



# Archaeology News

Volume 20 Number 4

Fall 2002

## Celebrating 20 Years



*Archaeology News will be celebrating MVAC's 20th Anniversary all year long. In each of our three issues we will highlight some of the people who have made MVAC so special ...past staff and students you may have dug with at a site or sat next to at the annual banquet. If you have any special memories of digging with MVAC, attending a special MVAC banquet or an open site tour, please send them to me as we'd love to share them with our readers.*

*While we remember the past, we continue to look toward MVAC's future. The new newsletter format is just one of the many changes coming up for our organization. With a new Executive Director comes the chance to build upon MVAC's strong foundation, evaluate our present situation and plan for upcoming changes in the legislature, economy and university environment to grow stronger yet. The staff members of MVAC look forward to working closely with you in the future.*

*Jean Dowiasch, Editor*

*MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse*

*Archaeology News  
is a publication of  
the Mississippi Valley  
Archaeology Center*

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

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## MVAC wins two Historic Preservation Achievement Awards from the State

*MVAC has earned two prestigious Historic Preservation Achievement awards from the Wisconsin Historical Society. One award was for Jim Gallagher, the founder and recently retired executive director of MVAC and the other was for the discovery of Arnold-Tainter Cave. The awards were presented at the Society's annual meeting in July.*

### Jim Gallagher

Jim Gallagher founded MVAC in 1982 and served as its Executive Director until his retirement this summer. The mission of the center has always been research, preservation, and public education. Under Jim's direction MVAC has established itself as a nationally recognized research and public education institution, continually advancing preservation issues.

Throughout his career, Jim has advocated preservation through

planning. Recognizing that public education is key to long term preservation efforts, the program has realized substantial public recognition of regional archaeological and historical heritage. This had led to individual preservation initiatives such as the unanimous passage of a local archaeology ordinance by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse. Jim has directed the development of an organization that is unique

*(Awards continued on page 11)*

1725 State Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601-3788

## From The Director:



*Joe Tiffany*

Hello everyone. This year MVAC is celebrating twenty years of research, education and service to La Crosse and the surrounding region. As the new Executive Director of MVAC, I would like to thank all of you for helping make MVAC's first twenty years so successful. Under the direction of Jim Gallagher, MVAC has developed a national reputation as a leader in archaeological studies, public archaeology and education. MVAC is fortunate to be a part of the Archaeology Studies Program at UW-La Crosse, which is recognized as one of the best undergraduate archaeology programs in the nation. I think we can all be proud of the fine work of MVAC's dedicated staff and their efforts through the years that have led to MVAC's high standing in the professional community and with the public.

Recently, MVAC received a Certificate of Commendation from the Wisconsin Historical Society for MVAC's efforts in the preservation and dissemination of information on the Arnold Tainter Cave site (see page 11). I am also looking forward to working with Carole and the board on the \$500,000 campaign for an archaeological research fund. We are all excited by this challenge. Stay tuned for further news!

*Joe Tiffany*

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MVAC Educational Programs Are  
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**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE  
HUMANITIES**

## Greetings from the MVAC Board of Directors

The MVAC staff and Board of Directors enjoyed a special evening of orientation/social at the cottage home of Jim and Rebecca Naugler on July 24th. It was a wonderful opportunity for the staff and board to gather in a beautiful setting to greet each other and learn what each other does for MVAC. Carole Edland, Board President, introduced Joe Tiffany, the new Executive Director of MVAC, who gave a short history of his background and interests. This was followed by each of the staff members present giving a short presentation of his/her responsibilities. The board approved and welcomed six new members and those present were also introduced. The new board members are: Ellen Alexander, Elaine George, Rick Brown, Ron Schnick, Dave Solie and Chris La Shorne. The new board members were given orientation books with material concerning MVAC and their responsibilities. The board is looking forward to working with Joe and the staff with renewed vigor and dedication. The new special project from the Development Committee, co-chaired by John Storlie and Dick Hilliker, will be the formation and drive for a Research Endowment Fund. This is a real need for MVAC. You will be hearing in the near future from this committee concerning this most

essential project. Be generous when you are contacted. MVAC will be around for many years. We have a high profile among other states for our unique organization. We can be proud of the past 20 years and move on to the next 20 years and new challenges.

*Carole Edland,  
MVAC President*

The following members have retired from the Board of Directors within the past year. We would like to thank them for all the hard work and dedication they have given MVAC in the past, and wish them well with future endeavors.

Tom Downs  
Tom Hensch  
Susan Motschman  
Ellie St. John  
Steve Steadman  
Carl Wimberly



# Native American Herb and Vegetable Garden

by *Laura Jankowski,*  
*UW-La Crosse Archaeology Major*

In the backyard of the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center is a luscious garden. Tiny as it may appear, every nook and cranny is full of ripening plants. Heirloom seeds and donated plants have grown into bountiful lush plants. Several harvests have provided much pleasure for the students and staff at MVAC. You may be wondering how does growing a garden relate to archaeology? Experimental archaeology can answer questions like what kind of tools were used by the Oneota and Woodland peoples, how effective these tools are, what methods of planting and harvesting work best, how much yield is possible and so on. Experimental archaeology creates hands-on activities that can't be found in textbooks. Through these experiences, we can begin to interpret the past. The garden functions as a unique learning tool for archaeologists and the public.

The MVAC garden is divided into two parts, one half is vegetables and the other is herbs. The vegetable half consists of several rows of corn with climbing beans planted among them. These beans growing along with the corn help to maintain a good root system and prevent the rows from rain washout. The beans are heirloom seeds from the Hidatsa, the Cherokee, and the Abnaki. Three rows of corn planted were seeds donated by Merlin Red Cloud Jr. of the Ho Chunk Nation. These seeds have been passed down in his family. This corn will produce various cob colors ranging from blue to red. We are also growing heirloom popcorn and corn very similar to an early breed of corn or teosinte. Each corn kernel will have its own husk instead of a single cob of corn. Squash and sunflowers make up the rest of the vegetables grown in the garden.

*Heirloom seeds  
and donated plants  
have grown into  
bountiful lush plants,  
some easily  
recognizable, like the  
purple coneflower  
Echinacea Pallida.*



The herbs are a collection of plants that have medicinal and culinary value. Some of the plants in our garden are typical weeds found in your front lawn while others are perennials grown in commercial greenhouses. This section of the garden has been stunning in full bloom. Many visitors are attracted to the display and walk away learning how important herbs are. One easily recognizable herb, the purple coneflower *Echinacea pallida*, can be found in stores today to help fight colds. But did you know that it was used as an antidote for snakebite and other venomous bites and stings? We are growing a variety of coneflowers, yarrow, mint, sorrel, violets, mallow, and daises. Individual herbs have labels next to them, indicating the genus and family for each plant and a small narrative of the significant role the plant has played.

The MVAC garden produces edible foods that will be harvested for the botany comparative collection, displays and for teaching. The desirable plant part is dried for conservation, labeled, and then added to the collection.

The garden is open to the public and has been visited by many. Members of the campus community have stopped

by to see the progress of the garden as well as UW-L students, area teachers involved in an Eisenhower Professional Development grant and precollegiate students involved in MVAC's summer classes. Students and teachers have had the opportunity to try out experimental archaeology techniques such as using contemporary replica hoes made from shell and bison scapulas. The garden will continue to be an effective teaching aid into the fall as we continue to harvest plants.

The Native American herb and vegetable garden would not be possible without great contributions from Merlin Red Cloud Jr., who has taken the time to share oral garden traditions with us and his vast knowledge of gardening. He has helped by providing family heirloom seeds and continues to stop by and check on the garden. We also received funding through grants awarded by the UW-L College of Liberal Studies for Faculty Development and Summer Projects to work with Ho Chunk Historic Preservation and tribal members as well as develop the garden, web pages and displays in the Archaeology Lab.

# M **MVAC** Memory Lane

*MVAC has grown from a staff of one in 1982 - Jim Gallagher - to a staff of fifteen in 2002. Two people who have been associated with MVAC practically from the beginning are Kathy Stevenson and Rollie Rodell.*

*Rollie and Kathy have dedicated much of their time and careers to working with MVAC, and here they share their thoughts and ideas on MVAC.*

## **Kathy Stevenson**

After meeting Jim Gallagher when the Valley View site was first uncovered in 1978, I commuted from Madison, camped out at the Gallaghers' house, and worked as much as I could for the fledgling archaeology program (including overseeing the 1979 Valley View and 1980 Overhead excavations). When MVAC was founded in 1982, I moved to La Crosse and became the first Regional Archaeologist. In 1985, I made the difficult decision to leave La Crosse to take a job with the Army Corps of Engineers in the Twin Cities, leaving the Regional Archaeology program in Ernie's capable hands.

After I left La Crosse, I kept up my interest in the area and my relationship with MVAC, and ever since leaving the Corps in 1987, have worked as a consultant, volunteer, and pinch-hitter on a number of MVAC/UW-L projects. Most recently, I've been finishing up a four-year study of Minnesota burial sites with Connie Arzigian, working on animal-bone analyses with Jim Theler, and starting some Minnesota caves research with



***Kathy Stevenson: still looking for remnants of the Valley View Mall site 20 years later.***

Ernie. Besides archaeology, I've been doing various types of writing and editing projects for book publishers and other clients for a number of years. I'm currently in the process of moving back to La Crosse after too many years away.

I have lots of MVAC memories, and it's hard to choose a favorite! Some of the most fun are from the very beginning, when the archaeology program was just getting started. Everything was brand new, and there was a tremendous sense of both discovery and camaraderie among the participants, including the students (ask Rollie Rodell and Barb Kooiman!). At that time there were only about 30 known sites in all of La Crosse County

— now there are hundreds. I'll never forget seeing the Valley View site for the first time, with charcoal and fish bones and pottery lying all over the place. I'd never seen anything like it! I have lots of other good memories, too, including telling Jim G. about a grad-school friend named Ernie who seemed like the perfect choice for MVAC's first field archaeology position. (That one turned out to be the biggest contribution I ever made!)

Being connected to MVAC has always felt like a privilege - it's such a unique organization. I've also felt privileged to be able to work with the people at MVAC and UW-L, from long-term friends (well over 20 years now!) to

newer ones. MVAC's founding was a huge experiment. Such a combination of public outreach, research, education and contract work was pretty much unheard of at that time, and had never been attempted in a community and public university the size of La Crosse. The greatest satisfaction of all has come from seeing the experiment succeed so well.

*Kathy received her B.A. in Anthropology from Northern Illinois University (DeKalb) in 1975. She went to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, receiving her M.A. in 1979 and Ph.D. in 1985 in Anthropology with a specialty in Archaeology.*

## **Rollie Rodell “Twenty Years and More”**

Time seems to pass by too quickly. No doubt we share the thought, which is a little mind numbing, that MVAC is now twenty years old. As we are well aware, however, the older something gets, the more interesting it becomes to both archaeologists and the public.

My interest in archaeology began at UW-L before the inception of MVAC. In the fall of 1977, I enrolled in Jim Gallagher's first class. At the time I had little idea of what the course was about and certainly no thoughts that it would lead to a career in archaeology. Two years later I was attending graduate school at UW-Milwaukee, where I earned a master's degree (1983) and a Ph.D. (1997) in anthropology. In 1988 Jim asked me if I'd be interested in returning to La Crosse to work for MVAC and do some teaching. It was an offer that was hard to refuse.



**Rollie Rodell (left) with Phil Palzkill, Jim Thompson and Robert “Ernie” Boszhardt at Perrot State Park.**

Among the many fond memories of working at MVAC there are two events that stand out. In 1979 we conducted an excavation at the Valley View site. Jim was the project director, while the responsibilities of field supervisor were given to a young and dedicated graduate student from UW-Madison named Kathy Stevenson. The eight-week excavation not only revealed a fascinating Oneota site, but also initiated the beginnings of public awareness of La Crosse area archaeology. In the last frantic days of the project two of Kathy's grad school colleagues came to help with the excavation. At that time I suspect neither Connie Arzigian nor Jim Theler thought that their career paths would bring them back to La Crosse. A couple of years later I met Ernie Boszhardt in Milwaukee at, I believe, a favorite “watering hole” that Ernie and his fellow archaeologists financially supported.

The other event began in 1995 when MVAC was awarded a federal grant to

conduct public archaeology in the Trempealeau area, primarily in Perrot State Park. The three-year project involved, to various degrees, all of the MVAC staff, along with archaeology students, high school teachers and their students, and the general public. The excavation projects were interesting and informative, both professionally and with the public. One of the long-term results that MVAC is most proud of is the educational exhibit at the park's nature center.

Ironically, with Jim Gallagher's retirement I am also leaving MVAC to start a full-time teaching position in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Rock County.

I feel privileged to have been part of an organization that has grown and matured, and developed a highly respected reputation within our profession and with the public.



# Archaeology Education Program

Fall 2002

Volume II Number I

*The theme of this year's Archaeology Education Program newsletter is "Historic Archaeology." This issue will discuss what historic archaeology is and how it differs from prehistoric archaeology. The Winter issue will look into historic research and how written records help identify historic artifacts. The differences between historic and prehistoric site types and excavation techniques will be covered in the Spring issue. Research Archaeologist Vicki Twinde will be writing this series.*

## Introduction

Prehistoric archaeology is the archaeological record of people before written records, while historic archaeology is the archaeological record of people after written records. The definitions of historic and prehistoric archaeology are the same throughout geographic regions, but have different time periods. In the United States, written records came with the arrival of the Europeans,

however, in other areas of the world, the written records came much earlier, sometimes in the form of hieroglyphs or cuneiform.

## Written Records

One advantage to historic archaeology is written records. A site may be dated by looking at plat maps, deeds, tax records, etc. We can also rely on historical accounts about specific events to provide information. However, the historical archaeologist must use caution when relying on written records. As you know, people are human and mistakes are frequent. Historical accounts may consist of biased information. Population estimates and estimates of buildings or other cultural feature sizes may be just that – estimates. Often, the archaeological record can disprove the written record. Usually physical evidence is more reliable than written evidence. Using the physical evidence and the written record together can give the historical archaeologist a better understanding of a site.

## Dating Artifacts

An historic artifact may be dated by dates of manufacture printed on the artifact, researching dates of a company written on an artifact, or researching information about the manufacture of a specific artifact, such as its shape, color, design, or the material it is made out of. For example, many mid-19th century bottles were pale green in color. This was not a desirable color for many bottles by manufacturers, so the addition of manganese was added to glass to make the color clear. When manganese is added to the bottle glass, the bottle appears clear at first, but if these bottles are set outside, the ultraviolet rays of the sun will cause it to turn a light purple or amethyst color. The use of manganese is believed to have started about 1880, but may have started earlier in France. Manganese was used in bottle glass until approximately 1917, when the main source of manganese (German suppliers) was cut off by World War I. Therefore, the presence of a light purple or "sun colored amethyst" color in a bottle can be dated to approximately 1880-1917.

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## Places to Visit

### Fort Crawford Museum

This museum focuses on Prairie du Chien's history, including an exhibit entitled "Second Fort Crawford Rediscovered." One whole room is dedicated to this display and it highlights the fort's history, Prairie du Chien treaty histories, and artifacts discovered during the 1999 excavation. Also on display is an 8'x5' diorama of the fort and hospital as it look in the 1600's. Open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. everyday, May 1st through October 31st.

717 South Beaumont Road,  
P.O. Box 298,  
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821;  
608-326-6960.



*The buttons showcased on these pages came from the Second Fort Crawford Site.*

## An example of historic archaeology at the Second Fort Crawford



The button above, a gilted (gold plated) button from a 19th century Ordnance officers' uniform.

### How do we know that?

First, of all by knowing the context of where this button came from. This button came from the Second Fort Crawford excavations. Knowing that the Army was stationed here, look at Army designs in books dealing with military insignia and military buttons. To start researching, look at the design on the buttons. The cross cannons are usually a sign of the artillery division of the army, so we know to start looking there. However, the eagle on top of the cross cannons is not common, and the "O" around the outside face of the button indicates that the button is an Ordnance button. How do we know its an officers' button? Because it is gilted or gold plated.

### How do we date the button?

The Ordnance Department was established in 1812. By 1815, the duties of the department was increased dramatically due to difficulties in supplying ordnance material during

### Applying what you have learned



*These two buttons were recovered during the Second Fort Crawford excavations. Using the references listed in this section, try to answer the following questions for each button.*

- *What year was the button issued?*
- *Was this a military button?*
- *Was this an officer's button?*
- *What important symbol is on both buttons?*
- *What is similar about the two buttons?*
- *What is different about the two buttons?*

the War of 1812. With the reduction of the Army in 1821, this department was merged with the Artillery, although it was recognized and preserved as a distinct entity. By 1832, the Ordnance Department was independent and fully restored to its earlier status. The earliest reference to buttons of the Ordnance Department dates to 1816. The uniform of the Ordnance Department was to be the same as that of the artillery, except in buttons, "which will have an appropriate device." It is generally accepted that this refers to the "eagle on crossed cannon" pattern especially since by 1836, the crossed cannons became the symbol of the Ordnance Department. Therefore, this button was issued between 1816 and 1821. However, one must use caution when dealing with dates on military buttons - "issued"

dates and dates of actual use are usually very different. In the early 19th century, the military wanted to "use up" excess stock before new was issued, so buttons were used sometimes many years after their issue dates.

#### Historic Archaeological Resources:

Johnson, David F. 1948  
*Uniform Buttons, American Armed Forces 1784-1948.*  
Century House, Watkins Glen, New York.

Albert, Alphaeus H. 1969  
*Record of American Uniform and Historical Buttons.*  
Boyertown Publishing Company,  
Boyertown, Pennsylvania.

Wyckoff, Martin A. 1984  
*United States Military Buttons of the Land Services 1787-1902.*  
McLean County Historical Society,  
Bloomington, Illinois.

*Non-military buttons may be dated also.*  
*One reference to look at is:*  
Luscomb, Sally C. 1967  
*The Collector's Encyclopedia of Buttons.*  
Crown Publishers, Inc. New York.

# Ireland Tour a Success

Jim Gallagher and 10 hearty walkers spent a week hiking on Ireland's Dingle Peninsula. "The group was fantastic, the walks spectacular, the music fine, but the weather was lousy" says Jim. It turns out that this spring was the wettest and coldest ever recorded. "The success of any trip really depends on two things," says Jim, "being well prepared (in this case having good rain gear) and having a positive attitude that this will be a good trip even though things don't go as planned. The group especially liked the great scenery, good food, wonderful accommodations, and, as in past years, our terrific guide Maeve Kelly."

Jim and Maeve are currently planning a hiking trip in County Donegal for next summer. Contact Jim for more information at:  
JimJanGallagher@msn.com.



*Some participants of the Ireland tour ford a stream.*

## Web Update

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

Haven't checked the web site lately? Take a minute to look at these new additions:

- ◆ A Rock Art page has been added, thanks to a grant from the UW-La Crosse Foundation
- ◆ Bill Gresens has a new book review on the web.
- ◆ Teachers participating in the Eisenhower project have reviewed youth books on Archaeology

## MVAC Time Line:

- 1977** - Dr. Jim Gallagher hired by UW-L Sociology/Anthropology Department
- 1978** - La Crosse Area Archaeological Society founded
- 1978** - Initiate work on the Valley View Mall site, the first of many salvage excavations of La Crosse Area Oneota sites
- 1982** - Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center founded
- 1982** - Initiate work on the Sand Lake Archaeological District
- 1983** - Regional Archaeology Program established by WHS
- 1983** - First annual artifact show is held
- 1985** - Rock Art Research Initiated
- 1986** - Earth watch volunteers excavate at Sand Lake and Krause sites
- 1987** - Cranberry Creek Mounds mapped and preserved
- 1988** - Major excavations at Midway Village with Earthwatch
- 1988** - Major excavations at Pammel Creek Site
- 1988** - Initiate work along Wisconsin River
- 1990** - Archaeology Education Program formalized
- 1990** - Creation of initial displays at La Crosse's Riverside Museum
- 1991** - Initiate work on the Sanford Archaeological District
- 1991** - Midwest Archaeological Conference hosted by MVAC
- 1991** - La Crosse School District starts providing funds to include archaeology in schools
- 1992** - 10th Anniversary, dedication at Myrick Park; Mayor Zielke declares Archaeology Day in La Crosse
- 1993** - Archaeological Studies Program established at UW-L
- 1993** - First Archaeology Day at Silver Mound
- 1994** - Initiate work at Perrot State Park
- 1994** - Appointed Society for American Archaeology and BLM Project Archaeology coordinators for Wisconsin
- 1995** - Architectural Historian added to staff's contract capabilities
- 1995** - Initiate La Crosse County Historic Survey
- 1995** - Historic Buildings Survey of Box Butte and Platte Counties, Nebraska
- 1996** - National Endowment for the Humanities Campaign to create an education endowment is announced
- 1996** - Junior Archaeology Program initiated (formerly Parkaeology)
- 1997** - Mounds of the Upper Mississippi Valley video completed
- 1997** - Creation of MVAC's web site
- 1998** - Initiate Minnesota Farmstead Study
- 1999** - Second Fort Crawford excavations
- 1999** - Discovery of Arnold/Tainter Cave
- 2000** - Grand Opening of the new Archaeology Center and Laboratories building, UW-L campus
- 2001** - Midwest Archaeological Conference hosted by MVAC and the UW-L Soc/Arc Department
- 2001** - Passage of the City of La Crosse's Archaeology Ordinance
- 2001** - Received Eisenhower Professional Development grant to create a web based course for teachers
- 2002** - Jim Gallagher retires
- 2002** - Joe Tiffany new Executive Director

# Announcements

## **Annual meeting - October 30th**

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center will be held Wednesday, October 30 at the Archaeology Laboratory at UW-La Crosse. The new format for this year's meeting is an open house so our members can see projects in progress and artifacts recovered from the summer field season. Awards will be presented. Invitations will be mailed to all members and interested parties in September.

## **20 Years of Memories**

Do you have fond memories of working with MVAC? Of getting sun burnt, eaten by mosquitos or a particularly intense case of poison ivy? Did you find a unique artifact? Meet some interesting people? Well, during our 20th anniversary we're collecting stories and images that you have about your experiences with MVAC. We'll be sharing them in the newsletter, on the web and/or in the lab. Send your story and/or images of your memorable experiences to Jean Dowiasch at MVAC, 1725 State St., La Crosse, WI 54601 or e-mail to [dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu](mailto:dowiasch.jean@uwlax.edu)

## **Education Announcements**

### **Summer Scholarships**

The UW-La Crosse Foundation and MVAC supporter Jim Parr provided funds for student scholarships to MVAC summer programs. Full or partial tuition was covered for four students, all of whom participated in the High School Field School which was conducted in Stoddard, WI. Thanks to both Jim and the Foundation for their continued support of youth in archaeology.

If you would like to contribute to the 2003 scholarship fund please contact Jean Dowiasch at (608) 785-8454.

### **Resource Boxes Revamped**

Several changes have been made to the educational resource boxes available for teachers to use. We hope these changes will enhance our resources and their usefulness for our teachers. MVAC's Teacher Resource Catalog has been updated to reflect these changes.

Check out MVAC's web site at <http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac> for a catalog update.

### **Matching Funds Grant**

The UW-La Crosse Foundation has awarded MVAC a \$2,400 grant to help teachers "double their money" when using MVAC's educational resources. Teachers who would like more information on this program can contact Jean Dowiasch at (608)785-8454 or look on the MVAC web site at [www.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac).

### **La Crosse School District Funds**

Each elementary and middle school in the La Crosse School District has been awarded \$200 to use toward MVAC resources. Special thanks to Karen Murray and Mark White, the district's Supervisors of Humanities for their continued support of this program. Teachers interested should contact Jean Dowiasch at (608) 785-8454.

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## Upcoming Lectures

### **Darius and the First Iranian World State**

The usurpation and reign of Darius I (522-486 BCE) marked an important transition in the first Persian Empire of ancient Iran. His inscriptions and, especially, his architectural program at his new capital, Persepolis, provide a dramatic departure from previous royal iconography (based on Assyrian models) and ideology. This change was conscious and meaningful, and it was effected in order to establish and strengthen the hold of the Achaemenid dynasty on the entire Empire.

The presentation of Darius as king will be examined as reflected in Persian, Biblical, and Greek sources.

Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2002  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Valhalla, Cartwright Center, UW-La Crosse  
Speaker: Dr. Matt Waters, UW-Eau Claire

### **Highlights of MVAC's Summer Excavations**

MVAC archaeologists were busy during the summer of 2002 excavating at a variety of sites around the area. Phase II excavations conducted in Prairie du

Chien recovered both prehistoric and historic artifacts from this culturally rich area. The Meier farm excavations near Onalaska will also be discussed. This Oneota site lies in the Sand Lake Archaeological District and dates back between 500 to 800 years ago.

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2002  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Port O' Call, Cartwright Center, UW-La Crosse  
Speakers: Dr. Jim Theler (UW-L Sociology/Archaeology Dept.) and/or Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt, Ryan Howell

# MVAC Memory

Although I have never been involved in any digs or outdoor activities with MVAC, I do have them to thank for starting me on my favorite obsession. Over ten years ago, I stopped into the lab on campus to see if anyone could tell me about some of the artifacts that I had. At that time, my whole collection could fit into a check box. I think I had five in all. I had found a couple by accident while looking for shed deer horns and my Grandpa had given me three of his that he had found when he used to plow behind a team of horses. He had a cigar box full of points but as the story is so often told, he had lost them over the years.

When I brought my collection in, I met Ernie Boszhardt. He got some maps out to pinpoint where they had been found and he told me how old each one was and who the people

were who made them. I thought, as many people do, that all points were "arrowheads" and that they were all made by the Indians that we think of from the TV westerns. I was amazed at all of the information that Ernie had given me. I bought a few books from him and was well on my way to being an artifact fanatic.

My collection is now over two hundred pieces. Most of them are hanging on display cases on my wall. I don't consider myself an expert but I can usually tell the type and age of a point just from looking at it. I bring my finds to the lab each year to have them documented and have any questions answered that have stumped me.

I enjoy showing my finds to others as well. I am a foodservice salesman and

see many customers during the week and they are all accustomed to me bringing in my latest discoveries and telling them how old they are and what they were used for. I even had one instance where a restaurant had just opened and I stopped in to introduce myself. I gave the owner my card and she said "Oh, you must be the arrowhead guy" As it turned out, one of my other customers had told her about my hobby.

It is an incredible experience to hold an artifact in your hand and know that someone made it thousands of years ago. I will always be grateful to Ernie Boszhardt and the staff at MVAC for starting me on a fascinating hobby.

Todd Murphy.

## Thank You From Jim

*A huge THANK YOU to everyone, staff, Board, and MVAC members, who helped me celebrate my retirement. I really appreciate the well wishes from all the many people who came out for a variety of retirement events as well as the cards, gifts and messages of congratulations. I was overwhelmed with the outpouring of good wishes and affection. I especially appreciate all of the many people who donated money in my name to help launch the new Research Endowment. Several thousand dollars were raised for this important MVAC initiative. I shall always treasure the friendships and memories of all the good people I have worked with and enjoyed through my years with the Center.*

*Thank you!! Jim Gallagher*



## M V A C W I S H L I S T



*We are looking for a display case to house an exhibit in La Crosse's City Hall. If you have one to donate, or would like to contribute toward the purchase of a case, please call the MVAC office, (608) 785-8463.*

## Awards

*(continued on from page 1)*

for Wisconsin and a model for the nation.

### Arnold-Tainter Cave

An avocational archaeologist reported Arnold-Tainter Cave to MVAC in 1998. This 300 foot deep, sandstone cave contains more than 100 prehistoric Native American charcoal drawings, doubling the number of known pictographs in Wisconsin. Many of the drawings are deep within the cave, beyond natural light, making this the first dark zone archaeological cave site known in the Upper Midwest. After a security gate was installed, the public learned of the discovery. The cave was featured in major Internet news services, on CNN television, BBC radio, and a host of newspapers and magazines. The archaeology has also been disseminated to the professional community.

The rock art at Arnold-Tainter Cave has been documented, providing an encyclopedia of new images that have already enhanced rock art research in the Midwest. The site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.

## Estate Planning

Successful estate planning is a valuable way to continue your support for MVAC into the future. By giving a gift in your will or estate plan, you are providing for future programs in archaeological research, public education and site stewardship. Please consider MVAC when planning for trusts, gifts and bequests. Contact Marcee H. Peplinski, Development Director at the MVAC office for more information, (608)785-8463.

### MVAC Membership On-line

*You can now renew your MVAC membership over the web! Simply call up the website at [www.uwlax.edu/mvac](http://www.uwlax.edu/mvac) and click on "Getting Involved." The support page provides a link to the MVAC membership form, which you can submit over the web, and an invoice will be sent for the amount committed.*

## 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!

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### Membership Categories

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Supporting.....\$100-499	

*Thank you for your support.*

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 resource office.



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## **Upcoming** Events

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

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

**MVAC Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday, October 30, 2002  
6 p.m., Archaeology Laboratory, UW-L  
Invitations will be sent to members  
in September

**Darius and the First  
Iranian World State**  
Tuesday, October 15, 2002  
7:30 p.m., Valhalla,  
UW-L Cartwright Center

**Highlights of MVAC's  
Summer Excavations**  
Tuesday, November 12, 2002  
7:30 p.m., Port O'Call,  
UW-L Cartwright  
Center

