



United States Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service**

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

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[www.fs.usda.gov/midewin](http://www.fs.usda.gov/midewin)

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# News Release

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## Virtual Conservation Education Sessions

### **A Report on the Archaeological Investigations at Middle Grant Creek at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie; Uncovering the Unknown, Unique, and (sometimes)**

**Unclear Past:** Last year, a gardening hoe made from a bison shoulder blade was discovered among several agricultural tools at the 17<sup>th</sup> century Middle Grant Creek site . In this webinar, Dr. Mark Schurr, University of Notre Dame, and Dr. Madeleine McLeester, Dartmouth College , will talk about the findings that tell us about the people of the Oneota Culture (1150-1700) who lived at Midewin before European contact during



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the Huber phase (circa A.D. 1600). Because it's bison month, Dr. Terry Martin, emeritus curator of Anthropology, Illinois State Museum, will also share some slides of the diverse animal bones, including bison, that are found at the site. The investigations at Middle Grant Creek are providing new information about lifeways and ecology on the prairie just before the first colonial encounters in the region. **July 16, 7 p.m.**

LINK to participate in webinar sessions: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/r9-midewin-1000/>. Registration is not required.

An interim report by McLeester and Schurr on investigations at Middle Grant Creek was recently published in the Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology. The report is titled "[Uncovering Huber Lifeways: An Overview of Findings from Four Years of Excavations at the Huber Phase Middle Grant Creek Site \(11WI2739\) in Northern Illinois.](#)"

**Photo Caption:** Bison graze at the USDA Forest Service – Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. July is National Bison Month, and there is something for everyone to learn more about America's National Mammal on the Midewin NTP trails or at home. Photo: USDA Forest Service – Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

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