Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

2019

Archaeology

DISCOVER THE EXCITEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Education opportunities for adults, youth, and teachers

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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
**Public Lectures**

**Elphagy Mound Ceremonial Landscapes**

Concentrated in southern Wisconsin, much has been learned about effigy mound cultures over the years, including the fact 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 from 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

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**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 hieroglyphs. 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

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**Introductions 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 will 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

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**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:** $250
**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

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**Field Schools**

**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

**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. Participants may be accompanied by an adult. E-mail or call MVAC at 608.785.8454 or e-mail the lab at archaeology@uwlax.edu for more information.

**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. Call MVAC at 608.785.6473 or e-mail MVAC@uwlax.edu for more information.

**Date:** Thursday, July 18
**Time:** 10 AM–2 PM
**Location:** TBD

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**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.