MAS 2018 Hill Lewis Award

Call for Nominations

The Hill – Lewis Award is given annually to a living avocational archaeologist who has made outstanding contributions to Minnesota archaeology, by the Minnesota Archaeological Society. MAS is now seeking nominations for the 2018 Hill Lewis Award. Please forward your nomination to Dan Wendt, MAS President at Wendt001@gmail.com. The 2018 submission deadline is February 1st.

Nominees for the award should have made important contributions to our knowledge of Minnesota archaeology (prehistoric or historic) through original research or publication, collaboration with professional archaeologists, public outreach, or exceptional K – 12 teaching.

Nominees do not have to be members of the Minnesota Archaeological Society.

Nominators should submit a nomination letter detailing the nominee and their accomplishments, as well as at least one letter of support for the nomination.

The Hill – Lewis Award will be awarded at the Minnesota Archaeological Society Annual Meeting in April.

In 1881, A.J. Hill, a Civil Engineer and T.H. Lewis, a surveyor, initiated the Northwestern Archaeological Survey to collect and preserve information on prehistoric earthworks throughout the Upper Midwest. For the following 15 years, Hill and Lewis gathered data on more than 14,000 mounds and amassed an archival record that preserved these data for future generations.

Although neither Hill nor Lewis was formally trained in archaeology, they set standards of commitment and excellence that still inspires us today. The MAS is re-instating an Institute for Minnesota tradition that started in 1985 to recognize a lay archaeologist in Minnesota whose dedication to the archaeological record of the state follows Hill and Lewis.

Elaine Redepenning, of Duluth was a recipient of the Hill - Lewis Award in 1986. The nomination cited “Mrs. Redepenning is the kind of dedicated citizen-archaeologist who is a credit to that group of people. Her surface collections from the Island Lake area west of Duluth were very carefully recorded, find spots were plotted on maps, and always made available to professional archaeologists for study and analysis. In fact, in the later case, she made overtures to the professionals as she recognized the significance of her finds and knew that it should be reported in the literature”. A volume has since been published by the University of Minnesota Duluth.

The Hill Lewis Award epitomizes the MAS goals of increasing public involvement in archaeology and in promoting the stewardship of the unique and irreplaceable archaeological record of Minnesota.