Lecture 1: September 8, 2021, 7pm

There Is Flint—Rediscovering The Grand Meadow Chert Quarry, by Tom Trow and Dan Wendt

Tom Trow is Coordinator and Archaeologist for the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry Project, and was lead archaeologist for the SHPO team that first recorded the quarry site.

Dan Wendt, President, Minnesota Archaeological Society, is a lithics expert and researcher who has made it possible to recognize and define Grand Meadow Chert, and understand its significance in the region.

Tom Trow and Dan Wendt, authors of three recent articles in The Minnesota Archaeologist (vol. 77: 75-150) on an 8,000-year-old chert quarry in southeastern Minnesota, will discuss their newest finds, the growing significance of the site to Indigenous communities, and future research possibilities. They will also welcome questions and suggestions from attendees, to help direct the interpretive program and to guide the planning for the opening of the Quarry to the public in 2023.

Lecture 2: September 15, 2021, 7pm

The Kensington Stone: The Anatomy of a Hoax by Harold Edwards

Harold Edwards is a retired geologist with a Ph.D. in geology from the University of Minnesota. He previously owned MJH Mineralogical Consultants, Inc., and served as an expert witness in asbestos litigation.

The Kensington Stone is one of the most important archaeological fakes in the United States. This talk will cover some of the findings presented in, The Kensington Runestone: Geological Evidence of a Hoax published in The Minnesota Archaeologist (vol 77: 6-40). The presentation will further investigate the find site and present some of the documentary evidence about the discoverer of the Stone and his opportunities, means, and motives in making the inscription. Interested viewers can read Edward’s paper here: https://www.academia.edu/45218145/The_Kensington_Runestone_Geological_Evidence_of_a_Hoax

Lecture 3: September 22, 2021, 7pm

The Archaeology of Bear Ceremonialism in Minnesota, by David Mather

David Mather is National Register Archaeologist for Minnesota’s State Historic Preservation Office. He is a specialist in zooarchaeology and environmental archaeology, and former consulting archaeologist for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe’s Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Bear ceremonialism was the subject of Mather’s doctoral dissertation at the U. of Minnesota.
Reverence for bears is an ancient tradition shared by indigenous cultures throughout the northern world, including the Dakota, Ojibwe, and other native nations with historical connections to Minnesota. Archaeological expressions of bear ceremonialism are rare, but provide important insights to the past. In Minnesota, our understanding of the scope of bear-related traditions is growing, through zooarchaeological analysis of faunal assemblages and consideration of rock art and effigy artifacts.