

Minnesota Archaeological Society

NEWSLETTER Winter 2010



January

IN MEMORIAM

**Monroe Killy, MAS
Founder and
Benefactor
10/28/1910–1/16/2010**

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Revak, Wisconsin
Department of
Natural Resources
1963–2009**

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Left: KLS blade from the Lillian Joyce Quarry site.

Knife Lake Quarries: Preliminary Results from the 2009 Interagency Field Trip on the Superior National Forest

Lee Johnson et al, Superior National Forest



In early September 2009, archaeologists from the Superior National Forest (SNF) organized an interagency archaeological survey of high-probability locations in the vicinity of Knife Lake. Knife Lake is located in the central portion of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, on the International Border between the U.S. and Canada, in extreme northeastern Lake County, Minnesota. A unique survey strategy adopted for this project focused on landscapes located away from littoral areas that were recently exposed by SNF prescribed burning activities. The Early Precambrian bedrock (Knife Lake Group) around the Knife Lake area has been previously documented as an ideal location for prehistoric lithic procurement activities. To date, only one significant site of this nature has been located on the U.S. side of the Lake. The 2009 survey crew identified numerous exposed facies of high-quality metamorphosed Knife Lake Siltstone that exhibited ample



Right: MAS lecture in November.

evidence of quarry activity. The survey also resulted in the identification of numerous workshop areas scattered throughout the study area, some of which are located up to a ¼ mile from present day shorelines.

The Knife Lake team presented a workshop and lecture for MAS free-lecture participants in November of 2009 that was the most well attended seminar in recent history. MAS members and guests were eager to ask questions and crowded the hands-on display of likely Paleoindian working tools that Lee and other team members brought to the event. The discovery of so many local workshop sites exceeded all expectations and should have far-reaching consequences for the prehistory of Minnesota.



Bifaces from the Wendt site.



Expedition participants: back row left to right and front row left to right: William Clayton (USFS Archaeologist), Lane Johnson (USFS Arch. Tech), David Mather (National Register Archaeologist), David Cooper (NPS Grand Portage Archaeologist), Dr. Mark Muniz (SCSU Proff. Anthropology), Stacy Allen (MnDNR Archaeologist), Dan Wendt (Flintknapper/Avocational Archaeologist), Lee Johnson (USFS Archaeologist), and Heather Hoffman (USFS Arch. Tech).

All photos courtesy of US Forest Service and Mark Muniz

Lithic Materials Workshop

Friday February 19 and

Saturday February 20, 2010

Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, Minnesota

This will be a two day event including the opportunity to present posters and/or papers on the subject of lithic materials and identification. It is meant to be a relatively informal gathering with plenty of time to visit and share lithic samples and artifacts.

*Hosted/sponsored by
Archaeology Department of the
Minnesota Historical Society (MHS)
Minnesota Archaeological Society
and the Minnesota Office of the
State Archaeologist (OSA)*

- This will be an opportunity to view the ever-growing MHS lithic comparative collection, which now includes many regional lithics. Also available will be CDs with high-quality images of the comparative collection.
- Participants are encouraged to bring samples of their own comparative collections to confirm identifications.
 - Displays of common regional lithic materials will be available for examination.
 - There will be a lithic exchange area for those wishing to trade samples.
- Bring along your unidentified lithic artifacts for some opinions on material types.

For additional information contact
Office of the State Archaeologist, Ft. Snelling History Center St. Paul, MN 55111 (612.725.2729)
mnosa@state.mn.us or bruce.koenen@state.mn.us

MONROE KILLY
Photographer and Collector
1910-2010

Monroe Killy was born on October 28, 1910 in Minneapolis to Hans Paulson Killy and Anna Christopherson Killy. His paternal grandparents, Paul Syverson Killie and Maria Troisdahl Killie, and his maternal grandparents, Hans Olaus Christopherson and Ellen Martine Peterson Christopherson, emigrated from Norway. Their daughter, Margaret Killy Sanderson-Snuffer, was born on August 23, 1951.



Monroe Killy accepting Good Neighbor Award from Jim Stoddart, 50th Anniversary of MAS in 1982.

Monroe attended the Brainerd High School. He worked with his father in his photographic studio in Northeast Minneapolis. He was employed by the Eastman Kodak Company beginning as a stock worker in 1929, retiring in the 1970s as sales supervisor. It was during this career that he achieved his photographic skills.

Monroe served in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945. His service was in communications, assigned to a unit photo-reducing V-mail (a technique for compressing soldiers' letters for air transmittal), stationed in North Africa, Italy, and France.

Monroe and Edith Killy were charter members of the Edgewater Baptist Church of Minneapolis in 1948 and remained active there until the church's dissolution in 2006. He was instrumental in 1948 in establishing the Christian mission work at Nett Lake, Minnesota, which is still in operation.

In the 1930s he began what became a lifetime acquaintance with the Native Americans of Minnesota, especially the Nett Lake and also the Mille Lacs bands of Anishinabe, beginning what has become one of the premier archives of their pictorial history. His still pictures have been featured in a number of books on the subject of the Native Americans. His are the only colored moving pictures of the old-time wild rice harvesting, maple sugar making, and other activities, made in the 1930s and with additional work continuing into the 1960s. His photographs and movies also included other tribes of the plains.



Monroe above at the 2006 MAS Annual Meeting and right at the 2007 Annual Meeting.

Monroe's movies have been remastered by the Minnesota History Museum to be preserved in modern tape and digital formats. The originals of the movies and pictures are archived at the Minnesota History Museum and his movies of a Dakota dog feast are archived with the Smithsonian Institution. The movies are made available by the Minnesota History Center to schools that have Native American students. Monroe's fine art photographs, mostly of outdoor scenes, have a more limited but appreciated circulation.



For a number of years it was common for public school classes of South Minneapolis to take field trips to his home to view his movies and slides and to learn about Native American history and culture.

CHARLES "CHUCK" J. REVAK
Avocational Archaeologist
1963-2009

Chuck Revak, 46, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on December 20, 2009 while playing basketball with friends. Chuck was the loving husband of Maureen and proud father of Annabelle (12) and Tyler (10). Chuck earned a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin. He was employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in environmental enforcement. He was educated and skilled in scientific research principles and was a dedicated student of Minnesota and Wisconsin history. In 2009 he presented the recovery of a multi-component Woodland, proto-historic and historic habitation site on the Yellow River in Burnett County, Wisconsin at several professional venues.* Chuck intended to enroll in a Master's degree program majoring in Archaeology and to write his thesis on the Burnett County recovery. Chuck had assembled a comprehensive collection of Paleoindian to Fur Trade era artifacts with precise provenience. The family has indicated a desire to fulfill Chuck's aspiration to discover new information about ancient inhabitants based on artifacts and provenience that he so carefully assembled.



David H. Peterson
Friend and Colleague

*The Discovery and Salvage of an American Indian Encampment, presented at the 2009 Council for Minnesota Archaeology symposium at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota, February 7-8, 2009.

*Salvage of an Indian Encampment, presented at the 2009 Lake Superior Basin Workshop at the Minnesota Historical Society's Northwest Company Fur Post in Pine City, Minnesota, March 13-14, 2009.

*The Sifting Spot, presented at the 2009 Duluth-Superior Archaeology Week sponsored by the Northern Lakes Archaeological Society in Superior, Wisconsin, May 11, 2009.

**MAS Offers Support for Local and County
Archaeology Presentations**

The Minnesota Archaeological Society is actively looking for lectures and presentations throughout the state that need support for speaker fees and travel expenses. We will be contacting local historical societies and other agencies in the future to see if some arrangements can be made. In the meantime, any readers who are interested in such a collaboration are invited to contact President Rod Johnson at rodjohn33@msn.com. Outreach and education are the twin missions of MAS and we are happy to entertain ideas toward such goals through archaeological activities, lecture series, site tours, interpretive talks, and other hands-on learning experiences.

*How do you receive the
newsletter? By snail mail?
Want to change? Send your
e-mail address to Anna and
she will make it so.
anmorrow@g.com
or 612 922 7006. On the
other hand, if you want to
change from e-mail to snail
mail, again, contact Anna.*

Pilot Knob Update

"The City of Mendota Heights is nearing completion of its Comprehensive Plan for the next 20 years. While the 25 acres of Pilot Knob that has been purchased already is zoned "Open Space" in the draft, the part owned by the City of MH and south of Acacia Blvd is slated to be zoned "Industrial", to be used like the part further south, presumably. This includes both the open land and the two houses still there on Pilot Knob Road."

We are mobilizing to oppose this and to persuade the city council of Mendota Heights that it is not a good idea. We will be urging that this land also be zoned "open space."

Gail Lewellan, chair of the Pilot Knob Preservation Association board

Monroe Killy continued from p. 3

More recently Monroe dispersed this material, donating some to the Minnesota History Center and to the Minnesota Science Museum.

He was one of the four founding members in 1932 of the Minnesota Archaeological Society. Monroe was active in many of the Society's field operations and has kept close ties with all of its activities. He was also a charter member in the 1940s of the Minneapolis Cine Club. Awards he has received include the WCCO Good Neighbor (1982), and plaque for Founding Member and a unique fiftieth anniversary award of appreciation for special contributions from the Minnesota Archaeological Society (1982)



DATES TO REMEMBER

Maya Society Spring 2010 Lectures and Workshops

All spring lectures are Fridays 7:30 pm in Drew Science 118 (south of Old Main), Hamline University and are free to Maya Society members and students, \$5 nonmembers. Workshops are Saturdays 9:00 am-Noon in Giddens Learning Center 6s (the Anthropology Lab), Hamline University (southeast corner of Hewitt and Snelling), St. Paul. Workshops are \$10 for members, \$20 for nonmembers, free for students.

Lecture – *Shifting Alliances and Classic Period Politics: The Archaeology of the Mirador Group at El Perú-Waka', Petén, Guatemala*

Michelle Rich, Ph.D. Candidate at Southern Methodist University (SMU) and former Maya Society of Minnesota member.

February 5, 7:30-9:30

The Mirador Group is one of El Perú-Waka's principal architectural groups, comprised of a small temple and two of the site's grandest pyramids. Excavations conducted from 2003-2006 demonstrate a lengthy tradition of ritual activity associated with these buildings, extending from the Late Preclassic through the Terminal Classic period. Moreover, one of the pyramids served a long-term mortuary function for high-status elites, housing the remains of an unknown ruler and three elite women. Archaeological discoveries at the Mirador Group will be highlighted in this presentation, and also examined relative to specific historical events documented in the Mayan epigraphic record. This comparative approach allows us to explore how El Perú may have been integrated into the larger Mesoamerican world system – namely with the central Mexican metropolis of Teotihuacan and the dominant Maya capitals of Tikal and Calakmul.

Workshop – *What Can We Learn from Ancient Maya Tombs?: A Case Study of Royal Burials from El Perú-Waka'?*

Michelle Rich

50+ Years of
The Minnesota Archaeologist
CD Set or DVD

in 48 volumes(1935-1989)

February 6, 9:00 a.m – 12 noon

The excavation of ancient tombs has always captured the imagination of intrepid explorers, professional archaeologists and an interested public alike. In the Maya area, two factors have dovetailed to create an ongoing focus on burial contexts in archaeological fieldwork. First, Classic-period Maya interments are common in both ritual and residential structures, making it virtually impossible to excavate a building without encountering a burial; and second, the Maya have a rich artistic tradition, and as a result, many burials – particularly of the ancient elite – contain elaborate funerary objects. A tomb, however, is a complex interweaving of multiple categories of information: from the typically-showcased artifacts, to human and animal skeletal material, to fine-grained data such as pigments and minerals that tend to be understudied or overlooked relative to other tomb contents. Consequently, multiple scales of mortuary data are vital when coming to conclusions about burial practices among the ancient Maya. In this informal seminar we will focus on several royal and noble tombs from El Perú-Waka' to explore what the full range of components of a mortuary assemblage can tell us about the interred individual(s), as well as the people who conducted associated burial rituals, and how ancient re-entry activities may affect archaeological interpretations.

Lecture and Hieroglyphic Workshop

Nicholas Hopkins

March 5, 6, and 7

Details to be announced.

Lecture – *Embodying Slippage: An Exploration of Captive Portraits and Spectatorship in Classic Maya Art*

Kaylee Spencer, Assistant Professor, Art Department, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

April 9, 7:30-9:30

This study examines the notion of personal identity at its intersection with captivity in the sculptural programs of the ancient Maya. Using the rich corpus of Classic-period sculptures from Palenque, and other Usumacinta-region sites, I consider representations of captives in relation to viewers. For this research I employ methodologies modeled by Michael Taussig, a scholar who offers useful approaches for understanding structural operations surrounding likeness, presence, and the potency of images (Taussig 1992). Through applying Taussig's lenses to Maya art, I re-examine representations of captives and problematize notions of personal identity in ancient Maya art.

At Usumacinta-region Maya sites, such as Palenque, Tonina, Piedras Negras, and Yaxchilan, artists portrayed captives stripped of their high-status regalia. Some exhibit bound hands; others writhe, twist, and struggle as

they endure excruciatingly uncomfortable body positions. After analyzing portraits of these unenviable subjects, it becomes apparent that a number of visual and compositional strategies facilitated a mimetic response that both encouraged and destroyed alterity among ancient spectators. Some devices that catalyze such slippage include the representation of idiosyncratic facial features, the depiction of specific postures and hand gestures, the spatial locations in which portraits appeared, and the presence of hieroglyphic inscriptions that describe biographies and circumstances surrounding the captive's capture. Furthermore, some hieroglyphic texts accompanying such pictorial programs participate in collapsing the categories of captives, captors, and viewers. In short, the clean difference between the viewer's identity and the captive's identity becomes much more complex than generally described.

Through this research I suggest that the act of viewing captive portraits must be considered as a liminal experience, charged with the potential to affect the viewer. Possessing this capacity, the portraits of captives became powerful, and probably terrifying, communicative vehicles. On one hand, the captives were always drastically different, or, overtly "other," yet because those differences were realized through the recognition of hints of sameness, the "other" was never that far away. Engaging in this viewing relationship would have reminded ancient inhabitants of the thin line separating the status of captive and noncaptive. Whether the viewer was a ruler, prince, elite lord, or foreign ambassador, portraits likely reminded observers of the precarious positions they held. The tension inherent in captive portraits, therefore, allowed them to become compelling participants in the visual programs of Classic-period Maya cities.

Lithic Materials Workshop

Archaeology Department of the Minnesota

Historical Society (MHS) Minnesota

Archaeological Society and Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA)

February 19 -20, 2010

Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, Minnesota

Two day event including the opportunity to present posters and/or papers on the subject of lithic materials and identification. 612.725.2729.

mnosa@state.mn.us or bruce.koenen@state.mn.us

Exhibit “Minneapolis Riverfront Then and Now, 1858 and 2008”

Mill City Museum, Minneapolis MN

Closing: March 28, 2010

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

Sunday noon to 5 p.m.; Also July and August,

Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fee: Free

Photographer Jerry Mathiason and Mill City Museum

embarked on a project during the state sesquicentennial in 2008 to document change on the Minneapolis riverfront, selecting historic photos from the state's early years (1850s-1860s) and taking photographs of the contemporary landscape from the same vantage points. The pairs of then and now photographs reveal the dramatic changes to the city during its first 150 years, including the disappearance of St. Anthony Falls, changes in transportation, bridge collapses past and present, the growth of a small village into a major city, and continually evolving uses of the Mississippi River. The exhibit is supported by a grant from the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board.

**National Park Service's 2010 Archaeological
Prospection Workshop *Current Archaeological
Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive
Investigations in the 21st Century***

*National Park Service and the State Historical Society of
North Dakota*

May 24-28, 2010

**Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
near Stanton, North Dakota.**

Lodging will be in the communities of Beulah, Hazen, and Riverdale, North Dakota. The field exercises will take place at the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. The park preserves the historic and archeological remnants of the culture and agricultural lifestyle of the Northern Plains Indians during the 18th and 19th centuries. Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service and the State Historical Society of North Dakota. This will be the twentieth year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across this Nation. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with on-hands use of the equipment in the field. There is a registration charge of \$475.00. Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center's web page at <<http://www.nps.gov/history/mwac/>>. For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873: tel: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; fax: (402) 437-5098; email: <steve_de_vore@nps.gov>.

Fur Trade Beyond the Palisade

North West Company Fur Post, Pine City MN

**Hours: Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day:
Thursday through Saturday, Monday 10 a.m. to 5
p.m.; Sunday noon to 5 p.m.**

Open holidays

Schools and tour groups by appointment.

**Fee: \$8 adults, \$6 senior and college students, \$5
children ages 6-17; free for children age 5 and under
and MHS members.**

Explore life in an early 1800s fur trade wintering camp. Learn about the global economy of the time, the lives of workers in the fur trade, cross-cultural communications, women's roles and archeological tools used to uncover information about the fur trade. Discover why a hat was the driving force behind the earliest European exploration and settlement of the region. Then try on various hats, including a stovepipe top hat made of felt. View a 24 foot long north canoe loaded with merchandise typical of the time. And try lifting a pack typical of what a voyageur would have carried.

Be An Archaeologist Day Camp

Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site, Comfrey MN

August 4, 2010

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fee: \$25; \$15 for MHS members.

Reservations: required, [register online](#)

Experience the world of archaeology through authentic activities that archaeologists really do in this one-day camp. Campers will learn the process of projectile point (arrowhead) identification, take part in a simulated dig, learn the basics of flintknapping and make their own arrowhead, make an atlatl (spearthrower) and use it to "hunt" a bison target, and investigate the surface archaeology of the site. Campers will also view and learn about the ancient carvings at the site. For children ages 10-14. Make reservations online or call 507-628-5591.

Rod Johnson Flintknapping Demonstrations:

February 19-20, 2010: Lithic Materials Workshop, Fort Snelling History Center, St. Paul, MN

March 6-7, 2010: National Eagle Center, Wabasha, MN

Send your MAS news and notices to the Editor:

Deborah Schoenholz, 2615 Emerson Ave. S.

Minneapolis, MN 55408, schoe030@umn.edu

Volunteer Opportunities

MAS members who would like to put in some hands-on time have several opportunities. 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.



Minnesota Archaeological Society
Fort Snelling History Center
St. Paul MN 55111