

# 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.



## Fall 2013



### This Issue

Minnesota  
Archaeology  
Fair At  
Ft. Snelling  
p. 1



Letter From  
The President  
p.4



Video Lending Library  
p. 4



Dates To Remember  
p. 4



Archaeology  
Day At Mille  
Lacs Kathio  
State Park  
p.7



## Archaeology of Minnesota Featured in Fall Festivals: Minnesota Archaeology Week and Archaeology Day at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park draw crowds from across the state



Flintknapper and President of MAS Rod Johnson shows a young visitor to Ft. Snelling's Archaeology Week Fair how to use a fire drill.

With the weather cooperating and Ft. Snelling full of demonstrations and information, over 300 people attended the smorgasboard of Minnesota prehistory presented this year during the weekend of September 14-15. Coordinated locally by MAS, the Minnesota Historical Society, Fork Snelling State Park, and the State Archaeologist's office, Minnesota has offered the week of free-to-the-public demonstrations and lectures at venues all over the state since 1996. The Twin Cities have enjoyed their access to the historicity and cultural collections of Ft. Snelling for the

## Letter from the President

*The letter from the President is intended as a vehicle to inform the general membership of the Minnesota Archaeological Society of recently transpired activities of the Board of Directors. The following is a brief recap of the events, discussions, and decisions of the past quarter.*

### **Occasional Publication: *The Red Pipestone Quarry of Minnesota* Now available**

A new edition of *The Red Pipestone Quarry of Minnesota: Archaeological and Historical Reports*, compiled by Alan R Woolworth, is a revised and expanded version of the 1983 special issue of the *Minnesota Archaeologist*, Volume 42. This long-awaited publication has been produced by Prairie Smoke Press with a grant awarded to MAS by the **Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants program, funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.**

*“This issue appears as a book devoted to the Pipestone Quarry of Minnesota, long recognized as one of the state’s most significant prehistoric sites, and now a National Monument administered by the National Park Service. Although sources of articles have been written about the quarry, most of the more important works are widely scattered and out-of-print. This book brings them together, articles from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that contain basic information about the pipestone, or catlinite, and the pipestone quarry of western Minnesota. They represent 150 years of observations and research regarding the quarry and products, including two previously unpublished contributions.”*

### **New MAS Board Member**

Please welcome Daniel Zwiener to the Minnesota Archaeological Society’s Board of Directors. Dan holds a BS degrees from the University of Iowa and a MS in Anthropology-Archaeology from UW Madison. He began his archaeological career as an archaeological field technician at the Milford Site, and he was employed by the State Archaeologist of Iowa to report on human remains in the western region of the state. In 1985, was elected President of the Iowa Archaeological Society and in 1979 was named the Iowa State Historical Society teacher of the year.

In 1985 Dan moved to Tucson, Arizona where he taught both high school and Anthropology at Central Arizona College. In 2007 he retired from teaching but soon after took a position on the Historic Preservation Commission for the Town of Oro Valley, Arizona, becoming chairman in 2009. In February of 2013 he retired and moved to Minnesota, taking a position on the faculty of Hamline University supervising student teachers in the Master of Arts in Teaching program.

We are delighted to have him on the Board.

Nifty Quotes:

“LIFE ISN’T ABOUT FINDING YOURSELF. LIFE IS ABOUT CREATING YOURSELF”.

(Unknown)

Rod Johnson: President

*For comments or suggestions, send a letter to President: Minnesota Archaeological Society, Ft. Snelling Center, St. Paul, Minnesota 55111 or email [rodjohn33@msn.com](mailto:rodjohn33@msn.com)*

two-day festival every year, including specialists in site excavation, atlatl throwing, native ceramic potmaking, marine archaeology, canoe building, flintknapping and lithics, cultural history, and native canoe paddling for river tours. A lot of kids, and more than a few adults, found out what a formidable weapon the atlatl is (with almost no collateral damage). A bunch of folks rode the river in big canoes and discovered how deep history goes here. The complex and elegant technologies of the past gained more fans. Visitors were fascinated by how much underwater archaeology there is in Minnesota. There will be Archaeology Week posters decorating dorm rooms, rec rooms and guest rooms everywhere.



*Archaeological demonstrator Grant Golz painstakingly reconstructs models of Native American canoes for an eager spectator.*

*Maritime archaeologists with Maritime Heritage Minnesota offer photos of the many river wrecks they have excavated from Minnesota waters.*



## MAS Offers Video Lending Library

MAS has for some time practiced the occasional video taping of our lectures and seminars. Beginning with speaker Ernie Boszhardt at last April's Annual Meeting, we will attempt to make this a permanent practice. Vice President Pat Emerson is the person to contact if you or your organization would like to borrow copies of these tapes, in CD format. Contact her at [patricia.emerson@mnhs.org](mailto:patricia.emerson@mnhs.org) to arrange a pickup. Available at this time is the Boszhardt lecture below; other titles will be added and listed here as we obtain the copies.

### A Very Early Mississippian Colony at Trempealeau, Wisconsin Robert "Ernie" Boszhardt, Co-Director of the Mississippian Initiative Project

*Around AD 1050 Cahokia rose rapidly to become America's first city, and with it began the Middle Mississippian Culture. Almost immediately, group of Cahokians canoed over 500 miles up the Mississippi River to establish a colony at the distinctive Trempealeau Bluffs. Although probable Mississippian platform mounds had been known at Trempealeau since the 1880s, it was not until 2010 and 2011 that extensive archaeological excavations were undertaken to explore the platforms and adjacent habitation areas. The results reveal a unique Mississippian outpost that coincides with the first decades of Cahokia's Lohmann phase. The colonists brought with them special pots, exotic cherts, architecture styles, celestial orientations, and a new religion to set up a temple complex in the midst of local Late Woodland Effigy Mound peoples. The colony seems to have been short-lived leaving questions as to why these Cahokians left the American Bottom, why they chose Trempealeau for their colony, how they interacted with the indigenous Effigy Mound people, and why they abandoned the temple at Trempealeau.*

## Dates To Remember

### Catch Rod Knapping

Oct. 22, 2012 Lecture: *What Archaeology Isn't*, University of Minnesota at Rochester



**Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference:** Oct. 17-19, Santa Fe, New Mexico

**Midwest Archaeology Conference:** Oct. 24-27, Columbus, Ohio

**Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center 2013 Awards & Lecture** - Dr. Guy Gibbon, *Prehistoric Lifeways through Time in the Upper Mississippi River Region*: Nov. 7, 6p.m. social hour, 6:30 p.m. awards, 7p.m. lecture, La Crosse, Wisconsin

**Resilience and Sustainability: What Are We Learning from the Maya and Other Ancient Cultures?** · November 7-9, 2013. Register now for the upcoming conference sponsored by the University of Minnesota Institute for Advanced Study and the Maya Society. <http://ias.umn.edu/2013/11/07/maya-symp-resilience/>

## Join the Minnesota Archaeology Society

### USA

Standard: \$30.00 (one person)

Household: \$40.00 (two or more)

Senior: (65 plus) \$15.00

Active student: \$15.00

Institution: \$60.00

### Both USA and Canada

Sustaining: \$100. (Receive free MAS mugs.)

Benefactor: \$250. (Receive free MAS mugs plus a seat at the annual dinner meeting as an honored guest.)

### Canada

Standard: \$40.00 (one person)

Household: \$50.00 (two or more)

Institution: \$70.00

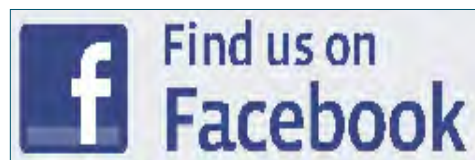
**Attention Institutions: Did your library receive Volume 70, 2011 and Volume 71, 2012 of The Minnesota Archaeologist? If not, please let me know.**

Thanks so much. Anna Morrow

### Newsletter

Send your MAS news & notices to the Editor: Deborah Schoenholz  
schoe030@umn.edu

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



## National Park Service's 2014 Archaeological Prospection Workshop

The National Park Service's 2014 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century will be held May 19-23, 2014, at Aztalan State Park in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Lodging and lectures will be at the Comfort Suites in Johnson Creek, Wisconsin. The field exercises will take place at Aztalan State Park. Aztalan State Park is a National Historic Landmark and contains one of Wisconsin's most important archaeological sites. It showcases an ancient Middle-Mississippian village that thrived between A.D. 1000 and 1300. The people who settled Aztalan built large, flat-topped pyramidal mounds and a stockade around their village. Portions of the stockade and two mounds have been reconstructed in the park. Co-sponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service's Midwest Archeological Center, the Aztalan State Park, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This will be the twenty-fourth 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.cr.nps.gov/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](mailto:steve_de_vore@nps.gov)>.

*A precontact history of Minnesota  
that reveals the relevance of archaeol-  
ogy to our understanding of the world  
today*

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF MINNESOTA: The Prehistory of the Upper Mississippi River Region

By Guy Gibbon

University of Minnesota Press  
| 2012  
ISBN 978-0-8166-7909-6 | \$34.95

From archaeological materials, Guy Gibbon reconstructs the social, economic, and political systems—the lifeways—of those who inhabited what we now call Minnesota for thousands of years before the first contact between native peoples and Europeans. Gibbon shows how the study of Minnesota archaeology is relevant to a broader understanding of long-term patterns of change in human development throughout the world.

For more information, including the table of contents, visit the book's webpage: <http://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/archaeology-of-minnesota>



Science Museum of Minnesota students who are currently excavating the Sheffield site offer information. The Sheffield site was originally excavated by SMM in 1959 and 1960. A new investigation began in 2013.



MAS Board Member Dan Wendt works on creating a flint tool at his knapping demonstration.

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## Archaeology Day at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park, September 28, 2013

The 22nd annual Archaeology Day event at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park was held on Saturday September 28, despite rain that fell nearly all day. Most of the displays and demonstrations were set up inside the park's interpretive center. A steady stream of inquisitive visitors viewed displays and demonstrations about Minnesota archaeology and talked about sites and artifacts with professional archaeologists. Although attendance was certainly "dampened" compared to the 1,100 people who attended this MAS. event last year or the attendance of 1,200 in 2011, we think that over 400 people attending the event on a very rainy day was indeed a huge success.



Demonstrations and displays at the Interpretive Center from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm included flintknapping, pre-historic pottery, birch bark canoes, guns of the fur trade, beads and beadwork, spears and spear-throwers, and kids' activities as well as artifacts, journals, books, and pamphlets from MAS, the Minnesota Historical Society, the Office of the State Archaeologist, Maritime Heritage, Minnesota, St. Cloud State University, and Minnesota State University Moorhead. Archaeologists were on hand to answer questions about artifacts and sites.

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# Minnesota Archaeological Society

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

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



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### Occasional Publications in Minnesota Anthropology:

1. *The Objjway Indians Observed: Papers of Fred K. Blessing Jr.* 1977.
2. *Some Studies of Minnesota Prehistoric Ceramics: Papers Presented at the First Council for Minnesota Archaeology Symposium.* 1978.
3. *The Lake Bronson Site (21KT1): A Multi-Component Prehistoric Site on the Prairie-Woodland Border in Northwestern Minnesota.* 1978.
4. *The Alton Anderson Site (21WW4), Watonwan County, Minnesota.* 1983.
5. *A Handbook of Minnesota Prehistoric Ceramics.* 1978.
6. *The Dead River Site (21OT51).* 1979.
7. *Ojibwewi-Ikidowinan: An Ojibwe/English Word Resource Book.* 1979.
8. *Bibliography of Ojibwe Resource Material.* 1981.
9. *Current Directions in Midwestern Archaeology: Selected Papers from the Mankato Conference.* 1981.



Contact Anna Morrow at [anmorrow@q.com](mailto:anmorrow@q.com) or 612 922 7006