CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

This report documents research that was conducted by personnel of the Program in Midwestern Archaeology at the Archaeological Research Laboratory of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The research was funded by a Survey and Planning Grant administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society in fiscal year 2002. The S&P grant was essential in helping us with our survey and excavations in the field. It also provided resources for specialized tests and radiocarbon dating. However, the research that we report on here is part of a larger, long-term study of the region around Lake Koshkonong that PIMA (formerly SEWAP) has undertaken over the last several decades. In particular, the Crescent Bay Hunt Club and Carcajou Point sites have been investigated by students, faculty, staff and volunteers at UWM for many years. Much of this report is informed by the research conducted by those people. The integrated nature of the research from the S&P money and other projects at the laboratory provide a multiplying effect, where the effect of the grant funds are much greater than the sum of the dollars.

Goals of the project.

The goals of this Survey and Planning Grant were threefold:

1) Conduct archaeological investigations on Lake Koskonong;

2) Complete a National Register nomination for the Crescent Bay Hunt Club;

3) Develop an educational web page on Oneota in SE Wisconsin.
In conducting our archaeological investigations, we focused on three sites: Crescent Bay Hunt Club, Blue Heron, and Carcajou Point (Figure 1.1). We originally intended to conduct archaeological survey on a small bench that runs along the edge of Olsen Bay at the Crescent Bay Hunt Club (Figure 1.2), but the area selected for survey was too wet during the times available for field work. Our survey work was limited to shovel probing a portion of the woods adjacent to the Crescent Bay Hunt Club, and a portion of land north and east of previously investigated area of the Carcajou Point site, which we will term here the Kelly North Tract. In both cases of survey, we were very successful in recovering material that helped delimit boundaries for a National Register of Historic Places nomination and in the placement of test units for further research.

Our original plan was to concentrate our excavations on the Crescent Bay Hunt Club, plus conduct a small test excavation at the Blue Heron site, a Late Woodland site located a few hundred meters north of CBHC. Four weeks of excavations at CBHC in June and July 2002, under the supervision of Jeske, produced copious amounts of data, more than enough for our original goals. However, as we finished up our work at CBHC, Mr. Thomas Kelly, thanks to a contact by Robert Birmingham of the State Historical Society, invited us to undertake investigations at a portion of his property located on the Carcajou Point site. Mr. Kelly plans to develop the property and wished to give archaeologists the chance to investigate the area before any construction began, and also offered logistical and financial support for the project. Given the opportunity to do more work than we had bargained for, we obviously couldn’t resist.
Figure 1.1 Location of Lake Koshkonong and sites in this report.
Figure 1.2 Crescent Bay Hunt Club Property.
Chrisie Hunter, under the general direction of Jeske, supervised a crew of volunteer and experienced student excavators for three weeks in July and August at the Kelly North Tract, recovering not only Late Woodland data, but a unique Middle Archaic and Paleoindian series of occupations. The data from this site are a much-welcomed new addition to the direction of research at Lake Koshkonong. She also supervised the flotation of the recovered feature fill, while Dan Winkler conducted the lion’s share of the lithic analysis of the site.

Chrisie Hunter returned to the Crescent Bay Hunt Club with an experienced crew for a week of fieldwork in May of 2003. As in 2002, the hoped-for survey of the bench along Lake Koshkonong had to be postponed due to water levels. However, the crew placed a series of test units in the Blue Heron site, a known Late Woodland/Oneota site on the property, in a test of significance for National Register of Historic Places eligibility.

In the laboratory, we began in-depth research in chronometric dating, subsistence patterns, lithic technology, and mortuary programs. Because of the time involved for completing in-depth analyses, and the large amount of data recovered in our field work, the results presented on these topics should still be considered preliminary or interim in nature. What we have done so far raises as many questions as what we have answered. We plan to return to both Crescent Bay Hunt Club and the Kelly North Tract at Carcajou Point in the summer of 2004 to continue raising and answering questions.