



MVAC at the University  
of Wisconsin-La Crosse

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Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

# Archaeology

DISCOVER THE EXCITEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

## 2019

*Education opportunities  
for adults, youth, and teachers*

[mvac.uwlax.edu](http://mvac.uwlax.edu)  
[facebook.com/UWLMVAC](https://facebook.com/UWLMVAC)  
[mvac.uwlax.edu/youtube](http://mvac.uwlax.edu/youtube)

## 2019 Schedule at a Glance

### February

21 Lecture: Effigy Mound Ceremonial  
Landscapes

### March

2 Artifact Show

### May

1-31 Wisconsin Archaeology Month  
4 MVAC Members-Volunteer Field Survey  
11 Volunteer Field Survey rain date

### July

15-17 Public Field Experience (3 day)  
15-19 Public Field School (5 day)  
15 Egypt, grades 4-6  
16 Introduction to Archaeology, grades 5-9  
17-18 Middle School Field Experience,  
grades 5-9  
18 Field School Open House

### November

7 2019 Awards, Lecture: Prehistoric  
Archaeology at 120 Feet: Investigating  
9,000 Year Old Hunting Sites Beneath  
the Great Lakes.

MVAC Educational Programs are supported in part by  
the United Fund for the  
Arts and the Humanities and the  
National Endowment for the Humanities



For more information on these and other events,  
contact MVAC's main office at 608.785.8463  
or check MVAC's website at:

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



## Public Lectures

### Effigy Mound Ceremonial Landscapes

Concentrated in southern Wisconsin, much has been learned about effigy mounds over the years, including the facts that they are most often burial places and depict sometimes huge animals and supernatural beings that had been sculpted from the earth. However, explanations for the phenomena, which only lasted between circa 700 and 1100 AD, have been elusive. Drawing upon much archaeological and other anthropological information on Native American religion and worldviews, this presentation offers the view that the often vast effigy mound arrangements are ceremonial landscapes reflecting a religious movement in which key powerful spirits were periodically animated in places where the spirits dwell to bring blessings to humans by renewing the world and to carry the dead in cycle of death and rebirth. A hypothesis for why this might have been done in a specific geographic area in the Midwest is also presented.

Speaker: Robert A. Birmingham, former Wisconsin State Archaeologist and Lecturer at UW-Waukesha

Date: Thursday, February 21

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Student Union, room 3310, UWL

### 2019 Annual Awards and Lecture:

#### Prehistoric Archaeology at 120 Feet: Investigating 9,000 Year Old Hunting Sites Beneath the Great Lakes

At the end of the last Ice Age, the newly formed Great Lakes oscillated between levels that were much higher and much lower than today. During the low water stage, a feature known as the Alpena-Amberley Ridge divided the Lake Huron basin and provided a continuous corridor between southern Ontario and northern Lower Michigan. This talk will describe recent research focused on discovering and investigating hunting sites and other cultural features from this era that are preserved beneath modern Lake Huron. These finds provide important new insights into the lives of early Great Lakes hunters, and one that could only be recovered underwater.

Speaker: John O'Shea, Curator of Great Lakes Archaeology at UM - Museum of Anthropology

Date: Thursday, November 7

Time: Social 6:30 PM, Awards 7 PM,  
Lecture 7:30 PM

Location: Student Union, room 3310, UWL

## Public Events

### MVAC Artifact Show

Come to Valley View Mall and see artifacts representing the area's long history. Local collectors will display their personal collections, and MVAC staff will bring 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 or e-mail Jean Dowiasch (jdowiasch@uwlax.edu) if you would like to display your artifacts.

Date: Saturday, March 2

Time: 10 AM–5 PM

Location: Valley View Mall, La Crosse

### Wisconsin Archaeology Month

A variety of activities will be offered throughout the state during May to introduce the public to Wisconsin's long and rich cultural past. For a complete list of activities check out the Wisconsin Historical Society's web site at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/> and type "Archaeology Month" in Search.

Dates: May 2019

### Volunteer Field Survey Opportunity for MVAC Members

MVAC will celebrate Wisconsin Archaeology Month by involving volunteers in surveys of local fields to find unreported archaeological sites. The day will begin with an introduction at the archaeology laboratory, followed by helping with an actual field survey. Participants will end the 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 participate if accompanied by an adult. E-mail or call MVAC at [jdowiasch@uwlax.edu](mailto:jdowiasch@uwlax.edu) or 608.785.8454 to register. **Advance registration required!**

Date: Saturday, May 4 (rain date: Saturday, May 11)

Time: 8:30 AM–4 PM

Location: Archaeology Center & Laboratory, UWL

### Field School Open House

See what the MVAC Public Field School participants are doing this summer! Stop by on Thursday, July 18, between 10 AM and 2 PM. Check MVAC's website for updated information at: [mvac.uwlax.edu](http://mvac.uwlax.edu). Call MVAC at 608-785-6473 or e-mail [MVAC@uwlax.edu](mailto:MVAC@uwlax.edu) for more information.

Date: Thursday, July 18

Time: 10 AM–2 PM

Location: TBD

#### More Information

Contact MVAC at 608.785.8463, e-mail [mvac@uwlax.edu](mailto:mvac@uwlax.edu), or check the website [mvac.uwlax.edu](http://mvac.uwlax.edu) for more information on these and other MVAC programs.



## Youth Events

### Egypt - grades 4–6

Learn about mummies, pyramids, and the people who lived in Egypt at the time of the pharaohs! Hands-on activities will include making a mummy case and mask, and writing a message in hieroglyphics. Cancellations prior to June 28 will receive a full refund minus a \$40 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 28.

Date: Monday, July 15

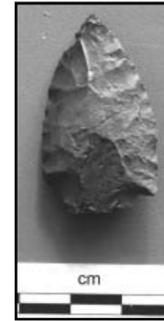
Time: 9 AM–3 PM

Location: 312 Wimberly Hall, UWL

Age: Students entering grades 4–6

Fee: \$80

Note: Bring a lunch, drink, snacks,  
water bottle



### Introduction to Archaeology - grades 5-9

Explore MVAC's Archaeology Lab 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 area's natural resources. Students *must* take this class in order to attend the Middle School Field Experience. This program takes place in the classroom. It does not include excavation activities. Cancellations prior to June 28 will receive a full refund minus a \$40 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 28.

Date: Tuesday, July 16

Time: 9 AM–3 PM

Location: 312 Wimberly Hall, UWL

Age: Students entering grades 5–9

Fee: \$80

Note: Bring a lunch, drink, snacks,  
water bottle

#### Financial Assistance

Financial assistance for youth and teen events may be available. For more information, contact MVAC at 608.785.8454 or [jdowiasch@uwlax.edu](mailto:jdowiasch@uwlax.edu).

## Field Schools

### Middle School Field Experience - grades 5–9

Take your excitement for archaeology into the field! Students who have taken MVAC's *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 or small-scale excavations. Weather may require alternate activities. Cancellations prior to June 28 will receive a full refund minus an \$80 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 28.

Dates: Wednesday–Thursday, July 17–18

Time: 9 AM–3 PM

Location: 312 Wimberly Hall, UWL

Age: Students entering grades 5–9

Fee: \$200

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

Prerequisite: MVAC's *Introduction to Archaeology* class

### Public Archaeology Field Schools (3 and 5 day experiences) – high school/adult

This multi-day field and lab experience is a well-rounded opportunity for those who want to learn about the process of archaeology. Work alongside professional archaeologists on an actual archaeological excavation and survey work. Lab work may include washing and sorting ceramics, stone tools, and other remains. An experimental archaeology component may explore making stone tools and using an atlatl (spearthrower). Optional lab hours and local field trips will be available after regular field school hours. No previous experience is necessary.

This experience is open to high school students through adults. Fee includes a one-year MVAC membership. Supervised dorm facilities are available for high school students at an additional cost of \$225 for 3 days and \$335 for 5 days. Cancellation prior to June 14 will receive a full refund minus a \$100 cancellation fee. No refunds for cancellations after June 14.

## Registration

Registration for fee events is administered through the Continuing Education Office, 220 Morris Hall, UW-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601. For more information, contact Jennifer Carlson at 608.785.6500. To register online, go to: [www.uwlax.edu/conted/archaeology-workshops/](http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/archaeology-workshops/)

To reserve a table for the Artifact Show or attend the Public Field Survey, contact Jean at [jdowiasch@uwlax.edu](mailto:jdowiasch@uwlax.edu) or 608.785.8454.



### Three-Day Experience

Dates: Mon.–Wed., July 15–17

Time: July 15: 9 AM–5 PM;

July 16–17: 7 AM–3:30 PM

Location: 3110 Student Union, UWL

Fee: \$350

### Five-Day Experience

Dates: Mon.–Fri., July 15–19

Time: July 15: 9 AM–5 PM;

July 16–19: 7 AM–3:30 PM

Location: 3110 Student Union, UWL

Fee: \$500