Minnesota Archaeology Month

The first portion of this list includes scheduled events taking place as part of Archaeology Month, following them is a list of prerecorded presentations about Minnesota archaeology that you can check out at your convenience.

Thank You for participating in Minnesota Archaeology Month!

Scheduled Events

Archaeology Day at Jeffers Petroglyphs

Archaeology Day at Jeffers Petroglyphs will include hand-on activities, displays and demonstrations with archaeologists from around the state including tours of the Petroglyphs, flintknapping activities for kids, and a game of chunkey. From 1:00 to 2:00 pm Dr. David Mather form the State Historic Preservation Office will give a presentation on Minnesota archaeology, the National Register of Historic Places and the importance of sites like Jeffers Petroglyphs to the area.

Date: Saturday, September 4, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sponsor: Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Archaeological Society

Location: Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site,

Contact: Jennifer Rankin at jennifer.rankin@mnhs.org or 612-725-2410

Note: Visit the Jeffers Petroglyphs website for admission and location information https://www.mnhs.org/jefferspetroglyphs

Minnesota Archaeological Society Lecture Series – There is Flint: Rediscovering the Grand Meadows Chert Quarry

Tom Trow and Dan Wendt will discuss the history of and new developments at the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry in Mower County, Minnesota. Grand Meadow Chert was intensively quarried in the past at this location for use in making stone tools.

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 7:00 pm

Sponsor: Minnesota Archaeological Society

Location: zoom presentation

Contact: Mike Michlovic at mgmichlovic@gmail.com

Note: The MAS lecture series is free and open to the public. All lectures will be delivered via ZOOM. To register, send your name and email address to: info@mnarchsociety.org Registration should be at least 24 hours prior to the event. You will receive a return email with a link to the selected lecture. Attendance at each lecture is limited to 100.
Morrison County Historical Society Annual Meeting: Morrison County Archaeology & the Douglas Birk Collections

Morrison County has a rich archaeological history, and this year the Morrison County Historical Society’s annual meeting will focus on that topic, featuring guest speaker Rob Mann, Associate Professor of Anthropology at St. Cloud State University. Dr. Mann will be discussing his involvement with the Little Elk Heritage Preserve and the Doug Birk collection.

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 6:00 to 8:30 pm

Sponsor: Morrison County Historical Society

Location: Bingo Park Shelter, 109 E 6th Street, Randall

Note: The program starts at 6:30 and will begin with MCHS’s annual meeting, during which the election of board members will take place. The cost of the annual program is $10 per person. Register online at https://morrison-county-historical-society.square.site or by calling 320-632-4007. The event is open to the public. In order to prevent the spread of the highly infectious Delta variant of COVID-19, masks will be required for both vaccinated and unvaccinated attendees.

Archaeology Day at Historic Fort Snelling

Archaeology Day at History Fort Snelling will include a range of hands-on activities, displays and demonstrations such as flintknapping and an experimental study with stone tools, new technologies used in archaeology, and an interactive timeline through the history of the area. Throughout the day, archaeologists will talk about the ongoing revitalization project and their findings along with an opportunity to see archaeology in action as part of the History Under the Floorboards exhibit.

Date: Saturday, September 11, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sponsor: Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Archaeological Society

Location: Historic Fort Snelling

Contact: Jennifer Rankin at jennifer.rankin@mnhs.org or 612-725-2410

Note: Visit the Historic Fort Snelling website for admission and location information https://www.mnhs.org/fortsnelling


Harold Edwards will discuss the history of the Kensington Stone a controversial artifact.

Date: Wednesday, September 15, 7:00 pm

Sponsor: Minnesota Archaeological Society
Location: zoom event

Contact: Mike Michlovic at mgmichlovic@gmail.com

Note: The MAS lecture series is free and open to the public. All lectures will be delivered via ZOOM. To register, send your name and email address to: info@mnarchsociety.org Registration should be at least 24 hours prior to the event. You will receive a return email with a link to the selected lecture. Attendance at each lecture is limited to 100.

Archaeology Day at the Forest History Center

Archaeology day at the Forest History Center will include a wide range of hands-on activities, displays and demonstrations such as exhibits on history of forest management in the archaeological record, understanding climate change and the role of archaeology, and learning about copper mining and artifacts.

Date: Saturday, September 18, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Sponsor: Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Archaeological Society

Location: Forest History Center, Grand Rapids

Contact: Jennifer Rankin at jennifer.rankin@mnhs.org or 612-725-2410

Note: Visit the Forest History Center website for admission and location information https://www.mnhs.org/foresthistory

Minnesota Archaeological Society Lecture Series - The Archaeology of Bear Ceremonialism in Minnesota

David Mather will address the concept of bear ceremonialism as evidenced in a study of bear remains from Minnesota.

Date: Wednesday, September 22, 7:00 pm

Sponsor: Minnesota Historical Society

Location: zoom presentation

Contact: Mike Michlovic at mgmichlovic@gmail.com

Note: The MAS lecture series is free and open to the public. All lectures will be delivered via ZOOM. To register, send your name and email address to: info@mnarchsociety.org Registration should be at least 24 hours prior to the event. You will receive a return email with a link to the selected lecture. Attendance at each lecture is limited to 100.
Archaeology Day at the Split Rock Lighthouse

Archaeology Day at Split Rock Lighthouse will include a wide range of hand-on activities, displays and demonstrations such as copper mining and copper mining artifacts from the region, shipwrecks and underwater archaeology.

**Date:** Saturday, **September 25**, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Sponsor:** Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Archaeological Society

**Location:** Split Rock Lighthouse, Two Harbors

**Contact** Jennifer Rankin at jennifer.rankin@mnhs.org or 612-725-2410

**Note:** Visit the Split Rock Lighthouse website for admission and location information https://www.mnhs.org/splitrock

Archaeology Day at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park

Come and enjoy a full day of demonstrations and activities highlighting archaeology and the rich heritage of the Mille Lacs area.

**Date:** Saturday, **September 25**, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Sponsor:** Minnesota DNR Parks & Trails, Minnesota Archaeological Society, and Saint Cloud State University

**Location:** Mille Lacs Kathio State Park picnic area in front of the Interpretive Center.

**Contact:** Erin Fallon, park naturalist at erin.fallon@state.mn.us or 320-532-3269

**Note:** There is a $7 vehicle permit fee to enter the park. Check out the website for additional information https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/event.html?id=66155

Chert Happens: Making and Using Stone Tools

Dan Wendt of the Minnesota Archaeological Society will be demonstrating the making and using of stone tools utilizing materials available in Minnesota. Please bring your artifact finds for identification by experts.

**Date:** Saturday, **October 2**, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Sponsor:** Mower County Historical Society

**Location:** Mower County Historical Society, 1303 6th Avenue SW, Austin

**Contact:** Randy Forster at 507-437-6082

**Note:** Check out the Mower County Historical Society web site for more information www.mowercountyhistory.org
Prerecorded Programs and Presentations

Bound by Earth: Archaeology in Minnesota

Bound by Earth: Archaeology in Minnesota focuses on the science and new technology archaeologists use to uncover and preserve archaeological resources in a non-invasive way, and how remaining evidence, such as Indian burial mounds, are still significant to Native people today. Produced in partnership with the Minnesota Archaeological Society with funding from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Location:  https://www.tpt.org/bound-by-earth-archaeology-in-minnesota/

Preserve Minnesota 2020-Unseen Significance: Archaeology, Parks and the National Register of Historic Places

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places provides a clear recognition of historical significance, but it is important to remember that the nominations do not necessarily tell the full story. This session presents a classic example of unseen historical significance, where an older National Register nomination does not identify all contributing resources. Coney Island of the West was a historic resort on an island in Lake Waconia, in Carver County west of the Twin Cities. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, for the architectural significance of the hotel and other buildings. Unfortunately, the resort was no longer in use by then and over time the buildings fell into disrepair. The island had been privately owned but was recently acquired by Carver County for development and preservation as a park. Archaeological studies since then have identified archaeological remains of the historic resort even though the buildings were now gone, and also identified American Indian presence on the island dating back thousands of years. The National Register documentation is now being updated to recognize the broader period of significance, and areas of significance, with a shift from architecture to archaeology. National Register documentation is intended to be updated, and interdisciplinary review of old nominations is recommended to consider whether they provide adequate information for present-day management. Presenters include David Mather, Minnesota SHPO; Steven Blondo, Blondo Consulting; Lindsey Reiners, Blondo Consulting; Jasmine Koncur, Science Museum of Minnesota; and Kelly Wolf, Blondo Consulting

Location:  PreserveMN 2020 Unseen Significance Archaeology, Parks and the National Register of Historic Places - YouTube

Preserve Minnesota 2020-Collaborative Planning for Indian Mounds: An Indigenous Burial Ground

The land we now call Indian Mounds Regional Park, located atop the bluffs of the Mississippi River on the eastern side of downtown Saint Paul, is rich in geological and cultural history and is sacred to many Indigenous Communities. The City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation staff has been working with representatives of Tribal Nations to build partnership around the protection, messaging and stewardship
of the site. A Cultural Landscape study is an initial step to update the City's practice for the preservation, awareness and understanding of the significance of this place. The site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is protected by the Field Archeology Act (MN Statutes 138.40) and Private Cemetery Act (MN Statutes 307.08). The project is guided by collaboration with formal representatives of Dakota and other Indigenous communities and presented to the public, neighbors and current park users to build understanding and awareness of the significance of this place and find common ground for its proper use and care. It also presents an important opportunity to recognize and support current Indigenous connections to the landscape. This presentation will explain how the study documents the historic landscape, evaluates the significance and integrity of the site, and provides a compelling vision and plan for messaging, respect and care of the landscape. It will also describe how the collaborative approach will serve as a model for future protocol and engagement processes, both formal and informal, within and near sacred and culturally sensitive sites in Saint Paul. Presenters include Brenda Williams, Quinn Evans; Bianca Paz, City of Saint Paul Parks & Recreation Department; and Cheyanne St. John, THPO, Lower Sioux Indian Community.

**Location:**  [PreserveMN 2020 Collaborative Planning for Indian Mounds An Indigenous Burial Ground - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHVUuVFDE_VFCE_REH6z6VA)

**Council for Minnesota Archaeology 2021 Conference Videos**

Video recordings are now up on the CMA’s new YouTube Channel. A few recordings are in the process of fresh edits or gaining permissions. Keep in mind, a few presentations could not be posted in the interest of data protections. Presentations currently available for viewing include; Survey of the Munroe Logging Railroad Turntable Site (Sutherland and Jackson 2021 CMA Symposium), Christmas Lake Survey and Underwater Archaeology Project (Merriman and Olson, 2021 CMA Symposium), Bone Hair Pipe Beads Possibly Connected to the Red River Oxcart Trails (Mather, 2021 CMA Symposium), Using Matterport Technology to Document Archaeological Sites (Nienow, 2021 CMA Symposium), Archaeological Conservation at the Science Museum of Minnesota (Brehm, 2021 CMA Symposium), Documentation of the Fort Snelling Button Type Collection (Meier, 2021 CMA Symposium), Late Pre-Contact Pant Use at the Sheffield Site (Koncur, 2021 CMA Symposium), Handbook of Minnesota Ceramics Part 1 (Holley, 2021 CMA Symposium), Handbook of Minnesota Precontact Ceramics Part 2 (Fleming, 2021 CMA Symposium), Contracting-Stem Projectile Points (Howell and Hayes, 2021 CMA Symposium), and Digital Archaeology at MNHS (Goranson, 2021 CMA Symposium). Pay particular attention to the Elden Johnson Lecture by Rob Mann (St. Cloud State University) “A Haunted Past and Haunting Presence: The Archaeology of Civilian and Military Forts Built During the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862”

**Location:**  [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHVUuVFDE_VFCE_REH6z6VA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHVUuVFDE_VFCE_REH6z6VA)

**Lost and Found: the Archaeology of the John Orth and Germania Breweries**

A paved parking lot and the lawns of a city park hide from sight the remains of two of Minneapolis' foremost breweries. In 1890, the John Orth and Germania breweries merged with two other breweries to form the Minneapolis Brewing Company (aka Grain Belt). This presentation provides an overview of the history of these breweries and how documentary and archaeological research led to the
identification and evaluation of these sites. It also discusses how these significant discoveries were integrated into development plans. A presentation by Dr. Michelle M. Terrell of Two Pines Resource Group. Done for the State Historic Preservation Office Review and Compliance Cultural Resource Management Seminar in 2012.

Location: https://youtu.be/DLJE_XApCQo

The Archaeology of Architecture

Dr. Michelle M. Terrell of Two Pines Resource Group speaks about The Archaeology of Architecture at the 2013 Preserve Minnesota Conference held in Lanesboro, Minnesota. Terrell focuses on the types of information about structures that archaeologists regularly gather that would be of interest to heritage preservationists. What can archaeologists tell us about the buildings that were once a part of our communities? How can archaeology inform our understanding and improve our interpretation of existing historic buildings and their occupants?

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6aqDx-C6Nk

It’s Your History “The Archaeology of Anoka County”

Created in association with the Anoka County Historical Society on QCTV. A local production reviewing a project funded by legacy amendment funds to investigate archaeology for the Metro-Area Historical Society Collaborative. In this case they review archeology in Anoka County from a professional’s perspective and also the effect archaeology has on development within the county. Guests include archaeologists Dr. Jeremy Nienow, Dr. Scott Anfinson and the Anoka County Board Chair Rhonda Siverajah.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqJKfw_Tbko

The Iberian Connection: Constructing the Solutrean Solution

Dr. Dennis J. Stanford of the Smithsonian Institution was the featured speaker at the 2008 Nobel Conference held at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. He spoke on the initial peopling of North America and a possible European Solutrean connection.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gpnv1jDvr5c

Preserve Minnesota 2016: Beneath the Hastings Bridge, History and Archaeology

Archaeological investigations prompted by the construction of a new bridge over the Mississippi River at Hastings led to the discovery of two significant archaeological sites. Preserved beneath a parking lot and a highway approach, these sites contained evidence for some of the city’s earliest businesses (groceries, saloons, and a hotel) as well as the destruction caused by the city’s devastating 1899 Christmas Day Fire.
The nearly 50,000 artifacts collected provide insight into the lives of the people that worked and lived in Hastings during the late 1800s. Your presenter is Dr. Michelle M. Terrell of Two Pines Resource Group.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2J1pUD3KC8&list=PLRrmIn6cO7LuolE6fis5u3hfaZ934M-M&index=14

Archaeologist Conversation Series – Project Overview

This video is an interview/presentation on the work Nienow Cultural Consultants has completed for the Metro Area Historical Society Collaborative over the past year in Dakota, Ramsey and Scott Counties primarily examining alpha archaeological sites. The interview was done by Barry Madore of Fire on the Bluff Productions with archaeologist Jeremy L. Nienow, Ph.D., RPA. The video also highlights how the MAHSC was conceived of and their earlier archaeological efforts over the past five years. The MAHSC is funded in part through grants from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. This is the first of the series of conversations completed for the project.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct6VCZim0Ro

Archaeologist Conversation Series – Dakota County

This video is an interview/presentation on the work Nienow Cultural Consultants has completed for the Metro Area Historical Society Collaborative over the past year in Dakota, Ramsey and Scott Counties primarily examining alpha archaeological sites. The interview was done by Barry Madore of Fire on the Bluff Productions with archaeologist Jeremy L. Nienow, Ph.D., RPA. The video specifically highlights MAHSC work in Dakota County at two prehistoric and two historic sites. The MAHSC is funded in part through grants from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. This is one of the series of conversations completed for the project.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh3Vd2Bc9Zo&t=279s

Archaeologist Conversation Series – Ramsey County

This video is an interview/presentation on the work Nienow Cultural Consultants has completed for the Metro Area Historical Society Collaborative over the past year in Dakota, Ramsey and Scott Counties primarily examining alpha archaeological sites. The interview was done by Barry Madore of Fire on the Bluff Productions with archaeologist Jeremy L. Nienow, Ph.D., RPA. The video specifically highlights MAHSC work in Ramsey County at the Gibbs Farm and in the Fish Creek Nature Preserve. The MAHSC is funded in part through grants from the Minnesota Legacy Amendment. This is one of the series of conversations completed for the project.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWAwWB93LAw&t=8s
The Jones Iron Furnace Site

A slide presentation on the results of a remote sensing survey on an iron smelting furnace ruin near Aitkin, Minnesota by archaeologist Fred Sutherland of Sutherland’s Relics and Rust. From the Council for Minnesota Archaeology Conference at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. February 14th, 2015.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAYnHe-lFbA

1997 Excavations at the Nina Clifford Site.

Since 1999, the Science Museum of Minnesota has stood on the site of what was once St. Paul's "red light" district. Prior to the museum's construction, archaeologists unearthed artifacts and remnants of 19th century buildings, including the brothel owned by Nina Clifford, which was demolished in 1937. (NOTE - The poor image quality is due to this video being sort of an excavated remnant itself. It was uploaded from a DVD copy of a VCR recording from cable TV.)

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG6Baekh_ wk


Old Copper The Old Copper Industry: 4000 to 1000 B.C. A presentation by Dr. Thomas Pleger, Great Lakes Archaeologist and President of Lake Superior State University, at the Copper and Culture Conference on Prehistoric Metal Working in the Lake Superior Region, August 2015, sponsored by the Copper Country Ancient Sites Conservancy.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmjms3JiS1s

Prehistoric America, Lifestyles of the Recent and Distant Past

From the Westonka Historical Society a video of a presentation by archaeologist Dean Sather titled Prehistoric America, Lifestyles of the Recent and Distant Past. Mr. Sather provides an overview of archeology and the culture history of North America and then entertains a series of questions.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggLx0BzbEhw

Ancient Footpaths traced by Ground Penetrating Radar at Petaga Point

A presentation by David Maki, Archaeo-Physics. This is from the State Historic Preservation Office Review and Compliance Cultural Resource Management Seminar in 2012. Maki interprets the geophysical data gathered at the site which helps to identify the location of previous excavations at the site and the presence of a series of foot paths which may date to the Precontact occupation of the site.

Location: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVWquiSVM4c
Grant Goltz: Rethinking Blackduck Pottery
A Lakeland PBS production where experimental archaeologist Grant Goltz shares his theory, developed with others, of how pre-contact indigenous people of our area made multi-functional Blackduck pottery, with a group of First Nations Women from Winnipeg, Canada. While Goltz’s hands-on discoveries often don’t gain acceptance with established academia in the U.S., his experience and knowledge is greatly respected across the border by our neighbors to the North.

Location:  https://lptv.org/grant-goltz-rethinking-blackduck-pottery/

Birchbark Canoe - Creating a Replica of an 1860’s Ojibwe Canoe
A production of Lakeland PBS. Grant Goltz and friends build a 15 foot birchbark canoe using traditional materials.

Location:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFSjKRnUzVo&feature=emb_rel_pause

Common Ground 205 – Flint Knapper, Tom Kulju (Pt 1) and Common Ground 206 – Tom Kulju Flint Knapper (Pt 2)
In the first episode Tom Kulju, a Flint Knapper from Longville who creates stone tools that are both functional and aesthetically beautiful shows some of the things he creates while flintknapping, both traditional and contemporary items. In the second episode Kulju show how the art of flintknapping is actually done and works on creating a stone tool.

Location Part 1:  https://lptv.org/common-ground-205-flint-knapper-tom-kulju/


We are awaiting details on a couple of other events so check for updates and additions to this list on the Office of the State Archaeologist web site at: https://mn.gov/admin/archaeologist/the-public/events/archaeology-month/