciting day of archaeology on October 9th, 2004! Luther College in Decorah, IA will host the annual Iowa Archeological Society meeting beginning at 9 a.m. MVAC is a co-sponsor of the event. Morning sessions of archaeological presentations will be followed by keynote speaker John Anfinson at 10:30 a.m. The afternoon will be filled with site tours, including Effigy Mounds National Monument and possibly Prairie du Chien, WI. More information will be posted on MVAC's website as it becomes available.

Luther College will also be hosting an atlatl competition on Saturday October 9 and Sunday October 10, 2004. Planned events include an International Standard Accuracy Competition on Saturday and Sunday mornings. These events will be run by Colin Betts of Luther College. IAS members are welcome to watch the proceedings. A website has been set up for the meet with more information plus links and directions to the campus and motel listings:

<http://anthro.luther.edu/atlatl.htm>

Keynote Speaker: John O. Anfinson

THE VANISHING LANDSCAPE OF ZEBULON PIKE

This talk focuses on how much the river has changed since Pike's time and how these changes have affected where archeological sites might be and what condition they might be in. Biologists have been warning of the ecosystem collapse effect being caused by the locks and dams. One of the most serious problems is island loss. What they don't realize is that many of those islands might contain archeological sites.

John O. Anfinson is the historian and cultural resources specialist for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), a unit of the National Park Service (NPS). MNRRA runs for 72 miles along the Mississippi River through the Twin Cities metropolitan area and extends four miles up the Minnesota River. John worked as a cultural resources specialist and District Historian for the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1980 to 2000, before joining the NPS.

Annual Artifact Show a Huge Success

Thanks to the dedication and commitment of local artifact collectors, the March 15th Artifact Show was extremely well-attended, drawing over 3,500 people to view the artifacts on display. Twenty-one area collectors shared their collections, along with MVAC's exhibit of artifacts recovered during the summer of 2003. Collector Todd Murphy won an MVAC t-shirt in a raffle as thanks for exhibiting during the show.

In addition to those collectors displaying their artifacts, a record number of people brought in items to be identified!

MVAC again held a mystery artifact identification contest. This year's artifact was a historic mussel shell with several button holes punched out of it. Twenty-one people attempted to answer the following questions about the shell: What is it made of? What was it used for? How old is it? All of the responses correctly identified the shell, with answers to what it was used for ranging from a toothbrush holder to an arrow shaft sizer. The shell is from one of the many pearl button factories that were established along the Mississippi River. The shell is approximately 100 years old. The names of those with all the correct information were put into a hat, and the winner selected by random drawing. The winner of this year's contest is Ken Pederson. Ken will receive a free MVAC membership for one year. Congratulations Ken and thanks to all who participated!



Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt (foreground) and Joe Tiffany identifying artifacts.

Thanks to all the collectors who helped make this show a success:

Steve Allen	Chad Burroughs
Loren Cade	Kary Fox
Bob Halseth	Milton Hanson
James Losinski	William Meyer
Todd Murphy	Stephen Oestriech
Ellsworth Olson	Mark Pingel
Jacob Woggon	Todd Reichert
Prairie du Chien Historical Soc.	
Ron Rodenberg	Keith Scearce
Hoyt Strandberg	Guy Wittenberg
John & Otto Swennes	

Thanks also to the MVAC staff who volunteered their time at the show, and to UW-La Crosse students Monty Rogers and Quin Stefaniak for helping out!



Exhibitor John Swennes and his brother Otto displayed the woven bag they recovered from their family homestead, along with other artifacts. The Native American bag is made from twisted nettle fibers, and could be at least 100 years old.

Samples from the fibers could be radio-carbon dated using Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) methods, which would verify the age. AMS dates cost nearly \$1,000, and MVAC is seeking support to cover the cost for dating. If you would like to contribute to further investigations on this discovery, please contact Marcee Peplinski at (608) 785-8463.



Summer Events

Contact MVAC at (608) 785-8454 for more information. For online registration, go to the UW-La Crosse Continuing Education web page at www.uwlax.edu/ContEd/.

YOUTH EVENTS

Introduction to Archaeology - grades 1-4

Discover the science of archaeology by participating in hand-on activities like those used by archaeologists out in the field. Explore MVAC's Archaeology Laboratory, and discover how people lived in Wisconsin by checking out the artifacts that have been recovered in the area. Tour an excavation (if in the area), and visit archaeological sites at Perrot State Park in Trempealeau, weather permitting. Cancellations prior to June 18, 2004 will receive a full refund minus a \$25 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 18, 2004.

Date: Tuesday and Wednesday, July 13 and 14, 2004

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall, UW-La Crosse

Age: Students entering grades 1-4

Fee: \$90 (includes travel fee)

Note: Bring a lunch with drink and snacks, water bottle, insect repellent and sun screen. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

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1725 State Street
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Introduction to Archaeology - grades 5-9

Explore MVAC's Archaeology Laboratory and work with artifacts recovered from area excavations as an introduction to the science of archaeology. Discover how the first Native Americans in Wisconsin survived using the natural resources found in our area. Students must take this class in order to attend the Middle School Field Experience class. Cancellations prior to June 18, 2004 will receive a full refund minus a \$25 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 18, 2004.

Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall, UW-La Crosse

Age: Students entering grades 5-9

Note: Bring a lunch with drink and snacks.

Fee: \$50 (includes travel fee)

Middle School Field Experience - grades 5-9

Take your excitement for archaeology to the field! Students who have taken the Introduction to Archaeology class in the past can join a La Crosse area project. Participants will work alongside professional archaeologists in the field. Activities may include shovel testing and/or small-scale excavations (test units). The location of this year's field experience is yet to be determined. Weather may require alternate activities. Cancellations prior to June 18, 2004 will receive a full refund minus a \$25 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 18, 2004.

Date: Wednesday and Thursday, July 7 and 8, 2004

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: 311 Wimberly Hall, UW-La Crosse

Age: Students entering grades 5-9

Fee: \$125 (includes travel fee)

Note: Bring a lunch with drink and snacks, water bottle, insect repellent and sun screen. Wear comfortable walking shoes and clothes that can get dirty.

YOUTH EVENTS (continued)

Arrowheads, Rocks & Dinosaurs - grades 4-6

What's the difference between a geologist, archaeologist and paleontologist? You'll find out by taking this introduction to the sciences. Check out real artifacts and fossils from Wisconsin and learn about past people, dinosaurs, rocks and the earth. Hands-on activities emphasized. Cancellations prior to June 18, 2004 will receive a full refund minus a \$25 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 18, 2004.

Date:	Friday, July 9, 2004	Time:	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location:	311 Wimberly Hall, UW-La Crosse	Age:	Students entering grades 4-6
Fee:	\$50 (includes supply fee)	Note:	Bring a lunch with drink and snacks

EVENTS FOR TEENS AND ADULTS

Archaeology Field Experience

These multi-day events include both field and lab experiences and is a well rounded opportunity for those who want to learn about the process of archaeology. Explore what it is like to participate in an actual archaeological excavation, by working alongside professional archaeologists in the field. Participate in small-scale excavations (test units) and survey work. Lab work may include washing ceramics, stone tools, and other remains, sorting them into basic categories. An experimental archaeology component of the event may explore making stone tools and pottery. Optional lab hours and local field trips will be available after regular field school hours. No previous experience is necessary. The location of this year's field school is yet to be determined. These experiences are open to high school students through adults. Supervised dorm facilities are available for high school students at an additional cost of \$150 for for 3 days and \$250 for 5 days. Adults (over 18 years of age) may make their own reservations for dorms or camping in the area. Cancellation prior to July 1, 2004 will receive a full refund minus a \$50 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after July 1, 2004.

THREE DAY EXPERIENCE

Date:	Monday - Wednesday, July 26 - 28, 2004
Time:	July 26: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; July 27 & 28: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location:	259 Cartwright Center, UW-La Crosse
Fee:	\$300

FIVE DAY EXPERIENCE

Date:	Monday - Friday, July 26 - 30, 2004
Time:	July 26: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; July 27 & 28: 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location:	259 Cartwright Center, UW-La Crosse
Fee:	\$450