

# Minnesota Archaeological Society

*The inscriptions below are from a 1,000-year-old pot that was discovered in 1957 near Red Wing, Minnesota by an MAS member.  
The thunderbird motif is representative of Middle Mississippian iconography.*



## Winter 2011



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## Archaeologists Hunt Grave Robbers In Arizona Back Country

*Looters Increase Activity During Bad Economy*

*Morgan Loew*

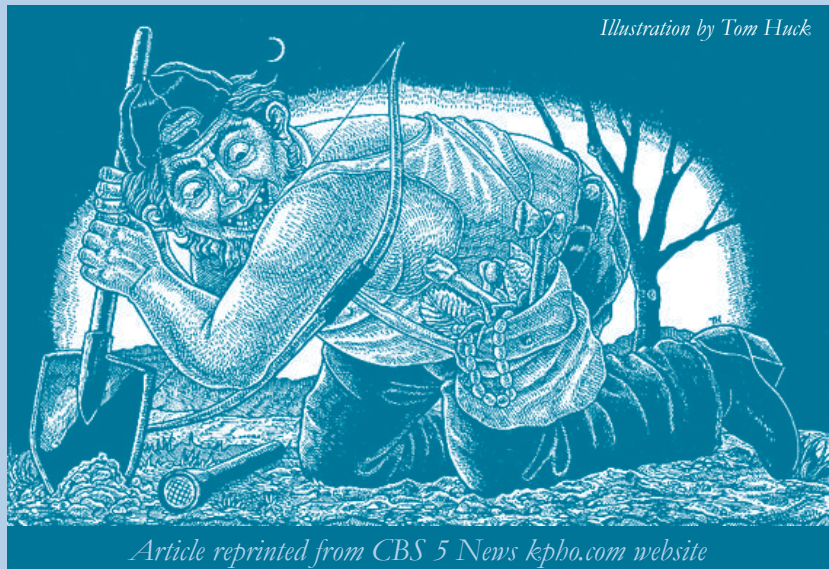
Grave robbers are looting Arizona's historic ruins at an alarming rate, according to archaeologists and investigators with the Tonto National Forest.

"What they're doing out here is disrupting and in most cases destroying human remains while they're seeking out pots to sell," said Scott Wood, an archaeologist for the Tonto National Forest.

Wood brought a CBS 5 News team to the scene of one of the most recent lootings. The site is known as Mud Springs Ruins and was inhabited by the people known as the Hohokam 700 years ago.

At the center of the 50-room complex, two freshly dug holes illustrate the lengths to which grave robbers will go to steal decorated pottery, according to Wood. Mud Springs is located nearly 30 miles away from the nearest paved road.

*Grave Robbers continued on page 6*



*Illustration by Tom Huck*

*Article reprinted from CBS 5 News kpho.com website*

**Vernelda Grant, Tribal Archaeologist for the San Carlos Apaches,**  
*holds a pottery shard at an 800-year-old site on the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona  
that has been plundered and looted of artifacts.*



By Dennis Wagner, *The Arizona Republic*

An estimated 80 percent of the nation's ancient archaeological sites have been plundered or robbed by shovel-toting looters. Though some of the pillaging is done by amateurs who don't know any better, more serious damage is wrought by professionals who dig deep, sometimes even using backhoes. Using a GPS device, a professional digger can read the landscape and quickly map out a 1,000-year-old village that has eroded into the earth.

Some ruins resemble minefields, full of holes and dirt piles.

If prosecuting looters is difficult, bringing charges against black-market buyers is nearly impossible, because authorities must prove that the collector knew artifacts had been looted.

Simply put, it is legal to unearth archaeological relics on private property, except burial sites. It is also legal to purchase items from others who have obtained them lawfully or by inheritance.

Even when thieves are caught at a dig, court rulings may insulate them. In 2003, two men used a winch to haul rare petroglyph boulders from Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada. They were found guilty of theft but acquitted on a looting charge. Then the convictions were overturned in June because, judges ruled, federal agents could not prove the defendants knew they were stealing something of archaeological worth.



## PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY

### Investigating Shelter



### Online Professional Development

**What:** Online Educator Course

**When:** Beginning January 17, 2011 for 8 weeks (4.5 self-directed hrs/week)

**Where:** ONLINE

**Who:** Upper elementary teachers (3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)

**Cost:** \$175.00; includes curriculum guide (2 University credits are available from SUU for an additional \$30)

**Join us for an exciting trip back in time to investigate archaeology!** You will use this virtual workshop to practice the **basics of scientific inquiry** (observation, inference, evidence, and classification) using **authentic archaeological data**. You will learn first hand how to help your students apply archaeological concepts as they investigate a shelter using **primary data** sources such as maps, artifact illustrations, historic photographs and oral histories. Use this curriculum to fulfill many core requirements such as social studies, science, mathematics, language arts and art while your students are discovering archaeology and history through engaging **hands-on activities**. These activities promote citizenship, build personal ethics and character, and achieve deeper cultural understanding. This is a **'must-do'** course that will not only enhance your own understanding of archaeology, but also provide you with a comprehensive set of lessons that you can use in your own classroom!

Participating teachers will receive:

- ④ Convenient online access to professional development for 2 University credits
- ④ Inquiry based instruction and lessons.
- ④ Full instruction in archaeological science for the classroom and a complete curriculum guide, *Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter* and access to a database of regional shelter investigations; endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies.
- ④ Instructions for assembling your own classroom materials during the course.

### Interested?

Contact Madlyn Runburg  
801.671.7713  
[mrunburg@umnh.utah.edu](mailto:mrunburg@umnh.utah.edu)

by  
January 12, 2011  
Space is limited, register early!

Course Sponsored by  
Montana State University • Utah Museum of Natural History • Smithsonian Institution

# 2011 CMA Symposium

## Farmsteads, Factories, Forts and Frontiers

*February 18th and 19th*

*Inver Hills Community College  
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota*

On February 18-19, 2011, the Council for Minnesota Archaeology will hold its bi-annual symposium on current research in the archaeology of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. The theme for this year's event is Farmsteads, Factories, Forts, and Frontiers. Although the focus of the meeting is on historic archaeological sites, papers will include information about research spanning the full range of human occupations in the mid-continent.

The symposium will be held at Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights, MN ([www.inverhills.edu](http://www.inverhills.edu)). Papers and posters will be presented during the morning and afternoon of Friday, Feb. 18, and during the morning and early afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 19. A reception co-sponsored by MAS will take place Friday afternoon. A full schedule and directions to Inver Hills Community College will be available on the CMA website ([www.mnarchaeology.org](http://www.mnarchaeology.org)) and the MAS website ([www.mnarchsociety.org](http://www.mnarchsociety.org)) and Facebook page by February 1.

**All sessions are free and open to the public. Plan to attend and get the latest word on what's happening in Minnesota archaeology!**

**Contact Information:** Jeremy L. Nienow ([Jeremy.nienow@gmail.com](mailto:Jeremy.nienow@gmail.com)), Pat Emerson (Patricia.Emerson@mnhs.org), Bruce Koenen ([bruce.koenen@state.mn.us](mailto:bruce.koenen@state.mn.us))

**More information is available on the CMA website: <http://www.mnarchaeology.org/>.**



***Council for Minnesota Archaeology***



## Dates To Remember

### Minnesota Archaeology Week 2011

**Saturday, May 14 through Sunday, May 22**

This year's Archaeology Week events will include site visits, public lectures, artifact identification sessions, and the 8th Annual Minnesota Archaeology Fair, which will be held at the Thomas Savage Interpretive Center in Fort Snelling State Park. A highlight of the week will be the Elden Johnson Distinguished Lecture in Archaeology. All events are free and open to the public.

Our Spring Newsletter will bring more details, and a full schedule of events for the week will be available on the State Archaeologist's website ([www.state.mn.us/osa](http://www.state.mn.us/osa)), and the MAS website ([www.mnarchsociety.org](http://www.mnarchsociety.org)) and Facebook page after the end of March.

### Catch Rod Knapping

Experience the world oldest and most continually practiced craft as presented by Expert Flint-knapper, **Rod Johnson**.

- ▶ March 19 & 20, 2011 – Soar with the Eagles Celebration, National Eagle Center, Wabasha, MN
- ▶ May 21 & 22, 2011 – Minnesota Archaeology Week. Flint-knapping demonstrations, Ft. Snelling State Park.
- ▶ October 1, 2011 – Archaeology Day, Kathio State Park, Onamia, MN



### National Park Service's 2011 Archaeological Prospection Workshop

The National Park Service's 2011 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century will be held May 23-27, 2011, at the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park in Brownsville, Texas. The field exercises will take place at the site of Fort Brown. The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park preserves the historic and archeological remnants of the first battle of the Mexican War in 1846. Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service's Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park and the Midwest Archeological Center. This will be the twenty-first 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. Further information available on the Midwest Archeological Center's web page at [www.nps.gov/history/mwac](http://www.nps.gov/history/mwac). Please contact Steven L. DeVore, tel: (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; email: [steve\\_de\\_vore@nps.gov](mailto:steve_de_vore@nps.gov).

### 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](mailto: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.





# Minnesota Archaeology Research Grants

Riaz Malik Research Grant Program

Council for Minnesota Archaeology

*Winter 2011*

*Applications Due February 15, 2011*

The CMA offers semi-annual research grants to support projects that advance the study of Minnesota archaeology. Examples of appropriate uses include specialist analytical costs (such as a radiocarbon date or time on a scanning electron microscope), or laboratory or field supplies intended for a specific research project (bags, vials, chemicals, etc). The monetary amount of each grant is determined by the selected applications and the availability of funds. Based on the program's history, we expect the current award to not exceed \$800. Student projects have priority. If no viable student applications are received, the grant is available to CMA members (same application deadline).

Required for application: Description of research project and role of research grant, defined detailed budget and schedule, and letter of support from applicant's academic advisor (for student projects). Electronic submissions are welcome (a single PDF file is preferred). Applications will be reviewed by the grants committee, and recommendations forwarded to the full CMA membership at the winter meeting (February 19, 2011). Applicants will be informed of the membership's decision immediately following the meeting. Funds will be made available to successful applicants as soon as possible after the notification.

**Requirements:** It is expected that grant recipients will publish their results in the *CMA Newsletter*, *The Minnesota Archaeologist* or other suitable format.

**Send applications to:** David Mather

State Historic Preservation Office, Minnesota Historical Society,  
345 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55102-1906  
david.mather@mnhs.org



Riaz Malik came to Minnesota as a student of Elden Johnson at the University of Minnesota. He made significant contributions to investigations at Mille Lacs, Prairie Island, along the Rainy River, and elsewhere. As part of the Minnesota Trunk Highway Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey, he co-directed the data recovery investigations at the Bradbury Brook site (21ML42). Riaz passed away in 1993.

## Minnesota Archaeological Society Membership

*Those who receive this newsletter by snail mail can check their label, which has their latest update.*

*Everyone else can check with me if there are questions.*

*Anna Morron, anmorron@q.com or 612-922-7006*

*Costs are Individual \$25.00, Senior or Student: \$15.00, Household: \$30.00, All Institutions: \$40.00 US*

*Thanks!*

### Newsletter

Send your MAS news & notices to the Editor: Michael Brey  
mike\_2@mkbrey.com

[www.mnarchsociety.org](http://www.mnarchsociety.org)



## *Grave Robbers... continued from page 1*

“Learning all the things we can learn about this site depends on seeing the artifacts in their original location and context. Once you start removing that stuff from its original context, it’s like tearing pages out of a book. You’re never going to get the whole story,” said Wood.

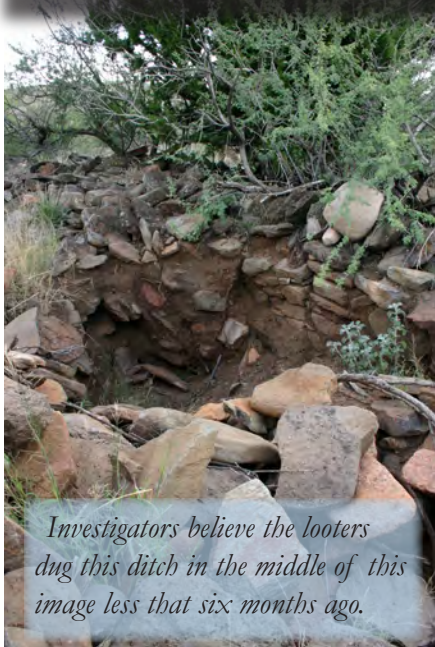
Looting an archaeological site is a Forest, law enforcement field officers work with archaeologists and investigators to figure out who is responsible for the destruction, but finding clues months after the crime poses challenges. “We’re basically looking for anything. It can be difficult,” said an investigator whose identity CBS 5 News agreed to conceal because of her ongoing cases.

Investigators believe the looting at Mud Springs took place within the past six months. They know little about the people who are responsible, but because of the effort the looters put into finding this location and digging the holes, investigators suspect the pottery stolen was headed to the black market.

Wood told CBS 5 News looting tends to increase during economic downturns, which means more of Arizona’s historic ruins remain at risk. “It’s national. It’s international. Stuff stolen here can end up in the market in Europe, Saudi Arabia, Japan. There’s a market all over the world. What they’re looking for are the painted, decorated pottery the stuff that’s most often found, unfortunately, in graves in this area.”

If you see evidence of archaeological damage or suspicious activity at a ruin, you can report it by calling the Federal Law Enforcement Communications Center at 800-637-9152.

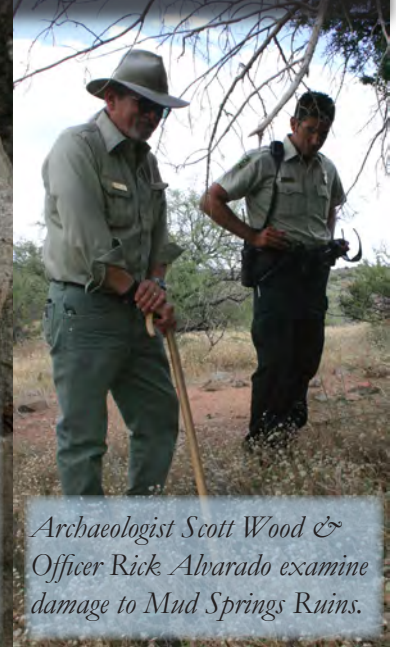
### *Looters looking for painted and decorated pottery often hold human remains.*



*Investigators believe the looters dug this ditch in the middle of this image less than six months ago.*



*These Mud Springs potsberds were left behind because they don't bring high dollar prices from the black market. Archaeologist Scott Wood, “Pottery found at this site was made at another location and brought here by the Hobokam, inhabited Mud Springs in the 1200s.”*



*Archaeologist Scott Wood & Officer Rick Alvarado examine damage to Mud Springs Ruins.*

## **ETC...**

### **The Minnesota Archaeologist is available on DVD and CDROM.**

These include Volumes 1-48 (1935-1989) & Occasional Publications. You will want to add this to your library and we should note here that we have a few DVDs left in stock. The cost is \$100.00, which includes postage.

**Also we want to mention**, that MAS has received a \$100.00 donation from member Ralph W. Hanson in the name of the late Charles J. “Chuck” Revak who died in December last year.



## S.O.A.R, Inc. ☀ Soar With The Eagles

The National Eagle Center is a nonprofit organization in Wabasha, Minnesota that focuses on conservation, research and educational efforts relating to eagles. [www.nationaleaglecenter.net](http://www.nationaleaglecenter.net)

*Fun programs and presenters will be at the National Eagle Center on every Saturday and Sunday in March.*

### ☀ March 5th and 6th ☀

David Stokes – Naturalist, Educator & Entertainer will be here with some of his live animals and animal artifacts. A perfect program for all ages.

2nd Annual Eagle Calling Contest, MN Zoo Zoomobile (Sat.)

### ☀ March 12th & 13th ☀

Cincinnati Zoo Wings of Wonder Bird Show – from Penguins to calling Kooburra to flying Macaws to the grandest a Stellars Sea Eagle

Come learn all the steps to training a great hunting dog by the Cannon River Kennels (Sun.)

### ☀ March 19th & 20th ☀

S.O.A.R, Inc. from Georgia; get up close and personal to many types of birds. You might even have the chance of one skimming your head as they fly many of their birds over the audience.

Dave Palmquist a Naturalist from Whitewater State Park will be taking people on a car caravan birding trip. Check out all the species of birds in this wonderful Mississippi Valley area. Call ahead, space limited.

### ☀ March 26th & 27th ☀

World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis will be bring along with them eagles from around the world. They will also have with them the largest owl species – the Eurasian Eagle Owl, which will fly just over the heads of the audience.

Soar raffle will take place the last Sunday. Make sure you get banded for a chance to win a number of prizes like a Wenonah Canoe, mountain bike, a number of wonderful prints and photos and so much more.

*Bring the family, tell friends and neighbors, and don't forget the camera to capture the memories of a lifetime.*

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## Attention Alums

We have noticed that some of our member universities and colleges have not been able to keep up their memberships probably because of the present economy. Most of these members have been with us since the 1960s or even from the beginning in the 1930s. Our membership cost for institutions is \$40.00 US

The MAS has decided to set aside a fund that will keep these members afloat until their economy turns around. We feel it is important to keep our journal available to so many students all over the United States and Canada. We are listing these member universities and colleges below. You may be a graduate of one of these schools and would desire to contribute some funds to our project. Notice that two public libraries in Minnesota have also fallen behind.

### Arizona

Arizona State University at Tempe  
University of Arizona at Tucson

### Georgia

University of Georgia at Athens

### Louisiana

Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge

### Minnesota

Southwest State University at Marshall

### Minnesota Libraries

Minneapolis Public Library  
St Paul Public Library

### Oklahoma

University of Oklahoma at Norman

### Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh

### Virginia

College of William and Mary  
at Williamsburg

### Canada

Trent University at Petersborough

**For those of you who wish to take part in this please send your donation to:**

**Library Fund:** Minnesota Archaeological Society, Fort Snelling History Center, St Paul MN 55111

**Thank you!**

Rod Johnson, MAS President



- *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.*

**Treasurer found:** The Minnesota Archaeological Society was seeking a conscientious, detail orientated individual to take on the duties of Treasurer. This is a volunteer position without compensation. The individual has an aptitude in finance, and is a member of the M.A.S. who is willing to attend a monthly Board meeting. **Thanks Paul Schoenholz, our new Treasurer!**

**Become a fan of MAS by joining us on Facebook.** You can submit photos of your collections, ask questions, or leave comments. This is a place to connect with others interested in Minnesota Archaeology. We hope to see you there! If you have questions please contact: Debbie Pommer at 651-430-0137 or [pomme001@umn.edu](mailto:pomme001@umn.edu)

**Check the label on the outer envelope of this mailing** to find the year of your membership status. Please update your membership if it is not current. All the details can be found at [www.mnarchsociety.org](http://www.mnarchsociety.org) or contact Anna Morrow [anmorrow@q.com](mailto:anmorrow@q.com) 612-922 -7006.

**Project Archaeology** is once again offering an online course in professional development for teachers. The online course trains teachers to use Project Archaeology's premier curriculum Investigating Shelter. Teachers will learn to use authentic archaeology in the classroom in support of core subjects such as science, social studies, oral history, language art and math.

The curriculum is useful for teachers of grades 3-6 and the online course starts January 17, running for eight weeks. Two university credits are available. See [page 2](#) for more information. To register or for more information, please contact Madlyn Runburg at 801-671-7713 or [mruburg@umnh.utah.edu](mailto:mruburg@umnh.utah.edu).

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