



*Electronic*

# Archaeology News

Volume 22 Number 1, Online Supplement

Winter 2004

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](mailto:dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu). Enjoy the newsletter!

*Jean Dowiasch, Editor*

MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin - La Crosse  
1725 State Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

[www.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac)

---

## Archaeology, USDA and MVAC

***Ryan Howell, Research Archaeologist***

Over the past few years the United States Department of Agriculture in Wisconsin has taken a more proactive role in considering archaeological sites near its projects within the state. USDA projects, particularly those of its NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) branch, often involve erosion control and wetland rehabilitation near farm fields, as well as shoreline stabilization projects on lakes and rivers in the pine country of Northern Wisconsin. Due to the location of these projects near water sources, wetlands and on level ground and stream terraces the project have a high potential to disturb prehistoric archaeological sites. Since 2001, MVAC archaeologists have conducted between 10-30 surveys a year on USDA-NRCS sponsored sites.

Perhaps one of the more interesting examples of how USDA and MVAC work closely together to protect Wisconsin's archaeological heritage is the recent Ghost Eagle erosion project near Muscoda, Wisconsin. USDA was invited by the Ho-Chunk Nation to help conduct an erosion control project within the Eagle Township Effigy Mound group (47Ri38), a mound cluster of more than a hun-



*MVAC's Jon Baker protects the conical mounds of the Eagle Group during construction.*

dred effigy and conical mounds now primarily located within the Ho-Chunk Bison Ranch. The erosion of a large gully into the Wisconsin River was threatening to erode an extant group of conical burial mounds and was also having a negative effect on the Ho-Chunk's bison farm.

The Ho-Chunk Nation requested that USDA contact MVAC to make sure that the mounds were protected during construction. Unfortunately,

-see **NRCS** on page 2

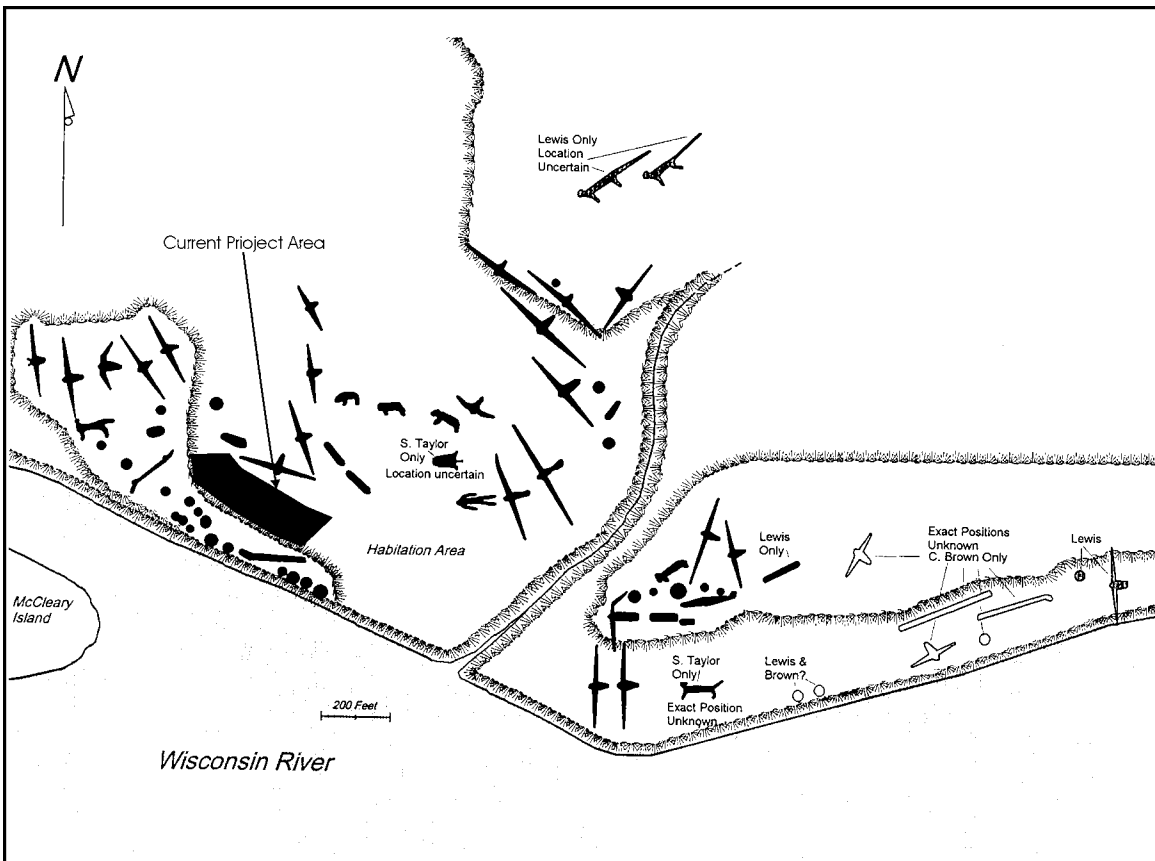
**NRCS** continued from page 1

like many mound groups in Wisconsin, much of the Eagle Mound Group has been heavily damaged by historic plowing and few surface features remain of many of the mounds that once made up the group.

MVAC archaeologists therefore had to review the available accounts of the mound group dating back to the 1840's and try to sort out the complex mass of overlapping surveys, maps and descriptions of the large group. Thankfully, Wisconsin archaeologists from the Office of the State Archaeologist had created a master map of these early excavations in the early 1990's (see map below). MVAC's job was to help design the project so that it avoided the plowed-down Effigy

Mounds and yet still managed to stop the erosion that threatened the remaining conical mounds in the group.

A small crew from MVAC, along with Mr. Larry Garvin from the Ho-Chunk Nation's Heritage Preservation Department endured heavy rain to monitor the excavation of the erosion control structures. MVAC staff flagged off critical mound areas and made sure that the earthmoving did not disturb any other prehistoric burials or village sites. This project represents how Native Americans, Federal agencies and MVAC often work effectively together to accomplish mutual goals and help preserve part of Wisconsin's past.



*Compilation of past research projects associated with the Eagle Township Effigy Mound group near Muscoda, Wisconsin. Map produced by the Office of the State Archaeologist, Wisconsin Historical Society.*

# Teaching Teachers about Wisconsin Archaeology

**Bonnie Christensen, Director of Public Education and Connie Arzigian, Research Archaeologist**

This fall, 23 teachers from across the state took a predominantly web-based course, *Wisconsin Archaeology for Teachers*. The class was the last part of a three-year ESEA Title II grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Previously, a core group of 12 teachers had taken an intensive, 12 graduate credit class sequence where they learned about the field and laboratory aspects of archaeology by participating in actual archaeological research. They then helped design the content for a web-based class for other teachers that was first offered this fall.

The teachers taking the first web-based class teach predominately 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. The experience was particularly valuable to 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers since this is where archaeology is usually introduced in the curriculum as part of learning about Wisconsin's past. The teachers received 3 graduate credits for the class where they learned about Wisconsin prehistory, did independent research, and applied their knowledge by creating new lessons for their classrooms. The teachers met twice at the Archaeology lab. The first time they had a chance to visit an archaeological site, do some brief excavations at the Meier Farm site, and experiment with flintknapping and pottery manufacture. They did some in-class activities to learn about each other and about some basic archaeological terms such as context, observation and inferences.

Then, working in groups and independently from their homes and schools, the teachers undertook a series of projects. They learned about Wisconsin prehistory from interpreting the materials in a series of digital "boxes" of artifacts and photos, and shared the results with the rest of the class. They also undertook a wide range of independent research projects and applied what they had learned through the creation of a series of lessons that they then implemented in their classroom. Topics included rock art, plants and animals, agriculture, mounds and symbolism, archaeoastronomy, stone tools, an historic cemetery, ethics, the archaeological process, and underwater archaeology.

The teachers met once again on December 6 to share what they had done in the classroom. It was an exciting opportunity to hear a wide range of creative activities that focused on active learning and taught lessons from math to social studies through archaeology. The comments from the teachers (see page 4) indicated that they had a rewarding experience and learned new ways to bring the excitement of archaeology into their classrooms.

To meet the teachers participating in the project and to see lesson plans, reviews of web sites, books, videos and magazines; a glossary of terms and a list of frequently asked questions, visit the **Educators** section of MVAC's web site.



*Web class teachers*

-see **Teachers** on page 4

Teachers continued from page 3

### Web Teacher Quotes

All in all, my first experience with a web-based class was outstanding!! I look forward to having access to the wonderful lessons I heard about on Saturday!! Thank you for helping me to learn more about archaeology in such an interesting and up to date fashion!!!

Anne Wiebusch

The Saturday meetings in La Crosse were great experiences. I picked up so many great teaching ideas as well as learned so much more about several different aspects of archaeology. The assessments we took were really fun to take and the post tests even more enjoyable since I knew so much more compared to what I knew in September.

Jim Tellstorm

I enjoyed having a variety of activities to engage in. Through working on cultural boxes, conducting research, creating lesson plans, reviewing resources, and presenting, I gained a wide range of experiences that not only helped me to effectively learn, but also provided me with great ideas to use in my classroom.

Vance Mead

The first and last day! Both were stimulating. I learned so much. The time was well organized by our instructors so the time flew by. Also, these were one of few times when I have been with teachers from all around the state. It's just nice to hang out with fellow teachers from other places... It was an adventure...I learned a lot from the rigor that was expected of us. I felt very good about the body of knowledge that I attained, both from my research and from my use of technology... I have a great sense of accomplishment! I know that I really earned the three grad credits.

Ilene Pavelko

Being able to work with people from across the state through technology is a neat feature of the class-almost unbelievable. The help from the M.V.A.C. staff was great.

Jim Juech

The best part was the information I acquired and the excitement that I continue to have about archaeology...or was it seeing first-hand the inner workings of MVAC with its artifacts, its lab, the dig, and especially the two of you who are so dedicated to your work and able to relate so well to all of us...or was it meeting and getting to know all the others in the class and the knowledge and enthusiasm they shared ... or was it developing an archaeology unit that works well for me and hopefully the other 4th grade teachers in our system and knowing that many 4th grade students will have a better understanding of archaeology in general and specifically WI archaeology...or was it actually completing the class... Seriously, there were so many wonderful things about this class!

JoAnn Adams



*Gathered in the lab to discuss their digital "artifact box."*

### Web Teachers' Schools and Cities

Immaculate Conception, Eau Claire  
Clinton Elementary, Clinton  
Meadowview Intermediate, Sparta  
Bethesda Elementary, Waukesha  
Saukville Elementary, Saukville  
Trempealeau Elementary, Trempealeau  
Eleva Strum Intermediate, Eleva  
Washington Elementary, Waupun  
Washburn Middle, Washburn  
Northwoods Elementary, Eau Claire  
Bluffview Montessori, Winona, MN  
Edison Middle, Milwaukee  
Mindoro Elementary, Mindoro  
St. Matthew Middle, Wausau  
Holy Name of Jesus School, Wausau  
Marathon Area Elementary, Marathon  
Sunrise Elementary, Sturgeon Bay  
Cooperative Educational Service Agency #10, Chippewa Falls  
Holmen Middle, Holmen

# Dry Weather Affects Native American Garden

**Quinlan Stefaniak, UW-La Crosse Archaeology Major**

This past summer was the third summer MVAC planted a Native American Garden. The garden is a living exhibit of what a traditional Native American garden might have looked like. A mix of students, staff and volunteers worked on it. The crops included beans, corn, squash, sunflower and a variety of wild plants and herbs. The stock of corn and squash planted are native varieties given to MVAC by Merlin Red Cloud, Jr. of the Ho-Chunk Nation three years ago. The other plants were ordered from native seed catalogues. Every year we gather the seeds of the beans, squash and corn. They are dried, stored and planted the following year.

Each year we plant the garden in a similar pattern. The corn is planted in short raised rows of soil on one end of the garden. Replica bison scapula and mussels shell garden hoes are used to turn and pile the soil. The corn is planted in the middle of the rows. We plant the beans along the outside edges of the raised soil ridges. The beans restore nitrogen to the soil, helping the corn grow as well. The squash are planted in soil hills separate from the corn and beans. The sunflowers are planted around the outside edge of the garden as a protective fence. The squirrels and rabbits still manage to get in and nibble on a few things.

The wild plants grow in the other end of the garden opposite the corn and beans. They come up by themselves every spring. Normally, the wild

plants and herbs grow very well and have to be weeded back before they take over the entire garden. The herbs growing in the garden include hyssop, mint, marshmallow and yarrow. Other plants include wild strawberry, purple coneflower, yellow coneflower, goldenrod and oxeye daisy.

This summer was fairly dry and some of the plants did not grow well. Many of bean plants died and none of the squash plants fruited. The other plants, however, did better. We are hoping for more rain and more success with the squash next year.



## 2004 Ireland Walking Tours

Jim Gallagher, MVAC founder and UW-L Emeritus Professor will be leading two walking tours to Ireland this year:

- June 10-19: Seacoast and Islands of County Donegal
- July 9-18: Peninsulas of Southwest Ireland

For more detailed tour information you may contact the UW-L Office of Continuing Education and Extension at (608) 785-6506 or contact Jim at 784-8042.

Jim will be presenting two slide programs on Walking in Ireland including preview of the upcoming tours:

Thursday, January 29: 7:30 pm in the meeting room of the Onalaska Public Library

Tuesday, February 3: 7:30 pm in the auditorium of the La Crosse Public Library at 8<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets.

Both presentations are free and open to the public.



## Upcoming Events

Unless otherwise noted, events are free and open to the public. Contact MVAC at (608) 785-8454 for more information.

### Twelve Millennia

Tuesday, February 10, 2004  
7:00 p.m., Port O' Call  
UW-L Cartwright Center

This slide presentation will review the 12,000 year sequence of Native American cultures that inhabited the Upper Mississippi Valley as understood through the archaeological records, and formed the basis for the recently published book *Twelve Millennia: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi Valley*. The program will touch upon the first occupants, who arrived at the end of the ice age when the Coulee Region was home to mastodon and other megafauna, and note several revolutionary changes that led to the development of mound building Woodland cultures 2,500 years ago, and later corn-based Mississippian societies such as the Oneota, who were here when the

French arrived 350 years ago. Copies of *Twelve Millennia* will be available for purchase and signature by the authors, **Dr. James Theler and Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt**.

### Artifact Show

Saturday, March 13, 2004  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Valley View Mall, Onalaska

Come to Valley View Mall and see artifacts representing the area's long history. Local collectors will display their personal collections of artifacts. See artifacts recovered from local excavations. Archaeologists will be on hand to answer questions. Bring in your own artifacts for help in their identification. Call MVAC at (608) 785-8454 if you would like to display your artifacts.

MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin - La Crosse  
1725 State Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

[www.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac)

---

## Spring Preview

### Forensic Anthropology

Brian Allen, D.O.  
Tuesday, April 13, 2004  
7 p.m., Port O'Call  
UW-L Cartwright Center

### Wisconsin Archaeology Week

May 2 - 8, 2004  
For a complete list of activities  
contact: Wisconsin Historical Society,  
(608) 264-6495 or check the web at  
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org>

### Field Survey Opportunity

Saturday and/or Sunday  
May 1 and/or 2, 2004  
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Archaeology Center and Laboratories  
UW-La Crosse  
**Registration required** to participate,  
call Jean at (608)785-8454.

---

## Next issue:

Look for the following articles in the Spring 2004 Archaeology News newsletter:

- \* 2004 Summer Event listings
- \* Re-cap of the Artifact Show
- \* Phase II Excavations at the Rodney Clark site in Rothchild, WI
- \* The latest news on western Wisconsin Archaeology