

Minnesota Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER



Summer 2007

MAS Annual Dinner held April 20



Guest speaker David Mather explains bear ceremonialism

Once again our spring Annual Meeting was held at Sorin Hall on the campus of Hamline University. A group of about 30 hungry archeophiles satisfied their appetites for good food and information listened while National Register Archaeologist David Mather gave us the scoop on bears.

See page 3 inside for pictures

Digging up Whiskey Row

by Monica Isley

Reprinted from

Lake County News Chronicle, June 14, 2007

Desiccated bits of shoe leather. The bottom of a coffee cup. The stem of a cordial glass.

Like treasure tossed during some kind of an archeological parade, pieces of Two Harbors' history are scattered across the open ground that once was Whiskey Row.

Those are Two Harbors' roots, broken, discarded--but preserved for over a hundred years when first a wooden and then a concrete platform was laid over the area for coal storage. Eventually, that same area will be excavated for the long-planned-for marina, and Two Harbors' original townsite will be underwater and gone forever.

But not before its mementoes are rescued. Tim Tumberg, cultural resources program manager for the Department of Natural Resources, arrived this week to begin the process that might last a couple months--or more, depending on the volume and significance of what is found.

His investigation is mandated by the state before work can be done on historical sites. Whatever he finds will

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Elliot Park Neighborhood Archaeology returns in 2007!

1010 Park Avenue, a few blocks from previous digs in downtown Minneapolis, is the site of this summer's public excavation. Make sure you come down and get in the dirt! See the calendar inside for details.

Photo reprinted with permission from the Minnesota Historical Society.

Whiskey Row continued

be catalogued and sent to the state historical society to be cleaned and stored. Whiskey Row, in other words, will find its way to museum shelves in St. Paul.



Tim Tumberg displays the stem of a cordial glass that he found protruding from the surface of the ground at the old Whiskey Row site in Two Harbors. Photo by Monica Isley.

However, there's every good reason to think that some of it will find its way back to Two Harbors as part of a permanent collection.

“Look at it this way,” Tumberg said. “If we find 10,000 artifacts, the county can pick the best ones, the ones they want, and not have to worry about storing the rest.”

The work that began on Wednesday was painstaking. Charles Day traveled here from Missouri with his special equipment for a resistivity survey. It's sort of a specialized ultra-sound that will help identify anomalies below ground that could be privies, garbage pits--even graves. Judging for the wild history of Whiskey Row, anything is possible.

Day will be working in the west one-half to two-thirds of the area that once lay under a concrete slab, the area that was owned long ago by Thomas Sexton, platted, and leased to the first wild and woolly residents of Whiskey Row. The area will be divided into grids, examined carefully for surface artifacts, and mapped according to what tests show is below the surface.

“That's when I start to dig,” Tumberg said.

If nothing much shows up to warrant digging, the top soil will be carefully scraped, and finally, if

necessary, shovel test pits will be dug.

Tumberg doesn't expect to find “nothing much.”

“That's the beauty of this site,” he said. “It's been capped since that wooden platform was put down in 1888. It's beautiful to have a site preserved all these years.”

Tumberg said he's a bit concerned about continuing to preserve the site from relic hunters who might walk off with significant artifacts. The area will be fenced, but he said he's hoping that education will lead people to realize the area should be left alone.

The public will be welcome to observe, however.

“They should be concerned about their own safety, though,” Tumberg said, referring to broken glass and bits of rebar sticking up from the ground.

Besides his enthusiasm for investigating a largely undisturbed site, Tumberg was also happy about the Power Point presentation he watched before he started work on Wednesday, a presentation full of history and old photographs of Whiskey Row and the surrounding area done by local historian Todd Lindahl.



A pottery shard, probably from an old chamber pot, lies exposed to the air, ready to be examined by DNR archaeologists. Photo by Monica Isley.

The presentation showed the old beach line, and the area that was once part of the lake but has since been

filled in. It showed the Whiskey Row buildings, including the home of Hans and Karen Isackson, the only residents of Whiskey Row who owned their lot, and were able to build a substantial home with a basement.



Two Harbors historian Todd Lindahl and Tim Tumberg stand in the center of what once was the Isackson home on Whiskey Row. The bottom of the photo contains the remains of the home's foundation. Photo by Monica Isley.

After seeing the presentation, Lindahl showed Tumberg the foundations of the Isackson home near the shore that are still visible among the lilies of the valley, likely planted by Karen Isackson, along with her nearby lilac bushes.

“This is the first time I’ve ever gotten this much information (going into an investigation),” he said.

Lindahl summed up his own feelings about the importance of gathering and preserving as much of Whiskey Row as possible.

“This is it,” he said. “Anything we’re going to learn about Whiskey Row has to be now. After this, it’s gone. This is the period at the end of the sentence.”

Monica Isley can be contacted at misley@lcnewschronicle.com

For more on Whiskey Row, see Duluth News Tribune slide show: <http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/multimedia/slideshow.cfm?id=14>

ANNUAL MEETING PHOTOS 2007



Good Food Line!



Master Arranger Liz Ooten



Hamline’s Brian Hoffman and board member Joe McFarlane



Master of Ceremonies Jim Cummings

Notice to all who have purchased *Minnesota Archaeologist* Archive CD/DVDs:

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your product is in production and you will be receiving it before the end of summer. Thank you very much for your interest.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturdays through August 11 Mill Ruins Park

Public excavations continue for the second year at the Mill Ruins Park in Minneapolis again this season. We will continue our work in the vicinity of the 1857 Cataract Mill at the end of Portland Avenue, and focus on expanding our exposure of the mills, additions and headrace canal.

There will be open, "drop-in" excavation each Saturday from 10:00 to 2:00, through August 11th. The site is located at the end of Portland Avenue, near the St. Anthony Falls lock and dam, at the west end of the stone arch bridge, and a block from the Mill City Museum. In addition to excavation and screening, we hope to set up a field lab for cleaning and sorting artifacts as they are excavated.

Stop by to help out, or just to have a look at this very interesting industrial site.

•For more information, contact Amanda Gronhvd (Gronhvd@10000LakesArchaeology.com, 612-670-6431) or Kent Bakken (bakk0029@umn.edu).

August 8-12 The Elliot Park Neighborhood Archaeology Project

The Elliot Park Neighborhood Archaeology Project returns for its fourth year. Join this community-based excavation as we investigate a new site just across the street from last year's site. We anticipate that the 1010 Park site preserves the remains of three houses built before 1884; two were demolished in 1927, and one before 1912. Although the remains of the houses were largely destroyed by a 1920s road expansion, the remains of the back end of the houses, the back yards, and the associated outbuildings should be preserved. This will allow us to continue a focus on investigating the range of household activities that took place in and around the back yard in previous eras.

This year the project runs from Wednesday, August 8th to Sunday, August 12th, 9:00 to 5:00 each day. The site is located a half block from the intersection of 14th Street and Park Avenue. In addition to excavation and screening, we will again have a field lab for cleaning and sorting artifacts as they are excavated.

Come and help out, or stop by and see what we're finding.

• For more information, contact Kent Bakken at bakk0029@umn.edu, or Patricia Emerson at 612-725-2410.

September 27-28 Mille Lacs Kathio Archaeology Days

Free state park admission and events

The Archaeological Society's annual Archaeology Day event at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park has been rescheduled from its original date of the first Sunday in June, to the last weekend in September. This full day of activities, demonstrations and displays will take place on Saturday September 28, 2007. On Friday September 27 MAS will be at Kathio focusing the tours and demonstrations on visiting school classes. The entire day is already booked, with over 250 students scheduled to learn about archaeology.

Co-sponsored by Mille Lacs Kathio State Park & the Minnesota Archaeological Society

•For information contact Jim Cummings

(320) 532-3523 [jcummings3954@charter.net](mailto:jcumings3954@charter.net)

October 4-7, 2007 2007 Midwest Archaeological Conference University of Notre Dame <http://www.midwestarchaeology.org/>

October 10-13, 2007 65th Annual Plains Anthropology Conference Rapid City SD <http://www.plainsanth2007.org/>

CLASSES

August 9 What Lies Beneath Us: Archaeology in the Twin Cities

University of Minnesota "Curiosity Camp"

Kent Bakken, John Soderberg, and Pat Emerson will be teaching day-long class tied to the Elliot Park project for the Continuing Education Department at UMN.

•Info is available at

<http://www.cce.umn.edu/curiosity>

NEWS & NOTES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY AT ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY SPONSORS NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM IN CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

To provide students with an in-depth understanding of the role archaeology plays in modern CRM, the new graduate program is founded on a broad, four-field anthropology education that instills a respect and appreciation for the diversity of human culture and that prepares students with the theoretical knowledge, legal and ethical background, field and lab skills, and practical experience necessary to be successful professionals or continue on for a doctoral degree. Applications are now open for Fall 2007 enrollment.

Cultural Resource Management Archaeology
<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/anthropology/CRMMastersProgram.asp>

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The new summary of activities for the Office of the State Archaeologist and a general treatment of the state of Minnesota archaeology can be found at

<http://www.osa.admin.state.mn.us/documents/06AnnualFinal.pdf>

BACK ISSUES. Do you have a favorite county archaeological or historical society? This is your opportunity to gift your favorite organization with a complete set of available back issues of *The Minnesota Archaeologist* (about 40 issues) at a **minimal** cost which is tax deductible of course. Contact Anna at (612) 922-7006 or anmorrow@earthlink.com

Check the label on this newsletter! It indicates the most recent year for which you've paid your dues. If it does not say "07," please consider updating your membership. If you have received the 2006 *Minnesota Archaeologist* you know that being a member of MAS has its advantages. If you receive the newsletter via e-mail you may not know your current membership status. Contact Anna Morrow at anmorrow@earthlink.com and she can check the records for you.

Individuals: \$25.00

Seniors and students: \$15.00

All institutions: \$40.00

Household: \$30.00.

Sustaining Membership at \$100.00

Benefactor Membership at \$250.00.

(These amounts are in US dollars, regardless of the country of residence of the member or institution).

Send your MAS news and notices to the Editor:

Deborah Schoenholz
2615 Emerson Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55408
schoe030@tc.umn.edu

Remembrance: Michael Budak

Reprinted from the International Falls Daily Journal, June 14, 2007

Michael Kent Budak, age 56, of International Falls, Minn., died Tuesday, June 12, 2007, at his home.

He was born Nov. 28, 1950, at Waterloo, Iowa, to Samuel and Gertrude "Sally" Budak. Michael moved with his mother to the Kabetogama Lake area in the early 1960s; he graduated from Falls High School in 1969. He later attended school at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, and graduated from the University of New Mexico-Albuquerque with a degree in archeology studies.

He started at the Minnesota Historical Society in 1976 as an archaeological field crew member on the Voyageurs National Park Archaeological Survey Team and was an assistant archaeologist at the Minnesota Historical Society until 1979. He also worked as an archaeologist for the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul.



On June 15, 1979, he was united in marriage to Mary Graves in Blooming Prairie, Minn. In 1979, Michael and Mary moved to International Falls where Michael began work as the site manager at the Grand Mound History Center. He enjoyed teaching kids about archaeology and conducting experimental studies in archaeology.

He served as the inaugural president of the Friends of Voyageurs National Park Organization, and he was an honorary life member of the Minnesota Archaeological Society.

Michael loved photography and had a passion for bicycling. He was a bike racer. He and his wife Mary enjoyed traveling on their tandem. He worked with kids to learn about

bicycle safety and taught at the Pedal Power Camp for several years.

His career ended in October 1997 due to a tragic fall that resulted in a traumatic brain injury.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

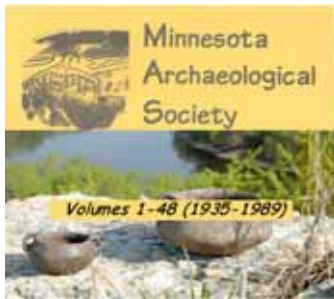
Survivors include his wife, Mary Graves Budak of International Falls; brothers, Jack (Karen) Budak of St. Louis, Mo., Thomas (Charlotte) Budak of Norway, Iowa, and Samuel (Catherine) Budak of Centreville, Va.; nine nephews and six nieces.

Remembrance: Ruth Karl, Past Member and President of MAS

Reprinted from the Minneapolis Star Tribune, April 8, 2007

Ruth Karl, age 99, of St. Paul passed away on Wednesday, January 10, 2007. Preceded in death by her husband, Max, Ruth was an active contributor to the communities she lived in, working in leadership roles with Girl Scouts of America and Planned Parenthood, as well as with St. Paul Housing Authority as a social worker. She served on several boards of directors, including the Minnesota Audubon Center in Sandstone. Ruth was interested and involved in many pursuits, but her particular passion was for archeology and anthropology. She volunteered at the Science Museum of Minnesota and participated in various excavations in the Midwest, Pacific Northwest, Israel, and the Yucatan. Her interests also spurred a love of travel and took her virtually everywhere in the world except Antarctica. She was particularly fond of winters in Mexico, accompanied by various friends. Ruth's adventurous life will be remembered by all who knew her.

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5. *A Handbook of Minnesota Prehistoric Ceramics.* 1978.
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7. *Ojibwewi-Ikidowinan: An Ojibwe/English Word Resource Book.* 1979.
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Volunteer Opportunities

MAS members who would like to put in some hands-on time have several opportunities this year. To get more information about these current projects, please contact the individuals listed.

Archaeology Lab Night: Every Thursday evening, volunteers gather at the MHS Archaeology Lab, located at Fort Snelling History Center, to process and analyze artifacts excavated from archaeological sites around the state. No specific time commitment is required; you can tailor your participation to your schedule. For more information, please contact Volunteer Services at the Minnesota Historical Society: **651-297-2605** or volunteerservices@mnhs.org.

MAS Newsletter Editor: The Society is looking for someone who would enjoy putting together our quarterly newsletter and sending it to our membership, electronic and print. Costs are covered by the Society. The newsletter conveys important news and upcoming events to the archaeological community and maintains a prominent spot in the Upper Midwest as a venue for communication among interested persons and institutions. Please contact Debbie Schoenholz at schoe030@tc.umn.edu or **612-374-5886** if you are interested in this fun and rewarding position.



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